

CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral | Christmas 2015



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DEAR SANTA

by Paula Esteves & Anne Harvey



The season of Advent is a time of reflection and anticipation. It also means that as we draw close to the end of the year, our thoughts naturally turn back over this past year. We're making a list and we're checking it twice just to point out what's been naughty and nice.

- The nicest thing about life at the Cathedral is the incredible generosity of time and talent that this community provides. From all the lay ministries to the staff and clergy, we are so blessed to be part of a place that truly lives out Jesus' call.
- Supercrawl, arguably our biggest event, was somewhat dampened this year by naughty weather. Visitors to the Cathedral were close to half of last year's. We made the best of it and those who did attend got a lot of attention. That's all good, but let's pray for sunny days during Supercrawl 2016.
- How nice it will be to secure our future with the exciting revitalization project that was given approval at this year's Diocesan Synod. This development will mean that the Cathedral will have the resources to continue to be a place of community, compassion, and hope in our neighbourhood and for the Diocese.
- Our sound system has been particularly naughty this year! This hasn't gone unnoticed and Corporation is currently ad-

ressing options for 'fixes'. If we get this right, our sound system should jump to our "nice" list in 2016.

- It is so nice that we are able to try out new things. This summer we had our 1st Annual Garden Tour. This was an opportunity to showcase not only our beautiful gardens at Bishopsgate as well as neighbourhood gardens and some farther afield. A great time was had by all!
- The naughtiest of all in 2015 had to be the sewer problem! Over a period of about a week or so, there were no usable bathroom facilities at the Cathedral. It got so bad that Alison was unable to work in her office for at least one day. Kudos to all staff, volunteers, and visitors who managed admirably through that episode. And special kudos to Derek Smith, our Property Manager, who got the problem fixed but who also had to endure the frustration of some.

We could go on endlessly with our list of nice and if pushed, perhaps one or two more on the naughty side. But no matter how you look at it, the 'nice' in 2015 had a more far-reaching impact on our lives and the lives of others. Except for weather, the 'naughties', with a little money and effort, are easily fixable!

Merry Christmas and may all your Christmas memories be bright! ■

ADVENT

 What do we need?

by Peter Wall †



I had the privilege, on the eve of Advent, to lead a Quiet Day at the convent of The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine in Toronto. About 35 people chose to come to the convent for the day on Saturday and spend time thinking about, discussing, and praying about Advent. When I asked them, almost first thing, what they liked about Advent, and what ‘irked’ them about Advent (later on we talked about what we might ‘need’ in Advent), to no one’s surprise, we named things like: silence, waiting, expectation, preparation, hope, warning, judgment, joy, surprise, and comfort among many things to like. We also named, again to no one’s surprise: noise, shopping, no Advent but only Christmas, materialism, rushing about, envy, too much canned music, the necessity to find the ‘perfect’ gift, the crush of commerce, the overindulging, the expectation of a truly amazing Christmas, the fact that it ends all so abruptly sometime on the afternoon of December 25 – all of these things, and many more, were identified as irksome or annoying.

So, what do we need this Advent? Certainly we need to hold onto the joy of silent waiting and jubilant expectation. Without becoming griches or Scrooges, we need to let Christmas wait until we get there, and hang onto that special, hopeful, and so important reality of being watchful, vigilant, and open to the distinctive gifts which Advent brings.

One of the ways of keeping Advent, I want to

suggest, is to be fully aware of what we are waiting for, and what we welcome after this all too brief season of preparation. Much of our attention, or, at the very least, the attention of the world will be focused on the events described in St. Luke’s Gospel – the very important and tradition laden story of the Nativity – the wondrous news announced by Angels, proclaimed to Shepherds, carried by a young Virgin and her devoted partner. It is the story, richly coloured and deeply etched, of the birth of Jesus, well known and much loved, and the sources of so much of our Christmas narratives and joyful practices.

But I want to suggest that, as those who walk together in these Advent days, hearing the dramatic pronouncements of Zephaniah, Baruch, Jeremiah, and Micah; as we hear St. Paul’s voice, teaching the Thessalonians, the Philippians, and the Hebrews; as you and I are subject to the earth shattering declarations of John the Baptist as we read in St. Luke’s gospel, we have a different kind of reality both to await and to preach!

It is the Gospel of John (*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was God...*) and the Incarnation which awaits us. It is not simply the birth of a baby, albeit watched so joyously and celebrated so meaningfully, but rather the very transformation of the world into which we are exultantly enjoined. Theologians talk about ‘*the*

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scandal of particularity – that notion that God would choose to reveal Godself in the form of a human being, a baby, like us – fully human as well as being fully divine. The incarnation indeed defines our whole notion of Christianity – it makes it unique among the world’s religions – and thus we are incarnate beings ourselves, carrying the image of God within and about us. While it may seem easy for the world to observe – however joyfully – the birth of a baby on December 25, and then simply put the baby – and all the Christmas traditions – away until another year, it is not so with you and with me. We celebrate, with the Feast of the Nativity the *beginnings* of a new and incarnate life – a life which will never let us be the same; a life which brings with it the indescribable joy of God walking with us, living amongst us, moving alongside us.

So, may we wait in quiet, peaceful, and hopeful expectation in these Advent days, carrying about us the joys and the wonders of the story of the nativity, bathed in the awesome reality of the Incarnation.

A very happy Advent – a most joyous Christmas for us all. ■

Passages

BAPTISMS

November 1, 2015

Adeline Julia Adair

Liam Michael James Adair

Isaac Christopher Ludwig

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

CHRISTMAS EVE

December 24

4:30 p.m. Family Eucharist & Crèche Blessing

Storyteller: The Reverend Canon J. Lefebvre

9:30 p.m. Congregational Carols with Organ

Animator: Michael Bloss

10:00 p.m. Procession & Choral Eucharist

Presider: The Right Reverend Michael Bird

Preacher: The Very Reverend Peter Wall

CHRISTMAS DAY

December 25, 10:00 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Hymns

Presider: The Very Reverend Peter Wall

Preacher: The Right Reverend Ralph Spence

CHRISTMAS ONE

December 27, 10:30 a.m.

Holy Eucharist with Hymns

THE NAMING OF JESUS

January 1, 2015, 12:15 p.m.

Said Eucharist

EPIPHANY LESSONS & CAROLS

January 10,

4:00 p.m. Carol Service



SHARON'S CHRISTMAS PRAYER

THE BABY WAS GOD

➤ And she jumped in the air

by Sharyn Hall†



Several years ago, a friend sent to me a poem entitled, 'Sharon's Christmas Prayer', by John Shea. The poem is about a five-year-old child named Sharon. Since my name is Sharyn, I was delighted to receive this poem from my friend and I wish to share it with you. It has some fresh insights into the Christmas story.

She was five,
sure of the facts,
and recited them
with slow solemnity,
convinced every word
was revelation.
She said

they were so poor
they had only peanut butter and jelly
sandwiches to eat
and they went a long way from home
without getting lost. The lady rode
a donkey, the man walked, and the baby
was inside the lady.
they had to stay in a stable
with an ox and an ass (hee-hee)
but the Three Rich Men found them
because a star lited the roof.
Shepherds came and you could
pet the sheep but not feed them.
Then the baby was borned.
And do you know who he was?

Her quarter eyes inflated
to silver dollars.

The baby was God.

And she jumped in the air,
whirled around, dove into the sofa,
and buried her head under the cushion
which is the only proper response
to the Good News of the Incarnation.

