

# Cathedral CORNERSTONE



ADVENT/CHRISTMASTIDE - DECEMBER 2016

## From our Associate Priest

### ARE YOU CONFUSED (Like Me)

#### When Does the Tree Go Up?

#### When Does the Tree Come Down?

Have you noticed over the years that the commercial world does not give us time to get our breath back or our savings restored before we are accosted with the next *commercial season*?

We are just over Hallowe'en and then Remembrance Day is upon us. That's fair enough because November 11<sup>th</sup> is less than two weeks after October 30<sup>th</sup>, but then the Christmas advertising and all the Christmas paraphernalia appears right away.

According to the Church Calendar, there is a season called Advent that separates Christ the King Sunday, which is the end of the Church year and Christmas that strictly speaking begins on Christmas Eve.

Advent means the "coming", and it's a time to think about Jesus' Second Coming as well as preparing to celebrate his "first coming" as a baby in Bethlehem.

At one time Advent was observed as a penitential time, like Lent, focusing on prayer, meditation and fasting. That is not stressed as much today but some parishes still use purple vestments and hangings, here at the Cathedral we use blue, but you'll find the readings focus on the second coming of the Christ and you will notice that we omit the Gloria during this solemn, penitential time.

So back to the question of when we should put up the Christmas Tree and when we should take it down. Traditionally the tree was not put up during Advent and there was no Christmas music during this time. The tree was put up and decorated on Christmas Eve, the beginning of Christmastide. Just think of the song we sing "The Twelve Days of Christmas", that is Christmas Eve to the Eve of the Epiphany. If the tree is not put up and decorated until December 24<sup>th</sup>, it makes it very exciting for very young children to go to bed Christmas Eve, with no tree, and then waken on Christmas morning to find a decorated tree and gifts.

peace  
LOVE  
JOY  
hope

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That would be a rare occurrence today because there is a lot of commercial pressure to buy the tree and decorate it with tinsel, glittering gold, silver, red, blue, yellow and green bobbles and lights well before Christmas and we must admit that preparations for Christmas such as baking, gift buying, wrapping and even mailing gifts cannot be left until Christmas Eve.

I am always disappointed when I see Christmas trees discarded a few days after Christmas because the Christmas season continues until the Eve of Epiphany which is on January 6<sup>th</sup>. It's acceptable, according to the Church's calendar, to wish people a Merry Christmas from December 24<sup>th</sup> until January 5<sup>th</sup>, that is the Christmas season.

I have heard folk say that after Boxing Day they cannot wait to get the tree down, all the decorations packed away and perhaps look for bargains at the Boxing Day sales and afterwards. What does this suggest? Perhaps they have been celebrating a winter festival of lights and not the miraculous story of the birth of Jesus Christ, the visits of the shepherds and later that of the Wise Men. However, if the tree is put up too early and begins to dry out it's understandable that people want to get it out of the house so this supports my argument for waiting as long as possible before putting the tree up and it helps the excitement to build for children.

Advent is a difficult season because many people and certainly the commercial world wants us to start early preparing for Christmas and yet the Church is saying, "be patient, we have four weeks before Christmas, we have four solemn weeks of thinking about Our Lord's second coming before we have a great celebration of his first coming."

If we can hold back to some degree, preparing for but not celebrating Christmas then Christmas Eve will be a truly wonderful time, Christmas Day will be a great celebration which can continue until Epiphany. So in fact we have to struggle to cope with two Church seasons one immediately following the other with one being solemn and the other glorious and exciting.

It's particularly hard to explain this to children and young people because they will be rehearsing for the School Concert (what is the correct name for this now?) and there will be some "Christmas" parties that children, young people and adults will be attending.

Not only do we have to cope with two Church seasons close together but we have an overarching secular season that stretches from the middle of November to a few days after the New Year (that's another celebration that comes in the middle of Christmastide). I'm sure that as soon as possible after Christmas, the "goodies" for St. Valentine's Day will start appearing in the stores.

