



The Winged Ox



Christmas 2016



Fr. Paul and friend at Blessing of the Animals

From the Rector

Advent and Christmas Greetings!

As a priest, I am given the great privilege of being invited into the lives of our people. This is a great honour. When people are hurting I am often asked to come and be with them and to pray with and for them. I bring myself, and all the gifts that God has given me for helping and healing. Sometimes people need me to listen. Sometimes people are lonely, or broken hearted, or grieving. Sometimes it is a great celebration like a wedding or a baptism or an anniversary or a birthday. It is a tremendous gift to be invited into your life. I am very grateful! In all of these situations, we are the Body of Christ together. In this season of Incarnation, we celebrate that God is with us. Emanuel. You too are a member of the Body of Christ, and wherever you go, you bring the light of Christ with you. There is much to celebrate. These prayers express it best for me.

Blessed are you, O Christ, Son of God,
you were before time began
and came into the world to save us.
Blessed are you, Sun of righteousness;
you shine with the Father's love
and illumine the whole universe.
Blessed are you, Son of Mary;
born a child, you shared our humanity.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

Blessed are you, Son of David;
born to rule, you received gifts from the wise men.
Blessed are you, Son of Man;
baptized by John, you saved us from ourselves.
Blessed are you, heavenly King;
teaching and preaching, healing and comforting,
you proclaimed the kingdom.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the voices of heaven
we celebrate the coming of our Saviour.
Let heaven and earth shout their praise.

With all the creatures on earth
we sing and dance at his birth.
Praise and honour and glory to you, O Lord most high.

(Book of Alternative Services, pages 96 and 97)

What Happens on Tuesday Evenings?

We are calling this the Tuesday Evening Gathering.

3:30 p.m. Atrium and children's activities after school

After school, children and parents or grandparents are welcomed into the Parish Hall in Church House. Some children come to the Atrium and Fr. Paul is the Catechist. Some children need to focus on schoolwork, so the Library is open for study. Doreen Blackman enjoys helping the children with their studies and is a very encouraging teacher. Some children simply need to rest and the big comfy couches are ideal for this. This is a social time for cup of a hot beverage and visiting.

5 p.m. Food preparations in the kitchen

Fr. Paul enjoys cooking and we always make extra. Ideally, everyone has something to share. If you would like to contribute food for this, please feel free!

5:30 p.m. Shared Meal

We try to start at 5:30 so things don't get pushed late because children have bed-times.

6 p.m. "Microwave Mass"

A short service in the choir of the church, followed by desert. This a a short Eucharist with a teaching for everyone. Sometimes we have Communion from the Sunday reserved Sacrament if we are feeling that time is tight.

6:30 p.m. clean up

For those who can stay, or little ones go home for bath and bed.

Submitted by Fr. Paul

Blessing of the Animals – October, 2016

The Parish Church of St. Luke hosted its second annual Blessing of the Animals on Saturday October 1st, 2016. This event celebrates the Feast of St. Francis of Assisi by inviting the local community to join us in giving thanks for the gift of animals. Over fifty people, along with a variety of dogs and three cats attended. This is roughly a 70% increase over the 2015 event. Many of the attendees were visitors to St. Luke's. All of the pets were very well behaved, with no messes, no altercations and no barking. Each pet received a gift bag containing a bandanna, plastic bag, and information about St. Luke's.

Our Blessing of the Animals service was featured in the Winnipeg Free Press Faith page article by Brenda Suderman:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/arts-and-life/life/faith/all-gods-creatures-395499241.html>.

Winnipeg Free Press photographer Trevor Hagan attended, creating a photo gallery at:

<http://www.winnipegfreepress.com/multimedia/fp-slideshow/Blessing-mans-best-friend-395532711.html>.

Allan McKay of Westworth United Church donated his photography talent as well. His pictures are in this report and also posted in Church House.





