

CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral | Christmas 2020



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IN THIS ISSUE

- 4 [LETTING GO](#): Sadness, joy, and gratitude
- 7 [REFLECTION](#): How long, O Lord?
- 8 [LATE HAVE I LOVED YOU](#): On beauty
- 12 [WARDEN'S WORLD](#): Bridge over troubled waters
- 16 [A WARM FAREWELL TO TERRY](#)
From the Corporation and the Cathedral Congregation
- 18 [PWRDF: MAKING A WORLD OF DIFFERENCE](#)
Together
- 22 [SYNOD REPORT](#): Seeing with the eyes of the heart
- 24 [MEET OUR NEW WARDEN](#): David Savage
- 25 [RETIREMENT](#): The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall
- 26 [CHRISTMAS 2020](#)
- 31 [BLESSED ALERTNESS](#)
God can be and is found everywhere
- 32 [PAROCHIAL COMMITTEE](#)
Final report
- 34 [3...2..1...CONTACT](#)
Sally & Jeff Braun-Jackson
- 36 [THE PATH](#)
Visual Tour Book
- 38 [FROM THE ARCHIVES](#)
Christmas in a Pandemic (1918)
- 39 [FINANCIAL REPORT](#)

[THE DOBBIN FAMILY](#)



p. 6

[TWELVE DAYS OF CHRISTMAS](#)



p. 10

[CHRISTMAS SERVICES](#)



p. 15

CHRISTMAS 2020

 Experience joy in new ways

by Paula Esteves



Christmas is not the most important holiday of the Christian calendar, but it is arguably the one to which most look forward. It is also a holiday richly laden with traditions, both religious and secular. I imagine that by now, we have all spent time thinking about, talking about, and likely struggling with how to celebrate Christmas 2020 in a way that allows us to keep at least some of our highest valued traditions while respecting the restrictions we continue to face.

With this in mind, *Contact* approached several parishioners to reveal their Christmas plans by answering the question, “How will you do Christmas this year?” Without exception, there are traditions being set aside, others being kept, and blessedly, the recognition that the true meaning of Christmas will be ever-present. I’ll say no more but to invite you to read their responses, pages 26 to 30.

As for me, my family and I have certainly struggled with our Christmas plans. It was only recently that the image of what could be crystallized. It will start with two pre-Christmas Zoom sessions organized by my niece with a surprise agenda—we’ve simply been told that it will be “good old holiday fun and quality time!”

The huge hiccup was Christmas dinner. There was no getting around the fact that we just can’t all be together for our traditional sit-down Christmas meal. So, that will be replaced by a much simpler menu with only five of us in attendance. My contribution will be a tourtière—a first for our family. My nephew’s family of four, not able to dine with us, will drop in for a mid-day outdoor session

(weather permitting) with hot chocolate, eggnog, some Christmas homemade treats, and an outdoor scavenger hunt for the kids to find their presents.

We all agreed, without hesitation, to give up the adult gift exchange—an acknowledgement that we are blessed and by most measures, live a life of abundance and privilege that so many others do not enjoy. I, along with many others, feel fortunate to be able to increase my Christmas season donations in recognition of the greater needs brought about by the pandemic.

My traditional Christmas Eve gathering with a group of cherished friends will still take place with hors d’oeuvres delivered (special thanks to our host) and our togetherness celebrated via Zoom. Such a joy to be able to continue this tradition this year!

Last but not least, I will seek spiritual solace by attending one of the three in-person services being offered at the Cathedral. I’m not sure what to expect, but I hope to hear some traditional Christmas carols and a Christmas message of peace, hope, and joy.

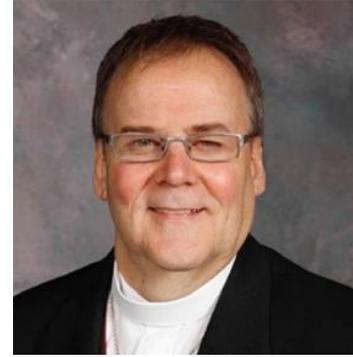
Christmas 2020 will not be easy; it will not be the same nor what we really want; and certainly, it will not be perfect. But, we can celebrate differently, perhaps start new traditions, experience joy in new ways, and no doubt, we will carry the memories and stories of Christmas 2020 for a very long time.

I wish you all health, peace, and joy. Merry Christmas and Happy New Year. ■

LETTING GO

 Sadness, joy, gratitude

by Terry DeForest †



Over the years, I rarely gave myself permission to leave a ministry assignment until I was actively being called (usually by a bishop – one is after all supposed to heed the directions of one’s bishop!) to consider another. Most of the time I am reluctant to let go. I can usually see so much that is still possible for us to do together in our ministry partnership with God and one another and I don’t like to leave work incomplete. It is an odd predilection for someone who has served in more than half a dozen different parishes as an Interim Pastor. After all, the job of Interim Pastor is:

1. to come and go well, modelling being a non-anxious leadership presence in the midst of significant times of change, and
2. to lead a congregation through a time transition, by way of prayer and processes which help it discern a new future in God’s mission and a new ministry partnership with someone else.

Ironically, the responsibilities of this peculiar job description help me let go and leave even when I can still see what is left undone and what might still be done. I take comfort in knowing that we have been faithful and have done good work together – being a community of soul-stirring worship, music, art, and prayer; laying the foundation for a stronger partnership with the Diocese in Cathedral Place; growing as and being disciples of Jesus; reaching out boldly to many of the “least of

these who are members of Christ’s family”; extending generous hospitality and stewardship. I hope you heard earlier this fall my expression of deep gratitude to the usual (and unusually dedicated) team of ministry partners in our Bishop and diocesan partners, Cathedral clergy, staff, Corporation and Parochial Committee, lay leaders, groups and committees. I also know that together we have risen to many of the challenges which the pandemic presented, turning them into opportunities to serve in a digital ministry and mission field. Many thanks to our rapidly formed, creative digital worship production team!

I also know that I wanted to do so much more by way of extending pastoral support; nurturing faith for adults, children, youth, and families; outreach ministries (which have been sorely restricted in recent months); and social justice and advocacy partnerships.

I hope that any such unrealized possibilities will stoke fires of determination in and amongst you to zealously pursue the diocesan Mission Action Plan [MAP] and the Cathedral’s vision of how it can be lived out here in the coming years. The MAP’s vision reminds us that we are **called to life and compelled to love**, with three key objectives:

- ignite and strengthen Christian faith;
- adapt our culture and structures to enable min-

(Continued on page 5)

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- istry; and
- prioritize social justice work, with an emphasis on environmental justice.

The local expression of that calling was thoroughly and well captured in the pages of the parish profile and guided the prayerful discernment process which the Parochial Committee and Bishop undertook in choosing the next Dean of Niagara and Rector of Christ’s Church Cathedral, the Venerable (soon to be the Very Rev’d) Dr. Tim Dobbin.

I believe, as a result, that Christ’s Church Cathedral is very well positioned to continue to be an ever so vital place of community, compassion, and hope. So, I should probably get over my feelings about work not yet done and let myself take in how hope-filled I am for your future. Of course, that doesn’t do much for my grief and knowledge of how much I will miss you, the people with whom I have had the profound blessing to work for more than a year.

I will be saying goodbye at the end of December and our last worship service will conclude with a litany of farewell. That liturgical act reminds us all that I need to release you from depending on me as pastor and rector (and vice versa), so that you will be able to forge that same kind of precious relationship with Dean Tim. It also focusses on the forgiveness necessary to leave behind unmet expectations and hurts inflicted on one another.

As we prepare to take steps in our separate ministry journeys in the new year, I wanted to share with you the feelings expressed above: sadness, joy, gratitude, pride, hopefulness, satisfaction, and, of course, as St. Paul puts it, “the greatest of these is love.” ■

A GIFT FROM OUR NEIGHBOURS

Have you noticed how tidy and cared for the grounds on Hughson Street outside our fence is looking? We have some good neighbours who tilled the ground, put in plants, a seat and a bench, and have also added Christmas decorations. There is even a bird feeder that attracted a House Finch on November 29.

Thank you to our wonderful neighbours—we love what you’ve done!

Sandy Darling



Photos courtesy of Sandy Darling

THE DOBBIN FAMILY

Getting to know each other

by Felicity, Sophie, Lynn, and Tim ♦



We are grateful to Paula for her invitation to introduce ourselves. We thought we'd let our girls go first.



Hi, my name is Felicity. I am in Grade 3 and I'm 8. I love doing gymnastics and playing with my friends. I also like designing things and skating. Another thing I like to do is playing in the snow and sledding.

Hi, my name is Sophie. I'm 11 and in Grade 6. I have a dog named Gigi and a crested gecko called Finley. I do competition artistic (synchronised) swimming and I play piano. I love to cook for my family, and I can't wait to try out the restaurants near the Cathedral, especially 'Loaded Pierogi.'

Here's a note from Lynn.

Like Tim and the girls, I'm looking forward to joining you all in Hamilton, a city where I have some roots. I have great memories of my time as an undergraduate at McMaster, the university both my siblings and my parents also attended. My Mom and Dad actually grew up in Millgrove, and my Mom's first post as a high school teacher was at Scott Park Secondary. I watched many a Ti-cat game growing up in Balcarres, SK; Markdale, ON; and Bracebridge. Our move from Brantford to Hamilton will bring me a little closer to Brock University, where I've worked as a professor in the Applied Linguistics department for the past 15 years. As an avid runner, I'm looking forward to exploring some new running trails in the Hamilton area. I'm also looking forward to meeting all of you in the

months ahead.

And back to me.

I am guessing the first thing you'll pick up is my accent. It's Kiwi (New Zealand), not English, Irish, South African, Norwegian, and definitely not Australian. I grew up in Whanganui, recently voted the most underrated small city in NZ (I'd agree!). I trained for the priesthood in Australia at St. Mark's in Canberra and served a two-year curacy at the Cathedral in Goulburn, NSW. Dean Godfrey Fryar would often remind me that he understood his vocation at the Cathedral to be 80% parish priest, something I would love to emulate. I have been proud to call Canada home since 2000. I guessed it would become our permanent home when Lynn and I married in 2007 after meeting through a London running club – who was chasing whom remains a matter of debate. After a stint as an associate at St. George's London where I also completed graduate studies in pastoral counselling, I have served the parishes of Trinity Simcoe and St. Mark's Brantford.

