

NETWORK NEWS

ST. ANDREW'S January—February 2018

Jay's Say:

I've learned over the years that healthy churches are *steady in purpose and flexible in strategy*. Christmas shows that's how God is. Unswerving in pursuit of the world's redemption, God chucks out the playbook and embraces the unthinkable — becoming one of us, becoming one with us.

The King James Version of the Bible translates 1 Corinthians 13: "And now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity." One of my mentors would deliberately misquote the verse when dispensing advice to preachers: "so faith, hope and *clarity* abide, and the greatest of these is clarity."

We are clear about our mission: "With Saint Andrew and all our companions in faith, we are learning to follow Jesus in the way of love." This past year the Vestry gave added clarity by developing a Mission Action Plan with four key strands: nurturing the faithful, forming new disciples, serving our neighbors near and far, and stewarding our resources.

With our curate Kelly's departure to serve the parishes of Ashland and Plymouth, I've been thinking about staffing with our Vestry. Here are some of my thoughts:

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- We shall miss Kelly with all her gifts;
- I don't see any newly ordained clergy coming through the pipeline who are both available and suitable to fill a curacy (a two- to three-year apprenticeship for newly ordained clergy);
- There are some more seasoned priests in the Diocese looking for an assistant post, and I have met with the best candidate informally, but we have since agreed that it wouldn't be a good "fit";
- Having a curate doesn't reduce the rector's workload as much as people might expect; in the first year especially it usually adds to the work (Kelly was an exception);

- I see the need in Newport for someone with local roots who will be around for a good while;
- I would relish the challenge of helping to build up the Epiphany congregation by preaching and presiding there on most Saturday evenings;
- Exercising that sacramental role would add little to my workload and actually provides a helpful trial run for the Sunday sermon in New London;
- Pastoral, outreach and administrative responsibilities in Newport could be largely undertaken by a layperson whom Epiphany could hire for around ten hours per week;
- Our Pastoral Care Coordinating Team is increasingly willing and able to help with pastoral care in New London;

(continued on p. 3)

From the Parish Register

Baptism
November 12
Max William Brady

Burial
October 28
Roger Chesley

Funeral
December 16
Patricia Dickson

Parish Birthdays



Janet Jones	3	Evelyn Douty	2
Jenna Wheeler	4	Candie Reynolds	3
Margarete Wasilieff	6	Sophia Snaith	3
James Wassell	7	George Jamieson	6
Deborah Lambert	8	Natalie Davis	8
Loa Winter	8	Bill Helm	10
Linda Miller	10	Jack Liberman	11
Richard Haines	12	Bill Sloan	11
John Jevne	12	Sondra VanderPloeg	12
Peter Machen	12	Judy Wallace	14
Edward Olney	12	Gardner Yenawine	18
Barbara Smith	12	Cynthia Canaday	19
David Marshall	16	Bruce Avery	20
Nancy Rollins	16	Lou Sawyer	20
Tyler Harwell	21	Steven Schweizer	21
Tina Colehower	23	Terry Smith	27
Diane Caldwell	25	Keith Thomas	27
Linda Barnes	26		
Kathryn MacLeod	26		
Natalie Stark	28		
Kent Woodger	28		

Faith and Issues will resume weekly meetings on Saturday, January 6, from 9:00-10:30 to begin a two to three-week discussion about what has affected us most deeply in *The Sunflower – On the Possibilities and Limits of Forgiveness* by Simon Wiesenthal. This was the engaging focus book for the Rev'd Dr. Kathleen Rusnak's recent after-church study on forgiveness, which left many eager for further conversations. All are welcome! Our next book will be: *Acts of Faith – The Story of an American Muslim- The Struggle for the Soul of a Generation* by Eboo Patel. Stay tuned!
 – Katrina Wagner

Annual Meeting

Each January, we gather to conduct the business of the parish, most importantly the election of new vestry members. This year, we will meet on **Friday, January 19th**, at 5:30 PM for our Annual Meeting followed by a pot-luck supper. Rides will be provided for those hesitant to drive at night.

We are pleased to announce that the following people have agreed to stand for election:

- | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Marni Eaton, Warden | Lin Potter, Vestry |
| Alice Perry, Vestry and Clerk | Karen Shepherd, Convention Delegate |
| Morris Edwards, Vestry | Bobbie Hambley, Convention Delegate |

Those remaining in office are Bruce Avery (warden), Peter Ruth (Treasurer), Harvey Best, Joe Daly, Mark Kellett, Lisa Kelly, and Barbara Smith. Thanks to all for their service!

