



Easter 2021



THE PEWS REPORT

TO UNIFY AND INFORM

A Publication of the Corporation of Christ Church, Dartmouth, Est. 1817



The Mystery of the Peep!

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, Rector

Jesus said to her, "Woman, why are you weeping? Whom are you seeking?" Supposing him to be the gardener, she said to him, "Sir, if you have carried him away, tell me where you have laid him, and I will take him away." John 20:15

This Easter morning, millions of baskets will be filled with the traditional treats of the day. In addition to coloured eggs, most certainly there will be mounds of jellybeans of every conceivable flavour; hollow chocolate bunnies, patiently perched on beds of plastic grass; and of course, those yellow bundles of goodness—the much-beloved, Marshmallow Peep!

In 1999, two Emory University scientists, probably inspired by a sugar rush after consuming several of the chewy chicks, decided to find out what it was they were eating. Using everything short of a nuclear device, the dedicated duo conducted scientific experiments to discover, among other things, just what would dissolve a Peep. What they found was, in their words, "Peeps are some of the sturdiest birds NOT found in creation!" Perhaps alarming for some, the study revealed that neither toxic smoke, liquid nitrogen, nor boiling water could break down the squishy birds!

And in the incredible but true category, for what reason we'll never know, two brave teams of Peeps were launched aboard one of NASA's weather

balloons. Really! You can look it up! As ridiculous as a scientific study of Marshmallow Peeps may seem, it nevertheless reminds us that we are often focused on studying the superficial in this technology-driven society of ours. I believe that sometimes we forget how to marvel at the miracle of life which is constantly unfolding before our very eyes.

Just like the Peep and its mysterious composition, God is too awesome, too wondrous, too mysterious, too big for us to comprehend completely. But we do have a glimpse! That glimpse is the Resurrection story, and no foretaste of God is too small that it does not illicit a full measure of awe and wonder for us, Peeps! See what I did there?

My prayer for our parish in 2021 is that we celebrate the awe and wonder of God as we seek to transform who we are as a parish, as we seek to do the important work in our community. I pray that we do not ignore the miracles that we see and the ones that



we don't, for God does work in mysterious ways! Like Mary in the

Garden following Jesus' death, we need to be open to what is in front of us, open to the new life that Jesus Christ

promises on the Cross as we live together with a pure heart for Jesus!

We are an affirming church, and we offer a warm welcome to people of all walks of life. This is a safe space for everyone as we are all created in the image of God.

We gratefully acknowledge that we are in the ancestral and unceded territory of the Mi'kmaq people.

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Holy Week Schedule

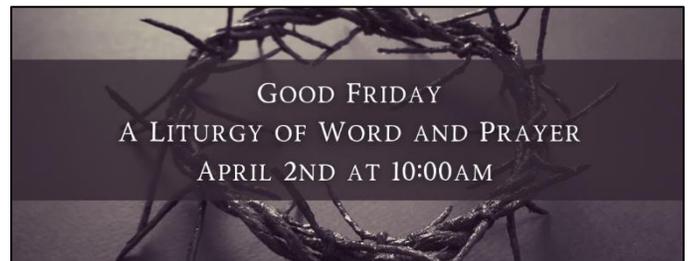


March 31 Wednesday Online Tenebrae Service with full choir, Directed by Tessa Short. The word "Tenebrae" comes from the Latin meaning

"darkness." The Tenebrae is an ancient Christian tradition that makes use of gradually diminishing light through the extinguishing of candles to symbolize the events of that week from the triumphant Palm Sunday entry through Jesus' burial. This increasing darkness symbolizes the approaching darkness of Jesus' death and of hopelessness in the world without God.



April 1st Maundy Thursday 7:00pm "This is the day that Christ gathered with his disciples in the upper room. This is the day that Christ took a towel and washed the disciples' feet, giving us an example that we should do to others as he has done to us" (BAS, p. 304). On the eve of Thursday at Christ Church, we begin the Paschal Triduum or the Three Great Days. At our Maundy Thursday service, we listen to John's Gospel and how Jesus washed his disciples' feet.



April 2 Good Friday: 10:00am A time to contemplate our Lord's death on the cross, as we await his resurrection.



A Community Event:
Concert Presentation
**THE SEVEN LAST WORDS
OF CHRIST**
**GOOD FRIDAY
APRIL 2ND AT 7:00PM**

(Die sieben letzten Worte unseres Erlösers am Kreuze)
By Joseph Haydn

7:00pm **“The Seven Last Words of Christ”** by Joseph Haydn featuring Joseph Dowell with reflections by Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner and Canon David Greenwood.



April 3rd Holy Saturday Prayer Vigil, a time for Prayer at home.

Please consider signing up for a one-hour period between 2pm Good Friday to 6am Easter Sunday to reflect on God’s love for us. A sign in sheet is available at www.christchurchdartmouth.com select the time you wish to sit in a quiet place and pray, meditate, read your favourite Gospel or the Passion. The over night times can be the most meaningful.



April 4th Easter Sunday

6:10 a.m. Easter Morning Service: In the early hours, well before the light of dawn. When the events of Good Friday and the bleak grip of Holy Saturday continue to cast a shadow over the small hours of Sunday morning, something is about to happen. That something is unimaginable and virtually incomprehensible. We will gather on the grounds of Christ Church to renew our baptismal vows, to hear the ancient promises of hope and salvation. We will process and sing. Then we will enter into the drama that is at the center of our faith, that extraordinary

Easter Sunday morning event that changes the world.



10:00am A joyous occasion as we celebrate the Risen Lord! Holy Communion with Choir.

