



# St Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton Newsletter

*Growing spiritually and building community  
through discipleship, worship & service*

24 November 2016



Christmas is under constant threat, that is, at least, according to TV and movies. While listing for myself all the Christmas movies and TV specials that I hope to watch with Kate and the kids this year, I suddenly noticed how many of them involve someone having to “save Christmas.” Usually, the threat against Christmas takes one of two forms: either Santa gets into some kind of trouble and is not able to deliver the goods on time, or it turns out that people have lost touch with the “true meaning of Christmas” or the “spirit of Christmas,” leaving them lost and confused during what is supposed the “most wonderful time of the year.” Sometimes these two threats are even combined, as in the Will Ferrell movie “Elf.” The entertainment industry knows what kind of stories speak to people. They bank billions of dollars on this, which says to me that people are really worried about Christmas. It’s at the very top of the list of endangered

holidays. From what I can tell, it may in fact be the only one on that list. There are no movies about saving New Year’s or Labour Day, or even Easter. Why are we so worried about Christmas, and more importantly, do we really need to be?

The original Christmas story, of course, has nothing to do with saving Christmas. The story of the birth of Jesus, the Christ, is about God’s promise to save us; to save us from sin and death, and to save the world from war and injustice; to save us from things which are far more serious than anything that might threaten Christmas.

And if we believe that in Jesus God has come to save us and will come again to fulfil his promise of salvation, well then, we really don’t need to worry about Christmas. All we need to do is celebrate it. That’s the idea behind the Advent Conspiracy.

A lot of the madness and sadness around Christmas is driven, one way or another, by

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the notion that it's up to us to save Christmas. It's up to us to save Christmas for our kids or for our grandkids, to save it for our families, or, most often, to save it for ourselves by having the perfect Christmas - the most meaningful and bountiful and traditional-filled Christmas. But what happens, most often, is that we mostly just end up missing out on the real celebration, which is that in Jesus God came to save us and will come again to fulfill his kingdom.

The Advent Conspiracy invites us to stop trying to save Christmas and simply celebrate it by doing four things:

Worshipping Fully – because Christmas begins and ends with Jesus

Spending Less – so we can be free to focus on what really matters

Giving More – more of our presence, and time, and heart which are the best gifts we can give

Loving All – the poor, the forgotten, and the marginalized in ways that make a difference; the way Jesus' love does.

We're going to be looking at each of these ideas in more detail during the four weeks of Advent - on Sunday morning, and during a small group series taking place on Tuesday mornings at 10am and Friday evenings at 6:30pm.

Whether you're able to join us for these gatherings or not I hope you are able to truly celebrate this Christmas, and know all the hope and peace and joy and love that Jesus has come to bring us.



## *St Paul's Prayer Corner*

† Gale A † Jackie Bettle † Don Buchanan †  
Della Durelle † Loretta Derrah † Barb Glauser  
† Glenn Hopy † Pat Keirstead † Donald  
Lamb † Dawn Lent † Paul Robichaud † Sue  
Scribner † Erika Wisted

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### **CHRISTMAS FLOWERS**

Without a volunteer to oversee the necessary arrangements we will be unable to receive flower memorials this Christmas.



If you are interested in this volunteer opportunity, please inform the parish office.



**YOU'RE INVITED!**  
**Sunday, November  
27, 2016**  
**4:00 — 6:00 pm**  
**(includes supper)**

**Bring a Friend**

St Paul's Anglican Church

**There is NO youth group on Nov 27.**

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**CELEBRATION OF REV. DAN'S MINISTRY**  
15 December 7:00 pm  
Church of the Ascension, Apohaqui

**SENIOR'S SERVICE AND SUPPER**  
**SATURDAY, Dec 3<sup>rd</sup> at 4:00 pm**  
**Hampton United Church**

Worship and Fellowship with Hampton United Church, St. Paul's Anglican seniors and our friends at Ossekeag Place.

RSVP BY NOON on THURSDAY Dec 1st

CALL 832-5050

Suggested Donation for supper is \$5

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**CHRISTMAS CHOIR**

Just one more practice on Nov 29 for the Community Choir. On Dec 4 the evening of the service please be at the Hampton United Church for 6 pm to practice "Candle in the Window"

At 7:00 pm Dec 6, 13 & 20 there will be choir practice for the late Christmas Eve 10:00 pm service.

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**SEAFARERS' MISSION**

St Paul's ACW is once again collecting items for the Seafarers' Mission. We are looking for donations of basic items such as: soap or body wash, face cloths, shampoo, razors (disposable), toothbrush, toothpaste, deodorant, shaving cream, comb, socks, candy, playing cards, note pads, pens, puzzle books, hats, mitts, scarves, etc. We will collect items until December 11<sup>th</sup>.

