



# *St. Stephen's SCROLL*



*A newsletter for the parish of St. Stephen's Anglican Church  
10 Grosvenor Crescent, Saskatoon SK S7J 2S2  
306-374-4066 [www.ststephens.ca](http://www.ststephens.ca)*

**Vol. 23, No. 4**

**June 2015**

**VISION STATEMENT: St. Stephen's seeks to be:  
a Christ centred, Holy Spirit led, outwardly focused, caring community**



**NO MATTER WHERE YOU GO, TAKE THE PEACE OF CHRIST WITH YOU**



## *Jan's Jottings*

After two weekends at Canadian Mennonite University steeped in music, youth and beauty, I am energized by the vitality of young Christians, and also thinking about how we support youth and young adults at St. Stephen's.

In my last Jottings I shared some 'stories' about youth that our culture tells. The one with the best biblical support is the one that says that adolescence/youth is a gift to be received. Youth are valued for their energy, perspective and creative ideas. They are allowed to be people among the whole people of God. I mentioned a recent study on what makes a youth 'stick around' in church showed that one significant factor was that 5 or more adults in the congregation, other than the pastor or youth minister, knew their name. How many names of St. Stephen's youth do you know?

Our parish has a long tradition of valuing youth ministry. Every now and then we need to think again about what we are doing, and how and why we are doing it. I sense that we need to do that thinking again now.

Our current pattern of youth ministry is to offer Sunday programming (God-Talk) for 12-18's during the 10.30 service. This is focused on faith learning, discussion and development. Then on about two Friday evenings a month we offer recreational opportunities – from baking nights to glow-in-the-dark mini-golf, rock climbing, movie nights, BBQs and other outings.

We have a team of committed youth leaders. Amy heads up the God-Talk team, supported by Ruth and Jaimie. It is attended by primarily church youth, and attendance is fairly steady. The Friday night team consists of one old lady (me) and 3 folks (Alex, Jaimie and Brayden) in their 20s. But we are running out of youth. Many church youth attend infrequently or not at all, and few are bringing their friends.

We have to ask why. Research tells us that youth are not immune to spirituality and are hungry for community and belonging, yet church youth groups across the prairies are diminishing rapidly. This is not just a St. Stephen's problem, but it is our problem too.

In addition, we have no special programming for young adults post-high school. Some move away for school, but the Saskatoon-based ones seem to just drift away. Yet these are some of the most important years of a person's life for choosing goals and life-paths, for deciding values and whether or not to be a committed follower of Jesus.

I need your input on how we move forward. If you are a youth, young adult or parent, I especially need to hear from you. But whoever you are, this is your business: reaching the next generations with the gospel and nurturing their discipleship is everyone's calling. Please pray, write, phone or visit with your thoughts.

Easter and Pentecost blessings, Jan

# Welcome

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## *NEWCOMERS*

We are pleased to welcome as a new member of our congregation:

**Wes Jessop  
Harry & Aleen Miller**



## *IN REMEMBRANCE*

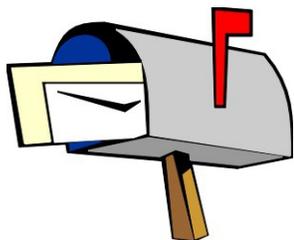
The members of St. Stephen's extend their deepest sympathy to those who have lost loved ones recently. Condolences go out to family and friends of:

**Ellie Croiter**, mother of **Jean Wagner**  
**Elsley Wellington Foulds**, grandfather of **Heather Foulds**  
**Jim Wagner**, husband of **Lila Wagner**

### **IN EVERYTHING GIVE PRAISE**

Even when a strand of gray  
is woven in the blue,  
Even when a passing cloud  
Hides the sun from view,  
Our hearts can sing with thankfulness,  
That sheltered in His arm,  
A loving Shepherd carried us  
Protected from all harm.

