

City of God: St. Augustine's - Parkland

NEWSLETTER

January 9th, 2023

In case you missed it on our website, our dear friend Ian has given us an update on his new eastcoast life!



Nova Scotia New Years Update

Greetings my friends in Christ! I write to you from our new home in Williamswood, Nova Scotia, where the front door is exactly 4,864km away from the front door of 131 Church Road, Spruce Grove. (At least, that's what Google Maps told me!) Fortunately, Michelle hasn't rescinded my password from the church website, leaving me unfettered access to go in and post this. Hah!

Right off the bat, Jean and I thank all of you from the bottom of our hearts for the many lovely Christmas wishes we received in the mail from you a couple of weeks ago. When grabbing the overstuffed envelope from the mailbox with the return address of St. Aug's my first thought was, 'Oh, they've sent me some kind of booklet or something.' How lovely for Jean and I to then discover a ream of good Christmas wishes for us to read together one evening after dinner! Your many kind thoughts were all really touching and I think I might have gotten a little teary.

Jean and I are mostly settled now, with a few more boxes to open, and then ponder where to place their contents. If there's been any overwhelming quandary with this move to a house that's about 60% of the size of our former home, it's that we thought that more would fit into it. First world problem. My acquired experience and talent in the use of Kijiji and Facebook Marketplace in selling off dozens of items before the move continues to pay off in doing likewise here in the Halifax area after moving here. Sigh.

A few St. Augustinites have corresponded with me by email over the past few weeks, providing me with news of the parish and its people. Michelle has kept me on the newsletter mailing list and I am happy to reconnect with all of you – in my heart and mind, at least – in worship and community when reading and keeping up with the news.

After contracting COVID on my fourth day here (fortunately Jean was spared), things didn't get off to a flying start with me, especially when searching out a new church home. So, it was a few weeks into being here that I

finally sat down to do some research about what Anglican churches were within a half hour's drive of me. The number is roughly a dozen, with the Anglican church being established and getting a significantly larger foothold here a century before venturing into the prairies. Having never "church-shopped" before, it's tough to know what to look for and how to know exactly where I'm supposed to fit in. Guess I'll have to leave it up to God to give me some sort of sign! Perhaps the feeling that I've found a new spiritual home will become obvious to me when I'm in it.

One thing I feel compelled to tell all of you is that what's happening at St. Augustine's – Parkland is miles ahead (in so many ways) to many of the churches whose doors I've darkened over the past few weeks. Any church where the liturgy is exclusively BCP – with the old, non-inclusive words – is a long-term write-off (and personal turn-off) from the outset. Who could ever expect a church that functions and operates as if it's 1965 to last more than a few more years?! And why would I want to be involved with such a thing? Surely Jesus himself would have a tough time turning that boat around!

Helping me somewhat in my new church quest is the reestablishment of a personal acquaintance begun a long time ago. Canon Trudy was the minister who officiated at both my father's funeral 23 years ago in Guelph, Ontario and my youngest brother's wedding a year later. She has "retired" about 25 minutes away from me. (I double-quoted that term because she's currently the interim at a church that's about 30 minutes away, 'cause nobody ever really retires from the Anglican church, as Rev. Neil knows.) She and her life partner, Ann, who happens to also be ordained and is the executive director of the Diocese of Nova Scotia and PEI, have been very helpful in guiding my search. Ann was able to give me some inside info about a former parishioner of St. Aug's. (More on that later.) Jean and I were at Trudy's current church for the Christmas Eve service and then went to her home afterward to celebrate "Réveillon" with Ann. (Click [here](#) – or just ask Jim Orioux – if you want to learn more about this French Canadian celebration that I had no clue of.)

About a month before moving to NS, I placed a "widget" on my computer desktop that would tell me the current weather conditions in both Spruce Grove and Halifax. Since then, I've noted that only twice in the past four months has the temperature in Alberta exceeded that around my new home. Autumn here has been unseasonably warm – and excessively dark, raining and windy – according to neighbours and friends. Only a couple of skiffs of snow have been seen in the past few weeks and our Christmas Day (and New Years) here have been very green and brown. I state this knowing that it's been unseasonably cold there for December and am not trying to make any of you feel any worse! I'm just reporting. The photo that heads this post was taken on Christmas Eve day from my home office window toward the lake. Yes, that mesh pattern is from the window screen!

