



ADVENT 2021

THE PEWS REPORT

TO UNIFY AND INFORM

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



The Advent Wreath

By The Rev. Dr. Kyle Wagner, Rector

Dear friends in Christ,

One of my favourite memories as a child was coming home after church on Sunday during the Advent season. Before lunch, my parents and I would gather in the living room around our Advent wreath and light the appropriate candle for the day. Prayers were said, and then lunch was served! (Perhaps my favourite part of the liturgy!)

My memories are fond of those Advents of the past. As a child, it was foreign to me to bring church home in such a formal way. It seemed extra special in the lead-up to Christmas that it wasn't grace said before a meal but an actual active liturgy of lighting a candle and saying a specific prayer. In some ways, feeling the presence of God was enhanced by the family Advent wreath. It made me realize that God is not just in the church pews but can be experienced through worship in the comfort of one's own home. This wonderful, festive feeling is something that we are called to share as Christians. As Anglicans, we need to be encouraged to bring our worship into the home, and Advent is a great time to practice this!

Perhaps this is the year that you might dig out, or create an Advent wreath so your family can experience the expectation of the coming Christ!

As Christians, we need to mirror such secular activities of this time of year with our Christian faith. Creating an Advent experience either alone, or with family, is an expression of our faith. It indicates that we are a people who wait in expectation for the Birth of Christ. Our Advent wreath with the candles of *Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love* brings us into the Nativity narrative, to that inspiring journey of Mary and Joseph. As we light our family wreaths this year, may we give thanks for the blessings we have and what the birth of Christ means to us! So my friends, find yourselves a good Advent wreath. Decorate it together, light a candle each week, and live the true meaning of the season!

In Christ,

Kyle +



The Wagner's Advent Wreath from a year past.

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Seeking the Light: A Memory by Bonnie Baird

Submitted by Rev. Bonnie Baird

It is Christmas Eve.

The frenzy of party going, picking out gifts and wrapping them, and getting some in the mail, is over. The finger-numbing, fight-provoking decorating and tree trimming is done. Or as much done as it will be this year. It's time to put away the excesses, to shelve for a few moments the worries about troublesome family members, children far away.

The midnight service is beginning.

The church is packed despite the hour.

We sit in darkness, except for the Advent wreath and its white Christmas candle in the centre. We light the first taper from the centre candle, then light tapers from tapers, passing along the flame to each other until the inside of this place is as lit as a starry night sky.

An eight-year-old server stands in the sanctuary just inside the altar rail. His prayer book lies open on the

rail. He holds his taper out over it, trying to find the words in the darkness. Light pools around him.

This is the stuff of Christmas cards. The essence of faith.

(Story appears in Bonnie's book about ministry *Survival of the Dangly Green Parrot Earrings*)

See, Jesus Calls You

Submitted by Gail Teixeira

We all have a ministry, whether or not it is a paid position. The effectiveness of that ministry is measured moment by moment; it is available for inspection each time we are in contact with others through our thought life, through our physical contacts, just being in the human environment. The lockdowns and activity restrictions have been hard on us all, and of course, having a disproportionate effect on the most vulnerable persons in society. There is, however, opportunity for renewal in this context — the opportunity to be God's heart and action in a hurting world that yearns for understanding and compassion. When we are asked to embrace change — are we ready with the receptivity of the blind alms seeker - "See, he [Jesus] calls you" ?. At first that person by the road that Jesus was passing by didn't believe that this opportunity was for them. It shouldn't surprise us that some whom we hope to reach are reluctant to believe this is a genuine offer of fellowship. But with the nudge of friends, and our contemporary equivalent of a community of friends - events, social media, developing relationships - that nudge may positively impact and nourish the feelings that "there is a place for people 'new' to this Christ Church - Dartmouth community of faith."

Will you join with me, in your own chosen ministry? Your hospitality, your continuing texts, phone calls, warmth, friendship, giving, serving, being present, faithful in your chosen area of interest — these are ministry. "See, Jesus calls you".

