



ST. CATHERINE'S NEWSLETTER

Winter 2017

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Advent and Christmas Services



**December 6, 10:30 a.m. – Seniors’
Eucharist and tea**

December 10 – Advent 2

✚ 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
✚ 10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist

December 17 – Advent 3

✚ 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
✚ 10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist

December 24 – Advent 4

✚ 10:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
✚ 3:00 p.m.	Children’s Service
✚ 5:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Family Eucharist
✚ 11:00 p.m.	Midnight Mass

Dec 25 Christmas Day

✚ 10:30 a.m.	Holy Eucharist – Deanery Service
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December 31 – Christmas 1

✚ 8:00 a.m.	Holy Eucharist
✚ 10:00 a.m.	Lessons and Carols with Eucharist

Sunday Services 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Eucharist
Wednesday Eucharist 10:00 a.m.

Next Newsletter Deadline
February 4, 2018

Please send items

to Heather Luccock at
hjluccock@shaw.ca

Message from our Interim Priest - The Rev. Keith Gilbert

The Season of Advent.

Advent, meaning "Coming", is not only the beginning of the new church year, but along with the Creche, it celebrates that God is and was in the world, and is still to come.

Since at least the 12th century, Advent refers to the 3 comings of Christ -in our history, in our hearts each day, and in glory at the end of time. The First Sunday theme is, "Prepare the Way."

Coming and Preparing the Way for what? In your personal journey of faith? In the life of our parish of St. Catherine?

On my recent trip to Iceland, a stop of decided interest was the tiny hamlet of Kirkjubæjarklaustur on the southeast coast. It translates as (Church Farm Cloister.) The Advent of Christianity in Iceland occurred at Kirkjubaer.(Church Farm) At this site, well before the Norse settlers arrived from Norway in the year 875, there was already a settlement of Irish Hermit Monks. The "Book of Settlement" mentions these monks known to the Vikings as, "papar" .

Later, in 1186 a Convent of Benedictine nuns was founded there. Tradition has it that the nuns bathed in a nearby beautiful lake , known as Systravatn (sisters lake) which is above Stratafoss (waterfall of the sisters) one of the many striking waterfalls in Iceland. The convent remained until it was disbanded at the time of the Reformation in 1550; today all that exists is a pavement stone from the convent chapel doorstep, showing well worn marks of the sisters shoes as they entered the chapel. This little portion of Iceland according to tradition, has always been Christian; the first Norwegian settlers and their "old" religion of Norse Gods were unwelcome to settle in the district, being struck dead, if they tried to step foot on the land; there is documented evidence of the plight of one such pagan farmer, Hildir Eysteinnsson who in the 9th century, fell dead upon touching the land.

Today there stands a lovely small chapel, built in memory of the clergyman who, in 1783, is credited by his "Fire Mass", with stopping the flow of lava from a nearby erupting volcano, thus saving the community. Iceland is aptly known as the land of Fire and Ice.

The "Advent" of Christianity, a Preparing of the Way in Iceland, was the work of those monks and nuns at Church Farm Cloister. It was not until the year 1000 that Christianity was officially adopted by the Alpingi (the parliament) as the religion of Iceland. Interesting to note is before Christianity, the severest form of punishment for a crime was banishment from Iceland, Eric the Red, is one such example. Following the adoption of Christianity, capital punishment was imposed. For a serious offense, women were drowned, (it is possible today to visit the drowning pool) and men were beheaded!

Cont....

Interim Priest's message cont...

"Advent", a 4th century word, comes from the Latin Adventus, meaning both arrival, and coming. Thus God has already arrived here, and, is coming. And so my question, how are you, how are we preparing for the coming of Jesus anew in our lives, in the life of the parish? I wish you a blessed time of discernment in this quiet season, coming as it does for us here in the northern hemisphere, at the end of the calendar year with growing darkness, and with the promise of new life and light awaiting our discernment.

I write this from Sorrento having just come off retreat with Archbishop John Privett; the title of the retreat was "Slow Faith". Abp. John's teaching was for us to slow down, to find time to make way for, and find a safe space to rest in God. With Blessings.