Rector’s Report 2020

Submitted by Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, as appeared in “Christ Church, Annual Report February 21, 2021)

Dear Friends in Christ,

In 1919, the rector of the parish of Christ Church, Noel Wilcox and parish wardens wrote in the annual report:

“Our Church Services have been carried on under extraordinary conditions throughout the year and indeed all church work has suffered greatly...on account of the influenza epidemic.



As will be seen from the statement of the attendance the average per Sunday has not been as large as in former years. This falling off is attributable to the fact that we were unable to conduct services in the Church and also to the unsettled conditions following the explosion, and to the fact that public services were discontinued for five Sundays on account of the influenza epidemic.”

History seems to repeat itself. The year 2020 will no doubt go down as one of the most challenging periods in recent memory. As a society, we have faced incredible hardship this past year. From the global COVID-19 pandemic that has resulted in 20,909 recorded deaths in Canada and 2.3 million worldwide, we have not seen such devastation since the beginning of the last century. Such change has dramatically affected our lives and mental health. The tragic deaths of 23 people in April's mass shooting have deeply shaken our province. Worldwide we have seen the emergence of the #Blacklivesmatters and #metoo movements and the radicalization of politics in the United States.

Such events touch upon not only our personal lives but also the life of our church community. As I begin this report, I wish to express my genuine pride and joy in how so many of the Christ Church community members have rallied together to support one another through this challenging time. This year we have faced several obstacles that have resulted in the parish making decisions that will allow us to see through the pandemic to continue to grow the kingdom of God. I want to thank the diocese and the leadership of Archbishop Cutler and the synod staff for supporting our parish throughout the pandemic. Because of the support of the diocese and the Government of Canada, we have offset our expenses this year by \$48,568. Without this financial support, generous bequests, and the excellent work of John Gallant with Heritage Oak Columbarium, the parish would be in a very different place financially. We give thanks for the blessings we receive. With staff and ministry changes, we feel that the parish is in a stable financial position moving forward. I recognize the difficulty for some who grieve that the community we have come to know has changed because of COVID-19. I also wish to acknowledge the hard work of our parish wardens, as well as John MacDonald as Chair of the Finance Committee.

Because COVID-19 has affected our ability to gather for worship and offer ministries to the community, this report seeks to summarize the life of our beloved parish as follows:

Community Life

One of the joys I have each morning is coming into the parish office. Often 61 Dundas Street is like "Grand Central Station," as the office is a beehive of activity. This is a delight as people feel that the church office can be a gathering point for the ministry we do daily. I want to thank John Gallant, our Parish Administrator, for his steadfast dedication to managing our parish office and his love of the Church. John has been instrumental in making sure things have continued in a stable way throughout the pandemic. Whether it is communications with the diocese, government agencies, our finance committee, or implementing our technology services such as live streaming, John has my complete confidence.

I want to express gratitude to Pam Fisher, who left us in October as Parish Sexton. John Bogardus, who has been our music director for the past two years, also ended his time with us in October. Both Pam and John significantly contributed to the parish's life, and we are indeed sad to see them go.

I wish to thank Tessa Short for her willingness to step into Music Leadership and Andrew Smith, who serves as our interim Sexton. Our weekly staff meetings are such a joy, and they reflect the ministry of the parish and our place in the Dartmouth community.

A thank you to Janice Silver our parish photographer is also needed. Janice's gifts at documenting the life of the parish are invaluable. This year Janice has been able to record pictures that will tell our story for generations to come.

Pastoral Care

COVID-19 has radically changed the nature of pastoral care. As clergy were not allowed to visit

parishioners in hospitals and nursing homes, we have had to adapt new and traditional approaches to serving the person's whole well-being and spirituality. I cannot thank Rev. Bonnie enough for the valuable ministry that she has lived this past year. Her leadership in this area has been a blessing and the support of the Pastoral Visitors group. Over this past year, Rev. Bonnie has conducted over 300 personal phone calls. Both Rev. Bonnie and I often find ourselves on the phone, talking to a parishioner more frequently than we would before the pandemic. Letter writing and notecards have also been a way to connect.

The grieving process for our community has been difficult in a COVID world. Because of government restrictions, families have not been able to grieve traditionally. Life and Funeral Service Celebrations have had to be postponed or dramatically shifted from what a family would desire. Because of this, Rev. Bonnie and I have focused a significant amount of our time connecting with families as we await a time when restrictions are lifted, and larger funeral gatherings can occur.

Being with an individual as they are dying is also a privilege of a parish priest. Not being physically present has been difficult for clergy and laity to provide prayers and comfort. However, through phone and Zoom calls, this ministry was able to continue. Communication to the parish throughout this period has been vital, and I have shared details of our church through weekly letters to the parish.

I also want to recognize the many faithful members of our parish who have passed away this year. One particular member that we see in this number is the late Rev. Canon Peter MacDonald. As former rector of the parish, Peter was so instrumental in building up our community during his time here as leader.

Worship in a COVID World

On March 16th Archbishop Ron Cutler suspended public worship due to the nature of the COVID-19

virus. Since then, our in-person gatherings have had to be conducted in various ways. Once the pandemic began, I established our COVID-19 Worship Protocol Task Group. We periodically met to discuss the current health guidelines and how we would adapt based on the scientific evidence we received. I want to thank the members of this task group for their knowledge and expertise as they were vital in the process of moving back to in-person worship in July: Christine Hoehne, Steve Smith, Don Murray, The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke, Rev. Bonnie Baird, John Gallant, Dr. Katharina Kieser, Dr. Julie Wagner, John Bogardus, Gail Teixeira, Pam Fisher, and John MacDonald.