Pastoral Ministry

Submitted by Carolyn Chenhall

Although many activities have continued during this past year and one half, there are quite a few events that have been curtailed due to COVID restrictions.

One such curtailed event was on November 21 when we as a parish family would have gathered to share a pot luck meal and primarily fellowship as a family. A stunning quote on the back cover page of our ACW Diocesan Newsletter - Keeping in Touch - says it all: CHURCH is not something you go to, it's a FAMILY you belong to (@IMSOBLESSEDDAILY).

The committee will exercise its ministry during Advent and Christmas emphasizing family, neighbourly essence and community by:

*The Tree of Remembrance activity on December 19th when all worshippers are invited to bring an ornament to decorate the tree in the church. The ornament each brings will be a Thanksgiving for the life of a loved one—a parent, brother, sister friend, etc.—who is or has been a part of our community or your community.

*Perhaps the most significant ministry will be the more than 50 visits that will be made, hopefully in person, with folks who are not able to be part of our activities due to illness, immobility and bereavement. These visits (usually taking place during the week before Christmas) entail courage, care and compassion—all components of community and family. Should you feel called to be part of this ministry please identify yourself to Janice Silver, Rev. Bonnie, or the Rector. Guidance will be given according to Health Protocols.

*Our Gifts for Mission campaign will be finalized (3 farms?), bringing to a close our ministry to the world community who are our neighbours.

A story I received from a friend bears repeating to underline our Pastoral Ministry:

Who is Packing Your Parachute?

After 75 combat missions, Charles Plumb, a US Navy Pilot, was shot down by a surface -to-air missile. Plumb ejected and parachuted into enemy hands, was captured and spent 6 years in a communist Vietnamese prison. Having survived the ordeal, he now lectures on lessons learned.

One day, when Plumb and his wife were at a restaurant, a man from another table approached and said, "You're Plumb! you flew jet fighters from the aircraft carrier Kitty Hawk and you were shot down."

"How in the world did you know that?" "I packed your parachute!" was the reply.

Plumb gasped in surprise and gratitude. The man pumped his hand and said "I guess it worked." Plumb couldn't sleep that night thinking about that man. He kept wondering how he might have looked like in a navy uniform, how many times he might have seen him on the ship and had not said " Good morning, how are you?", for he was a jet pilot and the other man was just a sailor! How many hours had the sailor, in the bowels of the ship, spent assembling the parachute, holding the fate of someone he did not know?

Now Plumb asked his audience, "Who's packing your parachute?"

Everyone has someone who provides what they need to make it through the day. He pointed out that we all need many kinds of chutes: physical, mental, emotional and spiritual. May your pastoral ministry be a 'chute' for someone's in our parish community and in your neighborhood.

Historical Committee

Submitted by Diane Kaye

The Rich History of The Mite Society of Christ Church

It was not unusual for Protestant women to collect money (also known as 'mites' or 'cents') for the use of their churches during the 19th and 20th centuries.

It is believed that this act might have been inspired by one passage in particular from the Bible:

Jesus sat down opposite the place where the offerings were put and watched the crowd putting their money into the temple treasury. Many rich people threw in large amounts. But a poor widow came and put in two very small copper coins, worth only a fraction of a penny. Calling his disciples to him, Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, this poor widow has put more into the treasury than all the others. They all gave out of their wealth, but she, out of her poverty, put in everything—all she had to live on" (Mark 12:41–43).

Christ Church women took this mission seriously and formed The Mite Society which existed from 1881 to 1963. They became particularly active commencing in 1908 when The Mite Society was reorganized by Mrs. Greatorex, wife of Rev. F.P. Greatorex. Their stated goal was to provide necessities for the chancel and sanctuary.

