

CONNECTING MEOTA February 14th, 2024

This newsletter is meant to inspire, engage, and encourage everyone in the Meota Parish to seek God and reach out to one another throughout the week.

Our next church service will be

**Sunday February 18th
10:30 am**

at St George's Diamond Valley, Christ Church Millarville

The people of St. James are welcome to worship with us at Christ Church or St. George's.
We would love to see you and worship with you among us!!



**Join us for Worship
In Person Services at 10:30am
Christ Church, Millarville
&
St George's Diamond, Valley**

HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY

For God so lo**V**ed the world
that he g**A**ve
His on**L**y begotten Son
that who**E**ver
believes i**N** him
shall no**T**
per**I**sh but have
everlasti**N**g
lif**E**.

John 3:16

MEOTA PARISH UPCOMING EVENTS

Ash Wednesday is Feb 14, 7 pm St. George's

A personal day of prayer and fasting Feb 16th See announcement

Fiddler on the Roof - Sat Feb 24, 2 pm, St George's

ONE SERVICE Feb 25th 10:30 am St George's

Meota AGM Sunday Feb 25th St George's After the service

Prayer and Praise Service FEB 29TH 7:00 pm St George's

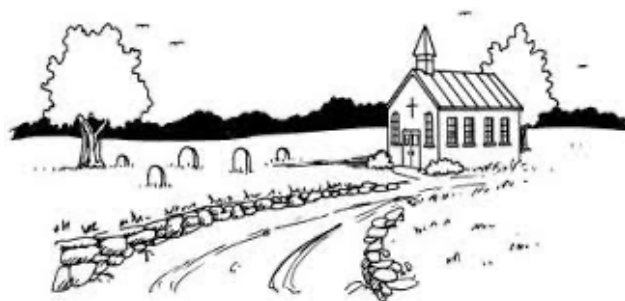
The Robe – Sat March 23, 2 pm, St. George's

Maundy Thursday March 28, 7 pm St. George's

Good Friday (Taize) March 29, St. George's 7 pm

Easter Sunday is March 31, 10:30 am

St. George's, Christ Church and St. James



Thank You!

To the good people of St. George's and YWAM
for the wonderful pancake supper!



Last year we were invited to workshops on **Prayer**.
The year before, Ven Alan taught us about the different ways and means
of **Fasting**.
This year, we are examining **Almsgiving**.

**Over the past three years, Ven Alan has been leading us into
spiritual maturity by taking on the traditional disciplines of Lent.**

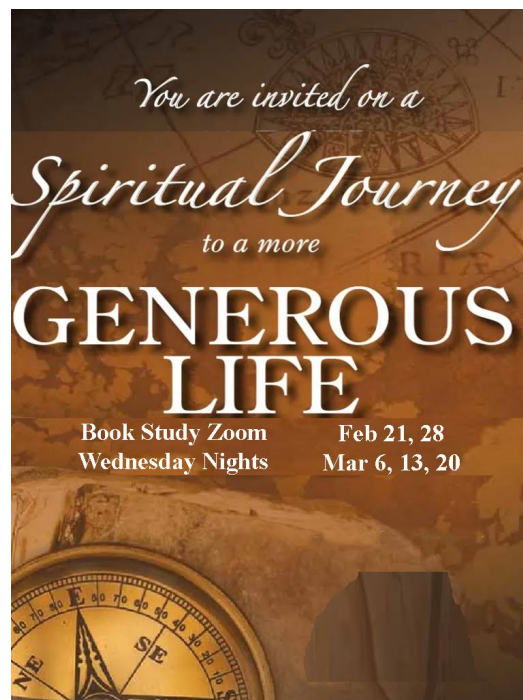
I love Venerable Alan's sermons. He always has great insight!!!

**Oh look, he is holding a Zoom conversation, 7 PM on Wednesday
evenings in Lent on the meaning of Almsgiving.**

HERE IS THE LINK

CLICK HERE ON WEDNESDAYS 7 PM FOR THE ZOOM SESSION

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/85232472145?pwd=MmxtD0cray9panl3SjlEQjRCNGhkZz09>



**Please join us. Check your email for a message from Michelle at Meota Parish.
It will also contain the Zoom link.**

WHY ARE WE SHOWING CHRISTIAN MOVIES IN LENT??

