

“IN GOD’S SERVICE”
THE NEWSLETTER OF THE REGIONAL MINISTRY OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCHES OF
PRINCE OF PEACE, ST. LUKE’S, CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD AND ALL SAINTS
DECEMBER 5, 2024

Welcome back for our regional ministry newsletter. Our region has been blanketed by lots of snow, making this year’s Advent season much more festive! In this newsletter, our clergy share with us, their thoughts about this time of year.

In his ‘Priest In Charge’ message, Father Michael talks about what ‘expectations’ in Advent.

Priest in Charge’s Message



With the recent snowfall, it is as they say beginning to look a lot like Christmas, but in our four churches, with the greenery, wreaths and candles, it is definitely looking like Advent. For me Advent is like one of those winter nights when the snow is falling and all around there is an unnatural quiet, a gentle hush that settles over town and country, whispering of good things to come.

Advent is about expectation, a time of hopeful waiting that gives us the chance to reflect on the one who is coming. Jesus takes on so many aspects in the Advent readings - he is the refiner’s fire from Malachi and the axe at the tree from John the Baptist, he is the gentle shepherd of Malachi, the leaping child in Mary’s womb, he is the Son of Man coming in clouds and glory. All these aspects of Jesus - mighty and mysterious - will come together in a tiny infant in a humble barn. It’s all rather dizzying to contemplate, and entirely wonderful.

Throughout Advent we have many opportunities to prepare ourselves for our coming Saviour. There is the Bishop’s Advent for Everyone teaching series on Tuesdays, as well as our own clergy team’s Advent Study Series on Thursdays (see this newsletter for details). And of course there is our gathered worship in our four churches as we sing the Advent hymns and light the candles on our Advent wreaths. I pray that this time will be a blessing for you and that it enriches your experience of Christmas.

After services in our own churches on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, our region has a chance to come together on Sunday, December 29th at 10:30 for a Carols and Lessons service at All Saints, followed by a potluck lunch. This service replaces all other services that Sunday, and should be a good opportunity for us to all come together, as we did this fall at St Luke’s, Creemore.

May this Advent be a blessing to all of us as we open our hearts to our Saviour. “The Lord is near” (Phil 4.4).

Father Michael

Reverend Sharon tells us what Advent means to her

Dear Saints

T'is the season! All around, while driving at night, there are coloured lights, trees decorated with garland, blow up Santas, reindeer, even a Grinch or two. Some are simple, some are quite elaborate. And all are in preparation for the day a few weeks away when houses will be filled with the scents of baking, turkey, stuffing and gravy....all feel good food, and the carefully wrapped presents under the tree will be opened.

We, as people of faith, know that there is much more to this coming season. We know that with our church new year, with our season of Advent, that there is preparation to be done. We prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of our King, our Saviour, the one who gives himself for us. He comes, not with glitter and glamour, but as a helpless infant, in a humble stable, with humble parents. He comes to BE with us, to BE one of us, to experience life with us.

Jesus is the embodiment of our themes of Advent – love, hope, joy and peace. As we walk through Advent we follow his example of these themes. We show these themes every day in our walk with Jesus. We smile at strangers, we lend a helping hand, we have tea with a neighbour, we speak up for those who have little or no voice, we challenge inequality and we work for a world that brings dignity to all.

As we journey through these next weeks, as we enjoy the coming holiday season, may we keep the “reason for the season” at the fore. May we be open to God’s presence in and around us. May we pattern our lives after the One. May we find new ways to be – to be the love, hope, joy and peace that our world so desperately needs, and may our lives point the way to the one who came to Be with us.

Blessings on this holy season!
Sharon+

Advent For Everyone is an on-line series from our bishops.

An online teaching series with our bishops to which everyone in the Diocese is invited, Tuesdays from 7:30-8:30 p.m.



These gatherings will give Anglicans a chance to pause, connect and deepen their spiritual journey during this holy season. Each gathering will be an hour long and will feature a reflection by the bishop, discussion in breakout groups and conclude with a short service of Compline. The evenings will be live and interactive.

If many people from your parish are planning to join, we can make sure you're in the same breakout room. Just provide the name of your parish when you register so we can put everyone together for the discussions.

To register, go to <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/events/advent-for-everyone/>

Our Advent Bible Study programme continues this evening and for the next two Thursday. This is on Zoom.

**Preparing Our Hearts for Advent
A four Part Study Series on Zoom**

You are invited to join an Advent Bible Study, and opportunity to reflect and to pray during this season of anticipation for the birth of Christ in the world.



We will study the biblical meaning of hope, peace, joy and love. All studies will be hosted by members of our Regional Ministry Clergy Team and are open to all.

All sessions will be run on Zoom and will be offered on Thursday evenings from 7-8pm on these dates November 28th, December 5th, December 12th and December 19th.

