

# 'The Ambassador'

st. paul's  
anglican  
church

As Ambassadors  
for Christ,  
we are  
called to  
bring  
our Lord's  
**GRACE,**  
**LOVE,**  
and **PEACE**  
to everyone.



~ Wednesday March 10, 2021 ~



## A Shot In The Arm ~

Offering Secretary Ernie Tilbury dropped by the church office with a submission for our first "post-Vestry-prep" edition of the newsletter and got caught in the Rector's camera sights . . .

Ernie had his COVID19 vaccination on Friday and was a good sport about it, twice: once for the shot and again for the photo-op.

You can read Ernie's "Grace Note of Thanks" in our Financial section, page 8.

**"Ambassador for Christ"**  
~ [2 Corinthians 5:20] ~

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A "GRACE NOTE" from [thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com](http://thunderbay-northshoreanglicans.com)

*"God can live anywhere in the universe, and He chose your heart."*

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visit our website @ [stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca](http://stpaulsanglicanchurch.ca) and find us on facebook

**Editor's Note:** It's great to be back! Our 'Ambassador' newsletter has been on hiatus since mid-January as we prepared our annual **Vestry Book**, online and in colour for the first time ever! If you haven't yet seen it, **CLICK HERE** or go to our website.

This month you'll notice we're catching up on some sermons, submissions, and parish news we've been holding on to for the last few weeks. Too good to pass up! Happy reading . . .

~ *Christine French* Newsletter Editor ☺

## 1. **Rector's Grace Notes** ~

### **15 Minute "Anniversary Rite Of Prayer" TOMORROW 11:55am**

Tomorrow, Thursday, March 11, 2021 marks the first year anniversary of the "Global Coronavirus Pandemic Declaration."

Please click this link: <https://youtu.be/s6oWnnobNsc> to watch **Archbishop Anne's Video Message**. And please join us for a short service tomorrow. I have attached the "Anniversary Rite of Prayer" as a pdf; I will be leading the Rite on ZOOM starting at 12 noon (click the **red link** below).

Please join the ZOOM at 11:55 am, as I will start the service right at noon. Thank you! The service will take about 15 minutes and include 3 minutes of silence. Hopefully this will coincide with your lunch hour.

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled ZOOM meeting.

- ✝ **Topic:** 1st Year Pandemic Anniversary Rite of Prayer
- ✝ **Time:** March 11, 2021 12:00 Noon
- ✝ **Join Zoom Meeting:** <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/89962424254>
- ✝ **Meeting ID:** 899 6242 4254

May God bless us with continued strength and control as we know we are not alone, and that there is an end in sight. Thanks be to God.

### **"TGIF" Times 2 = Friday Morning 'ZOOM' & Noon Litany**

"Thank God it's Friday!" Thank the Lord for bringing you safely to the close of another week of change and challenge; praise the Lord for the blessing of refreshment the weekend brings; ask the Lord to strengthen you for the week ahead.

#### **1. 9:00am ½ hr Friday Morning Prayer**

Worship from the comfort of home by ZOOM or telephone.

Deborah Kraft is inviting you to a scheduled ZOOM

Join Meeting: **SAME LINK each Friday! CLICK BELOW ~**  
<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82208698866>

- ☑ **Topic:** Morning Prayer with the Parish
- ☑ **Time:** Every Friday Morning at 9 am
- ☑ **Meeting ID:** 822 0869 8866

OR Dial any one of these 6 numbers

- |                  |                  |                  |
|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| ☎ [204] 272 7920 | ☎ [438] 809 7799 | ☎ [587] 328 1099 |
| ☎ [647] 374 4685 | ☎ [647] 558 0588 | ☎ [778] 907 2071 |
- Meeting ID:** 822 0869 8866

#### **2. Friday NOON 'Litany of Reconciliation'**

Worship from the comfort of your home by going to **Facebook** OR worship at the Church.

- ☑ Watch this 6 minute service on **Facebook, St. Paul's Anglican Church**
- ☑ OR Come to the church front steps and participate in the service. **Don't forget your mask!**



## A Letter From Archbishop Anne Germond

Please read the attached letter from Archbishop Anne regarding the council's latest **Red Stage** decisions. Her letter states that our churches will **not be opening** for Holy Week or Easter. St. Paul's will be livestreaming our Palm / Passion Sunday, Holy Week, and Easter Services.

