

# St Paul's Circular

June 2022

Volume 17 Issue 2 Wisdom

**Wisdom** -- the combination of experience and knowledge applied practically or critically; prudence; common sense

## Lizzy's Bit

Despite women being held through much of history as having more hair than wits, the Bible implies Wisdom is female. In Greek and Roman mythology wisdom is represented by Athena and Minerva respectively. Interestingly enough they are both also goddesses of war. Hmmm! Does that mean war is wise or that war should be waged judiciously -- or is Wisdom at war with the world?

Wisdom is doing now what you will be happy with later. (*Joyce Meyer*) Wisdom, the making of right choices, is a gift from God available to all, but it has to be chosen. God does not force wisdom upon us, but in Proverbs He does provide a guide book. Wisdom (prudence) is a virtue to be aspired to in the Bible and in ancient philosophy. Wisdom manifests itself in doing what is right even when it is hard; in know what to do or what not to do; in knowing when to speak and when to keep silent.

There is a saying that if you always do what you have always done, you will always get what you always got. Wisdom tell us that doesn't always hold true -- as we get older we cannot always do what we have always done, never mind get the result we have always gotten. There is a time to remember the prayer "God grant me the serenity to accept the things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and Wisdom to know the difference."

On a day to day basis, in my life wisdom is often in rather short supply. Since the dictionary defines it as experience and knowledge applied you would think that by now I would have gained a little wisdom. Oh no, I still think I can read until 2:00 in the morning and still get up and function above the level of a

vegetable, or weed for a couple of hours and not spend the next day becoming reacquainted with muscles I have forgotten I had!

## Book Review

by Mary Dove

### The Invention of Wings by Sue Monk Kidd

This novel is set in Charleston, North Carolina in the early 1800's. It is the life story of two unforgettable women: Hetty "Handful", an urban slave and Sarah Grimke. On Sarah's eleventh birthday she is given ownership of ten year old Handful who was Sarah's mother's slave.

The story follows these two women for the next thirty-five years as both strive for lives of their own, dramatically shaping each other's destinies and forming a complex relationship marked by guilt, defiance, estrangement and the uneasy ways of love.

This is a powerful story of rebellion and heroism, courage and hope and presents a well researched story in vivid and heartbreaking detail about what the daily life and labour felt like in that time and place.

Kidd says, "In the writing of *The Invention of Wings*, I was inspired by the words of Professor Julius Lester, which I propped on my desk: History is not just facts and events. History is also a pain in the heart and we repeat history until we are able to make another's pain in the heart our own."

Sue Monk Kidd is a well known author of *The Secret World of Bees*, *The Mermaid Chair* and several other best sellers. All her stories are well told and are also a commentary of societal problems deeper than the individual people involved and her books invite us to examine our own values in our own lives.

Blessed are those who find wisdom,  
those who gain understanding.  
*Proverbs 3:12*

## Wisdom

by Miriam Baskin

Wisdom -- what exactly is it? I suppose a very wise person could tell me in a short sentence what it is, but wow talking about going down a rabbit hole; seeking wisdom is mind boggling to say the least.

To begin my search for wisdom I went to my childhood dictionary which I need to say is so full of knowledge that there are actually two volumes. The definition of wisdom in the dictionary is in very small writing more than 5 inches 'cause I measured it. But back to wisdom.

We tend to throw the word wisdom around like confetti -- for instance we have wise men (from the east), wise guy, wise crack, wise move, wise handed, wise hearted, wise looking. And then there are wisdom teeth -- what happens when they need to be pulled? no more wisdom? or even worse for folks like me what if you never had any in the first place. I guess that means you are not even in the running for wisdom.

There were times when wisdom was not considered to be a popular trait. Wise women usually lived in funny old houses at the end of the village street with much suspicious activity. Old wise men generally lived in a cave at the top of a mountain in an obscure spot. Imagine if a wise woman and wise man ever got together -- think of the children.

The dictionary did tell me that the state of being wise is wisdom, imagine that. Furthermore it does say that discerning what is true and right is wisdom -- seems okay to me.

As I read more it mentioned Joseph Smith and the Word of Wisdom being given to him according to the Mormon church, in America. Seriously: the Bible we use has many books considered to be wisdom literature -- Job, Proverbs, Ecclesiastes, Song of Songs, Wisdom of Solomon and Ecclesiastics. Much of the Wisdom literature of the Middle East was oral, but has been written down to preserve its integrity.

I think in many ways wisdom is something very personal, where wisdom dispensed to one person

may not be very well received whereas another may be thankful to receive it.

I would be bold enough to say there are in our midst, folks that could be considered people of wisdom, but like I said before it is a personal choice so just be prepared because you never know when wisdom is before you.