Our beautiful Holy Table of carved oak was purchased by the women of The Mite Society. The Vestrymen had approached them to provide a new pulpit (the old one was donated to Christ Church, Cow Bay) for the Church. The women, lead by Mrs. Greatorex, attended the Vestry meeting and "made clear their intention to purchase a Communion Table immediately". This was the first record of women attending a Vestry meeting (1908). The table was delivered and a pulpit appeared months later, courtesy of The Mite Society.

The Mite Society was responsible for the purchase of many of Christ Church's treasured furnishings and items: from the red carpets to Communion vessels and linens to the brass eagle lectern with a brass stand to the choir stalls (the old ones were donated to the parish of Queensport). They also paid off several debts of the Church and Hall. A concluding gift by The Mite Society in 1963 was gowns and cassocks for the 50 members of the Junior Choir.

The women of The Mite Society have left us gifts that we, as a congregation, have enjoyed for many, many

years. Please let The Historical Society know of any women who were members of The Mite Society of Christ Church.

Music Ministry

Submitted by Tessa Short, Music Director

The music department at Christ Church has been busy! We have been having a very full and very entertaining Fall season. I have been so glad to see our numbers increasing and our musical contributions growing in variety and number.

The church choir took the month of August off of rehearsals, and we reunited in September with much gusto. It took very little time to get us back into the swing of things. Our Season of Creation celebrations brought us some fun and upbeat tunes to match our themed services. "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "All God's Critters Got a Place in the Choir" were a few of my favourites! Thanksgiving also brought us new pieces. "O Give Thanks" and "The Feast is Ready" had us all dancing in our seats!

In October we held our first Halloween Festival of Music. The church was lit by lanterns and candles to create a spooky ambiance, and the audience as well as the performers attended in costume. (Sherlock Holmes, Princess Elsa, and Doc and Marty from *Back to the Future* all won prizes for their costumes.) We even had performances by Dracula (Alistair Maksym) and Sally from *The Nightmare Before Christmas* (Dana-Lynn Farrell of A Tempo)! Rev Dr Kyle added to the atmosphere by reading highlights from *Bluenose Ghosts* by Helen Creighton as well as *The Tell-Tale Heart* by Edgar Allan Poe. The musical contributions were widely varied—everything from classical pieces by Schubert and Saint-Saëns to folk songs to "Witch Doctor" and "The Phantom of the Opera"! It was a great success and we hope to make this an annual event.

This Fall also brought the beginning of the Giocosso Community Choir. Christ Church has been incredibly generous and supportive of my new initiative, and I am so grateful. Accompanist Joey Dowell and I have been leading this new ensemble of community

members of all ages and musical backgrounds and we have been having a great time doing it.

It has been a great joy for many of the members to return to singing on a regular basis after such a long hiatus for many community choirs. We had our first full concert on Saturday, November 27th and it was well attended for a first event. We even received a standing ovation! Thank you so much for your support.

As we head into Advent, there are even more musical events to come. We have invited the East Coast Carolling Company to lead us in an evening of festive music on December 9th at 7:00 pm. There will be opportunities to sing along to your favourite carols! On December 12th, during the regular 10:00 am service, there will be a Christmas Pageant featuring a number of members of the congregation, with a few special carols performed by our own church choir. I am so looking forward to sharing these with you!

The Christ Church choir has truly grown and flourished over these past few months, and I am so proud of all that we've achieved. It has been a pleasure to provide music during services for this past year and I look forward to leading hymns for you for as long as I can.

Merry Christmas to all. May your days be merry and bright!

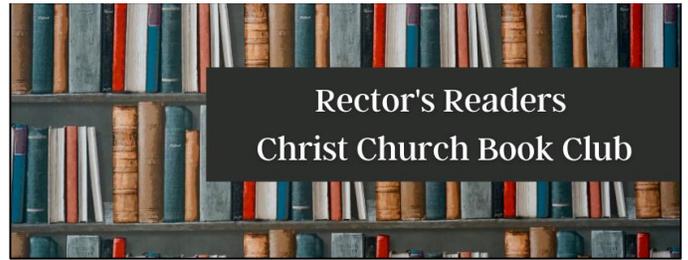
Technology Team

Submitted by John Gallant

Once again the the small but mighty Tech Team has been hard at work. We welcome Marilyn Doyle to the team with her vast teaching experience and eagerness to help. We have been able to live stream and record a wedding last Fall as well the funeral services for Gordon Nicholl and Bob Burgess. This technology allows family members to be share in these events from a afar.