Lent is a time to draw closer to God. The leadership of our Parish would like to give you a variety of options: Pancake Supper, Ash Wednesday Service, the Zoom Book Study & the Prayer and Praise Service.

And... twice in Lent, two old movies to watch where the characters interact with God:

the first one is - **Feb 24 2 pm at St George's Fiddler on the Roof**



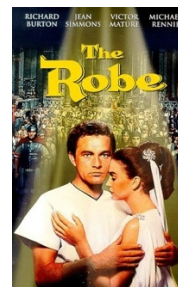
at 2 pm so you don't have to drive home in the dark

Come and enjoy the songs: Sunrise Sunset, Matchmaker Matchmaker and If I Were a Rich Man. **AND THERE WILL BE POPCORN ETC**

Ponder, what can we learn from Teyve, a milkman, in Russia, in the year 1905?

Come and enjoy a cheerful movie as you move through Lent.

COMING SOON on March 23rd – **The Robe**



THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: Feb 25th one service at St George's 10:30 am

WHY SHOULD I BOTHER ATTENDING?

- I like my church and it can run effectively with my support.
- I would like to encourage my minister – and just showing up demonstrates that I care about him and his ministry.
- There are things I like and don't like; maybe my ideas can make a difference.
- I can find out what challenges my church is facing. I think I can guess what they are, but do I really know? Maybe I can find out and be supportive.
- Two hours out of the year to support my church isn't a big deal to me but maybe IT IS to the church leadership.
- I can catch up with people I haven't seen in a while!

FEBRUARY 25TH ONE SERVICE

ST GEORGE'S. 10:30 AM

AGM TO FOLLOW THE SERVICE

THANK YOU FOR COMING!!

The ladies of St. George's have kindly offered to provide lunch.

Over the past two years, we have watched with dismay and grief as the violence in Ukraine and in Israel and Gaza has devastated those regions. The war in Ukraine is approaching its second anniversary on February 24. The Israel/Gaza conflict began with the horrific violence by Hamas on October 7, 2023, and continues with the decimation of Gaza by Israeli bombing and the displacement of 1.9 million Gazans—a humanitarian crisis. We are especially heartbroken for the Christian community in Palestine, who find themselves caught in the middle, struggling to hold on to their presence in the Holy Land.

These conflicts show no signs of ending soon. Our hearts are filled with pain as we watch this human tragedy unfold yet feel powerless to help. We do know that God continues to be present with us and with all who are suffering. We can lift our voices and hearts in united prayer, trusting that God is listening and acting.

We therefore invite you to

a personal DAY OF PRAYER AND FASTING on FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 16, 2024

The practice of fasting is a concrete way to focus our hearts and minds by letting go of something we enjoy or expect. We then use that time and mental space to pray throughout the day.

You may choose to fast from food or from social media, computer time, music, television or whatever is appropriate for you. During the day, whenever your heart remembers or at times you designate, you stop and pray. You may use the prayers below or simply cry from your heart to God about the situations in Israel/Palestine/Gaza and Ukraine. You may gather with friends, family or church members.

To conclude the day, join Bishop Susan Johnson and Primate Linda Nicholls
on Friday, February 16, at 7 p.m. EST
for a 30-minute prayer service on FACEBOOK Live



Let us join our hearts with people around the world, praying for an end to the violence and a peace that will allow all to live in security and harmony.

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name "Susan Johnson" in a cursive script.

Bishop Susan Johnson
National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada

A handwritten signature in black ink, starting with a cross symbol and followed by the name "Linda Nicholls" in a cursive script.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop & Primate,
Anglican Church of Canada

YOUR FAVOURITE HYMNS

We have looked at *Abide with Me*, *It is Well with My Soul*, *I Come to the Garden Alone*, *I Was Full of Joy*, and *How Great Thou Art*.

Email meotaparish@gmail.com with your choice and I will research it for you!

