

2011
MEOTA PARISH PROFILE & CLERGY PROFILE

Anglican Church of Canada

Diocese of Calgary

**Christ Church, Millarville; St. George's Church, Turner Valley;
St. James' Church, Priddis**

"Meota" is a Cree word meaning "A lush pasture area with clear running water and shelter for animals".



"He maketh me to lie down in green pastures"

23rd Psalm

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THE MEOTA PARISH PROFILE

Mission: To celebrate the Word of God and share the Good News in an atmosphere that is welcoming, caring and uplifting.

Vision: The Meota Parish and its three churches together will grow in faith and numbers by supporting and sharing the unique spiritual gifts of each congregant by providing leadership and fostering Bible studies, prayer, outreach programs, youth groups, social and musical gatherings, and lay participation in Sunday services. We will be involved with our communities and beyond and reach out to those who wish to know Jesus Christ.

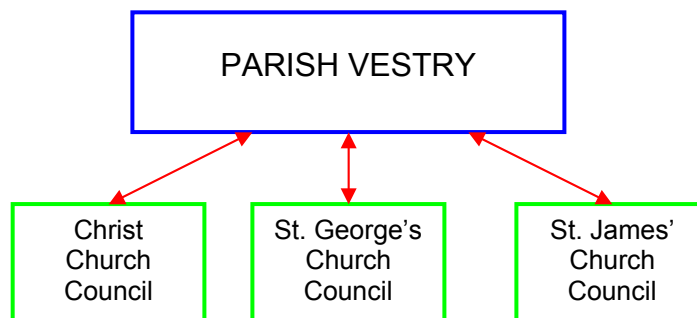
Governance Structure for the Meota Parish:

The Meota Parish consists of three locations (churches), each offering services designed to serve the needs of the parishioners and the communities they serve.

The Parish has an operating budget that includes primarily the funding required to pay the rector and the various expenses of the rector's office. Each of the three church locations have operating budgets that include funding of the Parish budget plus funding of various local church expenses, local events and outreach programs.

The three churches of the Meota Parish are governed by three Church Councils and the representatives of each of these three Church Councils come together at regularly-scheduled Parish Vestry meetings.

A schematic of this governance structure is shown below.



The duties and composition of the Parish Vestry and three Church Councils are as follows:

The Parish Vestry:

- Composition:
 - The Rector (chairs the vestry)
 - 6 Church Wardens
 - 3 Treasurers from the three Church Councils
 - 1 Secretary (selected from the nine Church Council representatives)
 - 1 Treasurer (a permanent Vestry position, selected and paid by the Vestry)
- Duties:
 - Develops an annual Parish budget for approval of the three Church Councils
 - Monitors financial performance, adjusting expenditures through the year as required to maintain budgeted targets (e.g. break-even)
 - Monitors Parish performance in meeting the stated Mission and vision for the Parish:
 - Develops action plans for each of the three Churches in keeping with the Vision & Mission of the Parish
 - Action plans to include commitment of individuals throughout the Parish (including the Rector) to achieve desired outcomes.
- Administers an annual assessment of the Rector's performance:
 - This assessment is designed to both affirm the Rector's strengths and achievements, while adding clarity to any unmet expectations.
 - This assessment would be an important input to the coming year's recommended Rector's compensation package.
- Ensures that the undertakings of each of the three Churches in the Parish are fully in accord with the stated and accepted Vision and Mission of the Parish.

The Three Church Councils:

- Composition:
 - 2 Church Wardens (one of whom is Chair)
 - 1 Secretary
 - 1 Treasurer
 - Other members elected at the Church AGM
 - The rector's attendance is not required at council meetings, but may attend from time to time.
- Duties:
 - Plan for required building and property maintenance
 - Approve annual Church budget (including monthly contribution to the Parish budget)
 - Purchase required materials & services and pay monthly utility bills

- Monitor financial performance, adjusting expenditures through the year as required to maintain budgeted targets (e.g. break-even)
- Plan church services and events through the year
- Respond to appeals for outreach
- Elects lay delegates to the diocesan synod
- Other

The following describes the characteristics of the three churches that comprise Meota Parish.

CHRIST CHURCH, MILLARVILLE



The community of Millarville, approximately 50 km SW of Calgary, covers a wide area. The beautiful hamlet of Millarville is located 10 km west of Christ Church on highway 549 and consists of a highly regarded elementary school, a community store and post office as well as a garage, and a community library. The Millarville race track is nearby which hosts many activities including a weekly farmer's market in the summer months, "race-days" celebrating Dominion Day and many other agriculture-related events. The entire community is surrounded by picturesque ranches in the rolling foothills and countless acreages dotting the landscape

Christ Church, Millarville was established in 1896. The first rector, Rev. Webb-Peploe commissioned a contractor to construct a vertical log structure, that the local ranchers predicted would fall down with the first Chinook! One hundred and fifteen years later the original church stands proudly, snuggled in a rustic setting with a majestic panoramic view of the Rocky Mountains. The church has a capacity of 100 individuals and has an electric Baldwin organ and a wheel chair accessible ramp. A magnificent stained glass window after the painting "in the light of the world" by Harmon Hunt looks down at the altar and depicts Jesus knocking on a knobless door "*behold I stand at the door and knock; if any man hears my voice, and opens the door, I will come into him*" Revelation 3:20.

