



Welcome to The Historic Roman Catholic Basilica-Cathedral of St. John the Baptist

200 Military Road, St. John's, Newfoundland A1C 2E8

Archbishop of St. John's: Most Reverend Peter J. Hundt

Pastor: Father Cecil Critch, P.P., V.G.

Associate Pastor: Father John Costello

Secretary: Anne Carew

Music Director: Dr. Kiera Galway

Custodian: Brian Penney

Parish Office: Tel. 754-2170 Fax: 754-5608 - open Monday - Friday 9-12 Noon; 1-4:30 pm.

E-mail basilica@rcsj.org

Website: www.thebasilica.ca

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 3, 2019

***WE WELCOME OUR ARCHBISHOP, PETER HUNDT, TO OUR 8:30 AM. AND 11:00 AM.
MASSES THIS WEEKEND.***

***THANK YOU TO ALL OF OUR PARISHIONERS WHO ASSISTED IN MAKING THE
INSTALLATION MASS ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 29TH SUCH A WONDERFUL LITURGICAL
CELEBRATION.***

PARISH SCHEDULE

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 5:00 pm.; Sunday at 8:30 am. & 11:00 am.

Weekday Mass: Monday, Wednesday & Friday @ 9:30 am., Tuesday & Thursday @ 12:10 pm.

Rosary: Recited in the Basilica one half hour before weekday Masses

Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament: Wednesday after the 9:30 am. Mass for one hour

Reconciliation: Saturday 3:30 - 4:15 pm.

Music Rehearsal: Wednesdays 7:00-9:00 pm. New singers & instrumentalists welcome

Sacrament of Baptism: Baptism Preparation must be completed before the Sacrament is celebrated.

Sacrament of Marriage: At least six months notice must be given.

Mass at Bonaventure Retirement Home: Third Thursday of each month

Prayer.. We ask that you remember the sick of our parish... Bernadine Brake, Gerard Carey, Marie Joy, Graham Wells, Frank Kennedy, Frank Fowler, Tony Murphy, Gordon Aylward. ***Lord, comfort them in their time of sickness and bless those who care for them.*** If you would like to have a friend / family member named in the Bulletin & remembered at our Eucharistic celebrations please call the Office by Wednesday noon.

Baptisms Kacey Elizabeth Brown. Lillian Jane Duke

You have become a new creation and have clothed yourselves in Christ.

May you always grow as children of the Light.

Funeral .. We extend our heartfelt sympathy and prayers to the family and friends of the late

Mary Ring

May the Lord console you and grant eternal rest to the soul of your loved one.

***** BAPTISM PREPARATION ***** The next Baptism Preparation courses will take place on **MONDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, 2019 AND AGAIN ON MONDAY, FEBRUARY 18TH, 2019 AT 7:00 P.M. in the Parish Room - both nights.** To register, please call the Parish Office at 754-2170 or visit our website - www.thebasilica.ca as soon as possible before these dates. We encourage expectant parents to register early in their pregnancy. This will allow you to celebrate the Sacrament of Baptism shortly after the baby's birth.

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME - FEBRUARY 3RD, 2019

A prophet, in biblical times, is one who speaks for God. This person is almost always unpopular because he or she speaks the truth, and none of us has any great desire to hear the truth if it exposes unpleasant things about ourselves. We see this all the time around us, from climate-change deniers who are blind to how the Earth is being decimated by human action, to those who refuse to see the truth of the refugee crisis in multiple countries. Sometimes, we ourselves need to be the prophets, the truth bearers. Sometimes, accepting God's call may mean confronting those who do not live according to the ways of peace and justice. Jeremiah discovered this. So did Jesus. This is why Jesus was chased out of Nazareth in the Gospel passage we hear proclaimed today. His home community couldn't face the truth of his message. True prophets shatter our illusions and expose our pretensions, so we chase away the messengers. To really listen means that we need to admit where we have been wrong, allow our hearts to be transformed, and change our ways. How many prophets have we, as individuals, and/or as a church, chased away? Most of us can look back over our lives and remember when we held biases and discriminatory opinions that now embarrass us to think about - biases based on differences of religion or social standing or politics among countless others. Who were the prophets who led us out of these attitudes? Sometimes we encounter prophets among our friends, or in our churches, or in the articles we read. And every time we have an 'aha' moment - an 'epiphany' - it is good to remember that there are likely many things that we are still blind to. We need to value our prophets - the courageous voices who work without praise to better the lives of others - and allow the Christ who was chased from his village to enter our hearts.

