

Sudbury Manitoulin Deanery Digest

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LENT 2018

I believe that the season of Lent is a time to prepare to receive God in Jesus, to take a look at how we are living and behaving towards ourselves and others. The Lenten study that Bishop Anne has encouraged us to use focuses on journeying into God's love. These two thoughts are joined (See item #5 below). Below is an excerpt from Day 1 of Week 1 (Feb 11) of the study produced by The Society of St. John the Evangelist (SSJE), Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John. I think this may be a good way to start our Lenten journey.

Dave Stamp

"...we have known and believe the love that God has for us. God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them."

1 John 4:16

God is Love

The conditions of your life – to whom you were born, how you were raised, how you were helped, how you were hurt, how you've been encouraged or discouraged, how you've lost your way along the way – it's in those conditions that God has met you and God will meet you. God's love for you is without condition.

- Br. Curtis Almquist

“Transcript (of a video which is also available through SSJE Website): The focus for our first week is “God is Love” – that God's love for you is unconditional, which is to say that the conditions in which you have known life – to whom you were born, how you were raised, how you were helped, how you were hurt, how you've been encouraged or discouraged, how you've lost your way along the way – those are the conditions in which you have known your life. And it's in those conditions that God has met you and God will meet you.

Not just in the best of times. Hopefully you've had some wonderful times where God's light and life and love has been mediated to you through people and through the circumstances of life. But also in the worst of times, which may well be how God has most broken through to you. When you are without hope or power of your own, your experience of brokenness becomes God's breakthrough. We'll talk this week about how God's love for you is without condition.

Our focus for today is God is Love. And we draw our inspiration from I John 4:16: "God is love. Those who abide in God, abide in love and God's love abides in them."

Now, that verb, abide, is repeated 63 times in the Gospel According to John and the three epistles -- 63 times! Now, why the repetition? There are some things in life that do not need to be repeated. We don't need reminders. For example, we don't need to be reminded to breathe several times a minute in order to do that. We don't need to be reminded to sleep some every day. Maybe to sleep more, but we will sleep at some point during the day.

So, why is this recurring reminder to abide? I think it's because many of us are prone to run away. We cannot imagine that God could or would love us, given the circumstances of our life. We're not disciplined enough, focused enough, generous enough, forgiving enough, compassionate enough. We've got our list of rejections because we find those rejecting qualities inadmissible and unacceptable. We presume that God is blocked out. And yet, I think it's exactly the opposite: that God will reach through to us in the best of times and God will also reach through to us in the worst of times. And the invitation is not to run away but to stay where we are, which is where God is going to come to meet us, where God's light and life and love for us will be mediated.

A question for you: Think back on your life. How has God's love for you been mediated? Through whom has that happened? How has that happened, that you have come to know something about God's love? And then conversely, where do you find in yourself any resistance? Is there something about you, who you are, how you are, as you are, the way you are, that you think precludes God's love for you? **I beg to differ. I beg to differ."**

[News and Events:](#)

Diocesan Website: Condolences to the Miller family
Posted: February 13, 2018

We are saddened to announce the passing of Jean Miller, mother of the Ven. Glen Miller (Copper Cliff/Lively) on Sunday, February 11, 2018. A funeral service is planned for 11:30 a.m. on Saturday, February 17th at St. John the Divine Anglican Church in North Bay. Her obituary is posted below.

We offer our condolences to her family and ask for God's comfort and assurance for those who mourn.

Miller, Jean Annie (nee Clark) – passed away peacefully, surrounded by her family, on Sunday February 11, 2018 at Waters Edge Care Community at the age of 86 years. She was predeceased by her husband Wendell Miller and by her parents Hubert & Elsie Clark. Loving mother of Robert (Christine), Jerry (Wendy), Glen (Mary Beth), Jeffrey (Sheree), Andrew (Lisa). She will be sadly missed by her 11 grandchildren, 15 great grandchildren and many nieces and nephews. Also survived by her siblings Hazel Bannier, Margaret Patterson and Charles Clark. Also predeceased by her son Ricky and brother Sydney Clark. Family receiving friends at Hillside Funeral Services on Friday February 16th from 7 until 9 pm and on Saturday February 17th at St John's Anglican Church from 10:30 to 11:30 am. A funeral service will follow at 11:30. The family would like to extend a special thank you to Dr. Redhead and the Pier 1 staff of Waters Edge for the care given to our mother. Donations in memory of Jean to the Alzheimer Society would be appreciated by her family.

1. **The Church of the Epiphany** have **PEWS FOR SALE**. 2 beautiful long oak pews. Price is negotiable. If you or someone you know is interested, please call our office. One idea – they could be cut in half and become the elegant seating for a breakfast nook. Contact Barb Bolton at rbandbb2@gmail.com

Great news for the Church of the Epiphany: Bishop Anne has announced that Rev. Sarah Armstrong starts as incumbent at the Church of the Epiphany in September 2018 half time for one year under the auspices of Bishop Tom Corston (after Rev. Sarah's maternity leave is completed) and then she will be on her own September 2019.