*(from The God Who Fell from Heaven/
The Hour of the Unexpected,
by John Shea,
Thomas More Press, 1995.)*

As the poem says, Sharon was sure of all the facts, but her small descriptive details bring the story alive to us today. Of course, Mary and Joseph took peanut butter and jelly sandwiches on their long journey to Bethlehem, and every child who says 'ass' will giggle, and whenever you go to the petting zoo, you're not allowed to feed the sheep.

Sharon's simple sentence, 'The baby was God', is a profound, theological statement, which many of us grown-ups take for granted, often without much thought. Sharon had the only proper response to such awesome news. She jumped up, whirled around, dove into the sofa

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and buried her head under a cushion. I'm not suggesting everyone have such an elated response to the Christmas story. Such exuberant behaviour may result in pains and bruises, not to mention the alarm among family and friends, but when was the last time you expressed amazement at the story of the birth of Jesus?

Sometimes a child's approach to God shows us adults how apathetic we are about the miracle of the nativity story. Perhaps somewhere or sometime we lost the wonder of Christmas. The story of the birth of Jesus is a story full of wonder:

- the birth of a child who is fully human and fully divine
- God among us in human form
- the appearance of supernatural angels over a mountainside who speak to terrified shepherds about the birth of a Saviour
- mysterious magi who understand that an unusual star signifies a cosmic event

It is a great story.

However we dress up Christmas with bows and puddings and sparkling lights, Christmas is about Christ, Emmanuel, God with us. We can all jump for joy at that Good News.

Wishing you the Blessing of Christmas. ■



NIAGARA REFUGEE RESPONSE

We are in the midst of an amazing and wonderful response, both from the people and government of this country, and from our church to the overwhelming crisis of refugees and their need for a safe new home in this blessed country of ours.

It is such a huge undertaking, providing us with equally huge challenges and opportunities. As you know, the Diocese of Niagara has made a huge commitment to sponsoring and welcoming refugees, and we here at the Cathedral are equally interested and committed. Since mid-September we have raised over \$9,000, an amazing achievement. We are working closely with our sisters and brothers in our region of Undermount as we seek ways to be part of a truly welcoming church and community. Housing is being sought; household goods are being collected and warehoused. We are seeking volunteers who are prepared to be part of this huge effort, and we will continue to take our place in this significant ministry, just as we have been doing for several years. We will keep the congregation as aware as we can of activities taking place and ways in which we can also help.

Thanks to everyone whose generosity has moved us this far.

PAW

BE ATTENTIVE

 Use all your senses

by Michael Bloss



Some years ago when “The O.C.” was a popular series (and I binge watched with my then high school aged daughter and middle school aged son – how time has flown), one of the characters referred to the Christmas/Hanukah counterpoint as “Christmukah”. It was a moment of humour but also a clever way of binding together seemingly unrelated elements.

We tend to separate out the seasons of Advent, Christmas, and Epiphany but in many ways they are related in terms of an ecclesio-theological understanding. Music, of course, brings its own measure of illumination to this progression through rich repertoire and expressive tone colour as found in the hymns, psalms, and spiritual songs experienced during this time.

Advent concerns itself with the theme of waiting; Mary’s waiting for the fulfillment of the Angel’s announcement and John the Baptist’s dire warnings of judgement to come being but two prominent narratives. In other words the co-existence of both apocalypses with the incarnation runs through this season. We sing rousing hymns like *Lo he comes with clouds descending* - (including the stirring last verse harmonization's from the organ) and hear foreboding anthems such as *Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence* balanced with soft renderings of *Lo how a rose*

e’erblooming and the absolutely blissful setting of the renaissance composer Parson’s setting of the *Ave Maria*. In this way we hear the unsettled nature of the world before Jesus’ birth being called to anticipate the enfleshment of the Divine in human form.

Where we are waiting for this incarnation during Advent, Christmas becomes the time where this anticipation is translated into actual life. God With Us! Unfettered and merry glorias fill the cathedral during this time with such extravagant musical settings as the *Hodie* by Jan P. Sweelinck and contemporary composer Morten Lauridsen’s setting of *O Magnum Mysterium* being answered by ringing and joyous Christmas carols sung by the congregation. At least two generations have grown up listening to the famous descants written by Sir David Willcocks. These will be especially meaningful for this Christmas where the musical marks his death earlier in the year.

Then what to make of this season called Epiphany. After the anticipation of Advent and the rejoicing of Christmas, we pass through a liturgical season where the theme is about God Made Manifest. Jesus’ Baptism and stories such

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as the Wedding at Cana culminate in the Transfiguration. The Wise Men make their appearance in such hymns as *We Three Kings of Orient Are* and no community can omit Willan's marvelous tune to the hymn *Brightest and Best of the Stars of the Morning*. Because of this relationship of God With Us becoming God in the World, it is an intentional desire to present the Service of Nine Lessons and Carols during this season of Epiphany. This juxtaposition of Birth with Mission is key to an understanding of Epiphany and opens the soul even more deeply to the emotions expressed in word and song.

As you mark this year's **Advent Christmas Epiphany** be attentive to the progression of scripture and the music which animates it together with the voice and colour of the liturgy. Use all the senses to bring the meaning of this season to life in your own experience. ■



We look forward to the annual walk for charity, in which we have been deeply involved in years past, with a great team. Mark your calendars!

THE SOUND SYSTEM

No single facet of our common life elicits more concern, worry, and care than the sound system in the Cathedral. It is vitally important, given the nature of our worship space, that we use amplification, not only to help everyone to hear, but also to distribute the sound evenly throughout the nave and chancel. No one is more aware than I of the strengths and weaknesses of our system; no one wants 'great' performance out of it more than I. We are working hard on it; we have two dedicated sound technicians – Lisa and Turner – and we have basically good equipment. Derek Smith, our Property Manager, and I both are striving to make sure that our equipment is well maintained and operates effectively for us. It is a complex system, however, and takes both intuition and a deft hand to manage. We are actively consulting with sound equipment suppliers on possible improvements to our 'hardware' and are awaiting comprehensive quotations on new parts for the system. I hope that, by early in the New Year, Derek and I will be able to take specific recommendations to Corporation in terms of upgrading our system.

The system is only as good, however, as those who operate it and those who *use* it. It is important that those who use the microphones speak clearly and slowly, paying attention to enunciation **and** pronunciation. We do very, very well, and have talented readers and prayers in our midst. It will only get better!

I would ask that those who sit near the back of the nave **not** try not to 'advise' the sound technicians during services – it is distracting to them, and makes them feel some extra pressure. They **cannot** simply turn up microphone levels or speaker levels every time a different voice is speaking – much of the adjustment must come from the 'actors' themselves.

Thanks so much!

PAW

REFLECTION ON MUSIC IN COMMUNITY

MAKING MUSIC

 It's just fun

by Sue Crowe Connolly



So many of us love music, and certainly in the Anglican Church for centuries its use has been an important part of our liturgy. For some of us music is our deepest form of worship...hearing the voice of God in those small and great vibrations of lyrical lines of consonance and dissonance.

What ebbs and flows in congregational communities is whether to have the music offered by those who are in the choir and professionals we hire to lead us, or by those members in the community who lend their musical skills to help. Fortunately at the Cathedral we have a combination. We love good music! So we have chosen to hire leaders who have studied and dedicated their lives to this art form and its place in our lives and worship. They are joined by other members who volunteer weekly for our choir. We are also a congregation of many for whom music is an important part of our lives, though we may not be able to make the same commitment. It has been that case for me. While I am a working musician, my schedule doesn't fit with the Cathedral's weekly music ministry, and am grateful for Michael's invitations to offer the music that has touched my life and to lead us in our music making as a community. This has meant offering special music for your reflection as a number of us did during the summer, and to lead as a member of the congregation in music we sing as the community, such as the psalm refrain and gathering time.