JAY'S SAY . . . *Continued from p. 1*

- Our "retired" resident clergy (The Rev'd Pat Harris, The Rev'd Jim Ransom, The Rev'd Kathleen Rusnak, The Rev'd Leslie Smith, The Rev'd Charlie Tirrell and The Rev'd Katrina Wagner) are willing and able to lend a hand as needed; and,
- The hole left at Epiphany by Kelly's departure might partly be filled by a small Mission Team of six to ten laypeople from St. Andrew's who would support the Saturday evening congregation in Newport and help nurture new disciples.

The **bottom line** is that I'm not in a hurry to hire a replacement for Kelly. If I undertake the sacramental role on Saturdays and work closely with a paid lay Missioner in Newport, we can see how this goes from January to June and then take a decision about whether to look for a curate to start in September 2018 or early in 2019. As it happens, this plan will cost us less as a parish — which turns out to be quite convenient since our stewardship campaign (in spite of the increased generosity of most pledgers and the wonderful job done by Jeanne and Morris Edwards as co-chairs) seems to have fallen about \$30,000 short of its \$405,000 goal.

As we move from a maintenance- to a mission-oriented church, we remain steady in purpose and flexible in strategy. Or as the spiritual and folk song puts it: Keep your eyes on the prize!

Education for Ministry (EfM) is the Episcopal Church's flagship program of theological reflection. **Every baptized person is called to ministry.** Through weekly reading and discussions, we are able to refine our understanding of and nurture our Christian service. Ministry -- your personal every-day "ministry" -- should not be confused with "ordination."



Although a four-year program (Old Testament, New Testament, History of Christianity, and Theology) no one is obliged to take all four years (or to take them in consecutive years). Also, as "adult ed," there is no penalty if you can't do all the reading or attend all the sessions in the 36 weeks (although of course reading and attendance are encouraged).

Because participants represent more than a single year, our discussions are wide-ranging and insightful. Occasionally throughout the year we have "common reading" assigned — trade books outside the focus of any of the year-topics but relevant to today's world and our ministry in it. In addition, participants form lasting connections with one another.

Our EfM group intends to resume later in January and we are looking for a couple of new participants. We meet for study and discussion for 36 weeks of the year. On Tuesdays at noon we meet for Midday Prayer and then bring a bag lunch to the table for a two-hour session. Marni Eaton and Alice Perry will serve as mentors in 2018. **If you are interested please let us know as soon as possible.**

Stewardship Campaign Update

The generosity of our parishioners, old and new, shone through once again in our 2018 stewardship campaign. Of the 149 pledges made by December 24 more than half were for higher amounts than the previous year. New members made their support felt with 15 pledges. Thus far, the campaign has raised \$371,428, or an average of \$2,492 per pledge.

Even so, we are still shy of our \$405,000 goal, mainly because there have been 23 fewer pledgers this year than last. The shortfall is due mostly to members who are deceased or have moved away.

As a tangible expression of faith your giving will help to sustain our parish for the coming year, expand our outreach and support the missions and ministries that make St. Andrew's so special. All those whose lives will be touched by these missions and ministries join us in thanking you for your generous giving. — *Jeanne and Morris Edwards*

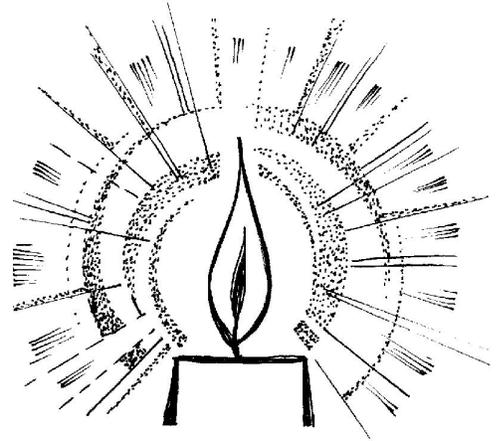
Calendar of Events

January:

- 6 (Saturday) - Faith and Issues, 9 AM (*see p. 2*)
 7 (Sunday) - Epiphany Pageant, 10 AM
 10 (Wednesday) - Novel Theology, 7 PM (*see p. 11*)
 16 (Tuesday) - EfM resumes, Noon (*see p. 3*)
 19 (Friday) - Annual Meeting, 5:30 PM (*see p. 2*)
 26 (Friday) - Friendly Kitchen (*see p. 9*)

