

Message from Fr. Stephen



Rejoice! Rejoice!

For many years my favourite Advent carol has been "O, Come, O Come, Emmanuel". It speaks of the coming of the Messiah to Israel; a people who have long been waiting for God to answer their prayers with the touch of His powerful love. The refrain rings with joy as the people wait expectantly for their Saviour: "Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel." Blending my voice with the choir as we sang this great proclamation on Christmas Eve sends chills up my spine.

Advent is the time of year when we wait expectantly for the coming of our Saviour, Jesus Christ. Advent has long been regarded as a time of preparation. That means our waiting for the Christ is active, not passive. As we wait to celebrate the birth of Christ in the poorest of human conditions all those centuries ago, we think of the poor and needy around us. We actively wait for His birth when we attempt to bring birth to His love into the lives of those who need desperately to know God loves them. This is reflected by our generosity to the poor in our community and world. I invite you to participate in our annual Christmas Hamper Program, donate to our Discretionary Fund, and generously give of your time and resources to the ministry of Christ's Church.

Advent also anticipates the coming of Jesus Christ in glory at the end of time, as we know it. Actively waiting for the Prince of Peace to usher in unending peace means that we strive for peace and just dealings in our lives and the world. It may seem like a daunting task, but the best places to begin to make a difference in the world are to work on our relationships with others. Are we peacemakers in our homes, families, workplaces and community? Are we people of integrity who deal justly with others? Do we refuse to participate in words and actions that tear down rather than build up the kingdom of God? These are the sorts of questions to ask ourselves as we await the coming of our Emmanuel.

I suspect most of you know the name Emmanuel means "God with us". As we live in a time of waiting for God to make right the wrongs in the world, and participate in making them right as we are able, we do well to remember that God is with us. Advent is an odd season for that reason. We wait for God to be with us, and yet God is already with us. Life isn't always easy and waiting for things to be better rarely is. But let us remember, we do not wait alone. God is with us.

Fr. Stephen+

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Sign of the Times



Spiritual Development Committee

Upcoming Spiritual Development Events

Saturday February 19

More to the Movies. Come and enjoy dinner and a movie. Watch for details.

Saturday March 12

Parish quiet day at Canton United Church. Last year our parish quiet day was a great success. The Reverend Geoffrey Sanguine will be leading us on this Lenten retreat.

March 16, 23, 30 and April 6, 13

Our annual Lenten study will be held in the parish hall the five Wednesdays evenings following Ash Wednesday.

Prayer

The fall evensong series in October provided an opportunity worship and take time out from a busy week to learn about collects through Father Stephen's homily series. Collects are a particular type of prayer that have a long history. At one time they were placed at the end of a service as a way of gathering together all of the prayers of the congregation; in more recent history they have more taken a position at the start of the service, but continue to serve a similar purpose. Look to the daily collect to gather up the theme of the scripture readings and unify the prayers of "the people". Thanks to Father Stephen for leading this series and to Alan Raymond and the choir members who helped put the "song" in evensong.

In November, the opportunity to contemplate on the theme of prayer continued with the "Dear God..." prayer study series. More than a dozen people gathered each week to discuss prayer and study scripture that teaches about prayer. The participants also shared their favourite prayer resources with one another. These are just a few:

- 1 The BCP and the BAS are full of wonderful prayers
- 2 Daily devotional resources such as: Forward Day-by-Day
- 3 Prayer journal: Writing can help you keep focus in your prayers
- 4 Articles in the Anglican Journal can be a source of inspiration for prayer
- 5 Visual images as a focus of prayer: Focus on the church windows
- 6 Hymnals: Try praying the poetry of hymns
- 7 Prayer cubes are a great tool for kids: Learn to make one at [http://www.wycliffe.org/AssetLibrary/Downloads/\(1\)Elementary%207%20Prayer%20Cube.pdf](http://www.wycliffe.org/AssetLibrary/Downloads/(1)Elementary%207%20Prayer%20Cube.pdf)
- 8 The Bible: The greatest prayer resource

Remember, prayer doesn't require big words; just a willingness to communicate with God just as we communicate with other loved ones in our lives.

Support JAM (Jesus And Me)

Help us Fundraise to support others in the Community!

