



THE PARISH WINDOW

2016 ADVENT/CHRISTMAS EDITION

'Jesus' return, in fact, his involvement with us at all, is indicative of how we view Jesus.'



Ponderings From Pastor Pam

In 2002 a poll found 62% of Americans believing in the imminent physical return of Jesus Christ to Earth. In 2013 according to a Pew Research survey, almost half (48%) of Christians in the U.S. say they believe that Christ will return to Earth in the next 40 years, and 27% of them were so sure, they said Jesus would "definitely" be back soon (A bit more skeptical 20% said "probably"). The slightly smaller group of Christians (37%) that doesn't think Jesus is coming back soon is less sure, with only 10% saying they "definitely" won't see him, and 28% say it "probably" ain't happening. In between the two camps are 14 % of

Christians who just "don't know" if JC is en route to the world by 2053, but I guess we'll find out then, won't we?

Interesting statistics, but I would like to have known how they see this returning Jesus. What is he like?

One of my favourite authors, George MacDonald, in his novels, comments on the fact that he would rather that his characters **not** believe in God **at all** if the God they believe in is a tyrant/judge and not someone that they would want to spend time with. Many of the characters in his novels are on a journey of coming to know the gracious, loving Father that wants good for each of them, and for all of his children; the merciful, compassionate, joy-filled Giver of life.

You might think what does this have to do with Advent? Well, Advent is

about waiting. Perhaps how we feel about that waiting depends on how we feel about the God who comes, who is coming and will come. We generally do not like to wait. Jesus' return, in fact, his involvement with us at all, is indicative of how we view Jesus. In life there are a few things that we actually want to take longer to get to, that we don't mind waiting for. Let's see, growing old might be one of them. Having our children or grandchildren grow older, so that they no longer can or want to sit on our lap or have us read to them. Upcoming dental work is something I can wait for. Those who say "Come, Lord Jesus" want Him to come because they know him to be good and loving. They don't want to wait.

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Did You Know?

Violet is a liturgical color that is used to signify a time of prayer, penance, and sacrifice and is used during Advent and Lent. Advent, also called "little Lent," is the season where we spiritually wait in our "darkness" with hopeful expectation for our promised redemption, just as the whole world did before Christ's birth, and just as the whole world does now as we eagerly await his promised return.

The **1st Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Hope with the "Prophet's Candle" reminding us that Jesus is coming.

The **2nd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Faith with the "Bethlehem Candle" reminding us of Mary and Joseph's journey to Bethlehem.

The **3rd Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Joy with the "Shepherd's Candle" reminding us of the Joy the world experienced at the coming birth of Jesus.

The **4th Sunday of Advent** symbolizes Peace with the "Angel's Candle" reminding us of the message of the angels: "Peace on Earth, Good Will Toward Men."

Ponderings... cont'd

What do we believe about God? Who is God? Advent is about waiting. Maybe God is waiting for us to "get" who Jesus is. Perhaps he hopes that this Christmas will be the time we are open to knowing the wonder of following the God who came to woo the shepherds to the manger (see below), to see the gift of God giving himself in such a vulnerable way. Maybe God is waiting for us to get the joy of God bursting into our midst in a new way. What does he want us to believe about Him?..something different? And how would our lives be different if our image of God was of someone we want to spend time with? How would we be changed and, in turn want to bring change to others?

The Advent Christmas season is upon us. Can't wait to see, hear, and know what God will reveal anew about who He is!

Luke 2: 9-16

Then an angel of the Lord stood before the shepherds, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing

you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger."

*Rev'd Pam Trondson
Incumbent*

Christmas is a time for giving. Gifts to friends and relatives are a wonderful part of the season. Your acts of generosity throughout the year have enabled Christ Church to carry out its various ministries.

In addition to Sunday offerings, there are a number of other ways in which you can give to support the work of our church. A bequest in your will or a gift of shares, securities or investments that have appreciated in value are some of the other ways of planned giving.

If you have any questions on these or other giving options, please contact Brian Carr at 416 267 4568 or email at briancarr21@gmail.com.



VOICES

The Night Before Christmas - by Sister St. Thomas, B.N.D. de N

A more spiritual version of the famous Christmas story.

