

Saints' Alive Advent/Christmas Newsletter 2018

Lessons & Carols – Saturday December 15th

3pm
Pre-Concert 2:45pm
With Guests
Songbird Children's Choir
The Bay Youth Ensemble

Christmas Pageant Sunday December 16th

At the 10:30am Service
Followed by Brunch with Santa

Services

Sunday Holy Eucharist
8:30am and 10:30am

Wednesday Holy Communion
Every Wednesday – 10am – followed by
Bible Study - 11am

Afternoon Eucharist
Every second Wednesday of the month 1:30pm

Après Ski Services
Starting January 12 until March 9

Christmas Services

Christmas Eve

Please join us for carol singing 15 minutes before each service

Monday December 24th

5pm

A fun presentation of the Christmas story geared toward children with Christingles!

8pm & 11pm

Traditional Choral Eucharist

Christmas Day

Tuesday December 25th

9:30am

Holy Communion

Upcoming Events

YAD (Young Adult Group) – Tues Dec 11th, 18th - 11am

Foundation Director's Meeting – Tues Dec 11th – 3pm

Esports – Tues Dec 11th, 18th – 6pm

Handbell Choir Rehearsal – Tues Dec 11th - 6pm

Advisory Board Meeting – Tues Dec 11th – 7pm

Friendship Dinner – Wed Dec 12th – 5:30pm

CO3 – Thurs Dec 13th, 20th – 10am

Choir Rehearsal – Thurs Dec 13th, 20th, 27th – 12:15pm, Sat Dec 22nd – 10am

Lessons & Carols Rehearsal – Thurs Dec 13th – 6:30pm, Sat Dec 15th – 1pm

Mother's Union – Thurs Dec 13th – 7pm

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals – Sat Dec 15th – 10am

32 Elgin Street Collingwood, ON L9Y 4V2

705-445-3841

www.allsaintscollingwood.com – allsaintschurch@bmts.com

“Advent is coming!” the Church is glad to sing, so let the advent candles brightly burn in a ring.’

These are the words from one of the choruses commonly sung as, week by week counting toward Christmas, the candles of the Advent wreath are lit. The symbolism is difficult to miss: every week through advent, as we light another candle, we symbolize the light of God breaking ever more fully into our world. Every week, candle by candle, we remember that we and all the world are caught up in the story of God’s creation – a story with purpose and intent!

We remember how God first revealed himself to the Patriarchs, thousands of years ago, with a promise: your descendants will become a nation, and I will be their God, and they will be my people. We remember how, once that had happened, God spoke to his people through the prophets, so that they could become a people who practiced self-reflection and who sought justice and righteousness for all. We remember how the prophets were promised that a Messiah would come, and how John was called to proclaim, “The time is now! Moses gave us the Law, but the one who is coming will give us Grace and Truth!” And we remember God’s proclamation to Mary, delivered by the angel Gabriel, “Your child will be called the Son of God, and his kingdom will never end!”

The story of Advent spans several thousand years. And the time since Christ’s birth spans a couple more again. And yet still, the story of Advent is our story. For we are those who live in a world touched by God. We are those for whom the Grace and Truth promised by the angel of God are an everyday reality.

Which is why we tell a second story through Advent as well. Not just the story of what has passed, but the story of the marks left on our spirits by God’s coming into the world. We tell the story of hope, peace, joy, and love – and we imagine the chapters of God’s story which are still to come.

And what makes those coming chapters exciting, if not more than a little challenging, is that we have a hand in writing them! For if the Advent story, unfolded over thousands of years, has taught us anything... it is this: that age by age the net drawing us into the kingdom of God is cast ever more widely, as it draws us ever more deeply into a shared relationship with the divine. Even to the point that we become, in the words of scripture, ‘co-creators’ with God.