February:

- 6 (Tuesday) - Craft group resumes, 9:30 AM (*see below*)
 11 (Sunday) - Karen Zurheide and Rob Freitas share their *Camino* experience – walking the ancient pilgrim trail (nearly 500 miles) to the tomb of Saint James in Santiago de Compostela in north-west Spain, 11:30 AM
 7 (Wednesday) - Novel Theology, 7 PM (*see p. 11*)
 14 (Wednesday) - Ash Wednesday: Lent begins. Eucharist, 12 noon; evening ecumenical service



During Lent this year, we shall embark on a six-week journey into deeper intimacy with God by praying with the words of John the Evangelist (The Gospel according to John and First Letter of John). Here's how it will work:

- Visit www.meetingjesusinjohn.org to sign up – it's free and easy;
- Receive a daily email in Lent with a short video & reflection from one of the Brothers at the Society of Saint John the Evangelist, the Episcopal monastery in Cambridge;
- Use the Prayer Journal (supplied by St. Andrew's) to write your own reflections;
- Join one of our small groups which will meet during Lent (details to follow).

Monday to Friday 12 Noon Midday Prayer ▼ **Mondays** 6 PM Meditation
First Tuesdays (of even months) 2:30 PM Pastoral Care Coordinating Team

Wednesdays 10 AM Music & Memory

Thursdays 10 AM Thursday Tots, 7 PM Choir

Saturdays 3:15 PM Holy Communion on Mt. Sunapee, 5 PM Worship at Epiphany, Newport

Tuesday Morning Crafts

The Crafty Critters of St. Andrew's will begin meeting on February 6 to start work on projects for the Summer Fair to be held in July. We meet on Tuesday mornings from 9:30 to 11:30 in the parish hall.

We welcome all who are interested. If you are unsure if you are interested or not, come check us out. See who you know that is involved, enjoy some coffee and goodies and great fellowship. We are always open to suggestions and ideas for projects to make so please feel free to let us know your ideas. Questions? Contact Rosie Best or Barbara Smith.

The Wardens' Words

We've ended 2017 in a period of transition laced with opportunity. We miss Kelly but wish her Godspeed as she spreads her wings in her new assignment. The ever-creative Jay has been busy planning new ways to ensure that all the bases are covered. Clearly, he can't do it all. Please stay tuned for more from him about that, and watch for ways you may be able to help. For instance, Marni Eaton and Alice Perry will shepherd our EfM (Education for Ministry) group in place of Kelly.

Epiphany continues on its path to renewal in Newport. Perhaps there are more ways we can help there. Just showing up on an occasional Saturday to worship there gives us an opportunity to get to know them better and helps swell the congregation to make it feel more vibrant and welcoming to newcomers.

Here at home, your vestry is hoping to start planning more carefully for capital improvements. We know that our 50+ year old building will need some attention before long. If you would like to help on a committee to draft a schedule of major repairs, replacements, or improvements, please speak to Harvey Best.

We would like to increase our financial commitment to outreach. In the past few years, we have set aside \$15,000 in our budget to support various projects, both close to home and far away. In 2018, we're hoping to be able to increase that amount modestly in order to provide some support for El Hogar, an organization that provides residential schooling to 250 poor and abandoned children in Honduras on four campuses, training them to be successful adults in their poverty-stricken country. In their latest newsletter, El Hogar has announced an exciting new vision that has grown out of a lengthy strategic planning process. They will be creating a coed high school on one of the campuses that will combine three of their current schools, enabling them to offer more in-depth education at a considerable operating savings. The goal is 100% placement of graduates into either university or full-time employment and for the high school to be self-sustaining by 2025.

During the coming months, we will be getting to know El Hogar better and will sponsor a mission trip that will most likely occur in April 2019 (during school vacation so our teenagers will have the opportunity to participate). Watch for profiles of some of the students and other news from the schools. We encourage you to visit the website: elhogar.org and the Fall/Winter 2017 newsletter to learn more.

Finally, please know that we recognize the contributions of time and talent so many of you make. Look around and realize what it takes to keep St. Andrew's and all its programs running smoothly. Then take a moment to pat yourselves on the back, think about how lucky we are to have such a special church home with so many good friends, and look forward to all that we will accomplish in the new year.

Blessings!