## Would You Like To Participate In Our 'Passion Narrative'?

I will be recording two passion narratives on ZOOM, one for **"Passion / Palm Sunday"** and one for **"Good Friday."**

If you would like to participate, please let me know by NEXT MONDAY, March 15. Email me directly, please:

[stpauls.rector@shaw.ca](mailto:stpauls.rector@shaw.ca)



watch live or anytime on



current restrictions. Please join us for worship on **YouTube / St. Paul's Media** until our in-person worship resumes once again.

## Our Sunday Morning LIVESTREAMS ARE HERE FOR YOU!

We are continuing to live-stream both our **10:00 am Morning Prayer Service** and **11:30 am Children's Service** during the

## Office Closed During LockDown But WE ARE HERE FOR YOU!

Our Church Office is still closed to public traffic until restrictions are lifted, but we are still here and still available to address your questions, requests, or concerns. We'll be busy checking messages and emails and working behind the scenes to bring you the livestreams and keep you updated.

You are most welcome to email **myself** ([stpauls.rector@shaw.ca](mailto:stpauls.rector@shaw.ca)) or call us at 622-4945 (office messages) or 624-7161 (Rector's cell).



## May God Keep You Safe!

St. Paul's is still able to be open for live-streaming and small weddings and funerals with a maximum attendance of 10 people. We will all be masked and socially distanced and no one will be coming into the church with any symptoms of illness.

I encourage you to please follow the safety protocols.

This will end!

*"Keep alert, stand firm in your faith, be courageous, be strong." 1 Corinthians 16:13*



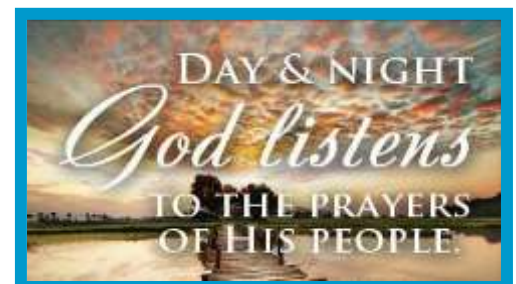
## Healing Prayer AVAILABLE VIA OUR 'PARISH PRAYER CHAIN'

Although healing prayer is no longer offered at in-person services, you are welcome to make a confidential Prayer Request through our Prayer Chain ministry. The dedicated parishioners who are part of this confidential ministry offer up the names they receive in prayer continually throughout the day. Call/Text LayReader Sandra Rejall at 629-3431 to leave a name; you may give as little or as much info as you

wish. *"Are any among you sick? They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them."* (James 5: 14)

## Who Would You Like Us To Pray For?

I value your prayer requests and love including them in our live-stream service. While our in-person worship is suspended, **please**



email me directly ([stpauls.rector@shaw.ca](mailto:stpauls.rector@shaw.ca)) or text me (807-624-7161) by early Friday afternoon with your prayer petitions and gratitude prayers. I will include all I receive by 4:00pm. Thank you!

*Archdeacon Deborah+*

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## **2. A Note From Fr. Gordon ~ JANUARY 20, 2021**

As I sit here this morning, listening in one ear to the inauguration of Joe Biden, and the sound (and vibration) of a back hoe chiseling up the road outside of one of our neighbours front yard as they have the lead pipe water feed to their home replaced, and of course, watching it snow, I am reminded of still being in a lockdown due to COVID19.

In all these happenings, I am reminded of the gift of hope that is prevalent in each one. As human beings, we tend to focus on negative things, but as our readings tell us this Sunday, we are called to follow Jesus, and as ambassadors for him, we are to try and mend the nets in society and then cast them out in hope.

Pray hard, stay positive and well, always cling to the hope that our Lord gives us.

Blessings to you all,

*Fr. Gordon+*

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## **3. "Silent Auction" of EXTRA CHURCH PEWS ~ HELD OVER!**

Our Pew Auction has been extended until after current lockdown restrictions are lifted to be sure we can accommodate anyone who has not yet had an opportunity to view the 12 pews set up in our church hall and place a bid. Check back for more details in a few weeks!

We hope to resume in-person viewing by Easter. Several pews have multiple bids and some are still unspoken for, so you still have a good chance to own a piece of history . . .

