

CORNERSTONE

December, 2017

20 Young Road
Kanata, Ontario
K2L 1W1
613-836-1001
www.stpaulshk.org

St Paul's
ANGLICAN CHURCH



“A growing community called to know Jesus Christ and make him known in the world by our presence.”

Sunday Services

8:00 a.m. – Holy Communion Said service

9:15 a.m. – Traditional/Choral Holy Communion. God Squad provides children’s worship, crafts and games. Nursery care available.

11:00 a.m. – Praise Music Holy Communion. God Squad provides children’s worship, crafts and games. Nursery care available.

Other Services

10:00 a.m. Wednesday – Bible Study and Eucharist

2:00 p.m. Thursday – “Seniors’ Afternoon Out” Service and Social

7:00 p.m. every other Friday – St. Paul’s Youth (SPY) Group

Christmas and New Year Services

December 24 – 9:00 a.m. (Communion), 4:00 p.m. (Family Service), 7:00 p.m. and 11:00 p.m. (Candlelight Services)

December 25 – 10:00 a.m. Holy Communion

December 31 – 8:00 a.m., 9:15 a.m. and 11:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Inside this issue:

- Messages from Fr. John and Rev. Kerri
 - Christmas service schedule and upcoming events
 - Bazaar update
 - God Squad news
 - Ministry Support Group
 - Synod report
 - Circle of Blessing concert
- ...and more!

January edition deadline:
Tuesday, January 9, 2018

Please send submissions to:
cornerstone@stpaulshk.org



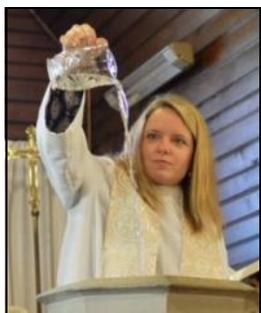
A message from Father John

Behold, I bring you good news of great joy!

Dear Friends in Christ:

When the angels appeared to the shepherds in the fields outside of Bethlehem, they began their proclamation with these words of comfort. Life can seem overwhelming and, just like the shepherds, we can be preoccupied and fearful of coming events. The shepherds hoped and prayed for the new Messiah as a means to liberation. Sometimes we place unrealistic expectations on ourselves and others. Christmas preparations are about getting our hearts and minds ready for the celebration of the Birth of Christ.

It is my hope and prayer that this letter finds you and your family in good health. In addition, I pray that your homes may be filled with the peace of the Christ Child. We know that this is a hectic time, which can be packed with many fears and anxieties. We have a healing service planned, and we invite anyone to this



From the desk of Rev. Kerri

The imperfection of the season

I celebrated the sixth anniversary of my ordination to the Priesthood this week. Which got me thinking of those first Eucharists I celebrated at Trinity Cornwall. Or, the first couple of services I led in Metcalfe, Greely & Vernon. Or, my first several services here at St Paul's or at Christ Church. There are factors at play in those early services after assuming a new role, after arriving in a new place: an awareness of your space; a discernment of how things work in "this" place and how that matches your natural inclinations; the privilege of assuming the role of Celebrant; and a very real desire to lead in such a manner that people are not distracted from the meaning of the action. In other words, there can, for some celebrants, be the desire to lead "perfectly."

The 11 o'clockers in particular are frequently treated

service who is carrying a heavy burden this season.

The God we worship is still active in the lives of people and offers hope and purpose to our existence. We must take time to contemplate and celebrate this reality. Commercialism, overindulgence, and greed, are not the message of Christmas. God's unrelenting love and action are. The Birth of God's Son, as a free gift of Love, brings Hope and Joy to our human condition. As His Church, we encourage all of you to take time to pray for the world, support the less fortunate, and strengthen your relationships – doing this because we have experienced God's Love in Christ.

Jesus is the Reason for this Season. Let us all proclaim this by our actions and our words.

Peace and Joy of Christmas,

Fr. John

to a spectacular array of my imperfection during the Eucharist. This past Sunday was no exception! In fact, with one slight shift in the service – the children being upstairs earlier than usual to join in a Baptism – I very nearly skipped the entire Eucharistic prayer!

I was reflecting on the start of Advent as I laughed at myself this week and as yes (*gasp*) I put up Christmas decorations early. Because it's a season, I think, that really highlights those same factors: we become aware of our space as we intentionally change and decorate it; we know what traditions exist in our families and this might be a year we're introducing someone new into them. We are also aware of how we do not live in a Norman Rockwell painting – how our

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family experiences don't quite measure up because there is arguing at our table, or there is no one at our table, there's someone whining over a favorite dish being omitted, or there is simply no big turkey dinner at all. And the temptation is that we see ourselves not living up to expectations. We see, and we focus on, the "flaws."