Father Paul and Blair Anderson crafted a lovely 30 minute service that included appropriate music, readings, prayers and homily about the life of St. Francis. The animals seemed relaxed during the hymns, especially All Creatures of Our God and King. Many thanks to all of the volunteers, without whom this event would not have been possible.

We look forward to a bigger and even better Blessing of the Animals in 2017.

Submitted by Terri Ashcroft

Photos here and front page by Allan McKay

St Luke's Haiti Ministry

We have reduced the number of students the parish supports to six this year as the cost of supporting each student is \$465 US to pay the tuition expenses. It is more expensive for the parish, due to the fall in the Canadian dollar. Not one of our students was prevented from continuing education for the 2016-2017 academic year. One graduated and a couple did not return to the orphanage to collect their school fees. We would have given priority to these students as we are thrilled they are keen to continue their education.

The newsletter from *God's Littlest Angels* tells us we helped in the sponsoring of 314 Students!

Last year there were 364 students taking advantage of this program. Sadly, the number is reduced this year, but we are making a difference in a number of students' lives. Our parish is enabling these young people to continue with their education or take jobs which require greater education and skills than they would have received had we not helped them.

Thank you to everyone who supports this program and helps sponsor the students to receive a better education and better lives.

We wish everyone an enjoyable Christmas with family and friends and a Happy New Year.

Colin & Elizabeth Briggs



Alexandra (Sandra) Francois

Sibling of: Lonise

Location: Site Soley, Haiti

Grade: 13th Grade

School: Ecole Mixte Sainte Alphonse



Bibences Francois

Sibling of Florkencia and Florkencie

Location: Site Soley, Haiti

Grade: 8th Grade

School: Ecole Mixte Sainte Alphonse

*It takes her 30 minutes to get to school.
Her favourite food is rice and bean sauce.*



Davidson Charles
*Name: Francesca Toussaint
Location: Fontama Haiti
Grade: 12th Grade
School:
Institution Educative Manitan de Luc
His favourite food is corn cereal and
he loves to cook.*

*It takes him 30 minutes to get to school.
His favourite food spaghetti.*



Josué Francois
*Student's Name: Josué Francois
Sibling of: Florkencia and Florkencie
Location: Site Soley, Haiti
Grade: 13th Grade
School: Ecole Mixte Sainte Alphonse
His favourite food is corn cereal and
he loves to cook.*



Lonise Francois
*Student's Name: Lonise Francois
Sibling of: Florkencia
Location: Site Soley, Haiti
Grade 13
School: Ecole Mixte Sainte Alphonse*



Iverson Laguerre
*Student's Name: Iverson Laguerre
Location: Petionville, Haiti
Grade: 2
School: Ecole Presbyterale St
Vincent de Paul*



One of our parishioners, who prefers to be anonymous, has made over 300 items for children who have lost their parents due to HIV/AIDS. We are partnering with Lutheran World Relief to send the items to parts of Africa hardest hit by HIV. The pictures show dresses and pants underneath the Jesse tree, and on the Jesse tree are some socks mitts and hats for our Tuesday morning friends.

When We Give

For those of you who regularly contribute, we recently realized that many of you will not know some of the behind-the-scenes organization.

For example, when you choose to go on PAR, the envelopes you were using are retired, and you should then have a 1000-something number. This is so that you can speedily add that number to your extra cheque or giving form, if you want to offer for special things. This helps the counters and the office identify you and gets the amount added swiftly to your account. If you forget, it will still get there.

If you choose to give sporadically and are overwhelmed by the pile of envelopes that accumulate, we then assign a number in the 500's to you.

And, of course, if you are a regular Sunday giver who likes a piece to put on the plate, there is the time-honored envelope system. These envelopes usually appear at the back of the church in November and the Envelope Secretary will deliver any left in the New Year. If you could help by taking one to an address near you, it will be wonderfully appreciated.

Any changes to your giving will take place in January, so some of you may have a call then to clear up some confusion.

