

st. christopher's

Messenger

November 2025

Issue 280



LEST WE FORGET

FROM THE RECTOR'S STUDY



Dear friends,
I want to say thank you to members of the Accessibility Committee who hosted the first instalment of our occasional education series, and especially to Shannon Mac who was our presenter for "Holy Distractions! Let's talk about ADHD." The workshop equipped a lot of St. Christopher's people with a better understanding of how to support and include people living with ADHD. And a lot of people in our midst who call themselves "neurospicy" told us the event helped them to feel seen. Because I know St. Christopher's is called to be an inclusive congregation, I am pleased that we are raising our game when it comes to making our community a place where people with ADHD, and other hidden disabilities, feel they are home.

The next St. Christopher's Connects is coming up this month. St. Christopher's Connects is a 2-part event where I invite people who

have recently arrived at St. Christopher's, and people who want to find ways to connect more deeply with our congregation, to spend time with me talking about our mission and our programs. It's a chance to ask questions and to meet members of our St. Christopher's staff team. We'll meet at the church at 7pm on November 12 and November 19. You're invited!

This year the Diocese of Niagara will hold our third annual Vigil for the Transgender Day of Remembrance (November 20 at 7pm – St. Simon's, 1450 Litchfield Road, Oakville). You may know that I chair the planning committee for this event, and you can probably understand why it's a day that is close to my heart. But I also want to say that it's an important public witness for our church to host an event focused on remembrance and resistance when the political climate in Canada is moving away from protecting trans identities

and trans rights. Please pray as November 20 approaches, and please spread the word about the vigil.

Every year I am moved by how very many St. Christopher's people pitch-in to bake and preserve and cook and create in the weeks and months leading up to our annual Christmas Market. And I am energized when I see how very many St. Christopher's people volunteer to help on the day of the sale. If you're reading this Messenger at the start of November, there is definitely a place for you to help with the sale taking place on Saturday November 15! You can always help by spreading the word, and bringing your friends and neighbours to the sale!

For the first time this year, a small group of volunteers have created a second sale to help raise money for St. Christopher's. Where the items we sell at the Christmas Market are largely made by people from the congregation, the new

Maker's Market features outside vendors. Please note the date – Saturday November 29 – and please spread the word!

Also for the first time this year St. Christopher's will be selling fresh Christmas trees. I hope that Christmas tree sales will grow into a major fundraiser for our church. For 2025, we have ordered a few hundred high quality balsam firs from a family farm in New Brunswick. We hope to receive our trees in the last week of November so we can start selling on November 29 when people are here for the Maker's Market. We are going to need volunteers to help sell some trees! If you like the idea of a Christmas tree fundraiser, please mark your calendar and plan to attend a training sessions on Saturday, November 22, at

2pm or Tuesday, November 25, at 7pm.

I think you can see that we are devoting a lot of energy to finishing 2025 in a strong financial position! I recently sent a letter to donors that included a statement of givings to the church up to September 30th. Please compare this statement with your records to make sure we haven't missed anything! If you happen to be a little behind where you expected to be with your donations to St. Christopher's, and you are able, would you please make a plan to catch up before year-end? Thank you!



REV. CANON DR.
PENNY ANDERSON
RECTOR

PASTORAL CARE

PRAYER AND SPIRITUALITY

Where to begin? Since I was a child, prayer has been important in my life. I was taught to pray by my parents, and my prayer life continued to be nurtured by many good people. I knew that prayer had to do with God, speaking to God, listening to God, being in communion with God. I have tried to do this by being faithful to prayer, by reciting prayers and taking the time each day to pray. The last few years have challenged me in ways I didn't even know needed to be challenged. This began with our reflections on the book by Joyce Rupp entitled *Open the Door*. These simple meditations placed me in a different mode as I was invited to look closer at myself and what I bring to prayer. These non-traditional reflections are subtitled "A Journey to the True Self", and this is precisely what they did for me. They took me on a journey that I've never been on before, a journey that did not just focus on God but one that included a reflection and a rediscovery of myself. I began feeling things that I never felt before and noticing things about myself that I did not know existed. I don't know if I was praying to God or just reflecting on myself, but I was rediscovering who I am and what I am as a human being. I realized that in order to find God I must first find myself. This was the first important lesson.

Honesty

God knows us as we are, but God's desire is that we may also know ourselves.

'Moment by moment we are being recreated', but before this recreation can happen within us we must stand before God fully conscious of our present condition. Prayer, therefore, is about coming to know God by discovering God in our 'here and now', in our human condition, in this moment. This is why prayer has to lead us to discovering the present moment, the present condition; prayer has to lead us to truth about ourselves in the present moment (how I am now). We believe in a God of truth, and so our journey towards God has to be founded on truth and honesty of who we are and what we carry with us. This honesty has to be discovered and brought to prayer with us.

