

CONTACT

Christ's Church Cathedral

Christmas, 2025

A photograph of a Mimosa pudica plant, also known as the sensitive plant. The image shows a dense cluster of green, feathery leaves. A single, bright red, spherical flower head is in focus, standing out against the green foliage. The background is slightly blurred, showing more of the plant and some other greenery.

God is Love

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Front Cover - Gage Park greenhouse - Sue Crowe Connolly; Pg 2 insert & pg 27 Cathedral in the Snow - Lynn Watkins; pg 12 - Angel in Bishopsgate - John Bradley; Pg 21 - wooden cherub - Alexander Darling © ; Pg 24 - the Early's garden - Rob Howard; Back cover - All Saints, All Souls service - Brian Kreps

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FROM THE EDITOR

Do you remember the first Bible verse or passage from scripture that you were asked to memorize? I do. It was John 3:16: God so loved the world that he gave his only begotten Son that whosoever should believeth in him shall not perish but have everlasting life. It was a verse set by my Sunday school teacher for all of us to memorize and recite back to her. I think I was 8 or 9 years old at the time. I don't recall being taught the context of the verse, but I do recall being wowed by the statement. It impressed me. I think I sensed some element of sacrifice and the enormity of it, but at that age I couldn't quite articulate my understanding. (As you may know, Sunday school teachers don't always worry about context.) I've always had the memory of an elephant, so of course, I had the verse memorized in a heartbeat and could rattle it off to my teacher in no time at all. It has stayed with me all these years. In hindsight, I think my nine-year-old self sensed that God's love for us and God's sacrifice for us are equally enormous. The question is how to return that love?

This edition of the Christmas Contact explores that theme. You will soon see that it is a departure from the usual Advent/Christmas material. Instead, this issue focusses on the relationship between us and God. As you know, relationships take work. Lots of work. Happily, there are many ways to express our love for God. Inez Morgan, writing on behalf of Alongside Hope, offers some suggestions for expressing our charity and kindness. Rev. Monica describes a new program

called *Being With*, which closely examines God's love for us and for all creation. Matthew Green offers a beautiful meditation on love. James Newman and Rev. Don Brown both offer their thoughts on climate change and our stewardship of the planet. The Brass Monkeys and Woodchucks contribute a page on their work in the cathedral, and each member explains why they are drawn to this program.

And finally, we must remember that our church needs continued financial support. Sandy Darling describes the many ways one may leave a bequest for the church in one's will, a means of looking toward the church's future and continued well-being. However, in the present moment, since parishioner giving has a shortfall of \$28,000, our Treasurer asks that with prayerful review of your giving, we may end the year without a deficit. As my mother would say, "never leave off for tomorrow that which may be done today."

All the best for a beautiful Advent and Christmas season. ✦

Sally Braun-Jackson
Editor



FROM THE DEAN'S DESK

God is Love – it has been described as the simplest statement we can make about God. Henri Nouwen, one of the best-loved writers on Christian spirituality in the late 20th century, reminds us of John's astonishing insight: 'We love, because God *first* loved us' (1 John 4.19). He describes God's love for us as our First Love. We are God's Beloved. Long before our parents, grandparents, teachers, partners, children loved us and wounded us (our Second Love), we were already unconditionally, unfathomably and intimately loved. Returning time and again to this eternal Truth is for Nouwen the bedrock of our life in God. Because God is Love and only Love, it means that the angst, despair and loneliness with which we can often wrestle, often at this time of year, is not from God. The One whose birth in our midst and whose return in glory we are soon to celebrate, is also the One who incarnates this First Love of God, The Good News is that the Second Love we experience is but a broken reflection of the First Love, freely offered by the God in whom there is no brokenness nor woundedness.

Advent affords us the space to reflect upon and anticipate the bottomless depth of the First Love with which God embraces us. As Fr. Curtis Almquist SSJE reminds us, we are the apple of God's eye, whoever we are, wherever we are, however we have become the way we are. We are constantly on God's mind; God is constantly dreaming up ways of drawing us closer to Godself. We make God's day! Perhaps we can ask ourselves how different this Christmas would be if we knew in our bones that God simply cannot get enough of us?

Seven centuries ago, Meister Eckhart, a Dominican friar, recounted a fishing story to communicate this truth.

God lies in wait for us with nothing so much as love. Now love is like a fishhook. A fisher cannot catch a fish unless the fish first picks up the hook. If the fish swallows the hook, no matter how it may squirm and turn, the fisher is certain of the fish. Love is the same way. Whoever is captured by love takes up this hook in such a fashion that foot and hand, mouth and eyes, heart and all that is in that person must always belong to God. Therefore, look only for this fishhook, and you will be happily caught. The more you are caught, the more you will be liberated.

As we prepare to celebrate our First Love's embodiment in an infant born in a feed-trough and anticipate his return in glory on the Final Day, may we be especially attentive to the fishhooks – those daily reminders of our infinite belovedness in God's eyes. Nouwen liked to remind us that God loved us before we were born and God will love us after we die. We belong to God, our First Love, from eternity to eternity. Life then is simply a fleeting opportunity for us to respond, 'I love you, too.'