I hope I don't sound like a real grump. I love Christmas and Epiphany and I love stretching the Christmas season as long as possible but when I look at the scripture readings during Advent, they remind me that we're not yet in the Christmas Season. Being a Christian, especially in our secular world, is not easy and the Advent readings are not easy for children (of any age), they include some of the readings that I find most difficult for the whole Church year.

I pray that for four weeks we can focus on Advent, we will be lighting a new candle each week, one for hope, one for peace, one for joy and one for love and finally the middle white Christ candle on Christmas Eve and then we'll celebrate Christmas.

Can we make the effort to prepare for both Our Lord's second coming and his first coming, his birth, without succumbing to the frantic search for the perfect gift. Do you think it would be possible not to turn on the Christmas lights until Christmas Eve?, and then keep lighting them until Epiphany? That might be difficult but would give a wonderful message to our family and to our neighbours.

I wish you all the blessings for a quiet, peaceful and meditative Advent and then a glorious Christmastide.

Peace to all my beloved brothers and sisters in Christ,

Helen.



## We our Dean!

On Sunday, November 20<sup>th</sup> at the 10:30am Service, we celebrated a very special anniversary for our Dean, Paul. We celebrated Father Paul's 35<sup>th</sup> anniversary of his Ordination to the Diaconate. Knowing that the Dean's time with children of the congregation is very near to his heart, we had the Sunday School and Nursery tell him exactly how they feel.

*We love Dean Paul!*



### **Prepare ye the way of the Lord – Bring on Advent**

Just after Hallowe'en sales ended, then the shelves, the windows, and the ads filled many spaces that were available for shoppers to view, and nudged the annual time of Remembrance to one side. Once Remembrance Day was observed, then the music, the greenery, the setting in our stores called out for us to think Christmas and to start to buy seasonal items.

One grocery store shifted the attention of shoppers with a prominent outdoor sign that offered the shopper an alternative to Christmas shopping – the sign informed the shopper that Advent Calendars were in stock.

The history of the Christian Church in Europe and the Middle East has a rich and ancient tradition that records the Eastern and Western Church's de-

sign of what we know now as the Season of Advent. While today in the West Advent covers four Sundays before Christmas Day, and starts with the Sunday closest to Saint Andrew's Day, the Church of the East observes a longer and more penitential Advent that begins on Saint Martin's Day, which is November 11.

In more recent years Protestant Churches such as various Baptist Conferences, as well as United, Methodist, and Presbyterian Churches, have included the Advent Season that has been a set time in the seasonal calendar of the Anglican, the Roman Catholic, the Lutheran, and the Old Catholic Churches.

Many churches and chapels and cathedrals make ready specific Advent practices, such as the Advent Wreath, the Jesse Tree, and the use of special colours for the season. Blue, Violet, Pink are visual aids that mix with the greenery. With the month of December as a time for Advent and for Christmas, the Church calendar sets out many Holy Days in



December. Some of the more notable are Bishop Nicholas, a fifth century Martyr who is "Saint Nick" "for children everywhere. His day is December 6, and is a special gift day for children of the Netherlands. The Church observes the Holy Day called the Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary in December.

Our Christian heritage also presents us today with the beauty and the glorious gift of instrumental, orchestral, and choral music, that composers created for the Advent and Christmas Seasons. Anglicans still offer one of the greatest Advent experiences with the Holy Beauty of the evening service known as The Lessons and Carols of Advent.

Mercifully, in the midst of our manufacturers' and modern marketers' total love for profits, for





unbridled consumption, the themes of Advent, like spiritual and devotional practices to prepare for the Second Coming of Christ, as found in the *O Sapientia* Anthems, and to revisit the great prophecies of the coming of the Messiah, the Incarnation, all provide a wonderful alternative to approach the Good News of Christmas with Joy and Thankful hearts.

In the great biblical teaching of Advent, Christians learn once again the daily practice arising from Christ's directive; to care for the child, the sick, the poor, the suffering, and to love one another.