I love parish ministry, especially helping folk go deeper with God and with each other and making a difference by God's grace in the lives of those most vulnerable. I will relish too the opportunity to share in the excellence of liturgy and music for which the Cathedral is known. Both Lynn



(Continued on bottom of page 7)

HOW LONG, O LORD? (Ps. 13.1)

by Tim Dobbin †



Hope, peace, joy and love – we light four candles during Advent for these great virtues even as we acknowledge the difficulty in recognizing them during what we are living right now. So, we cry out in deep longing during this Season for the good that often has gone missing. At the same time, this cry or lament is one of confidence. For we know that these virtues find their most complete expression in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, the Christ whose coming into the world is the incontrovertible sign that God is indeed with us. Jesus Christ is Emmanuel, God with us – God in human flesh, restoring our all-too-human brokenness and bringing freedom and fullness of living to us all, especially to those who are vulnerable. Whatever our circumstances, God in the infant Jesus, realises our hope, offers us peace, and deepens our joy through the gift of God’s fathomless and all-embracing love. May the sure and certain knowledge of this truth be yours this Advent. ■

Here’s a prayer from the Very Rev. Andrew Nunn, Dean of Southwark written for those of us struggling during ‘COVIDtide.’

Ever present God,
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be joy in our sadness,
be light in our darkness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may, with the zeal of Pentecost,
inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.
For Jesus’ sake.

Amen.

(The Dobbin Family Continued from page 6)

and I still like to run when we can. I also enjoy cycling, swimming, hiking, tennis, gardening, and fly-fishing when time permits... and of course anything New Zealand! I am so excited about beginning this next chapter of God’s mission with you and I pray that God gifts us many years of fun-filled and fruitful ministry together.

May I say too that our priority in the first six months will be simply getting to know each other. I was deeply impressed in your parish profile by the amount of life happening at the Cathedral and

particularly how invested you are in the health and well-being of your life together and the wider Hamilton community. You are committed and engaged. There is so much for which to give thanks and to build on in the years ahead.

This may be a simpler and quieter Advent and Christmas for us all. My prayer is that it be no less rich and meaningful as we prepare to celebrate again the coming of the Christ child into our hearts and our homes, filling each of us with God’s hope, peace, joy, and love.

A blessed Advent and Christmas to you all. ■

LOVED YOU

 On beauty

by Dan Tatarnic✠



Two years ago, I visited the Italian city of Ravenna, the world's most significant region for mosaic icons of the Byzantine era. Ravenna is also known for having been a battleground between Arianism and Chalcedonian orthodoxy. Today, you can still visit the infamous Arian Baptistery with its breathtaking mosaics; but you can't be baptized in the Arian font.

There is an echo of holiness in Ravenna; want to visit Dante's tomb? Go to Ravenna. Want to explore early Christian doctrine? Go to Ravenna. Want to immerse yourself in the other-worldly glow of Byzantine architecture and mosaics? Go to Ravenna. Want to partake in exceptional regional meats, cheeses, and wines? Definitely go to Ravenna! Beauty beckons!

Yes, beauty beckons. Touring the Basilica of Sant'Apollinare Nuovo (504 A.D.), a church rich in artistic history and heretical controversy, the mystery deepened, and I suddenly found 'me' in the story. Surrounded by glowing icons of 'the white-robed army' in east-ward procession, the pulp in my teeth throbbed, and my soul stretched out: "Please, take me with you; let me see what you see!" Some things drop you to your knees, and it was one of *those* things.

We are taught that goodness, truth, and beauty (transcendentals) pilot the waters between God and humanity. Reading the book of Psalms, or even the Song of Solomon, could a praying person come to a different conclusion? Beauty beckons.

The God of beauty-full things beckons in different forms: a beautiful argument, a beautiful painting, a beautiful piece of music, a beautiful gesture, a beautiful mess (if you have young teens at home you know)! Truth, goodness, and beauty constellate, and their appearing, like the constellations of the night sky, attract the soul's vision above the imminent horizon, away from the dead-affect of the malaise of modernity, grace perfecting nature. Surely, goodness, truth, and beauty are features of authentic Christian formation, right? Well, that depends.

Inspired by the writings of 20th century theologians like Hans Urs von Balthasar, Edith Stein, and Eric Przywara, theologians like John Milbank, and even popular authors like Margaret Visser (*Geometry of Love: Space, Time, Mystery, and Meaning in an Ordinary Church*, 2008), draw attention to the dynamic of beauty in evangelization, catechesis, and Christian formation; let's call these things 'on-going conversion'.

Conversion, by way of beauty-full things, is a theme scrutinized in *The Beauty of the Infinite: The Aesthetics of Christian Truth* (Eerdmans, 2003) by David Bentley Hart. God's freedom to appear, to disclose aspects of the

(Continued on page 9)

(Continued from page 8)

Trinitarian life (any time, any place) is an essential component of Christian mission. Why? Because God is free to self-communicate at any moment, or not. God has the freedom to do so and has been known to do so, or not. So, the church needs both a language and a response sufficient to that wild, unrestricted freedom: there are no limitations imposed on God.

But, according to Hart, an authentic encounter with transcendent beauty does not, in fact, leave one silent or mute before the mystery. It inspires doxology and leaves one grasping for words, concepts, and images. It's the experience of rapture: overflowing, overabundance, overwhelming, or in Hart's words, "to establish thereby a grammar of adoring response." In this day and age, fewer and fewer have the psychic language (the grammar) with which to participate in such encounter; to make the beauty-full meaning-full, to enter into and sustain lives of adoration. Yet this conundrum is exactly where the Church's mandate to care for souls in the 21st century, and in a post pandemic world meets the burning question of the age. ■

A Visual Tour of Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, Ontario

Compiled during COVID – 19 to support community



Alexander (Sandy) L. Darling

Written by Sandy Darling, this book is a comprehensive compilation designed to take you on a visual tour of the Cathedral with photos, historical information, and interesting revelations, telling the story of the Cathedral.

\$12.00

To purchase and arrange pick-up, please contact Sandy directly at 905-689-7481 or by emailing darlinga@cogeco.ca.

Payment can be made by cash or cheque made out to "Christ's Church Cathedral" or by e-transfer (available via online banking) to cathedral@niagaraanglican.ca with the notation "Visual Tour Book".

A MEMORY GAME

➤ And a reference to Christianity

by Michael Bloss



...*“on the first day of Christmas my true love gave to me...”*

These words herald the start of one of the favourite Christmas carols of the season. There are many stories related to Christmas carols. Consider the way in which *Silent Night* came to be one snowy Austrian Christmas Eve when the organ broke down. Or *O Holy Night* bringing about a Christmas truce in the Franco-Prussian War. And who really knows that the version we now know as *Hark the Herald Angels Sing* is actually a mash up of two separate poems written centuries apart and which would likely not please either of the two original writers.

The Twelve Days of Christmas refers to the days between Christmas and Epiphany. In England of the Middle Ages, this period was one of continuous feasting and merrymaking, which climaxed on Twelfth Night, the traditional end of the Christmas season. In Tudor England, Twelfth Night itself was forever solidified in popular culture when William Shakespeare used it as the setting for one of his most famous stage plays, titled *Twelfth Night*.

The early North American colonists brought their version of the Twelve Days over from England and adapted them to their new country, adding their own variations over the years. For example, the modern-day Christmas wreath may have originated with these colonials. A homemade wreath would be fashioned from local greenery and fruits, if

available, were added. Making the wreaths was one of the traditions of Christmas Eve; they would remain hung on each home's front door beginning on Christmas Night (first night of Christmas) through Twelfth Night or Epiphany morning. As was already the tradition in their native England, all decorations would be taken down by Epiphany morning and the remainder of the edibles would be consumed. A special cake, the king cake, was also baked then for Epiphany.

Twelfth Night is the last day for decorations to be taken down, and it is held to be bad luck to leave decorations up after this. This is in contrast to the custom in Elizabethan England, when decorations were left up until Candlemas; this is still done in some other Western European countries such as Germany and a certain cathedral in Hamilton, Ontario.

Though some scholars believe that the song is French in origin, the first print appearance of the song was in the English children's book *Mirth With-out Mischief*. If you haven't heard of it, that's probably because it was published in 1780. Further, you may not recognize the lyrics. In this version, the “four calling birds” were actually “four colly birds.” The term “colly” is Old English slang meaning birds dark as coal, a.k.a. blackbirds. In

(Continued on page 11)

(Continued from page 10)

other old versions of the song, the partridge we know and love is replaced with a “very pretty peacock upon a pear tree.” If you think that's weird, consider a Scottish version that gifts “an Arabian baboon”. In 1909, British composer Frederic Austin penned the version we are all familiar with today.

Most historians believe that the song started out as a “memory-and-forfeit” game in 1800s England. As a matter of fact, a contemporary version of this game is played in one of the episodes in the new season of *The Crown*. These types of games were played by British school children, and the rules were simple. When it's your turn, you repeat all the previously sung lyrics, and add the next one. If you can't remember a verse, you owe your opponent a “forfeit”, which was usually a kiss or piece of candy.

That being said, one thing historians can agree on is that the twelve days over which the song takes place is a reference to Christianity.

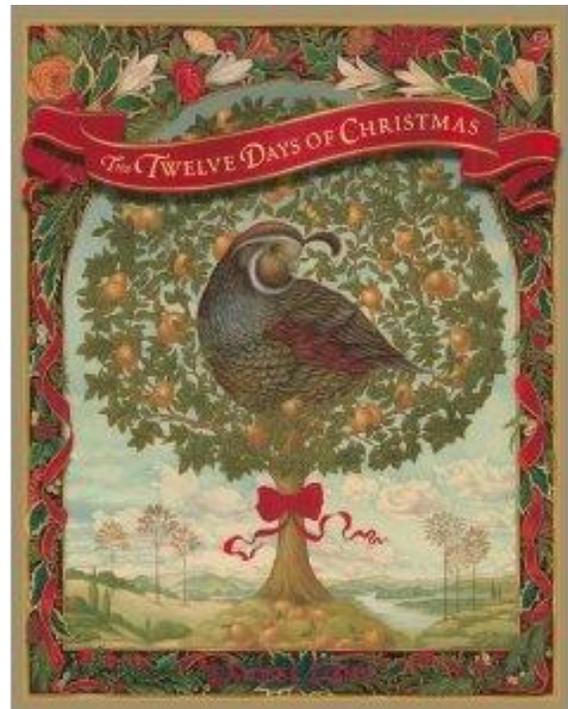
- The Partridge in the Pear Tree is Jesus Christ.
- The 2 Turtle Doves are The Old and New Testaments.
- The 3 French hens are Faith, Hope, and Charity, the theological virtues.
- The 4 Calling Birds are the four gospels and/or the four evangelists.
- The 5 Golden Rings are the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The 6 Geese A-laying are the six days of creation.
- The 7 Swans A-swimming are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit, the seven sacraments.
- The 8 Maids A-milking are the eight beatitudes.
- The 9 Ladies Dancing are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.
- The 10 Lords A-leaping are the ten commandments.
- The 11 Pipers Piping are the eleven faithful

apostles.