Message from Assistant Interim Priest – The Rev. Sharon Salomons

*This is the irrational season
When love blooms bright and wild.
Had Mary been filled with reason
There'd have been no room for the child.*

- Madeleine L'Engle

I've always loved these lines from Madeleine L'Engle. They speak to the magical time that Christmas often is. But also to the deeper faith that we are called to – to trust that even in the midst of the turmoil and trouble of the world, or even in our own lives, that even when it doesn't make any rational sense, to trust that God is being born anew for us this day. That God's promises will unfold even in the most unlikely ways, even when reason tells us it cannot be.

As we move through the liturgies of Advent and Christmas season I invite you to ponder in your own hearts, how God is being born anew for you in your life. Ponder where it is in your own life, perhaps the most unexpected places, do you see God's presence shining forth. And as you gather with family or friends for festive gatherings, may you be graced with an awareness of God's deep abiding presence. Blessings and peace to each and every one of you this Christmas season.

Wardens' Message – Susanne Stockdill, Bishop's Warden

It's been a busy fall for all of us but things are moving forward. We are excited to report that Bishop Melissa has accepted our Parish Profile and we are now advertising for our new rector. Synod Office is accepting applications through to December 14. The position is being posted as a 3/4 time appointment as we currently don't have adequate funds to support a full time rector. However, we are hopeful that we may be able to increase the appointment if our revenues increase. This was a decision of the Bishop, which was supported by all the Wardens. We are hoping to interview candidates in early spring.

As part of our work to review and update administrative processes and systems, we have worked with both the Music Director and Parish Administrator to update their position descriptions, which has not been done for a number of years. We are working towards a single schedule of duties for all the volunteers who participate in our services each week (greeters, sides people, coffee duty, readers, intercessors, altar guild, counters, and Eucharistic administrators). In addition, Standard Operating Procedures for the parish are being developed for all aspects of parish life. It's a starting point to document the how and why of all the things which happen in the Parish. This should greatly assist our new rector in learning about how our Parish works and also give us consistency and continuity overall.

Earlier this month, there was a significant leak in the roof over the Rector's Office. After consultation with John Luccock, Parish Council approved the replacement of this roof at an estimated cost of \$11,000. We have the funds to cover this in our operating budget. We are pleased to report that Shirley Stockdill has agreed to take over the maintenance of the Memorial Garden and oversight of the gardeners.

Finally, our bell choir is looking for a few new members. If you're interesting in joining this group please contact Siiri. No musical experience is required. You just need to be able to count.

Morning Coffee Volunteers

Kirsty Milligan

The Sunday morning coffee ladies are doing an excellent job providing coffee at the 10.00 a.m. service.

We are always looking for volunteers should anyone feel inclined to join us.

Thank you to all.

Christmas Hampers

By December 1st, we should be responding to the North Shore Family Services Christmas Hamper requests. Each year, at this time, St. Catherine's sponsors about twelve people (three families). A list of wishes is posted in the lobby from which you may choose a gift or food voucher for the hamper and return your donation to the church. As we have a very limited time to respond, please do so A.S.A.P. Thank-you for your support of our most needy friends at Christmas time.

Experiencing the Truth and Reconciliation Walk – Chris Wensley

Several parishioners from St Catherine's Church joined other North Vancouver Anglicans and Lutherans for the Canada 150+ "Walk for Reconciliation" at 10:00 am on Sunday, September 24th, 2017. After speeches by First Nations leaders at Queen Elizabeth Plaza, the walk continued for 2 km along the Georgia Viaduct to Strathcona Park. It attracted thousands of walkers from many diverse communities throughout BC, and ended with a colourful expo in the park, with cultural presentations, music and more speeches by community and political leaders. Many from St Catherine's also attended the 8:00 am service at Christ Church Cathedral before joining the walk.



The Rev. Sharon Salomons and Alison Watt participating in the Walk

Photos by Chris Wensley



Coffee & Conversation

Our next Coffee & Conversation will be December 12.
We invite people to bring a Christmas Cookie and
some Christmas memories to share.

10:30 a.m. in the Mary Pellatt Room.

Music Program – Heather Luccock

The Choir has been practicing music for the Advent and Christmas season.