Music is such an important part of many communities around the world. Indeed, so many experience it as part of their sacred lives. There is an expression attributed to St. Augustine of Hippo (5th Century) - "those who sing pray twice". While this is not actually an accurate translation of what has been found of Augustine's writings, it has become an expression of what many often feel when they sing and particularly when singing with their community.

Singing, making music, is visceral, connecting us to an aspect of ourselves and each other that, while including the intellectual, brings forth the physical, emotional, psychological, spiritual...those things which sometimes take us to the realm of mystery. Songs, chants, hymns reflect the thoughts, hopes, and prayers of the community - "how do we see or know God, Christ, Spirit?", "what does it mean to serve?", "what do we believe?", "how do we express our inclusiveness?", and so on. At times songs also reflect the growth of the community into a new way of thinking or being. I think particularly of a song my choir learned "Amavolovolo" - a rousing, inspiring song from South Africa which speaks of the violence experienced in that nation, but turns it around through this song about "the revolver", saying they will no longer be ruled by the gun and violence. We "in the west" have forgotten the communal place of music, deferring to "the professional", only considering that music worthy - and while the natural and

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I WAS HUNGRY

 You gave me food

by John Bradley



Christ's Church Cathedral is located in a rapidly changing and dynamic area in Hamilton's North End. Our neighbourhood, long plagued by poverty and decay has begun to grow and develop in ways we never imagined possible. Young professionals, hipsters, trendy bistros, and boutiques are popping up everywhere.

Despite the apparent gentrification of our community, there are still many who suffer and are in need of special care. We are all familiar with some of the more "colourful" members of our community who visit the Cathedral from time-to-time. We know that sometimes these individuals may appear frightening or intimidating, when really they just appear to be "different" from those we regularly see in the pews.

At a Town Hall meeting last year we had members of the Hamilton Police Service and COAST visit to talk with us about how to talk to and help these special visitors. We learned that sometimes all a visitor needs is for someone to listen to them. If they ask for help, there is a directory of services available at the desk that can be used. Parishioners were also discouraged from giving money to any panhandlers. Clergy and members of the Corporation will approach any panhandler reminding them that the church is not the place to be asking for money. If further assistance is needed, a call will be made to 911.

While we are sometimes startled by the appear-

ance or actions of these visitors and may be tempted to turn them away, are they not exactly those who Christ spoke about in Matthew 25? Jesus said, 'for I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.' Then the righteous will answer him, 'Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw You a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?' And the king will answer them, 'Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me'.

So when one of "the least of these who are members of" God's family takes more food than would be considered proper in polite company or makes noises that might not be considered genteel, let us remember that our Lord has set a high standard of compassion for us to follow. By providing a warm and welcoming place for these friends of the Church to relax and enjoy refreshment, we fulfill our calling.

The Bible sometimes contains teaching that is not easy to follow, verses that we would sometimes wish to skip over. Yet we are called to

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(Sue Crowe Connolly Continued from page 10)

learned musicians generally do most of the leading, it belongs to all of us. We can be inspired in the moment to express ourselves musically...and it is a wondrous thing to invite others to join us in those moments.

I love the feeling of singing with others, especially when we let ourselves “feel” our singing, our music...there is nothing closer to God for me than this. Really, when all is said and done...singing, making music together is just fun! And I hear God laughing... ■

(John Bradley Continued from page 11)

follow Christ and be His light in a dark world and harbours of hope where there is despair.

Always we need to remember the teaching of Hebrews 13:2 that reads, ‘Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing that some have entertained angels without knowing it.’ While some of our visitors might not have the traditional appearance of angels, you never know! ■



A Pilgrimage to Israel-Palestine

After the Deans’ Conference in the Holy Land this past year, Anne and I are keen to organize a cathedral pilgrimage trip to Israel-Palestine. It is a beautiful and important place, and we would very much like to take a group to see it and be moved by it. The relationship between our Canadian Anglican church and the Anglicans in Jerusalem and the Holy land is an important one; we know how important it is for Canadians to experience the history and the beauty of the Holy Land. We are looking at March 2017 (to coincide as much as possible with March break, in order for some to be included). The dates would be approximately March 9- 19 – Thursday through Monday). We would be very interested in hearing from those who might be interested in coming on this trip. Please either email me, call me, or let Alison know. I will be doing more work with Israeli/Palestinian contacts in January.

Thanks so much. Shalom-Salaam

Peter

LOVE YOUR (MUSLIM) NEIGHBOUR

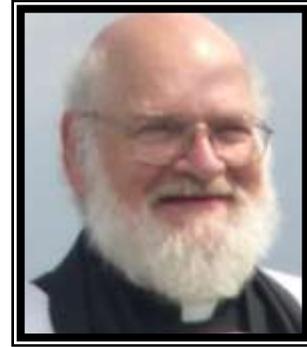
 As yourself

by **Bill Thomas†**

When this series was being planned, the terrorist acts in Paris had not yet happened, and the overwhelmingly greatest numbers of people attacked and savagely killed by terrorists were Muslims. For most people in western countries, the word “Fatwah”, if it was known at all, was associated with Ayatollah Khomeini’s call for the death of the British Author Salman Rushdie for his novel on the Satanic Verses.

As we learned in the very first session of this program, Fatwah simply means “an informed religious opinion” – but informed by what? There is a colossal amount of misinformation being circulated throughout the world, mostly through the internet, about Islam and the people who follow it, and this short course is helping us sort out fact from inflamed, hate-based propaganda.

We began in the first session by listening to interviews with Muslim and Christian Scholars, assisted by print materials, to hear what our Muslim neighbours and coworkers believe, and how they live out that faith. Like we Christians, they do that with a great deal of variety and rigor. And a very small minority of them, like extreme Christian fundamentalists, have twisted their practice into a form unrecognizable, if not outright contrary, to what is believed and prac-



ticed by the majority. Verses in the Koran, like verses in the Bible, can be taken out of context to support errant and despicable behaviour.

What we did learn is that the Koran begins with the assumption that the Jewish and Christian Scriptures are known and honoured as revelations into the nature and actions of God in history. And that all three faiths worship the same God, whose chief attributes include love, mercy, and compassion for one’s neighbour.

In the second and third sessions, we went on to examine how Islam is misrepresented in both private and public media, and how anti-Muslim stereotypes are developed and spread. We began learning how to confront and challenge such malicious ignorance with knowledge and understanding.

