



St James Anglican
Church
Program Report

Summer 2022

Our Staff, Wardens and Parish Council Members

Incumbent

Dane Neufeld

Associate Priest

Carmen Maier

Children's Pastor

Yvonne Kern

Youth and Young Adults Pastor

James Lawton

Livestream Coordinator and Custodian

Dee Kern

Office Coordinator

Jenni Barnard

Wardens

Barb Banman

Stephen Hansen

Sara Leggett

Nathan Underwood

Parish Council

Orieji Anya

Norm Bennie

Steve Caldwell

Sarah Fitzgerald

Jonathan Hardock

Donna Johnson

Nathan Stromberg

Ian Thomson

A large stained glass window with a blue and purple color scheme. The window features three circular medallions. The top medallion contains a white dove with its wings spread, perched on a green olive branch. The bottom medallion contains a golden wheat stalk. The background of the window is a deep blue with intricate geometric patterns in purple and gold.

Program Report

A word from your Incumbent

Rev. Dane Neufeld



When I looked at what I wrote for last year's program report I realized that I would probably have to rewrite the whole thing 😊 Portions of the past year were like the year that preceded it, we were closed several times, and constantly navigating changing restrictions and guidelines. However, since March we have begun the process of returning to

normal Church life and for the first time in a while, we can begin thinking about our future as a parish.

I am very grateful to all the ministry leaders and those who participate and serve within the ministries of St. James.

God has provided and sustained our parish through many challenges and the ministries of the Church have played a crucial role in maintaining connections and vitality within the Church, even as our Sunday morning gatherings were suspended.

The recent Mission Action Plan conference in May, was an opportunity to give thanks and reflect upon the past ministry of the Church. We were challenged also to think about how we serve Christ in every aspect of Church life. Are we invitational? Do new comers feel welcomed and capable of navigating our community? Are the gifts and vocations of people in our parish being recognized and put to work? Do our ministries reflect the intergenerational and multicultural realities of St. James?

These are really important questions for the days ahead of us. As the world has reopened around us, we have welcomed many new people

into our Church. It is my hope and prayer that all who come to St. James can find a place within our ministry programs, where they can serve alongside God's people and come to know the fullness of Christ in all things.

So thank you to the people of St. James and for your deep commitment in serving the Lord. I look forward to the year ahead of us as the Spirit continues to shape and guide us as Christ's body.





St. James Altar Guild

By Janet Gourlay-Vallance and Rose Ann Gilmour

The Altar Guild is a ministry of care and devotion to the Eucharist and the many services that celebrate passages within the Church family. It is 'behind the scenes' and if all goes well is not particularly noticed by the parishioners. It is however, essential and central to our worship. Our main responsibility is the care of the altar vessels and linens and the setting of the altar for all the services at St James. This includes Sunday services, special services such as Baptisms, Wedding and Funerals. Additionally there are the special services throughout the liturgical year, particularly at Easter where the Guild has a role. Other times of the year; at Thanksgiving, Christmas and again at Easter we have an opportunity to help beautify the Altar area.

Remembering, therefore, his death and resurrection, we offer you this bread and this cup, giving thanks that you have made us worthy to stand in your presence and serve you. We ask you to send your Holy Spirit upon the offering of your holy Church. Gather into one all who share in these sacred mysteries, filling them with the Holy Spirit and confirming their faith in the truth, that together we may praise you and give you glory through your Servant, Jesus Christ.

Our responsibilities also include the purchase of the communion hosts, the wine and altar accessories such as candles. Some of our members have also sewn and embroidered purificators for use during Communion, and the baking of gluten-free wafers to provide an option for parishioners who request this. The Guild ministry also includes a flower ministry. This involves the delivery of the Altar flowers to parishioners who are ill, not able to come to services, need a little encouragement, or at a time of celebration.

The lay pastor designates who will be the recipient and the Altar Guild delivers them after the 10am service each Sunday

We are a group of 8 members presently. We would like to add members to our group and so if you think you might be interested in this ministry we would very much like to hear from you.

Please contact Rose Ann Gilmour, ra.gilmour@icloud.com

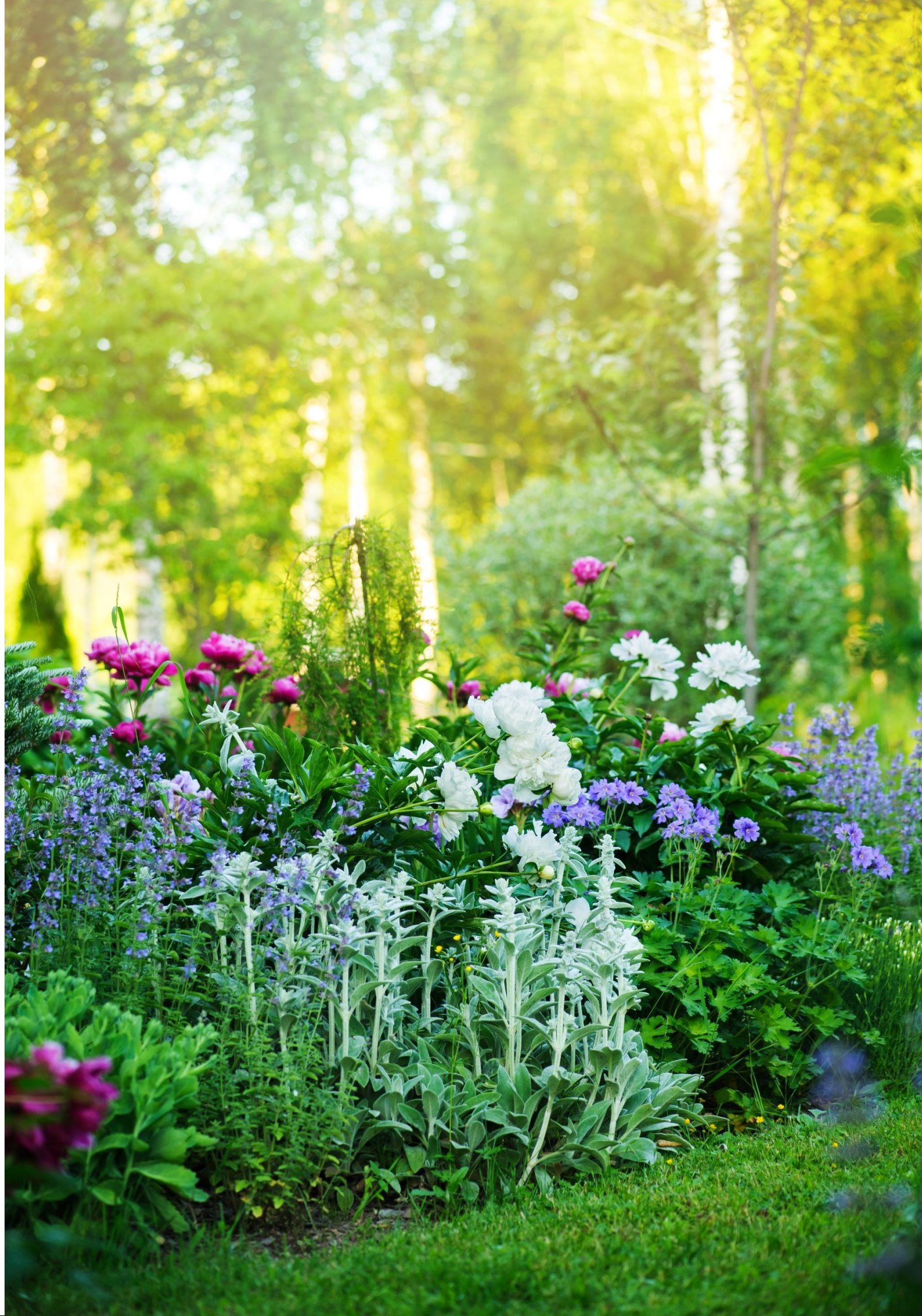
Alpha and Omega Ministry

By Betty Pike

Our ministry, Alpha and Omega, was founded to comfort and provide sustenance to family and friends post funeral or memorial services. It is a ministry of being the 'hands of Christ' to those grieving. To be able to provide a cup of tea or other liquid with a piece of square or cookie or fruit along with supportive and empathetic words is also a gift to those of us who serve at these receptions. This is a ministry that has many people involved in the background, as the food provided by volunteers is usually home made. Please support this ministry with your time and talent by contacting Dale Fisher or the church office (office@stjamescalgary.com) to find out how you can be involved.

*'I am the **Alpha** and the **Omega**,' says the Lord God, 'who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty.'*