- The 12 Drummers Drumming are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostle's Creed.

Since 1984, PNC Christmas Price Index uses current market rates to calculate how much each gift costs on average to the modern consumer. I hate to break it to you, but giving someone every gift mentioned in the song would cost you a small fortune — something along the lines of \$39,094.93, according to the current Christmas price index. Part of this is because swans are *really* expensive (\$1,875 each!). But part of the equation is also because the gifts are cumulative — you give each previous gift mentioned with each subsequent gift, which brings your total number of gifts to 364. “The 12 Days of Christmas” is much better as a song than an actual gift.

That's something to sing about! ■



BRIDGE OVER

 Troubled waters

by Kerry Lubrick



*Now faith is confidence in what we hope for
and assurance about what we do not see. -Hebrews 11:1*

Christmas, the most wonderful time of the year. The radio is playing with all of our favourite melodies and the TV has back to back Christmas Hallmark movies (no judgement!), and we just received the notice from Christ's Church Cathedral YouTube channel about the up coming lessons and carols digital recordings. As I watch and listen, I am thinking of advent and the message to carry us forward all year: hope, love, joy, and peace. The pandemic has dictated the physical gatherings for this year's Christmas, but what it has not changed is how we keep the season in our hearts and minds. Christmas is when we think about all the blessings that we have and especially the great love that God gives us and for us to share with others. We believe in God and the teaching of Jesus and have faith and hope that future will be brighter. This hope is like the song by Simon and Garfunkel, "Bridge over Troubled Waters". As the wardens reflected on 2020, with its never-ending challenges and changes, it was so uplifting to review our strengths of time, talent, and treasures that will be our bridge to 2021.

Time: We give special recognition to John Bradley for over six years of contributions as a warden. We welcome David Savage as a new warden who was elected at the special vestry on November 22. Often, we would provide a calculation of the hours

spent on volunteering at the Cathedral. Unfortunately, those calculations could not be completed this year as we only had two and half months of normalcy. However, we know that many of you have given extraordinary time and we give thanks for that precious time:

- Clergy and staff developing new methods to provide pastoral care, communicate, and deliver services in a digital way. This takes hours of planning and rehearsing.
- Liturgical team leaders, connecting with teams through the phone and zoom and providing significant lay ministries.
- Prayer chains and sending out messages to keep individuals in our special prayers.
- Planning, editing, and publishing the *Contact* and *Chronicle* to ensure that you have news and information
- Tuesday morning outreach then moving to the daily Resting and Hygiene Centre that operated daily for over two months. There was the work of planning, delivery, and also the back-end work of gathering and providing supplies.
- Reopening working group who collectively worked on protocols for safe in-person worship services.
- Greeters for in-person services assuming

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screening and assessment roles.

- Formation and initial discussions of the Social Justice working group.
- Altar guild members preparing for both the digital and in-person services.
- Parochial committee engaging with the congregation, completing analysis of responses and the survey, writing, editing, and publishing the parish profile, interviewing and recommending a new rector and dean.
- Counting, recording, and depositing financial gifts.
- Completing forms and reporting to the Diocese of impacts to our parish due to COVID.
- Corporation meetings monthly to make decisions on important matters pertaining to our parish.
- Participation in the Cathedral Place Property Management committee.
- Assisting with community ministries like St. Matthews House and the implementation of new programming; Jamesville Childcare and the reopening of the daycare which allowed parents to return to work, and the Primates World Relief and Development Fund supporting global initiatives to help the most marginalized.

Just as each one has received a gift, use it to serve others, as good stewards of the varied grace of God. -1 Peter 4:10

Talent: We are so fortunate to have many people sharing their talents and wisdom for the good of our community. Another change that occurred this year was the retirement of our beloved and talented Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall. Her gift of the recognition of art will continue to be a legacy as the Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall Fund for the Cathedral Visual Arts was created. We will be saying good-bye to the Rev. Canon Terry Deforest and thank him for the gift of his interim ministry to help us

through the last 15 months and being that bridge to the arrival of our new rector. Terry has been that strong and steady girder over a turbulent water. We welcome the arrival of The Venerable Timothy Dobbin. He is bringing to us pastoral leadership, strategic direction in faith formation and mission along with his facilitation and educator strengths.

The pandemic has given us an opportunity for more innovation and creativity in all aspects of our lives. Creativity was necessary in order to offer our spiritual worship in different ways. Implementing the use of YouTube, live streaming, Apple podcasts, Facebook, changes to the website for mobile phone users, Zoom, and scheduling through Eventbrite were also some of the new technologies implemented this year. In addition, we give thanks to those that shared their many talents:

- Sandy Darling used his photography talents and historical knowledge by sending daily emails containing pictures of beauty and stories of the Cathedral's history. This virtual tour of the Cathedral has now been formatted into a book which is linked to the gospel and the life of discipleship.
- Dale Guenter's facilitation of the Centering Prayer group immediately moving to an on-line group. This prayer group continues to grow with the new digital platform.
- Sharing the compassion and care through Outreach.
- Medical advice, resources, and support from our physicians.
- Organizers and connectors.
- Intercessors and writing of the prayers of the people.
- Jeremy Ludwig and his talent for the graphic designing of our parish profile which is a critical document to help understand our parish and its future direction.
- Knitters using their gifts to make prayer shawls, hats, and mittens.

(Continued from page 13)

Treasures: Highlighted from the article “It turns out religion is good for Canada’s economy” written by Stephen Lazarus published by the Hamilton Spectator, “(church) an economic engine and public good in most communities that benefits even those neighbours who never walk inside”. This research manager from the Christian-based think-tank confirms the measurable benefits of a thriving and active church to the broader social and economic health of the community.

Christ’s Church Cathedral is fortunate and blessed by the many treasures received whether the financial donation is weekly, monthly, endowments, or legacy gifts. The good news is that the financial position of our parish is thriving with thanks to the parishioner giving, through automatic gifts, cheques or cash, and also the government support from the Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) that has offset the shortfall in parishioner donations in 2020. We understand that this may be a difficult time for some of us due to loss of income or having to support others in need during this pandemic. While CEWS will continue into 2021, it has already begun to be reduced from previous levels of support.

As we prepare and plan for the 2021 budget and vestry, we ask that you think and reflect on the fol-

lowing important questions related to stewardship, remembering that stewardship is about you expressing your faith through all your resources including your time, skills, and finances:

1. Have you considered God's generosity in your life? Am I investing in the areas God asks believers to take care of through my time, talent, and treasures?
2. Does my household budget reflect what is important to me and the life God has called me to live?
3. Is there room to grow in my giving to our Cathedral and its ministries?
4. If you don't already, would you consider pre-authorized giving? This method of giving can be stopped or adjusted at any time by you and is easier and more sustainable than other ways of giving.

As you reflect on 2020 and bridge to 2021, we request that you think about our ministry and mission and how your “time and talent” in addition to your “treasure” can assist from the perspective of abundance, not scarcity. We have so much hope for the future with the arrival of our new rector and dean, the innovation and creativity ignited and returning to the “somewhat” normalcy of our community.

Wishing you all a Merry and HEALTHY Christmas! ■



Photo courtesy of Sandy Darling

Passages

Baptism

Torreya Robyn Woods - November 1, 2020



CHRISTMAS SERVICES

IN-PERSON

CHRISTMAS EVE - December 24

Holy Eucharist at 5:00 p.m.

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Dan Tatarnic
Preacher: The Rev. Canon Terry DeForest

Holy Eucharist at 8:00 p.m.

Presider & Preacher: The Right Rev. Susan Bell

CHRISTMAS DAY - December 25

Holy Eucharist - 10a.m.

Presider: The Rev. Canon Terry DeForest
Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Dan Tatarnic

CHRISTMAS ONE - December 27

Holy Eucharist and Litany of Farewell
to the Rector in the Interim at 10:00 a.m.

Presider & Preacher: The Rev. Canon Terry DeForest
One service only

THE NAMING OF JESUS - January 1

Holy Eucharist at 10 a.m.

Presider: The Very Rev. Dr. Tim Dobbin
Preacher: The Rev. Dr. Dan Tatarnic

FEAST OF THE EPHIPHANY - January 3

Holy Eucharist at 8:30 & 10:30 a.m.

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Dan Tatarnic
Preacher: The Very Rev. Dr. Tim Dobbin

*Please note that attendance at any of the
in-person worship services, requires pre-registration
via Eventbrite or by calling the church office at
905-527-1316 ext. 240.*

VIRTUAL

LESSONS & CAROLS FOR CHRISTMASTIDE

An extended service of Lessons and Carols
for the season of Christmas available to watch
at any time during the season on [YouTube](#)
starting December 23.

ADVENT FERIA - December 23

Compline
on the [Cathedral Website](#), Apple Podcast & Spotify

FERIA IN CHRISTMASTIDE December 30

An organ experience featuring
Meditations on the Nativity of Christ.
Listen to how the Christmas story and
its characters are portrayed, using the
colours and acoustics of the Cathedral organ
on the [Cathedral Website](#), Apple Podcast & Spotify

FEAST OF THE EPHIPHANY - January 6

Holy Eucharist on [YouTube](#)

Presider: The Rev. Dr. Dan Tatarnic
Preacher: The Very Rev. Dr. Tim Dobbin

Evening Prayer Featuring Schola Cantorum
on the [Cathedral Website](#), Apple Podcast & Spotify

A WARM FAREWELL TO TERRY

From the Corporation and Congregation of the Cathedral

by Janina Vanderpost

The time has come for us to wish our Canon Terry a very warm farewell as he leaves us for St. Paul's, Westdale, on January 1, 2021. It was 15 months ago, in October of 2019, that Terry was appointed by Bishop Susan to be Rector-in-the-Interim of Christ's Church Cathedral. In accepting this position with the Cathedral, Terry (and us) could not have imagined how the next few months would unfold, and the challenges he would be facing.