A blessed and peace-filled Advent and Christmastide to you all. ✦

Tim+

**The Very Rev.
Dr. Tim Dobbin ✦**



MONICA'S MUSINGS



The God, Who is Love, is With Us

God is love, and those who abide in love abide in God, and God abides in them. 1 John 4:16b

All this took place to fulfill what had been spoken by the Lord through the prophet:

"Look, the virgin shall become pregnant and give birth to a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel," which means, "God is with us." Matthew 1:22-23

This past fall, Dean Tim, Nicole Smith, Lori-Lyn Bradley, and I had the wonderful privilege of co-hosting at the Cathedral a new initiative from St. Martin-in-the-Fields, London. It is called *Being With*, and it is a small group program created by pastor/theologian the Rev. Samuel Wells. It was originally intended as an inquiry course for those new to Christianity. But the creators soon found that this course started attracting folks who have been in the pews a long time. Why? Because the method of the course matches its message: Christianity is all about relationality or *being with*: being with God, others, creation, and ourselves and vice versa. This kind of relationality is what all humans are made for and "being with" meets the deepest longings of our hearts.

I have been pondering this truth a lot as the Christmas season has been approaching. When the Second Person of

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the Trinity was born as small baby in the ancient Middle East, the Gospel writer of Matthew notes that Jesus' birth was the fulfilment of Isaiah's prophecy that the child to be born would be called Emmanuel, God is with us. This is the purpose for Christ's incarnation: for God to be with us. This humble and gracious offer of God's self then allows us to be with God, with others, with creation, and even, perhaps most mysteriously of all - with ourselves.

When the Gospel writer of John later writes in his first epistle that "God is love," he is simply crystalizing the "why" behind God's profound offering of the incarnation. God's love for us and for all creation is the reason. But love is not just the motivation behind such a sacrifice, it is also the action itself. Love is only expressed in relationship and most profoundly so in "being with" another, just as God came to be with us in Christ.

Our first Being With group certainly found this to be true. Over the ten weeks of the course, during each meeting we listened to each other share the heart of our week and then share everyone's thoughtful responses to the invitations to wonder about aspects of each weekly topic, such as Mission, Prayer, and Resurrection. Then in the teaching, we all learned to understand a bit more about how God's love has been expressed to us in the past, in our present and how it will be in our futures. By simply being with each other and giving each other space to share and be heard, this group bonded and began to care for one another. It was a beautiful thing to witness.

We were not just learning about God's love, we were offering it to each other.

So this Christmas, I invite us all to follow Christ's lead and give the greatest gift we can to each other: our presence. Let us truly be with one another and those we meet. Let us pay attention, listen, and enjoy one another's company. And let us begin by being with God as God is with us, receiving from and returning love to the One who was, and is, and is to come: Emmanuel – the God, who is love, who is with us.✦

The Rev. Monica Green



Rev Monica & Dean Tim welcome Lynn Watkins (centre).
Lynn is one of our contributing photographers for this issue.

GOD IS LOVE

God is love. And not just any kind of love. The Greek word used by John in his First Letter (1 John 4.16) means a love of service, forgetting the self and focusing on the well-being of the other.

Church choirs often sing about the love of God in hymns and anthems. Yet there is possibly a more important way that choir members, and indeed all church musicians, can reflect this most central and profound of Christian teachings. Music in and of itself has an important function of service. Among the many reasons why music is performed in church are the following:

- to help each other experience the beauty and mystery of God;
- to convey solidarity with each other in our joys and sorrows;
- to unite the whole congregation in the harmonious activity of singing together.

One of the joys which I experience at Christ's Church Cathedral is the

experience of working with a choir whose members show deep concern and respect for each other. I believe that such an environment creates the conditions for the best possible kind of music making, where the gifts of each individual are appreciated and woven into our musical collaborations.

As we approach the celebration of the Love of God born among us as a little child, I pray that music may in some way make this season richer for each one of us. May it help us not just to experience the God of Love towards us, but to serve one another in the love that Jesus reveals.✠

Bruce Burbidge

Director of Music Ministries



WHERE THERE'S A WILL...



Have you ever wondered how the cathedral will carry out its ministry when you are no longer living? Like many cathedrals, Christ's Church Cathedral does not operate only on the donations of the current congregation even though members are very generous. Congregational donations make up about 70% of the Cathedral's annual operating budget, 25% comes from invested trust and endowment funds, and the remaining 5% from various sources. Compared to many cathedrals, our endowments are relatively modest. If you want the cathedral's ministry to continue after your death, there are options open to you.

First, however, let us look at the three kinds of funds that help to support 25% of the operating budget:

- Trust funds: these were established by gifts for specific purposes, some of which support the operating budget and some that are designated for specific activities. Some donors, for example, have given funds for organ maintenance, which will be of great value if major maintenance is needed. Various funds support the music

ministry, and another large fund provides income for maintenance of Bishopsgate. These funds total almost \$1.3 million.

- The Eleanor and Clifford Morris Fund contributes \$25,000 per year to the budget for structural maintenance from a capital value of about \$420,000. The annual contribution is higher than most endowments would pay, and this has been possible because of good performance of investments.
- Preserve to Serve Fund: The Cathedral established an endowment fund in the mid-1940s, but it had a provision for withdrawing capital. This provision was somewhat contentious and discouraged some donors from leaving money to the cathedral. This combined with withdrawals to support operations meant that the fund was depleted by 2008. In 2008 Bishop Ralph Spence proposed a capital campaign called Preserve to Serve, which the author chaired. The original capital had to be preserved, and the annual draw was set at 5% of the capital value of September 30th in the preceding year. It was also agreed that all future undesignated capital gifts would be placed in this fund. These provisions made a significant difference, as the author can attest in the case of the largest donor who wanted assurance that the gift itself would not be spent. As of September 30, 2025, the capital value was \$2,144,280, although some income will not be available until after the death of the donors. In 2025 the Preserve to Serve Fund provided us with

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\$96,100 and at the current valuation we anticipate at least the same amount or slightly more in 2026 for our operating budget.

