



Connections

Jesus said "The Lord has anointed me to preach good news to the poor and release to the captives".

Luke 4:18

**Volume 2
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February 1 to 15
2020**

FEBRUARY IS BLACK HISTORY MONTH

During Black History Month, Canadians celebrate the many achievements and contributions of Black Canadians who have done so much to make Canada the culturally diverse, compassionate and prosperous nation it is today.

People of African descent have been a part of shaping Canada's heritage and identity since the early 1600s.

BLACK HISTORY IS NOT WELL-KNOWN

The role of Blacks in Canada has not always been viewed as a key feature in Canada's historic landscape. There is little mention that some of the Loyalists who came here after the American Revolution and settled in the Maritimes were Blacks, or of the many sacrifices made in wartime by Black Canadian soldiers as far back as the War of 1812.

Few Canadians are aware that African people were once enslaved in the territory that is now Canada, or of how those who fought enslavement helped to lay the foundation of Canada's diverse and inclusive society.

A TIME TO LEARN

Black History Month is a time to learn more about these Canadian stories and the other important contributions of Black Canadians to the settlement, growth and development of Canada, and about the diversity and contributions of Black communities here.

ALMOST 100 YEARS OF RECOGNITION

Black History Month dates back to 1926, when

a time was set aside in the USA to honour African Americans and to heighten awareness of Black history. This led to the establishment of Negro History Week the same year. Celebrations of Black history began in Canada shortly after that time. The week was expanded into Black History Month in 1976.

In 1995, the House of Commons officially recognized February as Black History Month following a motion introduced by the first Black Canadian woman elected to Parliament, the Hon. Jean Augustine, and carried unanimously.

In 2008, Donald Oliver, the first Black man appointed to the Senate, introduced the Motion to Recognize Contributions of Black Canadians and February as Black History Month. It received unanimous approval and was adopted on March 4, 2008.

Parishioners are encouraged to be part of our special Black History celebration on February 9.

FAMOUS QUOTES:

Desmond Tutu: If you are neutral in situations of injustice, you have chosen the side of the oppressor.

Jean Augustine: Black history is not just for Black people - Black history is Canadian history.

Harriet Tubman: Every great dream begins with a dreamer.

Nelson Mandela: Forgiveness liberates the soul, it removes fear. That's why it's such a powerful weapon.



Viola Desmond was a black businesswoman who was jailed, convicted and fined for refusing to leave a whites-only area of a Halifax movie theatre in 1946. Her photo is now on the Canadian \$10 bill.

Scripture Readings

February 2

Malachi 3: 1 to 4

Psalms 84: 1 to 7

Hebrews 2: 14 to 16

Like 2:22 to 40



February 9

As requested by our Black History guest speaker, Brother Reginald

CHRIST CHURCH SCARBOROUGH
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Holy Communion Sunday 8:30 and 10 am
Morning Prayer Tuesday 9:30 am



A CONTEMPLATIVE IN ACTION

If these words seem to be contradictory, we have only to look at the life of Hannah Grier Coome (28 Oct. 1837 - 9 Feb. 1921), the founder of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine, to realize that a life of prayer can also be a life of great activity.

Mother Hannah was born in Ontario and was married at the age of 21. Sadly, miscarriage and widowhood ended this part of her life.

When she turned her thoughts to the religious life after her husband's death, Hannah was approached by a group of people who were eager to see a Religious Community founded in Canada. They broached the idea of her undertaking this daunting task. After much prayer, Hannah accepted God's calling, took training at the Community of St. Mary, Peekskill, and in 1884 the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine was born.

The story of the early years of the Sisterhood is one of hard work, privation and steadfast following where the Lord led. A full account of Mother Hannah's leadership can be found online at ssjd.ca.

One of the great blessings of this Community in a rapidly changing world is Mother Hannah's vision that they should be open and responsive to the needs of the church and the world. This has enabled them to change ministries over the last 124 years as new needs were brought to their attention.

Mother Hannah's desire was that prayer and devotion be the primary vocation of the Sisters and secondly, active charity.

The church honours Mother Hannah Grier Coome on February 9.

We are asked to pray for these
members of our parish family
Anne S, Annet K, Barb N, Beverly
B, Coreen L, Corinne P, Deb A,
Elizabeth, Florence S, Jenille L,
Joan N, Leonora B, Margaret R,
Michelle B, Viggie M.



DON'T FORGET!

**Bring a bag lunch
to the**

**Christ Church
Annual**

**Vestry Meeting
on**

**February 16
right after**

the 10 am service

**We need you. You are an
important member of the
parish family.**

VALENTINE - PATRON SAINT OF BEEKEEPERS

On February 14 the church remembers Saint Valentine, who lived in the third century. Some say he was a priest and physician. Others claim he was a bishop. In both versions Valentine was martyred in Rome by the emperor Claudius II. He is said to have performed Christian weddings to help young men avoid conscription into the army, as only single men had to serve. Emperor Claudius was not pleased with this outspoken Christian, jailed him and later had him killed.

Legend claims that Valentine healed the blind daughter of his jailor, fell in love with her and wrote letters to her "from your Valentine". But what is the connection with bees? At first this seems strange. But honey is a known aphrodisiac, and bees are symbols of procreation. The ancients knew this, and would give newlyweds a bottle of mead after the wedding, because it was at that time made from honey. That is why we have the term "honeymoon" for the trip taken by those just married.

