

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter March 11, 2023.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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St. Brice's Visioning Scripture

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.” Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)

Something To Make Us Smile

Teacher Debbie Moon's first graders were discussing a picture of a family. One little boy in the picture had a different hair color than the other members. One of her students suggested that he was adopted.

A little girl said, 'I know all about adoption; I was adopted.'

'What does it mean to be adopted?' asked another child.

'It means', said the girl, 'that you grew in your mommy's heart instead of her tummy!'

-shared by Marion Russell

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Lenten Quiet Morning

The Rev. Dr. Derek Neal will be offering a Lenten Quiet Morning at St. Brice's, on Saturday, March 18, 9:30-11:30am. This will be a low-key time to be spiritually fed, and to reflect on some of the scriptures for this Lenten season. No pre-registration is needed, and all are welcome.

The
Season
of
Lent



Bible Study

The Tuesday evening Bible Study just finished the Book of Hosea, and will be beginning the Gospel according to St. Matthew this coming Tuesday, 7-8pm. During these Bible Studies, we typically read a few verses, and then talk about what they mean, and how this can apply to our lives. Everyone is welcome, regardless of how well we know the contents of the Bible. For more information, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

Grace Foundation

The Grace Foundation is a charitable organization founded and funded in 1993 by Rev. John McCausland, a former Honourary Assistant at St. Brice's and member of the Society of St. John the Evangelist. It is managed by a Board of Trustees, including Eva Black, Betty Burke, Bill Burton and Mary Ellen Page.

The Rev. McCausland describes the mission and purpose of the Grace Foundation in this way:

My desire is to assist people to think like Christians. My prayer is that the Grace Foundation might help provide the financial resources for individuals, parishes or others within the Diocese of Algoma, to become better prepared to live and think like Christians.

Some of the recent activities/ projects supported financially by the Grace Foundation include Children's Bibles for Camp Temiskaming, textbooks for a seminary student, travel expenses for the leader of a Christian workshop in North Bay and travel expenses for a major Christian conference in Oxford.

For more information, or to apply for support from the Grace Foundation, please contact Bill Burton (705 472-2706).

A.C.W.

The next Anglican Church Women's meeting will be held on Saturday, March 25, 10am. All women are welcome to come.

Women's Breakfast and Bible Study

Please join us on Saturday, 1 April, 9am-noon for the on-line Wycliffe College Women's Breakfast, led by Dr. Marion Taylor and guest Dr. Lori Baron. Please contact give@wycliffe.utoronto.ca for more information.

Reconciliation

Along with many other Christians, Anglicans regard sacraments as a means of grace – a way in which God uses the world around us as signs of his presence, and a means to pour love and spiritual strength into our lives. "Grace" is un-earned. It is a sheer, free gift by the Creator of the universe, through Christ, for all who will receive it. The two sacraments which are specifically commanded by the Lord Jesus are Baptism (St. Matthew 28:19), and Holy Communion (St. Luke 22:19 *et al.*).



There are other sacramental means offered to us – not all of us participate in them, but many do. For example, Marriage is seen as a sacramental gift, and so is Confirmation.

Another sacramental ministry of the Church is that of Reconciliation. Supremely, of course, we are reconciled with God through Jesus Christ. In light of this new relationship, Christians are expected to seek reconciliation with other people, wherever there has been alienation.



Sometimes we find ourselves in the position of having regrets over something hasty we said, or something we did (or didn't bother to do). Of course,

any of us can choose to bring this to God, and seek to mend human relationships. However, sometimes the right way forward isn't so easy to discern. Participating in the liturgy of Reconciliation would likely be helpful for us.

A key Anglican principle for Reconciliation is: "All may; none must; some should." The services for Reconciliation can be found on pp. 167 and 171 of the *Book of Alternative Services*, and on p. 581 of the *Book of Common Prayer*.

What happens during a service of Reconciliation? Typically, I meet with someone privately in the Church building, and we chat about what is on your mind. I might make some suggestions about the way forward. Then we participate in a short time of prayer, during which we admit where we could have done better, and I proclaim God's

forgiveness. There are no required devotions later, for God's forgiveness to be absolutely complete in your life.

Lent is often a time when some Anglicans seek to participate in this ministry. No one has broached me about this so far this season. This might mean that everyone's spiritual life is going so swimmingly well, we have no need. Perhaps, though, we do have this need, and this ministry hasn't come to our mind; or, it's possible that we might be hesitant to look carefully in the mirror. I encourage us to consider participating in this ministry. -PA

PROPERTY

Main Exterior Doors – Update

As most of us know, our main exterior doors were damaged by vandalism early last summer. We are planning to upgrade the doors to



be stouter, while at the same time ensuring they are an attractive welcome to St. Brice's. We have received price quotes from 3 different installers, and are carefully weighing our next steps.