Revelation 1:8



The Bag Lunch Ministry

By David Fisher

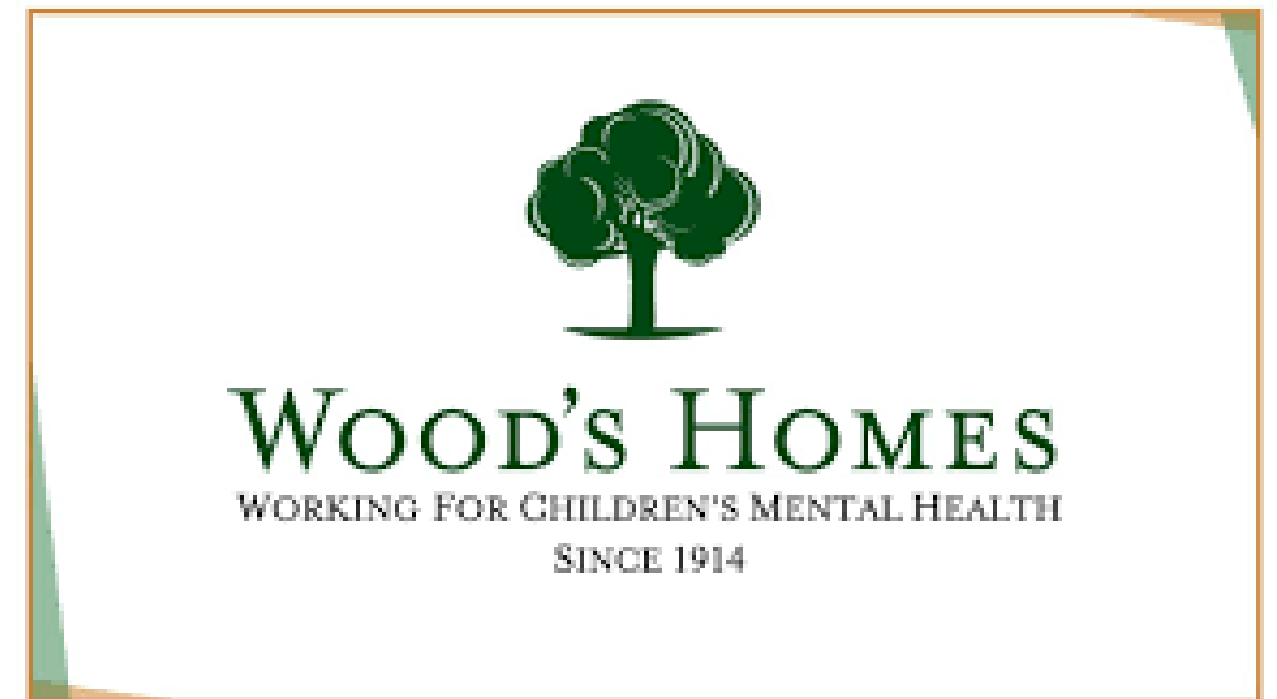


For over 30 years, the Bag Lunch Ministry has prepared sandwiches, fruit, juice, milk and snacks. We don't put them in bags anymore, but the name stuck. They go to the Inglewood Opportunity Hub in Calgary, formerly called EXIT. It is part of Wood's Homes, a multi-service non-profit children's mental health organization, working with families for over 100 years.

The Hub is a safe place where vulnerable young people can find shelter, food, medical treatment and counseling services. The aim is to help them exit the street life. All the Wood's Homes Street Services are in one building: counseling, culinary arts, employment programs, EXIT.

During the pandemic, we suspended our bag lunch work but resumed in January 2022. We prepare lunches in the church kitchen following the 10am service on the 2nd and 4th Sundays.

If you are interested in being part of a team, please contact Charlie Nygren or David Fisher.



Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Philippians 2:4

Building and Facilities

By Norm Bennie



We have been very fortunate as we now have over 12 members on the building maintenance committee on a regular basis. We also formed a Building Projects Group and have had several meetings and tours of other churches. We have put together a questionnaire for the ministry heads to give us feedback as to their immediate

wants and needs in the building. Some examples are what you would like to see improved and what areas of the church are you taking advantage of. We have put together a number of suggestions and recommendations for the future.

There is a constant need to remember that the church building is over 45 years old and they will be ongoing maintenance issues as we move forward. We have been challenged with some ongoing furnace issues in the past few months as well as some regular plumbing maintenance. Lighting continues to be a challenge as we move forward to replacing existing lighting with LED fixtures in the future. We still do weekly inspections in conjunction with Dee and also pick up numerous supplies as needed.

On Saturday, April 30, we teamed up with the Care Creation Committee and had a parking lot sweeping and grounds and garden and grass raking and cleanup. The Care Creation Committee also requested a new storage shed specifically for storing the lawnmowers.

We will continue to meet and coordinate between the corporation and the Mission Action Plan committee to move forward into the future.



Oh give thanks to the LORD; call upon his name; make known his deeds among the peoples!

1 Chronicles 16:8

Care Givers

By Helen Meller



Much of the care of our parishioners is done by many people at St. James, be it through home groups, friends, or other groups that members are involved with. St. James' Caregivers Team has been in place for many years to focus on those parishioners who are shut in or need visits due to illness, mobility issues, loneliness or other needs.

The Covid-19 pandemic caused us to make changes in how we care for many of those we visited. For those in seniors' homes and their own homes, we visited via telephone and for those not able to have a discussion with us, due to Alzheimer's disease, we maintained contact with their family members through phoning, email, or texting.

In addition to the phone conversations, we mailed cards or sent e-cards to remind them we are praying and thinking of them. Our team has utilized Zoom to maintain contact with each other and be in prayer for those parishioners we care for. We are delighted that many of the seniors' residences are now open to resuming in-person visits. In September of 2021 Esther Aikens and in April of 2022 Merla Pedersen stepped down from our team due to life changes. We thank them both for their contributions in prayer and care for others.

This May, we were delighted to have Linda Avramenko join the Caregivers Team. Dane Neufeld (Incumbent) and Carmen Maier (Associate Priest) attend most meetings. The current Caregivers Team members are Linda Avramenko, Jan Brooks, Roz Cooper-Key, Dale Fisher, Donna Johnson, Helen Meller, and Bill Ruckdashel.

One of our guiding biblical principles, found in Galatians 9:9-10, reads: *"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers."* (NIV).

This past year we have been very busy, and the following information outlines that work done by the Caregivers Team:

- Contacting a minimum of once monthly through phone calls, Zoom visits or in-person visits, those members of St. James Church who are shut-in or unable to come to church. Our main purpose is to provide friendship, spiritual support in the way of sharing, scripture readings, and prayer. On occasion Communion is taken to those that request it if there are no restrictions due to Covid placed on the seniors' centers or condo buildings we visit.
- We assist in providing and delivering meals from the casserole bank, taking Communion when allowed, buying, and delivering groceries to those members unable to get out, and dropping off communion wafers for those who watch on-line.

Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up. Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all people, especially those who belong to the family of believers.

Galatians 9: 9-10

This year we had a roster of drivers for one individual who was getting chemo treatments a few days a week for six weeks. We are grateful to our corporation for providing a mileage recompense to those members involved in driving and delivering frequently.

From September to June, the Caregivers team meet the third Tuesday of each month to pray and provide support to each other and for the church members with whom we visit as well as those listed on the prayers of the people. Each meeting includes a short devotional and a discussion on various topics that highlight and assist us in our caregiving ministry to those we visit. At times, other concerns, questions, or new initiatives related to our ministry are discussed. Prayer updates are sent via email throughout the month to the team members.

In November, the Caregivers Team helped organize and assist in the MAID (Medical Assistance in Dying) Seminar with Marlette Reed as presenter. We are so grateful to the staff for all their help with the running of the Zoom, preparing information on the website for registration, as well as saving the video for private viewing.

We had a total of 90 people attend either on-line or in person as well as requests from 12 other people to watch the saved video of the seminar.

Over the Christmas season, we bought gift cards for eight families who needed a food hamper as well as prepared twenty-one gift bags which were dropped off to those unable to attend church due to illness, mobility issues or loneliness. A very special thank-you to all those from the church who contributed to these initiatives.

One team member took the Caregivers' workshop series offered on Zoom by the Anglican Diocese from February to the end of March. The sessions were very thought-provoking, interactive, and much was learned.

Our Caregivers Team is responsible for maintaining and replenishing the casserole bank. This year we were very busy making and delivering meals, especially in November,

December and January. Thanks to many of our parishioners and the Thursday morning Bible Study group who assisted us in keeping the Casserole bank stocked when a call for assistance was made. Approximately 70 meals were delivered to various households in that three-month period.

If you know of someone in our parish that may need some help from the Caregivers Team, please contact a team member or contact Helen Meller at 403-282-4243 or hmmeller@telusplanet.net



Creation Care

By Rob Lavoie



The Care of Creation Ministry provides support for all who are interested in finding expression for our calling towards care for creation as outlined in Genesis Chapter 2.

The vision of the group is to honor God's covenant as human beings in His image to be guardians of that which He has created. Care of Creation has the following mission statement:

“To respond to God’s call to be co-workers for His kingdom

by practicing spiritual disciplines that include caring for creation, prayer and intercession for the environmental dimensions of our world; and to pay attention to and advocate for a healthy future of our physical, ecological, social, cultural, and economic dimensions of everyday life.”

This past year we continued to implement a grounds beautification project for the St. James property.

This project included planting of the pollinator garden at the foundation of the southeast facing wall of the Alexander Hall.

Additional items added to the property were: a new bike rack, sitting benches, and a scenic mural on the northwest face of the storage container. Some of the group's members were also involved in helping a member of St. James with tree planting on their rural property.

Care of Creation offers online presentations of recorded lectures throughout the year. During 2021 a Regent College video hosted by Loren Wilkinson called “Making Peace with Creation” was shown virtually, and during the weeks of Lent in 2022 an audio recording of a Regent College Creation weekend was provided via Zoom called “Creation and the Gospel from the Garden to the End of the Earth”.

The group meets monthly to discuss current issues and possible future initiatives. All are welcome to participate. Please contact Rob Lavoie, rob@airterra.ca, (403) 830-0188 or Marlene Wiens

wiens.me@gmail.com

Gardening and Lawn Care at St. James are voluntary activities provided by anyone who wishes to sign up as a gardening volunteer. We are truly thankful for the help of our dedicated gardeners for providing the help needed to conduct spring cleaning of the flower beds and ongoing maintenance and lawn care over the summer. The Men's Season of Service ministry helped to clear the winter's gravel off the driveway and enjoyed a breakfast together in the Alexander Hall. Over the year, the gardening volunteers also support the development of any new gardens and/or redevelopment of existing gardens.

If you are interested in helping with gardening or lawn care this summer, please contact Rob Lavoie (rob@airterra.ca) to be included on the weekend lawn-mowing schedule and/or future gardening initiatives. If you have any questions about helping and / or wish to learn the ropes for lawn care at St. James, please contact Rob Lavoie (cell 403-830-0188).

ESL/ ELL

By Dale Fisher and Renuka Williams



The program year began with some optimism but with the onset of the 4th wave, and accompanying masking requirements, etc., it faded fast. The consensus was that masking was not conducive to effective ESL instruction or learning and zoom instruction was still too unfamiliar. We decided to halt further plans and reassess in January 2022. We eventually opted to postpone any program planning for the rest of the year.

In November, however, we were approached by a fellow parishioner inquiring about the possibility of taking over from her, to continue helping the spouse of an Iranian visiting professor at the U of C, to prepare for the English proficiency exam required to facilitate his entry into a PhD program in Calgary. After an initial zoom evaluation and introduction to Abdollah, Cindy Hubert began work on his listening,

speaking, reading, and writing skills, meeting via zoom for one hour each day. They worked consistently with each other until he started a summer job with the City Parks Department in April. They now meet just two or three times a week due to his working long hours, but she has also begun working with Azam, his wife, several times a week, on her English proficiency.