Masks and Images

Honesty and truth which is ours to discover must begin with ourselves and lead us to God. Through reflection and prayer, we first discover truth about ourselves. This truth brings about awareness that we don't always see ourselves the way we really are, but rather through a lens that we have created for ourselves. We look at ourselves through the lens of personas or masks that we carry, and this way of looking makes us incomplete and limited in our humanity. When I approach God in prayer through the persona of being a man, a teacher, a priest, or even a Christian, I limit my ability to stand before God in truth. Prayer challenges us to face God as I am, for better or worse. This is done not simply by shedding the masks through

which I see myself but by bringing them to prayer and seeing them for what they are, masks which express one small piece of who I am and not myself as a whole. In prayer I am called to bring all of my masks and, through integration and purification, expand my view of who I am before God.

The challenge of honesty in prayer also requires me to examine the images of God that I have created. The purification of self through honesty in prayer leads us to also look at our human limitations that we place upon God. Through our human experience of learning about God through books, Sacred Scripture, lives of the saints, or even our own experiences, images of God are created in our minds. These can be images of God as a Good Shepherd, as a Merciful Father, as a Just Judge, etc. Just as my own limited perception of self can get in the way of encountering God, so can my limited images of God. Once again, the goal is not to rid myself of the images of God but to view those images for what they are, images and not the fullness of who God is. Images are helpful, but they can also be dangerous when we mistake them for the real thing. They reveal something about God, but never the whole thing. The main purpose of an image is to invite our imagination into prayer so that we can experience God in a way that goes beyond pure understanding. But just as imaginative meditation is not the end of prayer, and we should be ready to let go of it when the time comes

for the prayer of union, so too with images of God. They serve a purpose which should lead us to a place where we will not need them anymore, when we will experience God who is beyond any image or picture that we can grasp with our reason or imagination.

Limits on prayer

It is common for me to define prayer as that time when I sit or kneel and reserve a given amount of time to God. In her book *"Thirst"*, Mary Oliver offers poems which are moments of prayer for her, moments of encountering God through her own daily experience. In one of her poems she writes: "When I wake, and you are already wiping the stars away, I rise quickly, hoping to be your wild child...through the gift you have given us: another day". These poems made me expand my own definition of prayer as an encounter with God through the present moment. Prayer does not have to be structured and scheduled, though it is definitely that. If prayer is to be an encounter with God, does it have to be

limited to scheduled prayer? Do I have to limit God to my own schedule? Is God's reality in my life open to the surprise of daily moments? After all, we believe in a God who is full of surprises, mystery, and grace. This knowledge should free me to allow God's leadership in my life. Why is it that I am always trying to lead, to give God permission when to touch my life and when to stay put? Becoming a person of reflection, of awareness of every moment of my life, of every experience and encounter with the world around me can expand my experience of God, my experience of myself, my experience of prayer.

This new and personal approach to prayer is important if we are to truly embrace the Incarnational experience of Jesus. We are called to pray as we are, and not as we hope we should be. This kind of honesty in prayer can transform our relationship with God and make it come alive in a new way. It will also help us open up to the reality that we are part of a greater community of believers.

REV. WOJTEK KUZMA
PRIEST ASSOCIATE



WARDENS' REPORT



October was a wonderful month with much to be thankful for. The trees started to turn bright, beautiful colours, and the unseasonably warm weather was welcome. We were particularly thankful for Harvest Fest which was a great success with a sell-out attendance. A big thank you to Shannon Shuell and countless volunteers who made this wonderful event such a success.

With November here, we have started our transition, as Canadians, into colder temperatures and warmer clothes. We also begin preparations for the celebration season that is just around the corner. Yes, I do mean Christmas. Though we are only in November, there are already three events this month at St. Christopher's that help us prepare for the Christmas season. First, we look forward to our annual Christmas Market, with the many foods, preserves, knitted items, artisan specialties and much more

that will be available to help us in our own preparations for Christmas. This year we also have a special Fall Maker's Market on Nov 29th with lots of unique and specialty items to explore and purchase. As well, this will also be our official kick-off date for our First Annual Live Christmas tree sale - make sure you get yours and let all your friends know!

