

CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH 2022

*"And this will be a sign for you: you will find a baby wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger."
-Luke 2:12*



December 25, 2022

“Christmas is built upon a beautiful and intentional paradox; that the birth of the homeless should be celebrated in every home.” G.K. Chesterton

Dear Friends in Christ,

Several parishioners were in the parish office a couple of weeks ago, preparing and planning our annual Christmas Hamper delivery. This year we have provided over 100 families with food and gift, making this time of year just a little bit brighter for all. One person in the office shared with the group a song by Lennie Gallant called “Christmas on Planet Earth.” Being from PEI, I am a huge fan of Mr. Gallant, but I had never heard this song. As she shared the music, this person said, “I love the lyrics as they speak to the kind of social justice work we do here at Christ Church.”

They were cold in the night, And she was with child, They needed lodging, To be safe for a while, They knocked on doors, They were turned away, No room no shelter, For them on that day. On Christmas Day we open, The gift of love and hope and, light a candle for the lost and homeless, Sing a hymn for the birth of Jesus, Unlock the doors and windows, Let love and kindness all flow, Light a candle for the hungry child, Sing a hymn for the birth....

At this time of year, we give thanks for the birth of a baby boy, born unto us a saviour, Christ the Lord. We applaud the shepherds who watched their flocks by night, the angels who glorified the Lord, and the Inn Keeper who offered shelter to a needy young couple. This Christmas Story is one that I believe we at Christ Church live out each day as we support our community, particularly those in desperate need.



Above: two Angels at our Christmas Pageant. Anna, on the left, recently moved here from Ukraine with her family. Julia on the right, converses with her new best friend through the gift of Google translate technology.



Above: Our parish hall where we currently house up to 20 men during the cold winter months.

Mary and Joseph had a difficult journey. From Mary believing the call of Gabriel to Joseph taking criticism from his community for supporting Mary, living out the Good News of Jesus is not easy, and it is hard work. In the last few years, we have embarked upon this significant ministry. In 2022 we have supported many people. We feed over 200 people weekly through our Food Bank, and our property has provided space for the Dartmouth Community Fridge Project. This past week we concluded our annual Christmas Hamper drive. When war broke out in Ukraine, Christ Church sponsored two Ukrainian families to come to Canada. And this past month, Christ Church opened its doors to the homeless—people needing a place to rest on a cold winter’s night. All of this we have done journeying together. I could not be prouder to be a part of a community that wildly embraces the Gospel of Jesus

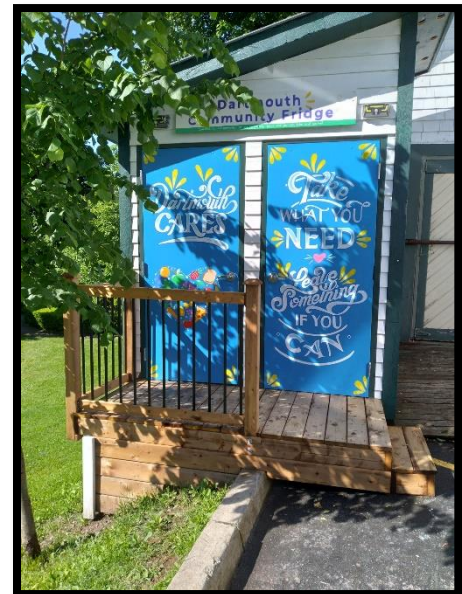
Christ!

As we draw closer to the new year, we reflect on this wonderful ministry that we have been able to share with others and how it is possible. Sharing our treasure and time is essential to the stewardship of the church’s work. As we support the social welfare of all, we remember that none of this is possible without the generous support of parishioners like you, who contribute to the stability of the parish. Whether you’re able to give much or little, time or talent, all of your help and prayer allow us to carry out vital ministry. The stewardship that we all offer is about building a church that grows to embody the light of Christ himself. So let us give thanks for what we do together, not just at Christmas but throughout the year!

I pray that this Christmas Season is filled with Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as you celebrate the birth of a small child in a lowly stable on a cold night in Bethlehem.

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Rector, Christ Church, Dartmouth
Christmas 2022 AD



Above: Located on the campus of Christ Church, The Dartmouth Community Fridge where the people of Dartmouth share their generosity.