The level required in the academic IELTS exam for the PhD program at the U of C proved to be too difficult for Abdollah to reach, so they are working on the General level of the exam. He has been accepted into the course-based Masters' program at the U of C starting in September and he hopes to find a supervisor for his PhD program within the next two years.

He intends to apply for an extension to his student visa with a view to applying for permanent residency status as soon as he and his wife are eligible. Azam is currently here as a visiting professor working on a research project at U of C.

Rosalind Cooper-Key volunteered, and Abdollah accepted, her help with learning to touch-type. She compiled progressive typing exercises for him, which they worked on 2-3 times a week at his home from January to March. He can now navigate the keyboard without looking at the keys. His inability to type had been hampering him in completing exam answers.

It is interesting how the SJAC ESL program intersected with him. While out one day he had met a lady with Alzheimer's who couldn't remember her way home. He guided her back to her apartment block. Later, he and his wife decided to move there. Subsequently, they met a resident who is a member of St. James, through whom he met more parishioners. He is a Muslim yet was very happy to pray with Roz a couple of times.

Marilyn Millions has continued to work occasionally with Jilasio Lokuawii's family during this time. She and Jilasio's wife Rose have met in Confederation Park for lessons dealing with basic English vocabulary and conversation while walking and observing nature. She has tutored their children in school-related subjects on several occasions as well as worked on Canadian living skills with them, at her home.

This year Dale Fisher has been asked to provide the topic and questions for a Zoom class run by the CESLM president. It isn't a St. James specific program but will involve learning how an online class can work, so the skills may potentially be transferable to our own program and volunteers.

Since God seems to have directed us to provide this ministry individually and in a missional sense despite there being no formal plan for the year, we will continue to await His direction for its future. With gratefulness to all our other volunteers too who are always willing to help where needed.

The Good Food Box

By Nick Vanderkooy and John Abbott



The Good Food Box (GFB) program is a service provided by the Community Kitchen of Calgary. This program aims to provide top quality fresh produce at low cost and promotes healthy eating. Clients can order the Food Boxes in one of three sizes; Small (\$25), Medium (\$30) and Large (\$35). These costs represent at least a 50% savings from normal

retail prices. Clients can also order multiple boxes for themselves or to distribute to others.



Approximately once a month on a Wednesday afternoon (September – July), St. James serves as one of the northwest depots for the GFB program. Based upon advance orders placed at the church, pre-packed boxes of fresh fruit and vegetables are delivered to the lower Alexander Hall. The food box offers good value -- particularly significant to those with limited financial resources, and we are encouraging people to order and pay via e-transfer. The e-transfer should be addressed to treasurer@stjamescalgary.com. The following information should be included in the comments section of the e-transfer: # and size of boxes, contact telephone #, # of Senior-Children/Teens, and Adults in the family. A confirmation will be sent by return email.

Normally, St. James handles 18 to 25 boxes a month, benefitting between 30 to 50 individuals, including seniors, adults and children; however, during the pandemic orders went up to 35

boxes on average, helping over 100 people.

We are thankful for Karin Lavoie's help by calling all the clients, a couple of days before the Depot day, to remind them of GFB depot times and to pick up their boxes.

This service is available to members of St. James and the Community. We would like to encourage people to recommend the Good Food Box programme to any friend, neighbours who may benefit from this programme.



Guest Support Ministry

By John Abbott



Who we are: The Greeters, and Ushers - often the first face of St. James to newcomers and visitors.

Our purpose: Our primary aim is to make sure that each and every person gets a warm greeting and is made to feel welcome and “at home” with the St. James family. We also take care of a number of practical tasks at the 10:00 am

Sunday morning and special services to ensure an orderly and comfortable worship environment. As with many ministries things have been very disjointed since the visit of Covid-19; however, God willing, Covid is declining and we look forward to seeing all your smiling faces.

Highlights:

- About 22 people are involved as regular team members
- 4 regular teams currently work 1 service per month.
- For months where there is a fifth Sunday, there are two committed leaders who organize a team. Recruiting a volunteer team for this service occasionally poses a challenge, however a number of members are frequently eager to help.
- We greet at the door, hand out bulletins on Sunday morning at the 10:00 am service, assist newcomers in getting a name tag and in finding a seat, and assist in directing people to the communion rail.
- A Guest Services Ministry (GSM) team was in place for all regular Sunday morning services plus all special services for Christmas & Easter.
- The GSM frequently provides

ushers for funerals and memorial services of parishioners when requested.

Vision and objectives and resource needs for the upcoming program year:

- Several teams need additional volunteers. We have lost a few volunteers in the last year and need replacements.

Please give me a call on 403 275 5224 if you would like to help out. My email is abbottj@shaw.ca

Additionally, if you would like a name tag to wear while you are attending the 8am or 10am services at the church, please let me know.





Hymn Sing

By Roy Thomson

Hymn Sing has been on hold now for about two years because of the pandemic, although we are very hopeful to start up again soon. There is much joy in the hearts of our volunteer team and we hope the same will be true for the residents at the Chinook Care Centre.

We will start up again with basically the same program we had for our last visit - opening prayer, hymns, short homily, bible reading and closing prayers. Overall, we try to reach out and connect with the residents and share the love of Christ with them through our actions.



Kids' Rock

By Yvonne Kern



As I approach my 14th year anniversary here at St. James, I am thankful for God's goodness in another year marked by many challenges, as we moved back and forth between having in-person services and being online only! Here are some highlights from the past 12 months:

Sunday Kids' ROCK: It was a joy to begin meeting regularly in person again in late Fall. I praise God for the team of volunteers

that have jumped back in to help run the Nursery, Preschool, K-Gr. 4 and Y56 classes. I did continue to pre-record lessons mid-week until just before Easter 2022 for families to view on Sundays who were not yet comfortable returning to in-person programs. In recent weeks, we are beginning to see our average attendance numbers approaching close to what they were pre-pandemic.

Weekly Email updates to families: I continued to send out weekly updates to our families until late this spring, letting them know the particular details regarding the Sunday lessons, as well as passing along various updates from the wider church context. Currently I send out an update email about once a month.

Monthly 456 Events: We resumed our regular monthly events for students in Grades 4,5, & 6 in late Fall. We have been able to host several in-person events, and two Joint events with the Youth group – including a Family Skate night at Bowness Park. Our average attendance is around 8, and it's thrilling to see kids bring their friends out for these evenings! Our final event of this school year was a Family BBQ on June 10, for all kids in Grades 3-6 and their families, as we say Goodbye to our current Gr. 6's and Welcome to our current Gr. 3's.

"Treasured" VBS 2021: We ended up offering our "Treasured: Discovering You're Priceless to God" 2021 VBS as a Virtual Event the week of Aug. 9-13, with 86 kids registered for this online event. 8 volunteers worked hard to pre-record sessions for

families to participate in at home. We did host an in-person brief wrap-up session on Friday morning, followed by a hot dog lunch on the church lawn. Approximately 50 people participated in this event, and it was such a joy to see kids and parents face-to-face! Then we also shared highlights of the VBS week during the Sunday morning services on Aug. 15.

Operation Christmas Child Shoeboxes: 93 boxes were prepared and dropped off at church in November. This was an increase of close to 30 boxes from 2020, and closer to the numbers we saw pre-pandemic! Praise God for these boxes lovingly prepared with special gifts for needy children in our world.

Cocoa and Carols Night: The staff worked together to host our first outdoors Winter gathering, with the hopes to make this an annual event! We offered hot cocoa, carol singing around a couple fire pits, a snow maze, an outdoor photo opportunity, as well as an indoor craft area for kids. In spite of the cold temperatures that evening, approximately 50-60 people showed up to enjoy these activities!



Advent 2021 Book Recording of “The Last Battle:” Since the Lent recordings of C. S. Lewis’ “The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe” had been very well received, we decided to offer the final book in the Narnia series, “The Last Battle,” during Advent. Several people from our parish were involved in these recordings. Many thanks to each of them, along with thanks to Dee Kern for using the livestream cameras to record, and to the members of the Sound Team for their help. Since a stable stars as the centerpoint in this book, we recorded these readings seated in

front of the empty stable. While not viewed as often as the Lent recordings, we pray these were a blessing to those who were able to view them.

Christmas Eve Pageant: The focus of our 2021 annual Pageant in person was telling the story from the perspective of the shepherds. Five family groups participated, complete with face masks and distancing! What a joy to have it livestreamed for families to watch at home on Christmas Eve!

Advent and Lent resources: I offered simple Advent and Lent resources again this past year, which families were able to pick up to use with their children/grandchildren during these seasons of the church year. It was a thrill to host the Lent resource event in-person following the Sunday morning service just before Lent began.

Palm Parade, April 10: This was a very exciting day this year, with the children and their volunteer leaders marching through the Nave in our annual Palm Parade! There were also several baptisms and confirmations, so Bishop Greg was present. What a delight to praise God with palms in a packed church!

Good Friday, April 15: Once again we were able to offer our annual Good Friday Stations of Remembrance. We had 4 stations set up, which the children rotated through, as we walked the last hours of Jesus’ life. This is always such a powerful time of reflection for all who participate!

Family Service: We have begun leading Family Services approximately once per quarter, with the intention that these will be offered on 5th Sundays. It’s

gratifying to have our children and youth participate in many aspects of the service, from doing the readings and prayers to greeting people, passing out bulletins, and running the livestream and PowerPoint.

“Monumental” VBS 2022: We are working on plans for offering in-person VBS this summer, with the theme: “Monumental: Celebrating God’s Greatness!” Registrations and volunteer forms are coming in, and we are looking forward to welcoming kids back into the church for this summer’s VBS!

In recent weeks, I have been learning to trust God more deeply for patience and strength as I recover from emergency surgery on Easter Sunday for a fractured hip. I am so grateful for all those volunteers who have stepped forward to help out during this trying time. I thank God for the work He is doing in the lives of our children, parents, grandparents, and volunteers through all the various ministries which fall under the “Children’s Ministry” umbrella.

Thanks be to God!