Phyllis D. Robbins



## *From the Mailbox*

... A huge THANK YOU to **Gaye Michasiw** and **Donna Neufeld** for organizing the "Guess Who Is Coming to Dinner" fund-raiser. It was great fun, both as a guest and a host. What a terrific way to meet people in our church family that we don't usually get to visit with too much. Well done, both of you!  
Linda Bliss

... Dear Betty, What a lovely surprise for both Linda and I to receive a beautiful bouquet of flowers from the altar last Sunday (April 12). Such a splash of spring to enjoy all week! Many thanks. God bless you.  
Love Betty Wood

... Heartfelt thanks to Jan, Cathryn and the ladies who served the lunch at my mother's memorial service. Thanks also for the altar flowers that were delivered to me. They brightened up my day.  
Jean Wagner

... Thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. It was thoughtfulness and it was appreciated.  
Linda White

... Thank you for your generous support of Camp Okema ... it is appreciated! Thank you also for allowing us to hold our monthly Board meetings at St. Stephen's. Your hospitality is valued. We hope to see many of you at our Okema Banquet on April 25.  
Steve Mitchell

... Thank you for the lovely bouquet from the altar. The spicy carnations filled my library with their scent. The daisies smiled at me for days from my dining table. Thank you.  
Lila Wagner

... What a lovely surprise to receive the beautiful altar flowers on April 26 – a reminder that it is Spring, despite the snow!. The flowers bring such joy to our home and my soul. Thank you.  
Linda Bliss

To each is given a set of tools  
A shapeless mass and a book of rules.  
And each must make ere he has flown,  
A stumbling block or a stepping stone.

Submitted by Vera Dyer



© Can Stock Photo

## *News from the Pews*

... **Carmen Foley** is delighted to announce the birth of tiny, red-headed grand-daughter **Helena Penelope**, in London, England on April 4<sup>th</sup>.

... **Anna Bigland-Pritchard** graduated from Canadian Mennonite University, Winnipeg, with a Bachelor of Music degree on April 25<sup>th</sup>. She was honoured to be asked to sing at the graduation.

... Congratulations to **Wendell Brock**, who has recently become the incumbent priest at the 4-point Meadow Lake Parish.

... Congratulations also to **Trevor Malyon** who convocates on May 8 with his Licentiate in Theology (LTh) degree from the College of Emmanuel and St. Chad. Next year he's pursuing his Master of Divinity Degree. Best wishes, Trevor.

... **Tigist** has achieved a milestone birthday – a whole new decade begins. Ask her all about it. Happy Birthday!

... **John Bliss** also attained a milestone birthday at the end of March. He is WAY older than Tigist.

... Congratulations to **Lewis and Elizabeth Gill**, who celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary on April 25!!

... There are many world travellers from St. Stephen's this year, exploring exotic places such as Japan, various locations in Europe, Great Britain, Ireland, and even Canada and the USA, to name a few. Perhaps later in the year, there could be a "Travel Night" to vicariously enjoy some of these locales.

### **LITTLE THINGS IN LIFE**

If any little word of ours can make life the brighter,  
If any little song of ours can make one heart the lighter;  
God help us speak that little word and take our bit of singing  
And drop it in some lonely vale and set the echoes ringing.

**St. Stephen's Outreach Donations will equally support the following charities in 2015:**

**THE MONGOLIAN MISSION (ANNE & SAM BIRO)  
OKEMA SOCIETY FOR CHRISTIAN DEVELOPMENT  
THE BRIDGE ON 20<sup>TH</sup> STREET**

**Donations to other charities may be made directly to those charities by individuals.**



### **??? GUESS WHO IS COMING TO DINNER ???**

Back by popular demand! The next Guess Who is Coming to Dinner will happen on Friday November.6th and Saturday, November14th. The first one was such fun that we have decided to have another. We collected \$400.00 with 6 families hosting the dinners and 20 people as guests. This money went towards our refugee fund.

The proceeds from these second dinners will go to the church finances.

More information about this fun event will be available starting in October.

Thank you to all who participated.

Gaye Michasiw and Donna Neufeld

If my body was a car, I would be trading it in for a newer model. I've got bumps, dents, scratches & my headlights are out of focus. My gearbox is seizing up & it takes me hours to reach maximum speed. I overheat for no reason and every time I sneeze, cough or laugh either my radiator leaks or my exhaust backfires!