Valentine's Day will always be associated with romantic love. In our day this is declared in flowers, chocolates and renewed expressions of affection.

Happy Valentine's Day!



It happened on this day



February 15, 1386 King Jagiello of Lithuania was baptized into the Christian faith. This was the last heathen nation in Europe, so Jagiello's conversion became the final fulfillment of the Macedonian vision in Acts 16:9, which led the apostle Paul to begin taking the Gospel to Europe.



February 8, 1693 The College of William and Mary was founded in Williamsburg, Virginia, for the purpose of educating Anglican clergymen. It is the second oldest institution of higher learning in America, after Harvard.



February 11, 1790 The Society of Friends (Quakers) presented a petition to the American Congress calling for the abolition of slavery.



February 4, 1906 Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German Lutheran pastor and theologian was born. A secret member of the German resistance movement during World War II, he was arrested by the Gestapo in 1943 and hanged at the Flossenburg concentration camp.



February 2, 1909 George Beverly Shea a Canadian music evangelist, was born. He sang at the Billy Graham Crusades from the 1950s to the 1970s.



February 13, 1919 Ernest Jennings "Tennessee Ernie" Ford, a Christian country entertainer, was born. He hosted his own TV show for 10 years, but is best known for the many sacred musical recordings he made in his lifetime.



February 14, 1985 The U.S. Rabbinical Assembly of Conservative Judaism announced its decision to begin accepting women as rabbis.

OUR NEIGHBOURS CELEBRATE

February 8 Hindu - Thaipusam

Thaipusam is a time for Hindus of all castes and cultures to say thank you and show their appreciation to one of their Gods, Lord Murugan, a son of Shiva.



February 8 Buddhist - Nirvana Day

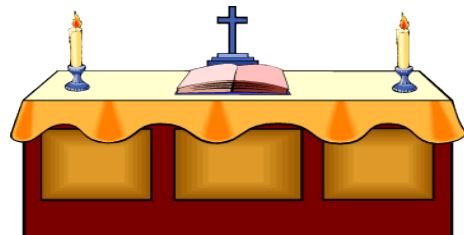
On Nirvana Day, Buddhists remember Buddha's death. But it is not his death that is celebrated, but his leaving this world and beginning a new kind of existence. Achieving Nirvana is the goal of Buddhist faith.



TEN COMMANDMENTS FOR CHANCEL GUILDS

1. If it's metal, polish it.
2. If it's floral, arrange it.
3. If it stands still, dust it.
4. If it's cloth, iron it.
5. If in doubt, wash it.
6. If it's been taken care of by the same person for more than ten years, don't touch it!
7. If it's a memorial, revere it or try to work around it.
8. If it's been done only one way for the last five years, don't even think about changing it.
9. If new clergy get bright ideas, indulge them. They'll soon learn better.
10. If a bishop wants all the hangings and vestments changed ten minutes before the service begins, smile, ask him or her to pray for a speedy recovery from your unfortunate hearing loss, and then leave him in private in the solitude of the sacristy.

(written by an anonymous bishop)



VESTRY MOTION 2020 - TAKING ACTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already disrupting life on earth as we know it. Average global temperatures have increased 1 degree Celsius over pre-industrial levels, bringing about melting glaciers and polar ice caps, rising seas, deadly heatwaves and more intense storms. Canada is warming twice as fast as the rest of the world, and the Arctic regions three times as fast.

A motion in solidarity with last July's General Synod

Resolution C003 will come before our parish vestry meeting on February 16, asking us to join with countless other government and faith bodies to collaborate with each other to act on this dangerous problem.

The motion is in two paragraphs; the first calls for action by governments and the second is about things our parish can do to alleviate the situation.

Here is the text of the motion:

We, the vestry of Christ Church Scarborough Village in the Diocese of Toronto, recognize that there is a global climate emergency. We acknowledge that all sectors of society, including government, business, churches and other non-profit organizations, and private individuals, have an obligation to do what they can to minimize their contribution to climate change.

We call on the Government of Canada to commit to the following:

- ◆ End public financing of the fossil fuel industry
- ◆ Bring Canada's climate and energy policy into alignment with the Paris Accord emissions targets to do our part to limit the rise in global average temperatures below 1.5 degrees Celsius
- ◆ Support a just transition to a low-carbon economy through investment in renewable energy sources and infrastructure, energy-efficient technologies, and skills development and retraining for high-quality, sustainable jobs in the renewable energy sector
- ◆ Assist Indigenous, northern and coastal communities and other vulnerable populations, to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their local environments.

As Christians, we have a particular obligation to care for the earth as God's beloved creation (*Genesis 1: 26-28 and 2:15*), as well as for the most vulnerable among the human family (*Matthew 25*). Accordingly, we also commit our parish to the following goal(s) _____

- ◇ Reducing our parish energy use by _____%
- ◇ Encouraging the use of active and public transportation by parishioners, and carpooling where these options are not practical
- ◇ Eliminating (or reducing by _____%) our use of single-use plastic products.
- ◇ Planting _____ trees this year on church or private property, or participating in community tree planting projects.