Knit, Quilt, Crochet

By Millie Nygren and Penny O'Hearn



God has given each of us talents to use to His glory and our group uses such talents to show God's love for those less fortunate and in need. We have over 50 members on our roster from the St. James community and the community at large. With Covid restrictions ebbing and flowing over the past year, our usual Tuesday morning gatherings have ranged from in-house (all current

restrictions observed), to outdoor meetings, to virtual via Zoom.

We have also kept in contact with emails and phone calls as well.



Our nifty crafters created approximately 3000 (perhaps more) items. Recipients of the items are as follows: St. Edmund's Outreach, Mosaic Refugee Health Centre, Children's Cottage, Samaritans Club, Louise Dean Centre, Tom Baker Cancer Centre, Streetlight Ministry and St. James Prayer Shawls and Blankets. We held a socially distanced drop-off and pick-up on November 23rd, 2021, and an event on June 7th, 2022 to disperse items. Due to needs with new immigrants arriving, a couple of deliveries have also been made to Mosaic.

Materials, yarn and fabric are purchased as per budget, as well as generously donated materials from members, family and friends. We are most grateful for all donations. We welcome new members and we gladly share our crafting knowledge. We've noticed that some of the crafting (crocheting and looming in particular) is contagious as we have a few men

trying it out!

Each week the talent and commitment of our members bless us as they continue to serve the community and we thank God for their commitment to helping others.

The group meets at St. James each Tuesday at 9:30am, beginning again in September.



As each has received a gift, employ it for one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace in its various forms...

1 Peter 4: 10

Lay Readers Ministry

By Charlie Nygren



The Lay Reader Ministry Team members continue to offer our gifts in serving at Sunday services assisting the clergy by reading lessons and leading the prayers of the people. We also fulfill these roles at special weekday services throughout the year, such as Maundy Thursday, Ash Wednesday, and Christmas.

Lay Readers and Administrants are also called upon to read and

administer at weddings and funerals from time to time.

With a return to two Sunday services we now have 18 active Lay Readers. One Lay Reader participates at each service, following the initial safety protocol laid out by the Diocese at the beginning of the Covid-19 outbreak.

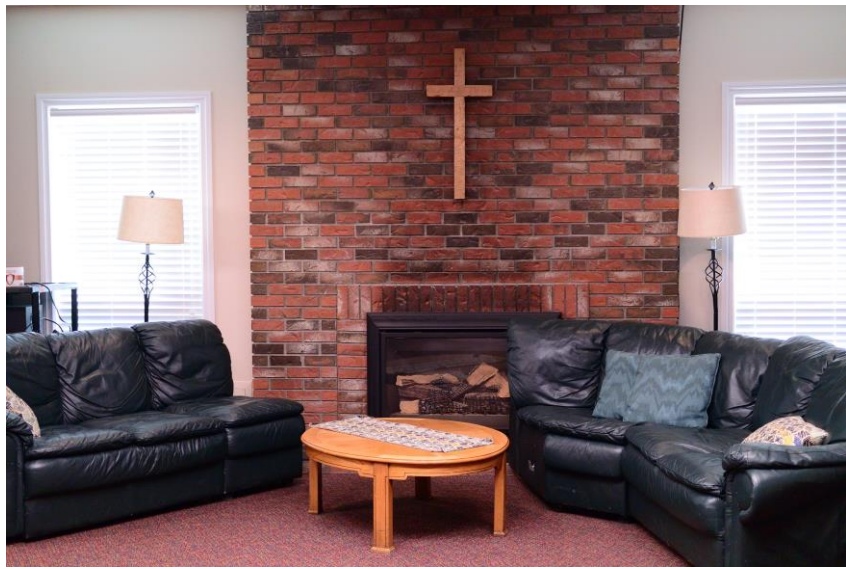
With masking restrictions having been relaxed, we plan to move forward with 2 Lay Readers at each service, one reading lessons and one to lead the “Prayers of the People”.

One goal as we move forward with more readers involved, is to encourage more members of the congregation to utilize their gifts by joining in the ministry. After several years serving as leader of the Lay Readers team, I have stepped down, and Noel Smyth has taken over the responsibility of leading the Lay Readers.



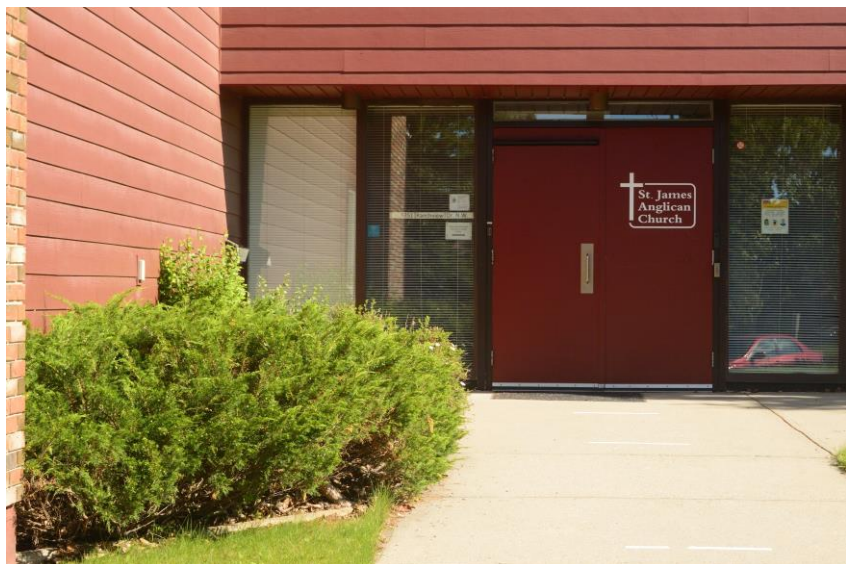
*..But the word of the Lord endures for ever.
And this is the word that was preached to you.*

1 Peter 1: 25



Trust in the LORD with all your heart, and do not lean on your own understanding. In all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make straight your paths.

Proverbs 3: 5-6



Library Report

By Marian Parrott

I was pleased to get all books that were donated shelved and catalogued this year, with duplicate or damaged books donated to Better Books and Bibles. **Thank you so much to all that donated books! We also have purchased some brand new books for the library and are encouraging parishioners to come and take a look!**

The St James library continued to be underused again this year, with pandemic restrictions being partly to blame no doubt. As our parish returns to more normal activities and schedules I am hopeful more people will stop by, take a look and borrow books.



Live Stream

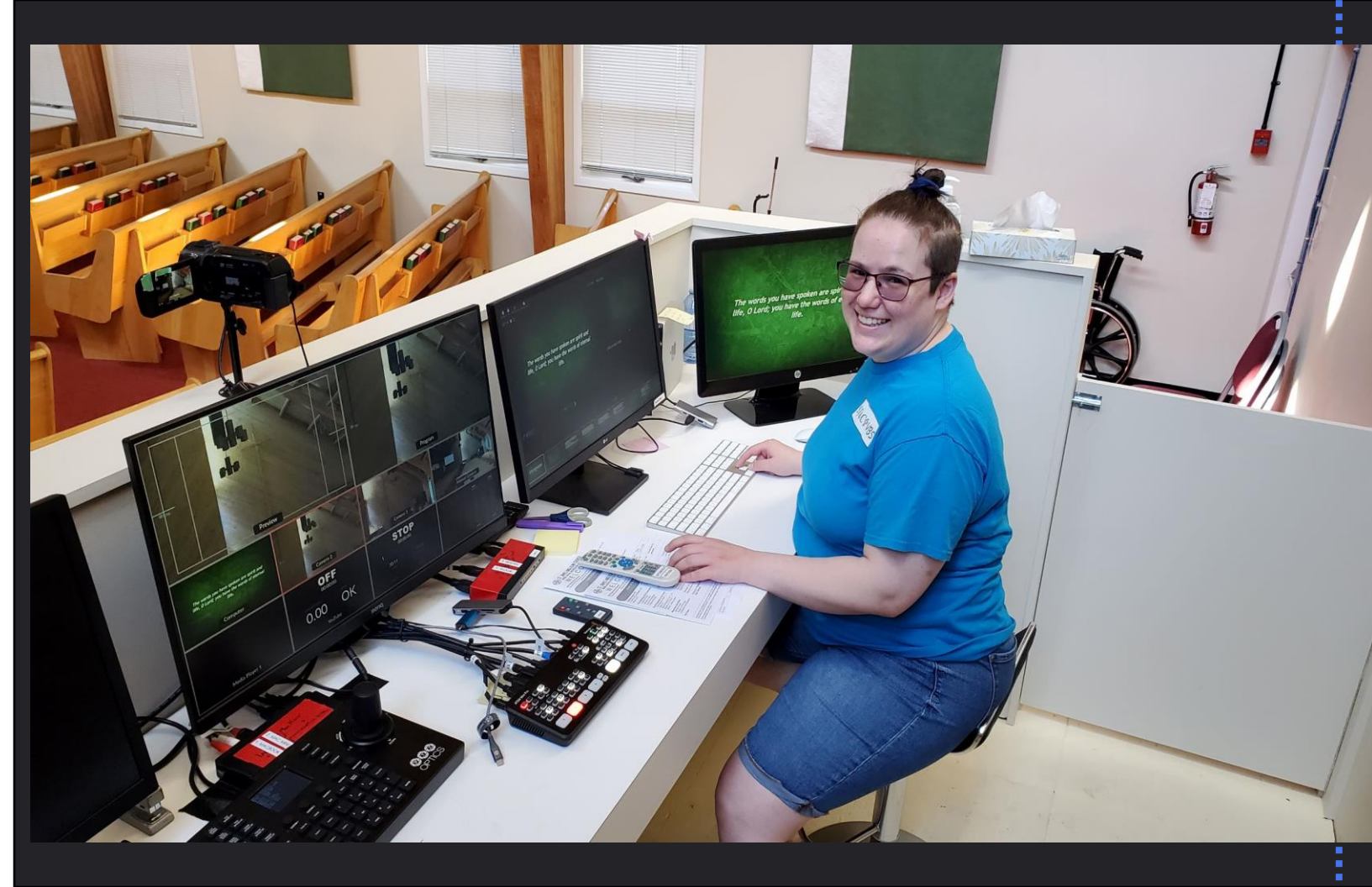
By Dee Kern

When I took on the role of Livestream Coordinator last summer, my first main focus was expanding the team - there are now 13 folks who are part of the livestream/PowerPoint team; 8 serve on at least a once-monthly basis, and 5 more fill in as needed. As part of that team expansion, we have added live streaming our 8am service to the ministry. Thanks to Ian Thomson, Aprami Jaggi, Yvonne Kern, and Stuart, Isaac, and Jonah Barnard for filling out our 8am livestream schedule! I would also like to give special thanks to Jenni Barnard for converting the 8am service booklets to a PowerPoint format, so that we can fully share the service to those at home, a move that has also been appreciated by several in-person attendees of the 8am service.

