



WINTER
2022

THE NEWSLETTER OF
THE PEOPLE OF
ST. GEORGE'S OF FOREST HILL
ANGLICAN CHURCH
www.stgeorgesofforesthill.com

THE DRAGON FLYER



this issue

Outreach News

Parish Profile

Parish Life

Wardens' Message



Junior Youth Group



*Youth Cut Out Angels for
Christmas Outreach*



Willing Hands Make Light Work



Monthly Seniors Brunch



THIS IS A SIGN

of Hope & Peace

COME CELEBRATE WITH US

Advent Sundays

December 11, 18
8:15 am & 10:00 am

Blue Christmas

December 11
3:30 pm

Lessons & Carols

December 18 | 7:00 pm

Christmas Eve

4:00 pm, 7:00 pm, 10:00 pm

Christmas Day

10:00 am



Heather & John with Youth Choir



**ST. GEORGE'S
OF FOREST HILL
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

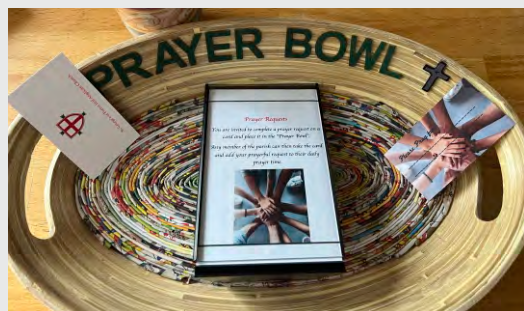
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St George's Prayer Bowl

By now, those who have attended in-person services might have noticed the colourful Prayer Bowl on the glass display case in our Narthex. How might you use it? You are invited to simply fill in a Prayer Request Card and place the card in the bowl. Anyone can take the completed card home and offer up a prayer.



Isla Rose's Baptism



Kosisochi's & Amarachi's Baptism

Milestones



Jean Horne Celebrates her 90th!

Wardens' Message

Advent is a season observed in many Christian churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. Advent is also the beginning of the Western liturgical year commencing on the fourth Sunday before Christmas.

While preparing for an eventful Christmas season at St. George's, Advent also provides us with the opportunity to reflect on what was another challenging year. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has continued to have a significant impact in our parish, attendance has returned with numbers increasing for both the 8:15 and 10 AM services. We have also welcomed fifteen new families to the parish. This fall we re-opened Sunday School and established a new Youth ministry for those children aged 10 and up. We continued to worship each Wednesday with a Healing Service in our chapel and on Sundays, our second service is Livestreamed to our broader community.

Our Outreach Committee continues to actively engage us with initiatives that support those in need through such projects as the Angel Tree which supports local families at Christmas, the Bells of Christmas where we buy gifts for 94 seniors in Winston Park, over 70 coats were donated to the Share the Warmth Programme, the Ground Beef drive which saw 85 kilos of ground beef and \$1400 donated to support St. John's Kitchen. November 19th saw the return of the Christmas Market for the

first time since 2019! A most welcome return to a new normal!

As we look ahead to the start of a new year at St. George's, the commitment of your time, talent and treasure will ensure that our parish maintains its ability to meet your spiritual needs while making a difference in the daily lives of both parishioners and those in our broader community.

At Parish Vestry on January 29th, we will collectively choose parish leaders for the coming year, confirm our budget strategies and set the priorities and direction for worship, outreach and other parish initiatives. Please plan to attend, provide input, and offer your support to decisions reached in a collective and collegial way.

As Covid-19 continues to impact everyday life for a parish family we encourage everyone to continue to protect themselves against infecting themselves and others. While it is no longer required we encourage everyone to wear masks and limit close contact while attending services this Advent season.

Please take note of the upcoming dates and times of services as listed in this issue of *the Dragon Flyer*.

Thank you to everyone who helps in any way to strengthen the vitality of our parish each and every day. From our families to yours, we wish you a blessed Christmas season and a healthy and prosperous New Year!

Tim, Catherine, Ann-Marie and Greg

Signs of our Time



FROM THE DEACON'S BENCH

The Christmas season is upon us. What wonderful memories stay with you as years go by? My kids remember going shopping for the Angel Tree, picking out a toy that they would

really like to have, then donating it to the Angel Tree for a child who may not receive much if anything at Christmas. They still do this and so do our grandchildren. For me, I remember the smiles on the faces of people who I give cookie tins to---as they are gifts from the heart. I started by making cookies for our grandchildren who had food allergies, then our family grew and so did the number of cookie tins I made. Add a few extras and I now provide approx. twenty tins of cookies at Christmas time for other people. The kids wait in anticipation for their very own tin of cookies and as far as I know, sharing isn't part of it.