Becky Rylander and Bruce Avery



St. Andrew's Church, New London

Study Tour of the Holy Land

Pilgrimage

4-14 November 2018 in Israel & the West Bank plus a 4-day option in Jordan

Jerusalem

Based at Ecce Homo Pilgrim House in the heart of the Old City for our first four days, we shall walk the Way of Sorrows to the cross, explore the history of ancient and modern Israel, and sample desert spirituality. Our independent guide is Jared Goldfarb, a Jewish scholar (and NH native) with a deep appreciation for the city's rich multi-faith history.

Palestine

As the Jewish Shabbat begins, we cross into the West Bank with a Palestinian guide. We shall stay at the Manger Square Hotel, visit the Church of the Nativity, and explore the Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron.

Galilee

Nazareth, Capernaum and the Mount of Beatitudes are among the highlights of our final four days. Staying at Ein Gev Kibbutz hotel by the Sea of Galilee, we depart early on 14 November for the airport or the Jordan crossing.



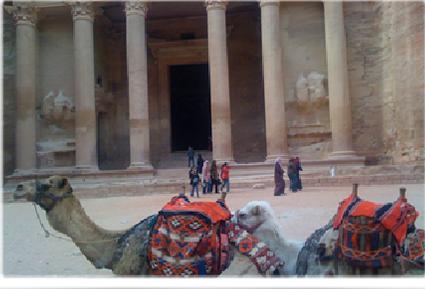
Once in a lifetime . . .

The Bible comes alive as we walk in the footsteps of Jesus as well as the patriarchs and prophets before him. Visiting the Holy Land deepens our faith and provides space to reflect on our personal journey. You will learn and laugh, and you'll find yourself growing close to your fellow pilgrims and to the many peoples of this troubled land. And in ways you may not fully comprehend until months after your return, you will also find yourself growing closer to God.



St. Andrew's Church, New London

Study Tour of the Holy Land



Optional Add-on to Jordan (14-18 Nov.)

While some will head home on 14 November, others will cross into Jordan to visit Pella, Wadi el-Yabis, Tel Mar Elyas, and Ajloun Castle before checking into cabins on a wildlife reserve. On Thursday we visit the ruins of Jerash, the Holy Land Institute for the Deaf in Salt, and the Baptism Site of Jesus. We spend one night at a posh hotel on the Dead Sea. On Friday we head to Mt. Nebo, Madaba, Lot's Cave, and the Lodge at Dana. We explore Petra on our final day (Saturday, 17 November) before taking the desert highway to the airport south of Amman for our flight back to Boston via Europe.

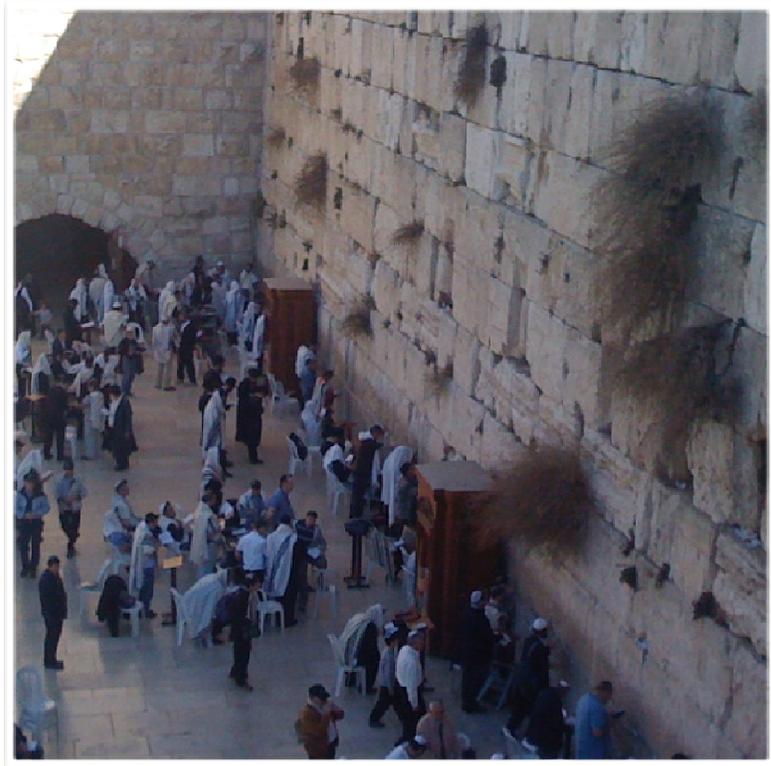
The cost of the Jordan segment will be \$700 for people staying in doubles or triples and \$800 for folks in single rooms. This includes lodging, guide, transportation and tips but excludes lunches and drinks.