HOW DEEP THE FATHER'S LOVE FOR ME for Carol G.

By Stuart Townend: This melody just kind of popped out of my head one day. I wasn't listening to anything in particular or whatever. It was a very easy melody. It just came really easily and quite spontaneously in some ways. I was aware that it was quite hymn-like in a way and I thought, "I wonder what words would fit with that?" . . .

So I started kind of thinking about words for it, and because it had a kind of classic, hymn-like element to it, I thought, well, maybe I should actually just tell the story of Christ on the cross, but tell it perhaps from the point of view—and this is what I was thinking about at the time—was what it cost the Father to give the Son. You know, we have to think about Christ suffering, and there's a lot of talk about the wrath of God, you know, and is that right to think that the Father's wrath was poured out on Christ? And I think that is right to say that, but that's not to say that God is a *vengeful* God, that actually it *cost him* to give up his Son. So that's why the first line says, "How deep the Father's love," you know, that he should give his only Son. So that really was the starting place. And then in a sense, the second verse kind of develops my complicity in it, if you like, that actually it was my sin that actually held him there. He went to the cross because of what I'd done. So although it tells the story, it is telling the story from a personal viewpoint. And then the final verse goes into, you know, I won't boast in anything except what he has done for me. So really that's the thinking of the words.

Melodically, it came quite spontaneously; as usual, I find with the words, takes a bit of crafting, takes a bit of work, rewrites, and stuff like that, so that probably took a few days to come together, but it kind of felt it settled in a good way in terms of feeling that it had a personal perspective, but it was pointing towards Christ. And that's how the song came together.[2]

In his CD liner notes for *The New Hymn Makers* (2003), he offered another small detail:

I think I had "Amazing Grace" in mind as I was writing—not so much because of the content, but because of the wonderful tone of humble gratitude, which undergirds that great hymn as the hymnwriter contemplates the grace of God.

Stuart Townend (born 1963) is an English Christian worship leader and writer of hymns and contemporary worship music. His songs include "In Christ Alone", (2001, co-written with Keith Getty which is Townend's first collaboration with any songwriter),^{[1][2]} "How Deep The Father's Love For Us", "Beautiful Saviour", and "The King of Love".^[3] In 2008, Christian Copyright Licensing International (CCLI) listed "In Christ Alone" as one of its Top 25 CCLI Songs.

*How deep the Father's love for us,
How vast beyond all measure
That He should give His only Son
To make a wretch His treasure*

*How great the pain of searing loss,
The Father turns His face away
As wounds which mar the chosen One,
Bring many sons to glory*

*Behold the Man upon a cross,
My sin upon His shoulders
Ashamed I hear my mocking voice,
Call out among the scoffers*

*It was my sin that held Him there
Until it was accomplished
His dying breath has brought me life
I know that it is finished*

*I will not boast in anything
No gifts, no power, no wisdom
But I will boast in Jesus Christ
His death and resurrection*

*Why should I gain from His reward?
I cannot give an answer
But this I know with all my heart
His wounds have paid my ransom*



First Sunday in Lent. Sunday, February 18th, 2024

Readings

GENESIS 9:8-17; PSALM 25:1-9; 1 PETER 3:18-22; MARK 1:9-15

ALL ABOUT GOD'S LOVE FOR US – A COVENANT OF LOVE -
TO BRING US INTO HIS PRESENCE THROUGH JESUS CHRIST

First Reading

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF GENESIS

God said to Noah and to his sons with him, "As for me, **I am establishing my covenant with you and your descendants after you**, and with every living creature that is with you, the birds, the domestic animals, and every animal of the earth with you, as many as came out of the ark. **I establish my covenant with you**, that never again shall all flesh be cut off by the waters of a flood, and never again shall there be a flood to destroy the earth." God said, "**This is the sign of the covenant** that I make between me and you and every living creature that is with you, for all future generations: **I have set my bow in the clouds, and it shall be a sign of the covenant between me and the earth**. When I bring clouds over the earth and the bow is seen in the clouds, I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on the earth." **God said to Noah, "This is the sign of the covenant that I have established between me and all flesh that is on the earth."**

GENESIS 9:8-17



Second Reading

A READING FROM THE FIRST LETTER OF PETER

Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God. He was put to death in the flesh, but made alive in the spirit, in which also he went and made a proclamation to the spirits in prison, who in former times did not obey, when God waited patiently in the days of Noah, during the building of the ark, in which a few, that is, eight persons, were saved through water. And baptism, which this prefigured, now saves you -not as a removal of dirt from the body, but as an appeal to God for a good conscience, through the resurrection of Jesus Christ, who has gone into heaven and is at the right hand of God, with angels, authorities, and powers made subject to him.