Of course, let us not forget that November is a time to reflect and show our appreciation and respect for those many, many Canadians who have given their lives in order that we may be here today, free and safe. I will share a little something about my family. My Grandfather, who lived to be 104, fought in both World Wars. I believe, at the age of 16, he came to Canada with his family from England, settled in the Hamilton area, and worked for years as a butcher. This is where he met his wife, my grandmother, and raised his family. I never knew my grandmother, as she passed

when I was only a baby, but my grandfather lived with our family. He was always there when I was growing up. In all that time, he never shared anything about what he experienced from his time in the army. He kept that part of what he went through to himself but he was proud of doing his part for our country. He had this walk that you could tell was developed from marching in the army. He had a way of always looking at everything in such a positive way. One of my favourite memories of him was one evening when he was going through the kitchen to another room, he looked up at me, smiling, and said "us old soldiers never die, we just fade away". He then continued on to the next room. I don't know why that left such an impression on me but it really made me appreciate what a humble and genuine man he was. His service was not something to be glorified but something to be reflected upon, with humility and honour. To all those fallen, Lest we Forget.

In Flanders Fields

by John McCrae

In Flanders fields the poppies blow
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks, still bravely singing, fly
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie,
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:
To you from failing hands we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

Paul Shelton is one of the four wardens (Paul Shelton, Shannon Mac, Mike Ravenscroft Lisa Kruitwagen) who, along with our Rector, Rev. Canon Dr. Penny Anderson, make up St. Christopher's Corporation

PAUL SHELTON
WARDEN



MUSIC & THE PERFORMING ARTS



I'm writing this article having just concluded one of the saddest funerals I've played at St. Christopher's. It was a celebration of life in the literal meaning of the term: stories of good times were shared and the positive impact left by the deceased was clear. But Justin Landers was only 36 years old and he spent his final years battling a brain tumour. The first remembrance of the service was given by his young son. It was thoughtful, loving and unexpectedly devastating. Another unwanted accolade, that is possibly the youngest remembrance I've heard at a funeral.

I'll also remember Justin's celebration of life for the music. I am grateful that the family invited Joe Allain to share his guitar and voice with us. I appreciate the new music he brought to

the service and I enjoyed the collaboration that took place between him, myself and the choir. We all did a commendable job at adapting to new keys, accompaniments, tempos and verse selections.

This is one of many examples of successful musical collaborations that have been happening at St. Christopher's over the past weeks.

This past Sunday, St. Christopher's hosted eight local organists for the Royal Canadian College of Organists' Halloween Concert. The organ is especially well-suited for spooky music and there was plenty in store on Sunday afternoon. We are fortunate at St. Christopher's to have a facility and an instrument that others want to come and use for performance.

The 11:30 band has been

joined by Audrey Chan (violin) and Rev. Wojtek Kuzma (guitar) in consecutive weeks. Both musicians are able to improvise beautifully and effortlessly over the type of music that forms the core of the band's repertoire. This past Sunday, our permanent band member, Rae Venne, learned a new song in five minutes from hearing it once! I am both impressed and jealous.

Another talented musician who fills me with awe and jealousy is Joy Li. Joy is a 15-year-old concert pianist who studies organ with me. She and I will be performing a joint piano concert at St. Christopher's on Sunday, November 16th at 4pm. The program will include works by Liszt, Ravel, and Schubert. I hope you can join us for an evening of beautiful and dramatic solo piano music.

Last but not certainly not least, there is the collaboration of epic proportions which is the Lessons and Carols service. This year's service will be on Sunday, December 21st at 4pm. Come hear the Christmas story told through scripture and song. The service will include many

familiar carols including Silent Night sung on this, the longest night of the year.

From organist friends to Joe Allain, to students, band and choir, I'm privileged to collaborate with so many talented musicians on a regular basis. Making music with others is an incomparable gift.



ANDY ELMHIRST
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

CHILDREN'S AND YOUTH MINISTRIES



What an eventful start to the year we have had in our children and youth programming! So much has happened and there is so much to look forward to.

Our confirmation classes wrapped up just before Thanksgiving with the confirmation service taking place the weekend after. I want to tell you all about this because it was such a great experience. We shared our confirmation prep classes with several other parishes in the area. As it happened, only two churches had youth preparing for confirmation this fall, but the others still enthusiastically participated in leading our prep classes. Having the opportunity for our young people to share this personalized time with several different rectors and youth ministry leaders was such a neat opportunity. It's rare that the youth get the rector all to themselves, so

to have this time together was such a gift. Each staff member from each parish brought their own gifts and experience to the class, and gave us all such a unique opportunity to learn from each other. It was also a great opportunity for our youth to meet kids from another parish and I hope this is a relationship we can foster and continue in the future. I believe each one came away from the experience with a deeper understanding of the church and of their faith, while also embracing the fact that life will be full of questions and opportunities and that no one (at any age!) is ever expected to have all the answers. We came together for a beautiful service at Christ's Church Cathedral on October 19th and wished all of the confirmands warm congratulations on this important milestone in their spiritual lives.