In future sessions, we’ll be learning how to build relationships across the lines of religious practice, emphasising those aspects of our faith which are compatible and complimentary, while acknowledging our differing approaches. We Christians tend to want to start from the mind with an intellectual approach to guide our actions. Muslims, we are discovering, are more likely to start from the heart, building a relationship which leads to action. ■

December/January

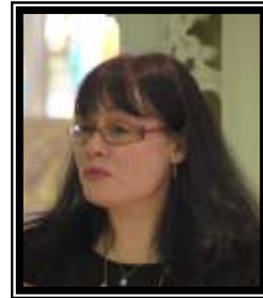
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>20 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p>	<p>21 Bible Study 10:30</p>	<p>22 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>23 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>24 Family Eucharist & Crèche Blessing 4:30</p> <p>Congregational Carols with Organ 9:30</p> <p>Procession & Choral Eucharist 10:00 pm</p>	<p>25 Holy Eucharist with Hymns 10:00 am</p>	<p>26</p>
<p>27 Christmas One Holy Eucharist 10:30 (one ser- vice)</p>	<p>28</p>	<p>29 Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p>	<p>January 1 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>2</p>
<p><i>Cathedral Place Offices closed Dec 24 to Jan 2 Reception Desk open Dec 29 to Dec 31 from 10 to 2</i></p>						
<p>3 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p>	<p>4 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>5 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>6 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>7 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>8 James St. N. Art Crawl</p>	<p>9</p>
<p>10 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p> <p>Epiphany Lessons & Carols 4:00 pm</p>	<p>11 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>12 Holy Eucharist 7:30</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>13 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>14 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>15</p>	<p>16</p>
<p>17 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30 followed by Town Hall</p>	<p>18 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>19 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>20 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>21 Brass Monkeys 9-11</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>22</p>	<p>23</p>

January/February

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
<p>24 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p> <p>Ordination 4:00</p>	<p>25 Bible Study 10:30</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>26 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>27 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>28 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	29	30
<p>31 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p>	<p>February 1 Bible Study 10:30</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>2 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>3 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>4 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	5	6
<p>7 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p>	<p>8 Bible Study 10:30</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>9 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>10 Ash Wednesday (Imposition of ashes at all services) Holy Eucharist 7:30 am Holy Eucharist 12:15 Holy Eucharist 7:30 pm</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>11 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>12 James St. N. Art Crawl</p>	13
<p>14 Holy Eucharist 8:30</p> <p>Choral Eucharist 10:30</p>	<p>15 Family Day Cathedral Place Closed</p>	<p>16 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>17 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>18 Brass Monkeys 9-11</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	19	<p>20 Coldest Night Walk</p> <p>Bishop's Bonspiel</p>
<p>21 Holy Eucharist 9:30 followed by Annual Vestry (One Service Only)</p>	<p>22 Bible Study 10:30</p> <p>Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>3 Cantors Final Concert Grace Church Brantford</p>	<p>23 Holy Eucharist 7:30 am</p> <p>Meal Tickets 9:30-11:00</p>	<p>24 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p> <p>Prayer Shawl Knitting 1-3</p>	<p>25 Holy Eucharist 12:15</p>	<p>26 Dancing on Sunshine Gala 6:30</p>	27

KYMME SUN

 Kindness & rice pudding



1. What is your idea of a perfect day?

Well, the day would have to be longer than 24 hours, that's for sure. I would see both my (twin) daughters, and they would be happy. Then I would spend time with each of my (five) grandkids, and they would be happy and fun. And then my sons-in-law would come over to my place to fix everything that didn't work. Then there would be a huge snow storm so that I would have to stay in to bake, read, and play the piano. And my chronic headache wouldn't be too bad, on that day.

2. Why did you choose the Cathedral as your spiritual home?

I used to bring my neighbour, Bev Johnston, to church every Sunday, especially when she got so she could no longer drive. The church was so warm and welcoming, and so foreign and interesting, that I kept coming!

3. What is the one thing you most look forward to, at the Cathedral?

I love an "ordinary" service, with its amazing music and thoughtful homily and well-chosen Scripture readings. I don't require bells and whistles.

4. If you could change one thing at the Cathedral, what would it be?

I would have everyone memorize the book of James, noting especially the advice on taming the tongue.

5. Which living person do you most admire?

I admire anyone who is kind.

6. What would your desert island pick be for food, a book, & music?

Food: fresh fruit, lemon squares and rice pudding.

Music: Emanuel Ax or Keith Jarrett playing anything on a grand piano.

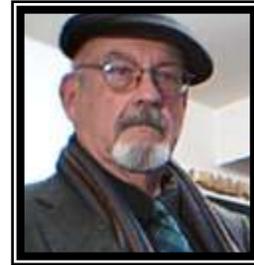
Book: the latest by Margaret Atwood, and of course the Bible, which I read completely every year, but still find inspiring.

7. Where would your dream vacation spot be?

I'd like to go back to Iceland. ■

DOUG BAIN

 Contemplation & reading



1. *What is your idea of a perfect day?*

I would enjoy waking up to a sunny cool September day when the leaves are still green and the air is crisp. I would walk out to the porch with a hot coffee and the National Post or the Globe and Mail. This would ease me into the new day with the realities of the world. My daily scripture reading and spiritual meditation would follow in order to regain balance after the “news”.

Later as the day warmed, I would like a short walk (1 hour) along the Grand River at Seneca Park. There would be ample opportunity to “watch” wildlife both flora and fauna in the relative silence of civilized nature.

Reading, coffee, more reading, conversation with friends, music, searches on U-Tube would fill the remaining time slots.

At the end of the day, I would hope that I had learned new things, conserved what was worthwhile, and reclaimed some things old (memories). This would, indeed, be a worthwhile day.

2. *Why did you choose the Cathedral as your spiritual home?*

The prime reason for coming to the Cathedral was the Reverend Peter Wall. He was the parish priest at Bishop Cronyn in Lon-

don, where this Presbyterian, orthodox seeker had his first Anglican experience. When I appeared at Christ’s Church one Sunday morning, the Dean put me on the list and I became the owner of two sets of envelopes (Presbyterian and Anglican).

I was wonderfully overwhelmed by the richness of liturgy, music, the friendly atmosphere, and the many fascinating individuals who were at home there. I was also impressed by the study opportunities and discussion groups. It was exactly the stimulus to spiritual growth that I was seeking. I may agree or disagree with the ideas but being kick-started toward thought is something I’ve always sought.

3. *What is the one thing you most look forward to, at the Cathedral?*

I am always moved by the centrality of the Eucharist in community as a means of spiritual growth and transformation. At the Cathedral, the variety of music (choral, hymns, and orchestra), the richness of liturgical settings keeps me on my toes and attentive. The silent nave is also a refuge at any time.

4. *If you could change one thing at the Cathedral, what would it be?*

I would love to see more icons to complement the Bishop’s Christ icon especially

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(Doug Bain Continued from page 17)

Rublev's Holy Trinity. I have noticed a growth in such displays in the large cathedrals in Britain and New York City. I also am aware that this might be construed as a cultural "intrusion" into the Cathedral tradition. You asked my opinion (lol).

5. Which living person do you most admire?

It is difficult for an historian whose pallet of admirable include mostly dead people to choose from the "unfinished" living.

I would suggest Jean Vanier for his work of Christian human charity among the mentally challenged. His writings, films, and videos on the experience, challenge the fast paced rush of our daily life. It is the richness of the present moment which we overlook worrying about the past and the future.

6. What would your desert island pick be for food, a book, & music?

The idea of being limited to a single book is horrendous but I think the choice of the Bible would satisfy the need for richness. It would act as the centrepiece for meditation, instruction, and prayer.

As for music, I would likely choose a full recording of the Russian Orthodox liturgy (words included) and vespers. It would serve as a resonant backdrop to the monastic life I am obviously going to live on this island.

For nourishment of the body, I would hope for an endless supply of vegetables and fruit.

7. Where would your dream vacation spot be?

I would like at least a month of retreat. My first choice would be Valaam on Lake Ladoga near St. Petersburg which is a major pilgrimage centre. A second choice would be Holy Trinity in Jordanville, New York. A third choice would be Iona. ■

THE FINAL CONCERT

The Three Cantors (David Pickett, William Cliff and Peter Wall, with Maestro Angus Sinclair) have been singing in support of The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund since 1997!