This for me, is one of the best parts of Christmas---being able to give a gift of love and to watch others enjoy it. Last year, I gave someone I know, who is a very busy person, Christmas goodies to share with their family. Their comment was "this is truly a gift of love". Christmas is a gift of love----a gift from God who gave his only begotten son to be one of us...a true gift to behold! MERRY CHRISTMAS!

Rev. Deacon MaryLynn

SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING



What season is it anyway? Halloween began mid September, Remembrance Day started sometime prior to Halloween, and Christmas stuff began to appear on the shelves mid July. I was surprised with the emphasis on All Saints Day on Classical Jukebox with Daniel Vnuknowki on 96.3...on the actual day.

I remember once saying to a clerk at a postal station, "You know, we should really have Christmas in August!" "What do you think?" She looked at me perplexed for a moment and then said, "Oh, we couldn't possibly do that." She immediately arrested my attention by her response. "Why not," I inquired." She smiled and answered in a pleasant voice, "Because Jesus was born in December."

I was being flippant with my earlier statement of course, but her answer wasn't. It was sincere, precise and warm. I thought to myself later, her response was faith based.

Well, come to think of it, I guess it really doesn't make any difference what the retailers are doing or anyone else for that matter. It's what we do as a Christian community to celebrate our faith.

So let's do it, let's celebrate the Christ in our lives and let's do it with gusto. Wishing you all a very wonderful and happy Christmas.



Parish Life



This year I'd like to invite you to be creative in the planning of your holiday season. First begin by asking yourself, "What do I need from this experience?" The second question is, "How do I meet the needs not wants, of

those around me?" For some of you this will include attending worship services that inspire and encourage you. For some of you it will be flooding your home with your favourite Christmas music. For others it might include sitting down and reading the Christmas story in your bible. Notwithstanding, I understand that everybody needs to go shopping and connect with family but I believe there needs to be a priority for joyful experiences. Don't you?

How will this Christmas be different from the last one? What new decisions might you make about who you spend time with and what events and activities you choose to attend? These are important questions if your goal is to truly enjoy the season. Many of us have memories of attending family events that were filled with hope, joy, peace and love. On the other hand, some of us recall Christmases past where there was frustration, anger, disappointment and grief. I recall the Christmas that all of our adult children arrived home Christmas Day. I could hear a disagreement from the other room. It was clear that they were over obligated. Who can possibly attend four meals in one day? It was on that occasion that I asked our children not to include us on Christmas Day in the future. I recall saying, "Please don't do this to yourselves. It's not fair to you or anyone else." Years later all has changed and somehow they choose to spend Christmas Day with us. My point is that life is very unpredictable. People have jobs, tasks and obligations. More now than ever people are trying to do everything, including getting a few extra work hours in, even on Christmas Day. Families are struggling to set priorities for the season. It's hard to remember that we really can choose what we want Christmas to look like for us this year.

Some people will tell you that this is a "new thing".

Not true. For thousands of years, life has been unpredictable. Can you imagine a member of your family being nine months pregnant and finding out that they had to do an extremely long, difficult trip on Christmas Eve? The weather was going to be unbearable. The journey would be uncomfortable and there may even be a little tension in the air. Well quite frankly that describes Mary and Joseph. The entire bundle of emotions were firmly in place. We are talking anxiety, stress, fear, irritation, frustration and serious discontent. And yet somehow they understood the extraordinary nature of the moment.

For more than thirty years I sat down at the beginning of Advent and created a list of all the tasks, obligations and responsibilities that I needed to fulfil during December. Many years I accomplished the vast majority of those tasks, obligations and responsibilities, but I discovered that I completed the season exhausted, often frustrated and with a sense of an emptiness in my soul.

So here is the most important question this Christmas: "How are things with your soul?" It would follow that you would want to ask, "How can I do things, go places and see people that will fill my soul with hope, peace, joy and love?" Now I make a second list to respond to those questions. I believe Christmas can be a season of blessings but we need to be intentional about embracing moments that fill our souls with all that is good about Christmas.

May you begin this Christmas season by giving thanks for the Christ child who grew into the man who became the Saviour of the world. May that attitude of gratitude help mould and form your Christmas experiences.

*Blessings
Stephen*



Men's Fall Breakfast

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