We all expected his appointment would be for a few short months while the Parochial Committee engaged in the search for a new dean and rector. And, for a short time, it was "business as usual:" staff meetings, corporation meetings, Advent and Christmas services to organize and carry out, meetings with liturgical team leaders, property management issues, preparation for the annual vestry meeting and so on. At that same time, the work of the Parochial Committee began in earnest, starting with a series of town hall meetings designed to assist in the preparation of the parish profile.

And then our world turned upside down. The rules for holding services were changing almost daily while Bishop Susan and diocesan leaders scrambled to determine how best to respond to this world crisis on our doorstep. Finally, we had a complete shut-down of in-person worship. All of a sudden, ways had to be found to carry out the business of the church without staff on-site, and to provide ministry and pastoral care to parishioners and the larger community in innovative and creative ways. A technology committee was formed to enable us to deliver services through various media, a resting and hygiene centre operated from the Cathedral for over two months to bring respite and refreshment to the homeless. As the numbers of COVID cases in our area declined over the summer, a detailed and thorough plan for re-opening our cathedral to in-person worship was developed, and services recommenced on October 11.

Throughout all these challenges, Canon Terry demonstrated exemplary leadership and steadfast spiritual guidance to the Cathedral, Corporation, and to the several committees that undertook the tasks described above. Some words that come to mind in describing Terry's contributions include conscientious, dedicated, thorough, organized, reliable, tireless. Terry was the right person at the right time for this job, and we are immensely grateful and indebted to him for his commitment to us. We will miss him even as we look forward to the arrival of Dean Tim Dobbin.

We ask that God bless and sustain Canon Terry as he assumes a new appointment as Priest-in-Charge at St Paul's (Westdale). Our deep gratitude and best wishes go with him to his new parish. ■

TERRY IN ACTION



Terry DeForest

Happy when Zooming! We will miss your smiling face.



We certainly got used to seeing Terry in a mask!



Photos courtesy of Sandy Darling (2 at top), Kerry Lubrick (centre), and Janina Vanderpost (2 at bottom).

MAKING A WORLD



Of difference together

by Louise van Woelderen



As we all adjust to the “new normal” in our lives due to the COVID-19 pandemic, and especially at this season of the year, we are reminded of those less fortunate and more vulnerable, in Canada and abroad, who do not receive much-needed assistance.

This is where the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF) performs such an important role as the international relief and development agency of the Anglican Church of Canada. Working with other organizations such as the Canadian Foodgrains Bank, the Canadian Council for Refugees, and The Canadian Partnership for Women & Children's Health, this charity aims to be part of each Canadian parish's outreach ministry. It provides a means through which Anglicans might live out part of their baptismal vows by “loving your neighbour as yourself”.

As your recently appointed parish representative, I am looking forward to promoting PWRDF's work and fundraising initiatives with you!

PWRDF's story started in 1958 when the disastrous coal mine underground seismic event in Springhill, Nova Scotia killed 75 men. Anglicans and other Canadians responded with relief to the stricken families. At General Synod a year later, the Church, realizing the need for ensuring quick assistance to those affected in such emergencies, rose to the occasion and established the Primate's World

Relief Fund, named after the Primate or Archbishop of Canada.

Later on, the organization became the Primate's World Relief & Development Fund reflecting its evolving focus on development programs as well as humanitarian aid. Along with its partners, PWRDF concentrates on preventative healthcare, food security, economic empowerment of women, supporting indigenous communities, disaster relief, helping refugees, and providing PPE to prevent the spread of COVID-19. PWRDF's campaigns, such as Ride for Refuge and World of Gifts, along with one-time or monthly donations, raise funds to support these programs.

This year, Ride for Refuge raised over \$44,000. Our Niagara Diocesan team, Rise & Shine, under the leadership of our Diocesan Representative, Kerry Lubrick, contributed a significant part of this, raising over \$4,000. The beneficiary was St. Jude's Project in Uganda that teaches women sustainable farming practices and techniques to increase farming production.

In 2019, Charity Intelligence ranked this organization among the top 100 charities in Canada, and in 2020 both Macleans and MoneySense magazines chose PWRDF for the same category.

The major annual fundraising campaign for

(Continued on page 19)

(Continued from page 18)

PWRDF, World of Gifts, has now been launched. This year's guide, found at <https://www.pwrdf.org/worldofgifts>, highlights partners focused on climate action, including projects for food security, gender rights, and clean water. Last year, World of Gifts raised over \$550,000. This year, the guide includes gifts with a funding match from the Government of Canada (marked with a red maple leaf). If you are looking for a gift for that special person “impossible” to buy for, consider the many worthwhile options from the World of Gifts guide.

To find out more about how to support PWRDF, please email [Louise van Woelderren](mailto:Louise.van.Woelderren@pwrdf.org) or call me at 905-387-1820

Or visit the PWRDF website at <https://www.pwrdf.org/ways-to-give>

As we begin this season of preparation and waiting, your prayers and support of PWRDF are gratefully appreciated as we all work to create a truly just, healthy, and peaceful world. ■

PWRDF World of Gifts
 PRODUCT TO BUY AT
 The Primrose World Relief and Development Fund
 ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA - FALL 2021

Working towards a truly just, healthy and peaceful world

Holy goats
 Support for Community Workers
 In Malawi, a Community Health Worker (CHW) may be responsible for the health of up to 20 families, but only receives a small stipend. In partnership with PWRDF, Partners in Health Malawi will provide these goats and appropriate training to a CHW, who will in turn be able to provide food security and additional income for his or her family.

- 1 **SINGLE** Your gift of \$80 covers one goat for a CHW.
- 2 **DOUBLE** Your gift of \$125 covers two goats for a CHW.
- 3 **TRIPLE PLUS!** Your gift of \$170 covers all three goats for a CHW.

That's a re-leaf
 In rural Uganda, PWRDF partner St. Jude Family Projects is planting 80,000 trees on farms and public school properties. These restore the soil to better health by fixing nitrogen and preventing erosion. Fruit trees also provide nutrition, oranges and mangoes, improving nutrition and providing income opportunities for families.

- 4 Your gift of \$50 provides 50 tree seedlings to rural farmers in Uganda.

Give the gift of Climate Action
 More and more, we are seeing how important it is to care for the Earth, for all of creation that God has entrusted to us. In this year's World of Gifts guide, we've highlighted many partners who are on the front lines of climate action. United Nations 2030 Sustainable Development Goal #13. Their work to preserve water, restore the soil and to grow food efficiently and responsibly is making a world of difference.

Look for this symbol throughout this guide to see projects that support climate action!

Year #1 for the year 2021

The power of PPE
 From 2014-2020, PWRDF's All Mothers and Children Count program empowered women and girls through improved health and food security in Tanzania, Rwanda, Mozambique and Burundi. In June 2020, PWRDF was granted a one-year extension to support AMCC partners through the COVID-19 crisis. Your donation will help supply health clinics with medical grade Personal Protective Equipment – hand sanitizing facilities and sanitizer for community members coming in to the clinics, and education tools to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

All donations to this program are matched \$:1 by the Government of Canada.

- 1 Your gift of \$300 keeps a clinic safe for a year. With match your gift = \$210
- 2 Your gift of \$210 keeps a clinic safe for a month. With match your gift = \$1,470
- 3 Your gift of \$850 keeps a clinic safe for a month. With match your gift = \$5,950

To order: visit us online 24/7 at [pwrdf.org/worldofgifts](https://www.pwrdf.org/worldofgifts), call us at 1-877-936-9199 or mail the order form on p. 314



ST. MATTHEW'S HOUSE

Adopt a Family/Seniors Holiday Program

St. Matthew's House Adopt a Family/Seniors Holiday Program is in need of teen and senior gift cards.

Giving a gift card helps to ensure that every family and senior that register with St. Matthew's will have something under their tree.

If you would like to donate, please contact christmas@stmatthewshouse.ca or go to their website www.stmatthewshouse.ca to make an online donation.



December

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

Calendar Notes:

- Cathedral Place Offices will be closed December 21 to January 1 inclusive.
- In-person services require pre-registration. Please refer to details in the Chronicle on a week by week basis.
- The annotation *(V)* denotes virtual services.
- Please click on underlined blue text to link to service details or to email an individual as listed.
- For Eucharist with Spiritual Communion, the link takes you to the Cathedral's YouTube Channel. From there, select the service of your choice. For the Order of Service, [click here](#).

<p>13 Advent 3</p> <p><i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i></p> <p>(V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube.</p> <p>(V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details</p>	14	15	<p>16 Advent Ember Day</p> <p>(V) Compline Details. Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify</p>	17	18	19
<p>20 Advent 4</p> <p><i>In-person Lessons & Carols with Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i></p> <p>(V) Lessons & Carols with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube.</p> <p>(V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details</p>	21	22	<p>23 Advent Feria</p> <p>(V) Compline Details. Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify</p>	24 Christmas Eve	25 Christmas Day	26
<p>(V) LESSONS AND CAROLS FOR CHRISTMASTIDE</p> <p><i>An extended service of Lessons and Carols for the season of Christmas is available to watch at any time on YouTube, during the season starting December 23.</i></p>						
<p>27 Christmas One</p> <p><i>In-person Eucharist & Litany of Farewell to Terry DeForest 10 am—NOTE: Change in time and one service only.</i></p> <p>(V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube.</p> <p>(V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details</p>	28	29	<p>30 Feria in Christmastide</p> <p>(V) Meditation on the Nativity Details. Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify</p>	31		

January

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
					1 The Naming of Jesus <i>In-person Eucharist 10am</i>	2
3 The Epiphany of Our Lord <i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i> (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details	4	5	6 The Epiphany of Our Lord (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Details . Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify	7 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact Lynn Godfrey or Thom Davies	8	9
10 The Baptism of our Lord <i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i> (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details	11	12	13 (V) Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Details . Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify	14 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact Lynn Godfrey or Thom Davies	15	16
17 Epiphany 2 <i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i> (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details	18	19	20 (V) Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Details . Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify	21 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact Lynn Godfrey or Thom Davies	22	23
24 Epiphany 3 <i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i> (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details	25	26	27 (V) Evening Prayer at the Cathedral Details . Also on Apple Podcast and Spotify	28 (V) Centering Prayer via Zoom 7:30 am Contact Lynn Godfrey or Thom Davies	29	30
31 Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple <i>In-person Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am</i> (V) Eucharist with Spiritual Communion with Cathedral Clergy on YouTube . (V) Sunday Prayers with Bishop Susan 10 am Details	<div style="background-color: #006400; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid black;"> <p>January 31</p> <p><i>Special Service live-streamed at 4 p.m. on the Cathedral's Facebook Page</i></p> <p><i>Evensong with Institution of the Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral & 14th Dean of Niagara and Installation of Canons of the Cathedral</i></p> </div>					

SEEING WITH THE EYES



Of the heart

by **Brian Kreps**



Wendy Newman and I served as the Cathedral’s lay delegates to the Diocese of Niagara’s 146th Synod, held on Saturday, November 7 under the theme of “seeing with the eyes of the heart.” The circular described the theme as being, “Inspired by the Letter to the Ephesians, chapter 1 verses 15-19, the theme offers a lens to reflect upon the past year, giving thanks for the many ways our parishes have led with heart through the pandemic. At the same time, it also orients our synod towards the future as we continue to live into our diocesan Mission Action Plan (MAP) and explore new and emerging avenues for mission.”