Registering for Sunday worship seems odd, but even more so has been the learning curve to online worship. At the beginning of the pandemic, we were able to worship together through the Zoom platform. As we gathered, we were mindful of those who could not join. We recognized that the Service of the Word was different from receiving Holy Communion corporately. In a way, our "Eucharistic Fast" brought us closer together as seeing one another in a new form online allowed us to understand each other's context better.

As we moved back to in-person worship, it was difficult for some to leave the Zoom platform and transition to a streaming service. As such, Rev. Bonnie and I made efforts to host weekly Zoom gatherings, either for check-in or for worship.

Moving to our streaming platform allows us to reach the parish members and will enable us to cast our nets wide as we seek to spread the gospel throughout the world. I want to thank the Parish Council for its leadership and the generous donation of several individuals for financially supporting the implementation of equipment that allows for the broadcast of worship. It is early days, but I have every confidence that this online ministry will grow! This year alone, we had posted 125 videos to our YouTube channel, and we had 10,394 views, with

1000 watch hours. Indeed, worship attendance has decreased because of the pandemic, but we seek to grow the worship experience as we move into 2021 and beyond.

Vision 2020

Last year we began our visioning, which was and is a period of discernment. Because of COVID-19, our ability to schedule the process has been affected. Much work has been completed by the parish council and both the Ministry and Campus Visioning groups. I also want to thank those who took part in the parish-wide survey conducted in October, which yielded some excellent data for us to work with as we begin our actual visioning sessions this month. As well, I want to commend council for approving a feasibility study on our campus property. This report was well done, and the data from it will assist us in where God is leading us, which brings us to the partnerships we have formed this past year in the community.

Christian Education

Throughout the pandemic, Christian education opportunities did not cease but instead grew. Our traditional monthly Theology on Tap Sessions and Rector's Readers book clubs continued with great success. Attendance shifted from in-person to Zoom, and because of this, we have been able to reach new people. I was also able to offer the Alpha Course online and was so pleased that a group of faithful people gathered weekly as we discussed our faith and our relationship with Jesus Christ. I also continued with baptismal and confirmation instruction and looked forward to this year as we have parishioners who will be confirmed by our new bishop +Sandra Fyfe in March.

I also want to thank the diocese for the opportunity of having Debbie Fice serve as student minister this past year. Not only did Debbie learn a great deal from Christ Church, but we also greatly benefited from the programmes Debbie ran during Advent and Lent and

her wonderful sermons on Sundays. Debbie, thank you. You have taught this community so much, and you are forever a member of this family. Debbie will make a wonderful priest one day, and who knows which path God is leading her down!

I also want to take this opportunity to thank Heather Downey, Christine Hoehne, and Gail Teixeira for organizing the weekly Zoom Sunday School. Each Sunday afternoon, about 3-6 children and their families gather to share the past week's events and learn more about God, the Bible, the church, and the community. As we continue to gather in person in more significant numbers, there is an opportunity for the spiritual development of youth and families at Christ Church.

Partnerships and Social Justice

The global pandemic has dramatically affected our place in the community. As we see each other less in person, the ministry we have embraced over the last number of years did not disappear. Our commitments to the community and the social justice needs of our neighbours increased. Ongoing relationships included the MacPhee Learning Centre, Nourish Nova Scotia, Margaret's House, Grace United Church, and the Atlantic School of Theology.

This year we have had to make adjustments to our foodbank. As COVID-19 spread throughout the province, and with the dip in the economy, we saw a drastic increase in the number of clients serviced. I want to thank Madelyn Bell, who has served tirelessly over the years as our Food Bank leader. With COVID, we saw changes in volunteers, and I want to thank those who felt a call to serving the community. In consultation with Feed Nova Scotia and provincial authorities, we could continue our food distribution service. Yet, such a change was not easy, and I want to commend our group for going the extra mile. The numbers are staggering in the amount of work we are doing. We now service 482 households, with an average of 77 clients visiting us per week. This is a

54% increase since 2019. We are reaching our capacity and are looking for ways to continue this volume of support, but we need help.

Our relationship with our neighbours at Victoria Road United Baptist Church has also borne much fruit. The parish executive and I and members of the Historical Committee have had conversations with Pastor Lionel Moriah, Deacon Churchill Smith, and members of VRUBC relating to our parish cemetery. Upon learning about the removal of the buried remains of VRUBC members from a housing project in the 1970s, to their resting current resting place in Christ Church Cemetery, the parish executive and I opened up a dialogue with Pastor Moriah VRUBC. Early conversations have included city councillor Sam Austin as both Christ Church and VRUBC wish to establish a monument or interpretive sign that indicates the site's sacredness and our community's history.

The pandemic has greatly affected housing in Dartmouth and beyond. Last year conversations began with various organizations that looked at using our parish hall. Because of COVID-19, our ability to rent our space has been limited. In October, parish council directed the executive to enter into conversation with Out of the Cold Community Association to provide short-term housing for men and women during the winter months. Fortunately for the Shelter, the organization was able to find accommodation that met their needs in ways we could not have. This relationship fostered a desire from parish council to seek partnerships with the community as we felt a strong need to offer our space to those seeking refuge.

Direction from Parish Council allowed the executive and me to begin conversations with Coverdale Courtwork Society, its Executive Director Ashley Avery, and The Elizabeth Fry Society of Mainland Nova Scotia and Executive Director Emma Halpern. Initially, we would provide housing for 12 women who have been adversely affected by the justice system,

as often many people being released from incarceration have no place to call home. What would have been a 3- to 15-month partnership between our groups has stalled due to zoning issues from the Halifax Regional Municipality (HRM).