If you wish to provide continuing support after this earthly life, the Preserve to Serve Fund is your best option.

What are the ways to give?

- The most common is a bequest in your will. In the Preserve to Serve campaign (P2S), we asked donors whether the cathedral was named in their wills. The most common provision was 10% of the estate – a final tithe!
- A bequest for a specific purpose such as music will be placed in a trust fund so that income will be used for the specified purpose.
- Two parties approached during P2S were making annual contributions to a life insurance policy with the cathedral named as the beneficiary. The annual premium can be declared as donation for income tax relief, and growth in the policy is tax-free.
- Some people are making gifts during their lifetime, either for a specific purpose such as organ maintenance or to the P2S endowment. This provides income-tax relief in the year of donation, allows tax-free growth and may reduce taxes payable at the time of death.

If you are contemplating any of these options or others, you should get professional advice. A professional can help you to tailor your means of giving to your current situation. Other options that I experienced during my working life were

donations of property, in some cases with a provision to continue living in the property, and a charitable annuity, but legal and accounting advice should be obtained.

Donation of shares that have increased in value can help you to reduce capital gains tax payable, so that you can make a larger gift for the same outlay, and this can be used either for your annual donation or for a legacy gift.

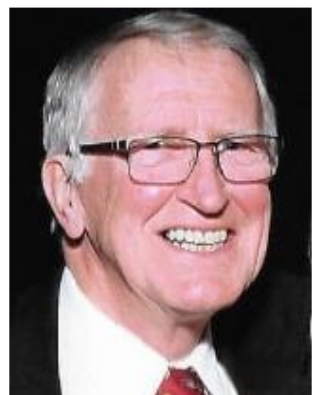
How much might one give? This is a personal decision that should be based on many factors, such as family and other obligations. If you want your current gift to continue, the current draw of 5% from P2S suggests that a legacy gift or twenty times your current gift would achieve this.

I hope that you will consider your objectives, pray, talk to other donors and most importantly seek professional advice. If you wish clarification of anything written here, please speak either to the author or the Treasurer, Canon J. Lefebvre.

[I wish to thank our Treasurer, the Rev. Canon J. Lefebvre, for both providing figures and helpful suggestions.]♦

Sandy Darling

Photos: Alexander Darling ©



151ST SYNOD

The 151st Synod of the Diocese of Niagara (annual general meeting) was held on November 1 by Zoom.

Inserted below are highlights of this meeting provided by the diocesan office. We draw your attention to the links provided in this summary for (1) Bishop Susan Bell's charge (keynote address), (2) a video on the Diocese of Niagara's 150 anniversary year, and (3) a detailed report on the Synod meeting.

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/news/the-bishops-charge-to-the-15st-synod-of-the-diocese>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aDjvbVEir-I>

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/news/consecrate-our-lives-and-ministries-to-thee>

Synod this year was very positive in outlook. Among the good news is that average Sunday attendance across the Diocese has grown by **18%**. Also, the Diocese has its first **balanced budget** since 2019.

Your Cathedral's lay representatives to Synod, Sue Crowe Connolly and Janina Vanderpost, were particularly impressed and encouraged by the report of Canon Ian Mobsby, Diocesan Missional Leader, on **Mixed Ecology Church** which is all about bringing church and God's message of love into the community.

The Mixed Ecology model recognizes that in order to reach people today we have to go beyond traditional church and get out into the community. Therefore, in addition to maintaining the traditional worship model, churches can also find ways to reach people through cafes, messy church, sports or hobbies, online groups, migrant workers, newcomers and youth groups, pub night socials, Taize, movie nights and so on.

A few examples of mixed ecology church in the Diocese of Niagara include, of course, our own Cathedral Café. There is a Migrant Farm Workers Mission. The Saint Luke's Community journeys with unchurched and de-churched millennials who are exploring contemplative and catholic spirituality in Hamilton's north end. In Oakville, there is effort to engage new-to-Canada Mandarin speaking migrants.

We are called to be like the Apostles and go forth into the community with God's message.

"Take my life and let it be, consecrated, Lord, to thee." ✦

Janina Vanderpost



GOD IS LOVE

When I reflect on my journey from Uganda to Canada, I see the hand of God's love guiding me every step of the way. Leaving home and beginning a new life in a different country could have been a lonely experience, but instead, I found a family in Christ here at Christ's Church Cathedral. Through the kindness, prayers, and welcome of this community, I have truly felt what it means to be surrounded by God's love in action.

Serving with the Generosity Team has been a blessing and a reminder that love is not just a feeling, it's something we live and share. Every act of giving, every moment of fellowship, and every opportunity to serve is a reflection of God's endless compassion for us. I am deeply thankful to Dean Tim and the entire church leadership for their encouragement and for the spirit of inclusion that makes this Cathedral a true home for all.

As we celebrate Christmas, I am reminded that love was born into the world through Christ Himself. His presence continues to shine through the care and unity we share as a church family.