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town,
St. Joseph was searching, walking up roads and down;

Our Lady was waiting, so meek and so mild,
While Joseph was seeking a place for the Child.

The children were nestled, each snug in their beds,
The grown-ups wouldn't bother,
"There's no room," they said;

When even the inkeeper sent them away,
Joseph was wondering, where they would stay?

He thought of the caves in the side of the hills,
"Let's go there," said Mary, "it's silent and still."

The moon on the breast of the new fallen snow,
Made pathways of light for their tired feet to go;

And there in a cave, in a cradle of hay,
Our Saviour was born on that first Christmas Day!

The Father was watching in heaven above,
He sent for His angels, His couriers of love.

More rapid than eagles God's bright angels came,
Rejoicing and eager as each heard his name;

"Come Power, Come Cherubs, Come Virtues, Come Raphael,
Come Thrones and Dominions, come Michael and Gabriel;

Now fly to the Earth, where My poor people live,
Announce the glad tidings My Son comes to give."

The Shepherds were watching their flocks on this night,
And saw in the heavens an unearthly light.

The Angels assured them, they'd nothing to fear,
It's Christmas they said, the Saviour is here!

They hastened to find Him, and stood at the door,
Till Mary invited them in to adore.

He was swaddled in bands from His head to His feet,
Ne'er did the Shepherds see a baby so sweet!

He spoke not a word, but the shepherds all knew,
He was telling them secrets and blessing them too;

Then softly they left Him, The Babe in the hay,
And rejoiced with great joy on that first Christmas Day.

Mary heard them exclaim as they walked up the hill,
"Glory to God in the Highest, Peace to men of good will!"

Submitted by Beverly Baird

What Is a Jesse Tree?

The Jesse Tree represents the family tree, or genealogy, of Jesus Christ. It tells the story of God's salvation plan, beginning with creation and continuing through the Old Testament, to the coming of the Messiah.

The name "Jesse Tree" comes from Isaiah 11:1: "Then a shoot will spring from the stem of Jesse, and a branch from his roots will bear fruit." (NASB) The verse refers to King David's father, Jesse, who is in the lineage of Jesus Christ. The "shoot" that grew from the "stem of Jesse," that is, the royal line of David, is Jesus Christ.

The Jesse Tree is a unique Advent custom and a fun activity for teaching children about the Bible at Christmas. The tradition traces back as far as the middle ages

Because Advent is a time to anticipate and prepare for the coming of Christ at Christmas, a Jesse Tree project is a great way to celebrate with your family.

Rental Opportunities

As you may know, the church receives a portion of its income from the rental of our facility. We would like to increase income from this area. If you know of a group or an individual that might be interested in exploring this, please speak to one of the wardens or to Pastor Pam

“Come and journey with

a Saviour who has called us from our birth,
Who has washed us in the waters and who loved us from on this earth.

Come and journey, come and journey

*With a Saviour who has come
We are all God’s sons and daughters, in the Spirit we are one. (Brothers and Sisters we are one)*

Come and journey, journey **inward**, come and seek Him deep within,
Where he meets us in our living, in our striving and our sin.

Come and journey.. . .

Come and journey, journey **outward**, telling others of His name,
Telling others of His glory, of His cross and of the shame.

Come and journey.

Come and journey, journey **upward**, where the cross calls us to care
Where injustice and where hunger and the poor calls us to share.

Come and journey.

Come and journey, journey **onward** , all our gifts we now shall bring,
To the building that is holy,
Come and journey,

This hymn afforded me some inspiration.

For me it discusses moving on with our Savior, moving on :inward, outward, upward onward, using all our gifts, singing His praises and praying in good times and in the not so good times; using our gifts to build up His church.

He is always there for us; we should be able to be there for Him. How far have we journeyed in our lives with our Saviour who has brought us this far?

Does this make you re-evaluate your relationship with your Saviour and your Lord?”

Jeanette Khan



From the Property Management Team

Under the Canons, the Wardens of the Church are responsible for upkeep and repair of the Church. The Property and Maintenance Committee assists the Wardens with this work in a very diligent manner.

