



## Unconditional Love

A story is told about a soldier who was finally coming home after having fought in Vietnam. He called his parents from San Francisco.

“Mom and Dad, I’m coming home, but I’ve a favor to ask. I have a friend I’d like to bring home with me.” “Sure,” they replied, “we’d love to meet him.”

“There’s something you should know,” the son continued, “he was hurt pretty badly in the fighting. He stepped on a land mine and lost an arm and a leg. He has nowhere else to go, and I want him to come live with us.”

“I’m sorry to hear that, son. Maybe we can help him find somewhere to live.” “No, Mom and Dad, I want him to live with us.” “Son,” said the father, “you don’t know what you’re asking. Someone with such a handicap would be a terrible burden on us. We have our own lives to live, and we can’t let something like this interfere with our lives. I think you should just come home and forget about this guy. He’ll find a way to live on his own.”

At that point, the son hung up the phone. The parents heard nothing more from him. A few days later, however, they received a call from the San Francisco police. Their son had died after falling from a building, they were told. The police believed it was suicide. The grief-stricken parents flew to San Francisco and were taken to the city morgue to identify the body of their

son. They recognized him, but to their horror they also discovered something they didn’t know, their son had only one arm and one leg.

The parents in this story are like many of us. We find it easy to love those who are good-looking or fun to have around, but we don’t like people who inconvenience us or make us feel uncomfortable. We would rather stay away from people who aren’t as healthy, beautiful, or smart as we are.

Thankfully, there’s someone who won’t treat us that way. Someone who loves us with an unconditional love that welcomes us into the forever family, regardless of how messed up we are.

Tonight, before you tuck yourself in for the night, say a little prayer that God will give you the strength you

need to accept people as they are, and to help us all be more understanding of those who are different from us. There’s a miracle called friendship that dwells in the heart. You don’t know how it happens or when it gets started, but you know the special lift it always brings. And you realize that friendship is a very precious gift from God!

*Friends are a very rare jewel, indeed. They make you smile and encourage you to succeed; they lend an ear, they share a word of praise, and they always want to open their hearts to us.*



**They shall grow not old,  
As we that are left grow old:  
Age shall not weary them,  
Nor the years condemn.  
At the going down of the  
sun and in the morning  
We will remember them**

# an interview with god

Author Unknown

I dreamed I had an INTERVIEW WITH GOD.

"So, you would like to interview me?" GOD asked.

"If you have time," I said.

GOD smiled. "My time is eternity... what questions do you have in mind for me?"

"What surprises you the most about humankind?"

GOD answered...

"That they get bored with childhood, that they rush to grow up, and then long to be children again."

"That they lose their health to make money... and then lose their money to restore their health."

"That by thinking anxiously about the future, they forget the present, such that they live in neither the present nor the future."

"That they live as if they would never die, and die as though they had never lived."

GOD's hand took mine... and we were silent for a while.

And then I asked, "As a parent, what are some of life's lessons you want your children to learn?"

GOD replied,

"To learn they cannot make anyone love them. All they can do is let themselves be loved."

"To learn that it is not good to compare themselves to others."

"To learn to forgive by practicing forgiveness."

"To learn that it only takes a few seconds to open profound wounds in those they love, and it can take many years to heal them."

"To learn that a rich person is not one who has the most, but is one who needs the least."

"To learn that there are people who love them dearly, but simply do not yet know how to express or show their feelings."

"To learn that two people can look at the same thing, and see it differently."

"To learn that it is not enough that they forgive one another, but they must also forgive themselves."

"Thank you for your time," I said humbly. "Is there anything else you would like your children to know?"

GOD smiled, and said... "Just know that I am here. Always."

 <p><b>COME TO LIFE &gt;&gt;</b> WITH ANIMATE, THE 3 PART ADULT FAITH, BIBLE and PRACTICES SERIES</p> <table border="1" data-bbox="126 1789 792 1906"><tr><td data-bbox="126 1789 349 1906">God Bible Church Jesus Religion Salvation Cross Faith</td><td data-bbox="349 1789 571 1906">Genre History Bible Gospels Testaments Canon Interpretation</td><td data-bbox="571 1789 792 1906">Food Community Worship Money Practices Service Prayer Sacraments</td></tr></table>	God Bible Church Jesus Religion Salvation Cross Faith	Genre History Bible Gospels Testaments Canon Interpretation	Food Community Worship Money Practices Service Prayer Sacraments	<p><b><i>Animate Series Begins</i></b></p> <p>As promised the "Faith" portion of the Animate study series will begin on November 10 at 7:30 PM at St. John's Anglican church.</p> <p>There will be a charge of \$20.00 to cover the cost of materials.</p>
God Bible Church Jesus Religion Salvation Cross Faith	Genre History Bible Gospels Testaments Canon Interpretation	Food Community Worship Money Practices Service Prayer Sacraments		



## Reverse Advent Calendar

Remember having an Advent Calendar when you were young?

Each day during the season of Advent you'd "open" the window for that day and enjoy a piece of chocolate or maybe a candy or some other treat.

A reverse advent calendar is exactly the opposite.

Beginning in November commit to building your own reverse

Advent calendar by setting aside an item of food (staple goods only please!) each day and then bring them with you when you come to worship.

We will have a box in each of our congregations available to collect the food and we will take it to the Flagstaff Food bank on December 14 in time for their Christmas Sharing program. Collection dates will be as follows:

Trinity - Sunday, December 4

St. John's & Hope - Sunday, December 11



## Christmas Services

Mark your calendar with the following dates:

### Christmas Eve - December 24

7:30 PM - Christmas Candlelight Service  
at Hope, Forestburg

9:30 PM - Eucharist Service at St. John's,  
Sedgewick

### Christmas Day - December 25

10:30 AM - Holy Communion Service at Trinity,  
Lougheed





# FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ November 2016 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		<b>1</b> All Saints Day	<b>2</b> 7p-7:30p Big Knife Villa Service	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>
<b>6</b> All Saints Sunday @ Trinity Daylight Saving Time ends 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Communion Service	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> 7p-9p Hope Council meets	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>13</b> All Saints Sunday at St. John's & Hope 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>17</b> 10a-10:30a Galahad Care Center Service 1:30p-3p Hope Worship Committee	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>
<b>20</b> 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Song Service	<b>21</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>26</b>
<b>27</b> Advent begins 9:15a-10:15a St. John's Morning Prayer 11:15a-12:15p Hope Communion Service	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>Notes:</b>		



# FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

~ December 2016 ~

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
<b>4</b> 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Communion Service 12p-3:30p Trinity Worship Committee	<b>5</b>	<b>6</b> 11:30a-2:30p Killam Pastoral Care	<b>7</b> 7p-7:30p Big Knife Villa Service	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>10</b>
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<b>25</b> Christmas 10:30a-11:30a Trinity Christmas Day Communion Service	<b>26</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>31</b>