"God is love, and whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." 1 John 4:16 ♦ **Twinomugisha Ivan**



PASSAGES

Baptisms

George Parker Alexander MACGILLIIVRY
November 2025

Marriages

Mitchell MAYER & Nicole LUBRICK
September 2025

Luc METHOT & Madison FOUGERE
October 2025

Deaths



Judi MANSFIELD-JONES - September 2025
Virginia Grace WILSON - inurnment October 2025
Gary COSBY - October 2025



ALONGSIDE HOPE - GOD IS LOVE



How does, “God is love,” support our relationship with charities like Alongside Hope? According to the Douey-Rheims Bible, the concepts of “God is love” and “God is charity” are considered two sides of the same coin. “God is love” describes his divine essence, and “God is Charity” points to how this love is expressed through acts of kindness, compassion, and selfless giving.

Love in Action is charity. It goes beyond good intentions requiring concrete, selfless action that seeks out the well-being of others, without expecting recognition or reward. In essence, “God is love” is the ultimate truth that drives and empowers believers to live a life characterized by charity, making love visible and real in the world.

Our acts of charity are a tangible reflection of God's infinite love for humanity. In 1 John 4:19 we read, “We love Him because he first loved us.” Our love and charity towards others are a response to the overwhelming love God has shown us.

Charity fosters a sense of community and interconnectedness reminding us that we are all part of God's family.

Here are some practical tips on how to incorporate charity into our daily lives.

1. Acts of Kindness. Small selfless acts such as letting someone go before you in line or in traffic. Visiting neighbours that might be lonely. Being supportive of someone learning a new skill. The list is as long as your imagination.
2. Generosity: 2 Corinthians 9:7, “So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly or of necessity, for God loves a cheerful giver.” Give of your time, talents and money, if you are able.
3. Encouragement: a kind word can uplift and strengthen a weary soul, not pointing out when someone has erred, being a good listener.
4. Prayer: a powerful act of charity that connects us with God's love for his people.

With this in mind we can think of Galatians 6:9 NKJV

“And let us not grow weary while doing good, for in due season we shall reap if we do not lose heart.” ✦

Inez Morgan



GOD IS LOVE

"God is love. Whoever lives in love lives in God, and God in them." (1 John 4:16 NIV)

God's love is not distant or abstract. It is life-giving and present in every breath we take. We see it in the beauty of creation, in the rhythm of the seasons, and in the intricate balance of the natural world. Creation itself is an expression of divine love.

At Christ's Church Cathedral, we see this love reflected in our care for others and in our growing awareness that the Earth, too, needs our compassion and attention. Climate change is no longer a faraway problem. It touches the lives of our neighbours, especially those who are already struggling with poverty, food insecurity, or displacement. To love as God loves means to notice, to care, and to act.

Climate justice is one way we can live out this love today. It means protecting the web of life, speaking for those without power, and as Mahatma Gandhi reportedly said, living more simply so that others may simply live. When we conserve energy, support sustainable choices, or advocate for policies that protect the environment, we are expressing our faith in practical and powerful ways.

God's love for creation never fades. Our task, and indeed our responsibility, is to let that same love guide our choices and shape our community. As we live more gently and gratefully on this earth, we bear witness to the truth that God is love, and love acts decisively for climate justice. ✦



James Newman
Co-leader,
Climate Justice
Cathedral





CHRIST'S CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
HAMILTON ONTARIO

Christmas Celebrations

Sunday Dec 21

Holy Eucharist - 8:30am
Festival of Lessons & Carols
- 10:30am

Wednesday Dec 24

Christmas Eve Family Service
- 4:30pm
Music for Voices and Strings
- 9:30pm
Christmas Eve Choral Eucharist
- 10:00pm

Thursday Dec 25

Christmas Day Sung Eucharist
- 10:00am

Sunday Dec 28

No 8:30am service
Choral Eucharist - 10:00am

252 James St N, Hamilton
www.cathedralhamilton.org

WEEKLY CALENDAR - ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE 2025

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
Holy Eucharist 8:30 am Choral Eucharist 10:30 am (V) Please consult your team leader for your Sunday Digging Deeper 12:15 Spence Room	Centering Prayer 4:00 pm ZOOM Lynn Godfrey lynn.godfrey79@gmail.com	Centering Prayer 7:30 am ZOOM Morning Prayer 8:30 am in person	Morning Prayer 8:30 am ZOOM Holy Eucharist 11:30 am In person Prayer Shawl Knitting Group (suspended for renovations)	Morning Prayer 8:30 am in person Discovery Bible Study 11:30-12:15 in the Nave Online Discovery Bible Study 3:00 pm	Centering Prayer 7:15 am ZOOM Litany of Reconciliation 12:15 pm In person & ZOOM	(V) indicates that service is both in person and livestreamed on YouTube
Exceptions to regular weekly programs are listed below						

Cathedral Café is open Monday to Saturday 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 30 1st of Advent	December 1 World AIDS Day Vigil 6:30	2	3 Movie Night 7 pm "Children of Men"	4	5	6
7 2nd of Advent Cathedral Oasis 12:30 pm	8	9	10	11	12	13
14 3rd of Advent	15	16	17	18	19	20
21 4th of Advent Festival of Lessons & Carols 10:30 am (V)	22	23	24 Christmas Eve Family Service 4:30 pm Music for Voices & Strings 9:30 pm Choral Eucharist 10:00 pm	25 Christmas Day Sung Eucharist 10:00 am	26	27
28 1st After Christmas ONE Service ONLY Choral Eucharist 10:00 am (V)	29	30	31	January 1	2	3
4 Epiphany of the Lord Cathedral Oasis 12:30 pm	5	6	7	8	9	10

Have a holy & blessed Advent & Christmastide! Sally & Sue

IN LOVE WITH GRANDKIDS!

