

st. christopher's

Messenger

December 2020

Issue 231



HOLLISmessage



Note from Hollis Hiscock – I wrote this story several years ago, when it appeared in the Niagara Anglican. Its message of love, hope and peace for humanity is as relevant today as when Jesus Christ was born in Bethlehem over 2,000 years ago. I encourage you to share it with others, especially the children.

A young girl finds the real Christmas spirit.

I could not sleep.

The sounds outside my window were deafening. I wanted to join the merriment. Papa said, "It's not safe for an 11-year-old girl".

When Mama tucked me in several hours earlier, I asked why so many people were visiting our little town. She replied, "Everyone must return to their birthplace for registration by the foreign government to pay taxes". Mama was not happy about paying more taxes.

I really tried to sleep but the whooping, laughing, cheering, shouting, squealing and even taking the Lord's name in vain prevented my eyelids from closing.

When mama came to kiss me goodnight, I kept my eyes shut tightly, pretending I was in dreamland.

I listened until I heard musical notes of sleep coming from my parents' bedroom; then slipping from my cozy bed, I tiptoed to the front door. Gently I turned the key - making

sure the rusty hinges did not squeak - and stepped into the darkness.

The cool night air forced me to wrap my shawl more tightly. I covered my face so nobody would recognize me and send me home.

Blending with the crowd heading in the same direction, I asked a lady where we were going.

"To the stable," she said.

Before I could ask why, a booming voice yelled, "Make way for the stinking shepherds!"

Shepherds rarely came to town at night - they stayed on the hillsides protecting their masters' sheep from wild animals and thieves.

I watched the crowd; some were holding their noses, others just pointed and heckled.

The shepherds kept smiling, laughing, and singing a joyful song about praising God and encouraging people to be full of peace and goodwill toward each other.

The crowd kept following the shepherds.

While yawning for the 100th time and running to keep up with the adults, I

was almost bowled over by a herd of camels.

They came barrelling through, ridden by men dressed in beautiful royal clothing, holding what look like precious packages.

They swept past us - heading toward the same stable to which the crowd was going.

Minutes later we all stood before the stable. I tried to sneak in, but the doorway was blocked with people. Since we played there almost every day, I knew another way in, so I ran around to the back to find the entrance where the animals roamed freely between the barn and the pasture.

Inside, the lanterns cast a dim light and I could see people gathered around a certain stall; something special seemed to be happening.

I edged closer but could see nothing. I climbed up to the hayloft, found a spot just above the stall, looked down and saw ... a baby!

The shepherds were there, telling everybody what had happened to them. While guarding their sheep on the

hillside angels appeared in the darkened sky, sang to them, and told them about a special baby being born in a stable in Bethlehem. "We had to come and see for ourselves," chimed in one shepherd. They seemed so excited because God had revealed this miracle to them. They taught the crowd the song sung by the angels. I sang along with them, "Glory to God in the highest and peace and goodwill to all people on earth."

No one was holding their nose now.

When someone hollered, "Make way for the astrologers from the east!" everything went quiet. They walked briskly toward the stall, approached the baby's parents, and said, "For two years we have followed God's star to this stable".

I watched as they approached the manger and bowed to the baby. "Jesus is his name," said his father Joseph, and his mother Mary said that an angel had appeared to her and told

her that she would be the mother of God's child.

The visitors placed gifts next to the child. A woman whispered, "They are giving him gold, myrrh and frankincense".

"Why are they giving these gifts to baby Jesus?" I inquired.

I felt a hand on my shoulder. I knew my mother's touch.

Frightened, I looked up, but she was smiling. So was my father.

"We have waited many centuries for this night," she told me.

I asked what it meant.

"It shows God still loves us," she replied.

Later, walking home we heard people talking, and I am certain I heard angels singing.



THE REVEREND HOLLIS HISCOCK
INTERIM PRIEST-IN-CHARGE

ALLOW ME TO INTRODUCE MYSELF



I'm Canon Penny Anderson. I live in Westdale with my wife Catherine and our 12-year-old twins, Tim and Will. We love living in this corner of the Diocese, where we run into friends almost every time we walk out to the shops and restaurants in our neighbourhood. In the time before COVID, Catherine was fond of walking to work at McMaster, where she is a professor in the Department of Linguistics. We all enjoy living 5 minutes from the RBG trails in Cootes Paradise!

You and I found out at almost the same time that God has been preparing me to be your next Rector. Sometimes our path through life becomes clear only when we have reason to look back with a new perspective. That new

perspective came for me when Bishop Susan phoned to tell me she was appointing me to your parish. For 15 years, St. Christopher's has been on my radar as a vibrant church with programs and structures I admired and sought to emulate in my own parish ministry. God has been at work in your midst for generations. I am excited to get to know you, and to hear about the directions you sense God calling your congregation to explore in the future.

At its best, Anglican worship has a sort of playful quality. Playful, but not frivolous! At its best, our whole self is engaged — all our senses, our bodies

and our minds. Maybe we become less conscious of time; maybe the boundaries between self and other are blurred. The centrality



of the incarnation in our reading of scripture and our sacramental practice help us to open ourselves to God's intimate presence. Our anxious times call for renewed creativity to get

the message of God's self-spending love to people in need of hope. I look forward to learning your traditions around worship, and to becoming part of the team that makes engaging, thought provoking and life changing church happen at St. Christopher's.

I like spending time in the places where community happens in a congregation. Sometimes that's in the kitchen or laughing with the youth. Sometimes that's raking leaves or washing liturgical silver in the sacristy. I hope to see you there, pandemic permitting! I've found that community also happens when we gather to learn together.

I favour topics that allow me to walk participants through liberating readings of the Bible. We do this in church: we point out ways that God's story intersects with our own stories so that we will all be empowered to respond to our call to enter into God's work in the world. In spite of pandemic limitations, I hope we will soon have the chance to learn together in a study series. I'm delighted that Bishop Susan appointed me to be your next Rector. I will take up my part of our shared ministry beginning on January 15, 2021. Until then, you will be in my prayers.

WARDENS' REPORT

Dear Friends,
Imagine my surprise when I sat down to write this report and realized that this will be one of my last reports I write as warden. I better make it a good one!

First of all, I want to thank you all for your patience and understanding over these last few months. It must be challenging to keep up with all the changes, when we, along with your jobs, your schools and even your grocery stores are surprising you with new rules at every turn. Thank you for sticking with us throughout—there's no community with whom I'd rather weather this storm!

I'm actually pretty excited to write this report. There are a lot of exciting things to talk about.

New Rector

As you know, our search for a new rector has come to a happy end. We are thrilled to have Reverend Penny Anderson joining us in January. The parochial committee, the Bishop and the Archdeacon are all very pleased with this outcome and we feel confident you will be too. We look forward to offering Penny and her family a warm welcome when they arrive in the New Year.

Pastoral Associate

This update is bittersweet. On the one hand, we are sad that Reverend Jon Forbes will be leaving us at the end of the month, but we wish him well in his new position as Rector of St. Michael's Church in Hamilton. Thank you Jon for the time you have shared with us. It's been a delight to get to know you and Laura and we wish you all

the very best in your new church home.

We are also pleased to welcome Michael Coren as our new Pastoral Associate. It's a little different having to meet and get to know people 'virtually' but Michael is up for the challenge!

Open Doors

Nothing beats a bowl of hot soup on a cold day, and it tastes even better when you don't have to make it yourself! Open Doors hosted its first drive-thru Soup-er Fest in October and it was a huge success. We are looking forward to a second one on November 28th. If you didn't get a chance to come out the first time, mark your calendars!

Christmas Families

Our Christmas Families program looks a little different again this year, but Christina has collaborated with several other organizations in the area to ensure that we meet the needs of our community. Christmas is a challenging time for many families and this year perhaps even more so. St. Christopher's is taking responsibility for providing pyjamas, books and gift cards (not food related). At this time we are discouraging folks from going out to shop in stores, so if you are interested in donating to Christmas Families we ask that you do so online and make a special note of where you would like your donation to go. Christina will use the funds to place a large order online.

Online Shopping

A big thank you to Jenn McLean for everything she has done to help us facilitate online giving. She has been

working with Christina to help with the Christmas Families donations as well as setting up the online shopping for our Christmas Market. We are so fortunate to have these tech savvy volunteers in our midst!

Virtual Reality

As many of you are already aware, the Corporation and Staff have made the difficult decision to cancel in-person worship until the New Year. A tremendous amount of thought and discussion went into this decision and it is not one we take lightly, but we felt it was in the best interest of our parishioners, staff and volunteers as well as our wider community. We will continue to review the situation on a weekly basis and update you with any changes. In the absence of our in-person gatherings, we need YOUR help, keeping eyes, ears and computer screens open to let us know of anyone in need of assistance or who may benefit from outreach from a volunteer or staff member. In the meantime, we look forward to seeing you at one (or more!) of our virtual events—to name a few—Church & Chat, Online Book Club, and the Men's Breakfast – don't let the name fool you, all are welcome. (Right, gentlemen???) Don't see anything on that list that suits you and have an idea for what you'd like to see? Let us know!

Bricks and Mortar

Some of us may be pouring our energy into our virtual platform these days but rest assured we have not neglected our beloved building. Winston Tinglin has been hard at work with

the Property Committee to keep track of the maintenance jobs around the church to ensure it stays in good shape! Thank you Winston!

Christmas Market

Speaking of online events—a huge thank you to Trudy Johnson and her team of volunteers for making our first ever online Christmas Market a success! These volunteers pulled together a wonderful virtual market so that we could keep this tradition alive. Thank you to all the crafters and vendors who offered their time and talent, and thank you to everyone who spread the word online.

Anti-Black Racism

The first online Anti-Black Racism education evening was a success. Thank you to Amy Collard and Christina Mulder for putting this together. There are plans in the works for future events—currently sourcing the best educational resources to bring together for our continued work on this important subject. Thank you for helping us make St. Christopher's a more inclusive and welcoming place.

Organ Recital

Thank you to Andy Elmhirst for putting together a

beautiful organ recital this month. Your creativity knows no bounds Andy, and we are so blessed to have you sharing your musical gifts with us. We especially enjoyed the information you shared about the music and the organ, as well as the cool camera angles, as did the 1000+ people who have viewed the recital on Facebook. Our virtual audience is growing!

Jazz Vespers

Music is at the heart of what we do at St. Christopher's, and I know we're all missing the opportunity to enjoy the sounds of music filling the church in person. Thank you to Dan, Tommy and Kevin for sharing their time and talent to offer Jazz Vespers, both virtually and in-person. Rumour has it, they have been asked to provide the music for the upcoming virtual Bishop's Company dinner!

I'm sure I've missed something, but I'll stop there for now. I look forward to a great month ahead as we enter into the season of Advent. New beginnings for our church and for our community. I know we're all just a bit excited to bid farewell to 2020 and find out what 2021 has to offer. To quote Hilary Clinton, 'Onward Together.'

Carrie Ford-Jones is one of the four wardens (Carrie Ford-Jones, Erick Nettel, Amy Collard, & Al Nicolls) who, along with our Interim Priest-in-Charge Rev. Hollis Hiscock make up St. Christopher's Corporation

CARRIE FORD-JONES

WARDEN



PASTORAL CARE



My most recent death threat was a beauty. After questioning my sexuality and integrity, promising death, and suggesting that I was in the pay of George Soros or the Mossad, it concluded with, “God’s peace and love to you.” As the song says, it’s not where you start but how you finish.

I started in a place where some people who write letters like the one above regarded me as something of a hero, which would come as quite a shock to people who have read me for the past seven years. Until 2013 I was regarded as a champion of orthodox Roman Catholicism. I hosted a nightly television show for 16 years, had a radio show for even longer, and was published in major newspapers as well as several Catholic ones.

My book *Why Catholics Are Right* sold almost 50,000 copies.

I certainly wasn’t on the hard right: I supported civil unions and legal protection for LGBTQ people, opposed the Iraq war and the

death penalty, supported the welfare state and the forgiving of third world debt. But it was these nuances that made my overall Christian conservatism so persuasive. The fanatics could be ignored; a relatively intelligent and seemingly reasonable commentator far less so. Because of that, and to my shame, I caused much harm.

Genuine faith is sandpaper of the soul, rubbing away at the being of faith. It hurts, it stings, but in the final analysis it should lead to a more perfect believer. I suppose that the divine carpenter began work on me, because I went through something like a spiritual breakdown. I cried, couldn’t sleep, questioned everything I’d done. I’d always believed in God, always embraced the Christian message, but now it seemed that I’d got it all wrong. I was no fool, I knew biblical languages, I read voraciously, I had life experience, but it was as if I’d walked through my life with some sort of comforting theological myopia.

Jesus never mentions

homosexuality, he is largely indifferent to what is regarded as sexual sin, the Hebrew Scriptures don’t mention lesbianism, their handful of references to homosexuality are either brutally anachronistic or inconsistent or not even about the issue at all. The song of the Gospels is love, its melodies are tolerance, its lyrics tell of a new and equal society.

So as much as I relish much within Catholicism, I had to leave. I know that there are countless progressive Catholics but the teaching is still severe on moral and sexual issues and I couldn’t hide behind hypocrisy. I began to attend Anglican services.

When that became public, I received thousands of emails, letters (some containing bodily waste), death threats, attacks on my family, calls for my wife to leave me, accusations that I was a child abuser, a thief and a fraud, and that I was doing it all for the money. The latter was particularly odd, in that my professional career largely evaporated in the space

of two weeks: five regular newspaper columns, 14 speeches, a book contract, two radio shows, and a television hosting position, all cancelled.

I should have been more intimidated, but instead felt a sense of empowerment and invigoration. There were volumes of support as well, some of which I will never forget. But doubters too, and fair enough.

Apologies aren’t sufficient. If we’re sorry, we need to show that we’re sincere, offer contrition, do penance, and try to compensate for harm done and to repair damage caused.

Christianity is a romance. And like any affair it cannot be properly quantified. We might find someone attractive or even exciting, but those qualities are far from unique. It’s something else, something beyond the formulaic that leads us to commitment. For me, true love came relatively late. After three years I decided at the ripe old age of 57 to

start a Master’s of Divinity at Trinity College. I was ordained in October, 2019.

And now here I am at St. Christopher’s, trying to live out my belief that the death of Jesus on the cross was the ultimate proof of love.

It’s supposed to be a reciprocal relationship, a heavenly symbiosis and requires specific actions on the part of the believer. Forgiveness, self-criticism and contrition, radical action to blanket the world with fairness, standing with those who need that love the most and seldom receive it. Not easy, but crucial.

Thank you for your welcome and warmth. It’s so good to be among friends. And do please pray for me.



REV. MICHAEL COREN
PASTORAL ASSOCIATE

MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS



I often enjoy putting effort into a thoughtful Messenger article but, to be honest, I'm a little short on time this month so I'm going to get straight to the point(s).

The first thing I'd like you to know is that my November 8th organ recital on Covid-19 themes is now available on the St. Christopher's YouTube page. Just Google "Covid-19 Organ Recital" and it should be the first thing that comes up. You can choose whether to watch the whole performance or selections thereof.

Every year the music and performing arts programs at St. Christopher's produce a music-centered service during the season of Advent. Like most things, that will look and sound a little different this year. Like any other year, the planning started in September. I'm very excited about this project primarily because about half of the participants are from

outside of our choir. Many are parishioners, many are from the Burlington Civic Chorale and others are from further afield.

Regardless of choir, musical background or faith tradition, singers email me their recordings from the comfort and safety of their own homes and then I paste them together on my computer. The complete service will be presented at our Sunday morning Church and Chat on December 13th at 11:00.

Finally, I wish to update everyone on our sound system and live streaming (a.k.a. broadcasting) upgrades. Now that our internet service is capable of handling a live stream we have discovered that we also had computer and sound system barriers to streaming. Your corporation has been very supportive in this endeavour believing, as I do, that this will be a significant part of our ministry for many years to come independent of

the Covid-19 situation. To this end, St. Christopher's has already invested over \$6,000 in computers, mixing boards, cables and more. Once this equipment is installed, we will be able to make a quality stream of most elements of our worship.

One element which will remain somewhat lacking is our ability to capture music. Outside consultants have provided estimates on what is required to accurately capture the sound of the piano, organ, solo singers and choir. It's a considerable investment, nearly \$7,000 after tax. Since many of the microphones will need to be hung from the ceiling, installation is a significant proportion of the cost. We are considering a gradual approach, perhaps buying some microphones, renting others and not doing the full installation right away.

I'm telling you all of this not only because you have the right to know but because I want your

feedback. Does this strike you as a reasonable amount to spend on this ministry? Would you be willing to support it financially over and above your regular giving? I would appreciate hearing your thoughts on these and any other relevant considerations. I know that Hollis or any of our four wardens would also welcome input on this matter.

Personally, I believe it's worth it. And that's difficult for me to say. It's a lot of money and puts a fair bit of pressure on me to ensure that my own performance standard is worth that sort of production value. If we do this, we're getting quality recordings of not just a typical Sunday service (which almost always has a special musical moment of one kind or another) but also productions, weddings, funerals, and other special

celebrations. These streams and recordings will reach people all over the world and will remain viewable far into the future.

The microphone piece won't be happening before Christmas. Especially with our Christmas celebration moving to Zoom, that will be enough to focus on for now. Church music, like all other traditions, will require some reinvention this year. I ask that you keep church leaders in your prayers through this unique and challenging time. I join you in praying for increased hope, peace, joy and love throughout the world - now as much as ever.



ANDY ELMHIRST
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

PROPERTY COMMITTEE UPDATE

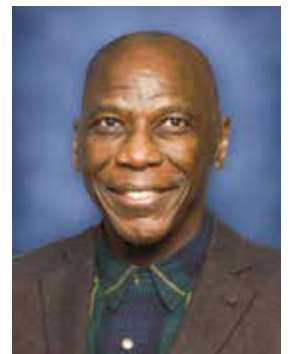


In addition to regular property maintenance items, over the past month or so we have been tracking a number of things needing attention as we prepare for the winter season. Good progress has been made and the following have now been completed:

- Broken fence (on south side of front lawn) re-installed;
- Security audit (led by Halton Police officer) completed;
- Basement and storage rooms cleared of excess/ unusable items;
- Holes in asphalt paving on driveways and main parking area filled in;
- Hallway security mirror installed (thanks, Michael Peroune);
- Damaged Canada flag on front lawn removed and replaced with new flag;
- New 6' ladder purchased;
- Fall yard clean-up organized and successfully completed (November 7);
- Leaky skylights above the Narthex replaced;
- Contracts for snow removal, salting and landscaping confirmed;
- Furnace maintenance

services completed.

Over the coming months we will continue with small repairs/maintenance that may be required from time to time (e.g. repairs to a wall in the youth room, paint touch-ups etc.). However, we do not anticipate any major projects in the immediate future, especially since the building now carries only a fraction of the traffic it accommodated before the COVID pandemic arrived. Many thanks to committee members and other volunteers for so generously helping with various tasks.



WINSTON TINGLIN
PROPERTY COMMITTEE CHAIR



ATTENTION Christmas Families

This Christmas we will be supporting families with children with gifts of pyjamas, books, and food gift cards. We want to encourage safe options for everyone and have made it possible to participate online. Go to www.stcb.ca to donate and reference Christmas Families in the comments section or you can shop online at <https://st-christophers-anglican-church.myhelcimstore.com/home/>

Funding guide

- \$20 for pyjamas 0-12yrs
- \$40 for 13-18yrs
- \$25 per person for food gift cards

If have already done your shopping, we are extremely thankful and donations can be dropped off:

Monday-Friday 10am - 3pm
November 23rd - December 7th
662 Guelph Line, Burlington

For more information please email
opendoorsprograms@stcb.ca

Sitting in my office this morning, a day before my Messenger article is due, and I'm wondering what exactly I wish to communicate. There are plenty of things to share, to inform you about, but prioritizing can be difficult and repetition can often be the demise of an important message.

Then Rev. Jon walked into the office and asked if anyone knew a "Lois Smit?" I thought I had heard the name before and reached out to Amanda, who up until recently was the Assistant Volunteer and Program Manager, here at Open Doors. Amanda confirmed that "Lois" is who I thought she was.

In the very early stages

of Covid19, before even our own Foodbank was shut down and we were still trying to navigate a relationship with the Burlington Foodbank, "Lois" called us. She had found herself in need of some food assistance. She was an elderly woman, living alone, not in the best of health and was terrified to leave her home. Amanda spent time determining her food needs and dietary restrictions and took it upon herself to drive the food over to "Lois," as she lived close to the Church.

"Lois," was so taken with Amanda's kindness and smiling face that she called back to let me know. Over the next several months "Lois" would call for

Amanda, they would chit chat about life, and then Amanda would pack a small bag of produce and drop it at her door on her way home.

Not only was essential food being provided to a neighbour in need, but a connection was being made between two people. This relationship that was being built was mutually beneficial, recalling Amanda's caring spirit and sense of purpose and responsibility whenever "Lois" rang.

I have long said that Open Doors ministry is not about food or clothing. Those are just the magnets that draw us towards one another in an attempt to feel a belonging with our neighbours. Our

meals together were ways to check in weekly, fill our bellies but also fuel our souls. Amanda referred to her connection with "Lois" once as encounters that filled her cup and reminded her why what we do is so important.

Are you curious why Jon was asking if we knew who she was to begin with? The church had received an email from "Lois'" daughter, saying she had passed. She wanted us to know that the church, and Amanda's efforts, meant the world to her mother during these last months.

As I ready myself to call Amanda, I will remind her of how impactful her actions were, how she made a difference in someone's life and when ready, to let herself smile and remember their connection. Dickens may have queried "what greater gift than the love of a cat," but I would argue, what greater gift than the love of thy neighbour.



CHRISTINA MULDER
DIRECTOR OF PROGRAMS & PARTNERSHIPS

Welling Square United Church 15th Annual Community Christmas Dinner

Meal Pick up or Delivery

Friday, December 25
11am – 2 pm for pickup
Wellington Square United Church
2121 Caroline Street Burlington

Delivery upon request

Please RSVP by email llunski@wsquare.ca
or call 905.634.1849 by December 20

Vegan and gluten free options
are available upon request

Due to covid restrictions, this is not a sit down dinner.
Options available are pick up or delivery

OPEN DOORS AT ST. CHRISTOPHER'S
INVITES YOU TO

Soup-er Saturdays

HEARTY SEAFOOD CHOWDER
THAI SWEET POTATO
LITTLETON LENTIL SOUP
JON'S SURPRISE
AND MORE!!!

\$5-
\$13

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 28TH
11AM - 2PM
ST. CHRISTOPHER'S PARKING LOT
FOR CONTACTLESS PURCHASE
CREDIT AND DEBIT PREFERRED



All proceeds to go to Open Doors and their efforts to support
the community through good food.



Our Community Christmas Dinner is
in loving memory of Melissa D. A young
woman who thought of others needs, before
her very own.



Open Doors Invites you to our Community Christmas Dinner

We may not be able to share a meal at the table
this year but we invite you to come pick up a
hearty holiday dinner.

Contactless pick up on
December 15, from 4-6pm.

Fresh Produce Pick Up -
December 22, from 4-6pm

(no meal service)

First meal in the New Year
January 5, 2021

We wish everyone a safe and healthy holiday
season and look forward to connecting with
you again in the new year.

For more information please email
goodfood@stcb.ca

YOUTH NEWS



We need your talents for a Virtual Family Christmas Play!



Inviting families across the Anglican Diocese of Niagara to participate in the Virtual Family Christmas Play! Christmas may look a little different this year, so we have planned a fun, creative, and innovative way to gather families to hear the Christmas Story! The viewing will take place Christmas Eve on the Anglican Family Hub Facebook page. We need your help!

Do you like to sing?

We need people of all ages to record themselves singing along to any or all three (3) Christmas carols.

Does your family or children want to get involved?

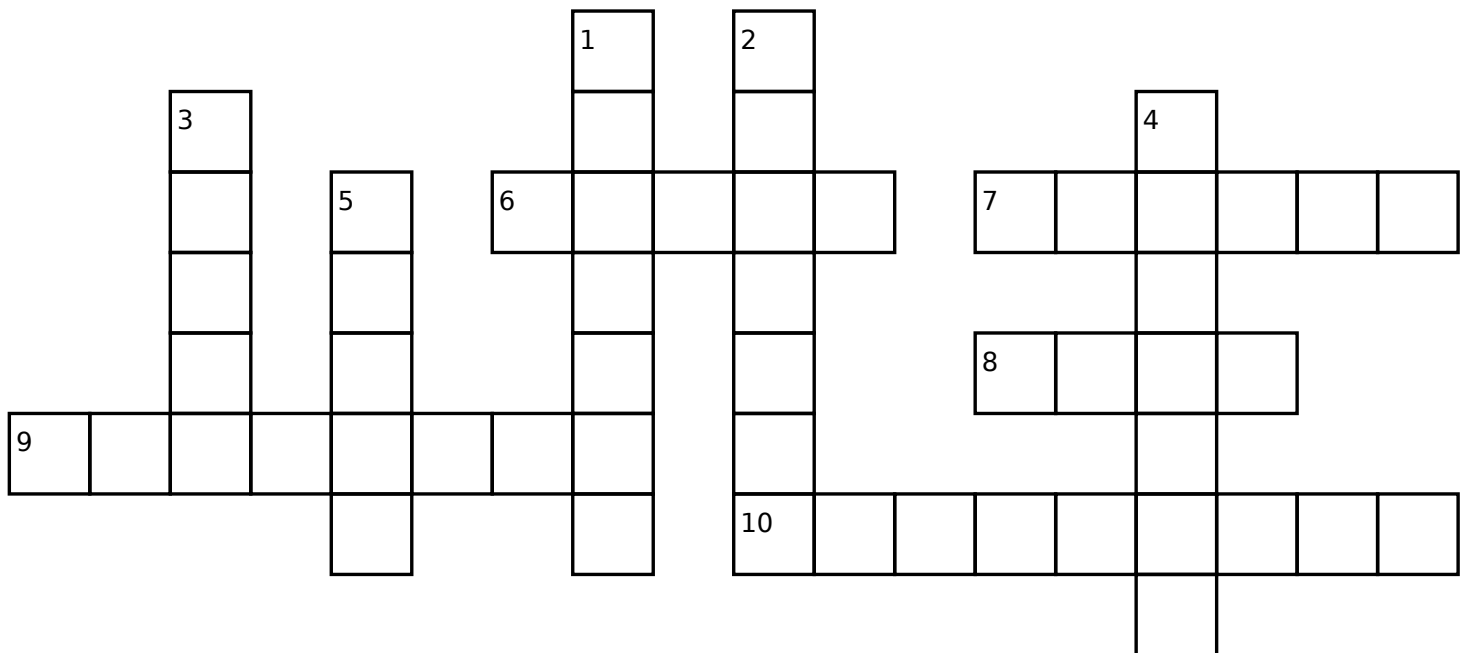
We need families and children to dress in costumes and record a video of a narration or acting out of a short portion of the Christmas pageant script.

Can you play an instrument?

We need at least one instrumentalist to record backing tracks for three (3) Christmas carols.

Contact Katherine at youthministry@stjohnsthorold.com by November 22nd





Down:

1. A sunny place to gather (pre-covid)
2. The Holy Grail
3. Sunday songs
4. Bee loving altar adornment
5. Ancient book of stories

Across:

6. pumps blood and notes
7. The sermon stand
8. Holy bottom resting place
9. Andy's offering
10. Consecrated before consumption



JUDY JUPP

JAZZ VESPERS



Tommy-Lee Metcalfe



Dan Cunningham



Kevin Mak

Virtual Experience

A highlight of our Worship Time in "Church and Chat" on:

Sunday, December 20TH | 11.00am

**Watch for the link to join this Zoom service
in the Email Blast**

CHRISTMAS MARKET

It was different. It was challenging. But it was still OUR fabulous Christmas Market that we know and love. Times being what they are - I had to keep the volunteer pool smaller than intended. So I definitely want to thank three people who put in countless hours helping set up products in the Family Room - Diane Peters, Gloria Bilous, and Sherri McGurk. Tom and Cip Bibby, and Rosemary Ryan were up to their usual business of churning out dozens of preserves. Many thanks also to Sandi Smith for co-ordinating baking marathons. We sold out of the cookies and squares! And Open Doors generously gave us some preserves and frozen soups to add to our catalogue of good food. If you have not tried any of those soups - you are missing out! Those who participated by crafting, cooking, shopping, and volunteering all played a huge part in making this a success. The yarn and fabric crafts, and decor items were an amazing display of skill. Also of note - two of our usual chefs organized a breakfast offsite and made a donation to the Market, because according to Dave and Gerry "you cannot have the Market without serving breakfast!" Special thank you to Jenn McLean for teaching me how to do the online store, and for helping with the tech bits. A wonderful surprise, and a testament to the work we do as a parish, were the number of cash donations by people who did not buy anything, but see St. Christopher's as a place they want to support. It was wonderful

to have "in-house" vendors participate as well with their tasty food and beautiful crafts. Thank you to Rodney and Carolyne, Roxane, Jim, Kevin, and Justin. Please remember to support them at other times of the year as well as at our Market. Again, thank you all for your generous donations, and gratitude for those of you who shopped... and shopped... and then shopped again. After expenses, we should have a profit of over \$4500. Not at all bad for a first effort! I wish you all a safe and healthy Christmas season.



TRUDY JOHNSON
CHRISTMAS MARKET CONVENER

REFLECTIONS ON ANTI-BLACK RACISM



On Sunday, November 1st, several members of St. Christopher's gathered on Zoom to discuss Anti-Black Racism. This was our introductory chat so we focussed on our own personal experiences with racism, and recognized how society has changed in the last few decades. Words and attitudes that were once considered socially acceptable, we now know to be quite harmful.

It was a very soul stirring

discussion. The chat room was a safe space for people to talk about where they are on the journey to becoming anti-racist.

As a result, four main themes came out of the chat:

1. Systemic Racism has created divisions of "us vs. them" - which builds some people up, while tearing others down.
2. Faith in Action - St. Christopher's Church has a responsibility to be proactive and be a leader

in Anti-Black Racism. Action is needed - we must walk the talk.

3. Personal Awakenings to the reality that traditional systems have hurt people of colour, and now that we all know better we must do better
 4. Education - we need to learn more about our history to understand our current systems and how they have impacted People of Colour.
- After the chat we had a bit of homework to do - reading

some articles and watching some short films. Now we are ready for our second chat and would like to invite you all to participate.

Our next Zoom chat will be on:

**December 6th,
1:00 to 2:00.**

Please contact Erick Nettel at nettelerrick@gmail.com for an invitation to the chat.

Peace,

AMY COLLARD
WARDEN



WAYS TO DONATE

Thank you for your ongoing support of St. Christopher's and all of our ministries!

If you would like to make a donation, there are several options:

- 1) Mail us a cheque (please never mail cash).
- 2) Leave a cheque or other non-cash items in an envelope in our new mailbox (pictured at left). We are bringing in the mail each weekday.
- 3) Go to stcb.ca and choose "Donate" (top right). Options there include:
 - a Regular offerings by pre-authorized payment from your bank account or by Visa.
 - b Special gifts, such as memorials or gifts to be directed to a particular ministry, by Visa or Mastercard. Please be sure to specify where your gift should be directed.
- 3) E-transfer from your bank account to this email address: acctg@stcb.ca
- 4) Phone the church and leave a message for staff to call you back - we can receive your credit card information over the phone and process the transaction.

MAILING ADDRESS

From the Registry

Deaths

Nov. 12 Moira MacKinnon Mount

Nov. 19 Catherine Matthias

Even though your St. Christopher's staff are not always in the building, we are all hard at work!

Every Wednesday morning we may be found in a Zoom room for our staff meeting (but physically be in Burlington, Hamilton, Toronto, Jerseyville or Dundas)! This is just one of the ways we are working uniquely these

days. In an effort to reduce Covid-19 cases and in acknowledgment of the newly imposed Halton Red Zone, some staff will be at the church Mon-Fri between the hours of 10 am and 3 pm (except 10 am - 12 noon on Wednesdays for staff meeting). Please watch future eblasts for any changes to this format.



Advent – preparing for Christmas

Even though we are worshipping on ZOOM, we are planning a special Advent as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ once again.

Our Sunday worship – Church and Chat - begins at 10:45 am as we gather as a ZOOM community, followed by worship at 11 am and concludes with our Chat Rooms.

Each Sunday, we light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love on our Advent wreath. Each week as the light burns brighter, we know we are closer to Christmas.

Here are the themes for Advent.

Nov. 29 – Advent 1, we remember St. Andrew. Noting how God calls us to engage in God's mission to people.

Dec. 6 – Advent 2, we focus on St. Nicholas and his message of serving others through the offering of gifts God has loaned to us.

Dec. 13 – Advent 3, through carols and lessons we will experience through word and song God's love for us every day and every way.

Dec. 20 – Advent 4, Christmas Jazz presents a different musical experience and inspiration. We will hear how Mary and Joseph became part of God's plan to bring our Saviour to our world.

Christmas

Our plans are developing for our ZOOM worship, so watch our email blast and Christmas mailing for all the details.