Thanks also to Helen Meller and Jackie Hallet for regularly serving at 10am, and to Patrick Kemp who until recently was one of our 10am operators, and to Barb Banman, Sara Legett, Anton Neufeld, and Jenni Barnard for helping out as needed, filling in when there have been gaps or cancellations in the schedule.

Some other major updates to the Livestream and PowerPoint ministry over the last year include taking over the function of the recording ministry, which shut down last fall. We've live streamed several funerals in the past year, as well as women's' events over Zoom, the AMP, and most recently, connected Dane and Bishop Greg virtually to the MAP conference when they needed to attend remotely.

Three members of our team are in junior/senior high, and I am happy to have Isaac, Jonah, and Anton on the Livestream team; amongst them, they've run several services themselves, starting with the Family service



in February, and most recently the Family service in May.

The sound team has been very helpful in making sure the live streams sound great - Alan also has helped with our ability to share videos embedded in our PowerPoints by re-working the way our PowerPoint computer talks to the sound board.

A slightly adjacent but exciting update for the Livestream ministry is some learning I've been doing outside of St

James. I received a grant from the Canada Council of the Arts to do a digital production apprenticeship, and there are parts of what I've been learning that I can see as being applicable to strengthening the livestream and PowerPoint ministry, and I hope more of this learning leads to strengthening of how we do things in terms of livestreaming and continuing to bring the worship at St James to those who need to participate remotely.

Men's Ministry

By Ted Pike

The Men's Ministry has a dedicated group of men and volunteers, and we are grateful for their enthusiasm and community spirit.

Although the past year has had its challenges, with a number of stops and starts due to the pandemic, we are happy to say that we've been able to meet for a number of events together since the spring of 2022.

Beginning in March, we held a well-attended Men's Retreat at Camp Evergreen with our guest speaker, Bishop Sidney Black. There were about 30 men in attendance and it was an enjoyable day of teaching and fellowship.



Our Seasons of Service included the annual spring cleanup of the grounds and shed building, as well as assisting with the set-up and takedown for St. Edmund's garage sale on the 25th of June.

We concluded the year with a summer barbeque in which we planned the next years activities to bring them more in line with the St. James Mission Action Plan.

Looking ahead we are excited to reconvene our men's breakfasts and Seasons of Service events in the Fall.

We are happy to welcome any new comers who would like to join us!

If you would like to learn more about Men's Ministry and our events, please contact Ted Pike at ted.pike@ambrose.edu or the church office, office@stjamescalgary.com



Music Worship

By Helen Meller and Tony Ware



Looking back over the last twelve months in the St. James music ministry, it is notable how much it has once again been shaped not only by the rhythms of our liturgical calendar, but also by the ebb and flow of precautions against the spread of COVID-19. This time last year our services were online, and we were using at most two musicians in our Sunday morning services. Over the course of the year we have - in fits and starts - been able to return to in-person worship together. Perhaps one of the gifts

of the last two years is to remind us what a privilege it is to be able to do this. Our music worship on Sunday mornings has again been faithfully lead by our organist Paul — with Nathan, Julie and Barb helping to lead the hymns — as well as worship teams headed up by Paul, Barb, James and Tony. Each team has its own style and helps lead us in worship in different ways. We are blessed by this variety, and by the range of gifts offered in this way by the many team members.

And we have begun to see some new faces joining in with these teams — we look forward to more over the coming year.

The music worship life of the church is not just about our Sunday morning services: gatherings such as home groups, men's and women's ministry events, the hymn-singing ministry, our Wednesday evening Compline services — all provide an opportunity to raise our voices in worship together. And we should not forget the carol singing around bonfires organized by James - with accompaniment provided in -20C by several guitarists with freezing fingers!

Over the course of the year we have had some 'special music' contributions to our services too. Our service of Lessons and Carols in Advent included performances of "The Huron Carol" (an arrangement by Michael Oczko), "Descent" (Steve Bell and Malcolm Guite) and "Adore" (Graham

Kendrick and Martin Chalk). Our Good Friday services included two home-grown songs (from Tyler and Tony, accompanied by Jono, Karin and Nate). And in March we had a visit from the wonderful Cantilon Children's Choir.

Music worship is just one expression of our life together as a church. It is one way in which we can express praise and adoration to our Lord, joining in with the hosts of heaven; one way in which we are invited to enter in to his presence. Although musicians are usually up front leading, it is in fact a way in which we all get to minister to one another. The privilege of worship together as a body is one for which we give thanks.

*Sing a new song to
the LORD,
For He has done
wonderful things.*

Psalm 98:1

Open Door Newsletter

Rita Matthews, Angela Bond Schmidt and Renuka Williams



The St. James Open Door e-newsletter was launched in June of 2020 – the early days of COVID – and continues to be sent out monthly to all who have provided their email address to the church.

It was intended to be a vehicle for messages of hope and reassurance to the St. James family that even though the physical doors to the church building were closed, with God the door is always open. And God is good – always and all ways!

Twenty-six issues later, the Open Door's primary mandate is still to share the stories of how God continues to work and move among us – individually and in our corporate life at St. James. Stories of assurance, hope, encouragement, love and gratitude as we journey together in faith.

We are always happy to hear from you and welcome those great stories about our corporate life as the St. James family. But the Open Door team also strongly encourages you to consider sharing a personal “God is Good” story. We all have them.....sometimes we just don't call them that,.. Personal stories can be great blessings to our brothers and sisters in Christ.

The Door is Open. Let's connect.

Email us at

opendoor@stjamescalgary.com

Or call Managing Editor Rita Matthews at 403.619.7482

So speak encouraging words to one another. Build up hope so you'll all be together in this, no one left out, no one left behind. I know you're already doing this; just keep on doing it.

1 Thess. 5:11
The Message



Prayer Chain

By Carol Ann Armstrong

Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

Philippians 6: 6-7

The Prayer Chain is one of the Pastoral Ministries of St. James church.

Its mandate is Phil. 6: 6-7;

‘Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.’

The members of the prayer chain provide confidential intercessory prayer support for members of the St. James congregation, their families and friends.

Presently, there are eleven members on the prayer chain. Requests are relayed to the coordinator via email or phone directly by the requester, or by the office coordinator, the clergy, or from pastoral ministries.

The coordinator sends requests down one or both teams either long or short term, depending upon urgency. Members are vigilant to maintain confidentiality of prayer requests, and the coordinator endeavors to keep prayers updated on a regular basis. This year, similar to last year, has been a busy one due to several waves of Covid-related illnesses, and the decline and passing away of several members of our church family, alongside more typical requests related to the physical, emotional, mental or spiritual stresses and dynamics of life this side of heaven.

The strong commitment of prayer chain volunteers to engage in ongoing prayer for others humbles and inspires me. I am continually grateful for their selfless generosity of time, energy, and compassion in caring for others. We remind one another often that although we provide a ‘pipeline’ for prayer requests, the burdens belong to the Lord. Our Zoom meetings these past eighteen months

have been an ongoing source of encouragement, spiritual enrichment and fellowship, enabling us to draw closer together in faith and friendship. Anyone who is interested in joining the prayer chain is encouraged to contact myself or the clergy. The prayer chain welcomes new members on an ongoing basis.

The St. James family is welcomed to contact the prayer chain for confidential prayer support by contacting myself, the church office, or clergy. We are honored to intercede with prayers for others in the knowledge and trust that the Lord hears and answers prayers in His perfect will and timing. His creative answers to prayer continue to amaze and encourage us to **‘pray without ceasing’**.

To contact Carol Ann, Prayer Chain Coordinator, email cajarmstrong@shaw.ca or call 403.606.4731

Prayer Intercessors

By Agnes Leong



Since 26th November 2020, our team members gratefully are able to meet weekly together on Zoom. We continue to seek God, worship Him in the Splendor of His Holiness, ascribe to Him the Glory due His Name for "God inhabits the praises of His people" Ps. 22:3 We need His Holy Spirit to come, for He is our helper, advocate, counsellor, comforter.

No one knows the thoughts of God except the Spirit of God.

1 Corinthians 2:9-16 states that He is the Spirit of God the Father and God the Son Jesus Christ, the Spirit of Truth, the Spirit of Interpretation, the Spirit of Revelation, the Spirit of Testimony, the Spirit of Glory, the Spirit of Love, the Spirit of Power.

The Spirit that brings unity and the Spirit that gives the 9 gifts for His people to enable them to use them with his love, for His glory bringing good fruits for the heavenly Kingdom. We invite His Presence to be with us, to help us die to our own agendas, to clean us and fill us with His thoughts. We pray for His will to lead us to pray and intercede for His agenda, purpose for His children in the Body of Christ in St. James Anglican Church, our arch bishop Greg, our pastors Dane, Carmen, Yvonne, James, Richard, all church leaders, Mission Action Planning Committee, missionaries, our provincial and country leaders, rulers of the world and all His children worldwide. We pray scriptures: Colossians 1:9-14, Psalm 33:8-22, Psalm 34:8-22.

We pray for all believers to be one with Jesus and our Father God, under the Lordship of the Holy Spirit, so that the world will know and believe that the Father God sent His son, Jesus Christ.

I give thanks for the faithfulness of each team member. I give thanks for the guidance and faithfulness of the Holy Spirit over the years. Thanks be to God, whose power working in us can do more than we can ask or imagine in the church and in Christ Jesus from generation to generation, world without end. Amen.

I pray that out of His glorious riches He may strengthen you with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith. And I pray that you, being rooted and established in love, may have power, together with all the Lord's holy people, to grasp how wide and long and high and deep is the love of Christ, and to know this love that surpasses knowledge – that you may be filled to the measure of all the fullness of God.

