

The Parish Window

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2017 || CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH ||



“THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE
DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT.” JOHN 1:5



CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH VILLAGE
Quarterly Newsletter



The Parish Window

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2017 || CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH ||

PONDERINGS FROM PASTOR PAM



A Different Christmas Message

I was recently pondering about the wonder of Jesus coming down to earth at Christmas – God with Us. I got thinking about how this sounds. It is like talking about an alien coming out of space to planet earth, such a long, long time ago...from a galaxy far, far away. Maybe I have watched too many Star Trek movies?? Is there any truth in this, Jesus coming as an alien? Often, in Star Trek, an alien being does make contact with the Starship Enterprise, but it is usually because they have a problem that they want help with. In the case of Jesus coming, it is we who need the help. And often

the beings are strange looking, with elongated noses or with strangely coloured skin. Jesus came as one of us. He looked like us, was born in the way we are and lived as we do. In fact, if we make the leap back, even further in time, we see that Jesus was involved in the creation process (please note that I am not totally discounting the evolution process by thinking this). Perhaps earth is more HIS than OURS. Maybe we are the aliens. The writer of the book of Hebrews wrote that our home is not really here. We await a city that is to come, (Heb. 13:14). Or, perhaps our emphasis could be more about being like Jesus, wherever we are. Like Jesus, who came to his own and his own did not receive him, but to those who received him he gave the right to become children of God. And as Jeremiah would suggest, we have a role here on earth (see below). Our task is about

setting down roots and tending the creation and the creatures we live with. Especially helping the **alienated**..those isolated or estranged. Living justly and living in the kingdom NOW. And working for it and demanding it for ALL. And this looks so different than the way of the world, that when we live in this way we too may look like aliens. as Jesus must have lookedso long, long ago.

Jeremiah 29:5-7

Build houses and live in them; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Take wives and have sons and daughters; take wives for your sons, and give your daughters in marriage, that they may bear sons and daughters; multiply there, and do not decrease. But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.

Your Priest and Pastor
Pam

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Ponderings from Pastor Pam: 1
Voices: 2 - 5
Looking Ahead

“But seek the welfare of the city where I have sent you into exile, and pray to the Lord on its behalf, for in its welfare you will find your welfare.”



PREPARING FOR THE COMING OF JESUS

Advent is a time for preparation. We all know that. We just need to look around us to see the panic of people preparing for Christmas, the time we celebrate the coming of Jesus as a baby.

However Advent is **more** than that. We are called also to contemplate on and prepare for the **second** coming, what the theologians call the apocalypse and some 'the rapture'! I was glad when I heard the preacher, someone whom I admire and who has a strong faith, tell us at the Associate's Quiet Day at the Convent last Saturday that she **struggles** with the apocalypse.

What does this second coming mean to **us**? When strong believers of this tell me that **we** will see it, in our lifetime, I say, '**sure**'. My mother and many generations before her believed they would see Jesus coming down in glory in **their** lifetimes! We also constantly hear predictions of the **actual day** it will happen.

Each of us will have our take on the second coming. However, I take to heart the words of Mark about **watchfulness** but also note that, despite all of the predictions, we don't know when.

I believe with all my heart that I will see Jesus in his glory at my **death** but '**I do not know when that time will come.**'
Mark 13:33.

Now **that** wakes me up!! What am I doing with my life **right now** to live the Gospel? Thinking of the end times helps bring comfort to some and this was especially true to the early church when they were being persecuted. However, for us to **concentrate** on it, we can easily allow us to shirk our responsibility.

We all have a mission until **that last day**.

God's timing is always better than mine so I am trying constantly to discern God's guidance as to how I live the Gospel **today**. All **I** know is that God has not finished with me yet!

From an old lady's musings, blessings,

Rev. Claire



We have a wonderful addition to our music ministry at Christ Church. It's a baby grand piano! If you want to know the story behind the purchase of the piano, Pastor Pam would be happy to email you the details there is a document that tells the story - posted on the board. Let me take this opportunity to say thank you to those who gave generously to make this not-expected, serendipity possible.

