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St. Aidan's is...

- ... a caring church - with opportunities for building relationships with others
- ... a biblical church - we treat the Bible as God's word
- ... a Jesus-centered church - knowing Jesus is at the heart of the Christian life
- ... a worshiping church - different styles, but each bringing us to the Father
- ... a church that does all of this in the power of the Holy Spirit

We're on the Web!
www.staidanswinnipeg.ca

Annual Youth Christmas Banquet 2011

Fun and Festivities were enjoyed at the annual youth Christmas Banquet, December 9, 2011. Thirty-three guests enjoyed the rink at the River Heights Community Center, playing games and of course, enjoying great food. This banquet was slightly bittersweet as it was Pastor Brett's last with us (after not missing one in 10 years) - Veronica Smith gave a lovely toast, in honour of him taking part in so many of our shenanigans.

Youth Director
Caroline Woytowich



To know Christ and to make Him known.



The Window

Dear Friends by Pastor Brett

"LOVE ONE ANOTHER"

Dear Friends,

In my final letter to you before I retire, I can think of no better subject than "Love one another" (John 15:12)! During the inevitable changes that will occur in the next few months (I will be speaking on "The Gift of Change" as my final sermon before retirement on Jan. 29th) the most important thing to remember as a parish is to love one another. This love will keep you together as you steer through the challenges and opportunities ahead.

This love will need to be expressed in practical and concrete ways; here are three:

1. Come to worship: our attendance has been dropping in recent years and this does not reflect a loss of parishioners but

less frequent attendance. I know part of the reason is because people are becoming more and more stressed in our fast-paced world and are needing more breaks away from regular commitments. However, part of our commitment to one another is showing up on Sundays! Please do not underestimate the importance of your presence at worship. Your presence is an encouragement to others – to say nothing of the value to yourself and the Lord! Show your love for one another by showing up!

2. Continue to give: it is easy for parish giving to drop off in an interim period and this is a source of great anxiety to those in leadership – remove this anxiety by giving even more! Costs will rise (e.g. travel costs for prospective candidates, moving expenses, etc.) during the Interim, so pray about whether your giving should be increased. Show your

love for one another by giving generously.

3. Meet together: one area of parish life where St. Aidan's needs strengthening is small groups for fellowship, learning, prayer and pastoral care. The ideal is for every parishioner to be involved in some form of small group because this is the best place for pastoral care to begin. The clergy are then freed up to be involved in more complex situations. Meeting together in small groups is where one can demonstrate love in practical ways, exercise spiritual gifts and grow in leadership abilities. Show your love for one another by meeting together.

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"Love one another"
John 15:12



"...join us in faithfully moving forward in prayer and confidence in our strengths as a parish."

Dear Friends by Pastor Brett

(cont'd from Page 1)

In addition to the three reasons above, another reason for staying committed to the parish during the interim is that you don't want to miss out on the new things God will be doing! In my final sermon, I will be pointing out that Scripture and Church History show that God has been able to do more with

his people in times of change than in times of routine! Being on the margins is a great opportunity to learn and experience more about dependency on God and hearing his voice leading in new directions.

Thank you for the privilege of serving as your rector these past 9 ½ years – I am confident that the Lord will continue to bless you and

make you a blessing to others as you seek to live and serve for him. He has provided you with good leaders – clergy and lay – for the interim period; encourage and support them and, most of all, love one another!

Yours in His Service,

Pastor Brett

Workshop Reflections by Caroline Woytowich

In preparation for the "big change" - Brett's retirement - the parish had the opportunity to take part in a valuable workshop where we brainstormed ideas under three major titles: Strengths, Challenges & Opportunities, and To Renew. The morning workshop was primarily attended by adults who came up with some great thoughts. The morning was so inspiring it sparked the idea to do a similar activity in youth Sunday School on December 4th.

The class (of nine students that particular Sunday) split into two small groups to fill posters with thoughts and ideas. There was some overlap between the workshop and the youth class,

but there were also many youth group specific thoughts. The posters were added to those hung in the side chapel and compiled into a list for future discernment reference.

In the meantime, here are some highlights. Under "Strengths" the youth felt the parish was strong in the areas of Children's Sunday School and Youth Group (we may be slightly biased). They recognized the strength of different music styles and the strength of fellowship and food – for example Toonie Lunch and coffee and cookies after services.

On the "Challenges & Opportunities" poster the group thought that a challenge was the parish rou-

tine – doing the same general thing in every service and therefore becoming complacent. The opportunity to change it up from time to time emerged from this. Another challenge was confirmation classes; recent students in the class felt the valuable information could use a 21st Century revamp with more interaction and multimedia; which is also the opportunity in this case, too.

