



Digby Baptist Newsletter - June 2020

Dear Digby Baptist Members, Adherents and Friends,

We seem so dispersed right now! We are not living any farther apart, but this not meeting together has changed so many lives. I think immediately of the strong advising from Hebrews 10:24 and 25, *“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting **to meet together**, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another, and all the more as you see the Day approaching.”* As I look again at this sentence, it occurs to me that ‘provoking one another’ to love and to do good is what happens when the Church *meets*. So we have been relying upon other ways to ‘get together’ and encourage each other. Old ways and new ways work: calls on the telephone, Zoom meetings online, postcards, meetings of ten or less with social distancing.

Our **Sunday mornings** have been quite altered. Many of you speak to me of how you miss our gatherings. Each week, some of you read the bulletin on paper for the service, including the prayers and the sermon manuscript. The rest of us, with internet access, read and listen and watch the service and its parts, with praise and prayer and all the attention we can muster. I must thank many of you for your contributions, the scripture readings or musical recordings you have sent me. The Sunday service plan, “Worship At Home,” will continue weekly, at www.digbybaptistchurch.ca on the page called ‘Sermon/Worship Blog.’

I decided, with our Deacons, to go ahead and celebrate our **Church Anniversary** in June, as usual. We have a guest preacher, whose video sermon, and manuscript to read, will be available for our Anniversary Service on Sunday, June 28. Our guest will be the Rev. Borden Scott, pastor of Faith Baptist Church, Lower Sackville, NS. He has served there for a decade now, and has similar challenges to ours, with his congregation of less than 100, with a large building that cannot be filled right now! I got to know Borden a little some years ago at a pastors’ spiritual retreat at Bayside Camp. We, here, celebrate about 182 years of life, since our organization here in Digby. I will be inviting you each to share a scripture verse for the anniversary service, to declare your ‘presence with us’ and your faith. Simply call in, send an email, Facebook message, or note in the

mail, with a Bible verse. Even send an audio or video clip, reading it, if you'd like.

Let me also say something about **opportunities to meet**. The regulations and suggestions in Nova Scotia are fluid and changing, even week-by-week, as you well know. Online, Zoom meetings (and other formats) are possible, and a few of our small groups have been using this technology. As of my writing this to you, I believe groups of up to ten people may gather, when we follow the guidelines and various cautions that are appropriate. How exactly, does a small group go about meeting in our Church Hall, one might ask. The answer to this is multi-faceted, and not simple. It is all a matter of avoiding contact with one another (the two metre rule (six feet, six inches), limiting our breathing out of droplets (masks), limiting the surfaces people touch, and keeping things extra clean more often. If your small group would like to meet together in the Hall, please be in touch and we will put together a plan.

These are some of the **practical matters** of being a Gospel people this year! We don't get to worship together, but our worship services are being viewed by more people than ever. We don't get to visit in the hospitals and nursing homes, but we have not had cases of COVID-19 in our region. We do not get to know what this September, or January, or one year from *now* will be like, but we get to keep 'driving through the fog,' as Dr. Anna Robbins puts it. Our Master has led people through the wilderness before. We are being led again. Our Church priorities of fellowship and music and study are not what they were. With the guidance of the Creator new ways are being created. Let us rejoice! Let us pray and help those suffering because of the virus - remembering all the illness and death, the limited employment and financial trouble, and the anxiety, isolation and upset of this uncertainty and trouble. Let us know the Good News and abundant life that Jesus provides. To Him be the glory!

Yours, in Christ,

Rev. Jeff White

Pastor



elcome to the Twenty First edition of our Digby Baptist's Newsletter!

A place for you to get more information on the events and occurrences that surround Digby Baptist. The next edition of our Newsletter comes out in Fall 2020.

Sunday Worship: In the foreseeable future, we are not meeting. But for each Sunday morning a plan for the service will be available on our website, under Sermon Blog, at www.digbybaptistchurch.ca. For those without computer access, paper copies of the bulletin, sermon, and some prayers are available, and can be delivered (in town) to your doorstep on Sunday mornings. Contact Pastor Jeff White about this.

Offerings still need to be made, of course, to Digby Baptist Church, in the name of Jesus. Drop off your gifts in the box in the hallway, on the table outside the Pastor's Study. If you give weekly, try making fewer trips by giving monthly. Or mail them to us, at P. O. Box 35.

Preaching and Worship Schedule 'Old New Parables' - We are having a summer sermon series on Bible stories you may not quite remember. Each week we will look at an Old Testament 'parable,' alongside the stories of Jesus. I am not telling you ahead of time where to find the OT stories. Then, in September, we will start to follow the whole story of scripture, from the beginning.

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| June 14 | J. White | Why Parables? Why Stories | Matthew 13:10-17, 34-35 |
| June 21 | J. White | The Trees Elect a King | |
| June 28 | Borden Scott | UBC Digby Anniversary | Acts 1:1-8 |
| July 5 | J. White | The Thistle & the Cedar | |
| July 12 | J. White | The Plowman | |
| July 19 | J. White | The Two Eagles & the Vine | |
| July 26 | J. White | The Fish in a Net, the Bird in a Snare, the Poor Wise Man | |
| Aug. 2 | J. White | The Fruitless Vineyard | |
| Aug. 9 | J. White | The Lion & Her Cubs | |
| Aug 16 | TBA | | |
| Aug 23 | TBA | | |
| Aug 30 | TBA | | |
| Sept 6 | J. White | | Gen. 2:4b-7,15-17, 3:1-8 |

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