1) Shop & Support Program

We are excited to introduce a new fundraising initiative - Shop & Support - the program. It allows us to purchase gift cards (the same ones in stores) and a percentage of each dollar spent is given to JAM. Every time you pump gas, buy groceries, or make any other purchases, you could be raising money at **NO EXTRA COST TO YOU** while helping JAM reach our fundraising goal of \$500+. You can purchase gift cards from any of the 200+ retailers and up to 20% of your purchase will automatically go towards our cause – no donation required!

We are commencing the program with a SHOPATHON campaign! This exciting opportunity will translate into raising an enormous amount of money in a small window of time. As an example, 100 supporters getting 3 orders each of only \$100 for gas or groceries, would translate to \$30,000 in sales. With the amazing people who belong to this organization, there's no reason we can't become a Shop & Support success story! With upcoming holidays, gift giving opportunities, and regular purchases, the sky is the limit!!

INSTRUCTIONS FOR PARTICIPATING IN THE SHOPATHON CAMPAIGN:

- 1- Place your order with a JAM Member between **November 12 and Friday December 3rd 2010**.
- 2- Money or cheque payable to St. John's Church (Shop & Support) is needed no later than Friday December 3rd 2010.
- 2- Your order will be **available for pickup on Sunday December 12th 2010 or shortly thereafter** at St. John's Church or from your JAM Member.

Our Fundraising Target for this campaign is \$500+. The more money raised the more people we can help make a difference in their lives.

JAM Members include Alex Foley-Eby, Paige Kreps, Peter Kyle, Alex Tinney, Colin Sears, Chase Lax and Karen Watson

For more information please contact: Karen Watson

Phone: 905-885-8622

Email: watson.k@me.com

OR

For a list of retailers pick up one of our Shop-a-thon information packages at the back of the church on the Youth Bulletin Board.

2) Bottle Drive

Calling all empties! **Saturday January 8th 2011** JAM (Jesus And Me) will be collecting all returnable bottles and cans from the Holiday season. If you would like to donate your empties give us a call (905-885-8622 Karen Watson) or send us an email (watson.k@me.com) and we can arrange a time for pick up. We will be calling door to door in the local subdivisions as well, **between the hours of 9 am -12 noon**.

“With God All Things Are Possible”

Matthew 19:26

Kid's Page

Christmas Joy

By Janet Hill

G L O M A G I R H P E S O J D N
Y A T S O N O F G O D O G O L O
S S D L T H G I N N D S T A R R
D T D V I B N T E H E E H I O O
R A F G E H A I E E S I T A W O
A B N I D N R B E T H L E H E M
C L S O G F T E Y A N I E T H A
G E E E A L R L Y R A M H N T T
N T L H E R O L L B P A T E O T
I S D O E V I S L E H F A L T H
T A N C E S E O O L G R E I Y E
E O A O T D W I H E L L R S O I
E T C H S L O R A C O W W Y J N
R A G R J E S U S R E G N A M N
G I E S N E C N I K N A R F D M
L E N E E R T S A M T S I R H C

Words separated by / will be found separately in the puzzle.
The leftover letters will form a scripture verse (Luke 2:14).

Advent	Frankincense	Magi
Angels	Friends	Manger
Baby	Gifts	Mary
Bells	Gold	Myrrh
Bethlehem	Greeting cards	Noel
Candles	Holly	No room at the inn
Carols	Jesus	Silent / night
Celebrate	Joseph	Son of God
Choir	Joy to the world	Stable
Christmas tree	Lights	Star
Families	Love	Wreath

Children's Ministry

Sunday School Advent Activities

By the time the Eagle is in print, St. John's children will have already begun their "Journey to Bethlehem".

The word Advent finds its history in the latin verb advenire, to arrive or to come to. Advent is a journey, marked by feelings of anticipation, longing and preparation and in that spirit, on Friday, November 19, children from Kids' Club and their families were delighted to attend the Bethlehem Walk presented by the Cold Springs United Church. This dramatization in word and song in an outdoor setting, retraces the steps of Mary and Joseph from the visit of the angel to the birth in the manger. Following our walk, we gathered for a casual supper and enjoyed a wonderful time of fellowship together.

Children from Kids' Club and their families will again participate in the Advent candle-lighting and readings and decorate our Jesse Tree during Worship.