Many members of the Parish may not be aware of the ongoing work of the Committee. Some of it is as follows:

(a) as soon as possible, arranges for the repair of any areas of the Church where there are safety issues or the risk of imminent damage such as satisfying the

requirements of the Fire Department and the Department of Health or fixing leaking roofs and plumbing.

(b) arranging for the following required inspections:

- (i) furnace
- ii) elevator
- (iii) chairlift
- (iv) air conditioning system
- (v)fire and burglary alarm system including heat sensors
- (vi)fire extinguishers
- (c) arranging for the removal of raccoons or other animals in the Church
- (d) replacing burnt out lights and broken plumbing fixtures
- (e) repainting small areas and repair minor defects
- (f) bleeding the radiators
- (g) monitoring and resetting the outside lights
- (h) organizing frequent Work Parties

The de facto leader of the Committee is Ken Pestill. His innovative skills are without parallel.

As many in the team are getting older and moving/lifting tables is physical work, we invite able-bodied individuals (perhaps younger) to join us. Or, if you are available to help with the changing of the outdoor sign, your help would be welcome. Please speak to me.

David Baird



Christ Church's Food Bank

For many years Christ Church would do three annual FOOD DRIVES, (Easter, Thanksgiving, & Christmas). Our parishioners in need would take what they could use, and the rest was delivered to the Fire Hall on Kingston Road, to be given to the main Food Bank downtown.

In 1993, the Food Bank at Christ Church was started due to the increasing need of some of our parishioners and the growing knock on our doors by members of our community asking for food. The Wardens, with the blessing of the Rev'd Arnold Hancock decided to try to operate a food bank.

At the time, there was no formal handing out of food to parishioners. Those in need took what they wanted. Rev'd Hancock would hand out the food to persons who called at the front door while he was in office. There was no official day of the week to help those in need and the only requirement was that the Rector be present as it was not deemed safe for the Secretary to do on her own. In instances some of those who came in became abusive when the type of food was not available demanding cash to buy what they wanted.

For a few years the volume of food donated exceeded our needs, so the surplus, especially on things nearing expiry dates was taken to St. Ninian's Anglican Church. Here they had many volunteers to run their Community Foodbank and a large room with lots of shelves for storage. In 1995 Christ Church started to help the families at the Roycroft Motel with food donations.

After Rev'd Hancock retired, the new Rectors continued this giving out of food to the community until later when the 2 person volunteer system was established. During the incumbency of the Rev'd Gerry Mueller, we even started giving out Dominion Store gift cards, but this was later discontinued when there was a large increase in traffic at the front doors and we later learn that a high percentage of these cards were being sold at a discounted rate in order to buy alcoholic beverages.

Initially, the donated food was stored in the Deacon's office in boxes and bags on the floor, then in 2003 we added a 4 shelf unit to facilitate better sorting and storage. In 2004

another 4 shelf unit was added resulting from an increase in donations. Two large shelving units were added in 2014, thanks to the help of Father Roy Shepherd, our then Interim Priest in Charge.

Over the years our Food Bank has expanded to today's Deacon's Cupboard

Ken Pestill



Two young boys were spending the night at their grandparents' house the week before Christmas. At bedtime, the two boys knelt beside their beds to say their prayers. The younger one began praying at the top of his lungs:

"I PRAY FOR A NEW BICYCLE..."

"I PRAY FOR A NEW NINTENDO..."

His older brother leaned over, nudged him and said, "Why are you shouting? God isn't deaf." to which the little brother replied, "No, but Grandma is!

SPOTLIGHT ON MINISTRY

MONTHLY COMMUNITY LUNCH

Some years ago, our Women's Group decided to offer a Thanksgiving Dinner to the residents of the motels in our area which serve as social services shelters, and where the cooking facilities are limited to a hotplate and a microwave. They are almost all clients of our Deacon's Cupboard food bank, and mostly single men.

Our parishioners came through with turkey and all the trimmings and a good solid meal was enjoyed by all. When the women asked what else their guests needed, they asked for such a meal each week! That was a stretch, but the women agreed to a monthly meal, on the third Saturday of each month. After saying Grace, when the meal is served the women sit down and eat with their guests; this is a family meal, not a soup kitchen! There are tablecloths and sometimes flowers on the tables.