CATHOLIC ALPHA ...Sign up and invite a friend or family. Alpha is an opportunity to explore life, faith and God in a friendly, open and informal environment. It is a series of interactive sessions exploring the basics of Christian faith. Each session looks at different questions and is destined to create conversation. Let's explore some of life's big questions together. **Register online** on our Catholic ALPHA Eventbrite page at <https://www.eventbrite.ca/e/catholic-alpha-registration-53234291198>. Registration is free. Invite a friend and try Alpha! **Date & Time:** Tuesday evenings, **February 5th - April 30th, 2019 @ 6:00 pm.;** **Location:** 2nd Floor Conference Room, Basilica of St. John the Baptist, 200 Military Road. For more information, contact us at catholicnl@gmail.com.

Journeying with St. Luke (with Dr. Gerard Whitty, D.Min.)

We are proclaiming Luke's Gospel every Sunday throughout the liturgical year, in Lent, Easter and Ordinary Time. We invite you to come together and take a journey with Luke as he paints a picture of Jesus for his context and culture. Using various dynamics we will explore what Luke underlines as important facets of Jesus' life and ministry like the importance of contemplative prayer, of being a welcoming community, the role of women in his ministry, the meals Jesus shared, the importance of forgiveness and many more. Our meetings will be in the PARISH ROOM at the Basilica on **Thursdays at 7:00 pm.** We ask you to use the parking lot behind the Basilica which is accessible through the arch or behind St. Bon's. From there you can enter directly into the PARISH ROOM. Please call the parish office (754-2170) OR email basilica@rcsj.org to register. **Next session: Thursday, February 7th.**

... Men interested in learning about the Society of Jesus are invited to supper at the Jesuit Residence on Thursday, February 7th to meet Fr. John O'Brien, SJ, retreat-giver and promoter of vocations. Please contact Fr. Joe at ek_mroz@yahoo.ca.

BASILICA NATIVITY WINDOW CHRISTMAS ORNAMENT & STAINED GLASS BOOK... We have a new supply of the **Basilica Nativity Window Christmas Ornament**, \$10 and *Stained Glass Windows of the Basilica: An Illustrated Guide* by John FitzGerald (194pp, \$25), to help raise funds for the restoration of the Basilica's stained glass windows. Available from the Basilica Parish Office 754-2170 or basilica@rcsj.org.

M.A.I.D. - Medical Assistance in Dying ... this town hall-type meeting on MAID will be facilitated by Dr. Pat O'Shea on Tuesday, February 5th, 7:00-8:15 pm. at St. Pius X Church, Smithville Crescent. **What is MAID? What are the medical options? What is the view of the Catholic Church?**

>>> **Join us for Heart of the World Retreat** - For men and women, ages 18-35. February 8 @ 7 pm. Reception and Opening Talk, evening prayer; and Saturday, February 9 from 9:30 am. - 9 pm. - Retreat at St. Pius X Parish. Led by retreat leader: Fr. John O'Brien, S.J. Cost: \$25, (Saturday lunch and dinner included). No overnight at the site. For more information see the Facebook event "Retreat for Young Adults (18-35)" or email Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ, at ej_mroz@yahoo.ca.

**** St. Bonaventure's College** will be holding an **information session for prospective families on Tuesday February 12th. Doors open @ 6 pm. The session will begin at 7 pm.** with a presentation, followed by a tour of the campus by our high school students. Find out why St. Bon's is "A Great Place To Be". For more information about the session or applying to St. Bon's, please contact Ms. Carol Noseworthy, Admissions Officer @ 709-726-0024, ext. 201 or cnoseworthy@stbons.ca.

... **ST. PIUS X CHURCH, Smithville Crescent, TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 7-8:15 pm. - Formation Sessions for Liturgical and Sacramental Preparation Ministries** - All current and new Readers, Extraordinary Ministers of Holy Communion, members of Baptism Preparation teams and members of Bereavement Teams in **St. Francis of Assisi, St. Paul's, Mary Queen of Peace & St. Pius X Parishes** are invited to attend a workshop to refresh us, build new skills, and offer training. We ask all current and new participants in these ministries to make every effort to take part. The workshops will take place at St. Paul's Parish on the following dates.