GIFT has been off to a great start. We have been

exploring God's Big Story – refreshing our memories around some of the most 'commonly known' Bible stories and talking about the ways that they impact our own lives today. As always, we try to offer a wide variety of activities to engage everyone's preferences, whether we're working at the table doing arts and crafts or having a dance party when learning about King David dancing in front of the Ark of the Covenant. A few weeks ago we took over the Great Hall to play 'What Colour is Your Coat, Joseph?' – a variation of 'What Time is it Mr. Wolf?' Sometimes our best learning is done through movement and play, and we try to take opportunities to encourage that.

Youth Group and Kids Club continue to meet monthly, eagerly welcoming new faces when someone decides to bring a friend. Having just celebrated our Halloween parties in the

last couple of weeks, we are looking ahead to our Christmas parties on the third and fourth Sundays in November. So much to celebrate this time of year, and a wonderful opportunity for our young people to come together for fun. We will plan some of our most popular off-site field trips in the new year when the colder, darker months are begging for a little excitement. Stay tuned!

As we look ahead to the Christmas season, please spread the word to those you know who might be interested in taking part in our Advent Series and Christmas Eve Pageant. We will be exploring Narnia during our four week Advent Series on Sunday mornings, and through the month of December our Christmas Pageant rehearsals will

take place after the 9:30am service. We are preparing for a Dr. Seuss-themed Pageant this year – all Whos welcome! I can't wait to tell you more!

Finally, I want to offer my sincerest gratitude to Joanne Vassell-Pittman and Jan Pearce who have recently joined the volunteer team with our Kids Club and GIFT program. I can't tell you what a gift it is to our children and youth to see enthusiastic new faces taking an interest in their activities. We are so grateful for your support for Children's Ministry. Thank you!



CARRIE FORD-JONES
CHILDREN'S & YOUTH MINISTRY COORDINATOR



Piano Recital

featuring:

Andy Elmhirst & Joy Li

Sunday | 16 November | 4pm

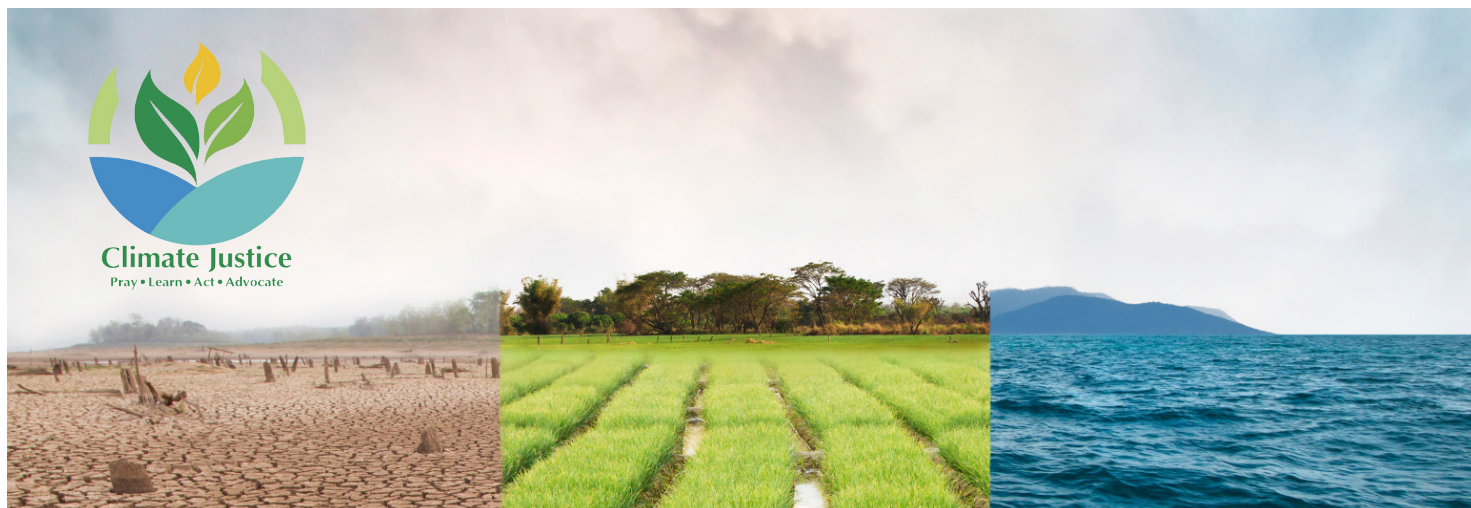
Proceeds go to Ope



Blue Christmas

Sunday | 14 December | 4.00pm

CLIMATE JUSTICE COMMITTEE



On September 20th the Diocesan Climate Justice Niagara team offered a workshop primarily intended for Parish Climate Justice Facilitators. Lee Ford-Jones and I were pleased to attend as representatives of the St. Christopher's team, which is co-facilitated by Lee, along with Mary Loree.