The final concert (Bill Cliff has been elected Bishop of Brandon, Manitoba) will take place on:

February 22, 2016
7:30 p.m.
Grace Anglican Church,
Brantford

Join The Three Cantors for an evening of thanksgiving, celebration, and gratitude in the place where the Cantors began! For more information:

<http://3cantors.com/>



CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

 Last year the Editors of Contact asked staff to write about a memorable Christmas. We enjoyed those memories so much that this year we decided to ask the same question of some parishioners. Here are their responses:



Shirley Fricker: A Special Christmas Memory - 1990

Our daughter Lisa and her fiancé, Larry Boule, came from British Columbia to be married on December 21st, 1990. Our memories of that time are filled with happiness, excitement, and confusion as our large house on Mississauga Road filled with family members from out west and family living near us, and a few grandchildren to keep us hopping. Where did we put them all? The house was bursting with wedding and Christmas preparations and plans.

The wedding was held at St. Hilary's Church, Mississauga – a private ceremony with all the family in the choir stalls surrounding the bride and groom. We each took part in the service as we blessed the couple. A dinner was held elsewhere and champagne reception at the house. When our family gets together, the fun goes on and on. The album shows us all young and beautiful.

The celebrations carried on for Christmas Day, Christmas feast, Christmas gifts, Christmas joy so happily shared. We were so blessed to have all our expanded family around the extended table with its bounty. I think there were at least 100 including children, but all gorgeous and all OURS !!!

We have been reminded of this special year as we look at the album and Lisa and Larry look forward to their 25th anniversary - a time when our whole family was together to celebrate the combination of wedding and Christmas. A beautiful, joyful time.

(A treasured memory of the beginning. Jo and I got engaged Christmas Eve 1950? or 1949?) ■



Peter Dent

Christmas coming as it does at the end of the year is for many of us a time to reminisce about Christmases past and wonder about Christmases to come (with apologies to Charles Dickens). Being so fortunate as to have celebrated so many Christmases it is hard to think of one that stands out from the others. However I would like to recall a series of Christmases that at the time meant so much to our family. When our children were young and still living comfortably in the nest, we and our children and their

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maternal grandparents used to spend Christmas Eve and Christmas dinner with our dearest and now departed friends and their children and their maternal grandparents. We had a tradition of the usual as well as traditional foods and drink. There was not a lot of emphasis on gifts. The most joyous part of the get together was the singing of our favorite Christmas carols with piano accompaniment. We all sang from song sheets “borrowed” from the daily morning carol singing, which in the days leading up to Christmas, day took place in Eaton’s Department store. While both families came from a Christian background, our friends broke with their churchgoing past. As a result their children had no religious or biblical teaching. Their oldest child who became a high school English teacher told us later in life that he felt cheated by having no knowledge of the bible which is such an important foundation for much of English literature.

I see this as a metaphor for the gradual but inexorable drift away from Christian traditions in our world. While Christmas is a high point in our religious calendar, in the world we live in it is more for the secular elements like presents, shopping, and time off work and school and, oh by the way, some of us will make it to church on Christmas Eve or even less likely on Christmas Day.

Not only have we forgotten that December 25th is a religious holiday, our Saviour’s birthday, many jurisdictions have declined even to refer to this time as Christmas. In our mad rush to avoid offending anybody over the last few years we have suppressed any mention of the holy feast of Christmas in the context of the December holiday. This disheartening trend may be changing as our city of Hamilton now boldly wishes everyone a “Merry Christmas” instead of the politically correct “Happy Holidays”. We Christians should not apologize for Christianity. We should celebrate the true meaning of Christmas, strengthening the religious joys of our faith. The side shows of the season will continue to thrive but we must proudly and unabashedly proclaim our Christian faith at this time of year. ■



Diane Gower Dent

For me one of the memorable ways to celebrate Christmas is to attend a concert of Handel’s Messiah, see a production of Dickens’ Christmas Carol and enjoy a children’s Christmas pageant.

In the 1970’s our eldest daughter Jennifer was Mary in the Christmas Pageant at Central Public School, Joseph was played by a Greek boy in her class. I became friends with his mother who taught me how to make samosas and tamarind sauce. We still talk about that meaningful and fun event. I wonder would the Christmas Pageant be permitted in that school today.

For me the Christmas pageant is fun and meaningful because of the roles played by children. In about the 1980’s the children’s church at Christ’s Church Cathedral entered the sanctuary to present their version of the Christmas story to parishioners. Many, including all the Millar family, remember that Christmas Pageant when Sharon Millar, dressed in a beautiful pale blue robe, played the role of Mary, the mother of Jesus. That is how I still see Sharon, now a young woman, and still an active member of Christ’s Church Cathedral.

The parents of our three year old granddaughter, Alexandra Coco Anna, who currently live in Singapore told me last week that Coco will be in her first Christmas pageant – she will be a chicken. I am truly

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thrilled there will be a Christmas pageant at Coco's school and that all God's creatures will play a part! I hope to send Coco a book I just learned about. It is entitled - *The Best Christmas Pageant Ever*. It is the story of the six Herdman children who are the meanest, toughest kids in town. What happens when they take over the church's annual Christmas pageant? According to the book reviews, "*the church folk are not exactly thrilled that this foul mouthed irresponsible family seems to be calling the shots and changing the plot, especially since the only reason the family came to church was mainly for the food. However, when the original pageant organizer has an accident another church member takes her place, only to realize running the pageant and taming the Herdman kids were more stress than needed. Even though the pageant is odd (thanks to the Herdman kids), it ends up being the best ever because they experience the Christmas story for the first time and help everyone else rediscover its true meaning.*"

May we at Christ's Church Cathedral understand the timeless truths illustrated in the life of Jesus, celebrate the spirit of Christmas, and rejoice and be humbled that we have the privilege of freedom of worship. ■



Carol Spence – Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas

It was Christmas 1979 and our family was at St. John's Church in Thorold. The rectory was a beautiful house – a copy of a Lake District house in England with casement windows. The children were excited about Christmas. Sarah was eight, Anne was six, and Christopher was nearly three. Across the street were two big families of teenagers and some younger children but none as young as our own.

On Christmas Eve, our children had gone to the family service. Beautiful snowflakes were falling covering the earth, grass, and trees. The neighbour's children still kept the spirit of Santa alive for our children. After the service, our children said their prayers and went to bed.

Then, unknown to us, Dr. Jim Fraser and two of his sons, Gordon and Jimmy, brought a ladder over to the rectory and climbed on the roof. They made the noises of reindeer prancing and sleigh bells ringing. All at once came Santa and in a deep voice crying out, he called Ho! Ho! Ho! Merry Christmas!

The children, tucked in the beds, sat up and were amazed that Santa had really come to their house. The girls were thrilled – Christopher was delighted too – and pulled the blankets over his head and kept saying Ho! Ho! Ho! Cookies and milk had been left for Santa near the fireplace. Sarah and Anne thought that was much better than sherry and fruitcake.

Next morning, the children raced down the stairs to see if Santa had eaten his cookies and drunk his milk. He had – the cookies and milk were gone! Santa had come. Sarah, Anne, and Christopher excitedly told us that they knew Santa had come last night. They heard him! And they heard the reindeer!