# CHILDREN'S CHURCH

## Creating Space

What does it mean to create space in our lives? Popular culture and much of mental health research, suggests that we need to 'create space' for ourselves to reflect, to quiet ourselves, to be open to what comes next. It means taking some time for 'self care', a tough one for many of us to get our heads around. What does that really mean? Well, for my family therapy professor in university, the code phrase was "go eat ice cream"- so find something in your daily life that will help fill it up- a bubble bath, a moment to look at the stars, reading a chapter in a book, delighting in a child's giggle, eating something tasty, prayer.

As Christians, as part of our self care, we are challenged to create space in our lives for God, who lives with us, often unnoticed because of the busyness of the other, whatever that 'other' is for us. As a church, I think we are also challenged to create space for children. Some ways of tackling that are by making sure there is a church school, or setting up a nursery schedule, or providing a room specially for children. Some may suggest that if we have done that, then we have succeeded in 'creating space'. I think there is a little more to that challenge. I think it means creating space for meaningful relationships, understanding that children have different developmental needs at different ages. I think it means accepting children with all of their emotions and ways of being, with some understanding that their emotional filters have not yet matured and so they need grace and kindness and love in order to feel a sense of belonging. I think it means that as adults we need to make intentional time for modelling God's love and inviting children into the wider community of God which is bigger than a church school space. Because belonging is a much bigger thing than just a picture on a board or a name-tag, both of which are pieces of the puzzle...but relationship and friendship offers a piece that is deeper- it is an invitation to love and be loved, to serve and be served. And if children sense that from some of the adults in their world outside of their family, how much closer will they be to sensing that from God. That is a gift much bigger than we can imagine.

So my challenge to all of us as we get closer to summertime is to consider how we as a congregation make space for children. I invite you to consider one child who sits near you or who you notice going up for the children's talk. Ask yourself some simple questions and then sit in prayer for that specific child around these questions:

1. How old is this child?
2. What kind of challenges are going on for them at their developmental space (i.e.: infants - growing, growing, growing; toddlers - finding out about their world as they move a bit further away from their parents to explore their space around them; preschoolers - exploring the world, preparing for preschool or kindergarten, learning about social relationships, imaginative play, gaining new skills; 6-8 year olds - learning to read, learning about new concepts in critical thinking, imaginative play and games with rules, learning new skills like an instrument or sport, loyalty in friendships; 9-12 year olds - changes in their peer groups, more complex concepts at school, developing skills in music or sports, hormonal changes for both boys and girls, emotional changes)

3. Does this child have siblings? What might be going on for the siblings developmentally and how might that show up in the relationships between them?
4. What kind of activities is this child involved in (Ask them!) Or what might their favourite book be or their favourite thing to play with at home? Pray for those activities and playtimes that they might sense joy and wonder and delight.
5. What is one thing that makes this child smile or brings them joy (a joke, a hug, an interaction with someone they like, a proud moment when they have gained a new skill or hit a new milestone)
6. Think of their parents- what might be some of the challenges or delights that you could come alongside with in prayer?
7. What is one thing that I can offer this child (a smile, a prayer, love).

Imagine coming alongside God in his desire to be a place of belonging. Let's create real space among us for children.

Blessings, Deidre



## **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL**

If you have children or grandchildren ages 4-11 who would like to attend a fun-filled week of friendship, play and prayer, join us for an Everest adventure during the week of July 20-24. Registration forms will be available at the church soon!

And it takes a village...so if you have time and energy and joy to share with the children, friends and relations of our congregation, consider volunteering with us- we have need of shepherds and crafters and bakers and gamers...and most of all pray-ers.

Please hold space in your prayers for the children who will join us, that they would have a sense of belonging and love during the week of VBS, pray for volunteers to come together to create that loving space and pray for our church for the blessing of welcoming children into the doors.