**Advent tells us Christ is near,  
Christmas tells us Christ is here.**

- Kent Doe

## Bake Sale to Outreach

Perhaps you're wondering what bake sales have to do with outreach. Well, for the St. Catherine's ACW Group, they have everything to do with outreach. Our group holds two bake sales each year, one near Hallowe'en and one in the spring. With the money that is raised from these sales, we are able to financially support the ACW Annual Project, which this year is the "Madagascar School Project", as well as Phoenix House and any other projects that we may be asked to support throughout the year. We are also able to purchase a number of Hope Bears from the Anglican Foundation which are presented on behalf of our Group to all infants and young children following their baptism here at the Cathedral. From the sale of these Hope Bears, the Anglican Foundation is then able to support: "providing kids with a nutritious breakfast, helping kids with homework, caring for kids with a terminal illness and giving kids a chance to go summer camp or choir school".

At our October meeting, we also take up a collection which is given to the Outreach Committee to help with the purchase of items for the Christmas bags that are given to Metro Non-Profit Housing

and in November we organize the collection of toys and knitted items for children as well as toiletries for teens at St. Mark's Ward 5.

The St. Catherine's Group sincerely appreciates all the support we receive from Cathedral members at our bake sales and with the toy collection.

- Judi MacDonald  
Coordinator

## Remembrance Sunday Display

Howard D'Arcy, our Cathedral Verger, prepared yet another wonderful Remembrance display in the Cathedral. This year the focus was on "Tombs of the Unknown Soldier". Thank you Howard!



## Education for Ministry

Education for Ministry is a four year program of study and reflection for laity. It originated in the University of the South in Sewanee, Tennessee and was introduced to Canada by the Anglican Diocese of Kootenay. The program integrates three features as a basis for discerning one's faith and ministry in the church: Scholarly study of Old and New Testament, Church History, and contemporary theology, continuous practice in the skills and processes of theological reflection, and Supportive environment. For more detailed information visit [efmcanada.ca](http://efmcanada.ca). The Cathedral congregation also has two members who are EfM facilitators; Heather Carter and Gordon Young.



# Advent and Christmas Worship Services at the Cathedral

**Sunday, November 27**

**ADVENT 1**

**8AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**9AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:30AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Sunday, December 4**

**ADVENT 2**

**8AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**9AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:30AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**4PM ADVENT PROCESSION WITH CAROLS**

**Sunday, December 11**

**ADVENT 3**

**8AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**9AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:30AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**4PM EVENSONG**

**Sunday, December 18**

**ADVENT 4**

**8AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**9AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:30AM CHILDREN'S PAGEANT**

**Saturday, December 24**

**CHRISTMAS EVE**

**4PM CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION  
(WITH EUCHARIST)**

**7PM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**10:30PM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Sunday, December 25**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**

**10AM HOLY EUCHARIST**

**Sunday, January 1**

**NEW YEAR'S DAY**

**10 AM HOLY EUCHARIST FOLLOWED BY THE  
BISHOP'S LEVEE UNTIL 1PM**

**4PM A FESTIVAL OF NINE LESSONS AND  
CAROLS**

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## Capella Regalis Open House

Do you know a boy who likes to sing or would enjoy a musical training? Bring him to the Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir OPEN HOUSE here at All Saints Cathedral on Friday, December 2, 5:30 – 6:30 p.m. The Open House is an opportunity for any boys ages 6 – 12 plus families and friends to come and learn more about the choir. There will be a 5:30 p.m. introduction by director Nick Halley, a 5:45 p.m. mini-concert performed by the choir, and then a Q&A period and an opportunity to talk with current choristers and parents beginning at 6:00 p.m. Please come! Refreshments provided.

### Annual RCCO Carolfest

7:30 pm Mon. Dec. 5, 2016 at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Cathedral Lane. 7 pm Organ Prelude, 7:30 Program begins RCCO Organists, Massed Choir, Handbell Choir Open to the public; a freewill offering will be taken.