The children went off to church in the morning to celebrate Jesus' birthday. It was the family service so the children could hardly wait to tell their friends their exciting news. They had a special visitor last night. He was on the roof! It was a blessed and happy Christmas for our family. ■



Kim Johnston

On Christmas day we needed to see both sets of grandparents. My father's father, my grandmother long deceased, was a brilliant man and an important man, although, scary and humourless. As long as we, my two brothers and I, sat properly, ate our Christmas feast and did not speak unless spoken to all would be good. This was a noon day meal so we could skedaddle out of there and head home for Christmas dinner. A similar meal was served but the characters changed. My mother's mother, my Grannie and her two sisters, Auntie Marjorie and Auntie Dorothy, affectionately known as Dodo were our guests. After dinner and still wearing our paper crowns from the Christmas crackers, we sang Christmas carols and then played charades. I remember Auntie Dodo acting out her clue which must have been a bird, a swan perhaps, flapping her arms, sticking and sticking her skinny neck out and back. Auntie Dodo, appropriately named, was the star of that evening. I guess we all need a little bit of silly in our busy lives. Thanks Dodo. ■



Judy Robertson

Having been born and raised in a loving Christian community and caring family, I've done my best to provide the same environment for my children. Christmas past stories have been provided by my daughter, Katie Hanna, and me.

Katie's Story

So what is my favourite memory of Christmases past? There is the warmth and comfort of a festively decorated house, steamy windows against the chill of a mountain of snow outside. Big fluffy snowflakes while picking the "right" tree to saw down to grace the corner of the family room. That one-of-a-kind fabulous smell of spruce tree, lights sparkling off an assortment of ornaments made from kindergarten hands to family heirlooms. Rum balls, shortbreads, and eggnog, laughter from a house full of family and friends and the heat and savoury smells of Christmas dinner. The choir at midnight singing the traditional carols that fill the soul with the mystery of a baby born in a manger and the excitement of Christmas morning, unwrapping colourful packages. The year I got coal in my stocking was fun and there was a forbidden thrill in the fine art of unwrapping presents well before Christmas in such a way that nobody could tell I had peeked...

But the year we went to Bermuda for Christmas was different. I was 13 and had never been outside of Canada before. The excitement of the trip pretty much eclipsed the season. We didn't even mind the almost constant rain that year. Who cared that there was no snow on the ground to give those Christmas songs context – it was 20 degrees with warm sea breezes and puffy white clouds that I'd watch dreamily sail by my window at night. I still see those clouds in my mind and smell the musty damp, and I think about the shocked looks I got as I rode my bike into town in my bathing suit, our stark whiteness blinding the businessmen as we donned shorts and sundresses while they sported fur coats and hats. Nothing compares to eating an orange straight from the tree, spiders the size of dessert bowls waiting patiently in the middle of glistening webs in the morning sunlight, Andrew getting eaten alive by the house cat's fleas as we laughed our heads off to the movie *Top Secret*. Iridescent green lizards darting up palm

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trees, miles of pink sand beaches and water so clear and impossibly blue you could see each silvery fish in its huge school darting away from some unseen danger. The dolphin show and the perfume factory, the history of century old buildings, moon gates and cobblestones, pubs with signs declaring no entry to Canadian navy men or dogs, and driving the moped on narrow lanes not made for all the cars and crazy drivers. *Do They Know it's Christmas?* by Band Aid playing constantly from the neighbours next door and Christmas decorations in the windows that looked out of place in the moist, tropical climate. These are all very fond memories, indeed. But perhaps the best thing I took away from our Christmases in Bermuda was a friendship I still keep today. Vicki and I spent many hours riding horses through the jungle and playing tag together with the other kids and sharing girlish stories in the bamboo clump in the backyard. I haven't seen her in person since I was in Bermuda, and she has since moved back to England, but we still keep in touch and have shared each other's lives for the past 32 years.

So perhaps the things I treasure most about Christmas memories are the love of family and friendships that span the ages.

Judy's Story

All my Christmases are memorable for many different reasons, but I think that the most fun ones were going out into the countryside and cutting down our own Christmas tree. I would have a dutch oven pot of yummy chili ready to be reheated, a basket of crusty bread, a big real Greek salad (none of that lettuce filler), and mulled wine for all who came with us to cut down the tree, often extended family and friends. We'd have some of my midnight baking treats for dessert – midnight because when I was gainfully employed, it was the only time that I had to bake. Little ones hanging their stockings on the mantle and looking up the fake chimney opening to see where Santa would enter always made a fun photo. Sharing a big turkey dinner with my parents, aunts, and friends over the years added to the endless enjoyment. Christmas Eve services with a baby soon turned to earlier scheduled family services so the little ones got to bed at a good time. ■

Welcome to our new member:

Isaac Christopher Ludwig

pictured here following his baptism

with parents

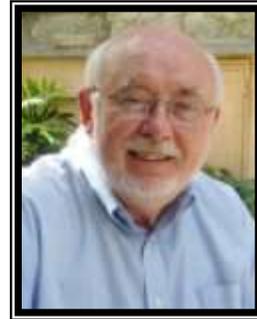
Jeremy and Julie



COMMUNITY

Compassion and hope

by Jim Newman



In 2006 I attended a seminar about church mission and growth. The facilitator was Dr. Kennon Callahan, a Presbyterian pastor and well-travelled church consultant. Right off the top he told us that everywhere he goes, people are looking for three things: community, compassion, and hope. His message to the church was a simple one: be a place of compassion, community and hope.

Shortly thereafter that message became our tag line - it spells out who we are and what we do. Now, nearly 10 years later I see that in so many ways Christ's Church Cathedral has become that place.

- I see Meal Tickets. We are the area's largest distributor of Salvation Army meal tickets. Come around on Tuesday mornings and you will see a large group – up to 100 friendly folks enjoying coffee, treats, and conversation, and I hear our volunteers speak compassionately of that special time together.
- I see Knitters. Every week a group of knitters meet at the Cathedral to knit prayer shawls. These shawls are given to those in need of comfort. Prayer shawls become tangible symbols of love when words can't be found to adequately express one's feelings. And I see the Mitten Tree, laden with articles of warm clothing made with love and awaiting distribution.
- I see Makers' Market, started by Cathedral volunteers as a way of providing local arti-

sans with space and opportunity to market their craft.

- I see Out of the Cold providing a hot, nutritious evening meal for the homeless and near homeless in Hamilton.
- I see Art Crawl and Super Crawl and thousands of visitors touring and enjoying our beautiful space, enjoying music and hospitality provided by our friends and volunteers
- I see Bishopsgate where our volunteer gardeners have transformed our grounds creating a magnificent green outdoor garden and meeting space on James Street North.
- I see the World AIDS Day Vigil, a memorial service and candlelight vigil to remember and celebrate those who have passed and to honour those living with HIV and AIDS.
- I see Pastoral Care provided directly by clergy and trained lay people, but also including telephone contact, newcomers integration, the Prayer List, and volunteer appreciation.
- I see how we strive for excellence in liturgy, preaching, and music, and how all three are beautifully combined in the setting of our magnificent building.
- I see Sunday and midweek Eucharists and Worship Teams of greeters, servers, readers, intercessors, oblation bearers, and communion ministers.

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- I see educational programs including Living the Questions, Lenten series, and church school.

There are so many more ways we demonstrate community - The Jamesville Childcare Centre, seniors lunches, receptions following services and events, Cathedral Calendars and Christmas Cards, and groups and activities we support directly and indirectly such as HARRRP, St. Matthews House, PWRDF, Salvation Army Council, and community meetings and events such as The Poverty Roundtable, and HOPE (Hamilton Organizing for Poverty Elimination). Our community is a beacon of hope, not just for so many here in one of the poorer areas of our city, but for all of us who gather to worship, sing, volunteer, encourage and support our ministry of justice and compassion. ■

Congratulations Order of Niagara Recipients



Louise van Woelderen:

Louise happily helps in so many ways: coordinator of food for Youth Synod, Liturgical Team Leader, Prayer Shawl knitter, Parish Council member and integral part of the Cathedral's Hospitality Team.