That doesn’t mean anything magical, it simply means that each one of us will have opportunities to make the kingdom of God something more real and meaningful for others. Inspired by the hope, peace, joy and love of God, poured into our hearts by God’s own spirit, our call is simply to recognize and embrace those opportunities for the gift they are – both to ourselves, and to others. For that is how God’s story continues.

Perhaps the most wonderful case in point: this Advent we will welcome our third All Saints’ refugee family to Collingwood. By ourselves, who among us has the hundreds of thousands of dollars which have made that possible? By ourselves, who among us has the thousands of man-hours to spare for rides to doctors, and English practice, and help with shopping, and all the other everyday tasks which will acclimatize this family to life in Canada? By ourselves, who among us



would have any idea how to even connect with a refugee family on the other side of the world in the first place?

The joy of the Advent story, and the gift of Christmas, is that these questions are irrelevant. Deep in our hearts, and across all the lines that divide us, ordinary human beings really do share a deep dream of Hope for a world of Peace. Ordinary human beings commit to doing what they can, where they are, to make that dream real. Because ordinary human beings are the children of God's creation, and those for whom the Christ was born. And ordinary human beings, sharing that work of co-creating God's world, inspired by the gifts of God's spirit written on our hearts, accomplish wonderful and life changing things together.

So this Christmas, as you enjoy your celebrations with friends and family, don't only look back to the Christmas story of old, but take a moment to look forward as well. And think about the hope, peace, joy, and love you might offer to another, as you write the ongoing story of Christmas together.

A Blessed Advent and Christmas to You All
Fr Doug

ADVENT NEWSLETTER

Patience is not always my strong suit. At times, I have found waiting to be difficult as I wait for news of medical reports, marks from school and for the tea kettle to boil. Waiting often means putting things on hold till answers are found. In my experience that often means anxiety as bad news is always a possibility. Our society longs for good news – just look at the Christmas decorations that have been up already for weeks! With distressing news each day from all around the globe we are desperate for good news.

Our world is not so different from the people of Israel just over 2000 years ago. Political unrest, oppression, and injustice were the way of life. Hearts were longing for redemption, for salvation and for peace. All our technology has brought our world closer together but has not really done much to bring about justice and mercy and equality.

The people of Israel clung to their hope – that God's promise of salvation would be fulfilled. And it was, but not in the way they expected. We too live in that same hope, that God's purpose will come to fruition – and soon! But as we wait, we are not to be idle. We too are part of God's work of redemption and each one of us is called to make a difference wherever we are able.

In this Advent season may God open our hearts to hearing anew God's promises of hope, peace, joy and love. May we ever seek new ways of bringing God's good news to our desperate world. As we wait for the coming season of celebration may God continue to work within us His good and perfect will.

Reverend Sharon

Advent Newsletter....Wardens' Greeting

As we approach Advent, the Wardens of All Saints' Church would like reflect on all the wonderful things that make our church a beacon of hope, joy and faith for so many people. We thank our ministry team of Father Doug, Rev. Sharon and Rev. Gordon for their leadership and spiritual guidance. The wardens also wish to give our Christmas wishes to our staff and all the volunteers, committee members, participants and parishioners who help direct our church and outreach programmes. We are truly blessed to have so many dedicated individuals who call All Saints' their spiritual home. And now at this special time of year we prepare to celebrate the real reason for this season. The birth of Christ is a time for coming together as a church family and as Christians. The Wardens hope all will share their presence at the church over the Advent season and we wish everyone a most blessed Christmas!

Margaret Thompson, Marilyn Knowles, Rosalind Kisson, Rob Potter and John Kirby



Music at All Saints'

Please mark your calendar and do not miss upcoming special events!

A Festival of Christmas Nine Lessons & Carols - on Saturday December 15th at 3pm.
It is very exciting to announce that we will be celebrating the 100 year old tradition of King's College, Cambridge, England.

All Saints' Chamber Choir and Handbells Choir will be leading Hymn sing-alongs.
Special guests ~ The Bay Youth Ensemble and Songbird Children's Choir ~ will join us.