But the most beautiful thing about this time of preparation for the arrival of the Christ Child is that Immanuel comes to us just as we are. Immanuel arrives into complete imperfection: unwed parents, traveling without having made arrangements for where to sleep, no crib, animals making a noise and a mess around them... Advent is the time we prepare for Immanuel to arrive to us not as who we wish we were, or who we're trying to be.... He arrives to us – the people, the families, the congregations – we are right now, meeting us beautifully in our imperfections.

Rev. Kerri

Christ Church events

For a full list of upcoming events, please visit the Christ Church (CCA) website: <https://www.ccashton.org/events>

"The Seed," Christ Church's newsletter, can be found here: <https://www.ccashton.org/newsletter>

SPY Group

If you are between the ages of 9-14, like hanging out with friends, playing games, serving the community and connecting with God, then we have a group for you! The St. Paul's Youth (SPY) group meets every other Friday evening at the church from 7 to 9 p.m. Please mark the following dates in your calendars:

Dec 1
Dec 15

Contact Zdena Harder at spy@stpaulshk.org for more info.

Upcoming Events in December and January

DECEMBER Calendar

Mondays Dec 4, 11 & 18, 7 p.m. at the Royal Oak, 329 March Rd.: Church Outside the Walls with Rev. Kerri

Thursdays Dec 7, 14 & 18, 7:30 - 9 p.m.: The Great Divorce, An imaginative look at Heaven & Hell with The Ven. Sally Gadd

Saturday, Dec 9, 9:30 - 11 a.m.: Canadian Church History with Bishop Peter Coffin

Thursday, Dec 14, 7 p.m.: A Healing Service for Christmas Time

Saturday, Dec 16, 9:30 - 11 a.m.: Christian Initiation & Church Membership with Fr. John & Rev. Kerri

Tuesday, Dec 12, 7:30 p.m.: SchoolBOX Christmas Concert with the Circle of Blessing. Tickets available in the office, after service on Sunday, and at the door.

CHRISTMAS EVE: 9 a.m. (Holy Eucharist), 4 p.m. (Family Service), 7 p.m. and 11 p.m. (Candlelight Services)

CHRISTMAS DAY: 10 a.m. (Holy Eucharist)

NEW YEAR'S EVE: 8, 9:15 & 11 a.m. (Holy Eucharist)

JANUARY Calendar

Saturday, Jan 6, 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.: Choir Workshop

Sunday, Jan 7: 8 a.m. (Said Eucharist), 10 a.m. Confirmation

Friday, Jan 12: Robbie Burns Supper

Sunday, Jan 14: Memorial Prayers

Saturday, Jan 20, 8 - 9:30 a.m.: Men's Breakfast

Saturday, Jan 20, 10 - 11:30 a.m.: Ladies' Brunch



Christmas Bazaar update

Another successful event

Our annual Christmas Bazaar revenue for this year is \$9,978.60. Thanks be to God!

For all your donations of baking, jewelry, crafts, books, quilts, odds and sods, Christmas decorations, knitting, toys, wrapping paper, etc, we thank you. Thank you especially to those who offered their physical presence as table convenors, sorters, packers, drivers, servers, cooks, bakers, toy moose maker (Ed Papazian), sandwich and soup makers, chilli chefs, table setter-uppers and table taker-downers, meat pie makers, counters, cleaners and helpers – it was super! To all who supported our bazaar in any capacity, you have our sincere thanks. It was such a pleasure to meet new people at St. Paul's and to share in the fellowship and fun of working together.

Thank you, Marg Burton, for agreeing to co convene with me, and thanks also to the sterling Minx for her expertise and ever-helpful advice.

As we approach the season of Advent, there is much to do to prepare and make ready for the Joy of Christmas to come.

Thank you and God Bless Everyone.

Moira

Photos submitted by Moira Green



God Squad news Party, and Outreach for January

Epiphany Party  **January 7, 2018**

Kids ages 4 to 11 years old
come and join us
in the God Squad room
at 10 AM.

For stories and crafts.

Let's learn together about Epiphany



God Squad Outreach Project

from
January 7 to January 28 2018

God Squad will be collecting
non-perishable food items

for
The Kanata Food Cupboard.

Please encourage the children
in their outreach project.



If you would like to get more involved in our wonderful God Squad program, please speak to Tracy Albert (613-470-5647), or Joyce Prentice (613-592-4426).

Seniors' Festive Lunch Monday, Dec 18, 11:30 a.m.

Where: Kanata Legion Branch 638, 70 Hines Rd.
Tickets: \$15

All seniors are invited to join us for lunch and a carol sing-along. If you don't want lunch, just come and sing a few carols. I would love to have you there! If you would like a ticket please call or email me or just arrive and sing!