Readers: Tuesday, February 12 @ 7 pm.; **Eucharistic:** Wednesday, February 27 @ 7 pm.; **Baptism Preparation Teams:** Tuesday, March 19 @ 7 pm.; **Bereavement Teams:** Tuesday, April 2 @ 7 pm.; **Hospitality Ministers:** Tuesday, April 30 @ 7 pm., Tuesday, April 30 - Make up Night (if necessary).

***** Water** on this planet is presently in crises and getting more serious each day as a result of Climate Change, and corporate use and abuse of water for profit. The World Health Organization predicts that half of the world's population will be living in water-stressed areas by 2025. **Please join us at the Mercy Centre for Ecology and Justice on Wednesday, February 6th from 2-4 pm.** as we seek to do our part in a pre-Lenten reflection and action session for the care and protection of our Human Right to water, God's gift to us for the sustainability of all life.

... **Single Catholic man interested in learning about the Jesuits?** Invitation to Dinner, February 7th with Fr. John O'Brien, SJ., retreat-giver and vocation promoter. ej_mroz@yahoo.ca for more information.

/// LEARNING OPPORTUNITY - Diploma in Theology and Ministry (Roman Catholic Stream) The Archdiocese of St. John's, in partnership with Queen's College, is offering a two-year Diploma in Theology and Ministry. Do you wish to grow in Faith? Do you want to deepen your knowledge? For more information, go to www.queenscollegenl.ca or contact Anne Walsh at amfwalsh@gmail.com

... THE CENTRE FOR LIFE offers free, confidential, professional pregnancy and post-abortion counselling. Please email counsellors@centreforlife.ca or call (709) 579-3818; Linda Holden @ 579-1500 for more information.

... RUAH Counselling Centre offers individual, couple & family counselling. Group offerings: For more information on the services available please call 579-0168, or go to www.rcsj.org

*Remember that when you leave this earth you can take with you nothing that you have received
– only what you have given.” (St. Francis of Assisi)*

WHEN YOU DO YOUR ESTATE PLANNING, PLEASE CONSIDER YOUR CHURCH.

COLLECTIONS ... January 27, 2019

Sunday Offertory ... \$5,390.30; Heat & Light ... \$120.; Assessment ... \$55.

Acknowledged with many thanks. Your continued support of the Basilica Parish is greatly appreciated.

As we go through increased winter costs of heat, light, snow clearing, etc. please consider making an extra donation in your envelopes in the weeks ahead. **CONSIDER USING PRE-AUTHORIZED PAYMENT (DIRECT DEPOSIT). IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO USE THAT METHOD, COMPLETE THE NECESSARY FORM AVAILABLE AT THE ENTRANCES TO THE CHURCH. THANK YOU.**

.. DID YOU KNOW? ... If you attend weekend Mass at a church other than your own Parish Church and use your parish envelope for your weekly offering, that offering will be returned to your own Parish.

Your **2019 Sunday offering envelopes** are available at the front entrance to the Basilica. They are arranged in **ALPHABETICAL ORDER** of your **SURNAME**. If you do not presently use envelopes, but would like a set, please put your name and complete mailing address on the form provided on the table. Envelopes will be available for you next weekend.

Bingo! *Cowan Plaza* – Corner of Topsail Road and Burgeo Street – seven nights a week.
 Knights of Columbus - St. Clare Avenue every Wednesday and Sunday

Prayer to Know Vocation ... Lord, I want to be happy in this life and spend eternity with You in the life to come. From the first moment of my existence, you knew my vocation. Please help me discover Your plan for my life. Help me to know myself. Help me to overcome my fears. Help me to want what You want. Help me to trust You completely. Send Your Holy Spirit into my mind and heart so, I can see the gifts You have given me and hear Your call to serve the Church. Increase my desire to bring others to You and to help them reach heaven. Mary, Most Holy Mother of God, pray for me, that I can discover my vocation and have the courage to respond in faith. AMEN

... HOPE FOR A WINTERS NIGHT ... please join us at Gower Street United Church, February 10th @ 4 pm. for a quiet time of reflection through inspirational song, reading and prayer. This service is for those who are grieving a loss of anyone or thing, find winter difficult, have a mental or physical illness, or would like a quiet space of inspiration and hope. This a community gathering of which **all are welcome**. St. John Ambulance Therapy dos will be in attendance. If you have any questions you can call Linda or Rev. Pamela at 753-7286 or email gsuc@nl.rogers.com.