David Savage:

David is the leader/coordinator of the Tuesday Meal Ticket Program which takes a lot of time, energy and patience! David is a member of Parish Council and an important member of the Cathedral Hospital Team. He also volunteers as a member of the Diocesan Finance Advisory Committee.

Barbara Jepson:

Barbara is a former member of the Cathedral Place Property Committee; Chairperson for the Board of Directors of HARRRP; and a former churchwarden. Barbara is a long time educator with the Hamilton School Board.

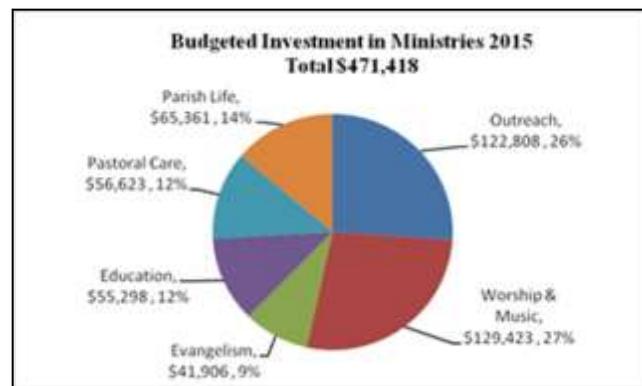
This three-part bulletin insert is the first in our Fall/Winter series about who we are, and what we do.

INVESTING IN OUR MINISTRIES

We will be outlining our mission and ministries and how they fit within the Diocese of Niagara's vision, and how they are strengthened and supported by you and the community they serve. We'll detail how your gifts of time, talent, and treasure enable resources and services to be provided through our ministries and by our clergy, staff and volunteers.

Christ's Church Cathedral is the mother church of the Diocese of Niagara and the home of the Bishop. It is a building of great historical beauty. We are known for our excellent outreach ministries in the community, our hospitality and community involvement, and as an active, friendly, accepting and inclusive parish offering high quality ministries, music, preaching, liturgy, and Christian education.

Our ministries fall into the six major categories shown below. They overlap by their very nature, and they require collaboration, partnership, and careful administration to ensure effective use of resources. At our Vestry last February we estimated that our investments in ministries for 2015 would be approximately as depicted below. At our upcoming Vestry in February 2016 we'll be presenting a new budget for your review.



Stewardship is a word often used to describe the responsible overseeing and protection of something considered worth caring for and preserving. The idea of Christian Stewardship goes even further – it is based on understanding that all we have is a gift to us from God. Thus as Christian stewards we believe that when we give, we're giving back to God what belongs to God in the first place. Christian Stewardship calls for regular and generous giving of our time, talent, and treasure and naturally it goes on all year-round. We're continually learning more about how to be good stewards of God's gifts, and about the kind of life where we're trusting God with all that we are, have, and give.

We are Christian stewards of Christ's Church Cathedral and Parish - this exceptional place of community, compassion and hope. We take care to build our stewardship practice on a foundation of:

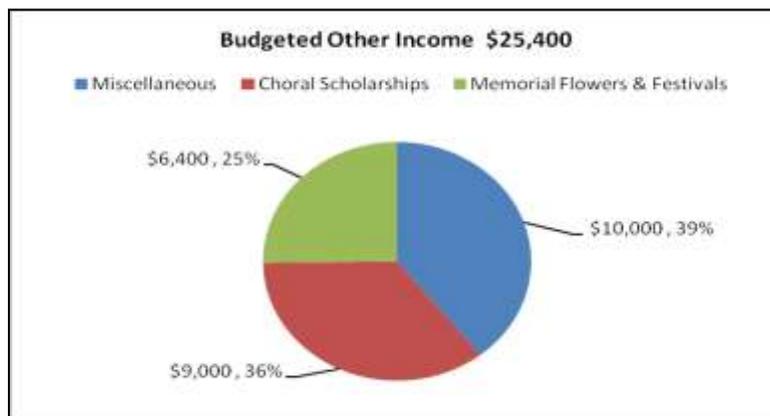
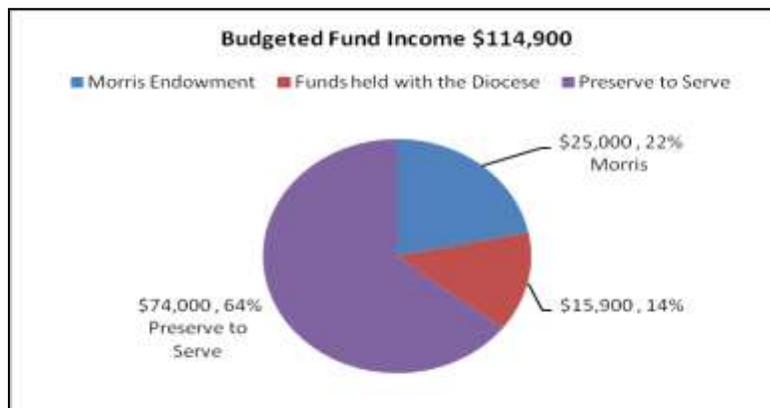
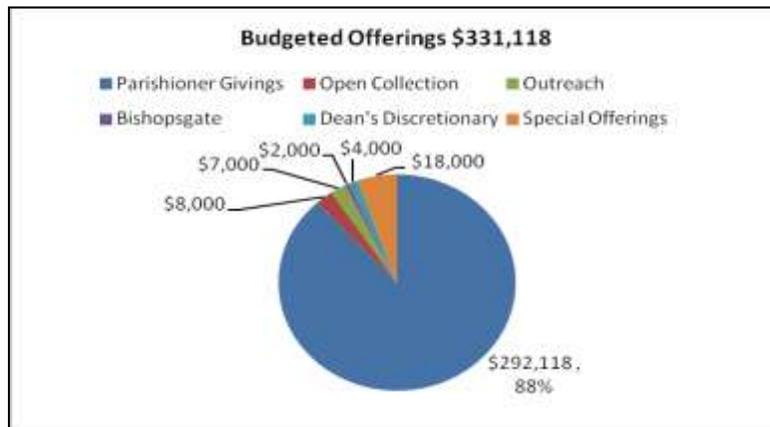
- understanding our mission and ministries in the community
- being hospitable and welcoming
- active involvement in the community
- clarifying needs
- communicating our financial situation
- being the best we can be in ministries, music, liturgy, preaching, and Christian education

It is through your gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we enable resources and services to be provided through our ministries and by our clergy, staff, and volunteers. And your gifts are remarkably generous – thousands of volunteer hours, extraordinary talents, and abundant giving to our offerings budget.

Thank you sincerely,

The Corporation, Christ's Church Cathedral

OUR BUDGETED SOURCES OF INCOME FOR 2015



Your gifts are remarkably generous – thousands of volunteer hours, extraordinary talents, and abundant giving. It is through these gifts of time, talent, and treasure that we are able to provide resources and services through our ministries and by our clergy, staff and volunteers.

