

## From the Bishop's Desk...

### A Season of Spiritual Renewal

In the year 1205, a then young Francis of Assisi entered a broken-down neglected church in the community of San Damiano. Francis knelt down in the rubble deep in prayer seeking God's guidance. As the story goes, Francis later described hearing a voice from the cross on the wall telling him to rebuild the church. In his youthful enthusiasm, he took this literally to mean fix and rebuild this dilapidated church in San Damiano.

He immediately got to work finding materials and gathering others to help with the repairs. It would be quite some time later, that Francis began to understand that something more profound was happening – an inward, spiritual renewing of his own spirit. He realized that his heart was being transformed, rebuilt, restored. His understanding of spiritual renewal was deeply connected to the healing, missional, transforming work of the church. The two could not be separated.

What he experienced personally in his faith-life was expressed outwardly in all that he did. He became known as one of the significant church reformers of his time. He challenged the status quo of institutions such as monastic communities who had accumulated vast amounts of property and wealth. He tried to emulate Christ in all things. He revealed God's inexhaustible love for the world with every person and creature he encountered. He engaged in significant dialogue with leaders of the church right up to the office of the Pope. He courageously met with a Sultan of the Muslim faith in a time of war and violence between the crusaders and Muslim soldiers. He boldly spoke to the Sultan, seeking only peace and friendship.

We are in a pivotal time in the history of the church. Some may even dare say that the church has been neglected or that it seems to be in ruins. We might even wonder what God might be saying to us as we look to the future and wonder what it will be like. We will need to be strong in our faith; to be rooted and grounded in God's love in order to do what God is asking of us. We can be assured of the fact that God is with us, and desires us to grow in our faith and to be open to all possibilities.

It is in this context, that I am inviting us as the Territory of the People to enter a season of spiritual renewal. It will begin Ash Wednesday, and will continue until we gather again in May 2026 at Assembly. It is an opportunity for us to learn how to embody what we believe with who we are and to whom we belong. As we learn together and take some time to be open to God's presence and guidance, may we discover the gift of God's transforming, healing love so that in turn, we may participate fully in the transforming and healing of our church and our world.

In Christ's service,

*+Clara*

## Bishop's Schedule Mid-February/March/April

### February

Feb 20 – Council of North Council Spring Meeting (Zoom)

Feb 23 – 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday for Canon Betty-May Gore

### March

Mar 1 – Mar 6 – Prince George Visit

Mar 11 – Clericus – 3 pm (Zoom)

Mar 13 – Provincial House of Bishops Meeting – 9 am (Zoom)

Mar 13 – Joint Clergy Conference Planning Meeting – 11 am (Zoom)

Mar 16 – St. Paul Cathedral Parish Visit

Mar 20 – Administration Committee – 7 pm (Zoom)

Mar 30 – 4 – National House of Bishop's – Niagara Falls

### April

Apr 10 – Provincial House of Bishops Meeting – 9 am (Zoom)

Apr 10 – Joint Clergy Conference Planning Meeting – 11 am (Zoom)

Apr 13 – St. Michaels & All Angels Merrit Parish Visit – Palm/Passion Sunday

Apr 18 – NTESM (Barrier/Clearwater) Parish Visit – Good Friday

April 28 – May 14 – Bishop away on Vacation

## Prayer Corner



- \* We pray for our neighbours, families and friends that they may experience the love of Christ in and through us.
- \* We pray for parish Annual Vestry Meetings and for new wardens, council members, and treasurers.
- \* We pray for our Pastoral Elders: Ursula Drynock, Amy Charlie, Pauline and Ernie Michell
- \* We pray for leaders around the globe, that their hearts will be softened and willing to stand up against violence, and aggression.
- \* We pray for wisdom and courage as people of faith that we will seek hope and practice hope wherever we are.
  
- \* We pray for all who are confined by illness, praying they may find peace and strength in the love and care they receive from others.
- \* We pray for those who are discerning a call to a vocation in the church.
- \* We pray for the Diocese of Montreal as they seek a coadjutor bishop and for the candidates whose names will be offered.
- \* We pray for peace in the world, especially in the Middle East (Gaza, Israel, Lebanon, Syria), Ukraine, Russian, Sudan, Myanmar, Democratic Republic of Congo.
- \* We pray for those impacted by wildfires in California, for lives lost, for the many who have lost everything, for firefighters and emergency responders.
- \* We pray for those who are nearing death or have died, and for those who mourn.

## LENTEN LEARNING RESOURCES:

Some resources for your consideration as we enter the season of Lent:

**Territory Lenten Learning with Dean Kyle: to register – [deankylespc@gmail.com](mailto:deankylespc@gmail.com)**




Season of Spiritual  
**RENEWAL**

**SPiritual RENEWAL BEGINS WITH PRAYER.**

Join Dean Kyle for this 5 week series aimed at deepening our prayer-life and awakening renewal in our churches. Drawing from his doctoral-work, participants will explore the many ways we can engage this vital spiritual discipline.

