

ADVENT 2020

*"The light shines in the darkness,
and the darkness has not overcome it." John 1:5*

CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH

December 21st, 2020

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*"For I was hungry and you gave me food,
I was thirsty and you gave me drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I
was naked and you clothed me, I was sick and you visited me, I was in prison
and you came to me." - Matthew 25:35-56*

*"But I am sure that I have always
thought of Christmas time, when it has come round...as a good time; a kind,
forgiving, charitable, pleasant time; the only time I know of, in the long
calendar of the year, when men and women seem by one consent to open
their...hearts freely." -Charles Dickens*

To the Parishioners of Christ Church:

I have often shared with you that the words of Matthew 25 speak to me, and the vital nature of social justice ministry and the call to live out the Gospels of Jesus Christ our Lord. The people of Christ Church have long had the capacity and the desire to help those in need. Whether it is offering food or clothing, educational opportunities, or an open hand and heart, we historically have sought to support our community at every opportunity.

At this time, a new opportunity has presented itself, and I believe God is very present in this instant. As I have recently communicated, Parish Council has been having conversations with various community groups regarding our parish hall to provide temporary housing. I wish to share some good news with you. Starting January 1st, our parish hall will become a temporary place of refuge and home for up to 15 women in the community.

Last night, after presentation and discussion, Parish Council unanimously passed a motion to enter into a relationship with the Elizabeth Fry Society and Coverdale Courtwork Society of Nova Scotia.

I have to say it was beautiful and live giving when council came to this conclusion.

Please see below a short summary of what these two wonderful organizations provide the community:

Coverdale Courtwork Society works to prevent and address the criminalization of women, girls, trans and non-binary people through early intervention and prevention programs, court support, bail support and advocacy.

The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia empowers and supports vulnerable women and girls throughout Nova Scotia by offering programming, housing and advocacy, enabling a fresh start and hopeful future.

Over the next few weeks, Coverdale, the Elizabeth Fry Society, and Christ Church will foster this new friendship as our hall is modified so it can become a welcoming home for new residents.

Please stay tuned for further details as we live into this new partnership. If you have any questions regarding this important ministry and opportunities to help, please do not hesitate to reach out to me, the parish wardens, or members of council.

In closing, I want to thank the parish executive, our parish administrator, and the members of parish council for supporting this ministry. As we foster our relationship with the wider community, it will be a blessing to see where God is leading us as we live out our baptismal covenant and Jesus' instruction to "love thy neighbour as thyself."

Faithfully yours in Christ,



Wagner

Rector

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