## SHARING THE PEACE

At Saint Stephen's, when the time comes for sharing the peace during the service, we *really* share the peace. Handshakes and hugs abound! Have you ever wondered how many handshakes, hugs, etc. happen in a typical Saint Stephen's service? Well, if there are  $n$  people attending the service, and if every person attending the service shakes the hand of every single other person in the congregation, then [ $n$  multiplied by  $(n-1)$  divided by 2] handshakes have occurred. Or, if you prefer fewer words and more parentheses:  $(n)(n-1)/2$  handshakes.

Suppose that it's a long weekend in the summer, and there are only 30 people at the service. Jan invites those gathered to share a sign of peace with each other. If every person shakes every other person's hand, then collectively we've shared 435 handshakes (30 times 29 divided by 2 equals 435). Or suppose that it's Christmas, and we're bursting at the seams with 120 people in attendance. We confess, we're absolved, and now it's time to press some palms. If each person shares the peace with each and every other congregant, that's a whopping 7140 handshakes!

May the peace of Christ be with you and you and you!

Submitted by Wyndham Thiessen

May the Peace of the Holy Spirit be with you always

### Overheard in an Orchard:

Said the robin to the sparrow,  
"I should really like to know  
Why these anxious human beings  
Rush about and worry so."

Said the sparrow to the robin,  
"I think that it must be  
That they have no Heavenly father  
Such as cares for you and me."

Submitted by Vera Dyer

I have noticed that folks are generally about as happy  
as they have made up their minds to be.

- Abraham Lincoln

## OUTREACH OPPORTUNITIES

The members of St. Stephen's, as a Parish and as individuals, are involved in many and varied outreach activities. The church office has a list of the contacts for these activities.

This list is only the beginning, and will be updated regularly for the *Scroll*. If you have other areas of outreach that you would like to add, please contact Linda Bliss, Editor.

<b>ACTIVITY</b>
Adelle House Household Items
Backpacks for Homeless
Baja Mission
Bridge Club - 7:00 pm Fridays
Camp Okema
Canadian Tire Money for Camp Okema
Cloth for Kids – Thursdays – clothing, quilts & specialty items for needy children
Coats for Homeless
Eyeglasses & cases (used) for Christian Blind Mission International
Food Bank
Foster Children
Going Deeper with the Holy Spirit – 3:00 pm Thursdays
Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers
Habitat for Humanity
Healing Group – 9:30 am 2nd & 4th Wednesday of the month
L'Arche Saskatoon
Living Room (Moms & Tots) – Tuesday mornings
Mongolian Mission (Anne & Sam Biro)
Nursing Home Visits - 3 <sup>rd</sup> Monday of month
Order of St. Luke – 7:30 pm 2x/month – Contact Larry or Betty Mitchell 306-343-6649
Pop Can Tabs for Lions Club
Prayer Shawls – 1:30 3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday of month
Prayer Time before Service – 9:45 Sundays
Refugee Committee

Samaritan's Purse Christmas Shoe Boxes
Shut-in Visits
Stamps for Canadian Bible Society
Women's Shelters (Christmas Gift Baskets)
Others?

## THE CRACKED POT

An elderly Chinese woman had two large pots, each hung on the ends of pole which she carried across her neck. One of the pots had a crack in it while the other pot was perfect and always delivered a full portion of water.

At the end of the long walks from the stream to the house, the cracked pot arrived only half full. For a full two years this went on daily, with the woman bringing home only one and a half pots of water. Of course, the perfect pot was proud of its accomplishments. But the poor cracked pot was ashamed of its own imperfection, and miserable that it could only do half of what it had been made to do.

After two years of what it perceived to be bitter failure, it spoke to the woman one day by the stream.

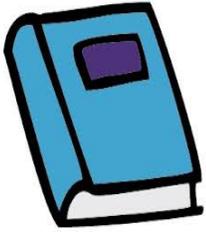
'I am ashamed of myself, because this crack in my side causes water to leak out all the way back to your house.'

The old woman smiled, 'Did you notice that there are flowers on your side of the path, but not on the other pot's side?' 'That's because I have always known about your flaw, so I planted flower seeds on your side of the path, and every day while we walk back, you water them.'