To join the study or for more information, contact:
Rev Amy Pauley (rev.amy.pauley@gmail.com) or call Nancy at 705-445-3841.

Mary Lou Dunn, archivist at All Saints, tells us the history of the 'Advent Wreath'.

The Advent Wreath



The Advent wreath first appeared in Germany in 1839. A Lutheran minister working at a mission for children created a wreath out of the wheel of a cart. He placed twenty small red candles and four large white candles inside the ring. The red candles were lit on weekdays, and the four white candles were lit on Sundays.

Eventually, the Advent wreath was created out of evergreens, symbolizing everlasting life in the midst of winter and death. The circle reminds us of God's unending love and the eternal life He makes possible. Advent candles are often nestled in the evergreen wreath. Additional decorations, like holly and berries, are sometimes added. Their red color points ahead to Jesus' sacrifice and death. Pinecones can symbolize the new life that Jesus brings through His resurrection. Families begin lighting a candle on the fourth Sunday before Christmas and light another candle each subsequent Sunday.

The most common Advent candle tradition, however, involves four candles. A new candle is lit on each of the four Sundays before Christmas. Each candle represents something different, although traditions vary. The four candles traditionally represent hope, faith, joy, and peace. Often, the first, second, and fourth candles are purple; the third candle is rose-colored. Sometimes all the candles are red; in other traditions, all four candles are blue or white. Occasionally, a fifth white candle is placed in the middle and is lit on Christmas Day to celebrate Jesus' birth.

Reverend Amy at Prince of Peace has introduced an exciting new programme at the church!

The ARK Anglican Regional Kids' Church



On December 1st, we began a new ministry at Prince of Peace. It's our version of a Sunday School. We call it, "The ARK". It stands for many things. The ARK stands for the Anglican Regional Kids' Church. And the ARK can stand for Awesome and Remarkable Kids. Our ARK is

like Noah's Ark. But instead of gathering animals 2 by 2, we hope our Kids' Church will gather children and families, little by little. And as we move along, we hope our ARK will help support and supply children's ministry within our regional churches. We welcome your prayers for The ARK. We hold The ARK on Sundays, during the 9:30am service.



Pat MacKeracher chairs the All Saints "Gardening Guild". This group of volunteers does amazing work all year long. Our beautiful church and rectory properties are enhanced through flower gardens and plant containers that the Guild prepares. Recently, Velma Cook retired from the group. She has spent many years weeding, planting and watering, (and I might add, singing!!) at All Saints. We are thankful for her enthusiasm, hard work and dedication over the years. Pat is happy to report that Velma is now "Gardener Emeritus"! Recently, the Guild was putting the finishing touches on the church urns. Tiffany Thompson is pictured in this photo, courtesy of Pat.



Our food ministries are also involved in both the church and in our communities. Last evening, close to 115 meals were sent out to the Busby Centre, the Mobile Soup Kitchen programmes and individuals in the community, having been prepared by the Five Loaves team at All Saints (photos attached).



The Community Friendship Dinner will take place at All Saints on Wednesday, December 11th. This sit-down dinner will feature turkey, potatoes, vegetables, salads, fruit and dessert. Coordinators Penny Bourne and Paulette De Silva and their team of volunteers and donors, welcome you to come out and enjoy this traditional Christmas dinner.



While we are on the subject of food, for this edition of In God's Service, I went back into the archives of All Saints Alive. Gill Elias, who is one of the coordinators of the Five Loaves Programme, contributed many recipes, especially during Covid. Here is one of her wonderful recipes which is special at this time of year.

Covid Cooking Corner: What could be nicer at Christmas, than to give people you love, a home made gift? These cookies make the perfect gift. Biscotti means twice baked. This is because you half bake the cookie dough and then slice it on the diagonal and bake it again. This gives a crunchy cookie that will last longer than the soft ones.....so you could make them now. When it comes to serving them, they are delicious dipped in coffee or tea or if you wish to be really Italian, then try dipping them in a sweet wine. Enjoy.

Cranberry Orange Biscotti

Martha Stewart

Makes about 3 dozen biscotti

½ cup	unsalted butter
¾ cup	sugar
1Tbsp.	grated orange zest
3	eggs
1 tsp.	Vanilla extract
3 cups	all-purpose flour
1 tsp.	Baking powder
1 tsp.	Salt
1 cups	dried cranberries
8 oz.	white chocolate, melted



1. Preheat oven 350*f
2. In the mixer, with the paddle attachment beat together the butter and the sugar until pale and creamy.
3. Add the orange zest and vanilla and beat to incorporate.
4. 4Add the eggs, one at a time, beating thoroughly between eggs
5. Sift together the flour, salt and baking powder.
6. Add the flour mixture carefully until all incorporated.
7. Add the cranberries.
8. Form the mixture into 3 logs approximately 3 inches in diameter.
9. Place on 2 cookie sheets that have been lined with parchment paper.
10. Bake in a preheated oven for 15 minutes or until golden in colour.
11. Allow to cool for 10 minutes, then using a serrated knife, cut the biscotti on an angle.
12. Lay the cookies flat side down on the cookie sheets and return to the oven for a further 10-15 minutes

When totally cold the biscotti can be dipped (one end only) into either dark or white melted chocolate.