Cheers,
Moira 613-592-3376, mmgreen@live.com

Ministry Support Group

St. Paul's is very blessed to have so many active ministries! The Ministry Support Group (Ed Gadd, Alison Stortz, Vera Near, Ken Miller, Janet Tonks & Rev. Kerri), is here to help you promote your activities, find volunteers, transition leadership, submit budget requests and Vestry reports, or provide whatever other kind of help you need.

We would like to introduce all the ministries that are active in our church, but there are too many to include in one article! So, we'll introduce them a few at a time. Many different ministries help to make worshipping at St. Paul's on Sunday morning such an uplifting experience, including:

- The clergy team
- The music directors, singers and instrumentalists
- The God Squad teachers and helpers
- The readers
- The Altar Guild
- The coffee servers
- The greeters
- The sidespeople, crucifers and servers
- The healing prayer team

Sundays can be very busy, and we may not often think about all the ministries that spend so much of their time planning & getting everything ready for our Sunday services.

On behalf of The Ministry Support Team, I would like to thank each and every ministry at St. Paul's for the wonderful services you provide!

The Ministry Support Group is here to ensure the well-being of everyone involved in ministry work at St. Paul's. You are welcome to approach any member of the group directly with any concerns or ideas you may have, or you can contact us through the church office.

God's Blessings!
Janet Tonks

Members of the Ministry Support Group are:
Ed Gadd, Alison Stortz, Vera Near, Ken Miller,
Janet Tonks & Rev. Kerri

Report on the 136th Diocese of Ottawa Synod

November 2 - 4, 2017

By Ed Gadd, with input from other Synod representatives

St. Paul's attendees: Marsha Fisher, Fiona Dobson (youth), Ed Gadd, Vera Near (attended Friday), Janet Tonks (attended Saturday) and Ken Miller (attended Thursday Eucharist).

THEME OF THE SYNOD: The Church of Christ in Every Age. A secondary thread was, "fulfilling God's Dream for the world."

SYNOD HIGHLIGHTS: A summary of the synod highlights may be found on the Diocesan web site.

Report from St. Paul's Youth Synod Rep: The main thing that I took away from Synod this year was the Café Discussions. I chose to attend a group about encouraging youth in our churches, and we discussed some very important topics.

First of all, the events that churches hold are very important because they are open to all to come together and they are great for demonstrating a church's capacity in the greater community. Secondly and, in my opinion, most importantly, we discovered that youth are very spiritual, but are often deterred by the way churches are represented to them. They associate churches with strict rules and the memories of being told how to pray and how often to do it. Church, however, is so much more than that. This Synod in fact focused on all the many projects we have started, and how we work with many social justice issues.

It is really important, therefore, that we show more youth this side of the church; that it is a community where you can feel loved and supported, where you can have people meet your needs, whatever they are, and you can give back to everyone. The church is on the front lines of so many issues, and it's also a place where you can explore your individual ideology and spirituality. The philosophy courses at my school are extremely hard to switch into because they are always so full. It is so unfortunate that so few of my classmates would associate these kinds of conversations with the church.

Sincerely,

Fiona Dobson, Youth Synod Rep.

Bishop's Charge: The Rt. Rev. John Chapman opened Synod recognizing that "we gather this night on the traditional territory of the Algonquin Anishnabe Nation." He began by telling everyone that we are, "going to change the world, save lives, be instruments of God's peace, usher in a world without violence, heal the sick and broken hearted, end homelessness and poverty, create a world that trusts in God and nurtures God's love," and that like Sarah, Abraham, and Moses, we don't know whether to laugh or weep at our inadequacies. We have been called by Jesus to the river of baptism, to contemplate our faith and listen to the call, to embrace the mission of Jesus, and to care for God's people. In conclusion, everyone is requested to go to their home parish and invite a few representatives to attend the New Year's Day Eucharist at the Cathedral, to stand together to renew our baptism, renew our commitment to blaze a new path, so that the mission of God continues among us in this Diocese.

The Bishop's charge may be viewed or listened to on the diocesan web site

Guest Speaker: The Most Rev. Fred Hiltz, Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada, referenced the Five Marks of Mission that shape our lives and define what it means to be Anglican. We live in a world where we have many Christians, but there are only part-time disciples. "Let us not allow ourselves to be robbed of the joy of the gospel" - Pope Francis. Give us humility and grace to be that kind of church, following in the way of Jesus in the world, to care for all without reserve.