Sunday services are held weekly at 11:30 am, alternating between Morning Prayer and Holy Communion. The Book of Common Prayer (BCP) and the Book of Alternative Services (BAS) are used interchangeably. Weekly attendance averages between 25-30 congregants (with approximately 100 parishioners on the membership list). The majority of committed attendees are seniors but younger families with a few children attend regularly. Unfortunately, church attendance has gradually decreased over the last decade, a phenomenon encountered by the majority of mainline churches.

The parishioners have benefited significantly by the scripture-based sermons, bible studies and other educational programs and the passionate pastoral oversight that the current rector has provided including the hospitalized, ill and home bound as well as those in nursing homes and long-term care facilities. We anticipate that the incumbent will build upon these themes. Christ Church is blessed with a licensed lay reader, Irene Pfeiffer, who assists the rector in conducting services and fills in when the rector is unavailable.

The Senior and Junior Guilds play a prominent role in the day to day activities of the church. By fund raising events, including renting the Church House, catering funeral teas and the annual Flower Festival, the guilds share in maintenance costs. As well, they support several charities, and adopt disadvantaged families during the Christmas season.

Christ Church allocates a portion of its budget for Outreach, donating to the Primates World Relief and Development Fund, the Mustard Seed, Teen Challenge, the Council of the North, the Oilfields Food Bank and other local, national and international causes.

The church cemetery is a beautifully landscaped area with graves and tombstones dating back to the origin of the church. Fundraising is currently underway to establish an endowment fund that will provide for the excellent maintenance of the church grounds and cemetery in perpetuity.

The Church House (hall) which was built by and maintained by the Guilds is also situated on the church grounds and serves as a meeting place for church functions including educational programs, luncheon meetings, vestry and council gatherings, and the annual flower festival. The Church House is rented by a quilters club, the horticulture club and events supporting church and community functions.

We pray that under the guidance of a new rector, Christ Church will continue to meet the spiritual needs of its members and to reach out to the community that it serves.

ST. GEORGE'S CHURCH, TURNER VALLEY



St. George's Church is located in Turner Valley, a small town approximately 75 km southwest of Calgary. The trading area includes Turner Valley, Black Diamond, Longview and the surrounding rural area. The towns are largely bedroom communities for the city of Calgary and the town of Okotoks. There are sufficient amenities for daily life within the trading area, public schools from K – 12, library, outdoor swimming pool, indoor and outdoor rinks, curling rink, skateboard facilities, campgrounds and several park and playground areas, golf course, senior citizens clubs, Royal Canadian Legion, Lions Club, etc.. Other Churches in the area include Roman Catholic, United, Gospel Chapel, Pentecostal Church and LDS, and a few miles north, a Community Church. There is a hospital with a long term care facility attached and senior's lodge in Black Diamond. The area is policed by the RCMP and local Peace Officers.

The congregation at St. Georges, is predominately retired persons with a few working families and even fewer children. In 2010, there were 56 services held with an average attendance of 15. Sunday services alternate between Morning Prayer and Eucharist and between the BAS and BCP. The Rector alternates between St. George's and St. James' Priddis, for 9:30 Eucharist services and goes to Christ Church, Millarville weekly. Morning Prayer is conducted by our Licensed Lay Reader, Irene Pfeiffer or a member of the congregation. Members of the congregation read the lessons and Prayers of the People, act as sidespersons and take up the offertory. The Altar Guild prepares the Sanctuary for services. Music is provided by our two organists. There is no Sunday school, as there are seldom children attending. Bible studies are parish-wide events and congregants participate according to interest.

The most active organization is the Women's Guild. Membership has been dwindling as the ladies become older, however the Guild can always count on assistance from the congregations of all three churches when implementing any of their projects. Some of the projects they undertake each year are: an Annual Turkey Supper which has been an

institution for over 50 years, rummage sales, teas and bake sales, Christmas Appreciation Party and catering for community events, funerals, celebrations and parish functions. Through these functions the Guild supports St. George's, the Mustard Seed. Teen Challenge, Women's Shelter, Salvation Army, the United Church's Jacket Racket and other regional charities. In 2010 we held a Soup Kitchen once a week, which has been at least temporarily suspended as it was not reaching the people we felt were most in need, however we do have representation on the Food Bank board (the previous Rector included) and support it throughout the year on an individual basis and at Christmas with gift donations for the youngsters. The Altar Guild works on a monthly rotation list and prepares the sanctuary for all services, cares for and launders the linens and keeps abreast of supply requirements.