We are seeking individuals who wish to help one or two Sundays a month with either the Powerpoint or camera operations. Training will be provided. No experience is necessary, just a willingness to learn.

This is could be a great ministry for the young people of our congregation!



Rector's Readers Book Club

Saint Augustine once wrote "The World is a book, and those who do not travel read only a page."

This group is a space to assemble and share a love of literature. It's a time in our busy lives to converse over coffee and tea about our favorite authors and books, what we like about literature, and what we don't like! We are gathering in the Minister's Office (61 Dundas Street) on selected Thursdays at 2 pm. If you wish to join our group, please contact the parish office at 902.466.4270 or christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

December 16th *Hiddensee: A Tale of the Once and Future Nutcracker* by Gregory Maguire (2017 by William Morrow)

January 13th *Fishnets & Fantasies: A Novel* by Jane Doucet (2021 by Nimbus Publishing)

February 17th *Gilead: A Novel* by Marilynne Robinson (2006 by Picador USA)

March 17th *The 7 ½ Deaths of Evelyn Hardcastle* by Stuart Turton (2018 by Sourcebooks Landmark)

April 14th *The Invisible Husband of Frick Island* by Colleen Oakley (2021 by Berkley)

May 19th *Notorious RBG: The Life and Times of Ruth Bader Ginsburg* by Irin Carmon, Shana Knizhnik (2015 by Dey Street Books)

June 16th *The Warden (Chronicles of Barsetshire #1)* by Anthony Trollope, (Free Domain or 1998 by Oxford University Press)

Altar Guild

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 it is to care for the altar, vestments, vessels and altar linens of the parish and to arrange flowers when there is a memorial.

Our duties include:

- Change the hangings according to the church colour of the season
- Wash the linens as needed
- Wash the “dishes” weekly
- Tidy and 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 of 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

Food and Clothing Ministry

Submitted by Christine Hoehne

Another Covid year has almost passed at Food bank. Our walk-in clients know the drill, masks and distancing! We are not comfortable yet serving coffee and tea like in ‘the olden days’ before COVID.

The system of choosing your own groceries has proven very successful. Several other food banks have dropped to see how we run the system. Anyone interested, please feel free to visit us Thursdays between 8-10 am.

Numbers have remained steady during the year: 20-25 weekly deliveries and about 50+ walk-in clients; about 25% have families they are trying to support. We get our support three ways: donations dropped at church, groceries bought by V. Strum from our social services fund, and FeedNS.

FeedNS has again been an amazing resource and help to us. We received the annual capacity grant. This let us get garbage sorting systems, display containers for vegetables, and repair the door in the lower hall which the delivery cart always manages to rip off. Of course, we also get most of our food from them. They are very willing to oblige in special needs, such as diapers, Ensure/Boost etc.

The only thing we don't have enough of is good quality protein. We have many beans and Chick peas but meat is constantly short. However, our vegetable market has gone very well under the care of the Graham family. Leftover vegetables are given to Seaforths pigs and not put in composts. Win-win situation. Many of the clients now ask for fresh vegetables. Once Covid is over(!), cooking classes are on our to-do list.

During the summer, our tent dwellers and some of the other people living rough found good weekly support at the food bank. Most of the tenters have found permanent shelter, however those living in the TVEK shelters are still living very rough, lighting and warming their ‘homes’ with candles. Our food bank

has run out of gift cards to give them, to buy warm meals.

Slowly we have gone back to clothing ministry. Window sills are stocked with clothing for people to take. We also have coats and some footwear to give away. Left overs are generally taken away and placed in some of the bins.