Thought of the day

Once, there were four

There were four: *everybody, somebody, anybody and nobody.*

There was an important job to be done, so they consulted *everybody*.

Everybody knew that *somebody* would do it. In fact, *anybody* could have done it, but in the end *nobody* did it.

Someone was very annoyed about that, because the job was offered to *everybody*.

Everybody thought that *anybody* could do it.

Nobody realized that *everybody* could not do it.

The end of the story is that *everybody* blamed *somebody*, while in fact *nobody* had asked *anybody*.

Submitted by: Deacon Jacquie



Gift Ideas for Christmas

It's that time of year again; the malls are busier than they have ever been, and people are bustling from one store to another looking for the best deals. It is hard not to feel like each year Christmas becomes increasingly more about consumerism and about standing in line to meet the mall's Santa Claus. We become so consumed by what we need to buy or what material things we would like to receive that we often forget about the peace, joy, hope and love associated with Jesus' birth.

So to help spread some holiday cheer, here are some ideas for gifts that you can give to any one this Christmas (or any time of year for that matter):

1. An attentive ear

Each and every person comprising the earth's current population of 7.2 billion individuals faces adversity in one form or another. Maybe they are facing adversity in their job, with their children, with a spouse, with a friend, with themselves for not being able to accomplish a dream, and the list goes on. It is amazing how much we can lighten another's burden by offering them the simple gift of an attentive ear. Sometimes we may not need to say anything at all. All that they require is that we listen, *truly* listen. But how does one "truly" listen?

I once attended a workshop at university that focused on how to treat people with respect regardless of their ethnicity, sexual orientation, age, disability status, or religion. This was to help us understand that listening went hand-in-hand with showing respect. There was an activity where we were partnered with another individual and stood back-to-back with them; one was a 'speaker' and the other was a 'listener'. For a minute, the speaker spoke about their greatest worries while the listener listened without interrupting in any way. In my pairing, I was assigned the role of the "listener". I had no way of seeing emotion on the speaker's face or giving a reassuring nod that indicated I was listening. As I heard her speak, I wanted to say, "Everything will be okay" or "I can understand what you're going through", but I had to follow the 'no sound' rule. It was so much more difficult than I imagined it would be.

Often during our everyday conversation we, more often than not, interject and add our own opinions, reassurances, or filler words/sounds while another person is speaking. "Listening" takes practice and self-control on our part, and it helps us better understand what the person is saying. We put their words before our own, and sometimes no words are needed from us at all.

2. An open mind

It is often difficult to speak to a person who has an opinion that completely differs from our own or an individual who we have already subconsciously judged. To give someone the gift of an open mind means to prevent ourselves from passing judgment that will cloud the remainder of our interaction with them. It means to imagine ourselves in their shoes in order to better understand where they are coming from rather than viewing their situation through the lens of our own privileged situation. In the Bible, the individuals who constantly judged others were the same people who looked down at Jesus for associating with "sinners". I wonder if they realized they were sinners themselves! The truth is that we are all sinners. We need God's love in our lives, and we can give the gift of that love to others if we just open our minds. To give the gift of an open mind is synonymous to giving the gift of an open heart.

3. A warm smile/embrace

When was the last time someone gave you a hug? Not just a pat on the back, but a real hug where you felt loved?

While working at a mental health institution this summer and while volunteering at a long-term care centre many years ago, I was surprised to learn how many of the patients had been abandoned by their families.



I often found myself wondering when they had last felt the warm embrace of a loved one. Thankfully, the staff members at the institution were the friendliest people I had ever met. They smiled and said "Good morning" to everyone, regardless of whether it was a patient with dementia or a new volunteer. A hug or a smile goes a long way. Sometimes it is all that is needed to make someone's day a lot better. It is also one of the easiest things to do! One of my favourite quotes is: "There are hundreds of languages in the world but a smile speaks them all".

Thus, while material gifts may break, collect dust, and be forgotten, the gifts of an attentive ear, open mind, and warm smile/embrace have the potential to spread the peace, joy, hope and love that Christmas is all about!

Ritika Luther



HELP NEEDED!

We are looking for a team or teams of 2 or 3 people to change the wording of the outside church sign.

