

## Parish of Richmond E-News

<http://www.parishofrichmond.ca>

Dana Dean, rector

Rectory: **328-3042** Rector's cell: **612-1662**

31 December 2015

### *The importance of small groups*

One of the most common and clearest signs of a healthy, high expectation church is the encouragement of members to move into small groups. The small group, such as a Bible study or discussion circle, connects people relationally, something that is difficult to achieve in a larger worship service. Once they build relationships in that small group, the likelihood of their departure drops significantly. In fact, those who are in a small group and attend the worship service are *five times* more likely to be active in church than those who attended worship services alone.

### ***RICHMOND THIS SUNDAY***

- Communion at **St Mark's** (9 am) & **Holy Trinity** (11 am); Morning Prayer at **St John's** (11 am)

This coming week's birthdays: **Cathie Dean, Lucas Lutwick, Linda Bell, David Bell, Stephen Kennedy, Vanessa Goodwin**

Please remember the **Food Bank** when you shop. Next deliveries: **Holy Trinity** (11 January); **St John's** (18 January); **St Mark's** (25 January)

Thanks to parishioners who responded to the call for **mittens and caps**, and special thanks to the person who brought a **large bag of hand-knit mittens** to the Christmas Eve service.

**Home Church** in the parish begins next Sunday.

**Monday night small group Bible discussion** begins 11 January. Is it time to join?

Cheques to assist Carleton County's **support for Syrian refugees** should be made out to *St Gertrude's Parish – Refugee Fund*. They may be dropped off at the parish office (105 Union St, Woodstock E7M 2W4).

Part of Bishop Edwards' vision is **Christian education for all laity**. He has begun by making a new call for layreaders and offering new training. View the new website for layreaders: <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/layreaders/> View the bishop's video call for and to layreaders:

<http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/layreaders/2015/12/09/bishop-davids-video-message-to-layreaders/> Fittingly, the new warden of layreaders is for the first time a lay-person.

Another aspect of the Bishop's renewal vision is increased **youth membership in the diocesan synod**. The bishop has written all parishes to urge them to elect a younger person (age 16-26) as one of their three synod delegates at the forthcoming annual meeting. The next diocesan synod will consider a proposal to require this.

Find this week's **Diocesan e-News** at <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/enews/> Find Diocesan **forthcoming events** at <http://anglican.nb.ca/wp/enews/upcoming-events/>

**When writing a will**, do not leave money to a specific congregation as individual congregations are not incorporated. The way to handle it is to leave money to the parish *for the purpose of* supporting a particular congregation or house of worship, if that is what you want. For Camp Brookwood, you would leave money to the Diocesan Synod of Fredericton *for the use of* Camp Brookwood.

Courtesy of **Ken Tompkins**, the parish of Richmond has one of the nicest websites in the diocese: <http://www.parishofrichmond.ca> Websites always need fresh content. Ken welcomes scanned, **well-captioned photos** and even short video clips directed to [webadmin@parishofrichmond.ca](mailto:webadmin@parishofrichmond.ca)

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