

# 'THE WAY'



In Christ | With Christ | For Christ

## Our gifts and ministry fair

*An update of how our God is leading us to use the gifts already given us.*

Hello everyone.

It's been a while since the last edition of 'The Way'. Since that last edition we have been embedding all the systems and structures that uphold the three-service pattern. All has gone well so far, and I am delighted with the start we have made in restoring an important element of our pre-pandemic life.

I write with a first follow-up article about our Gifts and Ministry Fair on November 6th.

It was a great success and is enabling members of our church family to connect the gifts God has given them with a 'gifts, workings and service' given by God for the common good of us all. (1 Cor 12:4-7)

One example of this is the growing team in St John's who are called to participate in what I am going to call 'prison ministry'. This is an important aspect of the Church's ministry to our community; "Remember those who are in prison, as though in prison with them, and those who are mistreated, since you also are in the body. (Matthew 25:31-40, Hebrews 13:3).

Our point person for this is Arlette (Zinck). Arlette has been working with the Education Departments in Correctional Services of Canada (CSC) federal prisons for some time, providing post-secondary learning opportunities for incarcerated students. This work has allowed her to develop working relationships with the chaplaincy team, prisoners, and staff at both our local maximum-security prison, The Edmonton Institution, as well as Grierson Institution, our local minimum-security prison. Indeed, Arlette and her King's University colleagues took a Lessons and Carols service to Grierson institution last week. The response was heart-warming. Ask Arlette to tell you a story or two about what happens when The Holy Spirit makes an appearance behind bars. So, relationships have grown and been developed, and we want to support Arlette and her growing SJE

team in taking all this further. What might 'taking all this further' look like for SJE? One of the potential developments for us is the 'One Parish, One Prisoner' project.

You can learn more about it here.

### One prisoner, one parish

The Second initiative is a coffee ministry. SJE is now funding Transcend coffee for the chaplaincy space at The Edmonton Institution. Billy Isenor, an Anglican priest, is the prison chaplain, and SJE is tangibly supporting Billy's vision to make the chaplaincy space a welcome, healing place for officers, administrators, and prisoners alike. As we all know, it is often the little things that make a big difference.

Here is how you can be involved:

1. Pray! Pray for the prisoners, the officers, and the administrative personnel at both of our local CSC federal prisons. If you do not know where to start, pray as if you were in prison with them (Hebrews 13:3).
2. Pray! Pray for the chaplains who serve these institutions.
3. Pray! Pray for the SJE prison ministry team, its development, and its projects.

We'll soon begin adding more specific prayer items for this ministry and others emerging from our gifts/ministry fair each week to 'the grapevine'.

4. Please consider financially supporting the coffee ministry to the prison. Mark your cheque 'prison coffee.'
5. Find out more about 'One Parish, One Prisoner', exploring the resources available on the website.
6. Prayerfully discern if our God might be calling you to become more involved. If you feel so called, please contact me.

I will be writing about more emerging ministries and also about our missional development in due course. 2023 is looking like a very exciting year as we move on from the pandemic and crack on with the mission and ministries our God is growing among us to make Him known in word and action, to the praise of His name. So, the next article will describe how we are going to schedule all that so that it is sustainable and includes the scheduling of 'sabbath rest'. Its all too exciting for words.

With love, prayers, and gratitude for you.

Richard