We are delighted to have what you offer, however you choose to give. The above is a bookkeeping explanation.

*Blessings to you all.
Susan Roe-Finlay,
Envelope Secretary*

What St. Luke's Means to Me

Leading up to Consecration Sunday in November the Consecration Committee asked two parishioners, Anne Rennie and Ian Dark, to address the congregation. They were requested speak to what St Luke's meant to them, and how that impacted their varying commitments to their Church. For those of you that were unable to attend either of these services, here is what they said.

Ian Dark:

I had not attended any church regularly for over 35 years. One Evangelical friend told me that at his Church I was what they called a CEO Christian – Christmas Easter Only.

However, something was pulling me towards finding a place of worship in which I would feel comfortable. I had started to ask friends about their churches and what they might offer.

Shortly after returning from Texas five and a half years ago, I attended the funeral of a good friend. Two things happened that day – Father Paul conducted the service and afterwards, at the reception, I sat next to a friend of my wife, Linda Sherrett, who happened to be a lay reader at St. Luke's.

I mentioned to Linda that I was quite impressed with the Minister and she informed me that he was, in fact, the Rector from her own church, St. Luke's. That was all I needed to start asking questions. During our conversation, I suggested, only somewhat facetiously, that it was too bad that Sunday Church services always conflicted with the Fox Sports NFL preview show. Well, Linda had an answer for me! She told me that her church had an 8:15 service on Sundays and she suggested that I might want to come out and have a look. Having voiced my opinion that Sunday services conflicted with NFL football, I felt that I should come to St. Luke's at 8:15 the next Sunday. I did attend that service and sat quietly in the back row of the choir pews and I have been there ever since!

More important, however, is the fact that something very powerful happened to me that first morning at St. Luke's. When I attended the altar to celebrate the Eucharist, a very strong feeling of warmth rushed from the top of my scalp to the soles of my feet. WOW, what was that? It was both powerful and pleasant at the same time, so it wasn't health related, which is always a worry when you are my age. A few months later, Father Paul suggested that it was the Holy Spirit coming to me. I accept that to be true. Perhaps it was God saying "Welcome back – it certainly took you long enough".

As Anne Rennie said a couple of weeks ago, St. Luke's is like family and as a relatively new parishioner I can certainly echo that sentiment.

Since arriving here in 2011, I have slowly become more involved in activities at St. Luke's. I'm not sure how it started, but it was likely a suggestion from Father Paul that I read one of the scripture lessons at a Thursday service in the Soldier's Chapel. Now I am a regular reader and sidesperson on Susan Roe-Finlay's quarterly roster for the 8:15 service. Last year, I was elected to the Parish Council and was appointed to the Finance Committee. Most recently, I was pleased to be asked by Father Paul to work with John Loewen and Bill Brant on the Consecration Committee.

Coming to St. Luke's every Sunday morning is one of the best times of the week for me. My shoulders drop down as the stress starts to leave my body and I take time to thank God for my many blessings. More importantly, I believe I am a better person since joining this congregation, more charitable, – more caring – more understanding and far less jaded and distrustful of people and life in general. I only wish that I had walked through the front doors many years ago.

Considering what St. Luke's gives to me, it was very easy for me to complete my "Intention Card" and put it in the collection plate. I am honoured and thankful to be able to contribute in some small way to my Church.

* * * * *

Anne Rennie:

Hello. My name is Anne Rennie, and I have been asked to describe what St Luke's church means to me; what keeps me coming back to St Luke's.

First of all, I feel at home here, the people are welcoming, I feel part of the community, the building is beautiful, and I am reminded of past connections.

I first came to St Luke's as a visitor in 1981, when I was a student in Winnipeg.

Next I came back when we moved into the area in 1989. My first son was baptised here. At that time, the congregation was large and I did not make any connections.