*Christopher Willie, Property Co-Chair*



## **4. Fr. Gordon's Sermon from last Sunday March 7, 2021 '3rd Sunday in Lent' ~**

*Lord, your people are gathered, feed them with your word.*

This morning's account of Jesus cleansing the temple is really quite amazing because it stands in contrast to our popular notions of Jesus' character. This is not the picture of a gentle, soft-spoken Jesus calmly confronting the religious establishment with his authoritative teaching and divine wisdom. Rather, Jesus appears with His sleeves rolled up ready for a fight.

So why is Jesus so disruptive? Well, the temple had become an exclusive enterprise ruled by the current governing elite. It had distanced itself from the people of God. Yes, the temple welcomed everyone, but Jesus saw a new divine in-dwelling, a place which put God first, and the temple was failing at this.

We might ask, is this really our Lord Jesus? He is overturning tables and disrupting the religious life of the people. This account of Jesus' aggressive behavior doesn't mesh too well with our cherished views of him as a teacher, a healer, a comforter and gentle shepherd, and after all, our Lord would never do anything that is disruptive, would He?

I remember my own call to serve many years ago, I remember thinking nothing was going to interrupt my red-blooded English youth lifestyle, rally driving in my *Mini Cooper*, racing motorcycles, and I won't give any further information on that subject, but some time later, interrupted it was . . . We have to understand the power of Christ, as in our first reading from 1 Corinthians this morning.

Jesus is far more confrontational than we often imagine; think about it for a few minutes, it is a characteristic of His work in the world. Jesus is constantly disrupting things, whether it be on the corporate level of, say, a religious establishment, or on the personal level of an individual's life.

I personally, had no desire to spend time studying and being in church, however, we all know the result of that disruption of my life. And what about the lives of his disciples? Did Jesus not cause a disruption in their lives? Fishermen who were successful enough to have boats and hired hands left their livelihoods behind to follow Jesus in the far more difficult and unsettling work of fishing for people.

Similarly an affluent tax collector walked away from a lucrative business and the security it gave him in order to journey with the One who, unlike even foxes and birds of the air, had nowhere to lay His head (Mark 2:13-14; Matthew 8:20). Likewise, Jesus disrupted the lives of countless other followers. He had that kind of disruptive influence upon people's lives.

Jesus still has that kind of disruptive influence on people's lives today, doesn't He? Our presence here this morning bears witness to some degree of Christ's disruptive work in our lives through the power of the Holy Spirit.

During this time of COVID, career choices and goals have been altered and reshaped. Family relationships and lifestyles have been interrupted. Decisions on faithfulness and obedience have collided with cultural values and expectations.



I suspect all of us could point to more than a few costs and disruptions that have accompanied our responses of faith in following Jesus. This morning we are told that Jesus steps into the temple swinging a whip. He drives the animals out, overturns tables, and spills the whole system onto the temple floor. He commands the money changers to depart and to take all these things away. The people there retaliate and demand a sign, they don't understand what the fuss is all about. Jesus answers, ***“Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it up!”***

Can you imagine the barrage of responses from the religious people to such a seemingly preposterous statement? We might ask, what in the world is Jesus talking about? Is He talking about tearing down a religious establishment that has lost its way by accommodating itself to the people? Does He mean to destroy a religious program that has become confused about its responsibility to God and a place of transformation in the community?

Is He talking about pulling down systems of self-identification, personal arenas from which one's life receives more meaning and direction than from a vital communion with the living God? We know of course, He is talking about Himself who, after dying on the cross, would be raised on the third day, who will then be the point of connection between the God of Heaven and the people on Earth, who will be the new and everlasting “temple” marking God's relationship with His people.

Indeed, after Jesus' death on the cross and resurrection from the dead, His disciples saw very clearly that He had been speaking of the temple of his body, the One who was, and is, and always will be. In Christ Jesus they encountered the One who calls us by name, disrupting our lives and beckoning us to follow. In walking with Him we may know him and so know ourselves, that we may love and serve God and one another as God intends.

Living appropriately as God's own children who love him with all our heart, mind, soul, and strength

and love our neighbors as ourselves. My friend's, the reality is we belong to one disruptive Lord. And this Lord of ours is bent on overturning anything and everything that hinders us from appropriate devotion and service to God the Father and to one another.

This disruptive Lord of ours does not passively abandon people and institutions which he has called into being and commissioned with a task. No, our loving Lord boldly confronts that which is inappropriate within us and among us for the purpose of making us clean, whole and faithful.

So, in these Lenten days, and always, may we continue praising our loving and merciful God for stirring us to faithfulness, for bestowing on us the gifts of the Spirit, and may we praise Him for disturbing our complacent lives through Jesus, disruptively working to make us to be more closely the people and the community we were created to be.

Thanks be to God! AMEN.

Fr. Gordon+

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## 5. My Sermon from Sunday January 17, 2021 2nd Sunday after the Epiphany ~ *"Come And See"*

*O Lord, uphold me that I may uplift you and may the words of my mouth  
and the meditations of our hearts be always acceptable in your sight,  
O Lord, our strength and our redeemer. Amen.*

January is Annual Report time for the parish. Many people are busy writing their reports that will be included in our annual Vestry Book. We focus on whether or not we achieved our goals in 2020 and we develop new goals, new aspirations, and desired and hopeful outcomes for 2021.

My key Missional Objective for 2020 was to focus on the growth of **Discipleship**. When I wrote down that goal, I had no idea that we would soon be heading into a pandemic. In spite of a 9 month shutdown, with limited in-person worship and meetings, I believe that many parishioners deepened their discipleship and drew closer to Jesus. You prayed more and reflected upon your faith more and encouraged your family and friends to watch our live-streams and to be thankful people of faith.

Our gospel passage for this morning is all about discipleship and about Jesus calling his disciples. It is from the gospel of John. We are very familiar with the story of the call of the 4 fishermen ~ James, John, Peter and Andrew ~ by the shores of the Sea of Galilee when Jesus told them to follow him and he would make them fishers for people. At St. Paul's, one of our beautiful stained glass windows in the sanctuary shows the story of the calling of the fishermen.

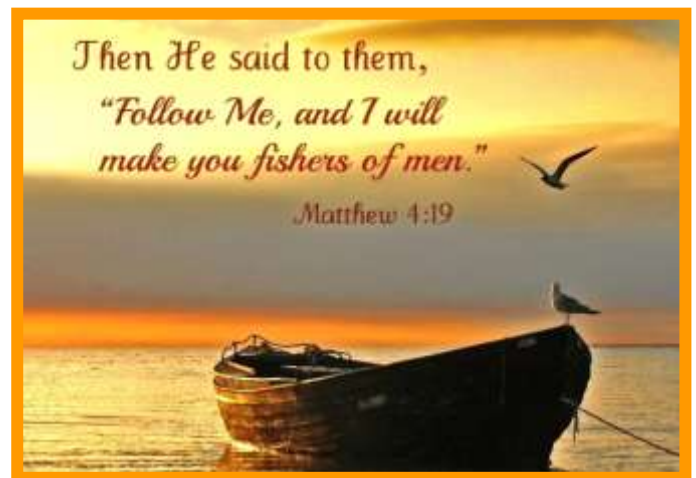
John's Gospel has the 'call story' of 2 other disciples ~ Phillip and Nathanael. I have never seen a stained glass window of this story. So what happens?

We are told in the gospel that Jesus finds Philip and says to him, **"Follow me."** These words are similar to the call of James, John, Peter and Andrew. What does Philip do? He doesn't go off and ponder. Phillip immediately takes on the mantle of discipleship and spreads the good news about Jesus. He does what any good disciple must do. Tell others about Jesus and ask them to **Come and See**. Phillip finds Nathanael and tells him about Jesus:

*"We have found him about whom Moses in the law and also the prophets wrote,  
Jesus son of Joseph from Nazareth."*

Nathanel scoffs at this information and retorts, **"Can anything good come out of Nazareth?"**

Phillip does not give up at this point. Instead, he encourages Nathanael to experience Jesus for himself. He tells Nathanael to **"Come and See."**





Jesus takes one look at Nathanael walking towards him and knows that Nathanael is a good person, that he is disciple material. They begin a conversation. Nathanael asks Jesus how Jesus can possibly know that he is a good person; *“without deceit”* is what the Bible says. Jesus says that he actually knows a lot about Nathanael, that he even knew that Nathanael was outside sitting under a fig tree when Phillip called him.

Nathanael is amazed by this information. It ties in with our psalm for this morning. In Psalm 139, we read that *“the Lord has searched me and known me . . . Even before a word is on my tongue, O Lord, you know it completely.”*

What is Nathanael’s response? He lets go of his judgements about a ‘person from Nazareth’ and he makes a confession of faith: *“You are the Son of God. You are the King of Israel.”*

Jesus replies that Nathanael will see even greater things! *“You will see heaven opened and the angels of God ascending and descending upon the Son of Man.”* John 1:51

Discipleship means that we all take on the mantle of responsibility to share the good news of our salvation. We all must invite others to **Come and See**. Encourage your family and friends to watch our live-streams, to subscribe to our parish e-news, to explore the Christian faith. I give every newly-married couple a Bible that I read from during their wedding service.