This would take place on an ongoing basis, (**monthly**), at a time suitable to you. Please speak to Pastor Pam if you are interested or if you want further details.

MILESTONES

If you or any of your loved ones have celebrated a birthday or an anniversary since the last issue of the newsletter



We remember with love and in prayer those who are no longer with us: Chesterfield Dowell and Olivia Gibbins. May they rest in peace and rise in glory.

We uphold in prayer the Dowell, Francis, and Mallett families as they grieve.



Let us also uphold in prayer those who are battling loneliness this Christmas Season; those with no one with whom to share a word, a laugh, a memory. May the Lord bless each one and lighten their burden with a companion, a friend, someone who cares. Amen.

LOOKING AHEAD



Dec. 17 - 10am Lessons and Carols Service

Hear the story of God working in history and sing Christmas carols

Dec. 21 - 7pm - A Blue Christmas Service

For those who have lost a loved one recently or who find a hard time.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve

- 8:30am: Quiet Eucharist**
- 10am: Sung Eucharist**
- 7pm: Family Service with Sung Eucharist**

Dec. 25 Christmas Day

10:00am – Quiet Eucharist

Dec. 31 New Year's Eve

- 10am: Sung Eucharist**
- 5pm: -Reflective Candlelit Service**



A Different Kind of Christmas "Wish List"

Christmas will soon be upon us, and children (and some adults) are busy preparing their "wish list" for the gifts they hope to receive. However, the gifts we treasure most often don't come from Amazon, The Bay or any other store. Here is a very different kind of "Wish List", an ancient prayer reputed to have been found in the 1,000-year-old cathedral and former abbey at Chester in England.



Give me a good digestion
Lord, and also something
to digest;

Give me a healthy body
Lord, with sense to keep it
at its best.

Give me a healthy mind,
Good Lord, to keep the
good and pure in sight;
Which seeing sin is not
appalled, but finds a way to
set it right.

Give me a mind which is
not bored, that does not
whimper, whine or sigh;

Don't let me worry over
much about that fussy
thing called "I".



Give me a sense of
humour, Lord, give me the
grace to see a joke;

To get some happiness
from life, and pass it on to
other folk.

No matter how rich or poor
we are in the world's
terms, we can surely ask
for, receive, recognize and
truly appreciate the gifts on
this very different "wish
list".

**Submitted by Jacquie
Boutheon**



It is with great pleasure and pride that we congratulate two of our own from CCSV.

Deacon Jacquie Boutheon has been named a Canon by the Archbishop of Toronto, the Most Reverend Colin Johnson. The Installation of Canons will take place on Sunday January 21, 2018 at 4.30 pm at St. James Cathedral. The Reverend Canon Deacon Jacquie is only the second Canon ever to be named at Christ Church. The other



was the late Rev. Canon Gordon Channen, rector from 1953 until his sudden death on Easter Monday 1960. He was named a Canon on January 1, 1959.

David Baird has been nominated to be a Member of the Order of the Diocese. The award presentation will take place at St. James Cathedral during the New Year's Day Levee.

All are welcome to attend.

The Levee begins with a reception and the bishop's receiving line at 1:30, a Concert at 3:00 and Choral Evensong is at 3:30 pm during which time the award will be presented to David. Pictures will be taken on the chancel steps following the service.



WOMEN'S RETREAT/ PRAYER WORKS

On Monday, November 27th, David and I were at the eye specialist for our usual eye examination. I had to return two days later for a laser eye operation because of glaucoma. Scary? It certainly was. After having this I was given a prescription for two sets of eye drops to take four times a day, for five days.

On the Saturday following my exam I was part of the attendees at a Women's Retreat which was organised by the CCSV Women's Group at the Convent of the Sisters of St John the Divine.

There were about 18 of us present including some members from Pastor Pam's Contemplative prayer group. We commenced with the usual get to know you introductions and got on the way with a sort of icebreaker, "I am a Tree". In this exercise anyone could add to the tree of whatever character they wanted to be. What a laugh, except this time I

didn't do my gardener part as I have in the past.