The Church building is over 100 years old and has been moved twice. Turner Valley has been its home since 1949. It has been inspected by Alberta Heritage for their inventory, but has not been designated a historical site. It is in reasonable condition for a building of that age, but upkeep is an ongoing project. It is proposed to refurbish the vestry area to accommodate office space if one is required. There have been many upgrades over the years. Seating capacity is approximately 80. There is a two manual organ with pedals and a historic bell which is rung at every service.

The detached hall has been enlarged over the years and can accommodate meals for up to 100 people. It has an efficient kitchen area with modern appliances. The washrooms are located in the hall and are connected to town water and a septic system that may have to be abandoned when sewer lines are extended to the property and we are forced to connect. The building is wheelchair accessible. Building upkeep is mostly done on a volunteer basis by parishioners. Our hall is utilized by two AA groups and is available for community and family events as well as church functions. The grounds are attractively treed and have flower beds around the buildings.

The previous rector has been a member of the local Ministerial Association and as such has taken a share of the services proved for the Nursing Home and Seniors' Lodge, as well as taking part in the community Easter Sunrise and Remembrance Day services. It has been the practice for our Rector to be asked to serve as Chaplain for the Legion. The local hospital provides care for most illnesses, but surgery and more advanced care is tended to in the various Calgary hospitals and it has sometimes been found to be convenient to provide pastoral visits when in the city for Diocesan business. It is hoped that a lay visitation scheme could be worked out to assist in outreach to housebound parishioners.

There is potential for growth as the area has been enjoying a period of building activity and new residents are attracted to the rural small town life. There are a number of people who consider themselves to be Anglican, but rarely attend services. Regular attendees are generally open to trying new things and with some creative programming, perhaps the others could be enticed to join in the worship. Many are willing to help out with baking and assistance at Guild events even though they do not regularly come to church.

St. James' Church, Priddis



Location of the Church and Description of the Community:

St. James' Church is located in a rural setting, with an estimated population of about 3000, a large majority of whom live on acreages and commute to Calgary.

St. James' Church was founded in 1904 and is located in the hamlet of Priddis, about 1 kilometer south of Highway 22 and 40 kilometers southwest of downtown Calgary. The church is of frame construction. It is a single room building 30' x 24' with an attached 8' x 10' vestry. It is located across the road from the Priddis Community Association Hall which has in the past and could in the future, be utilized to hold social gatherings and Sunday School classes. The Church has a seating capacity of 60.

Average Sunday church attendance in 2010 was 14 and our identifiable contributors numbered 24. The age range in our congregation has been from early forties to mid to late seventies with about half of us retired and the rest still actively employed. Attracting younger people with children has been a challenge as there are church options nearby that offer Sunday school, something that St. James' has long thought about but, for various reasons, has found impractical.

Worship and Worship Style

Holy Communion services at St. James' are held on the 1st and 3rd Sundays of each month at 9:15 a.m. throughout the year and Don Wilson a Licensed Lay reader conducts Morning Prayer on the 2nd and 4th Sundays of each month from September through May. He has been assisted by parishioners with both music and oral presentations.

Of the four services conducted, the first 2 Sundays utilize the Book of Common Prayer and the last 2 use the Book of Alternative Services.

In the months of June through August (when a Licensed Lay Reader is unavailable), laity from the congregation conduct the Morning Prayer services on the 2nd and 4th Sundays as they exchange roles in offering the spiritual talk, leading the service and (recently) prayers of the people.

Educational Life

Over the past 8 years, the rector has organized a variety of Bible studies that have attracted people from the congregations of the three churches in the Parish. Typically there have been Bible studies offered during Lent and during Advent with a variety of others being offered through other times in the Church year. While the rector has been the leader of the Lent and Advent studies, there have been lay people who have led other various Bible studies, often in people's homes.

Outreach

St. James' has committed itself to a number of outreach programs over the past several years:

- The Mission Aviation Fellowship of Canada (fly their planes of hope into areas of need (e.g., Haiti);
- NeighbourhoodLink's "All Roads Lead Home" – supplies the previously homeless in the greater Calgary region with kits of essentials to begin a new life in their own homes;
- World Vision;
- We have supported and offered fellowship to the students and staff at the "Teen Challenge Ranch" located about 10 Km north of St. James'.
- Food Bank

Role of Laity

St. James' is fortunate in having Don Wilson, a dedicated, well-respected Lay Reader as one of its members. There is also active participation by members of the congregation in the reading of scripture, prayers of the people, the spiritual talk and the provision of musical assistance in the services.

