



St Paul's Anglican Church, Hampton Newsletter

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

1 December 2016



The story of Christmas is about people finding God in a place where almost no one was looking.

In the time and place of Jesus' birth, people went to the Temple in Jerusalem to find God. Not only was it the religious centre of society, it was the centre of power and influence as well. They sure didn't go to Nazareth, Mary's home town, or to little old Bethlehem to find God. And of course, apart from Mary, Joseph, and Mary's cousin Elizabeth, no one had even the slightest clue that the child Mary was carrying was the long awaited 'Emmanuel', literally 'God with us', promised by the prophet Isaiah so many generations before.

The Gospel of John says that with the birth of Jesus God "became flesh to live among us." This happened, however, when almost no one was looking and in a place where almost no one was looking and so almost no one noticed.

A few people did notice, however, people who were ready to go well out of their way to find God when he came. The Magi noticed, and they were ready to go well out of their way to find 'Emmanuel'. The gospel of Matthew says that when they finally found him (after a detour to Jerusalem) they were "overwhelmed with joy". They were glad they had gone out of their way to find Jesus.

And then, of course, there were the shepherds. The shepherds spent their whole lives "out of the way," and it was while they were literally way out of the way, in the fields with their flocks, that the message of Christ's birth came to them. Just like the Magi, when the shepherds found Jesus they were overwhelmed with joy.

This is the God whom the season of Advent is meant to prepare us to encounter. He is encountered by those who, like the Magi, make the choice to go out of their way to find him, or like the shepherds are already so out of the way that God chooses to find them.

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But what might it mean for us to go out of our way to encounter the one whose birth we say we celebrate at Christmas?

The Advent Conspiracy offers four ideas for going out of our usual way to meet Christ at Christmas. They are:

Worship Fully: Because Advent and Christmas begin and end with Jesus

Spend Less: So we can give more to the things that really matter

Give More: More of Your Presence, More of Your Time, More of Your Heart

Love All: The Poor, The Forgotten, And the Marginalized in Ways That Make a Difference

If you want more specific ideas for how to do these things there are **Advent Conspiracy Family Guides** available in the foyer of St. Paul's as well **Advent Conspiracy Calendars** which are full of great ideas for taking a different approach to Christmas.

There are also activities and events taking place in the parish which can help us go out of our way, at least a little.



Worship Fully Events:

- **Seniors Advent Service and Dinner:**
4-6pm Dec.3th Hampton United Church
- **Community Carol Sing in Support of the Hampton Food Basket**
7pm Dec. 4th Hampton United Church
- **Christmas Eve Services:** 5:30pm and 10pm St. Paul's Anglican
- **CHRISTMAS DAY CAROLS & COMMUNION**
10am at St. Paul's -[This will include a Children's Program](#)



Spend Less Events:

- **The Advent Conspiracy Small Group Series**
6:30pm Friday, Dec. 2nd & 9th 58 Kennebecasis River Rd. and at 59 Raymond Street on December 16th Bring the kids!
- **Be part of the St. Paul's / HUC Santa Clause Parade float Dec.10**
Sign-up by calling or emailing the parish office



Give More & Love All Opportunities:

- **Christmas Donations to the Hampton Food Basket**
Let's full the shelves in the St. Paul's with love or our neighbours. Non-perishable food of all kinds as well as small gifts in open gift bags well be collected until Sunday December 18th
- **Saint John Mission to Seafarers**
Small gifts of personal items, toiletries, and warm clothing (hats, mitts etc.) will be collected until Dec. 11th
- **The Hampton Refugee Action Committee**
Is looking for financial assistance to ensure that the families are we sponsoring are not forced to move into to new accommodations in the middle of the winter and the middle of the children's school year. Donations can be made through St. Paul's Church.



St Paul's Prayer Corner

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

CHRISTMAS FLOWERS



Shirley & Jean have graciously offered to oversee the Christmas Flowers. If you would to place a memorial for a Christmas Poinsettia please call or email the office with the information.