Our world is too big for anything but truth, and too small for anything but love. Pope Francis "prefers a church that is bruised, hurting, and a bit dirty because it has been out on the street." We are called to be a servant church rooted in our Lord's ministry. Learn more about Human Trafficking and how the Anglican Church of Canada is working with partners on this issue: (anglican.ca/issues/human-trafficking/)

Archbishop Fred Hiltz focused his address on hymn

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584, “The church of Christ in every age” (Fri. verses 1 and 5, and Sat. verses 2, 3, and 4). He referenced many theologians, such as Pope Francis, Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, and others. He referenced the 5 Marks of Mission, particularly Mark of Mission # 4 Reconciliation and Peace, and Mark of Mission # 5 (Another baptismal vow has been added). Let us not be “like Christians whose lives seem like Lent without Easter.” Let others view our church and may we welcome their comments - will they see us as trying to fulfill the Gospel?

Audio and Video recordings of the talks are available on the diocesan website. They are well worth listening to.

Synod Greeting: Local politicians, Jim Watson, John Fraser and Yasir Naqvi, dropped by and indicated their appreciation and endorsement for what the Anglican Church is doing in the community, i.e. St. Luke’s Table, Cornerstone, Centre 454, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, etc.

Ministries Reporting to Synod: We heard updates from representatives from all the various organizations and initiatives in the Diocese, e.g. PWRDF, Refugee Ministry Working Group, Embracing God’s Future, All My Relations Working Group, Community Ministry Committee, Property and Finance Committee, Youth Internship Ministry.

Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF): The Diocese of Ottawa contributes the second highest amount of all Canadian Dioceses. We learned about 2 major ongoing projects: Maternal Newborn & Child Health in Africa, and Pikangikum Water Program, as well as response to international and national relief effort. (pwrdf.org)

Homelessness and Affordable Housing: Slide Presentation, as well as the accompanying presentation notes, available for use by parishes. Every parish is encouraged to become involved; to learn, pray, advocate, and act. Learn the needs of your community, identify your strengths and assets, speak up for the voiceless, get involved in Diocesan Ministry or start a local ministry, work with groups already established within community. Goal of 125 housing units by 2021 is well on its way.

Homelessness, and Affordable Housing Working Group: Seed grant of \$75,000.00 received from Tril-

lium Foundation. John Fraser, MPP of Ottawa South, and Yasir Naqvi, MPP for Ottawa Centre were present to celebrate the receipt of the Ontario Trilium Foundation seed grant to the Diocese for the study of affordable housing on church properties. Both spoke about our work in fighting homelessness and being advocates for affordable housing and they look forward to continuing to work with us to achieve an end to homelessness and to secure more affordable housing.

Real Estate Working Group: How the Anglican Diocese can address the issue of its need to divest of unnecessary real estate as a result of the fact that many churches are struggling with dwindling numbers. The goal is for the greatest possible potential from our real estate holdings. Net proceeds of the sale of surplus properties held by the Diocese are held in the Church Extension Fund, Real Estate Legacy Fund, Real Estate Stewardship Fund.

Refugee Ministry Working Group: In 2012, we had 5 sponsoring churches. We now have 68 sponsoring groups (parishes as well as community groups) within Ottawa. Going forward, the need is greater than ever. Please consider how you can support the work of our Refugee Ministry.

All My Relations: Continuing to work towards building relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous peoples; remembering our history and walking together in reconciliation. Reminds us that we must continue to do more than talk about reconciliation, but we need to practice it. There is funding available for projects that will foster and contribute to healing (ottawa.anglican.ca/All-My-Relations.html).

Community Ministries: Cornerstone Housing for Women, Centre 454, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre (OPC), St. Luke’s Table, The Well/La Source are all expanding their services: from OPC’s opening of a satellite in Manotick, to other Ministries extending their hours. All of their work is born out of our love for neighbour.

Property and Finance Committee: New funding is available through the Innovation Fund, to support innovative and courageous ways of being church and of advancing the work outlined in our “Embracing God’s Future” roadmap (ottawa.anglican.ca/EGF.html). Dare to Dream, Think, Create. Guidelines/Application for grant: (ottawa.anglican.ca/)

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Announcements.html). If your church has a project, it may apply for funding.

Youth Internship Program: Initially funded through GIFT, YIP continues to grow. Beginning in January 2018, the next cohort of interns will experience faith formation, Christian mentorship, leadership training, and an internship placement. It is open to youth in grades 11, 12, or first year university/college. If you have any questions: contact Donna Rourke, program coordinator.

(donna-rourke@ottawa.anglican.ca).

For more info: (ottawa.anglican.ca/Young_Adult_Ministries.html#yip)

Today for Tomorrow: Diocesan Annual Campaign; to-date T4T is building foundations for better churches and compassionate communities. New aspects of the case for 2018 will include Engaging With the World, and Strengthening Congregations. Through T4T we are building a strong church to respond to the Gospel Call.