Two important topics which were addressed were updates to the Parish Accreditation Program, which I outlined in the October issue of The Messenger, and information on how to engage with elected officials. This latter was presented by Hasinaka Mediwake, Senior Engagement Coordinator with Environmental Defence, a Canadian, politically non-partisan, environmental advocacy

organization working with government, industry, and individuals to defend clean water, a safe climate, and healthy communities. To begin, Hasinaka reminded us of the areas of responsibility of each level of government with respect to climate issues. She then outlined a ladder of engagement which included Digital Engagement, (signing petitions, joining letter writing campaigns), Community Participation (attending events, rallies or volunteering at these events), and Advocacy (calling campaigns, meeting with representatives). All of these are effective ways to engage with elected officials with the effectiveness increasing with each rung on the ladder.

Hasinaka shared specific tips on how to most

effectively use each of the tools. The most important take-away for me though was that we each need to participate in the ways that we feel able. The St. Christopher's Climate Justice committee tries to look at ways that we can make an environmental difference in our own homes, in our parish centre, in the Burlington community, and beyond – across Canada and internationally.

Be watching for information from your committee around actions that you can take on at home (eco-friendly gardening, The Niagara Home Challenge), plans for ensuring that our church building is as eco-friendly as possible (reviewing our Silver status in the diocesan accreditation process), initiatives in Burlington/Halton (reviewing changes to recycling in Ontario, opportunities to plant trees or engage with other environmental organizations in their activities), and information about the latest global efforts to capture or reduce carbon emissions. It's a lot! And so, a big part of what we do is to

educate ourselves to be able to participate directly or to get alongside larger initiatives. Sometimes it feels like the advice that one gets at the start of a fitness class, namely, challenge yourself but always work within your own abilities.

There is a place for you on the St. Christopher's Climate Justice team and you are welcome to join any of our gatherings. We meet each month in the Family Room at 7 pm on the third Tuesday of each month. (Next meeting is November 18).

Coming Events to Note:

EcoFair Toronto

Toronto's largest & fastest-growing sustainability fair
Info at: <https://ecofairtoronto.org/>
November 2, 11 am - 4 pm

Leave the Leaves!

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/climate/what-on-earth-raking-leaves-9.6940422>



CAROL HENLEY



Remembrance Sunday | November 9

REMEMBER

Tuesday, November 11 Observance

Burlington will be observing November 11 with a Remembrance Day procession (10.30am) and ceremonies (11.00am) at the Burlington Cenotaph in Veteran's Square, 426 Brant St.

Our church office will be closed from 10am to 12noon on this day.



St. C's CONNECTS

Penny is inviting people who have recently arrived at St. Christopher's to join her for a two-part series on how to connect with our church. First and foremost it's a chance to connect with St. Christopher's people. And it's a chance to ask questions and find out more about how things work at our church. These two evenings are designed for people who have recently arrived at St. Christopher's, but they are open to anyone who wants to know more about our congregation, and anyone who wants to find new ways to connect at St. Christopher's! Please mark your calendar and plan to join Penny at the church at 7pm on November 12 and November 19.



Thursday Bible Study and Service

Our Thursday morning gathering begins with Bible Study at 10.30am and mid-week worship at 11.30am. Come for church; stay for lunch at noon!



All Souls

Upheld by beautiful choral music, we will draw strength from one another as we remember our loved ones who have died.

Sunday | 2 November | 4.00pm



Order of Niagara

We are so pleased that Bishop Susan is admitting Winston Tinglin to the Order of Niagara this year. This honour recognizes Winston's generous and gifted leadership in our congregation and in our region. The Order of Niagara service will take place at 4pm on November 16 at Christ's Church Cathedral. Please congratulate Winston when you see him.



The Open Doors community has so much to be thankful for this season! Our recent Harvest Fest was an incredible success, bringing together friends, supporters, and partners for a memorable evening of celebration and generosity.

We were delighted to have Paradiso host our group for a wonderful night of connection. Guests enjoyed a delicious prix-fixe dinner, lively conversation, and a touch of excitement with some fun door prizes. The evening was made even more special by the musical talents of Kevin Beeby, whose performance brought warmth and joy to the room.