Yet, there are indeed excellent prospects for this relationship. Coverdale and the Elizabeth Fry Society understand that we are discerning our future, including our social justice commitments and how our campus property and facilities can support new initiatives. Our conversations continue. I firmly believe that God is calling us to this moment. There is a great possibility that some long-term partnership could develop in terms of social housing here at Christ Church, and our process of visioning will be vital to this. The wardens and I continue to meet with both Ms. Avery and Ms. Halpern to monitor developments. I also felt the local community's support as John Gallant and Christine Hoehne, and I met with Sam Austin (City Councillor), Claudia Chender (MLA) Susan Leblanc (MLA) Tim Rissesco, Executive Director of the Downtown Dartmouth Business Commission. All in the room agreed that our location could serve as a vital space for those in need. In some way, multiple partnerships throughout Dartmouth may lie before us. How exciting and life-giving!

As I look forward

Before I conclude, I want to thank all the ministers in our parish—you the baptized! Not only do the Parish Council, the Wardens, and I constitute the leadership of this church, but all who participate in the life of the church comprise leadership. I feel that 2021 will be the year that we move forward as our gifts develop. I would also like to thank The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke and the Rev. Canon David Greenwood, who have supported Rev. Bonnie, the parish and me in ministry. I also want to thank the parish wardens for their support and tireless dedication to our beloved parish. Our weekly Monday meetings have been constructive, challenging, and life-giving. Thank you,

Steve and Don. Christine, thank you so much for your leadership, kindness, and commitment to the gospel. We have grown under your watch as Senior Parish Warden.

Finally, I want to thank you for the warm wishes as this year I was granted my Doctorate of Ministry from Trinity College, University of Toronto. Your support allowed this to happen. As well, the love you have shown Julie, Elijah and Charlie has been so very much appreciated. And we look forward to 2021 as the next Wagner boy will join the family of Christ Church!

Faithfully yours in Christ,

The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, BA, MDiv, DMin Rector

Historical Committee

Submitted by Janice Silver

A Labour of Love for More Than 25 Years!

Long-time parishioner, Nan Nichols was one of the original members of the Christ Church Historical Committee that was formed after the Christ Church 175th anniversary celebrations. She has been a passionate church historian ever since, and the only remaining member of the founding group. She is unrelenting in her belief that it is important to remember and honour our past in order to help inform our present and guide our future evolution. If it wasn't for her steadfast determination, there would not be a Christ Church Historical Committee - only a bunch of miscellaneous papers, photos and record books stored in various nooks and crannies throughout the church and hall! Instead, because her efforts and that of the original Historical Committee, there is a room on the third floor where many of the historic papers, artifacts and photos are held, and she



continues to be a tireless and inspirational working member of the current Historical Committee!

As many of you know, Nan has a real artistic flair and has painted many of the backdrops to Christ Church plays over the years, in addition to graciously donating her time and talent to other church projects requiring artwork. Her wonderful eye for detail has enabled her to also create attractive and informative photo panels over the years, depicting various stories and events from Christ Church's past. Wanting to be very careful during Covid times, Nan decided that this was the winter to hunker down at home and do a huge sort of our numerous Christ Church photo panels, many featuring the work of Lewis Billard. Her daughter Kirsten transported hundreds of pictures from our Archival room back to her house where Nan has spent MANY hours sorting, labeling and placing in binders.

At some point in the future, we hope that all parishioners will have an opportunity to view Nan's handiwork. In the meantime, we salute and thank you Nan, for your dedication and many hours of work in helping to preserve Christ Church's rich 204 year history!

Pastoral Ministry

Submitted by Carolyn Chenhall

A Virtual Seniors High Tea!!!

Pastoral Ministry Committee which organizes the annual Seniors High Tea wants to keep this tradition alive in this Covid world. How do that when circumstances may one week allow gatherings and another week see cancellations caused by rises in Covid positive tests.

The PMC has decided to have a virtual experience - tea at home! What's so different about this? In mid April all seniors will receive an invite to participate in this virtual event on Sunday aft, the 25th of April around 3:00 pm. Sadly there will be no dainty tea sandwiches or delicious Washington pies or chocolate layer cakes. However you will receive a tea bag from the committee and there may be added

prayers and resources for your pleasure - a link to something on You Tube.

Let us imagine sharing with friends on this occasion with visions of gathering in the future.

In the meantime, blessings at Easter continuing throughout the Easter Season - all the way to the Ascension and Pentecost.

Now Easter Comes (Poem)

By Bonnie L. Baird



Now Easter comes
not by calendar but in essence

doors flung open
each of us out of our private spaces
restricted, monitored no more

first light and first touch of a friend's hand

face to face unmasked

coffee poured in cafes
the hum of conversations all around
leaning in to hear what's being said

sitting side by side on a bench
in a park
or alone on a bench while others walk by
unmeasured

weight of a dying beloved's hand in yours while you
whisper close

"It's ok to go home. We'll be ok."
honouring that life with others

dust accumulated in libraries, shops
swept away

a drive along the shore with a son who lives away

checking on patients without being afraid

washrooms and showers and restaurants open for
the long-haul

a grandchild's bear hug
potlucks

big screen movies and live concerts
packed in together

hard pews and music that speaks to the soul
light filtered through stained glass, old scriptures
prayers rising together

Now Easter comes
in the minutia of every day living
seen for what it really is:

gift
pure gift

Visioning at Christ Church

Submitted by John MacDonald

Visioning Sessions
A Time of Listening and Learning together.



During Lent the Christ Church Visioning process continued with after service congregational meetings to present the findings of the parish survey and have discussions regarding the future of the parish.