Communications: Stephanie Boyd, Communications Officer, highlighted the various responsibilities of her role, including editing and layout for Crosstalk as well as the Diocesan Newsletter, monitoring and posting on our various social media channels, managing the Diocesan website, dealing with media relations, and providing consultation to staff and clergy. A new website is currently under construction for the Diocese that will better highlight the work of the Diocese, vs. the current site which highlights our governance. Encouraged parishes to take a look at Canva, a free tool to assist with graphic design work (Facebook posters, flyers, community announcements, etc.) See more: (canva.com)

Companion Diocese: Women who participated in the Women's Conference with our Companion Diocese of Jerusalem presented highlights of their time in Jerusalem. Much was learned there by members of both Dioceses in regards to theology, hope, and solidarity.

Parish Ministry Committee (PMC) & Parish Ministry Institute (PMI): Elder Care is a new Initiative with PMC, as well as the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario. The ministry of PMI is exciting and provides education to parishes about ways to do our jobs bet-

ter and be smarter. If you're interested in being a student at PMI, there are 30 spaces available. More info about PMI, please contact Canon Peter Lackey (st.helen@on.aibn.com)

Hospital Ministry: Civic, General, and Queensway Carleton Hospitals have pastoral care teams, where they volunteer to a large church of transient people. New program available for training: Emergency Spiritual Care Assistance Team (ESCAT) in response to "Code Orange Calls".

Trinity Cornwall Drop-In: Learned from Centre 454 and others about how to start up a new community ministry. It started small, but has grown now to a three-day drop-in where breakfast is served and social recreation happens. Please pray that funding for this needed ministry will be provided (an application has been made to the Trillium Foundation).

Priority 1 Working Group: To date, this has been a very participatory initiative. Building Blocks Document: highlighting emerging range of options for the shape of parish ministry and buildings, see handout (ottawa.anglican.ca/Synod.html). Our structure is fluid, flexible, with good ministry, and knowing each other as we work collaboratively. A copy of the various Parish configurations follows this report for your information.

The Rev. Canon Hills: Canon for Reconciliation at Coventry Cathedral. Community of Cross of Nails: Healing the wounds of history, learning to live with differences and deliberate diversity, and building a culture of peace. A cross of nails was made from medieval nails recovered from the bombed ruins of Coventry Cathedral in 1940 and has become a symbol of reconciliation (coventrycathedral.org.uk/ccn). This was an extremely interesting presentation on Reconciliation.

Anglican Diocese of Ottawa: Embracing God's Future
Priority One: Buildings and the Shape of Ministry – Emerging Range of Options

October 25, 2017

Area Parish

A new type of parish established with the guidance and approval of the Bishop. One incumbent and one or more associate incumbents are appointed to the parish, not to individual churches, and work as a team* to provide pastoral leadership and ministry. Governance and finances may range from being more federated to more centralized, with one vestry and one parish council. ECOPS and Parish Fair Share are based on combined numbers from all churches.

Amalgamation

Two (or more) existing parishes enter into conversations to explore the possibility of transitioning into a single parish, likely in one building and possibly with fewer clergy. With the consent of the incumbents and churchwardens of the parishes, the Bishop may authorize an amalgamation with the approval of Diocesan Council. (*Bylaws 5.01.7-9*)

Collaboration

Intentional, beneficial collaborations between parishes can range from informal arrangements to undertake specific projects, to formal arrangements to share clergy, administrative or financial resources. Informal collaborations normally happen with the agreement of all parishes. Formal collaborations happen in consultation with the Bishop, and require mutual agreement on the details of the collaboration, along with a proposed term (e.g. X years, renewable with the consent of all parties).

Single-point Parish

A traditional parish, with an incumbent (and often an associate incumbent or assistant curate*) and one church (possibly shared with another denomination).

Multi-point Parish

A traditional parish, with an incumbent (possibly other clergy*) and two or more churches.

Anchor Model

A priest is contracted by the Bishop to provide defined priestly services to a church, governed by a memorandum of understanding between the Bishop and the church. Another priest, normally the incumbent of a nearby parish, serves as the "Anchor Priest" in charge of the church, supporting the wardens in matters of administration, property and finance, and also supervising the contracted priest.