Thank you sincerely,

The Corporation, Christ's Church Cathedral

OUR WORSHIP TEAMS

Christ's Church Cathedral utilizes a team approach to plan, organize, and coordinate worship services and strengthen our identity and community. There are four principal teams, each comprised of parishioners and led by lay people. The Team Leaders work closely with clergy and staff to involve as many parishioners as possible in the liturgical life of the parish. This includes the roles of greeting, welcoming, reading Bible passages, leading the prayers of the people, administering communion, extending hospitality, and follow-up. Regularly scheduled Sunday and weekday services utilize Cathedral clergy and parishioners, while larger diocesan services such as ordinations involve clergy and lay people from across the Diocese.

The team approach provides many important benefits including:

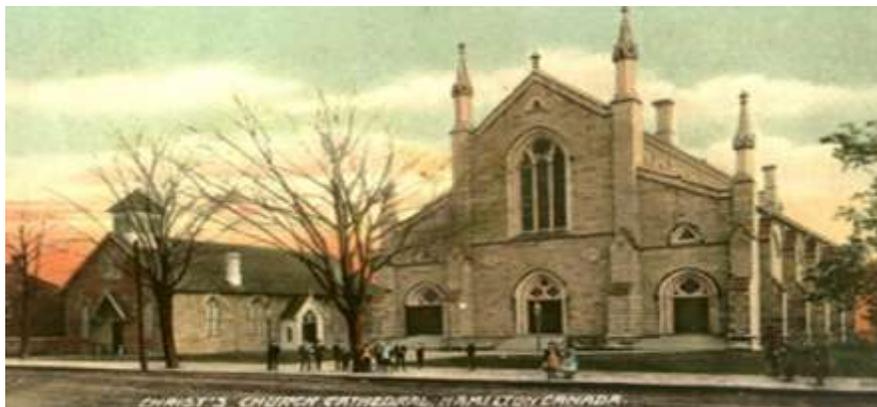
- Increasing the involvement of the wider church community
- Enhancing the overall worship experience
- Assisting staff with schedules and logistics
- Deepening parishioners' knowledge of worship
- Expanding the base of liturgically trained lay people
- Raising interest in and desire for spiritual education
- Creating a deeper sense of fellowship and knowing others
- Helping people to utilize and share their gifts
- Providing backup for the volunteers' roles in liturgy

Team Leaders manage their own schedules and link with other teams as best suits their needs. They meet periodically with clergy and staff to plan special services and refine procedures.

In future bulletin inserts we will review the roles and responsibilities of Greeters, Lay Welcomers, Lectors, Intercessors, Lay Communion Ministers, Coffee/Hospitality Hour Hosts, Vergers, Sound Technicians, Servers, Wardens, along with Follow-up and Visitation.

We are working to update our team lists, provide examples, and assist with training. If you are not currently part of a team or would like to learn more please contact: Jim Newman, St. Bede Team, at newmanjf@cogeco.ca or 905-525-9384.

Our goal is to include everyone on a team. However you are under no obligation to take on duties you feel unable to perform. Remember that our teams always need your prayers!



A WORK IN PROGRESS

 A story worth sharing

by Wendy Newman



What do archivists do? They collect, preserve, and make available records (sometimes called “documentary heritage”) that have historic significance. In the Anglican Church of Canada, the Diocese generally looks after official formal records that are often requested or legally required. These include such registers as births, marriages, and deaths. That’s the formal definition of the archivist’s role. At the local level, we have the freedom to be somewhat more selective and creative in our focus.

This brings me to one of the Cathedral’s great labours of love: the Cathedral’s Archives. The late Canon Katharine Greenfield – librarian, historian, author, archivist - whose extraordinary accomplishments are so evident around Hamilton and the Cathedral, carefully stewarded the Cathedral Archives through the years. As we know, she was the great-granddaughter of the Rev. John Gamble Geddes, first Rector of this parish and Dean of Niagara. She was an active member of the Cathedral family all her life, so the story of her family and that of the Cathedral are woven together. As a fellow librarian and Cathedral parishioner, I admired her immensely, both personally and professionally. She could pull from her incredible memory so many details, and such engaging stories. Sandy Darling’s annotations on the Cathedral’s carvings,

stained glass windows, and fabric art (available on our Web site) acknowledge with evident admiration her many contributions to the detail of these excellent documents. She was also a great story-teller, with a fine sense of humour, as we saw in her Cathedral Contact columns. Katharine had a fine eye for the strengths and the quirks of the people between the lines of our historic documents.

Enter your new archivist, Katharine’s awed successor. I was raised far from here, and I’m looking at shoes that can’t be filled. I’ve been finding my way amid our archival treasures, alas, without the personal background and memory I so admired in Katharine. Your budding archivist is quite clearly a work in progress, but I do want to report here on recent developments and hopes for the future.

Since protection of records from loss or deterioration is both essential and timely, I am especially pleased to advise that we’ve had the benefit of a couple of grant-funded digitization projects. One summer student digitized our picture collection – especially helpful as many pictures, having been clipped from newspapers, can become dry and brittle over time. Another made huge headway this past summer, making in-

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dexed digital copies of about one-third of our paper records, so that our space can be used more effectively, the records accessed conveniently, and the originals stored. Yet another project was the basic word processing of a history of the Cathedral written by faithful Cathedral parishioner Dr. Alexander (“Sandy”) McKay, who died in 2007. I plan to carry on the digitization during this Fall and Winter, to ensure a complete electronic record. I’ll be able to make recommendations about future priorities, once I have the lay of the land. I hope to enable more of our story – the story of this remarkable community of faith on James Street North – to be available on our Web site as the work unfolds. As Katharine Greenfield knew well, it’s a story worth sharing. ■



Thanks to a generous donation from Steve’s family, the former Dean’s Vestry has been transformed into The Steve Varey Reading Room. Parishioners will find an eclectic mix of titles, many from Steve’s own collection, that can be borrowed on an honour system and returned. The space also provides a comfortable spot to sit and browse. Some additional titles and non-print items (dvd’s, cd’s) will be added to the collection in the future. The space was dedicated on Sunday, November 8 and is a welcoming space that honours Steve’s memory.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

DECEMBER



by Corporation



For most of this year, we have been ahead in Parishioners' Givings in comparison to 2014. We start December behind 2014 by almost 2%, the increase approved at Vestry.

Our 'Other' income line, which includes donations to the Dean's Discretionary Funds, Outreach, Choral Scholarships etc, is both below budget and last year's results. So, we do have a little work to do in December to help bridge the gap.

Our expenses are in line. The overspending in Property is due to the cost of The Reading Room and is entirely offset by the overage in Special Offerings.

We thank you for your support and generosity and offer our sincerest wishes for a happy Christmas. ■

	Nov-15	Budget to Nov 2015	Variance to Budget	Nov-14	% Variance over 2014
Income					
Parishioner Givings	\$252,250	\$275,108	-\$22,858	\$257,201	-1.92%
Special Offerings	\$35,616	\$16,500	\$19,116	\$16,500	115.85%
Endowments	\$105,325	\$105,325	\$0	\$88,060	19.61%
Other	\$22,808	\$35,200	-\$12,392	\$32,452	-29.72%
Total Income	\$415,998	\$432,133	-\$16,135	\$394,212	5.53%
Expenses					
Salaries	\$251,636	\$259,609	-\$7,973	\$243,716	3.25%
Property	\$110,733	\$93,428	\$17,305	\$89,994	23.04%
Administration	\$72,084	\$79,553	-\$7,469	\$78,339	-7.99%
Total Expense	\$434,453	\$432,591	\$1,862	\$412,049	5.44%
Net Income	-\$18,455	-\$458	-\$17,997	-\$17,837	-3.46%

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