1 PETER 3:18-22

Gospel

THE HOLY GOSPEL OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST
ACCORDING TO MARK

In those days Jesus came from Nazareth of Galilee and was baptized by John in the Jordan. **And just as he was coming up out of the water, he saw the heavens torn apart and the Spirit descending like a dove on him. And a voice came from heaven, "You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased."** And the Spirit immediately drove him out into the wilderness. He was in the wilderness forty days, tempted by Satan; and he was with the wild beasts; and the angels waited on him. Now after John was arrested, Jesus came to Galilee, proclaiming the good news of God, and saying, "The time is fulfilled, and the kingdom of God has come near; repent, and believe in the good news."

MARK 1:9-15



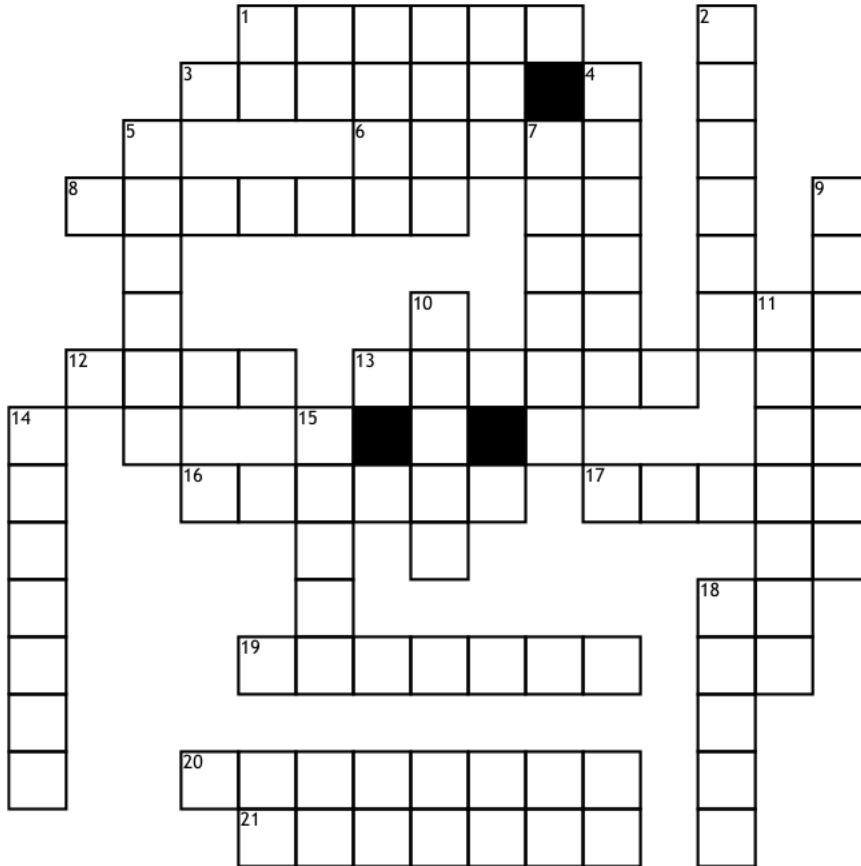
DO YOU WANT TO FAST THIS LENT?

In the words of Pope Francis

- Fast from hurting words and say kind words.
- Fast from sadness and be filled with gratitude.
- Fast from anger and be filled with patience.
- Fast from pessimism and be filled with hope.
- Fast from worries and have trust in God.
- Fast from complaints and contemplate simplicity.
- Fast from pressures and be prayerful.
- Fast from bitterness and fill your hearts with joy.
- Fast from selfishness and be compassionate to others.
- Fast from grudges and be reconciled.
- Fast from words and be silent so you can listen.