The Advent wreath is a central teaching symbol of the season and a focal point for drawing us all into the beginning of the story of redemption that will unfold throughout the coming church year. November 28th, the first Sunday of Advent, is our Children's Service when the first candle, the Candle of Hope will be lit. Peace, Joy, and Love will be lit on the next consecutive Sundays and The Christ Candle at the Children's Christmas Eve Service. We hope our 'littlest angels" will participate in our Christmas Eve Service as well.

The Jesse Tree represents Jesus' family tree. The name is taken from Isaiah 11:1-2, "There shall come forth a Rod from the stem of Jesse, and a Branch shall grow out of his roots. The Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon Him." Each branch on the tree is a story in Scripture that tells of the relationship between God and God's people. The ornaments on the tree tell of Jesus' ancestors from the beginning of creation, and of the events leading to Jesus' birth. The children will once again make the ornaments and on each of the four Sundays of Advent, several ornaments will be placed on the tree and their symbolism explained.

Following the Young Children and Worship curriculum, our Sunday School stories during Advent pose the question "Who will show us the way to Bethlehem?" Using wooden figures, and lighting candles for each of the figures, Kids' Club will follow Isaiah, Mary and Joseph, the Angels and Shepherds and the Magi along the road. The story is engaging and reflective and we invite you to come and experience it with us. We love to share.

Outreach Committee

This year our Parish family will be adopting six families as part of the Salvation Army 2010 Christmas Adopt A Family Program. The family descriptions will be available at the back of the Church, as will the list of food suggestions for the hamper.

In order to maintain continuity and fairness, we ask that you prepare a hamper in keeping with what will be given to an average family. It will cost you approximately \$ 100.00 for food. You will be provided with the family scenario along with the gift and clothing suggestions given to us by the parents or caregivers of the children. These suggestions do not have to be followed to the "T". In discussion with the Giving Tree we recommend three gifts per child and a pair of socks, a clothing article, and a book. Your cooperation in sticking with our guidelines will go a long way in helping us maintain continuity and fairness with all the other service providers.

It is realized that this could be a large financial undertaking and we suggest that groups of families combine to cover the cost of the program. If you feel unable to contribute in this way, please consider purchasing one or more of the food items on the list and donating that to our hamper drive. More information will be available in the Church, or contact Rev. Barb Russell directly.

The deadline for contributions to the Christmas Hampers is December 19th.
The Hampers will be delivered the following Monday.

Parish News

TRINITY GROUP

Grandmothers to Grandmothers: A Campaign of the Stephen Lewis Foundation

On Wednesday, November 3rd, Trinity Group held its monthly meeting and played host to Tini Evans from Lindsay who spoke and showed slides about this program.

Tini gave her presentation to 25 ladies who came to hear more about the campaign that attempts to raise awareness and encourage support in Canada for a country that has been ravaged by the AIDS pandemic.

In Africa, so many young and middle aged adults – mums and dads have died and left children behind. The responsibility for raising these babies and youngsters has fallen on grandmothers. Since there is such a tremendous need for food, housing, school fees, medical services and counseling, the Stephen Lewis Foundation has launched this campaign to provide grandmothers in Africa with the necessities to help them raise their grandchildren.

We learned that there is even a group of women in Cobourg who call themselves the *Northumberland Go Gos*. Go Go is the Zulu name for grandmother. There are now more than 240 groups of Canadian grandmothers who have taken action to try and assist our ‘sister’ grandmothers. So far over \$10,000,000 has been raised. Tini has had the opportunity to visit the grandmothers that her group is assisting and eloquently spoke to us of her experiences and the gratitude of the grannies in Africa. If anyone is interested in more information about this initiative, speak to any one of the Trinity Group members.

Lyn Bradshaw
Secretary



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Parish Calendar

Event	Date	Time & Place
Children's Advent Service First Sunday of Advent	November 28, 2010	10:30 Service at St. John's Church
Newcomer's Meet & Greet	December 1, 2010	Rectory
Food Bank Sunday	December 5, 2010	St. John's Church
Christmas Story (with incense)	7 pm, December 12, 2010	St. John's Church
Christmas Story (without incense)	7 pm, December 13, 2010	St. John's Church
Lessons & Carols Service & Parish Christmas Party and Potluck	December 19, 2010	10:30 Service at St. John's Church
Christmas Hampers due date	December 19, 2010	St. John's Church
Epiphany Sunday and Children's Gift Parade	January 2, 2011	10:30 Service at St. John's Church
JAM Bottle Drive	January 8, 2011	See article on page 3