**REGISTER NOW**

Email Dean Kyle at  
[deankylespc@gmail.com](mailto:deankylespc@gmail.com)



**Renewed in Prayer**

**TOPICS INCLUDE**

- WHAT IS PRAYER? (AND WHAT IS IT NOT!)
- PRAYING THE DAILY OFFICE (AND WHY IT IS IMPORTANT)
- AIDS TO PRAYER
- PRAYING THE PRAYERS OF LAMENT (OR...HOW TO COMPLAIN TO GOD)
- HOW TO PRAY WITH OTHERS

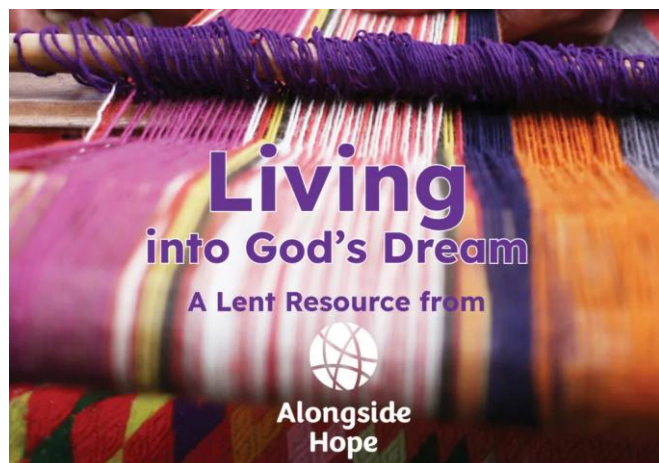
**WHEN?** Mondays  
March 10 - April 7  
7pm - 8pm

**WHERE?** On ZOOM

**WHO?** EVERYONE!

**PWRDF/Alongside Hope Lenten Study: Living Into God's Dream –**  
[www.pwrdf.org/alongsidehopelent2025/](http://www.pwrdf.org/alongsidehopelent2025/)

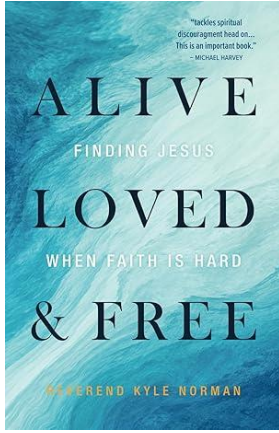
Weaving scripture, reflection and prayer together with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the Anglican Marks of Mission, the Rev. Jonathan Rowe of the Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, offers a rich tapestry in this year's Alongside Hope Lenten resource. Titled Living into God's Dream, the resource also offers the reader opportunity to reflect on questions, both personal and corporate and to learn more about Alongside Hope's partners.



## Books for the Lenten journey:

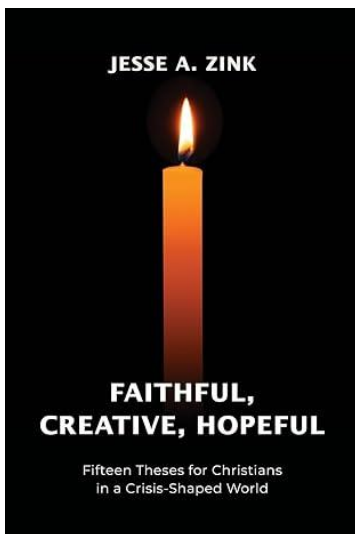
### **Alive, Loved, and Free** by The Very Rev. Dr. Kyle Norman

Alive, Loved, & Free, tackles topics such as struggling to feel God's love, the battle for forgiveness, unanswered prayer, and frustration with community. In each place, Norman invites the reader to see our discouragement as an opportunity to meet Jesus. With profound sensitivity to the struggles we all face, Alive, Loved, & Free offers a vision of hope and encouragement. It includes discussion questions at the end of the book for group study or personal reflection.



### **Faithful, Creative, Hopeful: Fifteen Theses for Christians in a Crisis-filled World**

Jesse Zink, Principal of Montreal Diocesan College, and a priest of the Diocese of Montreal, has just published this book filled with relevant stories and counsel for the church today and how Christians can respond with a vision of the gospel, insightful analysis of the world we live in, and confidence in God's abiding presence.





## Around the Territory



The Shulus Equine Development youth group gather at the Parish Hall weekly for supper and conversation.



Paint Party hosted at Grace Church Prince George



The Cathedral hosted a celebration of the life of Robert (Bob) Hunter on February 17, 2025