Sessions included:

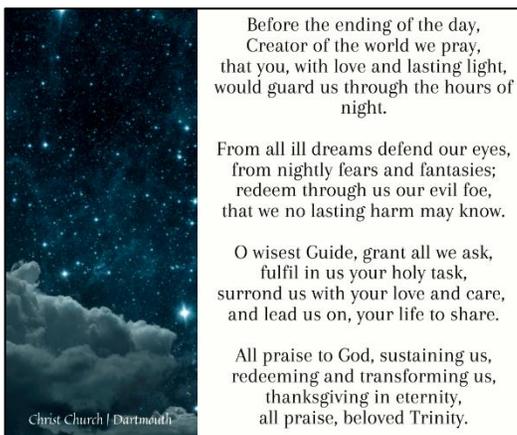
- Feb. 28 – Is this who we are? A review of the demographic and geographic profile of the parish.
- Mach 7 – How do we see the future? A review of the priorities for the Church identified from the survey respondents.
- March 14 – Growing together as a community. A review of satisfaction measures, decision making, and communication issues identified in the survey.
- March 21 – Our Worship. A review of insights regarding worship at Christ Church captured in the survey.

Detailed presentation materials, minutes and issues captured on the white board are available for review on the Christ Church Website. Just look for the Vision 2020 logo and click.

The Ministry Visioning Committee is looking for input from all involved in the parish life of Christ Church to help discern our path forward. Visioning Committee members are: Carolyn Chenhall, John MacLeod, Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke and John MacDonald. If you have anything you would like to tell us feel free to send you comments and insights to johnmacdonald.stl@gmail.com.

After four great weeks of meetings with approximately 40 people in the church or on Zoom, the committee will now process what was presented and

heard and create a plan to get us to the next steps of our



Before the ending of the day,
Creator of the world we pray,
that you, with love and lasting light,
would guard us through the hours of
night.

From all ill dreams defend our eyes,
from nightly fears and fantasies;
redeem through us our evil foe,
that we no lasting harm may know.

O wisest Guide, grant all we ask,
fulfil in us your holy task,
surround us with your love and care,
and lead us on, your life to share.

All praise to God, sustaining us,
redeeming and transforming us,
thanksgiving in eternity,
all praise, beloved Trinity.

Christ Church | Dartmouth

discernment process. Thanks to everyone who shared their thoughts so honestly and openly with us. Please continue to pray for our communal work to discern God's purpose for Christ Church for the coming years.

Food and Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Christine Hoehne

The Christ Church food bank is running very smoothly thanks to the help of so many: parishioners with generous donations, Feed NS support, volunteer drivers, Wednesday sorters and packers and



Thursday servers. As well we have Rev Bonnie coming in for the prayer and speaking with clients when need be, Kevin Little who talks to the Thursday clients about job opportunities and support from the Public Good Society. We have very caring support. Thank you to everyone!

On Wednesday, prior to the Feed Nova Scotia truck arriving we set up bags or boxes for deliveries: between 20 -25. These go to people who are not able to leave their homes and to come to pick up food. The drivers are very good a dropping off the food at the door and still developing a relationship with the clients. This gives us an idea of how lonely some of our clients are, we may be their only contact.

Once the Feed Nova Scotia truck has delivered its palettes of non-perishable and frozen/perishable food, we sort and stack for Thursday's walk-in clients. We have 4 industrial shelves with wheels which can move around the hall freely. 2 large freezers, not quite as full as last year at this time, to hold frozen food and the large fridge holds the fresh vegetables.

Thursdays the clients, who have been waiting to come in since 6 am or earlier, are welcomed by Bernie Hart giving out registration numbers. 20 clients are allowed in the hall according to the Dept. of Health of course with chairs set up 6 feet apart. At 8 am sharp, they are welcomed with a prayer with Rev. Bonnie, information by Kevin Little. After sign-in clients move along the food stands (tables), all safely distanced. It looks a bit like a market with kind volunteers greeting them, often by name; first comes the fresh protein and bread stand, next vegetables and some good cooking advice, to all the non perishables and hygiene products, pet food and little extras we may have.

The clients seem quite content with the food choices and atmosphere at food bank. It's too bad we can't serve hot beverages and treats while they are waiting. Thanks, Covid-19!

We have again received more emergency boxes from Feed NS. They contain approx. 1 week of non-perishable food. Gift cards from Feed NS are given out when necessary. This usually happens during non-food bank hours, when people call the office for help.

Our volunteers have risen to the constantly changing challenges with kindness and good humour. Thank you!

Many clients went home warmer and happy when we had a successful coat, hats, boots give away for 2 Thursdays in February. Thanks for the donations. Soon it will be time to start on spring wear!

Technology Team

Submitted by Gail Teixeira

Notes of reflection for broadcast ministry March 2020 - March 2021. A year in the life of Broadcast Ministry at Christ Church Dartmouth

Who knew how our dabblings in broadcast ministry would evolve into a highly visible and integral part of the availability of Christ Church Dartmouth's ministry outreach during our necessary compliance with health measures? We are very grateful for the collaborative efforts of various interested volunteers, anonymous donors (special funding and resource donations), and to our Christ Church clergy for their willingness to pivot from traditional worship, face-to-face, to the online platforms. All of this was done to meet the ever-changing demands and opportunities for Christ Church, Dartmouth to have a vibrant presence in the online landscape.

External to the Christ Church community, commercial vendors have not only supplied equipment and services from a business point of view — these valued partners in this broadcast outreach have gone above and beyond to respond to crises around equipment failure, connection dilemmas, power connectivity, software and hardware anomalies - and have donated their time and expertise to provide additional help and services beyond contractual arrangements. These vendors and technically savvy friends of Christ Church have responded to our needs under time constraints that seemed unthinkable to imagine, even if we could have paid them.