We moved out of the area, and worshipped at St. Stephens, and then St. Albans until it closed. These moves coincided with our moves in the city of Winnipeg. Work and family responsibilities didn't leave anytime "left over" for church, and so it wasn't until a health crisis that I made time to come back to church. Since then I have had the luxury of attending almost every Sunday.

Father Paul reminded me I have been involved in many groups since we have rejoined St. Luke's: I will talk a little about each one of them now:

I feel so very privileged to be a part of our wonderful choir. Singing is a form of praying for me, and when we have such beautiful music written long ago, I feel honored to share the witness and faith of those gifted people who have gone before. I think of past faithful choristers, their hands that have held the same music I am now holding, and the honour we have to carry on the tradition from those in the choir in years gone by.

Taking part in DoorsOpenWinnipeg tours, I have learned how many careful decisions had gone into constructing this beautiful building to the honor and glory of God.

The healing ministry and cancer support group have offered ongoing support to me, and have offered a place to those of us in the group to support each other through challenging and uncertain times. Other cancer support groups in the city do not have the faith base that makes the St Luke's group special.

As part of getting my affairs in order, I bought a spot in the columbarium in the Soldiers' Chapel. This may sound morbid, but the Soldiers' Chapel is such a lovely place, and for anyone who knows me, they know that I am happiest indoors, in a warm place (but not too hot!) with sunshine streaming in the windows during the day.

After my Mom passed away in June, I felt very supported in my loss by the St. Luke's community and was so grateful to have a small memorial service here for her on her birthday in September for those friends who could not travel to Saskatchewan for her funeral in July.

Again St. Luke's has been there for me. I have been attending the grief recovery sessions for some very helpful support and information in a timely manner.

I have also made time to join EFM, which is a challenging and amazing vehicle for growth and learning.

Occasionally I am able to attend the meditation sessions, again it's wonderful to be able to do this in a faith based place. Meditation offers another way for us to slow down and step out of the hustle and bustle of everyday life, to reconnect with God.

Being part of vestry has allowed me a small part of giving back to St Luke's in assisting with some of the work towards the administration and support of the church.

The coffee hour after worship on Sunday allows a chance to connect with others and build community.

For me, every week that I have the luxury of attending church Sunday morning, (and yes it is a luxury, a person has to be well enough to attend church, and have the resources of energy and time to attend on Sunday morning). For me attending on Sunday is like going to the well to be refreshed. It gives me a framework to approach the week, and prayers for those I encounter struggling at my work. After my trip to the well, I can go back into my weekday world with renewed strength and hope

I mentioned earlier past connections to St Luke's: In about 1906, my grandfather lived nearby on Wardlaw Avenue. He had recently brought his mother, that is my great grandmother, and his two unmarried sisters out from England to help look after his four motherless children. The world was different then, the family walked everywhere, and for my great grandmother, the neighbourhood church of St. Luke's very likely brought back comforting memories of the country she had left behind.

For today, I believe that St. Luke's can continue to be an anchor in the community, the neighbourhood has changed from mostly single family dwellings to the addition of apartments and the infill condominiums that are popping up. These places are still homes. Homes to people who continue to struggle everyday, whether it is with basic survival of food and shelter, or trying to stay afloat in our modern world.

St. Luke's helps me to remember my focus, to remember God's promise of eternal life.

I would like to offer a prayer modified from the Book of Alternative Service

"may our lives together be a sign of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair"

Our liturgy allows us to connect with our spiritual selves. Our message of love and forgiveness brings hope. I believe that St. Luke's continues to have a mission to be a meaningful and caring presence in our community and beyond.

Calendars

Canadian Church Calendars are available for purchase in the parish office.

The Book Club

The Book Club has finished its 'inaugural' four week session, reading *Grounded* by Diana Butler Bass.

Pardon the pun, but this gave us a splendid grounding and confirmed our decision to meeting for four weeks in February 2017. The book for that session will be chosen and we will publish its name and author by the end of December. This will give you lots of time to purchase and 'pre-read' it...or not.