Our world is in a time of serious climate breakdown. When I think of the future for my four great-grandchildren, I am very concerned.



After moving from Waterdown to a Seniors' Residence on Market St. in Hamilton, I joined Hamilton350, which formed in 2011 to address the climate crisis.

The global organization 350.org was started by Bill McKibben in 2008. '350' is the safe concentration of CO₂ in our atmosphere, a number we should not exceed. Currently we are at 425 parts per million, and the number is still rising.

In 2018, I joined five others to form 'Elders For Climate Sanity', a sub-group of Hamilton350. One of the members of E4CS, Tina Di Clemente, a retired science teacher in the Hamilton separate school

system developed an audio visual demonstrating why the earth's atmosphere is warming, its causes, and why it continues. By the time COVID arrived in March 2020 over 30 of Tina's presentations had been shown to a variety of seniors' residences in Hamilton, in churches, and a few community groups in Burlington and Oakville. On one occasion, the rector of Grace Anglican Church in Waterdown devoted a Sunday morning church service to Tina's presentation, inviting people in the community to attend. The church was full.

Then struck COVID. No more inside presentations. At about the same time E4CS discovered that all five Canadian banks were loaning billions of dollars of their clients' savings to the fossil fuel industries. Between 2016 - 2023 the Royal Bank loaned 256.4 billion (USD) to the fossil fuel industries. ScotiaBank, 192.8 billion (USD)** In 2024 alone, the world's largest banks loaned \$869 billion (USD) to fossil fuel companies (coal, gas and oil). In the same year the big five Canadian banks loaned \$131 billion USD to the fossil fuel industries**. Until recently the Royal Bank has been the highest Canadian loan giver to the fossil fuel industry. At this time of writing (2025) Toronto Dominion Bank is in first place. Every dollar of which is a death sentence to the world's climate and therefore to all the creatures of the world.

Our attention to these facts began immediately. Armed with signs and leaflets at four different bank locations in Hamilton, Westdale, Dundas and a mall on the mountain, E4CS began letting people know that these loans were harming our health and destroying our planet. Such loans were also supporting RCMP attacks

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on Indigenous land and water defenders. And contributing to the murder of Indigenous girls and women.

People on the streets responded in various ways: "thank you", "no thank you", some avoiding even a glance. In Westdale, students from the high school on their lunch break would often stop at the four corners and engage in conversation. To a lesser extent this happened in the Hamilton locations as well.

Our leaflets encourage people to ask their banks to invest in clean renewable energy (wind and solar power) and divest from tar sands and pipeline projects. And should they decide to switch their banking to a credit union, let the bank know why. Some had already made the switch and seemed glad to inform us!

During these four years we have included in our venues such events as the Dundas Cactus Festival, Festival of Friends at Gage Park, "open streets" in Hamilton, and on two locations where annual general meetings of the Royal Bank were taking place. At this time of writing two Canada-wide rallies have taken place in which elders have participated: one in Dundas, the other at Gore Park in Hamilton.

During the season of Lent two years ago members of the Cathedral congregation and Trinity Lutheran Church attended weekly webinars originating in London England under the auspicious of the Archbishop of Canterbury. Using biblical references it encouraged participants to reflect on the church's response to the climate crisis. It ended with the word "divest", in reference to fossil fuel companies whose products are the main sources of global warming. The webinar

influenced formation of the current group "Climate Justice Cathedral" under the current chairmanship of James Newman.

For the past two years, in co-operation with Climate Justice Cathedral, we have included in our venues Art Crawls and Super Crawls on James Street North in Hamilton. On these occasions the cathedral staff have provided table and chairs for our displays of materials within the cathedral close, which we dubbed "Eco Hub". On the last two occasions E4CS members formed a choir to sing climate related songs. In the accompaniment of a guitarist and projector, the words of the songs appeared on a king-sized sheet so that both choir and passers by could join in singing.

In agreement with the suggestion of Climate Justice Cathedral, I join in saying thank you from E4CS to the dean, the curate and the verger, for their generous support in carrying out our mission.

Reference:

**Bank Action on Climate Chaos Report" visit <http://bankingonclimatechaos.com> ♦

The Rev. Don Brown



A SEASONAL MEDITATION

Paul urged Timothy to “train yourself towards godliness” (1 Tim. 4:7), and spiritual training in that day could often include time spent meditating, a practice that modern science backs up as beneficial in many ways. So in the spirit of the love of God, perhaps you might take some time not merely to read this piece, but to use it as a spiritual practice of training yourself a bit more towards love. If you'd like to join me, set aside a few minutes - perhaps five, perhaps more - to walk through this little exercise of loving-kindness meditation.

Find a comfortable position where you won't be disturbed for a while and relax. Take a deep breath and just rest a moment. You can set down the Contact for a moment and come back when you're ready.

Now think of someone that you care about significantly. Maybe it's your spouse or a child. Maybe it's a good friend or a teacher. It could be Jesus or God as well. Find that person and hold them in your mind. If you're struggling to find someone, imagine the kind of person who would be easy to care about. Stop and sit with this for a bit before continuing.