Ephesians 3: 16-19

Prayer Team

By Kathy Shelton



The St. James prayer team is, as the bulletin states, alive and well despite two years of battering from 'pandemic restrictions'.

The team consists of nine members loyal and true, all long time members of St. James.

Throughout the past two years we have met online to have fellowship, discuss any concerns

and to study areas of prayer ministry. The inability to pray personally with others has been hard on us!

Phone in prayer was offered during this time and was used most Sunday afternoons. It continues to be part of the ministry for those that view the services online.

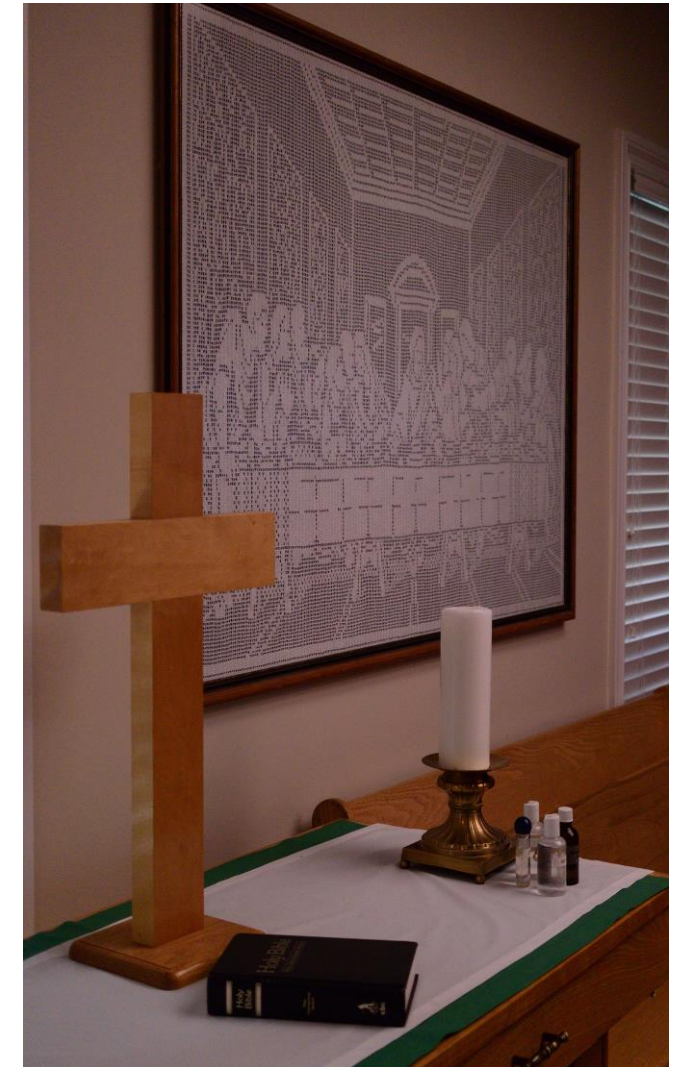
Prayer is exciting! We are currently seeking folks who might want to be part of this ministry and recently received a very positive response from the Youth and Young Adults. A mentoring program is being formulated and we hope to begin in August.

With the reopening of our church (Praise God!) a new sense of Holy Spirits' leading has been felt among members of the team. It seems Our Lord has underscored the importance of prayer in the church and for all believers, at such a time as this.

I believe the prayer ministry of our hands on (literally) team is a unique and defining part of the whole that is St. James.

As Oswald Chambers wrote: "Prayer is the vital breath of a Christian; not the thing that makes him alive, but the evidence that **he is alive.**"

St. James is alive and well.



Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.

1 Thess. 5: 16-18

St. Edmunds Food Bank

By Charlie Nygren



The St. Edmunds Food Bank Ministry operates out of St. Edmund King and Martyr Anglican Church in Bowness. The Food Bank provides food hampers to needy families and individuals in the Bowness area. From January to April this year, hampers have been provided to 161 families, including 354 adults and 99 children. The food bank has a limited budget to purchase supplies but relies heavily on donations of food received from 5 local churches,

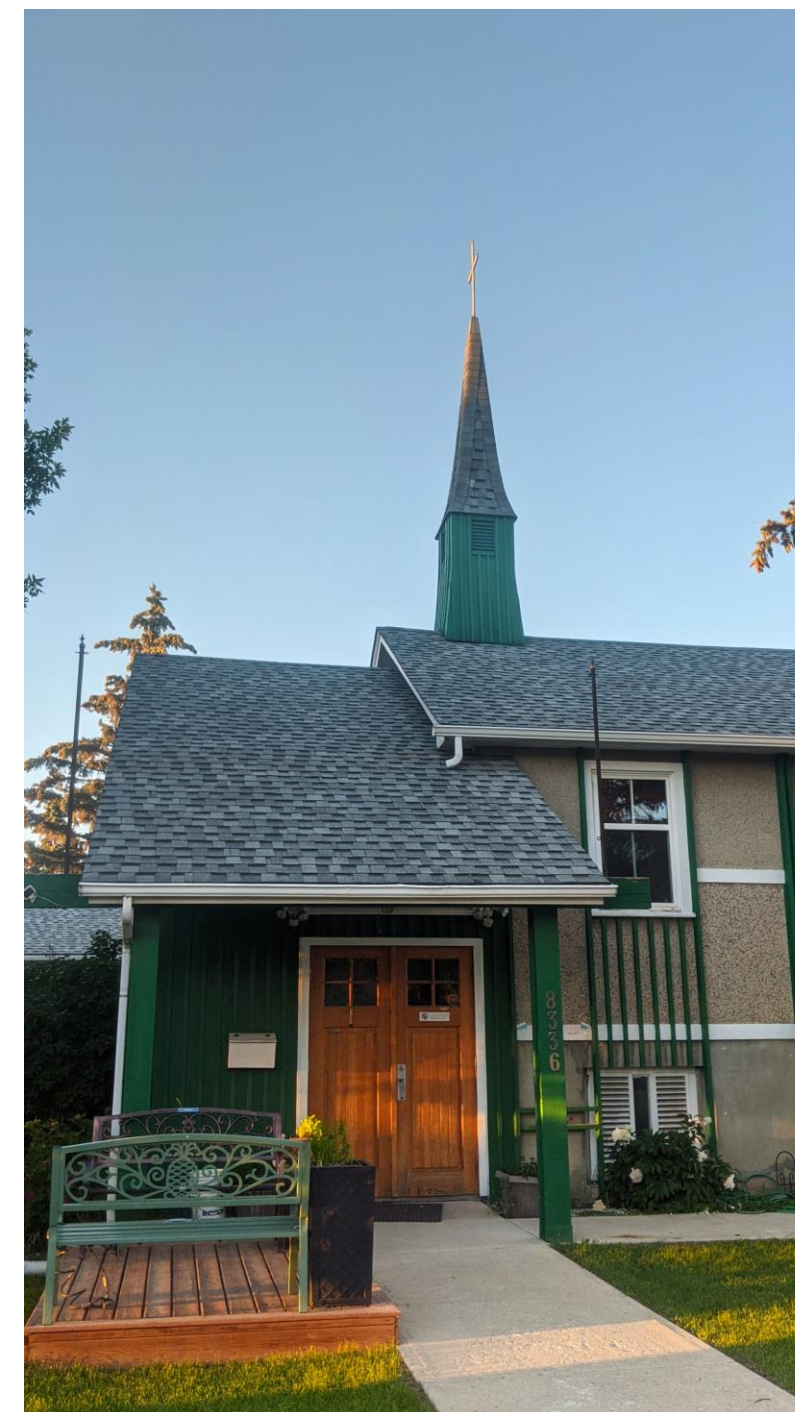
including St. James, as well as individual donors. Several home groups from St. James, as well as individual members of the St. James family, have taken up the challenge to provide regular donations to the food bank. The Food Bank also held their annual garage sale on June 25th this year to help raise funds.

There is a container in the hallway below the coat hangers marked St. Edmunds Food Bank where donations of non-perishable items can be left.

Some of the most needed items are canned meat, fish, beans and vegetables, as well as dried foods such as pasta and soups. Anyone wishing to make a cash donation to St. Edmunds Food Bank can do so by sending a cheque payable to “St Edmund King & Martyr Anglican Church” with a note attached saying that the donation is for the Food Bank. Cheques may be mailed to St. Edmunds Anglican Church, 8336 – 34 Ave NW, Calgary, AB, T3B 1R2.

Donations of food can also be dropped off at St. Edmunds during their office opening hours of Monday and Thursday mornings between 9:30 am and 11:00 am.

On behalf of the staff of St. Edmunds I would like to pass on thanks to all who have continued to support this ministry.



Salt and Light

By David Fisher



The church's budget includes a tithe (10%) for missionary work. The Salt and Light Missions Committee proposes an annual budget. At the end of each quarter we recommend payments to the Corporation and these are reviewed by the Parish Council. Most of our money goes to several key partners and some to a few ministries we feel are strategic although we can't give them much money. We are pleased when our own people go on a mission

project, locally or overseas, even for a few weeks.

The committee's focus is on people who are known to the congregation and are serving Jesus as career missionaries; the career may be a few years or much longer. In many cases, their work is to equip local people to take the gospel to their own people.

The focus is always on proclaiming Jesus and serving those he loves.

Our own St. James people supported financially are Ron and Leng Kue Veirgutz, Sara Leggett and Carissa Lawton. We also support Keith & Jacqueline Robinson who were members for 10 years. During the war in Ukraine, several St. James people join the biweekly prayer meeting (on Zoom) for our partner Anatoliy Sapsay. In addition, we encourage the congregation to be aware of the gospel work of others including Raija-Liisa (pronounced Rye-ya Liisa) Schmidt-Teigen, Bill Mitchell, Marlene & Robert Wiens, Anna Sinclair, Laurie Bennie, Gord Hutchinson, and Barb McIntosh.

The committee's task is also to inform the congregation. We do this through a prayer feature in the Sunday bulletin, occasional special reports, and the semi-annual Missions Focus Sunday. A brochure that explains our work and introduces our missionaries is available in the narthex.

Committee members: David Fisher, Margaret Wright, Alice Mitchell, Joel Runka and Dan Hardock.