In October we welcomed a new member to our Choir, Nicole Geha. Nicole and her husband John have moved here from Perth, Western Australia with their two children. Nicole is a welcome soprano! Min Young Yoo has joined the tenor section and Heather Peacock has joined the sopranos.

Siiri has been practicing on Wednesday mornings with the men's section and just recently is now having mid-week rehearsals with the women.

The Joyful Voice and the Bell Choir will be leading some of the worship during Advent.

It has been another wonderful year of music with Siiri Rebane and Alice Korfman.



Photo by Gaynor Stone

Celebration Lunch

We had a wonderful Celebration Lunch on November 19 with about 80 people in attendance. Everyone had a great time and expressed gratitude for St. Catherine's community, for the friendships enjoyed and for 70 years of ministry. Pictured is Joe Inkster, Graham Stone, John Luccock, convener, and Alan Toft. Alistair Peacock and Joe Coogan managed the "bar". A big thank you to all who worked to make this event so successful.

Postage Stamps at Christmas Can Be Recycled - Lois MacGregor

As your Christmas cards arrive – perhaps in declining numbers – please remember to save the postage stamps, as they have value for the Canadian Bible Society. The used stamps, both Canadian and international, are sold by the Society to serious stamps collectors and the money is used for their work in distributing bibles through the prison system.

Your envelopes or bags of used stamps may be left in the bottom drawer of the small wooden file cabinet outside of the church office. They are collected on a regular basis for delivery to the Bible Society. Please remember to leave at least 1/4 of an inch of paper around the stamps so that the perforations are not damaged. Your participation in this recycling project now and throughout the year is very much appreciated.

Newly Formed Program Committee

Under the direction of the Rev. Sharon Salomons, a Program Committee has been established to give general oversight to the activities happening in the parish. The members of the Committee are Heather Peacock, Brenda Stenson, Bonnie Grundy and Heather Luccock. Heather Peacock has taken on the role of chairing this Committee. The Committee will meet three to four times a year.

The purpose of the Committee is firstly to ensure that there is a variety of programs and that there are no conflicts with other parish activities or with Regional Programming. The second reason for such oversight is to revisit the parish goals and ensure programs are put into place to work towards those goals.

Currently, goals are named in the five areas of Ministry: Ministry to Seniors, Ministry to Families, Learning, Music and Arts, and Community Outreach. These goals may be revised from time to time by parish council.

Anyone who may have ideas and energy to plan and organize an event can do so but will first bring the idea to the Program committee to ensure there are no timing conflicts and to reflect on how it fits in with parish goals.

7 events for the 70th year is an idea that has been put forward by the Community Life Committee (aka Stewardship). The 7 events will be:

- a) Instructed Eucharist
- b) Music – sacred meets secular
- c) Preschool Sunday
- d) Outreach day – focus on mission and outreach
- e) Topical education event – for example medical assistance in dying
- f) Education event – how our faith meets our daily lives
- g) Fun night – Sing-Along movie and meal.

The first three of these have been tentatively planned and now need someone designated to take the lead on initiating. Anyone interested?"

A New Daughter for Bojan and Hilary Ramadanovic

Congratulations to Bojan and Hilary Ramadanovic on the birth of their daughter Lara on Sept. 25th, a sister for son [Arslan](#). Grandparents Eso and Nada are very excited at this new addition to their family.

The Remadanovic family have been a special part of St. Catherine's since their arrival in Canada many years ago from Bosnia .

Pastoral Care - Tony Dodd

The Pastoral team has been active in keeping in touch with at home parishioners. We have had two members in hospital, one person in day surgery is back at home, the other is in Lions Gate recovering.

Thanks to the volunteers who came forward to offer rides to our day surgery parishioner. This is what we are called to do at our family at St. Catherines, to help each other.

We meet once a month under the direction of Sharon Salomons.

Property Development Task Force Update - Gary Stewart, Chair

November 25, 2017

The Task Force continues to make strong headway in terms of information gathering on potential options for the future development of the Church property.

Simon LeMare of LeMare Construction has completed his assessment of our existing buildings and the estimated cost of bringing all structures up to current building code. John Luccock and I will be meeting with Simon next week to go over the details of his report.