Focus your attention on what it feels like to care about that person. Place that feeling at the forefront of your mind. Notice if that feeling has a physical sense to it - a warmth or pressure in your chest or elsewhere in your body. If it does, you can point your mind there. If not, just allow that emotion of care and love to fill you however it comes. Stay with this a few moments or minutes before moving on.

While holding on to that feeling, see if you can turn it towards yourself. Imagine that same feeling of love as if it were coming from God and directed at you. Allow yourself to feel loved and cared for by God

with that same feeling. If during this process your attention slips or if this is challenging, don't worry too much. This is a spiritual practice, and - as they say - practice makes perfect.

Now shift your perspective so that feeling of love and care is pointed at an acquaintance or someone you don't know well. Try to direct that caring feeling towards someone outside of your usual circle and imagine yourself caring for them. As we are called to love the stranger, practice feeling care for them.

And now, bring to mind someone that you struggle with. Perhaps a frustrating coworker or a politician you find hurtful. Jesus instructed us to love our enemies, so see if you can turn that feeling of love even towards this difficult person and allow yourself to care even about them. You don't need to desire to be their friend, but perhaps there's some way you can still care about them.

And that's all. This is a short, condensed version of loving-kindness meditation, and research shows that our brains seem ready to be trained to do this - to love well and often. If God is love, then training ourselves to feel love is practicing being like God and joining in God's nature and being. May you be blessed as you feel God's love towards you and join in God's joyous activity of loving the world. ✦

Matthew Green



CHRISTMAS EVE MUSICAL PRELUDE

For this year's Christmas Eve Musical Prelude, we present ***In nativitate Domini canticum***, by French composer Marc-Antoine Charpentier. The motet, written around 1690, tells the story of the Nativity from the perspectives of both Old and New Testaments. The first part of the motet, inspired by the Psalms, foretells the coming of the Saviour, with texts such as, "Behold, your gentle king will come to you" and "The earth shall be opened and a saviour will grow forth". A tone poem follows, depicting a still, peaceful night outside Bethlehem. The motet's second part, drawing from Luke's Gospel, recounts the appearance of angels to the shepherds announcing the birth of the Saviour, and the shepherds "march" to Bethlehem to see the child. Soloists from the Cathedral choir will be accompanied by a string quartet.

Charpentier's music is also featured in the evening's mass setting. Both the Sanctus (Holy, Holy, Holy) and Agnus Dei (Lamb of God) are excerpts from the *Messe de minuit* (Midnight Mass). This mass was composed in 1694, and used popular French Noël's (carols) of the day as the foundation for each movement. ✦

Mark Russom



Photo: Keith Penner



BRASS MONKEYS AND WOODCHUCKS

Jennifer and Edward Early

Cathedrals were built to the Glory of God. Many are hundreds of years old and are still standing today to gather us in for worship. They were built by craftsmen and decorated by talented artists who spent their lives in toil to beautify them for one purpose: to glorify God. We, the Brass Monkeys and Woodchucks must follow in their footsteps by keeping God's house in good shape to welcome all people.

Our Cathedral can celebrate 180 years of worship. We must not forget those from our city who used their skills and talents in woodcarving and stonework in our Christ's Church Cathedral. We continue to honour them by keeping our building and its treasures in good repair for future generations.

While carrying out our individual tasks, we all gather to enjoy a friendly chat with coffee and surprise treats. We are honoured to be part of this ministry. We appreciate the camaraderie at our meeting.

We welcome anyone who would like to enjoy this ministry with us. Please make yourselves known to any one of us.

Thoughts on our Cathedral Ministry from our Members:

Jim Newman said,

I see our Cathedral as a ministry itself through its majestic beauty inside and out. The Brass Monkeys and Woodchucks are stewards of this ministry. I also love the fellowship I find in this group along with the occasional bits of history and anecdotes from the past.

Ken said,

It has always seemed to me that God deserves to have his house well kept and looked after. Polishing and dusting is such an easy way to do that, and I was happy to be

part of the Monkeys when I was asked to be part of this wonderful team.

Barry,

I wanted to do some volunteer work at Christ's Church, so I asked if I could become a member of the Cathedral Altar Guild. I said I loved to clean things and was told I should become a Brass Monkey. So, I came to my first cleaning session and met a man called Edward who taught me how to polish the brass. We became friends easily. Above all, I think that it is very important to keep the house of God as clean and shiny as possible.

Libby,

I joined the Brass Monkeys to help preserve the beauty of our worship space. The art and the history in our church mean a lot to me and needs to be preserved. Each time we gather to clean and polish we bring life to the old building. As the Cathedral of Niagara, it is important to treat it as our home and take care of it. I enjoy the work and the people with whom I work.

It would be a great tragedy and insult to the donors and artists who created the wood carvings and the brass work to let them fall into disrepair. For this reason, volunteers gather every month to maintain the furnishings of this cathedral. The monthly donation of time to maintain the woodwork especially deepens one's appreciation for the skill of the artisans who created this work.