While we discussed *Grounded* in depth, our musings lead to many relevant off-shoots, which were ably and carefully steered by the Rev. Jane.

We will meet at same time and place: Saturdays, 10:00-11:30 a.m. in the Library (off the Parish Hall).

Please join us. The only requirement is an ability to read the chosen book.

Sheila Welbergen

Book Reviews

How Jesus Became God.

The Exaltation of a Jewish Preacher from Galilee.

by Bart D. Ehrman

HARPER ONE. 2014

ISBN 978-0-06-177818-6

Since one of Ehrman's books is called *Lost Christianities*, this one could be called *Too Many Christianities* or *Christologies*.

It is a fascinating look at how, once the disciples began to see and call Jesus something more than their Teacher – calling him God and worshipping him, there was a problem. They were Jews who had a Covenant relationship with the One True God, Yaweh. They were monotheists – they did not worship many gods. There had to be a way of explaining how Jesus *became or was* God, hence two Gods, while maintaining belief in One True God.

Did Jesus become God at his birth? At his Baptism (Thou art my Son this day have I begotten thee: Psalm 2 v7. as it reads in Mark's Gospel until the translation was 'adjusted'.) At his Ascension, or was Jesus equal to/with God, the Word/Logos, Wisdom from eternity? John's Gospel 1:1-5. In Hebrews 1: 1—13 Jesus is quoted as saying "I and the Father are One". Was Jesus fully human **and** fully God? How in one body? Was he part God, part human, which part, what percentage?

All these options were discussed, violently at times, and if you chose the wrong one, i.e., the one not currently 'orthodox' you were a heretic and could be kicked out of the Church....as one priest, Arius, was. Bishop Tertullian, took the time to write five volumes against Arius. Sometimes orthodoxy, i.e. correct belief, changed to be a heresy, and then back again to being orthodox. Lively times for being a Christian!

Finally the Council at Nicaea in 325 CE put a stop to all arguments with the Nicene Creed. That Creed thoughtfully included the Holy Spirit – in five words. But it was nice to have it all settled by the Nicene Creed. Except it wasn't. If you want to have 'correct belief' worked out in excruciating detail, go to the BCP and read the Creed of St. Athanasius.

Some parts of the Nicene Creed were/still are a bit problematic for some people (me for instance). Does the Holy Spirit proceed from the Father **and** the Son or just the Father? One way you have a Duality, the other way, a Trinity. Think about that as you say the Nicene Creed.

Remember, we are dealing with Christianity, where *correct* belief was/is a matter of life and death, literally. Think of all the present 'varieties' of Christianity from Christian Scientist to Roman Catholics...and Anglicans. A few disagreements there.

There followed the Council of Constantinople in 357 CE, the Council of Ephesus in 369 CE, and the Council of Chalcedon in 370 CE. Things were settled...and un-settled, again.

One disturbing outcome of declaring Jesus was God – remember he was crucified by his own people, the Jews -- was anti-Semitism. The Jews crucified God/Jesus? That was the basis for anti-Semitism, bolstered by royal decree of Emperor Constantinople – the first **Christian** Emperor. And still kept alive and flourishing, by Christians and others.

Written by a Professor of Religious Studies, the book is easy to read, and gives pause to think about what we say we believe.

This book is available at the Winnipeg Public Library.

Sheila Welbergen.



The Book of Job:

When Bad Things Happen to a Good Person.

by Harold S. Kushner

Schocken Books Div. of Random House. 2012

ISBN 978-0-8052-4292-8

Not to be confused with *When Bad Things Happen to Good People*, by the same author, this small book packs a lot into its 201 pages. As the title indicates this is a book *about* the Book of Job in the Hebrew Bible. A book which tried to make sense of some apparently senseless suffering.

As humans we need to *understand* why things, whether good or bad or just apparently random, happen.