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**THE ADVENT CONSPIRACY**  
**SMALL GROUP SERIES**

November 25, DECEMBER 2, 9, 16

6:30PM-8:30PM

58 Kennebecasis River Road

**REQUEST FOR SUPPORT FROM THE**  
**HAMPTON REFUGEE ACTION COMMITTEE**

Since February, the HRAC, including members of St. Paul's Anglican Church and Hampton United Church, has been supporting 3 Syrian Families (totaling 18 people) get settled in Saint John. Part of this support has come in the form of \$500/month per family to subsidize their accommodations. All donations will be recorded on your parish tax receipt.

**The committee does not currently have the funds, however, to keep all the families in their current housing, meaning they will have to move in the middle of the winter, and the children will likely have to change schools in the middle of the year.**

**The HRAC needs an additional \$1500/month for five months totaling \$7500 so that we can keep these families in their current residences, at least until the arrival of warmer weather and the end of the children's school year.**

Other churches in our area are also being asked to support this effort. If you would like to help charitable donations can be made to the HRAC through St. Paul's.

If you have any questions or would like to learn about other ways that you can help please speak with Clary Miller. You can contact him through email at millerc2010@rogers.com, or call him at 832-7878.

## WINTER DUTY SCHEDULE

We are looking for volunteers for all ministries during the winter Season Jan-Mar. There is a sign-up chart of the back of the church, sign up online, or contact the church office to sign up.

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### UPCOMING EVENTS & SCHEDULES

Mission of the Month - Toonie Tin Seafarers' Mission

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#### 27 Nov - 9:00 & 10:30 am service

- 27 Nov – 4:00 pm Messy Advent
- 27 Nov – 6:30pm Youth Group Gr 9-12
- 28 Nov – 6:00 pm Youth K-5 (Bloomfield)
- 28 Nov - 7:30pm Youth Gr 6-8 (Bloomfield)
- 29 Nov – 10:00 am Bible Study
- 29 Nov – 7:00pm Christmas Choir Practice
- 30 Nov - 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
- 1 Dec – HMS baking (Heather & David)
- 1 Dec – 7:30 Chancel (Shirley's home)
- 2 Dec – 6:30 pm Advent Conspiracy
- 3 Dec – 8:30 am Holy Joes
- 3 Dec – 4:00pm Seniors' Supper & Service

#### 4 Dec - 9:00 & 10:30 am service

- 4 Dec – 6:30pm Youth Group Gr 9-12
- 4 Dec – 7:00 pm Mass Choir Service (HUC)
- 5 Dec– 6:00 pm Youth K-5 (Bloomfield)
- 5 Dec - 7:30pm Youth Gr 6-8 (Bloomfield)
- 6 Dec – 10:00 am Bible Study
- 7 Dec – 12:00 pm Lunch for HHS (Upham)
- 7 Dec - 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
- 8 Dec – HMS baking (Donna)
- 2 Dec – 6:30 pm Advent Conspiracy

#### 11 Dec - 9:00 & 10:30 am service

- 11 Dec – 5:30 Mothers' Union (Midland)
- 11 Dec – 6:30pm Youth Group Gr 9-12
- 12 Dec– 6:00 pm Youth K-5 (Bloomfield)
- 12 Dec - 7:30pm Youth Gr 6-8 (Bloomfield)
- 13 Dec – 10:00 am Bible Study

- 14 Dec – 12:00 pm HHS Pancake Lunch
- 14 Dec – 12:00 pm ACW
- 15 Dec – 7:00 pm Celebration of Rev. Dan's Ministry (Apohaqui)
- 7 Dec - 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
- 8 Dec – HMS baking (Michelle)
- 2 Dec – 6:30 pm Advent Conspiracy

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### DEC 4

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#### 9:00 am HC – BAS

**Layreader:** Margaret (*Isa. 11:1-10, Ps. 72:1-17, 18-19*)

**Reader:** ---- (*Rom. 15:4-13*)

**Greeters:** ---

**Chancel:** Dawn / Joyce

**Counters:** Pat / Clarence

#### 10:30 am HC – BAS

**Layreader:** Rod (*Ps 72:1-7, 18-19*)

**Reader:** Myra (*Rom. 15:4-13*)

**Greeters:** ----

**A/V:** Elaine

**Sunday School:** Shari / Kate

**Youth Sunday School:** Heather M

**Nursery:** Jenny

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### DEC 11

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#### 9:00 am HC – BCP

**Layreader:** Betty (*Isa. 2: 1-5, Psalm 122*)

**Reader:** Pat (*Romans 13:11-14*)

**Greeters:** Pat & Peggy

**Chancel:** Jean / Shirley Ste.

**Counters:** Jean / Joyce

#### 10:30 am HC – BAS

**Layreader:** Heather M (*Psalm 122*)

**Reader:** Stephen (*Romans 13:11-14*)

**Greeters:** Stephen & Barb

**A/V:** Elaine

**Sunday School:** Alice / Diana

**Youth Sunday School:** Betty

**Nursery:** Tim