>> EASTERN HEALTH'S PASTORAL CARE. Ethics & Bereavement Services Dept. invites people grieving the loss of a loved one to join an 8-week Bereavement Information and Support Group. Sessions are held Thursday afternoons from 1:30-3:30 pm. at the Health Sciences Centre. For more information, or to register please contact the Pastoral Care Office at 777-6959 or Scott Parsons at 777-7611.

ITEMS NOT INCLUDED IN OUR PUBLISHED BULLETIN

***** BASILICA & PARISH OFFICE OPENING/CLOSING TIMES** The Basilica is open **Monday through Friday** from **8:00 am. – 4:00 pm.**; **Saturday 9:00 am. until after the 5:00 pm. Mass;** and **8:00 am. – 4:00 pm. on Sunday.** The **Parish Office** is open **Monday through Friday (excluding holidays) from 9:00 am. to 4:30 pm. – closed for lunch 12 Noon to 1 pm. daily.**

Prayer For Our Parish... O God, you have made us the Church of your Son. Make our parish a family of one heart and one mind in love toward you. Grant that our common life and witness may be an example to all about us. Guide our pastor and his assistants in their ministry. Listen to the prayers of John the Baptist, our patron, and keep us secure in your love. Teach us to reach out to other parishes less fortunate. Give us a great love for all the Church, for our Holy Father, for our bishop, and all those who serve. Help us to be a haven of joy and peace within the human family. Bring us all together to life eternal. **Amen**

WELCOME TO OUR PARISH

We welcome all newcomers to worship with us. If you would like to register with our parish, please complete the census forms at the back of the Church and place it in the collection next weekend or drop it off at the parish office.

MINISTRY OPTIONS FOR NEW PARISHIONERS

If you are new to the Parish, and wish to be involved in some ministry, please complete the yellow sheets at the back of the Church. They list a number of the various ministries and committees of our Parish. If you wish to be involved in any ministry you must **ALSO** complete a green **volunteer ministry information sheet**. If your ministry involves **high risk categories** like children and vulnerable individuals, **you must ALSO complete a police records check before you can serve on that committee or in that ministry.** Please consult the **RISK CATEGORY** sheet to see where your **ministry category** lies.

COMMUNION OF THE SICK ... If you know of a parishioner who is aged and shut-in and would like a priest to visit them for the sacrament of the sick; or if they would like a Pastoral Worker/Eucharistic Minister to bring them Holy Communion, please contact the Basilica Parish Office (754-2170 or basilica@rcsj.org) to arrange a date and time for the visit.

COMMUNION TO THE SICK ... The Basilica Parish is trying to rejuvenate our Ministry of Communion to the Sick. We have an aging population in our Parish. We are receiving more and more calls from Parishioners who can no longer get out to Sunday liturgy and would like to have the Eucharist brought to them. We would sincerely like to be able to fulfil their request. To accomplish this, we need parishioners who are willing to sign up for this Ministry. It is also suggested that family members or relatives may also be able to bring Communion to their sick or elderly loved ones. Of course, the Parish will provide training in this area. If you are able to contribute to this vital Ministry, please call Anne at the Parish Office, 754-2170.

.. We would like to get to know you! If you would like to become a registered member of the Basilica Parish please complete a Parish Census Form. The forms are available on the tables at the entrances to the Basilica or can be picked up at the Parish Office. When completed, the form can be dropped off at the Parish Office or placed in the Sunday collection.

RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION OF ADULTS ...The Christian community has a role in Christian Initiation of Adults. The Christian community supports the candidates by love, prayer, and witness and by testifying that they are ready to complete their initiation. Some members of the community help to instruct them in the faith of the Church. Candidates are also assisted by sponsors who walk with them in faith and present them to the community during the liturgical rites. If you are interested in the RCIA program please contact the parish office # 754-2170 or basilica@rcsj.org.