Chapel

A Congregation applies to the Bishop for designation of a church as a "Chapel" which would have a "Sponsor" (a parish or another congregation) that is responsible for it. The Chapel is under the care of a priest designated by the Bishop—with the understanding that priestly duties at the chapel are limited to occasional services and pastoral care approved by the Bishop and Sponsor. (*Bylaws 5.01.22-31*)

Close

A Vestry resolves by at least a two-thirds majority that a church should be disestablished. With the approval of the Bishop the church is closed. Alternatively, and with the approval of Diocesan Council, the Bishop may invite a Vestry to voluntarily disestablish a parish or church. (*Bylaws 5.01.10-19*)

What is “Circle of Blessing”?

By Ray Brule

Recently, I was asked, “What is a Circle of Blessing?” I took the time to explain it was the name of our music group. Perhaps many people at St. Paul's are not aware of our existence or ministry. I hope this small article will help, especially in light of our upcoming concert on December 12 in support of the SchoolBOX mission to build a classroom in Nicaragua in memory of Rev. Rick Marples (more info on the following pages).

The Circle of Blessing - Who we are!

The Circle of Blessing started over 10 years ago with a few people coming together to play music at a senior's residence where a member of our parish was the nurse. Her career took her to the Salvation Army Grace Manor Palliative Unit (used to be Grace Hospital) and the music playing took on a more intentional role of ministry once a month for the seniors there.

The ministry experienced a turning point in late 2006 when we were asked to do a "concert" as a fundraiser for the Grace Manor Palliative Unit. Two significant things happened: 1) The Salvation Army in Ottawa became aware of us and the ministry and, 2) Don Krull - former leader of the group 'FireFall', became our "manager and sound man."

The group has evolved over the years. Our group is composed of 9 members, who except for 1 member, have been together since 2009. Our bass player joined us in 2012.

The group (in no particular order): (* = Current member of St. Paul's, ! = previously at St. Paul's)
 Don Krull- manager and sound man !
 Margaret Anthony - lead vocalist *
 Debbie Randall - vocalist *
 Marsha Fisher - vocalist *
 Valerie Lamarche - keyboard !
 Martin David - lead guitar & vocalist *
 (Kim David - vocalist * - joins the group for Christmas events)
 Adrian Fisher - guitar, percussion & vocalist !
 Ian Kelly - bass guitar & vocalist
 Ray Brule - drums & vocalist *

We currently lead a monthly chapel for Salvation Army Ottawa Booth Centre on George Street (this has been our main ministry for at least 7 years). We also support Cursillo by leading music at an annual outdoor Ultreya each July, and at 3 or 4 other Ultreyas during the year. We lead music at prayer and praise events, including healing prayer services, occasional Sunday morning services, and at Chartwell senior centre in Kanata.

In December, we do a few Christmas concerts. We invite you to join us at St. Paul's on Tuesday December 12, at 7:30 p.m. to sing Christmas songs.

We will also be performing at OBC's Annual Community Christmas Dinner (edited from the Salvation Army website): On Saturday, December 9, the Ottawa Booth Centre will host its annual Community Christmas Dinner. Talented groups from around the city come and entertain OBC's guests with Christmas carols in the Chapel, and OBC's amazing kitchen staff prepare a delicious meal for hundreds of people to enjoy. The Circle of Blessing will participate by doing two half-hour sets of music.



Circle of Blessing Christmas concert at Chartwell Kanata in 2015.



A CIRCLE OF BLESSING CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Tuesday December 12th
7:30 PM start
St. Paul's Anglican Church
20 Young Road, Kanata

Tickets \$10 each (\$15 at the door)

Purchase tickets:

Online: <http://schoolbox.ca/fatherrickschool/>

In person: St. Paul's Church Office 613-836-1001

All proceeds go towards the building
of 1 Classroom with desks, chairs,
and whiteboards for Kilaca School in
El Viejo, Nicaragua
In memory of Rev. Rick Marples



In cooperation with SchoolBOX Inc.
and St. Paul's Anglican Church



This classroom will give many children a chance for a better life.



Project Proposal Kilaca School El Viejo, Nicaragua



There are 28 kindergarten students at Kilaca School studying in an open-air thatched hut.

Together we can 'Make Education Possible'



/schoolboxhelps



@schoolboxhelps



@schoolboxhelps

Kilaca School

Project Cost:
\$19,100 USD

Project Breakdown:
1 Classroom:
\$18,000
Tools: \$1,100
(Desks, chairs, whiteboards)

School Statistics:
Students: 238
Teachers: 9
Grade: Kindergarten - Grade 6
Community Statistics:
84 families
Avg 3 children per family
Avg Family Salary: \$150 US/mth



Kilaca School is located on the Pacific coast of Nicaragua, just outside of El Viejo, Chinandega. This small city is located on the north-west tip of the country, close to Cosiguina Volcano.