A highlight of the night was receiving an extraordinary \$10,000 donation from Burlington Helping Burlington, a gift that will go directly toward supporting our programs and the families we serve. Their generosity, along with that of everyone who attended, truly made this a night to remember.

In addition to Harvest Fest, Open Doors was thrilled to restart our Cram-a-Cruiser drives after a 10-month pause. Thanks to the enthusiasm of our community and dutiful volunteers, we collected 736 food items at Longo's, along with \$841 in monetary donations. These contributions will make a meaningful difference in our Community Market for families facing food insecurity. We are deeply humbled by the continued generosity and compassion shown by our Burlington community.

As we approach the end of another growing season, we're taking a moment to reflect with gratitude on a special partnership that flourished in our garden this year. Through our collaboration with the Burlington Food Bank, we were fortunate to welcome Sam, who joined us for the 2025 growing season. With Sam's dedication, knowledge, and care, our garden thrived beyond expectations. Over the

course of the season, more than 50 varieties of vegetables, herbs, and pollinator-friendly plants were planted, tended, and harvested. Each seed sown represented not only the promise of fresh, nourishing food, but also the spirit of community and generosity that defines our mission. This partnership has allowed us to contribute to local food security, and demonstrate the power of working together toward a common goal. We are deeply grateful to the Burlington Food Bank for their ongoing commitment to supporting local initiatives, and to Sam for the hard work, enthusiasm, and expertise brought to our garden every single day.

As November approaches, we will begin putting the garden to bed for the season—a time to prepare the soil, clean up, and reflect on the year's successes. If you have a green thumb, enjoy hands-on work, or simply want to be part of this, we warmly invite you to join

us for our upcoming garden cleanup days. Please reach out to us for details on dates and times—we'd love to have you lend a hand as we close this rewarding chapter and prepare for the next. We will also be posting soon how many pounds of food was grown and all of the varieties that were in the garden this season...watch our website: opendoorscommunity.ca.

And finally, we look ahead to the holiday season. Open Doors is turning our focus toward all things Christmas. Our Annual Christmas Family Help, one of our favorite programs, will begin sign-ups on November 3rd through our website, with gift pick-up scheduled for December 5th. This year, we are accepting \$25 gift

cards to grocery stores, Walmart, local malls, and similar retailers to help families purchase the items they need most during the holidays, along with pyjamas, hygiene kits, and books. If anyone is looking to help for the day of distribution, please talk to Shannon or sign up in Better Impact.

Please stay tuned to the weekly e-blasts for more details on how you can get involved and make a difference.

From all of us at Open Doors, thank you for your ongoing support, compassion, and commitment to our mission.



SHANNON SHUELL
GOOD FOOD COORDINATOR

HARVEST FEST 2025



CHRISTMAS MARKET

The warm orange and gold colours of autumn will soon be turning to the festive red and green and sparkly lights of our Market. The church kitchen, as well as the ones in many homes, are getting busy with baked goods and many other food items.

If you are donating preserves, please sign out a pH meter to take home and test samples from all your batches, and then log that information in the book in the office. Preserves should be dropped off by 4 pm Friday Nov 14, and must already be tested.

If you are donating baked goods, label them with your name and enter the

information in the record book when you drop them off. They may be brought Thursday Nov 13, 4-7 pm, and Friday Nov 14, 9am-2pm.

Penny Sale items can be brought to the church office after Nov 1.

All Things Christmas will be organizing items beginning Wed Nov 12.

We are pleased to offer a select few items for a Silent Auction. There is a quilt, artwork, gift baskets, and a flight over Niagara Falls!

And what is a day of shopping without having a bite to eat? The Bistro will be offering coffee and muffins from 8 am to 1 pm. Breakfast is \$12, served from 8-11 am, choice of scrambled eggs

or pancakes, with sausage, hash brown, toast, and beverage. Lunch is served 11:30 am to 1 pm, and you can choose 2 items for \$10, or 3 for \$15 to go with your beverage. Options are spinach salad, vegetable soup, and grilled cheese sandwich.

The Market is a wonderful time to make new friends, as well as spend time with familiar faces and welcome guests to our facility.

If you are able to volunteer, come to the table in the atrium and we will find a spot that suits you. If you prefer to be a shopper that is most welcome too!

Bring family and friends - we have something for everyone.



Awesome Artisans and more...