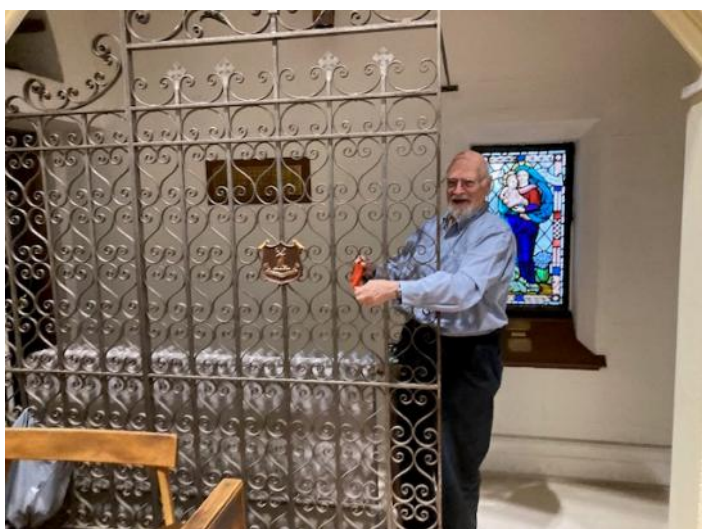
Thanks to Rev. Bill Thomas who has been our mentor and guide in this ministry. We thank him for his advice and dedication to this important ministry in preserving our cathedral. We are happy to see him whenever he can make the journey safely from Guelph. ♦



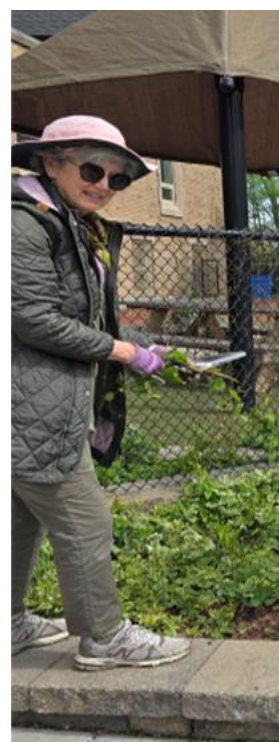
Photo: Alexander Darling ©



Jennifer



Bill



Libby
(with her lay-
weeder gear on)



Ken
(resident vestment maker too)



Jim

Barry, we need your picture!

WARDEN'S WORLD



As we approach the end of 2025, I have been tallying some of the improvements to our physical space. I am sure that you have noticed in your own home that when you do one project, it leads to another. The replacement of the flooring in the nave in 2024 significantly improved the look and the feel of our worship space. We are truly grateful to the Dr. Rev. Canon Sharyn Hall's generous donation in memory of her husband, Dr. Fred Hall, for making this possible.

With the completion of this project, Corporation felt it was time to move on to some other projects that have been identified by parishioners and committees. I should note that Christ's Church Cathedral's building and systems are part of Cathedral Place, which is overseen by Cathedral Place Property Management Committee (CPPMC). CPPMC includes representatives from the Diocese and the parish. Changes to the building's systems

or physical space must be approved by CPPMC. This is to ensure that the needs of both the Diocese, who is technically the owner of Cathedral Place, and the parish are addressed.

One significant change, based on feedback, is the renovations to the entrance to the Columbarium below the Nave. This is an important, sacred space that is overseen by the Columbarium Board. The board raised concerns that the entrance's appearance was not in keeping with the sanctity of the Columbarium where many members of our parish have been interred and where family and friends visit. These improvements to the feel and function will make it a more welcoming and appropriate space. These improvements will be paid for by the Columbarium Fund. It is anticipated that the improvements will be completed by year end.

Two other improvements relate to hospitality. We have heard from parishioners involved in various hospitality programs, that the appliances in the kitchen are not meeting the needs. This has been confirmed by St. Matt's staff who use the kitchen on a nearly daily basis. We have also heard concerns about the challenges with dishes from coffee hour. As a result, the dishwasher/sanitizer from the kitchen has been moved to the narthex. This move is part of a plan to make the kitchenette more functional.

(Continued on page 23)

Plans are being drawn up and funding secured to improve the narthex kitchenette. It is anticipated this work will be done by summer.

The kitchen in Myler Hall is being improved by replacing ranges, a commercial freezer and the dishwasher/sanitizer. To accommodate these new appliances, some changes will be made to cabinetry. This should make the kitchen more functional for the preparation of the many meals provided daily through Cathedral Café as well as the Christmas Dinner and other Cathedral parish events. This work is funded through contributions from the Diocese, St. Matt's and the Cathedral. This work will be completed by early December.

Another project of note is the reconstruction of the central doors facing on to James St. North. The doors needed to be replaced because the wood was starting to fail. It was initially hoped that they could be repaired. After careful examination by the contractor, it was determined that they could not be salvaged and needed to be replaced. This is a time consuming and painstaking process as they are custom made to meet regulations for heritage buildings. As we understand it, the contractor is awaiting the arrival of the custom made hinges. We recently learned that logistical challenges are resulting in further delays in delivery from the United States and It is now anticipated that the new doors will be in place by mid-February.

I would like to note another change that may have escaped your notice. A custom made sound cabinet has replaced the previous one. The cabinet was made by Ted Chrysler and Anne Kae from an old pew. The result is a sound cabinet that is functional and looks appropriate to our beautiful Cathedral.

I would like to thank you for your patience with these projects. I know that it has been an inconvenience to not use the centre doors for these many months. It is also important to thank the members of CPPMC (Terry Charters, Tim Dobbin, Matthew Griffin, Victor Kishak, Bill Mous, Jim Newman, David Savage and Derek Smith) for their careful oversight of Cathedral Place. I would also like to thank the many people who have worked on specific projects including Terry Charters, Sandra Cross, Helaine Guther, David Savage, Elizabeth Wensley and Kathy Vogel. Finally, I would like to thank Dean Tim for his leadership and vision. In spite of financial limitations, Tim has encouraged us to see the art of the possible to ensure that our guests and parishioners are welcomed into a beautiful and functional space for worship, outreach and fellowship.