Christmas Pageant - Sunday December 16th at 10:30am service
Brunch with Santa will follow

Looking forward to seeing you all on Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

Christmas Eve - Monday December 24th - 5pm, 8pm and 11pm

Christmas Day - Tuesday December 25th - 9:30am

Après Ski Service will start on Saturday January 12th at 5pm
and will be continuing until March 9th

A new music program will start in the New Year. Please stay tuned!

For those who are interested in joining our music ministry, please contact Keiko Kuepfer keikokuepfer@gmail.com or [705 444 2415](tel:7054442415).

Wishing you all a blessed Christmas

Keiko Yoden-Kuepfer
Music director / Organist





St. Francis of Assisi Day Blessing of the Animals



Advent Newsletter – Community Friendship Dinner

The Community Friendship Dinner has had a wonderful year. However, guests for each dinner have been less than usual. As we don't seem to see many youth, I am checking with the organizations that help youth in our area to see if our dinners would be helpful.

The Green Team provided Fresh salads and vegetables throughout the summer and early fall. They have requested more help with the garden next year. So if you like to garden, let me know. In September, we served Spare Ribs and fresh local corn. It is very popular! October and November dinners were highly praised by our guests. Our annual Christmas Turkey dinner is on Wednesday December 12. We will be looking for volunteers to donate turkeys or offer to cook a donated turkey.

Every month we welcome new volunteers from the community and for earning community service hours for high school. If you know of someone from the community or a student that would like to volunteer, ask them to call or email me. I will email a welcome letter to new volunteers indicating what we are all about.

Come and chat with me at coffee hour after the 10:30am service if you are interested in helping with this great outreach ministry. Friendship Dinners are the 2nd Wednesday of each month. I am looking for ideas for monthly meals for 2019. Let me know!

Susan Scouten – sscouten1@gmail.com 705-441-1413 (text or call)



The All Saints' Anglican Church Green Team

Who are we?

The members of the Green Team Committee are volunteers who meet bi-monthly at lunch to discuss the various initiatives outlined in the mission Statement. "The Earth is our home and we must protect it for future generations....." We are self-sufficient whose budget is supported by fundraising activities and individual donations.

What do we do?

We spearheaded the installation of the solar panels on the roof in May 2012 which continues to provide an ongoing annual income totaling approximately 3% of the income to the Church budget.

In the spring we prepare the 5 Rectory Community Garden plots for the planting, selecting a variety of produce that will be donated to weekly Friendship Dinners and CO3 sessions at the Church throughout the spring and summer months. Any surplus vegetables, lettuce, and tomatoes are also provided to parishioners at the Coffee Hours following Sunday Service, The Community Gardens are weeded and harvested regularly by Committee members and are prepared again in the Fall for the following planting season.

We provide vegetable seeds to parishioners at the Earth day Service in April and supervise the Sunday School and Youth groups Spring Clean Up of Elgin Street and the property surrounding the church.

We have had the older lightbulbs replaced with the support of Albert Scouten and the Collus "Save Energy Project" which has resulted in monthly energy saving for the Church.

We regularly promote Recycling and Composting and support the No Styrofoam Policy, to Church members and also to groups using the Church for their events/activities.

Our Committee provided a special Creation Matters service in the Fall honouring the Earth which included the Sunday School Children.

Provide in the church bulletins weekly education on Environmental issues such as the use of plastics inserted in the Church bulletins for the parishioners' awareness.

We have sponsored and hosted a variety of fundraising activities such as a Pub Night, an Environmental Forum with Dr Stephen Scharper and have proposed a future Environmental Film Night in 2019.

If you are interested in volunteering with the Green Team, we always welcome new members. Please feel free to contact Kathi Wilkinson at kathiwilk31@gmail.com for more information.

We always appreciate your support

The All Saints' Anglican Church Green Team