## Wisdom

by Barry Baskin

"Even a fool can be taken for a wise man if he keeps his mouth shut" As I pondered on wisdom I was reminded of this quote of my father-in-law whom I considered a wise man. Wisdom seems to me to be nurtured through hesitation and well considered thought. Wise words and wise actions benefit all those involved in any specific situation. Let us all consider personal wisdom opportunities.

## 'On Wisdom', a reflection

by Lance Weisser

In my former life, my father-in-law was a federal court judge who told me that he wasn't allowed to discuss politics in public nor anything else weighty or important. At parties he confined himself to chitchat--for anything substantial he'd phone a select few from a national network of other justices. It's safe to say that the Canadian public probably can't even name the justices on our Supreme Court, much less know very much about their lives due to their intentionally being kept at arms' length. There's a built-in separation surrounding those whom society deems to be wise, including how justices are always placed above their courtroom, symbolically lending them an aura of remaining beyond reproach.

But of course, being family, I knew my father-in-law three-dimensionally: his strengths, cravings, temperament and unguarded opinions. He was, like any of the rest of us, a human being with a full complement of qualities, in need of guidance and affirmation and correction and praise and love and nurturing. That his calling and profession alone saved him from being seen as anything but wise, is

reminiscent of the nursery rhyme:

A wise old owl lived in an oak,  
The more he saw, the less he spoke  
The less he spoke, the more he heard,  
Now, wasn't he a wise old bird?

We want those we esteem as wise to remain above and apart from the rest, listening more than speaking, and then when speaking, uttering only pearls of truth—words which part the waters and solve thorny life problems. We don't want to have them barbequing in the backyard, calling out for another single malt on the rocks, all the while laughing uproariously at their own jokes. That would be altogether too human, too mortal, and letting in a touch too much daylight.

Spiritually, the scriptures contain touchstones about wisdom, like when Moses encounters the Divine in the desert and is told he has been chosen to lead his people from Egypt. Moses protests, "But I am slow of speech and slow of tongue." And then comes the great reply: "I will speak through you".

It is a weighty and imposing response which reverberates over the millennia to touch our very own hearts, for it requires Moses to focus all his energy and attention on listening—and not just any listening—but being attuned to what lies beyond himself. He is being called to be so quiet within that only one voice is to be discerned, and to let it alone move him to speech.

For all the very human facets on parade by my father-in-law when off 'the bench', there was a Moses-like quality which came visiting whenever he faced a particularly difficult sentencing, often involving a young person whose whole, now-damaged, life still lay before him/her. On those occasions, he could be seen at night, walking the streets of his Rosedale Toronto neighbourhood well into the early morning hours, walking and pondering and walking and pondering until finally that still small voice came visiting, the one he'd been waiting on, the one which helped him know the right words of wisdom, delivered from the bench, helping the newly convicted see there was a path forward beyond his/her impending punishment. It was a sentencing

delivered sensitively, thoughtfully, personally.

Like my father-in-law, like Moses, we're each but vessels waiting to be filled from and through the Living Word. As mortal and flawed as we are, we're yet imbued with an innate ability to be still and wait upon the One whose wisdom is there waiting to be given, waiting to be heard.



Newshound Reports;

Communion in both kinds returned at Easter.



Sunday April 24 there was a farewell party for Tony as he heads off to new adventures in Surrey.

*photo by Rae Long*

Jim Mitchell was this year's honouree at the Walk for Alzheimer held May 29 at the outdoor tract at TRU. His family from Alberta surprised him by joining him for the walk. On June 5 after the 10:00 service there was a celebration of his walk.



Margaret reported on the walk --

*photo by Rae Long*

"What a great time we had at the 2022 Walk for Alzheimer's in Kamloops Sunday May 29th, where Jim was this year's honouree. Surprised by our family who arrived from Alberta to support us, we had good weather and a great turn out. Thank you to all of you for your generous donations to Jim's Team: *Jolly Jim*... Jim raised \$2,464 outreaching his goal of \$2,000 thanks to you.

## Looking Back

**Lenten Lectures** presented March 10, 17, 24, 31 and April 7 returned to in person and well as online this year. The lectures were followed by a light lunch provided as usual by Rae Long assisted by Mercedes Liburd. The theme was Stories from the Heart -- What is it like to be you? There were powerful presentations by

Graham Specht,



Rev. Len Fraser,



Umme Monsoory,



Ricky Marshall



Rev. Emily Cooke



Christine Mack



**Friday Family Food & Fun Night** returned 3rd Friday of the month March 18, April 22 Earth Day, May 13.



**Soul Friends** met via Zoom at 7:00pm April 7 and May 5 and in person in the Chapter Room at 9:45am April 21 and May 19.