The Fable of Job, chapters 1, 2 and 42 is a very old, simple, folk tale of faith maintained and rewarded. The middle, chapters 3 to 41, called the Poem of Job, contain the intended comfort, then arguments of his three friends, Eliphaz, Bildad, Zophar, and 'is a much later, more complicated work'. The interloper, Elihu, who 'hears' their arguments, and joins in, appears to have been added by a scribe, transcribing from the original into Hebrew.

We all know the story of Job, but perhaps think it is clear as mud. This book takes apart the language and its intent. The 'speech' God makes is wonderfully unpacked and made understandable.

Kushner and his wife lost their fourteen-year-old son to progeria, though he had stopped growing and started growing old at age three. Surely a qualification for querying God's goodness.

I like the closing comment from Kushner after he quotes Spinoza's theory on the Book of Job. Spinoza thought it to be written by a Gentile as an example of 'Righteous Gentiles.' **

Kushner writes, "But, I, living three hundred years later (than Spinoza) find Job a thoroughly Jewish book, especially in its preference for truth and honesty over doctrine."

** The phrase Righteous Gentiles was used to describe non-Jews who sheltered and saved Jews during the Holocaust.

Sheila Welbergen.

Milestones



Baptisms

March 26, 2016

Passion Nattaway, Alexander Fortier,
James Lampman, and Greg Harrison

April 3, 2016

Liam Napier and Haydn Ryves

June 26, 2016

Keith Thomas McKay (adult baptism)

Kamryn McKenna Haines

Sophia Glenda Morris (adult baptism)

Thomas Alvin Kequahtoway (renewal of baptismal vows)

August 28, 2016

Henry Lask

Marriages

Janice Kraubner & Sean Jackson – m. April 8

Ashley Spencer & Ian Dunne – m. May 22

Annaliese Tisseverasinghe & Michael Foth – m. June 4

Erika Swane and Greg Harrison – m. June 4

Natalia Richards & Kendall Jackson – m. Aug. 6

Kristen Dzogan & Derek Kostniuk – m. Aug. 27

Stephanie Kolly & Cory Boulton – m. Sept. 10

Lesley Kerlake & Dustin How – m. Nov. 12

Taylor Fey & Tristan Nohlgren – m. Nov. 19

In Memoriam

Carman Purdy (Janice Van Vliet's father) – d. Aug. 12

John Almdal (Neil Almdal's brother) – d. Nov. 26

Ross Thompson, parishioner – d. Dec. 7

Memorial Services

Betty Goodwin (Anne Rennie's mother) Sept. 12



Dates to Remember

Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 18, 4:00 p.m.



The Rector and His Son

Andrew was watching his father, a rector, write a sermon for the Christmas service.

“How do you know what to say?” Andrew asked.

“Why, God tells me,” the father replied.

“Oh, then why do you keep crossing things out?”

* * * * *

Father Hugh and His Young Parishioner

It was the Sunday after Christmas at St. Peter and St. Paul's Church in Borden, Kent, England. Father Hugh was looking at the nativity scene prior to packing away the figures when he noticed that the baby Jesus was missing from the scene.

Immediately, Father Hugh turned towards the rectory in order to call the police, but as he was about to do so, he saw little Harry with a red wagon, and in the wagon was the figure of the little infant, Jesus.

Father Hugh walked up to Harry and said, “Well, Harry, where did you get the little infant?”

Harry replied honestly, “I took him from the church, Father Hugh.”

“And why did you take him?”

With a sheepish smile, Harry said, “Well, about a week before Christmas I prayed to little Lord Jesus. I told him if he would bring me a red wagon for Christmas, I would give him a ride around the block in it.”

THE WINGED OX

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The next edition of the Winged Ox will be the Lent edition,
available the Sunday before Ash Wednesday, February 26.

The **deadline** for submissions of text and/or photos is one week prior, **February 19.**

