



Saints Alive

All Saints Anglican Church, Medicine Hat, AB

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June 2009 Edition

Upcoming Events

Tuesday June 9th – The ladies of All Saints Church are cordially invited to a fellowship evening at Unity Lutheran Church on Tuesday June 9th at 7:00 p.m. Please sign up on the sheet in the hall if you plan to attend so we can RSVP.

Sunday June 21st A picnic lunch will take place at All Saints. We will have barbequed hotdogs and hamburgers with a short praise service and slide show presentation on Ronda's pilgrimage to Israel. Pot luck salads and desserts. Please sign up in the hall as to what item you will be bringing.

Monday June 22th – Fundraiser "Dinner with Derek" St. Augustine's, Lethbridge is hosting a buffet dinner to raise funds for the bishop's discretionary fund. Cost: \$30. Cash bar. RSVP before June 12th, 2009 Forms available at the back of the church or speak to Ronda.

September 13th: Fall Newsletter coming out. Deadline for submissions will be Sept. 6th.

October 30 and 31st: University of Alberta, Edmonton: Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan present "Following Jesus in a Time of Empire." Register before July 1st and receive four sessions for both days for \$100.00. Sponsored by the Anglican and United Churches of Edmonton. For more info see flyer in narthex.

Fall Pilgrimage to Israel: Richard LeSueur will be hosting another pilgrimage to Israel in the fall (mid-October) for 13 days. This is a phenomenal opportunity for anyone who has ever considered traveling to the Holy Land. For more information, please speak to Ronda.

Hugs

It's wondrous what a hug can do.
A hug can cheer you when you're blue
A hug can say 'I love you so' or
Gee, I hate to see you go'.
A hug can sooth a small child's pain
And bring a rainbow after rain.
The Hug! There's just no doubt about it....
A hug delights and warms and charms
It must be why God gave us arms.
Arms are great for fathers and mothers.
Sweet for sisters and swell for brothers.
And chances are your favourite aunts,
Love them more than potted plants.
Kittens crave them, puppies love them.
A hug can break the language barrier
And make your travels so much merrier.
No need to fret about your store of 'em!
The more you give the more there is of 'em
SO stretch those arms without delay
And give someone a hug today!

Deon Walley

Submitted by Marion Ingram



Sausage and Perogie Supper

Our Outreach Ministry group tried something new and it was a great success. The supper was well attended and was enjoyed by all. Each fund raising project adds to the overall funds needed to keep us afloat. Thanks to everyone who attended, donated and worked.



Cryptogram

XR XH KCRRCI RA RIBHR XM RFC SAIE RFQM RA
DBR PAMYXECMPC XM GQM.

Bishop Derek Hoskin at St Ambrose

Bishop Hoskin visited at St. Ambrose to present the congregation with a plaque which designates St Ambrose as a historic sight. The Bishop's sermon had everyone chuckling as he agreed with Eldon Fisher that his memory as well as Eldon's was not what it used to be. He added that somewhere between the motel and the church he had lost his sermon. We all realized as soon as he began to speak that he really didn't need the written copy. His message was crystal clear. He challenged all of us to do something in Lent rather than just giving something up. After the service we enjoyed a delicious lunch with an amazing amount of food.



1. Maybe . . we were supposed to meet the wrong people before meeting the right one so that, when we finally meet the right person, we will know how to be grateful for that gift.
2. Maybe . . . when the door of happiness closes, another opens; but, often times, we look so long at the closed door that we don't even see the new one which has been opened for us.
3. Maybe . . . it is true that we don't know what we have until we lose it, but it is also true that we don't know what we have been missing until it arrives.
4. Maybe . . . the happiest of people don't necessarily have the best of everything; they just make the most of everything that comes along their way.
5. Maybe . . . the brightest future will always be based on a forgotten past; after all, you can't go on successfully in life until you let go of your past mistakes, failures and heartaches.
6. Maybe . . . you should dream what you want to dream; go where you want to go, be what you want to be, because you have only one life and one chance to do all the things you dream of, and want to do.
7. Maybe . . . there are moments in life when you miss someone -- a parent, a spouse, a friend, a child -- so much that you just want to pick them from your dreams and hug them for real, so that once they are around you appreciate them more.
8. Maybe . . . the best kind of friend is the kind you can sit on a porch and swing with, never say a word, and then walk away feeling like it was the best conversation you've ever had.,
9. Maybe . . you should always try to put yourself in others' shoes. If you feel that something could hurt you, it probably will hurt the other person, too.
10. Maybe . . you should do something nice for someone every single day, even if it is simply to leave them alone.
11. Maybe . . giving someone all your love is never an assurance that they will love you back. Don't expect love in return; just wait for it to grow in their heart; but, if it doesn't, be content that it grew in yours.
12. Maybe . . . happiness waits for all those who cry, all those who hurt, all those who have searched, and all those who have tried, for only they can appreciate the importance of all the people who have touched their lives.
13. Maybe . . . you shouldn't go for looks; they can deceive; don't go for wealth; even that fades away. Go for someone who makes you smile, because it takes only a smile to make a dark day seem bright. Find the one that makes your heart smile.
14. Maybe . . you should hope for enough happiness to make you sweet, enough trials to make you strong, enough sorrow to keep you human, and enough hope to make you happy
15. Maybe . . . you should try to live your life to the fullest because when you were born, you were crying and everyone around you was smiling but when you die, you can be the one who is smiling and everyone around you crying.