BREAKFAST MENU



St. C's Diner

Scrambled Eggs
or
Pancakes
Blueberry or Plain

Sausages

Hash Browns

Toast

Beverage

\$12



LUNCH MENU



St. C's Diner

Entrées

Soup
Hearty Vegetable

Grilled Cheese
Sandwich

Salad
Clementine Spinach

Beverage

Choice of
2 entrées \$10 - 3 entrées \$15





TRUDY JOHNSON
MARKET CONVENOR



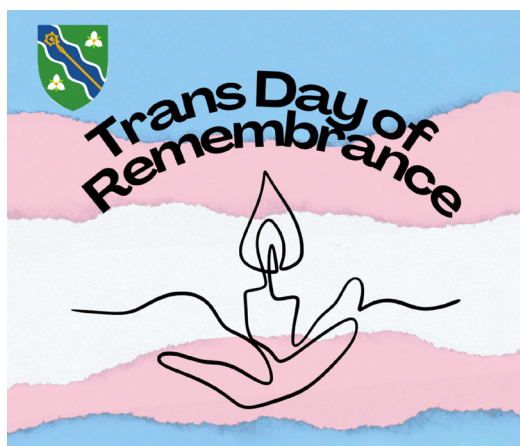
Fit for Service 9.30am
Monday | Wednesday | Friday



**"TAKE MY LIFE AND
 LET IT BE CONSECRATED,
 LORD, TO THEE."**

**THE 151ST SYNOD OF
 THE DIOCESE OF NIAGARA**

This year's Diocesan Synod will take place virtually
 on Saturday, November 1.



St. Simon's Oakville | 1405 Litchfield Rd
Thursday | 20 November | 7.00pm



Clothing & Toy Exchange
 Hosted by Burlington Green Environmental Assoc.
Saturday | 8 November | 9am
 St. Christopher's Burlington, 662 Guelph Line



Yard Cleanup
Saturday | 8 November | 9am



Find our new silent
 cashier in the Atrium!

Tap to pay and then
 scan QR code to record
 donation receipt details.

Try it!

PROPERTY REPORT



The season is changing! Do you know how we know? The last grass cut was completed on Thursday, October 30 and the tractor is now entering its maintenance cycle in preparation for spring 2026. Thanks to Chris Jones for completing this very successful summer maintenance season for us. We have also just signed our winter contract with Heritage Green who will be looking after our snow removal needs again this year. This contract begins on November 15 so if snowflakes begin to fly on November 16, we are ready!

On November 8, Stan Pearce is heading up a

group of eager volunteers to prepare our outdoor property for winter. Please consider volunteering 3+ hours of your time on this Saturday morning! Advantages include breathing in fresh, cool air, exercising your body, enjoying new and old social connections and knowing that you are taking "pride of property" to a personal level. Thank you in advance to all of you who brave the weather and come out to support your church in a very tangible way.

Chris Jones and Mike Peroune will be building some light standards for our front garden to highlight the live Christmas Trees that will be arriving there toward the end of November.

Signs have been ordered with messages about the tree sales, that the use of our front gardens for pet playing will be temporarily suspended, and notice that the area will be under video surveillance 24 hours per day. We are almost ready when the trees arrive on the back of that flatbed!

St. Christopher's and Open Doors have once again been successful in receiving grant money from the Ontario Anti-Hate Security and Prevention Grant. We had a mandate to spend the money by October 31 and we have had a short window of time in which to do this. These are the things we have done and are in the process of doing: replaced

outer doors at Clothing Store and Community Garden/Youth Room with heavy steel doors including fortifying the entryways where these were installed, installed additional security cameras overlooking our front garden, replacing ancient smoke detectors in the rafters above the organ, allowing us to be compliant with current fire codes, wrapping the organ for protection on the installation and an additional organ tuning, installing four new multi-directional lights on the Community Market and one above the door of the preschool door, installed a pole smart wifi programmable time clock above the Community

Market and Clothing Store over the driveway, and five staff and volunteers who have registered for an accredited virtual mental health first aid course with the Canadian Mental Health Association in November. These projects have all taken a lot of intricate coordination and thanks to Chris Jones, they are almost all completed.

There is always room for you to come on a weekly, biweekly, monthly basis (perhaps on a Wednesday morning) to join Chris and Mike work on various small projects around the church – there is always something that needs fixing, painting, building, or adjusting.

Hope to see you on Saturday, November 8!



Bring It | Fix It | for Free

Volunteers help you fix broken household items
(there may be a small charge if parts are needed)

Saturday | 22 Nov | 10am -2pm

St. Christopher's | 662 Guelph line | Burlington ON



Mental Health Care Partners

Providing care to loved ones experiencing mental health challenges can be overwhelming. Come join a safe and confidential space with others on a care-giving journey to share experiences, discuss concerns, and be supported by others confronted with similar situations. Facilitated by community experts, this group meets in-person in the Family Room. Next date: November 3 and December 1 at 7pm.