The topic for the day was WWW- **Women Walking in Wisdom** and during this time we learnt more about three women in the Bible and how it is today:-

Hannah, the mother of Samuel; the **Woman at the well**; and **Mary, the Mother of Jesus**. It was indeed very interesting, as in addition to the presenters, we learnt from one another through discussions.

Prior to lunch, we had Eucharist with the Sisters and a rather comical sermon.

What a great time it was. At end of the sessions, we had time for anointing and prayer. I was the first one in the chair with all around me, as I revealed my recent discovery of glaucoma.

On my follow-up appointment with the eye specialist on Thursday, December 7th, I was given an all clear for the eyes and I can truly say that PRAYER WORKS, and thank

those who were with me on that day.

Yes, PRAYER does WORK

Diane Dean



A Christmas Prayer

Loving Father,
Help us to remember the birth of Jesus
that we may share in the song of the angels,
the gladness of the shepherds,
and the worship of the wise men.

Close the door of hate and
open the door of love all over
the world.
Let kindness come with every
gift and
good desires with every
greeting.

Deliver us from evil by the
blessing
which Christ brings, and teach
us to
be merry with clear hearts.

May the Christmas morning
make us happy
to be Thy children, and the
Christmas evening
bring us to our beds with
grateful thoughts,
forgiving and forgiven, for
Jesus' sake.
Amen.

~ Robert Louis Stevenson



JUST A THOUGHT...

CHRIST CHURCH
SCARBOROUGH
VILLAGE

155 Markham Road,
M1M 3A1

Telephone:
(416) 261-4169/5489

Fax:
(416) 261-7949

E-mail: ccsv@rogers.com

Staff

Incumbent: The Rev'd.
Pam Trondson

Deacon: The Rev'd. Canon
Jacquie Bouthéon

Honorary Assistant:
Fr. Roy Shepherrd

Director of Music:
Dennis Thompson

**Office Administrator
(Acting):** Ellen
Cunningham

Please call the church office to
be directed to any member of
staff or committee member.

We're on the Web!

See us at:

www.christchurchscarborough.com

'The extraordinary thing that is about to happen is only matched by the extraordinary thing just before it happens. Advent is the name of that moment.' **Frederick Buechner.**

Advent is a season of expectation and preparation. Incidentally during this season there is much darkness, both physical and emotional. In the fears and turmoil of the dark we hope and wait for the light to break through.

An expectant mother is excited and nervous but prepares with hopefulness for the safe birth of her child. In one such instance she held on to words of the psalmist 'weeping may endure for a night but joy comes in the morning' and oh the joy when the light broke through the night. In the darkness she had become more aware of the words this particular psalm and

held on to them with great hope. She was later told her words (prayers) had been nothing short of ethereal especially since she had uttered them while asleep.

One thing for sure is that in our darkness there is a period of waiting for the light and with that light comes so much more.

'Faith is born in darkness' **Carlo Carretto.** He further states that *'faith is neither a feeling or a mental process but an act of self-surrender in the darkness to God.'*

"Hope begins in the dark; the stubborn hope that if you just show up and try to do the right thing, the dawn will come. You wait and watch and work: you don't give up." **Ann Lamott**

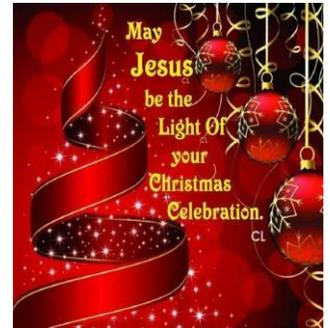
Hope dispels our fears, we trust Him who is light and feeling his presence we pray, we dance, we praise, we wait.

As we wait be it in the darkness for light to shine through, for Christmas, or for the Glorious return of our Lord, may we do so like the wise virgins and be prepared.

THE LIGHT SHINES IN THE DARKNESS, AND THE DARKNESS HAS NOT OVERCOME IT."

JOHN 1:5

Thanks to all our contributors to this edition of the Parish Window.



HAPPY READING AND A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A WONDERFUL NEW YEAR TO YOU AND YOUR FAMILY!

Hyacinth

Please pick up your



**Offering
Envelopes**

For 2018

on December 24