Remember how I mentioned that Ann (ED of the local diocese) was helpful to me recently? Well, she was able to find out that Treena MacDonald, the long-time musical director of St. Aug's and my "church musical partner" for a decade, currently held the same position in the Anglican church closest to me! (When attending that church in August when I was down here "accepting the keys" to our new home, Treena had not yet been given that position.) On New Year's Day I "reattended" Emmanuel Anglican Church in the Halifax suburb of Spryfield and hid in the back pews (totally contrary to my habit and preference, of course) and surprised the heck out of her at the conclusion of their lessons-and-carols service! Just to make all of you St. Aug's oldies feel even older, as I did when learning this yesterday, Karmen (Carmen?) just turned 17 and Sam recently became 16! Do you hate paying sales tax? Well, after decades of simply adding 5% to the cost of most retail items, I now have to triple that percentage! This really hits when a simple, fast food meal at \$8.50 adds up to pretty well ten bucks when paying at the till!

Think natural gas is expensive? You should try heating your house with fuel oil for a couple of months! As I mentioned before, autumn in NS has been unseasonably mild and our home is considerably smaller than the one we left in Spruce Grove – but it isn't a drafty, century-old farmhouse. However, we're currently consuming

about \$450 worth of oil each month and the coldest we've experienced is maybe minus five for a few days. Sigh.

Jean, Rufus (our 12-year-old husky), and I ventured off for a hike on New Years Day to Crystal Crescent Beach, a 12-minute drive down the road. That's where and when the photo below was taken. (Rufus has never liked getting his picture taken.) Note the tons of kelp and seaweed behind us. We took a wrong turn on the way back and ended up walking for about 30 minutes longer than we should have.

Thanks again for the Christmas notes and your prayers for our smooth adoption to our new environment.

Cheers and blessings!

Ian



Every Monday at 10am in the church hall!

We extend a huge message of CONGRATULATIONS to our very own Ryder Chambers! Below is the article from the local paper highlighting his big win!



Memorial Composite High School was named the winner of this year's Saskatchewan Business Teachers' Association (SBTA) High School Business Case Competition. From left to right, the winning team consisted of Ryder Chambers, Benny Plante, Oliver Magnus, and was led by Business Education teacher, Troy Stuckey. Photo supplied by MCHS. jpg, SP

YIR: Memorial Composite students win SBTA High School Business Case Competition

Memorial Composite High School is this year's winner of the Saskatchewan Business Teachers' Association (SBTA) High School Business Case Competition.

Three Grade 12 students, Oliver Magnus, Benny Plante, and Ryder Chambers, led by their teacher, Troy Stuckey, took home the first place trophy from the SBTA's annual conference in Saskatoon, Sask., last month. A second team made up of MCHS students Gabriel Parent, Ryan Burton, and Ryder Reaney placed fourth. "More than anything, I felt pride for the students because I knew all they had sacrificed to get there. It was a very gratifying feeling and that's what keeps you going when you're a teacher," said Stuckey, MCHS's Business Education teacher.

In 2012, Stuckey introduced a formal Business Education program to the school's curriculum. Consisting of courses such as Accounting, Entrepreneurship, Legal Studies, Marketing (Advertising and Promotion), and Office Computer Skills, the program is primarily designed to prepare students for studying business in post-secondary.

Chambers, who has always been interested in entrepreneurship, said he joined the program to learn more about how to start his own business. Plante got her start in the program in Grade 9 when she began attending after-school investing classes at MCHS. She said it felt like a natural fit and decided to stick with her business studies when she entered high school. This year, Magnus joined the program to study accounting because he said he has always enjoyed math. All three students are additionally members of the school's Business Club. "I feel like we were a really well put-together team which made the experience all the better. Our conflict resolution skills were very high which I think is one of the things that really helped us out," said Magnus.

In the past, the Business Club has sent students to the SBTA conference to compete in the business case competition on two separate occasions. This year, however, marked the first time MCHS won. While there would typically be schools participating from across Western Canada, this year, MCHS represented the only school from outside of Saskatchewan.

The competition was created by a handful of business education students from the University of Regina in 2014. Modelled after [JDC West](#), the competition gives students three hours to prepare a fifteen-minute presentation providing a solution to a real-life business case. Each team, comprised of three students, presents their solution to a judging panel comprised of representatives from Conexus Credit Union, Edwards School of Business, Hill School of Business, Farm Credit Canada (FCC) and the Saskatchewan business community.

"I'm really glad it was these two I went with because we worked really well together and that teamwork helped us power through and get the victory," said Plante.