How to support missionaries

- Sunday mission prayer (in bulletin)
- Adopt a missionary – friendship, prayer, email, share about your life
- Subscribe to email news
- Follow the news of their country
- Support the St. James budget; 10% is for mission work beyond ourselves.



Scripture Union

By Alan Gilmour

God's Word continues to guide and strengthen us as we navigate out of this pandemic. This year we have 19 subscribers to Scripture Union (SU) notes. Learning about God and who He is an important part of our discipleship as Christians. Scripture Union is a ministry that helps people grow closer to God through reading and reflecting on the Scriptures on a regular basis. To enable this, SU offers a variety of Bible reading notes. There are two types of notes for adults. Daily Bread and Encounter with God including the option of large print versions. The notes have many similarities, both draw on an international panel of teachers, many of whom have spent many years studying the Bible, and both include ways we can apply Scripture to our everyday lives and draw closer to God in our daily walk. Each issue is a quarterly subscription, which can be ordered anytime during the year. Past copies of SU notes are available to try out free of charge for those interested.



But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.

Matthew 6:33

For the youth, the notes are designed for specific age groups:

Ages 7-8: Hotshots is full of adventures, cartoons, puzzles and stories with Bible passages and available as a full year

subscription. **Ages 9-11:** Snapshots notes include a short Bible reading and a variety of other activities for everyday of the year. All 365 days in the year are included in one Snapshots book.

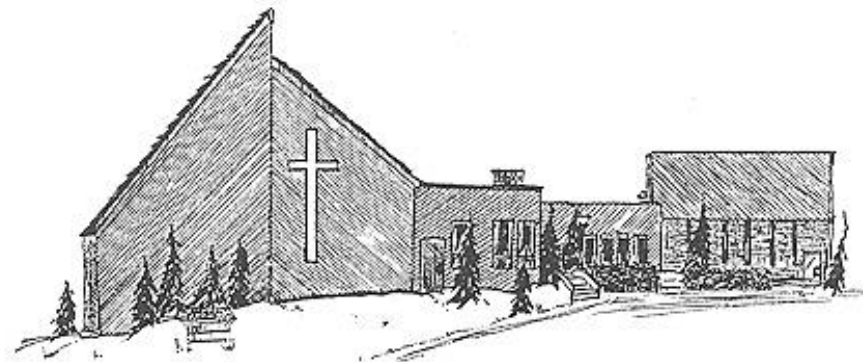
Ages 15-18: Airlock is a series of undated themed Bible readings,

exploring subjects of interest for today's young people and is available as a quarterly subscription. The regular price for adult yearly subscriptions is still \$40.00, New subscribers can be added at any time during the year at a prorated subscription cost.

For more information or to sign up, please contact Alan Gilmour at 403-239-3422 or awgilmour@icloud.com.

Small Groups

By Aidan and Byni Hollis



We would like to start by **thanking Roger and Carol Woods for their thoughtful and diligent work leading the small group ministry at St James for many years. We have all been blessed by them in various ways. *Thank you very much for your service and for continuing to lead your small group!***

There are currently around 100 people in 9 small groups at St James. The groups have different styles and different meeting times

and days. We want everyone interested to be able to connect in a personal way through a small group at St James!

A small group offers a safe place to grow in your faith, to be challenged and supported, to explore the tough questions of life, to laugh and sometimes to cry, to study the Bible, to develop deep friendships that go beyond the superficialities, to serve each other. It is a place where Christian community feels real.

We have had lots of interest and are hoping to see more groups up and running this Fall.

If you are wondering about joining a small group please contact us, fill out the form on the information table in the Church foyer and put it in the white box, or speak with Dane, Carmen or Jenni.

Aidan and Byni Hollis, stjsmallgroups@gmail.com



Sound Team

By Alan Cary



2021 / 2022 was a busy year with the upgrade of our sound system in the sanctuary. Our old speaker was replaced in the summer by a state-of-the-art speaker array with a flying sub-woofer suspended from the rafters.

The installation took about a week and included

reconfiguring the existing amplifiers and ringing out the room to ensure peak system performance.

The sound improvement was noticeable both in the “feel” of the sound, from the sub-woofer, and the crispness of the high-end frequencies.

Then in January we installed an isolation booth for the drum kit which was then mic'd up enabling us to run all the percussion sound through the board. By doing so, not only have we eliminated the drum's acoustic noise at the altar rail, but we now have the control to balance the drum sound with the rest of the music team's instruments and voices and offer a better sound experience to the congregation.

Our team currently consists of 5 practicing Audio Techs; John Sinclair, Nate Stromberg, Steve Caldwell, Ian Thomson and Alan Cary. The team covers both services on a Sunday morning as well as ad hoc events such as weddings, funerals, retreats, conferences, AMP meetings and other special events such as Ladies' Evenings and Men's breakfasts.

For the Sunday Services, whether in-person, live streamed or both, the Audio Tech manages the sound board and captures and produces sound feeds for a number of needs including

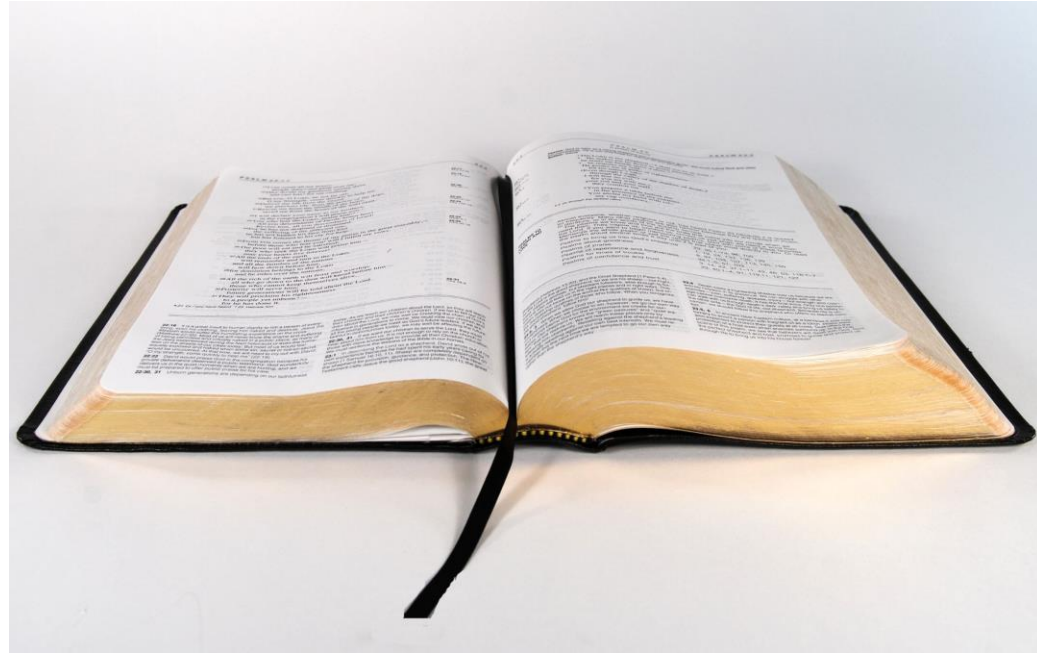
the sanctuary and adjoining rooms, the Livestream team, In-Ear Monitoring for the worship team and Assisted Hearing systems.

God Bless and Good Sound!



Thursday Morning Ladies Bible Study

By Bev Swanson



May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace as you trust in Him, so you may overflow with hope by the power of the Holy Spirit.

Romans 15:13

The purpose of the Thursday Morning Ladies' Bible Study is for women of all ages and stages to glorify God together through praise, Bible study and fellowship. Our specific goals are that each member will draw closer to God and find friendship, support and nurture within the group. Anyone is welcome to join the group and we encourage members to invite others.

The morning begins at 9:30 with a welcome, any announcements, a praise song, and opening prayer followed by breaking into smaller groups for the Bible study and personal prayer. The small study/prayer groups are led by a number of members who facilitate the discussions approximately once a month. These facilitators make a major contribution to the success of the Thursday mornings. When we are meeting together in the church, we join back together to close with the Grace at 11:30am.

Our group has been affected by the expectations established during Covid. We have strived to be flexible and to address the needs of the group and individuals. We have used two different platforms to meet weekly including: all members on Zoom and a combination of two groups on Zoom and two groups meeting in-person at St. James. We look forward to the time when we are able to meet as a whole group back at St. James. During the past year we have used the following resources to guide our study of scripture:

Fall 2021

1 & 2 Thessalonians by Matt Smethurst (from the series "Knowing the Bible")

Winter 2022

Getting the Most Out of Ephesians by N. T. Wright

Winter/Spring 2022

40 Days to Easter by Kenneth Boa & John Allen Turner

Spring 2022

Love: Building Healthy Relationships by Peter Scazzero

Special thanks go out to Jane Turvey who led the group for eight years and stepped down from the position at the end of December. We are also very thankful to Marlene Wiens who is responsible for setting up Zoom and facilitating the transition from "whole group" to "four smaller groups" for the Bible study and prayers. We could not have shared this time together without her skill and the care she has taken to include all of the ladies who wanted to participate.



We are also thankful to Jen Stromberg who led us in our weekly praise song and Betty Pike who has agreed to lead the group for the last three sessions in Spring 2022.