Synod was held on-line for the first time. As with so many things restructured by the pandemic, this came with advantages and disadvantages. The virtual format did allow for people to participate from across the Diocese without the drive or the need to find parking. Personally, I missed the opportunity to meet people from other parts of the Diocese and learn about their parishes. Most importantly, I missed the opportunity to worship and sing as a community.

Bishop’s Charge to Synod

Bishop Susan’s charge to Synod included a heartfelt acknowledgement and appreciation for how the pandemic has affected individuals and parishes. She noted the many ways in which individuals and parishes have responded. The Cathedral’s Resting and Hygiene Centre which was operated during the first

wave for people experiencing homelessness was cited as an example. The Charge to Synod was concluded with the introduction of Tim Dobbin as the new Dean of the Cathedral. He expressed his eagerness to begin his work as Dean and get to know the Diocese of Niagara better.

Mission Action Plan

The agenda included an update on the Diocese’s Mission Action Plan (MAP) which is now our primary plan. We were reminded that a draft was presented to Synod in 2019 and that feedback was subsequently incorporated. The MAP was approved by Synod Council in January and implementation has begun. The MAP’s Vision is, “Called to Life... Compelled to Love” and the Mission Statement is, “Ignited by the irresistible love of God and renewed by the Holy Spirit, we partner with God to strengthen faith, share stories, and care for God’s world.”

The MAP is organized around the following three themes:

- Create and implement opportunities to strengthen faith.
- Reimagine diocesan culture and our structures to enable ministry; and
- Prioritize social justice action with an emphasis on environmental justice.

(Continued on page 23)

Many steps have been taken to begin implementing these themes. I will not attempt to capture everything in the update on the MAP here. The Diocese provides a complete description on its website <https://niagaraanglican.ca/mission>. One of the early actions has been the hiring of Jeff Potter as the Diocesan Missioner. In this role, he will work to increase capacity and passion for missional work within the Diocese. Plans are underway for the creation of a school for mission leadership. Courses will be offered this winter in a pilot testing format and a broader roll out is anticipated in 2021.

Other important actions included the creation of a new interim rite for the newly named as a further commitment to support and to the inclusion of transgender individuals. An anti-racism working group was also established to help the Diocese and parishes better understand how to engage in actions to address these issues through a faith lens. Greening Niagara has been re-invigorated with a new title (Climate Justice Niagara) and a new mandate.

Implementation will now move to the parish level. A process will be undertaken for parishes to develop their own mission action plans. The Diocese had developed a three-session model to facilitate development of parish plans.

Canon Changes

Several changes to the diocesan canons were approved by Synod. The first is very important to the Cathedral's future. Cathedral Place was not mentioned in the current canons and no formal agreements were in place between the Diocese and the Corporation of the Christ's Church Cathedral. You may recall that a report was commissioned to review the operations and it recommended formalizing the "de facto" arrangement. The canon, adopted with nearly unanimous support, in essence constitutes Christ's Church Cathedral as a parish with-

out property responsibility. Instead, we will pay a set property fee to the Diocese.

The pandemic has revealed several limitations of existing canons regarding the functioning of Synod Council and Parish Vestry meetings. Namely, the pandemic made it apparent that in unusual circumstances, such as the ones in which we find ourselves, decisions may need to be made more quickly than is allowed by a 14-day notice period. A change to the notice period for Synod Council was approved along with a similar change for parish Vestry meetings (enabling Synod Council to issue regulations for Vestry meetings, especially for virtual meetings).

2019 Financial Report and 2021 Budget

The other items on the agenda engendered little discussion. The budget, however, brought out a few more questions. The Diocese finished 2019 with a surplus of a little more than \$230,000. The Diocese realized improved investment revenue over 2018 as well as higher revenue from Canterbury Hills. Expenses were similar from 2018 to 2019 with the exception of increased grant expenses and an increase in the cost of Diocesan-managed properties.

The Diocesan budget for 2021 is influenced by the pandemic. Revenues are projected to be reduced in several areas most notably DM&M which is collected from parishes. The decreased revenue is offset by an anticipated stewardship campaign and income from the sale of a property that has been under Diocesan management. The budget presentation by Canon Jody Beck detailed these issues and a number of attempts to find savings. She explained that in the creation of the budget, cost cutting was balanced with the need to support parishes and live into the new vision of ministry. So increased spending is anticipated in ministry and mission expenses. A deficit budget of almost \$250,000 was approved. ■

VOLUNTEERING



Extremely rewarding

by David Savage



I am very honoured and delighted to have the privilege of serving as a warden at the Cathedral. It is a place that I am passionate about for its community, ministries, rich liturgy, and glorious music.

Angela and I became members of the Cathedral in about 1975. It was Dean Joe Fricker's warmth and dynamic personality that attracted us after "shopping around" for a church to attend. At the time, there were several young families joining the congregation which created a great deal of energy. Joe had a way of involving people which contributed to a largely supportive congregation able to take on many projects including the major refurbishing of the interior of the Cathedral. Almost forty-five years later, we still find the Cathedral to be a very welcoming and supportive community.

I have always found volunteering at the Cathedral to be an extremely rewarding experience. Early on I was a member of the Cathedral Council when the "new" pews were installed. For several years, I was also the Director of Servers and the alternate Deans Verger, positions which have not existed for a long time.

I am currently chairing the Parish Events and Outreach Coordinating Committee as well as coordinating the Meal Ticket Program. The Meal Ticket Ministry started with the distribution of meal tickets only and evolved into a hospitality program supported by a group of welcoming, dedicated, and

empathetic volunteers. The program unfortunately has had to pause during this pandemic, but it was wonderful to see some of the meal ticket recipients using the Resting and Hygiene Centre this summer.

In the Diocese I am pleased to be a member of the Climate Justice Niagara Committee, formerly Greening Niagara. I am looking forward to working with our new Dean to revive the program at the Cathedral. Another great passion of mine is volunteering at St. Matthew's House. The support they provide to children, their families, and older adults particularly in the Code Red area of Hamilton makes such a significant difference to those they serve. As Chair of the Board of Directors it is such a privilege to work with the hard working and dedicated staff as well as a very cohesive and talented Board which includes our own Elizabeth Wensley and John Watts.

I appreciate your giving me this opportunity. I know I have a steep learning curve and big shoes to fill, but I am really excited about working as a member of the Corporation and with the Venerable Timothy Dobbin as the Cathedral starts a new chapter. There are significant challenges facing the church today, but I am optimistic that by working together many of these challenges will be overcome and we will flourish. ■

A FOND ADIEU TO THE REV. CANON DR. SHARYN HALL



On October 25, we gathered (to the extent possible) to commemorate Sharyn's ministry at the Cathedral and wish her well in her retirement. Sharyn was presented with a bouquet of flowers and a plaque announcing the establishment of a new arts fund—*The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall Fund for Cathedral Visual Arts*. This fund recognizes Canon Sharyn Hall's long and dedicated ministry in the Diocese of Niagara and at Christ's Church Cathedral. It is also a legacy to Canon Sharyn Hall's appreciation for and promotion of visual arts especially at the Cathedral.



KEEPING MANY TRADITIONS AND LIGHTING UP ON ZOOM

Christmas 2020 will not be normal, but we are going to keep as many of our treasured traditions as possible. The most disappointing change for us is that we will not be spending Christmas with our two sons and their families. We will especially miss our four grandchildren. On the bright side, our daughter and her family have been in our bubble, so we are looking forward to spending Christmas Day with our three younger grandchildren. It is our five-month-old grandson Thomas' first Christmas!

The outside lights are up – front and back – and Angela's urns are decorated. The Christmas tree will be in the front window with lots of lights and decorations that have special memories. In fact, most rooms will have a festive theme including the garage which is our new entertaining space. There may be no big gatherings this year, but the decorations will make great Zoom backgrounds.

It would not be Christmas without the wonderful Christmas baking and our traditional English/Ukrainian dishes. This year we are providing delivery or curbside pickup!

We love the sacredness of Christmas with its message of love, hope, joy, and peace. We always look forward to celebrating with family, friends, and our church family. We are grateful that the church services are recorded so we can experience glorious liturgy and music.

Instead of open houses, we are arranging Zoom gatherings with friends and family...bring your own cocktails and hors d'oeuvres. The "Savage Christmas" which we celebrate early in December with my brother's family is a wonderful chaotic event with lots of children and dogs. We are going to Zoom dressed in our ugly Christmas sweaters, eat, drink, and I am sure trample each others' conversations. It will be marvelous! As a bonus we received a Zoom invitation to a long-standing four generation Boxing Day Party in the U.K. It will be lovely to connect with extended family as travel plans were cancelled this year.

We are also very aware that we are blessed, and the restrictions of the pandemic will most likely just affect this Christmas. For many in Hamilton's lower city, the pandemic has been much more difficult especially for older adults who experience isolation, insecure housing, and food shortages. Congregate programs have been cancelled, which for many was how they celebrated Christmas. Like many other people, we are going to donate what we would have spent on entertaining to the St. Matthew's House Holiday Adopt A Senior/Family Program.