Kilaca School is very large with over 270 children in 8 classrooms. The kindergarten teacher Roxanne just finished her teaching degree and is now teaching kindergarten in an

outdoor, open air hut. This makeshift classroom was built using wooden beams to support a roof made from sheet metal, plastic and palm leaves. It is similar to the homes in the community. Roxanne brings so much energy and love to her 28 kindergarten students, but she could impact them even more with a real classroom to welcome them each day!



Together we can provide these kindergarten students with a safe and proper place to study!

Many children live close by which means they are able to help their families with subsistence farming, shrimp farming and chocolate plantations outside of school hours. Some older students come from remote villages, walking up to 6km each way.

Help us to make this dream of a real classroom a reality for Roxanne and her kindergarten students!

For more info: schoolbox.ca/projects2018
or contact Sarah Kerr: sarah@schoolbox.ca

Donate: online at schoolbox.ca/projects2018
or by mail to SchoolBOX
PO BOX 201, Mill St. Almonte, ON, K0A 1A0



MAKING EDUCATION POSSIBLE

What I learned from my ordinary (fake) Christmas Tree

Christmas tree prayers

By Kathy Butryn, submitted by Diane Brown

I hauled the familiar, well-worn and over-taped cardboard box out of the cold cellar and up the stairs. Slicing through the newest layer of tape, the bulging box literally exploded open, revealing the entangled limbs of our (fake) Christmas tree.

Somehow, at the end of each Christmas season, I am able to squish that tree back into its original box. I mean really, it's a miracle — a miracle that needs Alan's muscles to hold the box together while I layer on enough tape from every direction to keep it shut for yet another 11 months.

It is the first time I am putting this tree up in our new home. The day we moved in, believe it or not, that tree was on my mind. As furniture was being carried off the truck, I was busy curating the perfect spot for it in our great room.

With Kenny G's Classic Christmas Album quietly swooning in the background, I smile as I remember Christmas 2015 - namely how the Lord placed a

quiet sense — a knowing in my heart — that it was going to be the last Christmas in that home.

It indeed has been a year of change and transition. Sitting on a tiny three-legged stool, about one foot off the ground, I begin the task of “floofing” each flattened limb, one at a time, from the bottom up.

My thoughts turned from *how-in-the-world-am-I-going-to-get-up-off-this-stool-when-I-am-done* to reflecting on God's provision for Alan and me over the past year. Perhaps that's when I noticed the shift happening: as my mind and heart expanded because of thanksgiving and praise to our good, good Father, I was compelled to pray.

As I got up off that stool (accompanied by more than a few groans, I might add) and worked my way up the tree, floofing it limb by limb, branch by branch, I prayed for the people, situations, and organizations God brought to my mind:

- for those without homes this Christmas
- for those unable to make it home for Christmas
- for those in the military, stationed in other parts of the world
- for the other pastor's wives (and their husbands) in my church
- for the leadership in my church
- for the homeless guy I pass and smile at a couple of times a week while on my way to my office in downtown Toronto
- for the women on my email list
- for those who visit my blog
- for those I work with
- for a mentally ill friend and those I don't know, but who suffer in the same way
- for those who have lost loved ones this year
- for those who find Christmas to be the hardest season of the year
- for my Prime Minister, Justin
- for Barack, Donald, Hillary, Joe, Mike, Tim and their spouses and families. (*No*, not my country, but still my responsibility to pray. *Yes*, first names,

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3 ways to pray for children this Christmas

By Canon Garth V. Hunt, submitted by Alison Stortz

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." (Matthew 19:14 ESV)

The small TV studio is a buzz of activity as they near the end of their Christmas Eve 11 p.m. newscast. They've already covered a shooting in a mall, the threat of war in the Middle East, and a sordid scandal involving a well-known politician. The weatherman has not helped raise their viewers' spirits as he forecasts a grey, rainy Christmas Day.



But the last item of the evening involves a touching scene of some underprivileged children receiving some beautifully wrapped gifts from a well-known social agency. The absolute delight on the kids' faces is captivating as a very plump Santa

empties his bag of toys. And as the instrumental strains of "Frosty the Snowman" fade away, the news anchor poignantly says, "And that's what Christmas is all about. Kids are the true meaning of Christmas!"

But we know that this is just a worldly point of view, don't we. The true meaning of Christmas is vastly superior to merely joyous smiles on children's faces, however endearing. It is about the Almighty God, creator of the entire universe and every individual's life, inserting Himself into human history in the form of a vulnerable, newborn child and bringing the Gift of all gifts - forgiveness and complete reconciliation with God - salvation in its fullest!