Name: _____ Date: _____

Jesus is Baptized



Across

- 1. Name of the river where Jesus was baptized?
- 3. Everyday we should talk to God through _____.
- 6. Live a life of _____.
- 8. God's holy light was _____.
- 12. Who baptized Jesus?
- 13. John didn't feel _____ to baptize Jesus.
- 16. Communicate with God through _____.
- 17. The _____ is our roadmap.

19. Father, Son and Holy Ghost?

- 20. Baptism announced the beginning of Jesus' _____.
- 21. John was sent to _____ the way of the Lord.

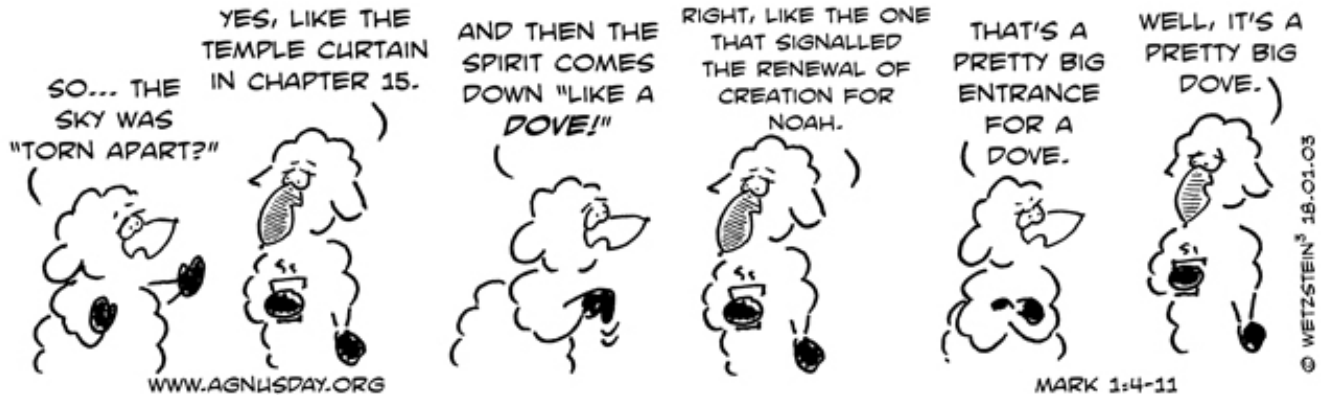
Down

- 2. John was kin to Jesus and was his _____.
- 4. Going to _____ is a way of being faithful.
- 5. Accepting God as our _____ means that we can have an eternal relationship with him.

7. How old was Jesus?

- 9. What book tells us the baptism story?
- 10. Jesus knew that God _____ him even though he was eventually sent to the cross.
- 11. Jesus led a _____ life.
- 14. Jesus gave us an _____ to follow.
- 15. The _____ is symbolic of Jesus' blood, which cleanses us of our sin.
- 18. God's _____ confirmed to John that he was who he said he was.

A "sheepish" take on this Sunday's Gospel



Valentine's Day Prayer For Friends

Heavenly Father

I pray for my friends this day
Help them find love in their lives
Grant them the strength that they
need to go through life every day

Give them good health

Give them the courage to
overcome all their fears

Let them love their neighbors as
themselves

Bless them to live for you all the
days of their lives

Amen

AND IN LENT, WE DO NOT DECLARE THE “ALLELUIA.”

GO IN PEACE TO LOVE AND SERVE THE LORD –

The First Sunday in Lent

One: Let us pray.

All: Creator God, we begin our Lenten journey trusting that you are actively involved in our lives. Whatever circumstance comes our way, we can remain secure in your steadfast love, and courageous as we venture into the new life you have in store for us. Change is very much a part of life as you have created it. Help us to navigate each day, seeking your ways through the power of your Holy Spirit, honouring Christ in all that we do. In Christ’s name we pray, Amen.



Presbyterian World Service
& Development

Thanks be to God!