We wish you every blessing for this Christmas season and a safe, healthy New Year! ■

Angela and David Savage

O COME LET US ADORE HIM, CHRIST THE LORD!

I do not **do** Christmas. I celebrate the gift from God, the birth of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. To me, it is a special time to remember that God came to be with us, with me. I feel it is not about the decorations, food preparations, and presents, but memories of Christmases past that remain alive in our hearts and minds that are precious.

I would like to share one of my memories with you. It was Christmas 1972. On November 28th, I had given birth to my second son, and holding a new born child in my arms that Christmas when I went up to the communion rail, felt so unique knowing that we had been blessed with a gift from God, just as Mary and Joseph and the entire world had been back in Bethlehem so many years ago.

As a child I always looked forward to setting up the Nativity scene. It was made of cardboard and it was a privilege to hold the Holy Family in my hands and to place the shepherds and sheep and the wisemen and camel into their respective places. It sat under the Christmas tree and was the centrepiece of our celebrations, as was going to church for the Christmas Day service.



The first Christmas away from home was the year I was married. My new mother-in-law was a widow of only 18 months, and we spent the holidays with her, sharing all her memories. The singing of *Silent Night* is always a poignant reminder of those who are no longer with us.

So, memories of this unusual COVID Christmas will live on past the date and it will hold its own in the retelling. Do what you must do to stay safe and healthy. I will be sharing the dinner with one of my sons and his family. I am a part of two social bubbles and will have to spend separate time with those I love. I will be going to church to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

I want to take this opportunity to wish all my friends and family at Christ's Church Cathedral a happy Christmas and God's blessings in 2021. Make new memories! ■

Madge Passmore



HOW WILL WE DO CHRISTMAS THIS YEAR?

The short answer is – we’ll do Christmas 2020, the year of COVID, the best way we know how! We’re inspired by our parents’ stories of wartime Christmases. It will be different, but we’ll adapt our traditions and add a few new ones, and it will be a wonderful celebration of the birth of our Saviour.

First, the traditions. We’ll decorate the tree and the house inside, string lights outside, and send cards and greetings to friends we won’t be seeing. We’ll bake fruitcakes, and lots of gingerbread cookies. A longstanding tradition is decorating gingerbread cookies with the grandkids in Prince Edward County, but this year we’ll mail them to the girls along with decorating supplies. Then we’ll schedule a date for a video meeting to share our creations. Like other years, we plan to shop locally, and attend Cathedral services virtually or in person. We’ll deliver our traditional Christmas dinner to family members who will be absent from our table but never from our hearts.



Now for some things new. We are participating in St. Matthew’s Adopt-A-Family/Senior’s Program that matches us with a family or seniors in the Hamilton area, and focus on community needs to spread the blessings of the Christmas season. And we are hoping to organize some Carol singing in the neighbourhood, suitably masked and distanced.

Celebrations will be different this year, but the real story of Christmas never changes. We’ll be reminded of the birth of Jesus, that God is among us, and we are called to help each other all through the year. ■

Merry Christmas!

Jim & Wendy Newman



A QUIETER HOUSE

I love Christmas! The twinkling lights, the music, the excitement of the grandchildren, and the feeling of expectation. This year will be no different in that respect. What will be missing are friends and family. We will not be attending the Theatre Aquarius Christmas play followed by a scrumptious turkey dinner.

We will not be visiting my special (step) sister in her Virginia home. It’s been a year since I have seen her smiling face and I miss her terribly.

Our house will be quieter this Christmas but that’s okay. My wish this season is that my friends and family enjoy good health and wellbeing. Merry Christmas! ■

Kim and Michael Johnston

THAT IS WHAT CHRISTMAS IS ALL ABOUT CHARLIE BROWN

Before considering Christmas 2020, I think back to Christmas 2019. I was starting my difficulties with my left leg deciding to go on strike, my son-in-law from Texas was sick with the flu and spent Christmas Eve at his parents not at our place with his wife and perfect in-laws, and my oldest daughter was feeling poorly and had lost her voice. This last symptom was seen by many in the family as somewhat of a Christmas miracle. She and her husband did not come to our place until Christmas morning. Also, due to my leg, I could not play in the annual road hockey game on Boxing Day. A tradition which has been going on for over 50 years.

On our way to my brother's house for Christmas dinner, my oldest daughter and I drove out together and decided that Christmas 2019 was the worst and how much better Christmas 2020 would be. Needless to say, my fortune telling career has been put on hold.

Christmas 2020 will be missing many of our usual traditions. Our daughter and son-in-law will not make it home for Christmas. In fact, theirs will be a most different Christmas as they are going back-packing in Big Bend National Park in Texas. Our Christmas dinner will be the four of us, not twenty-four. Christmas Eve service will seem less Christmassy without carols and with sitting apart from each other. Our annual road hockey game is being cancelled for the first time ever.

In spite of the above changes, some traditions will continue. We will watch on YouTube Darlene Love sing her Christmas song on the David Letterman show. We will listen to *The Shepherd on As It Happens* on Christmas Eve on CBC Radio One as we have for 40 years or more. If you have never heard it, do so. The night before we will listen to the *Gift of the Magi* on the same program.

Some night before Christmas we will get out the DVD of *A Charlie Brown Christmas*. My daughter and I will say the lines of the show as it is going, much to the annoyance of anyone trying to listen. There are favourite lines. Linus telling Charlie Brown that he is the only person who he knows that can turn a beautiful holiday like Christmas into a problem. When Mary is often fretting and concerned about whether everything will be ok for Christmas, I quote this line to her. "I am braver than you thought or as stupid." Another line is when Charlie Brown is filling out his sister's Christmas list and she states, "all I want is what I deserve; all I want is my fair share". However, my favourite is when Charlie Brown is fed up with the fact no one is taking the Christmas concert seriously and yells "Doesn't anyone know what Christmas is all about." Then Linus walks onto the stage of the gym and says, "Lights please" and recites from Luke (King James version) the Christmas story. When he finishes, he says, "That is what Christmas is all about Charlie Brown". May we all remember that is what Christmas is all about.

How ever you are celebrating this Christmas, Merry Christmas! ■

John & Mary Ellis





REMEMBERING, BEING SUPPORTIVE, AND APART

If you have the mindset of “it’s just not Christmas unless...” then of course you will be disappointed this year. If, however, you can adjust your expectations, you may be able to find a new way to celebrate. Like the rest of the world, my family and I will be celebrating differently this year, but perhaps for a different reason. My mom died this past April, so we are facing our first Christmas without her.

She did not die of COVID but rather from diminishing health due to age and 13 years of Alzheimer's disease. Her death was not tragic like so many others because of, or during the pandemic. She would have turned 90 on November 20 of this year. She was well taken care of by my dad during the past 13 years. Since she is the first of the four parents of John and mine to die, I am beginning to understand the loss that so many of my friends and family have experienced with losing a loved one. I can now truly sympathize with them. It has become a much more real emotion for me.

This Christmas will be a time of looking back, remembering all of the Christmases my mom was with us. It will be a time of trying to be as supportive as possible for my dad, who misses her terribly, but is also restricted by the pandemic. We cannot have a Christmas altogether with my extended family but need to make sure he is taken care of emotionally. We will need to be supportive, but apart. More than ever as a family, we will need to rely on our faith. That is why I can be thankful for the mother I had, who grounded me in the faith I have.

While the practice of Christmas may look different this year, the reason and the love we share as a family will be the same. Let us hope that will sustain us until we can return to a more familiar time. ■

Lori-Lyn Bradley

CHRISTMAS IN CALGARY?

When first invited by Paula, a couple of weeks ago, to write a piece for the Christmas *Contact* about "how will you do Christmas this year", I responded to her by saying that we had "no plan". That there was “no plan” would be a similar response for most or, at least, many of us! In this troubled year of 2020 for the entire world's population, making a plan has been a difficult and ever-changing concept, almost an unknown entity.

But Christmas does happen every year and on the same day and it holds special, spiritual meanings for all Christians in the world. There's no change; we celebrate the birth of the Christ child with great joy, a thankful heart, and love.

Our “no plan” for Christmas this year has now become a "plan" when 10 evenings ago, while I was reading a novel, my cell phone began to ping, ping, and ping!! I picked it up and looked at the messages and saw two Westjet e-tickets to Calgary from December 23rd until January 4th!! A surprise gift of love and gratitude from our son, Alan David and our daughter-in-law Jaqueline. I hope they love us as much after 11 nights and 12 days as they did when they generously gave the tickets!! And so, for the moment, my husband Alan and I will be "doing Christmas" in Calgary for 2020 unlike the past two years where we have spent Christmas in Florida. It won't be as warm outside in Calgary, but it will be filled with love and happiness inside, where it counts most.

Yes, Christmas 2020 will be unlike any other for us this year as it will be for many others. What will remain the same for me is the meaning of Christmas – the giving and sharing of love, of celebrating the birth of the Christ child, of being truly grateful, and happy each day for the life that has been given to us from God.

In keeping with tradition, I wish ALL a Blessed and Merry Christmas and may 2021 promise renewed hope and peace for EVERYONE, EVERYWHERE. ■

Barbara Jepson

GOD CAN BE AND

Is found everywhere

by Terry DeForest✠



“And what I say to you I say to all: Keep awake.” Mark 13:37

So ends the gospel reading for the First Sunday of Advent (Year B).

Far be it for me to contradict Jesus’ direct teaching, but I am aware of how tiring it is to live in this time of anxiety, fearfulness and uncertainty, pandemic illness, racial injustice, with lives and livelihoods so perilously at risk. As we were reminded recently in the parable of the bridesmaids, even the wise and prepared bridesmaids got a chance to sleep. And I expect that I am not alone in seeking rest and refreshment. However, I would suggest that “keeping awake” is more about seeing every moment and every event, including times of rest, relaxation, and recreation, as a place where God can be met and God’s love can be both received and shared. So maybe I am not contradicting Jesus in this.