When we think about how we are seen in the broader community, we also need to consider that being one of the provincial hubs for the Electoral Synod (October 2010) and hosting the Dartmouth Regional confirmation Service (March 2021) — these are ways that we serve and, in turn, how we are seen carrying out our ministry outreach.

Although a window for in-person worship during Advent / Christmas 2020 presented itself too late to be implemented, the dedicated planning and thoughtful videography, music renditions and recorded liturgies brought many of the Christ Church Dartmouth seasonal traditions to life in the virtual environment. The power of connection using live online meeting software gave some sense of

interactive communication, even without physical touch or acoustic sound.

Thank you to the dedicated Christ Church, Dartmouth, broadcast ministry volunteers. Your faithful service and continued interest are making this outreach possible, and sustainable.

Thank you to those who give feedback on the technical quality of the broadcasts, and make suggestions for further outreach.

Thank you to those who have attended online discussions, meetings, via the video meeting software, Zoom. Thanks go out to the Sunday School team members and participants who hold their sessions via Zoom.

And yes, there is room for more participants. You'd be pleasantly surprised at how you, too, can make a difference on the Christ Church, Dartmouth, Broadcast Ministry team.



Scholarship in the name of Peter and Betty Macdonald Announced at AGM

An initiative led by Christ Church's Historical committee in partnership with the



family of Peter and Betty Macdonald was announced at Christ Church's Annual General Meeting in February. In recognition of Peter and Betty's parish work using innovative liturgy and empowering the laity the team is contemplating creating a scholarship for further education for priests and church leaders for studies or research in these areas. The working title for the scholarship is The Peter and Betty MacDonald Scholarship for Innovative Liturgy or Lay Leadership Development Studies.

The team is working through the details of administration etc. Look for a launch of this initiative later in the year along with a celebration of the life and work of Peter who passed late last year.



PAR

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING
Supporting the growth of our ministry.

Many of us pay our monthly bills online. Just ask the Parish Administrator for the PAR Form. The same form can be used to change your monthly givings if you are already using PAR. Knowing what to expect financially each month helps us at Christ Church budget and plan the good works we do.

How can I give?

Your time, your talent, your treasure.

- In person
- By Mail
- E-Transfer
- PAR (Pre-Authroized Giving)
- Online



Altar Guild Notices



Easter 2021 Memorials:

The Christ Church Altar Guild is now accepting donations for Easter Memorials. Cheques are payable to Christ Church Altar Guild and please include your Envelope Number with your donation. The deadline is April 1, 2021 to insure inclusion in the Easter

Bulletin. Thank You!

What is an Altar Guild? Do you ever wonder how the beauty of Sanctuary comes to be each week? Do you notice that the Church colours change from time to time & how does that happen? Or, where did the flowers come from? The Christ Church Altar Guild is the “culprit”!

An Altar Guild is a volunteer group of the parish whose ministry is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels & altar linens of the parish and to arrange flowers when there is a memorial.

Our duties include:

- Change the hangings – according to the church colours of the season
- Wash the linens as needed
- Wash the “dishes” weekly
- Tidy & vacuum the Sanctuary
- Polish the brass
- Arrange the flowers as needed
- Set up for a Baptism
- Set up for a Wedding
- Set up for a Funeral

Our small group is comprised of 8 dedicated people who work in teams of 2 or 3 on a 6-week rotating schedule. Each group prepares the Altar for two consecutive Sundays (2 hours per week) and then is off for four weeks. For the major celebrations, Easter,

Thanksgiving, Christmas, all Altar Guild members take part in the preparations. It is not a huge time commitment but an important one as with all of our Church groups.

Is this something that would appeal to your Special Talents?

New members are always welcome, and we provide the training. For further information, please contact Marg Seaman at (902) 466-2159 or Sheila Ferguson at (902) 469-3662.

mseaman@accesswave.ca or
ds.fergus07@gmail.com

Confirmation at Christ Church Dartmouth

Submitted by Canon David Greenwood

On Tuesday 9 March at 7pm, our Christ Church hosted a Dartmouth regional Confirmation worship service. Five confirmands from three parishes confirmed their baptismal vows and made adult professions of faith before our new bishop, the Rt Rev Sandra Fyfe. Each candidate was presented by selected family members and friends. After their presentation and profession of vows, each candidate knelt before the bishop, who then laid hands slightly above their heads (holding to strict Covid protocols). The bishop prayed over them and received them as full adult members of the Anglican Church of Canada and prayed that God would send the Holy Spirit upon them, to empower them to take up their ministries with our beloved church.

Making their confirmational vows were: Gail Teixeira, Natasha Beurree-Edwards, Grace Smith, Kayla Smith from St. Luke’s, Dartmouth, and Cohen Currie from St. Albans Dartmouth

This was the first episcopal visit to our Christ Church by the Rt Rev Sandra Fyfe. During the rehearsal for the service, and on behalf of Christ Church, Canon David Greenwood presented Bishop Fyfe with a gift of a set of fabric covid protection masks in all the liturgical colours. Bishop Fyfe wore the white mask for the occasion of the Confirmation service.

During the confirmation service, each candidate was presented with their certificate and a gift of a bible. The Rev Cate Ratcliffe presented these gifts to the candidates from St Albans and St Luke's and the Rev Canon Greenwood presented the gifts to our Christ Church members.

Our choir was magnificent for the occasion and aptly led the small Covid restricted congregation in the hymn singing. Prayers of the people were crafted and led by Gail Teixeira; the first Reading was read by Cohen Currie the candidate from St. Albans.