This segment of the pilgrimage will be led by Jay and coordinated by a guide and driver from Gemm Travel.

Practicalities

The cost of the trip is likely to be \$1,700 for pilgrims sharing a double room and \$2,100 for those in singles. The cost excludes flights, and pilgrims will make their own arrangements for lunch and most evening meals.

- Sun, 4 Nov** Night flight from Boston to Tel Aviv via Europe
- Mon, 5 Nov** Enter Jerusalem; orientation at Ecce Homo
- Tues, 6 Nov** Temple Mount, Western Wall, Tunnel Tour
- Wed, 7 Nov** Gethsemane, Via Dolorosa, Holy Sepulchre, Mt. Zion
- Thur, 8 Nov** Judean desert experience
- Fri, 9 Nov** Yad Vashem, Machane Yehuda, Israel Museum
- Sat, 10 Nov** Bethlehem, Tomb of the Patriarchs in Hebron
- Sun, 11 Nov** Church, Jericho, Beit She'an, Kibbutz Ein Gev
- Mon, 12 Nov** Mt Arbel, Capernaum, Tabgha, Beatitudes
- Tues, 13 Nov** Tzfat, Tzipori, Nazareth, Magdala
- Wed, 14 Nov** Early transfer to Tel Aviv for return flight



Sunday School

This fall in Sunday school, we have deepened our understanding of God as the final authority in our lives and come to know that loving Him and our neighbors as ourselves should be our first priorities. We have also explored the idea that each of us can use our God-given talents to serve Him by sharing His love in the world. During Advent, we have been celebrating the hope, comfort, freedom and light God brings into the darkness as we await the coming of the Christ child. In the winter months, we will focus on God's call of Samuel and, next, Jonah as well as understanding more about Jesus as the Savior and healer.

We continue to have new members in both classes and the nursery. Our younger class is composed of children in kindergarten through third grade, while the older group includes children from fourth grade up and any children not yet confirmed. We have excellent, experienced teachers on board for both groups. Both teachers and shepherds have completed or are in the process of completing the required Safe Church training. The children in 7th and 8th grades who are not yet confirmed are encouraged to join the older class or help out with the younger children as "shepherds in training." Several members of the older group were confirmed last year and now attend church or help out with Sunday school. Children in preschool and younger go to the Nursery where care is available at both the 8 AM and 10 AM services. We use the Whirl curriculum materials, relevant for all ages and focused on applying faith in daily life as well as addressing the questions and challenges that arise in our Christian formation.

Sunday School is held on the second and third (as well as the fourth Sunday in April). On the last Sunday of each month, Nicole Densmore, our Director of Youth Music, rehearses with the children in preparation for the music/singing that is part of all-age worship on the first Sunday, where the children are involved in all aspects of the service. She is an extraordinarily gifted teacher, musician, and singer and works her magic with the children whenever they practice or perform. Nicole also directs the Upbeat youth choir.

We are in real need of additional Sunday school teachers to make it possible for each teacher to be responsible for leading the class once a month. We also have a genuine need for shepherds, who are not responsible for lessons but support the teachers and provide extra hands in the classroom. The kids are wonderful; collaborating with them is lots of fun! We will be happy to mentor you, and the curriculum is easy to follow and administer. If you feel the tug, *even slightly*, please get in touch with Ellen Yenawine.

Faith Adventures

Faith Adventures is our middle-school youth group for kids in sixth through eighth grade. Please contact Ellen Yenawine if your child is interested in joining us.

This fall, our first regular Faith Adventures meeting was held at St. Andrew's in September when we joined with the First Baptist Church youth. We carved (and drilled!) pumpkins and took the resulting pumpkin "masterpieces" to residents of Bittersweet. During our November meeting, our youth groups pitched in to assemble Thanksgiving baskets for those in need and wrote notes to go with them. We considered our blessings and ways we can show our thanks by using our gifts to serve others. Our focus this year will be on service in the community. We look forward to lots of fun, faith formation and opportunities to make a difference in the lives of others. (*See photos on following page and on p. 11*) — Ellen Yenawine