The Ladies' Bible Study is a gift to the participants. It is a safe place to share praises to the Lord, lift up each other in prayer, explore what Jesus has done for us, consider how we can work to be more Christ like in our daily lives, open ourselves to the prompting of the Holy Spirit, and strive to follow the path that God

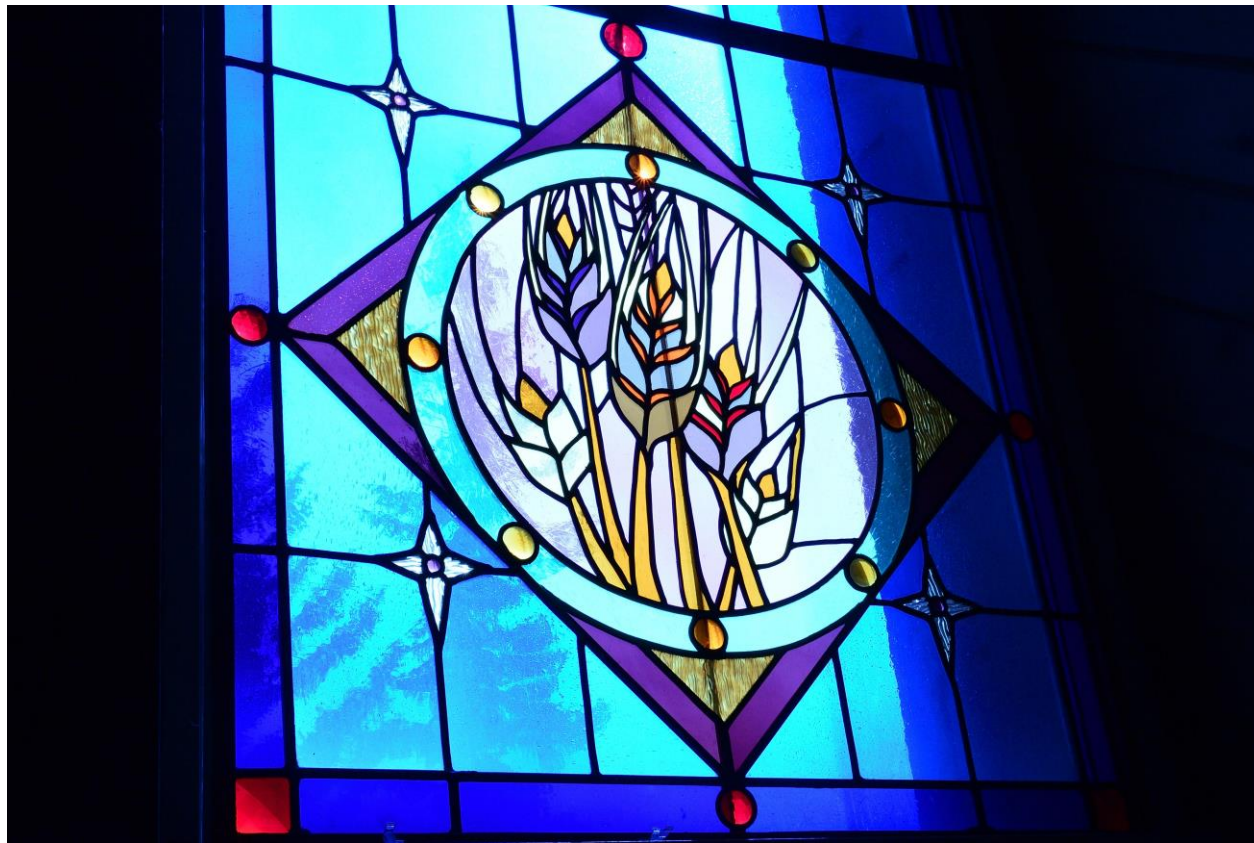
has set before us. During the time of Covid, we have deepened our relationship with God and each other. It has been a time of growth, individually and as a group.

I would like to thank the women in the Bible Study for their affirmation and amazing support beginning when I took over the leadership in January. Their blessings and support have been greatly appreciated. With God's help, I will continue to lead this valuable ministry.



Women's Ministry

By Helen Meller



The purpose of the Women's Ministry is to provide events for women from St. James and the wider community where both the churched and seekers can come together. We aim to be a place of refuge and hospitality where all women can be encouraged both spiritually and personally. Past events have included personal stories of faith journeys, times of

worship, prayer, retreats, and social camaraderie in a warm and caring environment.

The current team members are Carol Ann Armstrong, Cherie Deur, Donna Johnson, Helen Meller, Betty Pike, Bev Swanson, Jennifer Stromberg, Sheila Vanderputten and Renuka Williams

We were delighted to have Cherie Deur and Jennifer Stromberg who joined us this past May.

The women's ministry team has learned new ways to be an encouragement to women in our parish and the broader-based community during the Covid Pandemic. We did not plan the usual October Women's Evening event as we wanted to be supportive to the ongoing Mission Action Plan (MAP) initiatives that occurred that month. The team felt it was important to participate and encourage more people to be involved in attending Zoom MAP meetings

Because of the Covid Pandemic we could not host the advent brunch. The Women's Team members wrote an advent letter of encouragement to the women of our parish and to a broader number of women outside our parish who normally attend our functions. This letter was mailed to each woman so that she would have something tangible in front of her to reflect upon over the advent season.

On the evening of February 22, 2022, Carmen Maier, our Associate Priest, shared her faith story with the women

of our parish. Approximately 95 women attended either in-person or on-line via Zoom. Twelve women who couldn't attend the evening watched the private video showing of the evening after the event.

It takes a village to make an evening like this happen. We appreciated so much the work of Jenni Barnard who helped set up the personal invitation sent to all the women of the parish using MailChimp, and for setting up the website to pre-register for the event. We thank Dee Kern who did a lot of behind-the-scenes technical work.

Thanks to Aprami Jaggi who worked the cameras, Yvonne Kern who operated the PowerPoint presentation, Renuka Williams who monitored Zoom for the on-line participants and Alan Cary who was our soundboard technician.

Thanks to our music team which consisted of Karin Lavoie on keyboard, Julie Leeb on guitar and vocals, Christine Philip and Jen Stromberg who were also on vocals.



Our desire as a Women's ministry team is to continue to provide a place for all women both young and old who are at different stages in their spiritual journey to continue to grow spiritually and in fellowship with one another. We praise God for the women who have been drawn to these events.

We look forward to the upcoming year as we offer hospitality and encouragement in Jesus' name to our guests.

We know that ways of providing this ministry are changing. Over this coming summer, the Women's Ministry Team members are

praying and contemplating what this ministry might look like in the future.

If you want to know more about the Women's Ministry or have any ideas to offer the team, please contact Helen Meller at 403-282-4243 or email her at

hmmeller@telusplanet.net

Alternatively, you can connect with any team member for further information.

It is a privilege and a joy to serve with this committed, caring, gifted and prayerful team.



Youth and Young Adults Ministry

By James Lawton



Here at St James we have two weekly opportunities for youth to get involved. We run a 3 hour time of teaching, music and games on Friday nights and a half hour of study during the 10am service Sunday mornings. Youth is open to any teen from grades 7-12. It's a place teens can come to learn more about God and how they can be in personal relationship with Him. It's a safe

place for youth in the church and community to hang out and build fellowship and have fun.

This will be my seventh year as youth pastor here at St James, assisted by a wonderful leadership team in Curt and Kaitlyn Muller, Melissa Betancourt, Priya Crane, Tasha Zinke, Ashley Deuchar and Carissa Lawton.

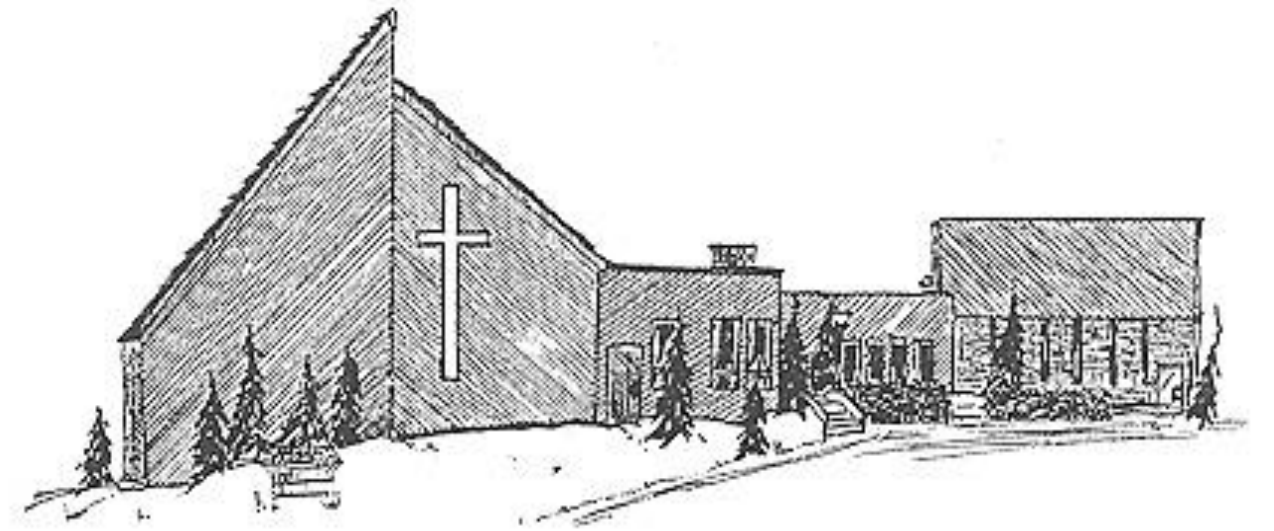
Our leaders meet 4 times a year to go over our vision for the group and discuss ways we can better serve our youth. 2021 was once again a year in flux, with changing restrictions and uncertain moments along the way. The good news for us was that we were able to keep youth going, and eventually come back to in person events! Having youth back to its regular time and routine has been wonderful for me and I think for our youth as well. This year also saw an influx of grade 7s, fresh out of the 456 club with Yvonne Kern. This has bolstered our numbers, with us sitting around 20 youth on a regular Friday night and 12-15 on a Sunday morning. All told, there are about 30 youth involved at St. James at this time.

Some of the highlights of the past year have been joint events with the youth group at Holy Trinity, our annual Fall Camp, and our twice a year events with the 456 club. I have also been blessed to see a large number of our youth confirmed and baptised in the last year. God is working in the lives of these teens!

In addition to working with youth, my wife and I continue to run a group for young adults. We have a group of about 10 that meets most Sundays to build fellowship, creating a space of belonging for our young adults within the St James community. It will also function as a place to guide our graduating youth to so that they will have continuous involvement at St James.

Overall this year has been rejuvenating, full of excitement over new youth and a return to our more regular routine! Our group is strong and excited and I look forward to what God will do as they grow and mature. Pray always that we can be effective at bringing in those who don't yet know Jesus and growing those that do. Praise the Lord for the work he is doing in the lives of these teenagers, and thank Him for His grace that allows us to do what we do.

For further information contact James at james@stjamescalgary.com or check out the Youth website, <https://www.six3five1.com>



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Calgary, Alberta
T3G 1B5