YOUTH UPDATE

Our Christmas Pageant is December 18th at 10:30am. I have lots of parts to fill. Our practice will be December 17th at 2pm. The more people the better. Please come out and join the show! Contact Jessie if you want to get involved.

High school youth group – Sun. at St Paul's at 6:30-8:30pm

Middle school youth group- Mon. at Bloomfield Hall at 7:30-9:00pm

Messy Church was a success! We had a count of 45 people join us. This isn't counting our amazing team of volunteers. A big thank you to everyone who helped in big and small ways. We could not have done it without all of you. We did have a couple new families join us for the fun and I believe one of the families will be coming on Sunday. Thank you for being welcoming and friendly to these

new families. A comment that came from one of the families "This feels like a family. I love how everyone knows each other." We are a family. Thank you for showing that to these families. You are blessing.

CELEBRATION OF REV. DAN'S MINISTRY

15 December 7:00 pm

Church of the Ascension, Apohaqui

CHRISTMAS CHOIR

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

SAFE HARBOUR

Safe Harbour House (now an initiative of Partners for Youth Inc.) would like to thank you for supporting youth at risk in greater Saint John. The home is scheduled to re-open in March 2017 and in preparation we are reaching out to local parishes to highlight some emerging needs - Volunteers will be welcomed for a variety of areas and times could range from 2 hours per week and up; donations such as: personal hygiene items, specific canned goods (contact us for a list), cleaning supplies and household items such as towels and bedsheets are always required. If you would prefer to donate money (which is always needed for operations) tax receipts will be issued. Finally, we are in need of 2 larger items, 1 full size fridge and a kitchen table with seating for 12. If you would like to know more please reach out to us directly at info@partnersforyouth.ca Thank you!

Parish Financial Report

January - November 2016

\$128,059.77 Offerings

\$136,600.99 Expenses

\$8,541.22 Deficit

Deficit Explanation:

- 1) Offerings are behind
- 2) Funding for Christian & Youth Ministry Coordinator position
- 3) Deacon Dan McMullen mileage support commitment

WINTER DUTY SCHEDULE

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

UPCOMING EVENTS & SCHEDULES

Mission of the Month - Toonie Tin Hampton Food Basket

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)
- 9 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
- 14 Dec - 6:30 pm Praise Team Rehearsal
- 15 Dec – 7:00 pm Celebration of Rev. Dan's Ministry (Apohaqui)
- 15 Dec – HMS baking (Michelle)
- 16 Dec – 6:30 pm Advent Conspiracy
- 17 Dec – 2 pm Pageant Rehearsal

DEC 11 – Advent 3

9:00 am HC – BCP

Layreader: Betty

(Isa. 35:1-10, Magnificat, Song of Mary)

Reader: Glenna *(James 5:7-10)*

Greeters: ---

Chancel: Dawn / Joyce

Counters: Pat / Clarence

10:30 am HC – BAS

Layreader: Rod *(Magnificat, Song of Mary)*

Reader: Lorraine *(James 5:7-10)*

Greeters: Bruce & Alice

A/V: Elaine / Kevin

Sunday School: Alice / Diana

Youth Sunday School: Kate

Nursery: Sharon

DEC 18 – Advent 4

9:00 am HC – BAS

Layreader: Heather

(Isa. 7: 10-16, Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19)

Reader: Pat *(Rom. 1:1-7)*

Greeters: Pat & Peggy

Chancel: Pat / Barb

Counters: Pat / Clarence

10:30 am HC – BAS

Layreader: Myra *(Ps. 80:1-7, 17-19)*

Reader: Stephen *(Rom. 1:1-7)*

Greeters: Stephen & Barb

A/V: Elaine / Kevin

Sunday School: Raegan / Karla

Youth Sunday School: Betty

Nursery: Jenny