The stories of Christmas which we are about to rehearse reveal just how much a scandalous surprise it would be to hold that the Lord God, Sovereign of the Universe, was appearing in the flesh. And even if we could get our heads around the idea of Emmanuel – God with us – in person, John Bell’s striking *Carol of the Epiphany* names ways in which this surprise is even more incredible. Instead of finding God where we might expect to (i.e. as one of those who are rich, powerful, and famous), Bell points to a number of the inconceivable elements of Jesus’ birth narrative: “it seemed he lived in poverty...jeopardy...[and] obscurity.” You may recall the bewilderment voiced by Judas, posing a question to (the post-crucifixion) Jesus in the lyrics of the rock opera Jesus Christ Superstar “Why’d you choose such a backward time and such a strange land...” to make your appear-

ance? Bell’s bewilderment, placed on the lips of the magi in the closing lines of the carol, climaxes in this way:

“And so, distinct from all we’d planned
among the poorest of the land,
we did what few might understand,
we touched God in a baby’s hand.”

Yet, this is the best part of the news of the birth of Jesus and gift of Emmanuel. If one can find God dwelling amongst us in the midst of the most pronounced of human, social, economic, and religious vulnerabilities, then there is no place and no circumstance in which God cannot be found. There is no place or circumstance which God’s love will not insist on transforming by being there.

Perhaps keeping awake looks more like always being alert to the fact that God can be and is found everywhere: in the midst of pain and suffering; joy and wondering; fear and faith; powerlessness and steadfastness; oppression and liberation; birth and death. It is theological prejudice which would keep us from letting this good news take root and claim our every waking (and sleeping) moment.

I find that when I am blessed with a moment of alertness to God’s presence in my life and the world around me, then I am no longer tired. Instead I am most powerfully refreshed and renewed.

Perhaps this is the kind of keeping awake to which Jesus exhorts us. May your Advent, Christmas and Epiphany seasons be entirely impregnated and infused with such blessed alertness! ■

FINAL REPORT

 On behalf of the committee

by Kerry Lubrick



Parochial Committee established and meeting regularly

- ✓ Transition plan completed; monitoring and adjusting
- ✓ Self-Study completed
- ✓ Parish profile completed
- ✓ Recruitment for new Dean and Rector
- ✓ Interviewing of potential candidates
- ✓ Recommendations to Bishop Susan
- ✓ Appointment by Bishop Susan and Announcement

The Parochial Committee had their final meeting on October 1st, 2020 which was when the committee made the recommendation to the Bishop of the successful candidate for the position of Dean and Rector. On October 16, 2020, the appointment of the Venerable Dr. Timothy Dobbin to the position of the Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral and Dean of the Diocese of Niagara was announced by Bishop Susan Bell.

Tim met and exceeded all the requirements that we prioritized for our new Rector and Dean. Those requirements came from the results of our "Exploring Clergy Role Expectations Survey".

Pastoral care is an area of expertise in Tim's ministry. He is a true Pastor with a deep love for serving people and has a heart for those on the margins. Tim possesses a Doctor of Ministry degree in Pastoral Counselling and Marriage and Family Therapy which accounts for his expertise of Pastoral Care.

Vision, outreach, and thinking missionally have been hallmark components of Tim's years of ministry. Tim recognizes the need to take time through listening and talking to get the vision right, then to review the direction annually. Tim uses social justice and connections between God's calling and the community to develop faith formation. Tim has focused on Truth and Reconciliation initiatives with indigenous communities, Messy Church, community meal programs, and refugee support, to mention a few. Tim recognizes that the Cathedral's missional lead could be recognized as a centre of excellence for others in the Diocese.



(Continued on page 33)

Tim acknowledges and encourages the skills, knowledge, and abilities of others to move ministries forward. He facilitates a team approach through collaboration and delegation. Tim is an experienced educator and counsellor.

We look forward to welcoming Tim, Lynn, Sophie, and Felicity to Christ's Church Cathedral on January 1, 2021. The installation to the role of Dean of Niagara will occur on January 31, 2021, live-streamed on the Cathedral's Facebook page.

It is important to give thanks for the service, commitment, and sharing of skills to arrive at this final stage of the interim process. Thank you to YOU, the parishioners, for participating in one or all of the facilitated self-studies, your individual input and also your responses to the Exploring Clergy Role Expectations Survey. Your input was critical in developing our parish profile and for determining the critical competencies for our next rector and dean.

Special thanks are also extended to the members of the Parochial Committee (listed below). Each member was engaged and committed to the interim process and to the important selection process. Each member generously shared their talents, time, and gifts over the last 12 months to ensure that we discerned and clearly articulated the needs of the parish and were able to find and recommend the Rector and Dean that would most fit those needs. ■

The Rev. Canon J. Lefebvre,
Diocesan Representative and Chair of the parochial committee

The Venerable Suzanne Craven,
Diocesan Representative and Secretary

Peter Rugh, Diocesan Representative

The Reverend Canon David Linn,
Diocesan Representative and Consultant

The Reverend Canon Terry DeForest,
Diocesan Representative and Consultant

Janina Vanderpost, Warden

John Bradley, Warden

Kerry Lubrick,
Warden and Communications for the Committee

Rob Jones, Warden

Wendy Newman, Lay Delegate to Synod

Jeremy Ludwig, Lay Delegate to Synod

Brian Kreps, Substitute Lay Delegate to Synod

JEFF BRAUN-JACKSON

Pasta and the Cook Islands



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

My idea of a perfect day would be sitting in a comfortable chair someplace quiet and reading my books or newspapers with no cell phone or computer beeping.

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

I chose the Cathedral for two reasons: one practical and one personal. The Cathedral is only about 250 m from my front door. In fact, I can see it from our front porch on Colbourne Street. A short walk is hugely important especially in inclement weather. The personal reason is that the first time I visited the Cathedral in 2014, I was warmly welcomed by a greeter (David Savage). I thought “there is a good vibe here.” Once I heard Bishop Ralph, Dean Peter, Sharyn, Dan, and the others preach, I was sold on the Cathedral.

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

Visiting with fellow members of the congregation after the service.

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

It would be great if there were services at other times and other days during the week (for example, Saturday evening or Sunday evening).

5. *Which living person do you most admire?*

Another difficult question to answer but I will say Evelyn L Forget. Dr. Evelyn L. Forget is Professor of Economics and Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba. Her research examines the health and social implications of poverty and inequality, and she is often called upon by governments, First Nations, and international organizations to advise on poverty, inequality, health, and social outcomes. For over thirty years, Evelyn Forget’s research program has focused on one issue: how can social policy ensure that everyone has access to the resources they require to live with dignity?

6. *What would be your desert island pick for a book, a piece of music, and food?*

All very difficult questions! My pick for food would be Italian, especially pasta.

My pick for a piece of music would be Smokey Robinson and the Miracles' *The Tears of a Clown*.

My pick for a book would be Aesop's Fables or the collected works of Shakespeare.

7. *Where would your dream vacation spot be?*

The Cook Islands. Unfortunately, it is about two days and many flights from Canada. I would also settle for anyplace in Scandinavia.

SALLY BRAUN-JACKSON

 Two cups of coffee &
Inspector Gamache



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

My perfect day starts with two cups of coffee over a lingering breakfast, followed by some knitting and after lunch a drive in the countryside with Jeff, perhaps stopping to buy some local produce.

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

I cannot be rushed in the morning, so walking to a church that is only two blocks from my house is a big perk. Also, like Jeff, I was impressed by the welcome we received on our first day - David Savage was great, but champagne and angel food cake for communion! (It was Pentecost Sunday. Our former church didn't share this tradition. We felt special.)

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

Honestly, I look forward to Wednesday afternoons with the Prayer Shawl Knitting Group. It's a great social time with a very supportive group of women.

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

Hmm, no, I can't think of anything to change.

5. *Which living person do you most admire?*

I admire novelist Louise Penny. Her Inspector Gamache series is a second-career creation. There have been 16 adventures over the last 20 years. Each one stands alone, but they are also subtly linked to each other. The Foreword and

Acknowledgement sections are also worth reading. It was in one of these a few years ago, Penny's readers learned of her husband's Alzheimer's diagnosis. Would there be another Gamache novel? There was. And when he died, miraculously Louise Penny grounded herself in her fictional world to keep going. There have been two novels since her husband's passing. I find that inspirational.

6. *What would be your desert island pick for a book, a piece of music, and food?*

The food choice is easy: chicken korma with Naan bread.

Music: Daytime tune – Bob Marley's *Don't Worry Be Happy*

Evening music – Vivaldi's *Four Seasons*

Book: A.S. Byatt's *Possession*. It has poems, short stories, a compelling mystery, and romance.

7. *Where would your dream vacation spot be?*

Jeff would go south, but I am interested in the north.

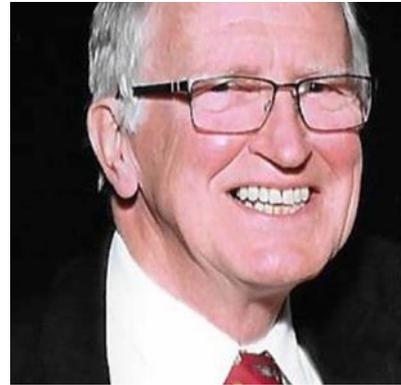
As a knitter, I would love to visit the Shetland Islands, Iceland, and Scandinavia.

No cruise ships, please. I really want to engage with each destination.

VISUAL TOUR BOOK

 A winding one

by Sandy Darling



The path to publishing *A Visual Tour of Christ's Church Cathedral, Hamilton, Ontario* is winding and goes back almost fifty years to the time that Archdeacon John Rathbone was Canon Pastor at the Cathedral. John was the first person to compile information about the windows: when they were installed and who made them.

The next milestone was 1985, the 150th anniversary year of the parish, when a history of the Cathedral was commissioned, written, but never published. I remember Katharine Greenfield saying to me something like, "We don't need another stuffy history; we should have short articles about the people of the Cathedral." Katharine worked at the Hamilton Public Library and so had access to its archives, and she also became Cathedral Archivist. As Archivist, Katharine wrote articles for *Contact* about people and the families of the Cathedral, and so we were treated to vignettes of the social history of the Cathedral and Hamilton.

Another milestone occurred in the 1990s after the Columbarium had been finished; Alice (Lallie) wrote the pamphlet about the cushions and kneelers that is referenced on page 48 of the visual tour.