Outreach Corner

A Very Heartwarming Story from the Thrift Shop



Recently a Colby Sawyer student came into the thrift shop and tried on a beautiful pink vest. It fit, she loved it, but she didn't have the money for it. After she left, a woman who happened to be shopping at the same time came up to the volunteer and offered to pay for the vest for the co-ed. The volunteer tried to catch the girl but couldn't. But she did send a notice to someone she knew at the college who might locate the girl. A few weeks later, the girl got the good news and came in to identify herself and left very happy with her new pink vest. She asked us to thank the anonymous

woman, but unfortunately we haven't seen her again. If you are reading this and are that woman, "thank you." Good things are happening at St. Andrew's Thrift Shop. Why not stop by yourself! - Jackie Thompson



Help Re-Stock the KLS Community Food Pantry

January: Canned fruit

February: Large juice (especially low sugar and 100% juice)

Paper towels, toilet paper, coffee (regular, decaf and instant), peanut butter and jelly, cake and brownie mixes and monetary donations are always welcome.

Our next visit to the Friendly Kitchen is planned for Friday, January 26. Watch for a sign up sheet and more information in the Sunday bulletins.



Voices in Counterpoint

"And all shall be well. And all shall be well. And all manner of things shall be exceeding well."
— Julian of Norwich (1341-1415)

Dear Friends,

A good friend reminded me recently of these comforting words. Julian, a mystic, tells us that God spoke these words to her in a vision. These powerful words bring hope and inspiration. They remind us that God has everything in hand. And God's advice to us is to trust in God and rely on God's Providence.

How does this reliance play out in our worship and praise in this, the foreign land in which we live? We walk and talk each day as aliens in a culture that mitigates against visions such as Julian's. Voices expressing pessimism and anger surround us, confusing our ears with a dreadful din. We long for a voice of compassion and concern, a presence that can both caress and confront us with Gift of Love. Where can we find this Love?

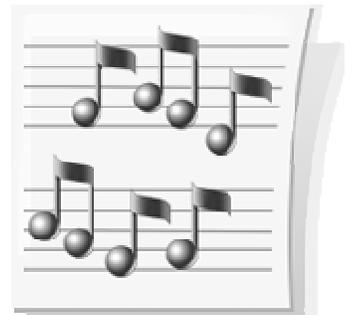
Jesus has come to show us that Love, God's Perfect Love. Jesus is the Light of the world. He is our Joy and Pleasure. He brings Life, and he shows us the Way to Heaven.

*"Let not your heart be troubled; you believe in God, believe also in me.
In my Father's house are many mansions; if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you. And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come again and receive you to myself; that where I am, there you may be also. And where I go you know, and the way you know."* [John 14:1-4]

As I write these lines, we are celebrating again the coming of Jesus among us, the Incarnation, the "enfleshment" of God. Jesus came to us as a child of Mary. He came a baby and grew to manhood. He died just as we all will die. And he rose again to enable us to rise with him. This is key to understanding what we do when we gather for worship – and, as well, in our daily encounters with each other.

When we come together at Holy Eucharist, we celebrate our oneness with the Incarnate Jesus. We renew our unity in Love with the Christ, and with each other. We confirm our identity as members of the Body of Christ, the Church. And we express that sacred union in the songs we sing.

Peace and Love,
David



Reel and Novel Theology

On Wednesday, 10 January at 7 PM we get together to discuss Tim Winton's book *That Eye, the Sky*. On 7 February the gathering will discuss *A United Kingdom* (reel).

Additional suggestions for discussion from July forward are welcome at any time.

March – *A Man Called Ove* (2015) by Fredrik Backman

April – *High Noon* (1952 reel)

May – *The Ninth Hour* by Alice McDermott

June – *Hidden Figures* (reel)

These discussions are open to everyone; see the film, read the book, and just turn up.

Faith Adventures writes notes to accompany Thanksgiving baskets.

(See p. 8)



In his recent travels, George Jamieson encountered this message. Translated it says roughly – and appropriately here as well –

It's possible that by coming
to this church
you will hear the call of God.

On the other hand, it is highly unlikely
that He will contact you by telephone.

Thank you for shutting off your cellphones.

**IL EST POSSIBLE QU'EN ENTRANT
DANS CETTE EGLISE
VOUS ENTENDIEZ L'APPEL DE DIEU.**

**PAR CONTRE, IL EST PEU
PROBABLE
QU'IL VOUS CONTACTE PAR
TELEPHONE.**



**MERCI D'ETEINDRE VOS
PORTABLES.**

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