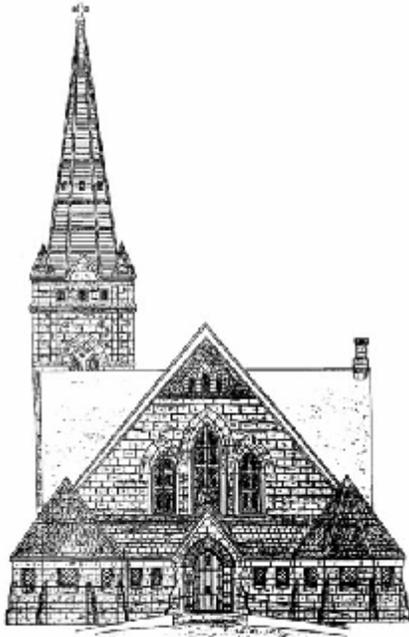


November
2009

H₁N₁ and the Church

St. Paul's Church

a
transforming
community
of
love
and
justice



St. Paul's Church

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A Prayer

*Gracious God,
the comfort of all who sorrow,
the strength of all who suffer,
hear the cry
of those in misery and need.
In their afflictions
show them your mercy,
and give us, we pray,
the strength to serve them,
for the sake of him who suffered for us,
your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.*

November 2009

H₁N₁ and the Church

There is a concern regarding the H₁N₁ virus and other infectious diseases and how the Church is going to deal with the concerns that have arisen. The St. Paul's Parish Council held a long discussion about our current practices and what changes we might consider.

If you are experiencing flu-like symptoms you are encouraged to stay home and take care of yourself. Clergy and the Eucharistic Ministers have been instructed not to carry out their ministry on a Sunday morning if they are showing the slightest indication of a cold or flu. And all who handle the bread and wine are to clean their hands before doing so. This has been a long standing policy of this parish.

We have provided hand sanitizers in the church building. There are two wall mounted units located at the main entrance and outside the vestry door (near the front of the Church). Also, there are pump bottles located on the window sills. Please make use of these sanitizers.

Other surfaces such as door knobs will be sanitized regularly and frequently, perhaps even as we are worshipping on a Sunday morning.

During the passing of the peace we are not discouraging hand shaking but are asking parishioners to indicate their desire not to shake hands and for others to respect that choice. Hands spread germs so please use hand cleanser after the Peace and before receiving the bread and wine.

The use of the common cup is a longstanding tradition and symbol for us. As Bishop Sue Moxley wrote in a memo she sent to every parish earlier this year, *"There is no evidence at this time to discontinue the use of the common cup."* Intinction (dipping the bread in the wine) is not an acceptable practice. Hands are the most significant source of contamination. Long before the H₁N₁ virus came along a health official with our provincial government encouraged her parish to ban the practice of

intinction. Everyone drinking from the common cup is a safer practice than intinction. The wine we use has a 20% alcohol content, the cup is made of metal and swabbing the rim with the purificator work together to clean the cup between users. Bishop Moxley also writes, *"If someone does not wish to drink from the common cup then they should receive the bread only."*

Until there is scientific evidence to support a change in these policies or when a directive comes from the federal or provincial governments Parish Council encourages parishioners to behave wisely and not to over react. We will do what is appropriate to reduce the risk of disease, and we will continue to worship God and care for one another.