By the time Jeni and I returned to Hamilton late in 2004 after living in Cairo, Dean Peter Wall had opened the Cathedral in the summer for visitors and so we first participated in 2005. At the planning meeting for 2006, I suggested that we have

information boards with photos. This idea was accepted, so I started taking photos and Art Grinstead put them together on two boards – one at the entry and one at the foot of the chancel steps. After we opened for an art crawl, the visit program was expanded and grew to what we knew before COVID caused us to suspend visits. One afternoon, Archdeacon Marion Vincett was returning from lunch through the Cathedral, saw the display board, and then suggested that we should start producing Christmas cards. The first cards and a Cathedral Calendar for the 2007 year were produced in 2006.

Because I did not have enough photos of the Cathedral to keep producing calendars, I visited Bishop Ralph Spence for advice on which churches to visit to take photos. I followed his advice and took photos at selected churches in the Diocese and provided copies to each parish I visited. Some of these I used in the book during Holy Week (pages 20, 21, 24 and 27), and others appear on pages 44, 68 and 71.

One Friday evening when we were guiding, I spoke with a man from another parish, who was wanting to produce something for his parish with photos on a computer disk, and this was the spark for the production of the disk *In the Beauty of Holiness* for our 175th anniversary in 2010. The disk, laid out by Paula Esteves, contained over 200 photos and supporting text with information about the win-

(Continued on page 37)

(Continued from page 36)

dows, wood carving, reredos, cushions and kneelers, organ, and Bishopsgate. Preparation of this disk required more work to add to the work of John Rathbone, Katharine Greenfield and Lallie Robertson.

I talked to both John and Katharine, and Katharine walked around the Cathedral with me talking about the people named in memorials – she confessed that she was more interested in the people than in the stained glass! Later, I was given the notes compiled by Archdeacon Richard Berryman after a similar tour with Katharine. John drew my attention to the exterior carvings (page 6), and told me anecdotes such as that on page 26. I also delved into the archives, where I learned of the plan for the chancel windows (page 37) and how stained glass was carried safely across the ocean (page 42).

Beyond the Cathedral congregation, I spoke to Frank Leathley who had worked at Valley City Manufacturing, still had tools used by the carvers and fixed any minor damage to the woodwork. He told me about the two master carvers and the composition of their teams. A visit to Andrew McCausland, President the McCausland studios confirmed the origin of some windows, but did not confirm some windows that I thought might have been made by that studio. I also learned from a visit of Charlie Hill, cousin of Georgie Docker and then Curator of Canadian Art at the National Gallery. He was preparing an exhibition on the Arts and Craft Movement and wanted to look at the Annunciation window (pages 55 and 56) as a possible component of the exhibit. He was accompanied by Tobi Bruce, Director, Exhibitions and Collections & Senior Curator of the Hamilton Art Gallery. I gave them a tour of the Cathedral, and they taught me how to find signatures on windows, and Tobi found the signatures on the four carved figures on the altar that some young people had found one Friday evening (page 18). After the visit, Charlie sent me documentation from the 1886 exhibit quot-

ed on page 55. Regina Haggo, a former professor of art history wrote stories in the *Hamilton Spectator* about the first two calendars, and so I learned more about symbolism in stained glass.

When COVID arrived in Ontario, armed with photos and a lot of information, I started a virtual tour in daily messages. I remembered Katharine's comments from 1985 to keep messages short and avoid being stuffy. Other guides to stained glass windows normally provide the name of artists, date of production, the Biblical text and a description with interpretation, but I added Katharine's stories, my own anecdotes, and information from the internet to messages. I wanted to lift up spirits, entertain, inform, and inspire curiosity by giving topics that could be explored further. Electronic delivery made it easy to provide internet links to follow up. Others generously provided help when asked: John Watts and David Savage about St Matthew's House (page 52), Mother Marguerite and Sisters Heather and Michael about the Rood (page 54), and Wendy Newman, Cathedral Archivist, about the dates and three locations of the chapel in the school house.

After a few weeks, some readers started to ask that the daily messages be collected into a book. Some rewriting and restructuring were needed, and Canons Terry DeForest and Sharyn Hall closely read the manuscript and advised me on theological points. The final product put in print the work of Katharine Greenfield and John Rathbone done quietly decades ago, and preparing the daily messages gave routine to my life at a time when many routines were disrupted. And, the book only costs you \$12.00 to learn more about your Cathedral and the many messages embedded in our beautiful building! ■

If you're interested in purchasing the book, either for yourself or as a gift, details can be found on page 9. All proceeds go to the Cathedral.

CHRISTMAS

 In a Pandemic (1918)

by Wendy Newman
with thanks to Brian Henley



The parallels between the current COVID pandemic and the 1918 Influenza Pandemic (50,000 deaths in Canada, then a country of fewer than 8.7 million) are striking indeed. Then as now, there were deeply concerned health care professionals along with businesses counting on a strong Christmas retail season. And church communities contributed spiritual and charitable support under tough circumstances.

At the time, Hamilton had three daily newspapers: *The Herald*, *The Spectator*, and *The Times*. They were the chief source of information for local residents.

I've written previously for *Cathedral Contact* about the successive influenza surges, one occurring after huge crowds went out to cheer the end of the War in mid-November, and increasing numbers of soldiers came home from overseas. Much newspaper ink was devoted to controversies about pre-Christmas shopping. There is very little published about the views of clergy, including Anglican clergy. Along with prohibitions on public funerals, churches had been closed during that Fall, then allowed to open again. Many local clergy had objected to church closings, asserting that spiritual sustenance was more important than ever. One unnamed local minister had commented that the city was better off with churches open, as his parishioners bathed before going to church, thus preventing spread of germs.

Sharp limitations on shopping hours (4:00 pm closings) dominated the news more than any other aspect of the pandemic. This was to reduce crowding through staggered hours of work in industrial and commercial establishments. It would make shift changes and streetcars safer. In fact, workers were urged to walk home after work if they could. The slogan: "Shop early and walk." Then, as now, newspapers depended on advertising. Retail advertisers resented the limited hours, out of concern for their staff and of course, their bottom lines.

After December 19, churches were open again, to the great relief of the local Ministerial association. Then,

as now, conflict and oddities were considered news; the daily lives of residents were not. Reporters noted that alcohol-fueled fights and alcohol not backed up by a doctor's prescription landed some in court the next day. The magistrate of the day did not observe the tradition of excusing those charged at Christmas.

To read the newspaper accounts of Christmas of 1918 is to see faith and resilience in action, however. The City had sent close to 12,000 to war and was hit hard – the long memorial list in our Cathedral is heartbreaking. The pandemic hit just as soldiers returned. Long before the publicly funded safety net so familiar to us, church people of the stricken city worked together to provide food and practical help for others.

The Herald described the relief and joy of Christmas Day:

"Yesterday was the best Christmas in four years. Such a feeling of 'peace and good will toward men' pervaded the earth that it seemed as if a Savior had been re-born. And many world-savers born to immortality in dugouts in France and Flanders made the unclouded joyousness of this Christmas day possible.

Outwardly yesterday was like all other Christmases. The theaters were crowded to capacity at both matinee and evening performances. Many people took a constitutional to walk off the effect of too much turkey and plum pudding, and about ten per cent of the city's population remembered the real meaning of Christmas and went to church in the morning to give praise to the Prince of Peace."

Over one hundred years later, we are celebrating Christmas in the shadow of a pandemic. We grieve with the bereaved. We give thanks for our health and safety, for the many sacrifices of those who have managed the situation. We remember we are called to take care of others. From home or in our beautiful Cathedral, we join with others in the timeless liturgies and music of Advent and Christmas. The Prince of Peace is with us. ■

DECEMBER

Year end approaches

by Corporation



Parishioner giving continues to be behind our 2020 year to date plan by \$69,134 and \$53,257 behind where we were at this time last year. Expenses are under plan partially due to our not having been in assembly for much of the year. We have benefited tremendously from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) program provided by the Government of Canada. We have received CEWS in the amount of \$90,452 that is applied as a credit towards our staffing costs. This has helped us immensely given that parishioner giving is below where we need it to be. However, the Government of Canada has recalibrated the amounts available under the CEWS and as of December 2020 and going forward to June 2021 (which is when the CEWS is legislated to end), we will only receive about 35% of the monthly credits we have received to date. This shortfall will have to be addressed through increased Parishioner Giving now and throughout 2021.

While we currently have a surplus due to lower than anticipated expenses and the CEWS credits, preliminary budget estimates for 2021 are showing that any surplus we may have at the end of 2020 will be eliminated in 2021. 2021 will be a very challenging year financially so we must find a way to increase giving to pre-COVID levels.

We sincerely thank all of those who are faithfully donating by monthly pre-authorized payment, PayPal, Credit Card and Interac e-transfer. We hope that anyone not currently donating will consider using the “donate” tab on the Cathedral web site (which allows for contributions by credit card or PayPal) or by sending your cheques directly to us by mail or by sending us an Interac e-transfer using the e-mail address of cathedral@niagaraanglican.ca. We have direct e-transfer deposit so no security question is required for an Interac e-transfer and no service charges are assessed for this method so we benefit from your entire donation.

Our staff continue to work to ensure that ongoing programs, in person worship, pastoral support, and virtual services are all being provided. The Corporation thanks all of those who continue to faithfully keep their contributions up to date, in support of this continuing important and vital work of the Cathedral. ■

Income	30-Nov-20	2020 Budget	Variance	2019 Actual
Parishioner Givings	\$211,867	\$281,004	-\$69,137	\$265,124
Other Income*	\$19,845	\$19,706	\$139	\$15,040
Open Collection	\$861	\$6,142	-\$5,281	\$5,101
Misc Income	\$1,984	\$5,042	-\$3,058	\$4,728
Fund Income	\$134,908	\$134,908	0	\$131,135
Special Offerings	\$12,228	\$16,500	-\$4,272	\$17,050
Total Income	\$381,693	\$463,302	-\$81,609	\$438,178
Expenses				
Staffing	\$256,861	\$281,710	-\$24,849	\$270,396
Diocesan Assessment	\$38,658	\$38,658	\$0	\$38,658
Property	\$64,840	\$61,599	\$3,241	\$58,936
Admin and Programs	\$58,520	\$88,217	-\$29,697	\$69,755
Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy	-\$90,452	\$0	-\$30,088	\$0
Total Expense	\$328,427	\$470,184	-\$81,393	\$437,745
Net Income (Deficit)	\$53,266	-\$6,882	-\$216	\$433

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