The MCHS group was presented with a business case detailing a salon owner who was trying to grow a mobile application. The owner was in search of a way to find the appropriate balance between managing her salon and the app. Magnus, Plante, and Chambers, suggested the business owner either bring on a co-owner who could manage the salon while she focuses on the app or sell her salon altogether to focus on where her passion had led her. For their presentation, the group was named a finalist and ultimately the winner of the competition. Looking back, Plante and Mangus said the competition helped to develop their public speaking abilities while Chambers said it gave him a greater sense of self-confidence. All three agreed the conference additionally provided a great networking opportunity to meet like-minded individuals.

"Public speaking is something almost everyone will have to go through in their life so building those skills is really powerful," said Plante. "I'd never really been much of a public speaker before but the rush of excitement I got from presenting my thoughts in front of all of these people was a very gratifying feeling," said Mangus. "I learned not to get too down on myself or have too high of standards. I think it's important to have confidence going into anything so you can do the best you can," said Chambers.

For their efforts, all three students were awarded scholarships to either the University of Saskatchewan or the University of Regina in the amount of \$6,000 or \$2,000 respectively. By simply participating in the competition, all students were entitled to an additional \$1,000 scholarship to the University of Saskatchewan. Magnus is considering utilizing one of the scholarships while Chambers has made the decision not to study in Saskatchewan or Manitoba. While Plante plans to study performing arts at the University of Calgary, where she has already been accepted, she said she may decide to take advantage of the scholarship money in the future if she thinks business might be a better option.

"One of the skills I see as a teacher is their ability to make clutch decisions in a very short time frame. They learned how to problem solve effectively in a time-controlled environment which is a great skill they are going to take with them to any school or profession," said Stuckey.



ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN

Next meeting is Wednesday, January 11th at 1pm in the church hall.

All women of the parish are welcome!

Tabernacle Candle:

The candle was sponsored this week by Winnie Kennair in loving memory of Ted.



If you would like to sponsor the candle for \$10 in memory of a loved one (perhaps on a birthday, anniversary or other important date), please do let us know! We are not limited to one sponsor per week.

Jan. 15th	· open
Jan. 22nd	· open
Jan. 29th	· Al Vidler in loving memory of his mother, Phyliss
Feb. 5th	·
Feb. 12th	·
Feb. 19th	· Bill & Judy Kesanko, celebrating Susan's birthday · Winnie Kennair, remembering her father, John Eve



Please remember in your prayers this week:

- We pray for Metropolitan Greg, Primate Linda, and Bishop Stephen. We also pray for our clergy, Father Neil and Rev. Lesley. We pray for the new Rector that God is guiding to us now.
- We pray for the Diocese of New Westminster: the Rt. Rev. John Stephens, Bishop. The retired clergy of the Diocese of Edmonton: Michael Rolph; Doreen Scott; Susan Storey; Allan Studd; Michael Sung; Carol Tyrrell; Jacques deG Vaillancourt; Dan Van Alstine; Robin Walker; Linda Whittle; Anne Wightman; Mary Charlotte Wilcox; Robert Wild; Michael Williamson; Dan Wold. Buyé Diocese, Vumbi Parish: Jean Baptiste Muhigirwa, Rector. Saddle Lake Cree Nation.
- in the world Anglican Cycle of Prayer we pray for the Church of the Province of Myanmar (Burma).
- We pray for those who are ill, injured, or bereaved; and for all who need God's healing presence, especially remembering Bill, Margaret, Bud, Vicki, Stella, Marjorie, Amiee, Liza, Karen, Lois, Sarah, Stephen & Ashton, Patricia, Lincoln, Chris, Charlie, Lisa, Donna, Mildred, Anne-Marie, and Stewart.
- In our own parish this week, we pray for Lois, Vicky, Ronald & Diana, Doug & Bonnie, Louise; and their families.



Tomorrow marks the start of a new chapter for Auggie's Cafe, patrons will once again have the option to sit down and enjoy their meal in the church hall! When covid shut down the world, Auggies volunteers altered plans and shifted to offering a take out, bagged lunch. These lunches continued to be available every Tuesday throughout the entire course of the pandemic. Finally tomorrow our guests will have the option to either pick up a lunch to go or they can get their lunch and sit down in the hall to eat it in the company of others. Lunches will continue to be prepared in the take out format we've been using, we'll just be adding the option to eat it in the hall. We thank our incredible volunteers of the past and present for all of their hard work ensuring this ministry continues to serve our community.

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, January 11th - 1pm ACW Meeting with guest speaker

Sunday, January 15th - 10am Sunday service (In person or online) & Sunday School.



American badgers look like they're about to drag you into a back alley and pull a shiv on you to demand money for their meth habit.

European badgers look like they're about to invite you over for a cup of tea and some custard creams at their little cottage in the countryside.