We will again have a Christmas room the first two Thursdays in December. Unfortunately, we have not found a way to enable the shut-ins to participate in this. (In the Christmas room, our clients are able to choose seasonal gifts for themselves or for loved ones.)

The lovely people from the Department of Health still come weekly to mentor the nose swabs and provide us with self-test kits. The volunteers and many clients are very thankful for this service.

Unfortunately Don Clarke has left the food bank as administrator of the Wednesday delivery program, and even after eight weeks we are scrambling to get it right. We are so thankful for Don's vision of the present structure of food bank. He has a wonderful, kind rapport with the clients and helps them where he can. I am sure we will work together again in the future.

Christ Church Supporting Margaret's House



If you would like to cook a turkey for Margaret's House Christmas Dinner, please drop it off before 11am on December 23rd. Items can be dropped off earlier and frozen.



Heritage Oak Columbarium Perpetual Care Committee

It is comforting to know that your loved ones will not have to make such decisions on your behalf. 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. Interest-free payment plans are available. If you wish to view the columbarium, please contact us at the number below. Remember that Heritage Oak Columbarium & Memorial Garden is a peaceful and historical setting for remembrance for all denominations. PHONE: 902-466-2443 www.HeritageOak.ca



CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH
A People United in Justice and Love

Parish Contacts:

Office Phone: (902) 466-4270

Email: christchurch@christchurchdartmouth.com

Web: www.christchurchdartmouth.com

Parish Office Hours: Monday–Thursday 9:00 am–3:30 pm
Sunday 9:00 am–11:30 am

Church Hall: 61 Dundas Street

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

Upcoming Events

CHRIST CHURCH | DARTMOUTH

A CHRIST CHURCH CHRISTMAS: FESTIVAL OF CAROLS & READINGS

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 9TH 7:00PM

Featuring
the East Coast
Carolling
co.

With the reading of *Classic Christmas Stories and Maritime Tales*

Pay what you can to support the minstry of the church at this very special time of year.

CHRIST CHURCH, DARTMOUTH
A People United in Justice and Love

WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM

Tree of Remembrance Sunday December 19th at 10:00am

On December 19th, come to our 10:00am service and place a Christmas ornament on our Christmas tree in remembrance of a loved one. A special way to bring God's love to mind at this time of year that can be difficult for some.

A Ministry of the Pastoral Ministry
Programme of Christ Church



ADVENT

AT CHRIST CHURCH

THEME: What Are We Waiting For?

SUNDAY EVENTS

November 28th
First Sunday of Advent:
Waiting in Hope

December 5th
Second Sunday of Advent:
Waiting in Openness

December 12th
Third Sunday of Advent:
Waiting with the Word
Sunday School Christmas Pageant at 10:00am

December 19th
Fourth Sunday of Advent:
Waiting Together
Tree of Remembrance Sunday

SUNDAY SERVICES

8:00am Traditional
10:00am Family Service

WHO WE ARE

We are called to be a radically inclusive, just, and loving community that seeks to love our neighbour through prayer, worship, action, and advocacy.

FIND US ON FACEBOOK

CHRIST CHURCH DARTMOUTH
A People United in Justice and Love

More information available at:
www.christchurchdartmouth.com

CHRISTMAS AT CHRIST CHURCH

Christmas Eve

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

FAMILY SERVICE: 4:00pm
The Christmas Story with Saint Nicholas and caroling

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP: 6:00pm
Lighting of the Christmas candle, caroling with Holy Communion

TRADITIONAL SERVICE: 8:00pm
With Holy Eucharist (Book of Common Prayer)

Christmas Day

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

HOLY EUCHARIST: 10:00am

REGISTRATION FOR CHISTMAS EVE REQUIRED
VISIT WWW.CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM
FOR MORE DETAILS

PASTOR: THE REV. DR. KYLE WAGNER
OFFICE: 902.466.4270
CHRISTCHURCH@CHRISTCHURCHDARTMOUTH.COM

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