2. **FROM ST. ALBAN'S, CAPREOL:**

St. Alban's, through its association with Isthmus Canada (formerly Blessings in a Backpack) has been feeding students at C. R. Judd P.S., Capreol, for the past three years. Learn more about the program at Isthmus Canada (<https://www.isthmus.ca/>). Loblaw is offering \$25 gift cards to customers who were overcharged for bread bought between 2002 and 2015. Some people are choosing to donate their cards to charity. We are hoping that some of you might consider applying for a card and donating it to St. Alban's Anglican Church to support the weekend nutritional program at C. R. Judd P.S.

Here's what you do:

Receive a \$25 Loblaw gift card by applying here:

Go to <http://loblawcard.ca/>. When you receive your card, deliver it to the office at C.R. Judd. P.S. or mail it to or drop it off at St. Alban's Anglican Church 34 Dennie St., Capreol, ON P0M 1H0 Attn. BBP

Hunger Doesn't Take Weekends Off and \$25 will feed one child on weekends for about 8 weeks. Thanks, Valerie Tryon Mission & Outreach Chair

3. **FROM CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION, SUDBURY**

ALPHA

An Alpha program will be running at the Church of the Ascension in partnership with the Samaritan center and Restoration Church beginning in February. Alpha is a program that explores life's big questions from a Christian perspective with those who have little or no Church background and with those who have been Christians a long time. If you are interested in taking the course or helping out with this exciting ministry, contact Father Aidan – armstong.aidan@gmail.com. Alpha will begin on Thursday February 01 and run for 10 weeks. All Welcome!

KAIROS Blanket Exercise – February 26th

Ascension is pleased to host the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. All are welcome to participate in this powerful experience which will deepen your understanding of the history and current realities facing Indigenous people. This event offers rich, educational, and meaningful insight. Register soon to book your spot!!

What is the Blanket Exercise? An experiential teaching tool that shares the historic and contemporary relationship between Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples in Canada. **If you haven't been to one, please consider!!** Please spread the word to students, family, friends, colleagues, anyone you think of, that may be interested in participating in this meaningful experience. Contact Erma Howe at ermahowe@rocketmail.com. (See separate attachment of the poster for details).

World Day of Prayer: Mar 2 2018 at 2 PM. See separate attached poster for details.

Healing Service: Ecumenical Service of Healing in conjunction with three other congregations in North Eastern Sudbury. separately attached poster for details.

4. **QUIET DAY:**

Bishop Anne Germond will be hosting a **Quiet Day on Saturday March 24** at the Anishinabie Spiritual Centre south of Espanola. The day will begin with lunch at noon for all registered participants and end with evening prayer by 5 pm. The cost of the Quiet Day will be covered by free will donations and any surplus will be donated to an outreach project. Please register by contacting the Ven. Glen Miller at livelyanglican@bellnet.ca.

5. **LENTEN STUDY**

A Lenten Study called "Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John" has been made available to everyone in the Deanery. **Booklets guiding the six week event may be obtained by contacting the incumbent of your congregation or by contacting the Archdeacon.** This is an online resource brought to us by the Society of St. John the Evangelist & the Centre for the Ministry of Teaching at Virginia Theological Seminary. With the booklet and registration participants are guided through a Lenten journey using videos produced by the Society and encouraged to join others in their congregations in reflecting on the themes. This and other resources are made available to help us all experience a holy Lent.

6. **Manitoulin Island Congregations**

To the 5 Congregations on Manitoulin Island, know that you are all in our prayers in your search for an Incumbent.

Joint Service Feb 18, 2018 at 11 AM: There will be an Island-wide celebration of Eucharist at Holy Trinity, Little Current with lunch to follow. Archdeacon Glen Miller is the celebrant and preacher.

7. **Thorneloe University**

Pipe Organ Concert in Memory of Hubert Kruzel. To Benefit the **Chapel Organ Fund at Thorneloe University**. **Organist**: Jan Overduin, Professor Emeritus of Organ and Church Music, Wilfrid Laurier University.

Sunday, March 4, 2018 at 3:00 P.M.

St. Andrew's Place, 111 Larch St., Sudbury ON

Free admission

Donations will be accepted to support the Chapel Organ Fund at Thorneloe University.

For more information: **705-673-1730** - Thorneloe.ca (See separate attached poster for details).

We are sending our this Digest weekly on Wednesday, usually before 10 PM. Feel free to send me and Allison Cline (our Webmaster) any and all events and news. Articles are also very welcome. You can use either our personal email as above or the Yahoo address as above.

We would like to receive items by the Sunday night before Wednesday. Some items may be repeated due the date of the event. If you have some news and/or articles and miss the Sunday cut off, please send directly to either personal e-mail address above. We will gladly include parish events, special events, and worship times. Please make sure all info is as accurate as possible, and any poster type submissions are as camera ready as possible to be included as PDF attachments to the Digest.

Improvements: suggestions are always welcome.

Safe Unsubscribe lives here. If you want us to remove your name from our newsletter list, just send us an e-mail.

Dave Stamp, Council Secretary

Tom Linck, Lay Steward