Virtually all children love Christmas: its excitement, anticipation, family traditions like decorating the tree, and the exquisite smells that emerge from the kitchen for at least a week in advance. Whether we have children, grandchildren or simply are aware of the kids at our church or in our neighbourhood, I believe that the Lord has called us to pray for them, even (or, perhaps, especially)

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because why not be personal when praying to God Almighty about people He created and knows every teeny tiny thing about?)

- for the women who have recently reached out to me for prayer about their current challenges
- for my extended family
- for my grandkids
- for my kids
- for my husband
- for me

Before long, the tree was ready for the lights and decorations. I carried on, using the same decorations I have used for years. When it was finished, it looked just like it has looked in Christmases past.

Yet something was *distinctly* different. I thought to myself, "Could it be different because I experienced first-hand how the ordinary (decorating a fake Christmas tree) can become oh so very sacred when done in

sweet communion with the Lord?"

Each time I walk into that cozy room, I see *something more* than my ordinary (but pretty) fake Christmas tree. You see, my heart prompts me to remember the prayers prayed, heard, and being answered.

I tell you this story today to encourage you to make each day count over the next few weeks, as you put your hands to what may seem like ordinary Christmas preparations, by doing each task in sweet communion with the Lord - in an attitude of prayer, thanksgiving, and praise.

Then, stand back and watch. Yes, watch the ordinary become oh so very sacred!

Rejoice always and delight in your faith; be unceasing and persistent in prayer; in every situation [no matter what the circumstances] be thankful and continually give thanks to God; for this is the will of God for you in Christ Jesus. (1 Thessalonians 5:16-18)

(Continued from page 15)

at Christmas. Let me share just a few important ways that we can pray for them.

1. Pray that Jesus will be at the very centre of their Christmas celebration. Public schools, the media, and even their neighbourhood friends will tell them repeatedly another narrative. Pray for their parents that they will be able to demonstrate to their sons and daughters by their own example the centrality of Christ in all that they do this season.

2. Pray that the Lord will help children deal with the potential confusion over what's real and what's just pretend at Christmas time. Santa, elves, talking reindeer and snowmen, and a baby lying in a manger thousands of years ago can all be mere fantasy unless there is someone to guide them into understanding the truth. Pray that they will realize that the love of Jesus for each of them personally is demonstrated both in the manger scene and ultimately on Calvary.

3. At the risk of offending some readers, I am compelled to point out the anti-Gospel message of the Santa Claus narrative as our culture presents it. It's all about being good girls and boys or else. In fact, it bribes kids to be good. "Better not cry, better not pout. Santa Claus is coming to town and he's gonna find out who's been naughty and nice. He knows if you've been bad or good so be good for goodness sake!"

The obvious implication of this song is that if you've been naughty, there are no toys for you! You get what you deserve, it's too late to change, and that's not the Gospel of Grace. Using fear of punishment and guilt over our poor track record as a means of producing obedience and good be-



havior haunts most adults, even many Christian adults, but it just doesn't work. The experience of Israel in the Old Testament certainly proved that. The law shows us our sin, but it doesn't and cannot deliver us from it. Only a sinless Messiah could do that!

So, how then should we pray for our children? Pray that they may see that, for those who are in Christ, there is complete forgiveness, acceptance and approval, not based on what we do but based totally on the finished work of Jesus on the Cross. Pray that their parents and Sunday School teachers will illuminate for them the joy and freedom of a transforming relationship with the Father who delights in His kids, however old. Pray that their love for Him will grow deeper and deeper as they mature in Christ. Amen!

Angel Quiz: True or False?

1. There are 3 types of angels named in the Bible.
2. Angels named in the Bible include Michael and George.
3. "Morning Star" is another name for an angelic being.
4. There are only a few angels in heaven.
5. Muslims, Jews, Buddhists and Hindus believe in angels.
6. We are to worship angels.
7. God created the angels.
8. Angels are referred to as "God's army."
9. There are both good and bad angels.
10. Angels appear in both Old and New Testaments.

1. True (see Isaiah 6:2 for seraphs, Genesis 3:24 for cherubim, 1 Thess. 4:16 for archangels)
2. False (see Rev. 12:7 for Michael, Dan. 8:16 for Gabriel)
3. False (Hebrew translation for Morning Star is Lucifer, see Isaiah 14:12)
4. False (see Luke 2:13 for a "great company of angels" and Matt. 26:53 where Jesus speaks of 12 legions of angels)
5. True
6. False (see Hebrews 1:6 angels worship God; see Psalm 100:2 "worship the Lord with gladness")
7. True (see Col. 1:16 "God created all things.")
8. True (see Rev. 19:14 the armies of heaven were angelic beings)
9. True (see Jude 1:6)
10. True (see Gen. 3:24 cherubim guards the Garden of Eden and Matt. 2:13 angel warns Joseph)

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