... SCENT FREE! ... In today's society, in many public institutions, we see the sign "no perfumes/scents allowed" because people with allergies are often very severely affected by scents. We have received letters and phone calls asking that we strive to make our churches scent free. As a Church we care for the good of all so we ask your support and cooperation in our efforts to make the Basilica a scent free environment.

***** SNOW CLEARING ...** During the winter months when there is a heavy snowfall the east and west doors of the Basilica will be the first to be cleared. These entrances are to be used by all attending daily Mass. The main entrances will be cleared only after the east and west have been cleared. A reminder that when the schools in the city are closed because of inclement weather, the Mass for that day (unless it is a Funeral - check parish phone 754-2170) will be cancelled. Of course sometimes it does snow on the weekend ... if in doubt about whether or not Mass is being celebrated ... please tune in to the local radio stations.

>>> "The Good Auld Days" presented by The Concert Crowd, Saturday, March 2nd, 8 pm. - Tickets available at The Arts & Culture Centre and only \$25. If you remember the days of party lines, wringer washers and wood stove baked bread, then you don't want to miss this! Join us as we travel to a simpler time on this funny song-filled adventure to yesteryear.

... Father Robert Savoie - April 26-May 6, 2019: Pilgrimage to Medjugorje where Our Lady has been appearing daily for over 37 years. Cost: \$2,095 (+\$675 airport taxes/security/fuel surcharges) includes airfare from the Maritimes, (twin or triple) accommodation, daily breakfast & dinner and experienced local guide. INFO: Hector Caissie at hjectorcaissie@hotmail.ca or (506) 857-2295

>> Come "Awaken the Energy Within" for more relaxation, energy, wellness and joy with Wisdom Healing Qigong and T'ai Chi Chih Joy thru Movement daytime and evening sessions Tuesday to Thursday, January 15th - March 7th at The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road. New and returning students welcome! For more details please contact Sheila at 727-7863 or sheilaleonard@nf.sympatico.ca or visit www.sheilaleonard.ca, or call The Lantern at 753-8760.

WELCOME ALL VISITORS ... We extend a warm and cordial welcome to all visitors to our historic Parish and city. We hope you enjoy the warm hospitality of the Newfoundland and Labrador people and that your stay will be met with many blessings.

BASILICA WINDOW RESTORATION -- The Archdiocese is in the process of fixing our stained glass and exterior windows. They were last done in the 1930s. Any contribution to this Archdiocesan project would be greatly appreciated.

◊◊ **EUROPE TRIP ...** Would you be interested in a trip to Europe in the spring of 2020? This 12 day coach-tour will travel from Greece to Croatia ... beginning in Athens and finishing in Dubrovnik. It begins on April 27th and finishes on May 8th. Registrations are taking place now and spaces being booked. If you are interested please contact Fr. Jeff Kolonel at St. Kevin's Parish office, Goulds (745-8183, or Brian Bursey, tour organizer at 576-4551 or e-mail bbbbursey@hotmail.com. A full detailed TOUR INFORMATION PACKAGE is available.

LATIN MASS SUNDAY - The Latin Mass will be celebrated at 5:15 pm. at St. Pius X Chapel, Smithville Crescent.

MASS is offered daily at MUN (M-F) at 12 Noon in UC3016. All are welcome.

ISRAEL - Pilgrimage to the Holy Land with Fr. Cecil Critch - October 21-29, 2019. RSVP Colleen Williams 747-5018, ewilliams@harveystravel-cwt.com. . Experience all the sites and places where Jesus walked - including Bethlehem, Nazareth, Galilee, Cana, Caesarea, Capernaum and Jerusalem. **CELEBRATE MASS AT MANY HOLY SITES OF THE BIBLE.**

****Welcome to New Immigrants ...** Are you a new immigrant to Canada or new to St. John's? Would you like to be connected to a larger Multicultural Catholic Association? Please contact Celia Quadjovie @ 763-5757 or email mcca.diversity@gmail.com. or if you want to talk to a Multicultural Catholic Priest call 689-9647.

.. If you attended a Jesuit institution other than in St. John's please contact Fr. Joe Mroz, SJ at ej_mroz@yahoo.co (chaplain at MUN)

... EMMAUS HOUSE is in need of supermarket bags and twist ties. If you have any at home you may drop them off at Emmaus House, Monday to Friday 1-3 pm. or you may bring them to the Parish Office. Your support of the needy of our Parish is greatly appreciated.