If someone passes immediate judgement on Christians, *“Church is sooo boring”* or *“I don’t like people telling me what to do”* or *“They’re all hypocrites”* . . . Invite them to **Come and See**.

I celebrate your call from God. I celebrate the hunger that God has planted in your heart to turn to God, and to listen to the voice of God. The little boy Samuel who would grow up to become a prophet of Israel heard God’s call in the middle of the night. I heard God’s call in my living room.

May we be like Phillip and call another person, even if the person is skeptical. May we be like Phillip and invite. May we be like Nathanael and have an open conversation about our doubts.

Here is what Billy Graham said about discipleship: *“To be a disciple is to be committed to Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord and committed to following Him every day. To be a disciple is also to be disciplined in our bodies, minds, and souls.”*

One of my favourite Christians authors, Eugene Peterson, said this about discipleship: *“It is a way of life we were created for.”* And Dietrich Bonhoeffer was very clear: *“Christianity without discipleship is always Christianity without Christ.”*

The invitation to **Come and See** is not just for clergy. It is for every one of us. We know the light of God, the love of God, the support of God, that is available in a healthy faith community. And I am blessed and privileged to call St. Paul’s a group of disciples, committed to growing as loving disciples in Christ.

God is always looking for us and he rejoices when he finds us. He calls each of us and says *“Follow Me.”* We then invite others to **Come and See**. Amen.



*Archdeacon Deborah+*

## 6. Scriptures for this Sunday March 14, 2021 ~ “4th Sunday in Lent”

**Rectors' Note:** I encourage you to read these passages. If you don't have a Bible they're all accessible online. The church uses the *NRSV* (New Revised Standard Version) of the Bible.

- **Numbers 21:4-9** ~ God instructs Moses to raise a bronze serpent on a pole so that anyone bitten by a snake may look on it and be saved from death. This image points to Jesus' death on the cross.
- **Psalms 107:1-3, 17-22** ~ “Give thanks to the Lord, for he is good.”
- **John 3:14-21** ~ “Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in him may have eternal life.”

## 7. A Financial “Grace Note of Thanks” ~

Throughout 2020, a total of **32 parishioners** gave Offerings totaling **\$17,850** using the new method of e-transfers that was set up last spring.

Thank you all for your continued stewardship throughout the pandemic. Much appreciated,

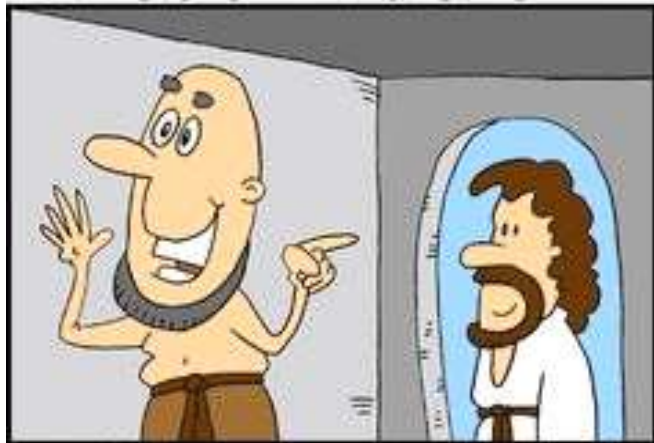
*Ernie Tilbury, Offering Secretary*



One of the easiest ways to make your tithes to St. Paul's is through an **e-transfer**: [stpaulsanglicanchurch@outlook.com](mailto:stpaulsanglicanchurch@outlook.com). Your offering is deposited automatically into the church's bank account. You will receive an income tax receipt from St. Paul's for all of your e-transfers.

## 8. The Last Laugh ~ “A cheerful heart is good medicine.” [Proverbs 7:22]

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*Unclear on the concept...*

Thanks to Paul  
HEY HONEY! MY BEST FRIEND IS HERE AND HE SAYS I HAVE TO DROP EVERYTHING AND GO FISHING!



May God bless you and may you observe a Holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting, and almsgiving, and by reading and meditating on the word of God.

*Archdeacon Deborah+*

*“The Happy Rector & Archdeacon”*