## Lunasea Theatre

### Carols in the Cathedral

Join us at the Cathedral Church of All Saints, 1330 Cathedral Lane (formerly Martello St.), at 7:30 on Monday, Dec. 12, 2016 for LunaSea's annual fundraiser, Carols in the Cathedral. Host Martha Irving and the 12th Night Choir are joined by special guests to ring in the season with candlelight, songs, dancing, and carol sing-alongs. There will be a silent auction of last minute gift ideas and a sale of baked goods and hot cider to enjoy during the concert. Tickets available at [eventbrite.ca](http://eventbrite.ca)

### A King's Christmas:

Sunday, December 18 at 4:00 p.m. & 7:30 p.m. here at All Saints Cathedral. Paul Halley and the University of King's College Chapel Choir present their ninth annual feast of seasonal song and story. This is a musical celebration that brings audi-

ence and performers fully into the profound beauty and poignancy of Christmas. The choir will be joined this year by guest narrator Roberta Barker, Associate Professor and Associate Director (Theatre) at the Fountain School of Performing Arts at Dalhousie University. Dr Barker brings to these concerts a wealth of expertise in drama and literature. Tickets may sell out, so get yours in advance. **Tickets and information:** [www.ukings.ca/concerts](http://www.ukings.ca/concerts) or tel. 902.422.6278 (TicketHalifax). Tickets \$15-\$100.

### To Bethlehem with Kings

Wednesday, December 21 at 7:00 p.m. here at All Saints Cathedral. Nick Halley and Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir with the Maritime Brass Quintet and Paul Halley on organ. A traditional and heartwarming evening of beautiful carols for Christmas, ancient and modern, performed by this choir of men and boys in the European tradition. **Tickets and information:** [www.capellaregalis.com](http://www.capellaregalis.com) or tel. 902.422.6278 (TicketHalifax). Tickets \$10 - \$75.

### Christmas Memorials

For inclusion in our Christmas bulletins, memorials must be received by **Friday, December 16**. Thank you for your cooperation.



### From the Register

#### *Baptism*

Charleigh Margaret Oland

#### *Burials*

Bettie Fader

Harold Green



## Hot Chocolate Booth at the Parade of Lights, what a night!

This year, in spite of the rainy weather, about 200 cups of hot chocolate were served at the Parade of Lights; the number was up from last year, and introduced a few people to the hospitality of the Cathedral Church of All Saints. With the assistance of a very merry band of helpers, this annual event proved to be another success. Passers by were entertained by the voices of Vanessa Lindsay Botten's community choir, *You Gotta Sing!*



# Children's Page

## Be Prepared Advent Word Search



W S O N Q R C B W A T C H W V  
 L Z K H E X P E C T S E U O D  
 N L V Q F E R G J L E M T V U  
 F M V E M A K N I C G A H R W  
 Y D H O U S E H Y K M J I W Z  
 Z F C N O V W G O O W N E R U  
 X Q R P A N A C T U H J F L V  
 U Z L E J O G Y M Y R L R H Q  
 A I H M B E L H K C E W P S R  
 N M O X I K N O W X J J F R E  
 G Z X R E A D Y Y T T F C M V  
 E B V F C P D I H P W O I T L  
 L C U Q H E Q G W P T T Z E B  
 S G W Q S Q I C D T Z W M Z R  
 S I L N T N S D D A Y J B Q B



KNOW	SON	EXPECT	HEAVEN	HOUR
ANGELS	HOUSE	WATCH	TIME	THIEF
OWNER	READY	COME	NIGHT	DAY

WHY DID THE GINGERBREAD MAN GO TO THE DOCTOR?  
 — BECAUSE HE WAS FEELING CRUMBY.

WHAT DID THE CHRISTMAS TREE SAY TO THE ORNA-  
 — "AREN'T YOU TIRED OF JUST HANGING AROUND?"



Please read us on the web:

[www.cathedralchurchofallsaints.com/info\\_newsletters.html](http://www.cathedralchurchofallsaints.com/info_newsletters.html)