Financial Stewardship

Per family contributions are on average generous.

Gifts of the Congregation:

- Committed individuals, devoted to God, His Word and faithful followers of His Son Jesus Christ, our Lord and Saviour.
- A strong witness and ministry through words and actions and a hunger to evangelize God's good news.
- Strong financial stewardship

Profile for a Meota Parish Priest

Introduction:

It is easy to build a long list of the characteristics that make up an ideal person for the job. Unfortunately, the Angel Michael is not available. In addition, it goes without saying that we need a devout Christian that adheres to the Anglican form of worship, but putting aside the basic and obvious attributes, Meota has attempted to list those things below that show what we currently need in order to build what we vision for the future of this Parish, and also to tend to and nurture the current flock.

Our hopes and expectations of a new Priest:

Our members cite that most of all we would like to see growth and outreach in the Foothills. Headed up by our new incumbent, it is paramount that we as a parish reach out to the lost. For that reason, other associated qualities come to the fore, such as a compassionate, caring and sensitive heart; and also the need for our Priest to be very visible and active in the community.

An extreme hunger for the Word of God was right behind in our list, and so a capable teacher who can actively build upon our understanding of The Word is definitely needed. This was reinforced by another choice: we need someone that can encourage people to relate their faith to their daily lives.

A third characteristic, is the ability to visit those folks in hospital, senior and group homes, and those that are house bound.

A very important component of who we are is our ministry of outreach and to missions. Our new Priest therefore needs to hold this work dear to his/her heart, and encourage and support each Church in its choices to serve causes both at home and abroad.

We also hope for a great team member, who can work with our leadership and ministries, releasing people as to their gifts, and supporting laity in their ministry and growth. Skill, therefore in planning or overseeing projects and programs would be a definite asset.

Every Parish's wish is for a great and charismatic communicator. While this would be a boon, our real vision is to have this Anglican Parish swing into action, reach the unsaved, feed the poor, care for the widows and sick.

What we have:

One body under Christ, but three church buildings in this parish, all with their own gifted people, capabilities, strengths and weaknesses that possess a great heart for The Lord. We pray that, working in harmony we can bolster and support the works of our Christian family in each place, in order to build a force to be reckoned with in the Foothills. So while we are physically set apart, unity under Christ to build this Parish together using all of our talents and abilities is a possibility. Someone with a vision to see this through would be a terrific asset.

As seen earlier in this Parish Profile, we are now making the “every day running of the Churches” themselves something that our new Priest need not be embroiled with. We feel it would be much better if he/she be freer to do the work of Christ.

We also have some absolutely wonderful facilities in Turner Valley – and because of the extreme growth in this town and Black Diamond, with the right planning, we would hope to open up our doors more effectively to reach out to these folks.

What we don't have:

As several of our members have pointed out, it is all very well to head for growth, but three important factors need to be considered by our new incumbent:

In the past, we have lost members of our fold for some reason or another. It would be smart to work together to make sure this does not happen in the future. There is no point working hard to bring folks in the front door, while others quietly leave out the back! We need to get some of them back.

Also, if we intend to grow, we are cognizant of the need to welcome young folks into our fold, and figure out how to fit them in.

Finally, some have pointed to the fact that we do not have a prayer chain. One of the reasons we have been ineffective in Meota to some degree, is our inability to rapidly communicate effectively with regard to the needs and wants of our congregants and others we have taken under our wing. As we grow, this will become even more important.

We currently do not have a Rectory, but provision can be made for a suitable housing allowance. Travel is required between each church and throughout the Parish to fulfill the outreach and visitation mission, and so an allowance has been allocated to meet this need. Also, a means of supporting an office within the Rector's home is possible. All the other usual components of this position will be negotiated in a comprehensive contract that will make it all work.

Until our new priest is in place, it is the intention of the new Parish Vestry to start addressing some of these issues.

Clergy Compensation and Terms of Position:

A contract will be developed with the incumbent's input. This contract will clearly define the Rector's usual work week with regard the time divided among the three congregations, time spent in leadership including any administrative responsibilities, time for personal and family duties, vacation time, educational and professional events, and other matters including salary, expenses, travel and housing arrangements.

The contract will include a provision for an annual assessment of the Rector by the Parish Vestry, and an opportunity for the Rector to provide an operational plan for the ensuing year.

Conclusion:

Hopefully the above has painted a clear and honest snapshot of Meota Parish, and that the “must-haves” are clearly defined amongst those things that are really helpful, but maybe not nearly as essential.

There is much work to be done to fulfill the vision we now have. With the realization of talents and gifts, timely delegation, and releasing those that feel called to fulfill their role under God, a team led and inspired by the right person will bring forth the fruits both we and Christ desire.

May The Lord bring Meota Parish His person for the task!

Amen.



“The Heavens are telling the glory of God”
Psalm 19