Then came the appeal to the congregation to provide what is in essence one big, happy potluck! Part of the secret to the success of this meal is that we provide things that the residents of the motels, with just

a microwave and a hotplate, cannot possibly cook for themselves

Although the meal started out that first year as simply a hearty soup/stew with bread and dessert, it has grown to a full buffet meal. The menu varies considerably, depending on what is contributed by the congregation: it might be pizza and salad, or pancakes and sausages, or spaghetti and meatballs with Caesar salad. In summer the meal is a barbecue with hamburgers and hot dogs cooked and served on our front lawn, along with salads and desserts. We have been known to serve more than one drop-in guest, and even our local Member of Parliament dropped by a while back on a tour of his riding.

While the attendance at the monthly lunch varies widely, the 2016 Thanksgiving Dinner served 90 people, with "dinner music" provided by Father Roy on the piano.

In addition to the Thanksgiving Dinner, we also provide a Christmas Lunch, where gift cards and winter accessories from our Woolly Tree are also distributed.

There is ample opportunity to be part of this ministry, either by coming to help set up – and cook – on the Saturday morning or by contributing food for the meal. The women usually have the menu planned ahead and will be able to tell you what will be most needed.

Deacon Jacquie



**Baptism by Attempted Drowning
(Meme by Liturgy)**

The Three Gifts

After the Christmas pageant, a parent asked his 6-year-old son if he remembered the gifts that the Magi brought to Jesus. He thought for a minute then said "gold, frankincense, and humor". We could all use that!



Sunday Dec. 18 - 10a.m.

Lessons and Carols

Wed. Dec. 21 - 7p.m

The Longest Night/Blue Christmas -

For those who have lost loved ones and may find Christmas a difficult time of year

**Saturday Dec. 24
Christmas Eve**

Family Eucharist Service - 7p.m.

Eucharist Service - 10p.m

**Sunday Dec 25
Christmas Day**

Eucharist Service - 10am

**Sat Dec. 31
New Year's Eve - 5pm**

**Sun Jan 1
New Year's Day**

Eucharist Service - 10am

Happy birthday to all who celebrated birthdays recently or will celebrate in the coming weeks.

- Vinita Luther
- Samuel Rajan
- Rene Thomas
- Jo-Anne Linton
- Lystra Walters
- Wendine Wodehouse
- Khalia Moses
- Condacy Moses
- Deborah Cloakey
- Diane Dean
- Bill Wilkins
- Simeon Benjamin
- Carol Mallett,
- Ann Rice
- Lucia Rajan
- Brian Carr

Happy Anniversary to

- David and Beverly Baird
- Leonora and Simeon Benjamin

We send out tons of love at this time also to Eunice Babb and Margaret Benedict.

Your 2017 Envelopes

will be ready on December 18. They will be in the Narthex for pick-up and remember you can drop off your unused envelopes in the Office. If you have changed your address recently, please ensure that your new address is passed on to the Envelope Secretary.

Did you know?

Documented data on CCSV

In 1842 (175 years ago in 2017), T.H. Dunn and F. Galloway were the Church Wardens of the Parish of Christ's Church, Scarborough, as our Church Parish was named back then. This information is per a vestry report from back then. These two were the first known wardens for our church.

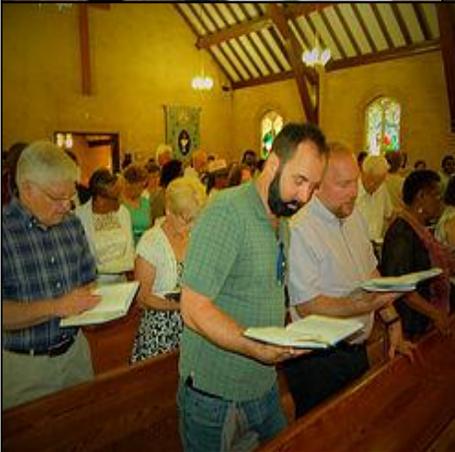
Our first Rector was the Reverend W. (William) Stewart Darling. He was appointed to the Parish of Christ's Church, Scarborough in November 1843, (173 years ago). With the indefatigable energy for which he was noted, Rev'd Darling soon built up a strong congregation who responded to his efforts by raising funds for a church building.