Finally on the "To Renew" poster the youth group wrote "Stepping out of comfort zones in faith"; something both young and older could do!

So we ask that you join us in faithfully moving forward in prayer and confidence in our strengths as a parish.

Lenten Film Series

"Taking a Stand For Christ"

Every Friday in Lent we will be viewing films exploring the lives of Christians who have made a difference by taking a stand for God down through the ages. Each evening begins with a pot-luck supper in the Fellowship Hall at 6:00 p.m., followed by a film upstairs in the sanctuary with discussion following. The films to be

shown are as follows:

February 24th:

"Luther" (2003; 123 min.)

March 2nd:

"Amazing Grace" (2006; 117 min.)

March 9th:

"The Hiding Place" (1975; 150 min.)

March 16th:

"Bonhoeffer: Agent of Grace" (2000; 88 min.)

March 23rd:

"Beyond the Gates of Splendour" (2002; 96 min.)

March 30th:

"Of Gods and Men" (2010; 122 min.)



Dates to Remember
(Lenten Film Series):

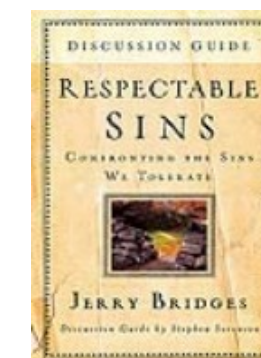
Feb. 24
Mar. 2
Mar. 9
Mar. 16
Mar. 23
Mar. 30

Adult Christian Education Opportunities

EDUCATION FOR LIFE FOR LENT:

7:00-9:00 p.m. Wednesdays, Feb. 1 - March 28 (weekly, except Feb. 22, Ash Wednesday).

An eight week study on "Respectable Sins" using the discussion guide based on our Lenten book. Led by Pastor Ken Turnbull and open to all.



Also See Lenten Brochure available January 22 in the Narthex for further details.





Lent 2012

WORSHIP AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT:

the address at both services.

SHROVE TUESDAY

February 21st
Pancake Supper, 5:30 p.m.

Pancakes and sausages will be served in the Fellowship Hall, 5:30 - 6:45 p.m.

Tickets are \$7.00 for adults; \$4.00 for children twelve & under; maximum \$25.00 per family.

Bring your friends!

Vespers & Preparation of Ashes, 7:00 p.m.

This service prepares both our hearts and the ashes for Ash Wednesday. The "Alleluia" is buried. Parishioners are invited to bring their palm crosses from last Palm Sunday to be burnt for the ashes.

ASH WEDNESDAY

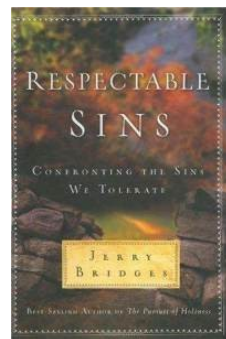
February 22nd
Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes

Will be held at 12:00 noon (traditional - with hymns) & 7:00 pm (contemporary - with praise songs). Pastor Ken Turnbull will be giving

LENTEN SERMON SERIES:

"Divine Requirements for Mortal Believer." Each Sunday in Lent, sermons will look at a portion of the well-known verse, Micah 6:8: "He has shown you, O mortal, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God."

Also See Lenten Brochure available January 22 in the Narthex for further details.



LENTEN BOOK

Respectable Sins: Confronting the Sins We Tolerate, by Jerry Bridges. Why do we tolerate jealousy, anger, and pride in ourselves? How to have hope in the mercy of the gospel and God's transforming grace as the means to overcome subtle sins. Copies are available at the church from Ellen Spencer or Pastor Ken for \$14.00

WORSHIP AT THE BEGINNING OF LENT:

- ✚ **Shrove Tuesday**, February 21st, 5:30 p.m. Pancake Supper
- ✚ 7:00 p.m.: February 21st Vespers & Preparation of Ashes
- ✚ **Ash Wednesday**, February 22nd, Holy Communion with Imposition of Ashes at 12:00 Noon (traditional) & 7:00 p.m. (contemporary)

JANUARY/FEBRUARY Services and Sermons

January 15 (Epiphany 2) – Sermon – Pastor Ken

January 22 (Epiphany 3) – 10:00 a.m. Confirmation Service (Kara Mandryk is being confirmed) with Bishop Don as celebrant and preacher (he will also preach and celebrate at 8:30 a.m.)