***** The Irish Messenger of the Sacred Heart** is a little magazine that's read all over the world. It's a wonderful, inspirational gift that keeps giving. If you would like to give someone this gift or get it for yourself, please call 738-3236 for further information.

>>> ST THOMAS OF VILLANOVA PARISH, MANUELS will be having "Chase the Ace" in the Parish Hall on Sunday evenings. Ticket sales 5:30-7:00 pm., draw at 7:15 pm. 50/50 - \$1 each; Chase the Ace - 3 for \$5.00.

"CHASE THE ACE" Sundays, 1-3 pm. at the Knights of Columbus on St. Clare Avenue.
3 for \$5; 50/50 3 for \$5

/>/ Do you have a spare 2 hours in your week? Pastoral Care at St. Patrick's Mercy Home is offering you an opportunity to fill these hours as a volunteer. Volunteers are needed to porter residents to the chapel, to be Lectors and Communion Ministers. The time commitment is two hours between 10 am. and 12 Noon Sunday to Friday. For further information, you may contact Judy Cook, Volunteer Services at 752-8705 or Theresa Ryan at 752-8716.

***** MEN, WOMEN & YOUTH** are invited to serve as Eucharistic Ministers at St. Clare's Mercy Hospital and/or the L.A. Miller Centre. There is a schedule and you would serve at least every fourth Sunday. You will need to be registered with the Eastern Health volunteer service - to register please contact Debbie Oakley 777-6959 or debbie.oakley@easternhealth.ca. You may contact Sr. Diane Smyth 777-5470 for more information.

**** A Notice from the St. John's Hospital Chaplains to parishioners ...** A reminder for persons entering the St. John's Hospitals and who would like to see a chaplain during your stay ... make sure you or a family member tells the admitting clerk "I would like to see the chaplain during my time in hospital". You will then be asked your religious affiliation and will receive a visit from the chaplain within a day or two.

--- Volunteers are a wonderful asset to Nursing Homes and greatly enhance the lives of residents. Volunteers welcomed in assisting with a variety of social activities for residents at The Agnes Pratt Home. Meal Time companion, recreation, friendly visiting, community companions and pastoral care. If interested please call Judy Cook, Coordinator Volunteer Resources, Longer Term Care St. John's at 752-8705 or email judy.cook@easternhealth.ca.

*** Seniors Resource Centre's "Friendly Visiting Program"** offers seniors a new and supportive friendship, a link to community programs and services, and regular visits from a volunteer. The Friendly Visiting Program coordinator matches a senior with a volunteer based on their shared interests. For information call Sharon at 737-2333, email: fvc@seniorsresource.ca or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

**** Seniors Resource Centre's "Mall Walkers Club"** This program helps seniors increase their level of activity while having fun, making new friends, learning about healthy aging and connecting with programs and services of the Seniors Resource Centre NL. Volunteers walk with seniors and help to serve refreshments after their walk. For more information call Sharon at 737-2333 or visit www.seniorsresource.ca

**** On the occasion of the death of a loved one,** please consider a donation to our Heritage Foundation in memory of the deceased. Keep their memory alive in the restoration of our beautiful Basilica. If you would like to make a donation, envelopes are available at the Funeral Homes and in the Basilica, or you can call the Parish Office at 754-2170. We still require approximately \$600,000 to meet our goal.

"Secure your vehicle while in Church" Over the past number of years many incidents of vandalism to parked cars have taken place on the Basilica grounds during Church services. As of late there has been an increase in vandalism. Please ensure that when parking your vehicle that there is nothing left visible, that everything is secure.

Stewardship Prayer Almighty and ever-faithful Lord, gratefully acknowledging your mercy and humbly admitting our need, we pledge our trust in you and each other. Filled with desire, we respond to your call for discipleship by shaping our lives in imitation of Christ. We profess that the call requires us to be stewards of your gifts. As stewards, we receive your gifts gratefully, cherish and tend them in a responsible manner, share them in practice and love with others, and return them with increase to the Lord. We pledge to our ongoing formation as stewards and our responsibility to call others to that same endeavor. Almighty and ever-faithful God, it is our fervent hope and prayer that you who have begun his good work in us will bring it to fulfillment in Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen