



Messenger

December 2023

Issue 261



FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY



Dear Friends
Happy New Year! The arrival of Advent ushers in a new church year, so new year wishes are in order! And with the arrival of a new season in the church calendar comes a new focus for our liturgy and learning. Side-by-side with the familiar Bible readings for Advent that voice a longing for renewal, for light in the darkness, for rescue, and for hope, we will be reflecting on the circles of compassion and care that sustain us. Think about all the ways we come alongside one another to offer support and friendship every day and you will have a sense of the kind of compassionate community we'll be focusing on.

This way of being in the world comes naturally to many of us. We probably don't think that much about the things we do with and for our friends. But, with

deepening divisions in our own society, and in our world, it is the right time to focus on circles of compassion and care. I invite you to join small group conversations at 10:30am on the first three Sundays of Advent, December 3, 10 and 17.

In the pages of this Messenger I am reprinting the letter I shared with the congregation on November 26th. Because Christina's departure coincides with a low point in the cycle of income from government and community grants, we have some work to do before we will be in a position to hire a new director. The letter shares important information about how we are providing strong leadership for our outreach ministries as we prepare to search for a new Open Doors director.

I am grateful to Open Doors staff, and to our many dedicated volunteers

for the constant energy and care they bring to their roles in our outreach programs. There are lots of opportunities to help with our outreach projects this month, including Christmas Families in early December, and the Christmas dinner on December 19. If you have only 1 hour to spare, we will make good use of your time!

In stewardship news, I'm delighted to announce that, to date, we have received \$260,829 in pledges and donations towards our fundraising goal of \$265,000. Thank you. Thank you for your support and your confidence in the direction we are going as a congregation. The fundraising phase of the campaign may be winding down, but the other two phases of the campaign continue:

- (1) invite people to things happening at St. Christopher's, and,
- (2) pray for our shared

mission.

As we become an inviting congregation, St. Christopher's will become more and more the kind of place we want it to be: diverse, vibrant and growing! And your prayers keep us connected to our centre as a spiritual community - God's longing for us to embody justice and peace as we draw others into the new society God is creating.

Mission Action Planning groups are getting rolling. You can find full details of our renewed parish Mission Action Plan in last month's Messenger. There are lots of ways to get involved - I'd love to connect you with one, or more, of the MAP

groups! Members of the Reshaping Parish Culture group will be serving hot chocolate this Sunday to people attending the Santa Claus parade - maybe we'll see you at the parade, on Guelph Line in front of the church?

There are lots of opportunities to connect with St. Christopher's through the Advent and Christmas seasons. Please see the worship schedule printed on the back of this edition of the Messenger!

Penny

REV. CANON DR.
PENNY ANDERSON
RECTOR



PASTORAL CARE



“WHEN I WAS SICK YOU VISITED ME”

We heard a variation of these words of Jesus in our Gospel passage on the Reign of Christ, as he explained that our responsibility is to serve those who are hungry and thirsty, those in need of companionship, and those who are sick and imprisoned, and that when we are serving anyone in need we are serving Christ. The photo on this page is one that I took at St. Joseph's Hospital in Hamilton, where I did my Clinical Pastoral Education placement earlier this year. It's a statue called "When I was sick you visited me" by Timothy Schmalz, and it's a powerful reminder of whom we are serving when we are helping people in need. And we know that it is Jesus because of the marks of the nails in his hands.

Jesus' words from

Matthew 25.34-40 are important words to remember throughout the year, but the need to support those who are lonely and low on hope seems particularly acute during Advent and Christmas. Many people are unable to anticipate the joys of the season because their isolation lowers their expectations, and their fondest memories of Christmas are from long ago.

A group of volunteers is currently getting organized to visit those who are unable to come to St. Christopher's at Christmas, and to bring them communion. These visits are so important and help people stay connected to their church, their community, and God. Those who do the visiting are also uplifted by bringing light to people who may be feeling

isolated in long-term care, retirement, and sometimes even in their own homes.

Do you know someone who would be uplifted by a home visit? Please, let me know. Is there someone you would like to visit but you are unsure about making a visit on your own? Please, let me know, and I'll go with you. Would you like to be visited? If so, please let me know, and you will be visited.

Psychiatrist Dr. Bell Washington says that loneliness "can have serious mental and physical complications that worsen if ignored." She goes on to specify that "social isolation and loneliness lead to higher risk of high blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, anxiety, depression, memory issues and even death."

When Jesus tells us to

feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, visit the sick and the imprisoned, what he is telling us to do is to offer pastoral care to one another. At St. Christopher's, we have dynamic ministries that do all of these things. But when we visit, it doesn't just have to be the sick or imprisoned. It's also people who are lonely or are facing a first Christmas without someone they love. Reach out to all you can. You will make a world of difference, and you'll be glad you did.

In addition to reaching out to others, I encourage you to be gentle with yourself. The time leading up to Christmas was never meant to be a burden. It

was never meant to be a time when we would be rushed off of our feet and feel completely stressed out. This season, immerse yourself in the love of Christ, and bring His light to others, a gift for all to share.

With prayers for a blessed Advent and Christmas,

(905) 818-9976
davidmontgomery@stcb.ca

DAVID MONTGOMERY
ASSISTANT CURATE



WARDENS' REPORT



I write this article with a heart filled with hope and gratitude. St. Christopher's has been humming with excitement and activities over the past few months. It feels more and more like pre-pandemic times, with the return of so many people to the services and events, as well as a consistent number of new faces checking us out for the first time.

Notable highlights from November include a wildly successful Christmas Market, a well-attended celebration of Christina's ministry with Open Doors, and a Stewardship Campaign that brought with it stories of community and connection as well as the financial confidence we will need as we journey into the future. All of these, and the many other ministries and programs at St. Christopher's, could not have been possible without dedicated teams of volunteers and staff. From the bottom of my heart,

thank you for continuously sharing your energy and gifts with our community!

Throughout November the corporation has also been working to prepare for Penny's 360-performance review. The wardens will be seeking out feedback from a broad cross-section of the parish soon, and hope that those who are contacted will help provide valuable insight and information for this review.

As the season of hope and anticipation is on our doorstep, we look forward to Advent and Christmas. We hope that you will attend the many events and worship services that are planned in the upcoming month with your family and friends. As some of you have come to call me the "techy warden", I am going to take this opportunity to do a shameless plug and suggest that following us on Facebook or Instagram is a great way to know what's coming up and easily invite people you know.

As many of you know, I began working on our social media accounts in July, with the goals of sharing the greatness that happens within the walls of St. Christopher's with a broader audience, connecting with new people and for Instagram in particular, connecting with a younger audience. I have great news! We are making consistent progress in all of these areas. Between both platforms our reach is now consistently over 30,000 accounts every 90 days. The number of people following us is also on the rise, with Facebook seeing about 1 new follower every other day, and Instagram increasing by 55% since July. The fastest growing age groups for our Instagram followers is also trending in the way we had hoped, with the 18-24, and 25-34 categories seeing the greatest increases. This has been so encouraging to see in such a short time-frame. I wish to thank all of you

who follow, like, save, share or comment on the posts and reels. This has enabled us to make this progress and reach so many new people without spending any money on ads or boosts. To those of you who have helped with photos or other content, thank you! All of this support, and the kind words I have received IRL (in real life/in-person) are so appreciated. It is an honour to share the greatness of St. Christopher's with the world and I look forward to continuing to grow our connections.

Shannon is one of the four wardens (Al Nicolls, Carolyn Henderson, Paul Shelton and Shannon) who, along with our Rector, Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson, make up St. Christopher's Corporation
WARDEN

Last shameless plug, I promise. If you are not yet following us, please connect with us on:

Facebook: St. Christopher's Anglican Church

Instagram: @st.christophers.burlington

And as always, if you have any questions about our socials, please feel free to ask your "techy warden", as I am always happy to help.

Wishing you a season filled with love, hope and gratitude, Shannon





life giving
life affirming
life changing

16 November 2023

Dear Friends,

This letter is about our congregation's outreach ministries. St. Christopher's people are engaged with every aspect of our outreach programs. And we are proud of the way Open Doors embodies the values of our church, welcoming all, and helping our neighbours in ways that raise their dignity.

I want to tell you some of the things the St. Christopher's leadership team is working on to manage the transitions that follow from Christina's departure from her role as Director of Open Doors.

So, first, we are taking steps to make sure our core programs have the financial and human resources they need to continue providing the care and support our guests depend on. We depend upon volunteers to do critical work. You will be hearing more in the coming weeks about a renewed push to recruit volunteers to help with week-by-week programs, and seasonal projects like Christmas Families. I am grateful for the commitment and care of so very many great people who volunteer at Open Doors, especially in a time when the need in Burlington has never been greater.

There's definitely space for you to help out! For instance, you might like to assist with our Christmas Dinner on December 19. It will take mere moments to get you entered in the volunteer software. Say the word and we'll get you connected!

We hope to be in a position to search for a new Open Doors director part way through 2024. Right now, the finances are not in place to allow us to hire an interim director.

So, second, starting immediately, I will be working more closely with Open Doors staff and the Open Doors treasurer to manage day-to-day operations. And I am appointing a small executive committee made up of Debra Peroune, Tom Nicol, Christyn Perkons and Fred Grigsby to assist with this administrative work, and to consult around strategy and funding sources for our outreach ministries in the medium- and long-term.

I guess I'm really saying that we are Open Doors. We have encountered challenges in our outreach ministries before, and there will be challenges in the future. We are Open Doors, and we will meet today's challenges together, trusting in God's help.

Sincerely yours,

Penny Anderson
Rector

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905.634.1809 | staff@stcb.ca

MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS



Our St. Christopher's musicians do a lot. Live music tends to be noticeable so perhaps you're already aware of their activities. Still, it can be easy to forget just how much work goes into preparing the music for a single church service.

Let's take the choir as an example. In a normal week we spend about 2.5 hours rehearsing for every one hour in church. Considering that most services have about 20 minutes of singing, this is a real tip of the iceberg scenario where we have a nearly 8:1 rehearsal time to performance time ratio.

Consider also that this is only sufficient because the vast majority of our musicians have spent many years (if not a lifetime) developing the skills that are necessary for their ministry. This is literally invaluable: it is beyond estimation.

And here's the best part, when St. Christopher's musicians (children, instrumentalists, cantors, guitar group, choir, band and

dancers) share generously of their gifts in church, they feel that they receive infinitely more than they give. This is a profoundly beautiful and inspiring aspect of volunteerism in general and is one of the best examples of why faith communities are worth supporting.

And if you want to support the choir, dancers, children readers and guitar players of St. Christopher's as well as the plenteous guest musicians who are lending their talents to our parish, you can do so by attending the Christmas Lessons and Carols service on Sunday, December 17th at 4pm.

That service will begin with a young member of our choir leading the processional carol, *Once in Royal David's City*. The next musical selection music is one of two liturgical dance numbers, a lively celebratory Christmas anthem that invites us to "venite adoramus dominum". The second dance number is a beautiful arrangement of *Silent Night*

which, in addition to the dancers, will feature Bev Wilson on flute. These are two of seven choral anthems that with prayers, scriptures and congregational singing form the backbone of an artistic Christmas worship. Three of the artists featured are local composers. Two of these composers will actually be in attendance and one, Mark Himmelman, will perform his own composition. Whether all these people are receiving more than they give or not, I am indescribably grateful for the beautiful and soul-feeding worship that they are creating.

I cannot resist pointing out that even though Lessons and Carols pulls out all the stops, it is not that far removed from the meritorious music we are presenting on a regular basis. From the All Souls service on November 2nd to the first Sunday in Advent on December 3rd, the choir has sung four anthems by living Canadian composers. I believe that presenting works by living composers of any nationality has

inherent artistic integrity. If you agree and find this sort of thing as exciting as I do, I hope you'll speak to me about participating in the church's music programs. Of course, Lessons and Carols is just bigger, it features six choral anthems by living composers and the seventh died only two years ago.

Maybe you'd like to join us for Christmas Eve, the best time of year to be a church musician. There are many reasons why Christmas music is so well loved but one reason is that it is really good – O Come All Ye Faithful, In the bleak Midwinter, Hark! The Herald Angels Sing, are among the best in our rich tradition. If you'd like to be a part of this, do let me know.

Of course, the reader is also invited to sing from the pews! On December 24th there are services at 10am, 4pm, 6pm and 8pm. Six o'clock is led by our band and will feature a music from

both the contemporary and traditional spheres including [My Grown Up Christmas List](#). The choir and guitar group will provide musical leadership at eight o'clock and this will consist entirely of well-loved Christmas carols. There are so many to choose from that we begin at 7:40 to have an extra twenty minutes of carol singing before the service starts.

Just think of all the rehearsal time!

ANDY ELMHIRST
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC



CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES



We are entering my very favourite time of year. The early sunsets feel cozy rather than dreary as, one by one, the houses in the neighbourhood light up with decorations. Saying yes to extra movie nights, and more candy cane hot chocolate than I probably should, because the time feels too special for the ordinary rules to apply. The anticipation is too great - and that, of course, is what this season is all about.

December promises to be a special time for the children and youth at St. Christopher's. Sunday mornings will take us through our Advent program 'The Way to the Manger' as we journey through the preparations and expectations of the coming of Christ. For many, this story is as old as the number of Christmases they've celebrated, and for others still, it will be all new. What a gift to be able to witness a child learning about the birth of Jesus for

the first time!

A Christmas movie night for our younger members will take place on Saturday December 2nd. Some of the younger Sunday morning participants have caught wind of the activities that the youth group has been involved in and have asked 'why can't we do something like that?' I hope that movie night will kick off the possibility of a few more opportunities for the younger ones to get together outside of Sunday mornings.

We will also begin preparations for our Christmas Eve pageant. I can't wait for you to experience this fun musical performance with our children and youth—Dickens's A Christmas Carol with a Bethlehem twist! Kids and youth of all ages are welcome to join us in this production. Whether your child is a budding performer with a love of the stage and a knack for memorizing lines, or whether the cousins

come for an impromptu visit on Christmas Eve and they want to don a pair of sheep ears or angel wings at the last minute, we want everyone to feel welcome to participate.

Youth Group has enjoyed Bible Study and Board Games this month, and a fun night in the kitchen preparing breakfast for dinner. In December they will gather for their final event of the year. The Youth Group Christmas Party will take place on Sunday December 10th from 6:30-8:30pm. All youth grades 6 and up are welcome and of course, we always encourage the youth to bring friends. The new year will bring opportunities for more outings and some service projects as the youth have begun to discuss the kinds of outreach that feel close to their hearts and where they can use their gifts and their energy to serve our community.

I would be remiss if I didn't take a moment to highlight the volunteer

opportunities that are not only available to you but also essential for the success of our children and youth programming. As we come into the new year and the demands on the calendar aren't as great, I invite you to consider sharing your time with the young people of St. Christopher's. Not only does it offer both the grown-ups and the youth a chance to grow and learn from one another, but as you know, we hold Safe Church practices as absolutely foundational

for our young people and this means having multiple safe adults present for our youth programming to offer two-deep leadership and accountability. We - quite literally - cannot do it without you!

As 2023 comes to a close, I want to thank you from the bottom of my heart for your prayers, encouragement and support of the children and youth of our church and look forward to a fun-filled 2024 as we continue to walk alongside them in their faith journey.



CARRIE FORD-JONES
DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY

PROPERTY UPDATE



The snow is flying and everyone is starting to turn indoors. Our heat is on and with the many opportunities to gather at St. Christopher's we are busy with many things inside the building.

The water is turned off to our outside taps, the parking lot asphalt spot repairs have been done, the flowers have died back in our front gardens.

Now we turn to finding and installing the Christmas lights on the front of the building for December.

(Hope you have the annual Tree Lighting of Sunday, December 10 on your calendar – following Jazz Vespers at 4pm.) Chris Jones and Michael Peroune will do this work in the week leading up to the event.

Following a promising campaign to replace our aged coffee maker in the kitchen, something amazing happened. We had collected about half of needed funds. Two weeks ago someone who arrived at our Open Doors Tuesday dinner picked up our Messenger and started to read the articles. When they read "Did you

Know" and learned about our need for a new coffee maker, they decided to make a difference! They contacted their boss at Bunn Canada, appealing to his benevolence in assisting us with our hospitality to the community and our parish. The next morning, this same individual phoned us to say that the exact model that we had been looking for was to be gifted and shipped to us within the week! Wow! The box arrived, it has been unpacked. We will be calling in our electrician to assist with the installation and Chris Jones will do the plumbing hook-up. Within the next two weeks we hope to be enjoying coffee made from the new machine. Christmas has come early to St. Christopher's!

Chris will also be coordinating with Shannon Shuell to install a new stove in the kitchen, very similar to the one we currently have. Open Doors staff wrote a grant to replace our stove and we were successful. Chris will work with a gas fitter to ensure a safe and secure installation of the new stove, prior to December 31.

We also wrote a grant to update our security and safety and were successful in receiving the money. Chris is coordinating with a local vender, AI Security, to install cameras at all of our outer doors and indoors, just in the hallway between the kitchen and the preschool room. These cameras will be monitored at a station in the church office.

Chris Jones and Michael Peroune have begun work on the new pass-through panels between the Great Hall and the kitchen. It is our hope to have completed this project by year-end as well.

A special cleaning of the high corners of the sanctuary was completed recently by the very capable team of Chris, Mike, and Sam. Spider webs have now been removed, for your more comfortable worship experience.

Our church spaces have been busy with visiting groups in the fall. The Fung Loy Kok Institute of Taoism has been very faithful in meeting every Wednesday evening beginning at 7pm offering tai chi to the community. Newcomers and the experienced are

both welcome. They will continue into the new year.

The Burlington Civic Choral recently offered an evening of varied, complicated and engaging music. The Burlington Welsh Men's Choir will be using our space on Friday, December 1 for their Christmas concert. A local artist will be hosting a recital of her students' music after the Santa Claus parade, on Sunday, December 3. The Burlington Chamber of Commerce was here recently for their "After 5" evening, with our Open Doors team preparing food, and hosting and hospitality duties undertaken by Penny and Chris. The Halton Community Development group, who have office space in our vestry, hosted a big event on Friday, November 24, with Penny and Shannon present. Unfortunately, one of the members of a group who regularly gather on our front lawn with their dogs, recently died. They will meet to share stories and memories of her this weekend in our Great Hall. All of these things are happening in between our regular parish meetings,

special events and activities. Our facilities team has an ongoing challenge to make sure our rooms are ready for the next scheduled gathering, with a look of seamless effort! Thank you to all who make this happen – Chris Jones, Mike Peroune and Sam Gamage.

This Saturday, December 2, our eager volunteers will be meeting at 8.30am to do a fall clean up under the direction of Kevin Turpin, Property Committee Chair. We hope to pick up leaves, trim branches and have all tasks done within three hours. If you can be there, please let Kevin know at staff@stcb.ca. Thank you!

There are many opportunities in the new year to assist with building maintenance projects. Please let us know if this sounds interesting to you. Chris and Mike would welcome you to join them on any Wednesday morning.

Be sure to be in our building over the next few weeks through our action-packed December schedule. This is your house and you are welcome here! Bring your people with you when you come!



What a November! Open doors has been abuzz with activities...

In early November OD found out that we have received government funding to replace our existing stove. With over 930 meals served in November alone, the stove may be one of the most used items in the building (okay...maybe the dishwasher wins). We have looked at all sorts of options and are excited to start moving forward with plans to replace in the new year.

On November 13th Open Doors was so fortunate to be nominated and chosen as the recipient of a monetary donation from the 100 Women who Care organization. It will go far in helping to keep our Community Market stocked

with fresh nutritious food. We have seen an increase in need for our market in the last few months and are always happy to accept all donations. If you would like to make a donation, we have a list of most needed items at the front desk.

Some may have noticed that a new structure has been built beside our Community Market. This structure was always part of the plan for our recent renovation and will be a great help to shelter our guests from inclement weather. It is being built by students who are learning and honing their trade. It is looking great and there will be more add-on's (privacy fencing, gates etc.) come the warmer months.

The Burlington Chamber of Commerce Burlington (Hamilton) was here on

November 15th for the monthly "After 5" event. The Great Hall was abuzz with folks making new connections and enjoying appetizers and coffee.

On November 24th Penny and I were lucky to be invited to attend the CDH: (ONN) presentation on the 2023 State of the Sector: A Tipping Point. It was a fantastic conversation hearing the struggles and successes of other non profits in the area. Everyone had such interesting input and time and time again the point was driven home that our volunteers are such an invaluable part of our operations.

We were fortunate to host another All Clergy day (Nov 29) when we welcomed over 70 clergy members through our doors and enjoyed a meal made by

our phenomenal volunteers.

As we ramp up into our very busy Christmas season, please think of volunteering your time. If you are not yet signed into our Better Impact software I am more than happy to sit down and sign you up. If computers are a barrier for you... don't let that stop

you from volunteering, we can help! Christmas families December 5,6,7 and our Community Christmas Dinner on December 19th at 5:30 (please call the office to register to attend) are just a few events around the corner.

AND PLEASE SAVE THE DATE FOR CNOY!



SHANNON SHUELL
GOOD FOOD COORDINATOR

Help support children in the community have
a joyous Christmas by participating in the

Christmas Families Gift Drive

Looking for a holiday outreach program that aligns with your business?
How about running a Christmas drop box with your BFF's or social network?
We support over 250 children through our Christmas Families Program.

This year we will be collecting gift cards for :

Fortinos | Walmart | Marshalls | Winners | HomeSense



Drop off your Gift between Nov. 20 and Dec. 4th

Thank you for your continued support!



Blue Christmas

Tuesday | 5 December | 7.30pm



Christmas Market

Where were you on the weekend of Nov. 18? If you were not part of the Christmas Market you missed an amazing event! The makers, the bakers, the creators, the helpers, the cleaners, the servers - so many talents and skills to be appreciated. First to set the mood for the day was Gail Grant and her team decorating around the building. So welcoming and festive. I kept asking for cookies - and you delivered! As usual, Sandi Smith had the Baked Goods area beautifully arranged and organized with the bounty of your contributions. And to continue with food, the variety of donated preserves was a delight and Paul Shelton had the table well stocked. Now, on to other shopping. There was a lovely assortment of donated wool and textile crafts. Then, some gorgeous home decor and other crafts at One of a Kind. Oh, and let us not forget All Things Christmas. How great is it when a volunteer (Lynda Hall) phones to say she and a group of friends are ready to just handle it all! Did you win a prize at the Penny Sale? Dot Anthony and her crew had a fantastic display of prizes to be won. We were also blessed to have 7 parish vendors available: 9 Acres Farm, Artwork, Craft Wagon, Hobby Hop Shop, Jewellery, Stained Glass, and Woodturnings. After all that browsing and shopping, time to sit down and enjoy breakfast or a snack at the Bistro. Gerry Anthony and friends had the most delicious breakfast available. Special thanks to Paul Shelton, Carol Henley, and Joy Thompson for lifting, carrying, finding things, and more!

The current estimate of our profit this year, thanks to Tom Nicol and financial team, is a wonderful statement to the hard work and dedication of everyone: \$12,600!

Stay tuned for news about the 2024 Market. As you can see, it takes hundreds of volunteers all working together, so there is always a place for YOU!

Many thanks to each and every one of you and warmest wishes for a joyful Christmas.

Trudy

Bunn Coffee Maker

We are really grateful to Tracey Mighty for helping to arrange the donation of a new coffee maker from Bunn Canada. Thank you! And thank you to everyone who contributed to the coffee maker fund through the fall — we will use your donations to pay for electrical and plumbing connections for the new machine.



Thursday Midweek Eucharist & Bible Study

The Thursday Bible Study and Eucharist will not meet December 20th, 27th, and January 4th. We will meet again for the first time in the New Year on January 11th.



Mental Health Care Partners' Support Group



**Hybrid meetings, in person and on Zoom,
Monday | 22 January | 7pm**

Meeting ID: 420 850 3446

You Are Not Alone



**In the Family Room with Rev. David Montgomery
hybrid meetings, in person and on Zoom,
Wednesday | 20 December | 7pm
Meeting ID: 420 850 3446)**



Watercolours & Wine

with Cheryl Goldring

Come and learn how to paint, on a Christmas card!

Next event is Wednesday, December 6 at 12 noon.

\$35 per session. All materials are provided, including professional instruction. You will be surprised at the creativity that is evoked!

Gather with others in a warm and encouraging space.



After more than 10 years living as unwanted refugees in Turkiye, half of the Masri family has come to Canada.

Their effort, persistence and devotion has allowed them to begin their lives again in safety.

Their focus right now is to help their remaining family members join them in Canada. Thirteen immediate family members are still in Turkiye living in tents with little local or international support after their home was destroyed by earthquakes last February.

With support from St. Christopher's and the Diocese of Niagara, members of the Masri family have submitted applications to the Immigration and Refugee Board of Canada to bring their remaining family to Canada. We are optimistic the next group may be able to travel to their new home in Canada in 2024.

Thank you for the generous ways you are sharing your good life with them. Bob Loree

FROM THE REGISTRY

Funerals

July 18 Bill McCauley

27 Marquerite Lusney

Aug 23 Betty Boyle

Nov 25 Randy Fortin



Seniors' Social

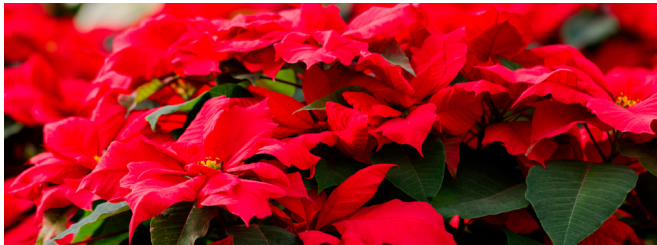
Tricia Clarke and this warm and spicy group of seniors meets every Tuesday afternoon in the Family Room from 2-4pm. Enjoy a time of refreshment and some games and conversation. Bring your special energy to make some new relationships. You will be enriched to plug in here. Tuesday Dec. 12 will be an offsite Christmas party (contact staff@stcb.ca for details.) The group returns to weekly meetings on Tuesday, January 9.



Fall Garden Cleanup - Cancelled
Saturday, December 2 | 8.30 to 11.30am



Anglican Church calendars are finally available for sale! Please order at staff@stcb.ca. \$5.00 per copy. The delivery date will be on or about Monday, December 18.



Christmas Flower Fundraiser

Meet the office volunteers in the Narthex on Sunday, December 3 or 10 from 9-11am to place your order for Christmas poinsettias. Choose from three different live options or a gift card, for most flexibility. We can't wait to meet you there!



Ginger Group

Calling everyone 55+ or retired! Our next gathering will be Monday, December 11 from 11.30am-1.30pm. This midday event is Christmas-themed with a few surprises. It is a wonderful way to meet friends and make new ones at St. Christopher's and beyond. Contact Winston or John at staff@stcb.ca for details.



Bridge Group

Welcome to those wishing to join us for a game of bridge. Our St. Christopher's Bridge Group will meet on December 11 from 2-4pm in the Narthex. Do you wish to learn? Experienced bridge players will be available to teach. Light refreshments will be provided. You don't need to be a part of St. Christopher's to join this group. Please contact Pat and Liz at staff@stcb.ca for more information. Bridge will continue on Monday, January 8.



Men's Cooking Groups

Men's Cooking #1 will meet on Monday, December 4 at 10.30am. Come and learn how to be a proficient cook. Share your skills and knowledge if you are already experienced in the kitchen. Please contact Gerry or Bob at staff@stcb.ca if you are interested.

JAZZ VESPERS & TREE LIGHTING



CHRISTMAS TREE


 Jim Sandilands
Bass


 Shannon Butcher
Vocals


 Tim Shia
Drums


 Chris Gale
Sax


 Stacie McGregor
Piano

Sunday
10 Dec.
2023

St. Christopher's
662 Guelph Line
Burlington

4.00pm
Free Will
Offering

DID YOU KNOW?



ABOUT THE GOOD STUFF?

- **The Eucharist** - We are all invited to the table. All of us. This happens every time the table is set and the celebrant looks at everyone and issues this all-encompassing invitation. And we can listen and hear the welcome and know that this is genuine.
 - **Liturgy** - The three services on Sundays are more of this good stuff. Each service is carefully crafted by our liturgical team. All of the pieces fit together. Music, prayers, homily, Eucharistic prayer, and Altar Guild care with attention to the colour of the "season". Check out the bulletin cover too. The whole thing hangs together!
 - **Fellowship** - Laughter, which they say is the best medicine, is a constant
- at St. Christopher's and this stuff is dispensed everywhere. All the time. You can hear it in the narthex, in the kitchen, in the office, in the music room, in the hallways, and in the clothing store! We heard it especially at our highly successful Christmas Market!
- **The Staff** - To a person, these people contribute mightily to our success as a parish: Penny, David, Joy, Carrie, Andy, Chris, and Sam. And the Open Doors staff too: Shannon, Gloria, and Sandi. Each of these folks care deeply and it shows.
 - **Compassion** - How many times have we heard about prayers being offered, meals being delivered, clothing being given, drivers offering lifts to wherever, listening,

connecting by land line, or by cell phone, or by social media, or in the family room, or quiet room, or sanctuary. This compassion is one of those "medicines" which has wonderful impact, and is mostly invisible.

- **Celebrations** - Cards are sent and flowers are given to mark birthdays, anniversaries, and special achievements. Tons of cake has joyfully been eaten just about everywhere on the premises. This is mostly joyful, but sometimes we say our sad good-byes by eating cake!
- **Food** - This good stuff list would not be complete without mentioning food. The list started with the Eucharist, which is our heavenly food, with which we begin to fulfill our

lives as Christians. And, of course, our kitchen dispenses constant food, and our hospitality carries on with more food on Sundays, Thursdays, and many more events. Open Doors is efficient in the food department and many people who enter our home here are thankful for our constant welcome of food, drink, and care.

- **Volunteers** - This is a department which requires dedication, and care. Everyone who is one of these people will no doubt tell you that doing this "job" is unbelievably rewarding

and lots of fun. It also brings friendships which often last for years. Many years! St. Christopher's abounds with volunteers, who come in every shape and size and age and skill.

- **Thankfulness** - Let's do this one! It is surely one of the pillars of the **Good Stuff**.



JUDY JUPP

An abstract painting featuring a central, bright, multi-colored star or light source. The star is composed of thick, textured brushstrokes in shades of white, yellow, orange, and red. It is set against a dark, deep blue background that resembles a night sky. Below the star, the colors of the star are reflected in a dark, textured surface that looks like water, creating a symmetrical effect. The overall composition is vertical and centered.

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Join us for a celebration of God coming to earth,
creatively expressed through liturgical dance, Canadian compositions,
sacred story and treasured Christmas carols.

Sunday | 17 December | 4pm

*Refreshments will be offered following the service
Donations of Christmas cookies are most appreciated*

Christmas

December 10

Jazz Vespers & Tree Lighting 4.00pm

December 17

Lessons & Carols 4.00pm

December 24

Advent 4 Eucharist 9.00am

Family Pageant 4.00pm

Contemporary Eucharist 6.00pm

Carol Sing 7.40pm

Choral Eucharist 8.00pm

December 25

Traditional Eucharist 9.00am

Epiphany Dec. 31

8.00am | 9.30am | 11.30am

Please note, there will be no children's programs during the morning services on December 24, 25 & 31. GIFT and Grannie's Place will resume on January 7.