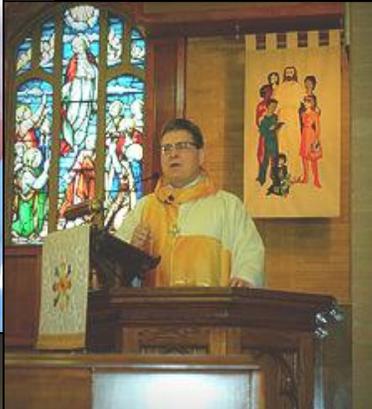
Christ's Church, Scarborough's first building was opened for the first service on June 21, 1846.

The longest serving warden at Christ's Church Scarborough (Christ Church Scarborough Village), was Thompson Jackson who served for a total of 49 years from 1879-1929 except for 2 years in that time frame. He did not run for re-election in 1930. This was noted in a Toronto Star Article of Feb. 1, 1930

Submitted by: Ken Pestill







2016 in Pictures
WORSHIP!
SERVICE/OUTREACH!
FELLOWSHIP!



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Trondson

Deacon: The Rev'd. Jacquie
Bouthéon

Music Director: Dennis
Thompson

Office Administrator: Julie
Vaughn

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



Christ Church is...

Just a Thought...

Advent...a time of preparation,
of waiting. Penance is a part of
this preparation and this
includes reconciling with God
and our brothers and sisters
(our neighbours).

**'And suddenly there was
with the angel a
multitude of the heavenly
host praising God, and
saying, Glory to God in
the highest, and on earth
peace, good will toward
men and women'.** (Luke
2:13-14)

Forgiveness is key to
reconciliation and this is in no
way easy. I think a place to
start this Advent is with the
book of Job, still, of course,
keeping all the lessons of hope
in our minds.

All the time while we
contemplate the daunting task
of forgiving a hurt, Job helps us
to become aware of our own
sinful inclinations of
temptations to blame, to
stigmatize, to accuse and just
like Job's friend we risk
(sinning) hurting our
neighbours and believe it or
not, God.

Again as we go over all the
hurts, maybe we can ponder

whether anyone is having similar
feelings based on any negative
action or word from us.

Lack of forgiveness contributes to
poor spiritual, physical, emotional,
and mental health.

This reconciliation does not end
with Advent, it is Christmas. It is
about mercy and forgiveness,
letting go of the injuries and giving
up grudges. It is about renewing
relationships, healing hurts, and
making peace. It is about hope,
renewal, and restoration.

So as we wait this Advent, may we
rid ourselves of anger and
pray for our persecutors
surrendering all the pain and the
temptations to the Lord. Note,
there is a rewarding turn around in
Job's life after he prayed for his
friends. He expressed the same
compassion and mercy that God
did.

**'For if you forgive others
their trespasses, your
heavenly Father will also
forgive you;'** Matt. 6:14.

**Ray Ortlund Pastor and
contributor to The Gospel
Coalition writes, 'The book of
Job is intended to create among
us a gospel culture of humble
restraint, a readiness to trust
and to comfort when we**

**cannot understand why a
friend's life has just imploded.
Other passages, like Luke
17:3, help us repair and
restore a gospel culture after it
has been damaged by rash
judgments. In it all, the
primary question is always,
What is God really like? Am I
being fair, not only to this
other sinner and sufferer, but
to the Lord himself? Am I
representing him truly? Or by
my mercilessness am I
becoming the photographic
negative of Jesus? And what
is it going to take for everyone
involved, especially ex-
friends, to reconcile and
rebuild and bring great glory
to God?'**

**'For God so loved the world
that he sent us His Son.....,'**
reconciliation at its best.

Lord, grant to us the gift of
Reconciliation and open our
hearts to accept it as we
celebrate your gift of love.

Thanks to the all contributors to
the newsletter this past year.

Wishing you and your family a
very happy, healthy, and safe
Christmas and New Year.

Hyacinth

..A welcoming, inclusive and
caring community committed
to experiencing and sharing
God's message of love, hope,
and salvation with all his
people".