UPCOMING EVENTS

December 5 Advent Bible Study (zoom)...contact Rev. Amy or Nancy at 705-445-3841

December 6 7pm 'Peace Vigil' at All Saints...Rev. Sharon remembers the Victims of the Montreal Massacre and shares a prayer for peace.

December 10 7pm "Christmas Is Coming...Good Grief" at All Saints

Please check at your respective churches for the times of the Christmas Services on December 24 and 25.

Concert - We regret to announce the cancellation of concert at All Saints with Dymytro Garbovskyi on Friday, December 13th at 7pm. There will be no event at All Saints that night. We apologize to those who were looking forward to this event.

This past week, we lost two individuals who were involved in the ministry at All Saints Church, a renowned singer and an award winning sculptor.

Helmut Moses passed away a week ago. He was an integral part of choirs at a All Saints over many years, both in the church choir and with the Cantorum Choir. Helmut was also a member of the Georgian Bay Choir, operating out of Owen Sound. Please keep Karin's family and friends in your thoughts and prayers.

Also, we mourn the passing of Jim O'Brien. Jim carved the magnificent sculpture of Leonardo da Vinci's 'The Last Supper' which is mounted at the back of the altar in the sanctuary at All Saints. It is an amazing artwork and we are so fortunate to have it as part of our church. Please keep the O'Brien family and friends in your prayers.



In your prayers this week, please remember those whose names are on our parishes' prayer lists. We pray for all who assist others in need.

"Please pray for these people during the week" - Brenda Teeter, Sandra Girdle, Mary Ratensperger, Eric Vignola, Wolf, SSN, Irene McVeigh, Brian, John, Gail, Penny, Sean, Terry, Ann Pope, Patricia, Faith, Don.

A little bit of humour! Amid all the hustle and bustle at this time of year, here are three a few simple thoughts....

How were the Wisemen able to travel so far? They had GPS...God's Perfect Star

What do you call a singing elf? A wrapper!

What do you call an old snowman? Water!

WE ACKNOWLEDGE THAT THE PARISH OF ALL SAINTS RESIDES ON THE TRADITIONAL TERRITORY OF THE ANISHNAABE AND WENDAT PEOPLES. THIS ACKNOWLEDGEMENT REMINDS US OF OUR RESPONSIBILITIES AND RELATIONSHIPS TO THE ANCESTRAL LANDS ON WHICH WE LIVE, SHARE, LEARN AND PRAY.

Advent:

God send a present into the world, the gift of a loving presence named Jesus. The gospel stories indicate that Jesus gave few material things to people. What he gave most was his personal presence, gifts that were treasures of the heart, belief in self, inner healing, peace of mind, compassion, forgiveness, dignity and justice. This loving presence lives on in us and is the central focus of Christmas gift-giving.

Here are some possible ways to be with someone physically or “in spirit” by deliberately sending prayer, compassionate thoughts, and kind feelings toward another person or group.

- Be with someone who needs you.
- Be with a person who gives you hope.
- Be with an older person.
- Be with someone who has helped you to grow
- Be with one who is in pain.
- Be with yourself.
- Be with a child.
- Be with the homeless or who suffer from substance abuse.
- Be with those whose hope is faint.
- Be with someone working for justice.
- Be with your loved ones.

And then offer this prayer with thanksgiving.

God of love, you were so generous, sending the presence of your Son to dwell among us. Encourage me during this Advent season to continue in the sharing of this loving presence through my attentiveness, given in prayer and in deeds. Remind me often to let go of my busyness and my hurriedness so that I can be with others in a loving way.
Amen.

I wish everyone a blessed Advent and Christmas.

Lorna

The Après Ski Series Returns to All Saints

The Après Ski services at All Saints is a parish tradition, a candlelit service late Saturday afternoon, followed by a light snacks and a glass of wine. The services are candlelit and contemplative, featuring singing from the Taize tradition, a short meditation by one of the clergy team, and eucharist. We'd love to welcome you some Saturday this winter.

All services start at 4pm, Saturdays, January 18 - March 8

2025 All Saints Anglican Church Après Ski Service Series



All Saints Anglican Church Collingwood

Christmas Is Coming!

Good Grief.....

Tuesday December 10th

7pm



You are invited to join in an evening of discussion, sharing, and Brainstorming ideas for Honouring loss, and for Self-care during the holiday season.

All Saint's Anglican Church Collingwood

Quiet Christmas Service

Saturday December 21st 2024

7pm



***For Those Whishing A Time Of
Quiet Reflection***