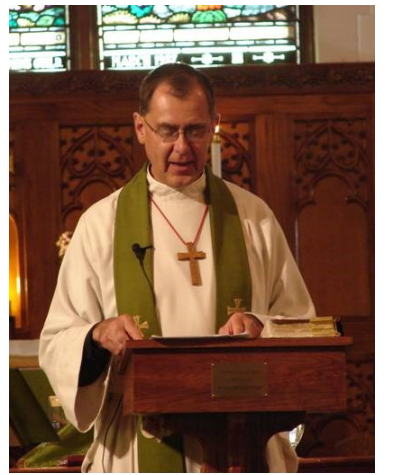
January 30 (Epiphany 4) – Sermon: "The Gift of Change" – Pastor Brett (his last service with us)

February 5 (Epiphany 5) – Interim Pastor Jonathan Blanchard's first Sunday with us

February 12 (Epiphany 6) – Sermon – Pastor Jonathan

February 19 (Transfiguration) Scout/Beaver/Cub Parade – Sermon – Pastor Jonathan

February 26 (Lent I) - Sermon: "He has shown, O mortal, what is good" – Pastor Jonathan



February 1st, 2012

Welcome to St. Aidan's Interim Priest

The Reverend Jonathan Blanchard



CLERGY HOLIDAYS

- ✚ Pastor Brett will be away from December 25th returning on January 21st



Our Sunday School by Jacquie Reimer

(reissued from February 2010 edition)

The last time I counted, I have 19 years of formal education. This doesn't even include the many workshops and classes I've attended after formal studies. You'd think that this would have made me a smart person but it has not necessarily made me a wise person. There is so much to learn about life, love and mystery that cannot come from classroom learning. I'd like to share a few things I've learned since being involved in Sunday School.

- **Are You Ready?** I am learning to check where my heart is when I enter into a situation.
- **Be Still and Know That I am God.** I am learning how to be still – body and soul – so I can listen well.
- **Sacred Stories.** I am learning the Bible isn't just for study. It's also for telling family stories of the People of God.
- **Christ is Everywhere.** I am learning Christ is in my pocket, in my home, in the sewer, in my car - everywhere!

- **I Don't Have to Hurry; I Have All the Time I Need.** I am learning to use this as my personal mantra every time I brave crowds, rush hour, and big jobs.
- **There is a Time to Listen, to Speak, to Play, to Eat, to Pray.** I am learning that my everyday life can be a liturgy, a prayer.
- **Whenever Possible Use the Good Dishes.** Glass dishes and cups in Sunday School?! You bet. I am learning to respect the utensils I eat and drink from.
- **Feasting and Fellowship are Not Optional.** As much as I appreciate solitude, I am learning that I need the encouragement of others as they share their experiences and stories.
- **Wonder.** I am learning that it is important for me to enter into mystery so God can transform me.

I like knowing that worship downstairs in Sunday School happens at the same time as adult worship upstairs. This is a picture of

a prayer I carry in my heart: May all the things we learn in Sunday School be a foundation which holds up worship happening in other places, in other times.

For More Information or should you wish to Volunteer, please contact:

Jacquie Reimer,
Children's Ministry Director

Ph. 775-9890
Email: Jacquie.reimer@gmail.com



Jesus said,
"Anyone who welcomes a little child like this in my name welcomes me."
Matthew 18:5

Events

JOINT CITY-WIDE SERVICE

January 8, 2012

St. Aidan's Vestry joined over 50 other Winnipeg churches in a giant city-wide service of worship at the MTS Centre. This is the second year that it was held.

"LET GOD ARISE" SERVICE

Sundays, January 15th and February 12th at 7:00 p.m.

A time for refreshing in the Lord – praise, worship, corporate and personal prayer time. All parishioners are encouraged to come.

PARISH EVENSONG

Sundays, January 22nd and February 27th at 7:00 p.m.

On January 22nd our choir will be with us to sing Vivaldi's "Gloria in Excelsis Deo" which will begin at 7:00 p.m. followed by a more elaborate Evensong than usual at 7:45 p.m. Pastor Brett will be speaking on "Glory be to God on High".

On February 27th the service will revert to its usual time of 7:00 p.m. preceded by a special musical presentation at 6:30 p.m.

PASTOR BRETT'S RETIREMENT DINNER

January 28, 2012, 5:00 p.m.

Please join us in celebrating Pastor Brett's Retirement on Saturday, January 28th at 5:00 p.m. at Charleswood United Church Hall, 4820 Roblin Blvd. Contact Joy Unrau for tickets. Ages 13 yrs. & up—\$20.00/per person; Ages 3 to 12 yrs.—\$15.00/per person.