Reflections on the Pilgrimage to the Holy Land by Ronda Ploughman

There is a saying that the Holy Land is the fifth gospel; the first four gospels being the testimony written in the books of Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, with the fifth one being a testimony written into the very land out of which it emerged.

Traveling around Israel and Egypt, (in the Sinai where much of the story of God's work with the ancient Israelites took place,) we start to glimpse how intimately connected scripture is to this mysterious and forbidding land and its people. Set within the very landscape out of which the God of the desert emerged to reveal God-self to the people, we begin to glean how profoundly this encounter shaped their struggle for life and the language of their experience of God.

As we journeyed about in the comfort of air conditioned buses, wearing our hats and sunglasses with bottled water slung over our shoulders, I could not help but reflect how it is almost beyond the scope of imagination that anyone could have pioneered this harsh land. One need only stand atop the Judean desert to understand why it is written that Jesus was ministered to by angels, for like so many of the holy places we visited, it is so dangerous that a person could easily die in a day.

Throughout the entire pilgrimage we were constantly reminded to consume water every few minutes because the risk of dehydration is so great. The need for us to take good care of ourselves underscored the reality of the need of ancient peoples to have access to water to survive and how this is reflected in their relationship with God. Three such examples of this come to mind.

Two weeks into our trip we traveled to the Sinai desert in Egypt. There we spent the night under the open sky and in the morning hiked up a mountain and then back down arriving in a valley partially surrounded by cliff walls and blazing sun. Amidst all of this, there was a single palm tree. As our guide brought us to the tree for closer examination, he pointed out the different rock formations that made up the cliff wall and then drew our attention to the water sitting beneath the ledge – a three foot square area with about two or three inches of water.

We were told that wherever there is any green in the desert, no matter how sparse, this is always an indication of water nearby that is feeding the plant. In fact, this was a type of rock that holds water, and one could strike the rock and water would flow. This particular site had been giving water for thousands of years. Wanderers in the desert would drink from it and bring their animals to be watered. As we stood there, huge bees in black and yellow armor hovered about taking their share of this life giving gift as we stood there reflecting on the many passages of scripture that speak about getting water from rocks:



Caption: Throughout the centuries an ancient rock provides life giving water to all that pass through the desert.

Numbers 20:2-11

Now there was no water for the congregation; so they gathered together against Moses and against Aaron. ³The people quarreled with Moses and said, 'Would that we had died when our kindred died before the LORD! ⁴Why have you brought the assembly of the LORD into this wilderness for us and our livestock to die here? ⁵Why have you brought us up out of Egypt, to bring us to this wretched place? It is no place for grain, or figs, or vines, or pomegranates; and there is no water to drink.' ⁶Then Moses and Aaron went away from the assembly to the entrance of the tent of meeting; they fell on their faces, and the glory of the LORD appeared to them. ⁷The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ⁸Take the staff, and assemble the congregation, you and your brother Aaron, and command the rock before their eyes to yield its water. Thus you shall bring water out of the rock for them; thus you shall provide drink for the congregation and their livestock. ⁹ So Moses took the staff from before the LORD, as he had commanded him. ¹⁰Moses and Aaron gathered the assembly together before the rock, and he said to them, 'Listen, you rebels, shall we bring water for you out of this rock?' ¹¹Then Moses lifted up his hand and struck the rock twice with his staff; water came out abundantly, and the congregation and their livestock drank.

As we continued our travels through the Sinai, we were hosted by a handful of Bedouin men who cooked for us and drove us in their jeeps to various sites of ancient pilgrimage. Traditionally, the Bedouin are desert nomads, and although their life and culture are rapidly changing as a result of exposure to modernity, they still retain many of their ancient codes and practices. One such custom is their approach to water in the desert. They will not exploit or co-opt naturally existing water sources in the desert for their exclusive use. Rather, the tribes are responsible for locating a water source below ground and digging a well for their communal use. It is only from the man-made wells that they may extract water for their daily living during times of settlement.

The Bedouin view embraces a kind of desert hospitality that recognizes the harshness of the land and that the provision for survival is found in a God who provides for all, not just for some.

Thus, any natural and immediate sources of water in the desert such as that found in rocks, springs and oases, are a gift from God for all the creatures in the desert, both human and non-human, to be used as they pass through. Any may drink of it. None may claim it exclusively, nor settle in the immediate area to live off it. These natural water sources are left untouched and pristine in their natural state, so that all may benefit from its life giving properties.

Once Christianity became established under Constantine in the fourth century, Christian pilgrims began to travel to the Holy Land. The pilgrims route was the way through the desert from Egypt to Jerusalem and it remains unchanged even now.