WHAT'S FOR DINNER?

Join our Good Food Coordinator for a fun, educational cooking class. Classes are \$35 each, and can be paid in the office. Sign up with your friends, family, coworkers! Next dates...

Wednesday, November 19

All classes 5 to 7pm
Theme: Christmas baking



Climate Justice

Pray • Learn • Act • Advocate

Next Meeting

Tuesday | 18 Nov | 7.00pm



Ginger Group

Calling everyone 55+ or retired! Our next gathering will be Monday, December 8 at 11.30am. Contact Winston or John at staff@stcb.ca for more information.



Burlington Mindfulness Meeting

Wednesday | Nov 12 and 26 | 7.00pm

JAZZ VESPERS

IT'S LIT

TREE LIGHTING TO FOLLOW



Melissa Hiltz
Vocals



Matt Newton
Piano



Tim Shia
Drums



Jim Sandilands
Bass



Shawn Nykwist
Sax

Sunday
30 November
2025

St. Christopher's
662 Guelph Line
Burlington

4.00pm
Free Will
Offering



Watercolour Wednesdays

with Cheryl Goldring

Wednesday, November 5 at 12 noon

\$35 per session. All materials are provided, including professional instruction. Gather with others in a warm and encouraging space. Light beverages are included.

MAP

Reshaping Parish Culture

On Zoom with Gail Grant

Tuesday | 4 November & 2 December | 7pm



Seniors' Social

Tricia Clarke and this warm and wonderful group of seniors meets Tuesday afternoon in the Family Room from 2-4pm. Enjoy a time of refreshment, games and conversation. Bring your special energy to build some new relationships. Please contact staff@stcb.ca for details. (On the last Tuesday of the month, this group meets offsite at 1pm.)



Bridge Group

Welcome to those wishing to join us for a game of Bridge! All are welcome but previous experience is appreciated. Light refreshments will be provided. You don't need to be a regular at St. Christopher's to join this group. Please contact Liz at staff@stcb.ca for more information. Next Meeting: November 3 and 17 from 2-4pm.



Prayer Shawl Group

Plan to join this passionate and caring group at their next meeting: November 27 at 1pm. If you have never knitted before, come and learn. Meet friends over shared creative skills.



Men's Cooking Groups

Men's Cooking Combined will meet on Monday, November 3 and December 1 at 9.30am. Come and learn how to be a proficient cook. Share your skills and knowledge if you are already experienced in the kitchen. Please contact Bob or Gerry at staff@stcb.ca if you are interested.



Fall Maker's Market

Saturday | 29 November | 9.30am - 2.00pm

662 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON L7R 3M8
905.634.1809 | stcb.ca

Enjoy the wares of a variety of artists and craftspeople including:
baked goods, honey and related food, leather items, cards, coasters, birdhouses
and woodcraft, acrylic paintings, jewellery, crocheted items, scarves,
tea towels, Christmas crafts, books, cookware and more...

Plus light refreshments AND live Christmas Tree sales in our front garden.
You won't want to miss this event - mark your calendars now!

LIVE CHRISTMAS TREE SALES



Help Us Sell Fresh Christmas Trees!

Hopefully, someday soon everyone in Burlington will buy their fresh Christmas tree from St. Christopher's! 2025 will be our first year selling fresh trees and, for our first time selling fresh trees, we hope several hundred people will shop here.

We need your help to turn this fundraising idea into a big success for our church! We're offering training to volunteer Christmas tree sellers. Please plan to attend one of the upcoming training sessions:

Saturday, November 22 at 2pm

Tuesday, November 25 at 7pm

And watch for opportunities to sign up for a shift to sell some trees!



The Messenger is published monthly for the parishioners of St. Christopher's Anglican Church. All questions or concerns should be directed to the Messenger Editor, c/o St. Christopher's Parish Office, 662 Guelph Line, Burlington, ON, L7R 3M8. Call: 905.634.1809. Email: staff@stcb.ca. Website: <https://stcb.ca/>.

Thanks to this month's contributors: Penny Anderson, Ken Beeby, Andy Elmhirst, Carrie Ford-Jones, Carol Henley, Trudy Johnson, Wojtek Kuzma, Paul Shelton, Shannon Shuell, Joy Thomson.



Christmas MARKET



NOVEMBER

15

8.00AM-1.00PM

Baked Goods • Jams & Pickles • Hot Breakfast/Lunch
Penny Sale • Silent Auction • Handcrafted Items • All Things Christmas

662 Guelph line Burlington | www.stcb.ca | 905.634.1809