Over a course of several weeks, our Christ Church candidates attended a pre-Confirmation course designed by our Rector the Rev Dr Kyle Wagner and co-taught by him and Canon David.



Sermon preached at Confirmation Service by The Rt. Rev. Sandra Fyfe, Bishop of NS and PEI

March 9, 2021 – Christ Church, Dartmouth
Memorial of St. Gregory of Nyssa (Wisdom 7:24-28; Psalm 40:9-14; John 14:1-11)



First of all, I'd like to thank the clergy of the Dartmouth region for asking if we might gather to share in a service of Confirmation. Recognizing the considerable restrictions we've faced over the past year due to Covid-19, they knew that a large gathering at the Cathedral for the Easter Vigil (when a service like this might normally happen) was not likely to happen. And so, here we are.



Natasha and Cohen and Kayla and Grace and Gail and I are all stepping out in faith tonight – them to take on

the promises made on their behalf when they were baptized, and me, to preside at my first service of Confirmation as your Diocesan Bishop. I'm not sure who's more nervous, them or me! But we've all been well-prepared by Rev. Cate and Rev. Kyle and Canon David. I'm grateful for their leadership with all of you, the candidates, and for making it possible for me to meet you over Zoom just over a week ago to talk about our faith journeys. It's nice to be able to put faces to names, especially as we are all wearing masks tonight; and it's inspiring for me to know that you are all so eager to continue on the next stage of your journey of faith. Those who worry that the church is in decline haven't heard you talk about what it's meant to you, growing up in the church, and how church has been a place where you felt welcomed and known. It's a place where you know you belong and a place that has enabled you to use the gifts God has given you to serve others, as Christ did. I keep saying "place," but we know that in that "place" were people who got to know you and encouraged you to get involved. And those people who've been part of your journey are no doubt thrilled that you're making this next step tonight. What great hope each of you represents, each in your own unique way, for whatever the church will become.

Perhaps that's why, when we were considering which readings to use for tonight's service, a piece of the passage that Cohen read from the Book of Wisdom resonated so deeply:

"...in every generation (Wisdom) passes into holy souls and makes them friends of God, and prophets; for God loves nothing so much as the person who lives with wisdom."

First of all, it's encouraging to hear that in every generation Wisdom (which, like its name in Greek, *Sophia*, is another name for God's Spirit) passes into holy souls. It's a continuous activity that doesn't seem to discriminate based on age or gender or those other characteristics that sometimes divide us. Wisdom passes into holy souls.

And while we could debate what that means, I'd like to think that it means everyone; that God's Spirit

passes into everyone, and makes them friends of God and prophets. This Wisdom or Spirit infuses our being; it becomes part of us and it unites us to God; makes us friends of God. What a lovely thought.

Growing up in the church I'm not sure I would ever have thought I could be a friend of God. God was above and beyond anything or anyone I could imagine. How could I be a friend of God? And yet, somehow, from the earliest of times (or at least as we can see from this piece of writing well over 2000 years ago), this was something that was understood to be true. Human beings could be friends of God; could know God as a friend and confidante; could talk to God the way we might talk to our friends at work or school or church...

There is an intimacy or closeness suggested here which I think is reassuring, because with friends, you can be yourself. Of course, you can try to impress your friends, but it doesn't matter, does it? They just accept you – and love you – for who you are. It's pretty amazing to think that that's the kind of relationship we can have with God, too.

But Wisdom or God's Spirit doesn't only make us friends with God; she also makes us prophets...and if we've ever listened to readings from prophets like Isaiah or Jeremiah, we'll know what prophets do: they tell it like it is. Prophets look around and see what's happening and they call people out on what they're doing that's having a negative impact on others or on the world they live in. They see how people are hurting each other, as well as creation. And because they see, and because they care, prophets aren't afraid to call people to action. They speak out, even when others don't want to hear what they're saying.

Greta Thunberg is a prophet. She cares deeply about the climate crisis and is calling us to action to protect our planet.

St. Gregory of Nyssa, who we're remembering tonight, said: "It is impossible for one to live without tears who considers things exactly as they are."

Prophets like Greta consider things exactly as they are; they see the world as it is; they care; and so they act, and call us to act as well.

St. Gregory had tremendous insight to be sure. He was a great spiritual writer, a teacher of the faith and a Bishop. But before all of that, he was someone's brother – and not just anyone's brother. Gregory's brother was a Saint, Basil the Great in fact. Imagine trying to live up to that kind of sibling!

It's clear from what I've read about Gregory that he struggled with faith. And he struggled in trying to understand who or what God was. One writer says Gregory felt oppressed by the sanctity (or holiness) that surrounded him at home. I wonder if it all seemed too hard or too impossible for him. I wonder if Gregory struggled with the thought that he was a holy soul. That was his brother. He was the holy one. And so, while Basil took a religious path early in life, Gregory chose to become a teacher of philosophy and a lawyer instead. He was a thinker. But his brother Basil knew that you could be a thinker and still be a holy soul.

And so, he pushed Gregory to become the Bishop of a small town called Nyssa in modern-day Turkey, which he did. It wasn't always easy. Gregory was falsely accused of embezzlement and fled. His name was eventually cleared and he returned, and, after some heartfelt conversations with his sister, another holy soul, he came to understand more about the Christian faith and how Christians should live. It sounds like Gregory finally got out of his head, although he did begin to write. However, his writings talked about God and faith in new ways.

He lived in a mountainous part of Turkey and he started to see the Christian life kind of like a journey up one of the craggy mountains near his home...except Gregory believed that the climb never ended – it was a lifelong quest to draw closer to this God who was known, and yet could never be completely knowable.