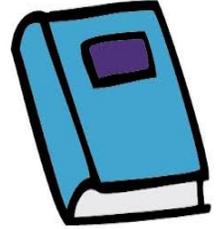
For two years I have been able to pick these beautiful flowers to decorate the table. Without you being just the way you are, there would not be this beauty to grace the house.'

Each of us has our own unique flaw. But it's the cracks and flaws we each have that make our lives together so very interesting and rewarding. You've just got to take each person for what they are and look for the good in them.

Submitted by Becky McDonald



# *Book Review*



**TITLE: WONDER**

**AUTHOR: R.J. Polacio**

*Wonder*, by R.J. Polacio, is a book about a kid named August Pullman who suffers from a serious facial disorder that makes him look anything but handsome. His face is all distorted. He had been home-schooled all the way until now, when he is finally going to go to a public school for 5<sup>th</sup> grade. But will his classmates and teachers accept him?

This book is one of the best books I have read. It is a story of empathy, compassion, and acceptance. It is funny and tells everyone that no matter what, everyone is special in their own way.

I recommended this book to my Grandpa, and he loved it. I think that people of all ages would like reading this book.

“I won't describe what I look like. Whatever you're thinking, it's probably worse.”

submitted by Henry Thiessen

## Groaners

1. How do you catch a unique rabbit? - Unique up on it.
2. How do you catch a tame rabbit? - Tame way, unique up on it.
3. How do crazy people go through the forest? - They take the psycho path.
4. What do Eskimos get from sitting on the ice too long? - Polaroids
5. What do you call a boomerang that doesn't work? - A stick.
6. What do you call cheese that isn't yours? - Nacho cheese.
7. What do you call Santa's helpers? - Subordinate Clauses.
8. What do you get from a pampered cow? - Spoiled milk.
9. What do you get when you cross a snowman with a vampire? - Frostbite.
10. What lies at the bottom of the ocean and twitches? - A nervous wreck.
11. Where do you find a dog with no legs? - Right where you left him.

Submitted by Gaye Michasiw

## *Check It Out*

St. Stephen's website: <http://www.ststephens.ca/>

Diocese of Saskatoon website: <http://www.anglicandiocesesaskatoon.com>

Anglican Church Women: Executive e-mail: [saskatoonacw@gmail.com](mailto:saskatoonacw@gmail.com)

The email account will be checked daily with queries and suggestions forwarded to the appropriate member for action as together we grow our organization.

Grandmothers 4 Grandmothers website: <http://www.g4gsaskatoon.ca/>

*The Scroll is printed four times a year: September, December, March, and June. The newsletter is a vehicle of communication for our parish. If you value its importance, donations to help with printing expenses may be added to your General offering through your envelopes or PAR.*

**THANK YOU** to everyone who has contributed in any way to the publication of this newsletter. Your input makes it possible to continue.

Thank you also to all the people who have helped with the distribution of this edition of "The Scroll":

Any contributions of items for The Scroll newsletters may be submitted any time via e-mail ([lindabliss@shaw.ca](mailto:lindabliss@shaw.ca)), phone 306-952-4666, or by hand to the Scroll mailbox in the church office.

Editor: Linda Bliss

**In order to become more environmentally responsible, we are providing the option of receiving this newsletter electronically (which also gives you the advantage of seeing the graphics in colour for the full effect).**

**If you would prefer to receive future copies of the Scroll via e-mail, or would rather not receive a copy at all, please contact either St. Stephen's office or Linda Bliss.**

# *Upcoming Events*

- May 11 Saskatoon Concert Band, which includes 4 members of St. Stephen's  
Details on General Bulletin Board.
- May 16 Licensed Lay Reader Training 10 am – 4 pm. Contact Rev. Shawn Sanford  
Beck for more info or register at [greenpriest@hotmail.ca](mailto:greenpriest@hotmail.ca) or 306-481-5654
- May 22 Youth Dr. Who Marathon
- May 31 Anniversary Lunch for Jan
- June 6 Youth End of Year Celebration: A Magical Mystery Tour
- June 14 Graduation cake and coffee after 10:30 service
- July 20-24 Vacation Bible School – Sign-up sheets & registration forms available on  
Outreach Bulletin Board
- Sept 27 Welcome Back Dinner