**Primate's World Relief and Development Fund** met Tuesday, April 26 in the Chapter Room for the fifth and final learning module of a five-part series exploring the connections between climate change and food security through reflection, learning, prayer, action and givings. In this module "waiting and preparing" were explored -- What does it mean to wait and to prepare for the coming growing season? What does it mean to wait and prepare as climate change wreaks havoc on seasons and life cycles? What does it mean to wait and prepare for the next climate change-induced disaster? And where do we find hope as we wait and prepare?

## Territory of the People Assembly May 27-29/2022

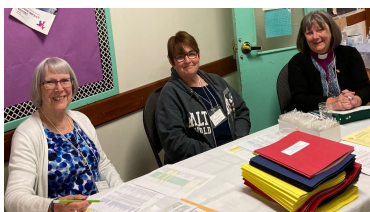
report by Joan Lukow



The 5<sup>th</sup> Assembly for the Territory of the People was held at St Paul's Cathedral from May 26<sup>th</sup> to May 27<sup>th</sup> of 2022.



Under the amazing leadership of Archbishop Lynn McNaughton and Assisting Bishop Jane Alexander, about 50 delegates (both Lay and Clergy) from around the Territory gathered to discuss the business of the Territory as well as to enjoy fellowship fellowship and worship together.



There were many highlights to the weekend beginning with Bishop Jane's Charge on Friday night. I encourage everyone to read to The Bishop's Charge and to take up the challenges that have been placed before us. The Charge can be found on the Territory of People Website under Assembly 2022.



Another highlight for the weekend was the Installation of three new Pastoral Elders; Pauline Michell, Ernie Michell and Ursula Drynock, as well as the Ordination to the Priesthood for Linda LaGroix. Congratulations to all four on their new Ministries.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone who helped make this such an outstanding weekend.



Catering was provided by Rae Long, Jim Waldie and Ron Sugiyama.

*photos by Rae Long and Ken Gray*



## St Paul's Anglican Cathedral

parish founded 1884

360 Nicola Street Kamloops, B.C. V2C 2P5 phone 250 372 3912

e-mail: [stpaulscathedral@shawbiz.ca](mailto:stpaulscathedral@shawbiz.ca)

*joyful - rooted - responsive - hospitable*

Interim

Rector & Dean

Assisting Clergy Member

Assisting Clergy Member

Assisting Clergy Member

Assisting Clergy Member

Rector's Warden

People's Warden

Youth Coordinator

Acting Music Director

Office Coordinator

Treasurer

The Rev. Canon Len Fraser

The Rt. Rev. Gordon Light

The Rev. Barbara Liotskos

The Rev. Dan Hines

The Rev. Bob Purdy

DJ Clarke

Jim Waldie

Melissa Green

Gail Ovington

Claire Tosoff

Dr. David Ritenburg

St Paul's Cathedral website

[www.kamloopsanglicancathedral.com](http://www.kamloopsanglicancathedral.com)

follow us on Facebook

Territory of the people website

[www.territoryofthepop.ca](http://www.territoryofthepop.ca)

submission deadline for the Next issue:

Friday November 11

theme for the next issue:

**Celebrations**

## Worship at St Paul's Cathedral

Chapel, Sunday, 8:00 a.m. - Holy Communion Cathedral, Sunday, 10:00 - Holy Eucharist

Chapel, Wednesday, 10:00 a.m.

The St. Paul's Circular is the parish newsletter of St. Paul's Anglican Cathedral, Kamloops, B.C. Four issues are published annually: Lent/Easter, Pentecost, Fall, Advent/Christmas. Our aim is to glorify God by sharing stories about the ministries of our parish, both within and beyond our physical boundaries. The editorial board currently includes Interim Dean Len Fraser, Tricia Steenson, Claire Tosoff and Elizabeth Kavanagh email address: [stpaulscathedralcircular@gmail.com](mailto:stpaulscathedralcircular@gmail.com)

"By three methods we may learn wisdom: First, by reflection, which is noblest; Second, by imitation, which is easiest; and third by experience, which is the bitterest." *Confucius*

If any of you lacks wisdom, you should ask God, who gives generously to all without finding fault, and it will be given to you. *James 1:5*

"The saddest aspect of life right now is that science gathers knowledge faster than society gathers wisdom." *Isaac Asimov*

Oh, the depth of the riches of the wisdom and knowledge of God! How unsearchable his judgement, and his paths beyond tracing out! *Romans 11:33*

"Knowledge speaks, but wisdom listens" *Jimi Hendrix*