In my last report, I spoke about the Task Force meeting to put together the required information to enable a potential developer to provide us with a 'proof of concept.' On September 23rd, we met and successfully put together our 'wish list' in terms of the redevelopment of our property. A varied number of factors were considered to meet our future needs including: size of worship areas (fixed seating versus movable chairs), pre-school/daycare requirements, senior/special needs accessible, meeting rooms/administration offices, size/type of kitchen and parking.

John Luccock and I met with representatives of Marcon Developments Ltd. on October 11th to discuss our property requirements and provided the necessary information to allow them to develop a very high level 'proof of concept'.

Upon receipt of the expected responses from both LeMare Construction and Marcon Developments, the Task Force should be well-positioned, in terms of the anticipated next steps.

Our objective will be to deliver a recommendation (s) to Parish Council in early January which then, should the necessary approval be given, allow us to share some specific options with the Parish at the annual Vestry Meeting on February 25th.



The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA

Not sure what to get that hard-to-buy-for person on your Christmas gift list? PWRDF hopes to make it easier with **World of Gifts**, the annual gift guide in support of development and relief work around the world. The guide is live at pwrdf.org/worldofgifts, and also includes items supporting projects from the Anglican Church of Canada's Global Relations and Indigenous Ministries.

Many of the items support project needs in Tanzania, Rwanda, Burundi and Mozambique, where PWRDF projects such as "All Mothers and Children Count" programs receive a 6:1 match from Global Affairs Canada. These items focus on newborn, child and maternal health and nutrition.

Last year the gift program generated \$210,000 for PWRDF programs. People may be interested in the Livestock Programs: Purchasing livestock such as goats, ducklings and chicks who will grow and provide for communities.

There are also items supporting displaced people around the world, such as a program helping refugees in Kenya make and sell peanut butter, or refugees in Egypt resettle with a bag of groceries and other supports.

Disaster relief has been front and centre in the mind of many of our donors this year. Two items will help meet people's immediate needs when they have had to flee their homes: immediate food relief and seeds for farmers to replant crops that have been ruined by disaster. Both of these items are offered through our membership in Canadian Foodgrains Bank. These donations are, also matched by the federal government at 4:1.

To order gifts:

Online: Visit our secure [website](http://pwrdf.org/worldofgifts) and order any time of day using Visa or Mastercard.

By mail: Look for your guide in the October, November or December issue of the Anglican Journal and use the order form included in the guide. Or browse the gift guide online and download the order form.

By telephone: Call 1-866-308-7973 between 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. (EST) to place your credit card order.

Remember the Guide is on the PWRDF Website:

pwrdf.org/worldofgifts

John Luccock, Parish Representative

Preschool News

Marion Porter, Developmental Resource Teacher

The classrooms have been decorated for Autumn. One class of 4s walked over in costume to Amica in the Village on Halloween. It was lots of fun and we are planning on a revisit for Christmas carolling. We have talked about Autumn and all the changes that happen around us; hibernation and which animals go for a long winter's nap. We set up a couple of tents and the children pretended to go inside and cuddled with stuffed bears, skunks, hedgehogs and frogs.

In 2008 the preschool adopted an Orca whale from the J pod off the coast of Washington/BC. We renew our pledge every year and we have information about Echo and his pod. Each class of 4s has a stuffed Echo and the children take turns taking him home for a weekend of stories and photos. The children then share their fun weekend to the class.

Rachel, our Music Teacher, has prepared another enchanted Christmas Service. Our Services will be held on December 12th and 13th at 6:00 pm in the Church. We will be closing for Christmas break on December 22nd and returning on January 8th. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year from all of us.

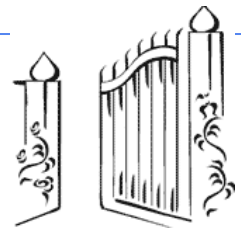
Reflection

The Gate of the Year – Minnie Louise Haskins (1875-1957)

And I said to the man who stood at the gate of the year: "Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown."

And he replied:

"Go out into the darkness and put your hand into the Hand of God. That shall be to you better than light and safer than a known way." So I went forth, and finding the Hand of God, trod gladly into the night. And He led me towards the hills and the breaking of day in the lone East."



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