Brian Kreps



CONGRATULATIONS

CONGRATULATIONS TO JENNIFER & ED EARLY! RECEIVED TRILLIUM AWARDS FOR THEIR GARDEN for All Hamilton and Ward 1



LOVE = GENEROSITY

Growing up, I always knew my parents loved me and provided excellent care. Perhaps it was the generation they came from, but they rarely showed affection through hugs or other public displays of affection. When they had grandchildren, it was a completely different story. My normally reserved Dad surprised us by warmly embracing our nieces and nephews. My parents spent hours babysitting, taking their grandchildren on outings, showering them with gifts, and making major contributions to their education funds. Love burst forth in a generosity of time, energy, and gifts.

Do you remember when you first fell in love? Even if you had very little in the way of finances, you found ways to shower your beloved with flowers, gifts, and time. Love burst forth in a generosity of time, energy, and gifts.

For several years, your Generosity Team has been talking about building a community of generosity at Christ's Church Cathedral. Sometimes, I fear you might be tired of hearing from us. Yet we believe that generosity is at the heart of who we are as Christians and as a community of Christians.

When asked what the most important commandment was, Jesus told us it was to love God with everything we have and to love our neighbour as ourselves. Isn't that CCC in a nutshell? We strive to love God and all those God brought into our lives. How do we demonstrate that love? Well, much like James said that faith without

works is dead – love without generosity is dead.

As we look towards Christmas, when God demonstrated love to us by sending the second part of the Trinity to live amongst us, let us remember that we too must demonstrate our love toward God and God's people. Our time, talent, and finances are all ways in which we need to demonstrate our love through generosity.

This Christmas season, how will you demonstrate God's love through generosity? Volunteering your time and energy at the Cathedral Café or our annual Christmas dinner? There are so many opportunities! We would also encourage you to carefully read the Dean's Christmas letter and earnestly pray about how much you can give to demonstrate your love for God and his work here at Christ's Church Cathedral. We know that there are many competing interests for our finances at this time of year. Please don't leave God and the work of CCC off your Christmas gift list! ✦

John Bradley, on behalf of
The CCC Generosity Team



FINANCIAL REPORT

For period ended October 31, 2025

Our year-to-date deficit is higher than budget primarily driven by a shortfall of \$28,072 in the year-to-date parishioner giving. We hope that by God's Grace and your prayerful review of your giving, we may end the year without a deficit.

Income	31-Oct-25	2025 Budget	Variance	2024 Actual
Parishioner Givings	\$323,449	\$351,521	-\$28,072	\$267,147
Other Income*	\$20,761	\$18,000	\$2,761	\$21,589
Open Collection	\$4,668	\$5,834	-\$1,166	\$4,937
Misc Income	\$4,290	\$416	\$3,874	\$4,883
Bishopsgate	\$3,041	\$3,500	-\$459	\$31,469
Fund Income	\$125,983	\$125,983	\$0	\$107,500
PWRDF & St Matthew's House	\$3,244	\$2,833	\$411	\$3,325
Special Offerings	\$71,955	\$0	\$71,955	\$90,361
Cathedral Café Admin Grant	\$10,000	\$8,333	\$1,667	\$0
Transfer in from Funds	\$25,552	\$0	\$25,552	\$27,410
Total Income	\$592,943	\$516,420	\$76,523	\$558,621
Expenses				
Staffing	\$327,457	\$335,726	-\$8,269	\$263,973
Diocesan Assessment	\$53,750	\$53,750	\$0	\$49,924
Property	\$99,148	\$70,407	\$28,741	\$97,167
Bishopsgate	\$3,041	\$3,500	-\$459	\$31,469
Admin and Programs	\$53,991	\$64,946	-\$10,955	\$44,670
Transfer out to PWRDF, St. Matthew's	\$3,244	\$2,833	\$411	\$3,325
Transfer out to designated funds	\$63,318	\$0	\$63,318	\$75,124
Long Term Debt Repayment (Diocese)	\$12,500	\$12,500	\$0	\$12,500
Total Expense	\$616,449	\$543,662	\$72,787	\$578,152
Net Income (Deficit)	-\$23,506	-\$27,242	\$7,221	-\$19,531

*Other Income includes Choral Scholarships, Dean's Discretionary, Memorial Flowers and Festivals, and Outreach.

Notes:

1. Special offerings are largely made up of the special donation towards the new Cathedral flooring (\$15,242), contribution to the Archie and Jean McCoy organ endowment (\$12,346), The Rev. Canon Dr. Sharyn Hall Arts Fund (\$2,430), Narthex Renovations (\$40,000) and a couple of other miscellaneous items like a donation to pay for the Easter Brass;
2. The overage under property expenses is due to the cost of the new flooring. Re moving that, we are essentially at budget target for property expenses;
3. Total expenses are exceeding budget target but that is due to the transfer out to funds from special donations received as well as the cost of the new Cathedral flooring which is booked to Property (The Cathedral flooring is fully funded by the donation in special offerings).

J. Lefebvre
Treasurer



CELEBRATIONS & EVENTS



First snow adorning the Cathedral - a faithful and solid presence in our community



George's Baptism

OUR HARVEST THANKSGIVING LUNCH

WITH MANY THANKS TO THE PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE FOR ORGANISING THIS MOST ENJOYABLE AND YUMMY EVENT!



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