"God's name is not known; it is wondered at," he wrote. Gregory got comfortable with the idea that we didn't have to understand it all. We could simply

wonder. I'm sure it's not an accident then, that the Gospel reading we heard tonight was appointed for this day when we honour and remember Gregory of Nyssa. That, too, talks about faith, not as a system of rules or regulations or intellectual concepts, but as a relationship with the God who has called us into friendship.

Jesus says: *"Do not let your hearts be troubled. Believe in God, believe also in me."*

These words come from a part of John's gospel known as the farewell discourse. It's part of a long conversation Jesus has with his closest friends on the night before he dies. He knows that the end is near and he wants the people who have been closest to him to know that he will still be with them, even after he has gone. And he wants them to know that the Spirit – the Comforter – will be with them, to guide them and to support them. They will not be alone. During a global pandemic I'm not sure we can hear that enough! I know that being away from the friends you love and the activities you enjoy has been hard. It's hard to be celebrating with you here at Christ Church tonight knowing that we can't fill this building with the people who would love to be here, if circumstances were different.

However, there's another part of this reading that's just as important to hear, and just as comforting I think, and that is the call to believe in God. Some of us, like Gregory of Nyssa, have struggled with what that means. Maybe we're still struggling, especially if we think that faith is about agreeing to a bunch of facts or concepts about who God is or what God expects of us. If that's something you've struggled with, you might be glad to discover another way of understanding this passage. One writer says that the word translated "believe" here really means "trust into." I like that, because it suggests that faith is really a process of learning how to trust.

Maybe here, Jesus' friends were not being encouraged so much to believe in God with their minds, but to trust into God, to allow their hearts to lean into God, to lean towards God, especially when the days ahead might seem uncertain... as they will for all of us from time to time. It was a good thing for

Jesus to say then, and it's a good thing for us to hear now.

Natasha and Cohen and Kayla and Grace and Gail, you are taking the next step in your journey of faith; choosing to climb that mountain that draws you closer to the God who knows you so well; who sees you as the holy soul that you are; who calls you to be a friend and a prophet; who asks you to believe – to trust into this relationship that continues for the rest of your life. As you take on these promises tonight, promises that aren't just about who God is, but about who you are and how you will live in the world, may you know, with all your heart, the promise that God in Christ will walk with you along the way as a source of wonder and joy, and as a friend and guide.

May God continue to bless you wherever you are and whatever you do. Amen.



Parish Council for 2021

Membership of the Christ Church Parish Council for 2021:

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Canon David Greenwood (*ex-officio*)

Wardens: Steve Smith, Don Murray, Cathy Connors

Members at Large: Barbara Hart, Judith MacDonald, Janice Silver, Beth MacDonald, Geoff Turnball, Heather Downey, Gail Teixeira

Secretary: Vanessa Turner

Treasurer: John MacLeod

Synod Representatives: Judith MacDonald, Geoff Turnball, Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, (Alternative: Vanessa Turner)

Youth Synod Representative: *vacant, to be voted by parish council*

Regional Council Representatives: Judy Carter, Carolyn Chenhall

Committee Representatives for Parish Council

Finance Chair: John MacDonald

Property: Larry Graham

Pastoral Ministry: Carolyn Chenhall

Spiritual Development: Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner

Music Representatives: John MacDonald and Tessa Short

Perpetual Care: Marg Seaman

Anglican Church Women:

Ethel F. Stephens Unit: Carolyn Chenhall

The Isabel Creighton Unit: Lindsay Patriquin

Altar Guild: Marg Seaman

PWRDF: Andy Sherin

Historical: *rotation of membership*

Heritage Oak Columbarium: Perpetual Care Committee

Heritage Oak has had a strong start in 2021. The current state we all find ourselves in with the Covid19 Pandemic has allowed people the time to plan and decide for the future.



It is comforting to know that your loved ones will not have to make such decisions on your behalf. Heritage Oak has sold 10 niches and had 3 interments as well as one in the cemetery since January.

Remember, we do not charge HST, and we provide a charitable tax receipt for a portion of the niche cost.

The Perpetual Care Committee reminds everyone that niches are available for sale in our Heritage Oak Columbarium should you wish to inquire as part of your estate planning. Pre-planning provides peace of mind and can relieve decision-making at a difficult time. There are also many financial advantages to purchasing a niche; NO HST is charged. An income tax receipt is issued for that portion of the cost over \$750.00. There are no opening and closing fees. A brass plaque, engraved is also provided. If you wish to view the columbarium, please contact John Gallant in the Parish Office. Remember that Heritage Oak Columbarium & Memorial Garden is a peaceful and historical setting for remembrance for all denominations. PHONE: 902-466-2443 or John 902-430-5687 www.HeritageOak.ca



How many kilometers did you walk during Lent? Let the office know and we will reveal our totals on Easter Sunday!



Parish Contacts:

Rector: The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner
Pastoral Visitor: The Rev. Bonnie Baird
Honorary Assistants: The Rev. Canon Dr. Jody Clarke,
The Rev. Canon David Greenwood
Parish Administrator: John Gallant
Music Leadership: Tessa Short, John MacDonald
Sexton: Andrew Smith
Wardens: Steve Smith, Don Murray, Cathy Connors

Office Phone: (902) 466-4270

Email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

Web: www.christchurchdartmouth.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday 8:30 am-4:30pm, Tuesday 1-5 pm, Wednesday & Thursday 8:30 – 1:30, Sunday 9:00 am-11:30 am

(Note: hours may vary)

Church Hall: 61 Dundas Street

Postal: 61 Dundas Street, Dartmouth
Nova Scotia, B2Y 4H5

