



St. Peter's Anglican Church

Reaching out to St. Peter's Community

f stpetersscarborough st.petersanglican

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Christmas Edition

Welcome to the seventh edition of St. Peter's Newsletter



A Christmas Message - Putting Christ back into Christmas!?

As we draw near to Christmas many people of faith get overwhelmed by the perceived commercialization of the season. It is a rare shopping experience to not be pummeled with Christmas songs and extravagant decor. To say nothing of the pressures to spend beyond one's means. There are plenty of bumper stickers proclaiming, put Christ back into Christmas.

I believe it is important to know that it is Christ and Christ alone that is always available at this time of year. Can we not have faith to believe that Christ can be visible and known even in a crowded gaudy mall? As humanity we do not have the power to put Christ anywhere as God already ensures that Christ is everywhere and in everything.

This season is about the gift of our God who takes on flesh yet again to lead us into hope, peace, joy, love and justice. Our focus as believers is on bringing those gifts alive in our community and world in grateful thanksgiving. The more we make hope, peace, joy, love and justice part of our commitment and giving, then we become part of lighting up the world.

So God's voice and presence is able to be present in all times and all places. Do not be anxious or fearful of the commercial Christmas as angel voices can proclaim and rise above the din to share promises of great hope, peace, joy, love and justice for all humanity.

Please continue to share your gifts to acknowledge God's presence among us. Blessings to all who gather with family and friends! Have yourself a very Merry Christmas and a blessed New Year!

The Rev. Helena-Rose Houldcroft

A Christmas Present for St. Peter's

Three times every year, at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, parishioners receive a special giving's envelope and are asked to make an extra donation to the church. The envelope is a reminder that the church really can use the extra dollars that come from this initiative.

St. Peter's is also in great need of another type of special giving this year and every year - the gift of volunteering. In many ways, it is so much easier to write a cheque or slip some money into the special envelope than it is to volunteer, but we would like to suggest a different way of looking at volunteering at the church you love.

Certainly St. Peter's needs people who can volunteer on a committee on a regular basis, to attend meetings and do work for that committee, and we know that this type of volunteering is not for everyone. We understand very clearly that many people who attend St. Peter's are engaged in full-time work, and also, many retired parishioners have family duties and activities that make it difficult to make a commitment to an on-going volunteer activity. People are understandably worried about using up their tiny amounts of free time volunteering at the church. Still others think they are too old, too tired or not physically able to volunteer.

Instead of committing to a volunteer position that could take up hours of your time on a regular basis, could you see yourself volunteering for an hour or so only once every year? For example, do you think you could commit to thirty minutes once a year to vacuum the chancel or to dust the choir stalls? Do you have twenty minutes to set the table once a year for the community lunch? Could you devote an afternoon once a year to decorate the church for Christmas? Could you spend an hour or so baking a batch of cookies to bring to one of our fund-raising bake sales, or could you help out at a one of our sales? If you would like to volunteer, but do not think you could do any physical work, do you think you could hand out service leaflets or verbally direct visitors who come for our sales or other events?

If the answer to any of these questions is "yes", then St. Peter's would be very happy to have your help. Any group leader would be happy to have your help and would gladly give you a volunteer activity to do for that one time. These positions would not be ongoing at all, and with the exception of helping out at a sale, would likely only take twenty to forty minutes to do.

Every parochial group at St. Peter's - The Altar Guild, The Outreach Committee, the Fundraising & Planning Committee, etc, has a definite need for volunteers. Look into your heart to see if you could commit a small amount of time to St. Peter's. If you think you would be able to do this, what an amazing Christmas gift to St. Peter's this would be!

Lisa Turner

The Birth of Jesus Christ

Almost 2,000 years ago, a young woman from the town of Nazareth named Mary was visited by an angel named Gabriel. Gabriel told the Jewish woman that she would have a son named Jesus and that he would be the Son of God. At this time, Mary was engaged to her soon-to-be husband Joseph. When she told Joseph, he was hurt and confused because he did not believe her. The angel Gabriel visited Joseph and told him that Mary would be pregnant from the Lord and that she would have a son named Jesus who would save the people from their sins.

Mary and Joseph had to travel to Bethlehem because of an order from the Roman emperor that a census, or record, of all people, be taken in their hometown. After traveling pregnant on a donkey for several days, Mary and Joseph arrived in Bethlehem and were told that there were no places to stay. The inns were full. Seeing that Mary was due at any moment, an owner of an inn told Joseph that they could stay in his stable.

Mary and Joseph settled down on the hay in a stable with animals sleeping. Mary went into labor and Jesus was born in the stable. The only place for the sleeping baby to rest was most likely in the animals trough, known as the manger.

During this time, an angel appeared to shepherds who were watching their flocks in the fields near Bethlehem. The angel told them the good news of the birth of the Savior and Messiah, Jesus Christ. The shepherds immediately went to find baby Jesus, which the angels told them they would find sleeping in the manger.

After some time, three wise men, also known as magi, saw the brilliant star in that sky that rested over where Jesus was born. The three wise men traveled from a far eastern country to find the new king. During the wise men's trip, Herod the king of Judah met with the wise men and told them to come back and let him know where the baby king was so that he could go worship him as well. The wise men continued to Bethlehem and found Jesus right where the star pointed. They knelt and worshipped the Savior and gave him gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh. They then traveled back home a different way knowing that King Herod was not intending to worship Jesus but that he planned to hurt the baby.

This Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the coming of our Lord and Saviour. Happy Holidays!

Jaime Barrow

Past Parish Events

Christmas Program - On Saturday, December 7th the Immanuel Christian Church hosted a special *"Taste of Christmas"* program from 6:30 - 8:30 p.m. They had several congregations including ours join together to share in a Christmas celebration. They had a guest speaker - the Right Rev. Dr. Stephen Andrews, Principal and Professor of Wycliffe College at the University of Toronto. Following the service, a dinner was held in the lower hall. Thanks to all of those members of our Parish who came out to support the service, including our youth.



Christmas Luncheon - On Sunday, December 8th following the 10:30 a.m. service the fundraising/planning committee hosted its annual Christmas Luncheon. We were delighted to have served over 80 people! Thanks to all of those would were involved in the planning of this event. We raised a total of \$448! Thanks to everyone who made a donation of any kind.



Christmas Concert - On Saturday, December 14th we hosted a Christmas Concert entitled *"Tidings of Comfort and Joy"*. We would like to extend a hearty thank you to all who participated in the successful presentation of last night's Christmas concert. Special thanks to the performers, who so graciously and willingly donated their time and talents, and to our patrons, families, and friends for their very generous supports.



Parish Events in the New Year

Chili Lunch - Sunday, January 19th, 2020 following the 10:30 a.m. service in the lower hall.



Pancake Lunch - Sunday, February 23rd, 2020 following the 10:30 a.m. service in the lower hall.



Parish Announcements

Vestry Reports 2019: As the year draws to a close, all parochial groups are requested to start thinking about their annual vestry reports. Please email all reports to the church office no later than **Sunday, January 19th, 2020** to assist in the timely preparation of the Vestry Reports for circulation.

Annual Vestry Meeting 2020: Our annual vestry meeting is being called for **Sunday, February 16th, 2020** after the 10:30 a.m. service in the sanctuary.

Visionary Meeting: The Visionary Meeting, "Recreating God's Church" will be held on Saturday, January 4th, 2020 at St. John the Divine located at 885 Scarborough Golf Club Road from 10:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Refreshments will be served following the meeting. This will be an open meeting with all the congregations of St. Peter's, St. Ninian's, and St. John the Divine parishes to discuss the following six (6) topics: 1. Worship & Music, 2. Children & Family, 3. Youth, 4. Outreach, 5. Pastoral Care, and 6. Senior Ministry. The Steering committee will each chair one of the six topics. Please sign up for **two of the topics only** at the back of the church for this Visionary Meeting. The results of the visionary meeting will be communicated to each parish by the end of January 2020. A reminder to all that St. John the Divine is inaccessible. Therefore, if anyone would like to submit in writing their views and opinions please give Jane Lawrence a hard copy or send a digital copy to the church office.

The "Mitten Tree" is up and all it needs is mittens! Please consider placing a new pair of any type of mittens/gloves on a branch! Also, the white collection box beside the tree is for new socks, undershirts and long johns that will be gifted to the men and women who reside in the Homes First shelter at Danforth Road and St. Clair. Last day for donations is January 5th, 2020.

PWRDF: We are very excited to announce that this year we will be partnering with PWRDF in order to raise funds over the Christmas season. As many may know-PWRDF is an Anglican-led initiative which is active in virtually every continent across the globe and it aims to not only raise monetary funds but to better equip communities for being self-sustaining. Their annual 'World of Gifts' initiative aims to raise money that can be in turn used to purchase livestock for farms (i.e. goats, pigs, cows etc.) along with money that can be used for nutrition awareness, clean water, emergency food supplies when a crisis hits; and investing in safer more environmentally friendly farming. PWRDF also has a 'Children's Corner' so to speak-online-and they are committed to highlighting the great fundraising efforts of young people within the greater church community and will feature individual church groups and their efforts on their website! Please consider donating to PWRDF this Advent Season and donations can be earmarked on your offering envelope.

St. Peter's Anglican Church provides numerous opportunities for parishioners and members of the community to worship.

We have two Sunday services:

8:00 a.m. Said BCP Communion Service

10:30 a.m. BAS Choral Holy Communion Service - alternating between pg. 185 & 230

(Except the last Sunday of the month which is BCP Morning Prayer)

Mid-Week Holy Communion & Laying on of Hands and Anointing Service on Wednesdays at

10:30 a.m. After the service, there will be a Bible Study followed by a time of fellowship.

St. Peter's Anglican Church is also actively engaged in other ministries:

Service on the first Tuesday of the month at 10:30 a.m. at Rockcliffe Care Community Scarborough.

Service on the first Tuesday of the month at 2:00 p.m. at Bendale Acres Long-Term Care Homes.

St. Peter's Anglican Church

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Office Hours: Tues: 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Wed: 2:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Fri: 12:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

"To Know Christ and Make Him Known"

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve - Tuesday, December 24th

BAS Choral Holy Communion

Service at 7:30 pm.

Christmas Day - Wednesday, December 25th

BAS Holy Communion Service at 10:30 am.



Editor's Note

This Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus and the coming of our Lord and Saviour. Our next edition of the Newsletter will be for Lent 2020. I would like to express a hearty thanks to all of the members of St. Peter's Anglican Church and our surrounding community for their support as we seek to Know Christ and Make Him Known. Have a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous 2020!

Jaime Barrow