## **CAMP OKEMA – Registration forms available on Outreach Bulletin Board**

- May 16-18 Volunteer Work Weekend - Contact Darryl McRae - 306-270-5182
- July 5 Open House – everyone welcome
- July 5-9 Cabin Leader Training – Ages 14 and up)
- July 12-16 Small Fry – Ages 7-9
- July 19-24 Junior 1 – Ages 10-12
- July 26-30 Small Fry – Ages 7-9
- Aug 1-5 Family Camp
- Aug 9-14 Junior 2 – Ages 10-12
- Aug 16-22 Teen – Ages 13-17

Check out the other 'non-St. Stephen's-sponsored events' posted on the General Announcements Board near the Sanctuary. There are lots of interesting events to consider.

# Children's Page

P N O I T A G E R G N O C G B  
S E T W B F L F R Y O K N I B R A R E  
S V E A S F O M S I T P A X C I D  
B G A N E V R A U J R L O O W A I A  
E Y R E N P M M G R N O S N E V E  
L R E I O D N A R H T F C H R R  
L T I P S I D Y S S C I U N Y Z C Y  
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S I D E S M A L P O S O R L B I C B S R A

AISLE  
ALTAR  
BAPTISM  
BELFRY  
BELL-RINGERS  
BIBLES  
CHOIR  
CLOCK  
COMMUNION  
CONFIRMATION  
CONGREGATION

EVENSONG  
FONT  
FUNERALS  
HYMN BOOKS  
LAY READER  
LECTERN  
NAVE  
ORGANIST  
PEWS  
PULPIT  
SERMON

SERVICE  
SIDESMEN  
SPIRE  
STEEPLE  
SUNDAY SCHOOL  
TOWER  
VERGER  
VESTRY  
VICAR  
WEDDINGS

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**STAFF**

<b>Incumbent</b>	The Rev. Jan Bigland-Pritchard
<b>Honorary Priests</b>	The Rev. Amy Bunce The Rev. Canon John Davies The Rev. Canon Lewis Gill
<b>Rector Emeritus</b>	The Ven. Larry Mitchell
<b>Office Administrator</b>	Margaret Rouhani
<b>Music Ministry</b>	Cathryn Wood
<b>Children/Youth Ministry</b>	Deidre Craig/Amy Bunce/Ruth Skinner
<b>Envelope Secretary</b>	Ted Markus
<b>Grounds Keeper</b>	Lyndall Currie
<b>Inside Caretakers</b>	Bernie Lucko

**WARDENS:**      **Priest's Warden**      Chris Wood  
                         **People's Warden**      Trevor Malyon / Paul Snider (Sep-Dec)

**MEMBERS OF VESTRY**

Priest: Jan Bigland-Pritchard	<b><u>Elected Vestry Members</u></b>	
Priest's Warden: Chris Wood	Julie Abell-Smith	Susan Skrypnyk
People's Warden: Trevor Malyon	Gary Brown	Paul Snider
	Bronwen McRae	Noella Tucker
<b><u>Ex Officio Members:</u></b>		
Treasurer:	Ted Walker	
Vestry Secretary:	Margaret Rouhani	
<b><u>Member of Diocesan Council:</u></b>	Chris Wood	
<b><u>Focus Groups:</u></b>	Healing; Empowerment & Outreach; Operations; Worship & Community Life	

**The sacraments of Holy Baptism and Holy Matrimony by arrangement.**

**SUNDAY SERVICES**

8:30 am Holy Eucharist  
10:30 am Holy Eucharist

**PRAYER MINISTRY**

9:00 am Monday-Thursday  
10:30 am Service every Sunday

**Bible Study** at St. Stephen's 1:30 pm Wednesdays

**Small Groups** meeting weekly and bi-weekly for Christian growth and fellowship ~ contact Church Office for information.