

Besorah

*The Newsletter of the Anglican Parish
of Christ Church, Bobcaygeon
St John's, Dunsford and St Luke's, Burnt River*



Advent & Christmas 2016

The Parish of Bobcaygeon, Dunsford and Burnt River

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Interim Priest-in-Charge: The Rev Canon Dr David G Barker

From the interim priest-in-charge . . .

The first Sunday of Advent has arrived. And so we begin the Church year. It seems odd, in some ways that we mark the beginning of the year a bit more than a month earlier than the rest of our society. New Year's Day might seem the better time to think about starting afresh, beginning new habits and avoiding old habits. But here we are in our Sunday liturgy talking about beginning again.

Or, so we say. Yet in the readings for the first Sunday in Advent we hear Isaiah tell us what will happen "in the last days;" we hear Paul tell the Romans "the night is almost over;" and in Matthew we hear the words of Jesus to his disciples "So you also must be ready, because the Human One will come at an hour you do not expect." That sounds a lot more like the ending than the beginning.

That is at the heart of much of what we proclaim as Christians: that the old is passing away and that the new is coming. In our Eucharistic Prayer # 1 we proclaim:

Christ has died.

Christ is risen.

Christ will come again.

And in Eucharistic Prayer #3 we say:

we remember his death,

we proclaim his resurrection,

we await his coming in glory.

At the heart of our liturgy we proclaim that we live at the end of the old and on the cusp of the new.

For us, a new year – beginning again – is not just about a fresh start. It is not merely a chance to try it again and see if we get it right this time. It is not only a "do-over." Our new beginning goes much deeper than that.

From our readings we see that the roots of our Advent celebrations go deep into the prophetic past of the scriptures. God is promising an end to the tyranny of sin and oppression. God is promising new life to God's people. This new life is centred on the redemption that Jesus gives us through his

birth, life, death and resurrection. Therefore, as we prepare to celebrate the birth of Jesus, we, with the ancient people of God, tune our ears to the message of Isaiah:

Come, let us go up to the mountain of the Most High,
to the house of the God of Jacob.
The Most High will teach us God's ways,
so that we may walk in God's paths. *(Isaiah 2)*

What does it mean to walk in God's ways? Again, from our readings for the first Sunday of Advent: "clothe yourselves with the Lord Jesus Christ." *(Romans 13)*

I have always found that to be a powerful image. The great hymn, *I bind unto myself today* (Common Praise # 436), is a beautiful meditation on that theme. If we see ourselves surrounded and filled by Christ, clothed by Christ, we find that the new year begins each day, and we begin again in our journey to God.

Christ be with me,
Christ within me,
Christ behind me,
Christ before me,
Christ beside me,
Christ to win me,
Christ to comfort
and restore me.

I pray that this Advent and Christmas season will bring us all to a closer relationship with Christ.

Your servant in Christ Jesus,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping initial 'D'.

the Rev Canon Dr David G Barker, interim priest-in-charge

From the Organ Bench at Christ Church . . .

Our service of 9 Lessons and Carols will be held on Sunday, Dec. 11th, at 11 a.m. Please come out, and bring a friend or two to sing along during this very traditional form of worship, celebrating the birth of Jesus. The format for this service began way back in 1880, and has carried on ever since, in particular in the Anglican Church, and in several other denominations as well.

I'd like to thank the Readers of the Lessons for volunteering to carry out such an important part of the service. This year we are so fortunate to have several of our young people in the program. Our Trio includes Eden Taylor on the clarinet, Aria Taylor on the oboe, and Shelly Willmott on the bass clarinet, and the group will be playing some favourite Christmas Carols. Eden and Aria will each play a solo for us, as well. Caygeon Spice will also be there to sing a few numbers, and of course our choir! Again this year we thank Cheryl Ambrose who has joined our choir for this Service, and we also welcome Bob Campsall, who is now a regular member of Caygeon Spice! A special thank-you goes out to our soloists, Dee Fenton, Bill Gordon, and Shelly Willmott for sharing their talent with us.

On Sunday, Dec. 18th, we will have Erica Fleming (Donna Fleming's granddaughter) as a soloist during our morning service. We really enjoyed her singing for us this past summer, and are so glad she's coming back!

Bill Gordon and Dee Fenton will be singing solos for us during our Dec. 24th Christmas Eve service at 7:00 p.m. It's great to have special music for that service!

Caygeon Spice will be presenting an upbeat musical Service on January 29th, 2017, as it will be the fifth Sunday. Thanks for all your hard work in preparing these services!

Thank-you to the congregation for your continuing support! Please see me anytime if you wish to comment or make suggestions regarding the music program.

Goldie Bryan gbryan@i-zoom.net Tel. 705-738-2644

Services you won't want to miss!

Service of 9 lessons and carols December 11

St John's, at 9:15 a.m.; Christ Church at 11 a.m.; St Luke's at 7 p.m.

Christmas Pageant

Each year St John's prepares for Christmas with a pageant in the Eucharist the Sunday before Christmas. All the children are involved in this delightful service. Come on December 18 at 7 p.m.

Christmas Eve Services

The mystery and wonder of the birth of Jesus, celebrated with the Eucharist on December 24th:

St John's at 4 p.m.

Christ Church at 7 p.m.

New Year's Day

Services at St John's at 9:15,
and Christ Church at 11.

Vestry Meetings

Yes, it is almost time for Vestry again! St Luke's Annual Vestry Meeting at 2 p.m. on **January 15**.

Christ Church annual Vestry Meeting will be held on **February 19** following the 11 a.m. service.

St John's Annual Vestry Meeting will be held on **March 5** after the 9:15 service.

To all those who have **reports** to present to your Vestry, please send them to Robbie the Church office by **January 8** to christchurch@i-zoom.net.

ACW News

On October 20th Lynda Chessman and Hilary Green, from Cambridge St. Baptist Church in Lindsay, came to talk to us about their mission to send knitted baby “pneumonia” vests and hats to Africa or India. These keep babies warm at night and hopefully prevent pneumonia. They were very enthusiastic speakers and plan to have 1,000 vests ready by April 2017. To date they already have 750 vests. 500 baby hats were to be sent in November this year.

At our meeting we surprised them by giving them 52 vests, including one made by Rose Helliwell who has just celebrated her 101st birthday, and 40 hats. (We have 20 knitters and are working towards helping Lynda reach her goal next April). Thank you to all who have contributed wool.

Following the talk we enjoyed a delicious lunch prepared by ACW members.

Our knitting group meets every Thursday afternoon from 1:30 – 3:30pm in the Friendship Room. Come and join us. Bring a friend.

Our next ACW meeting will be on Thursday, December 08th, starting with Eucharist at 10.00am. This will be followed by a business meeting to choose members to run and plan meetings throughout the year. Following the meeting we will enjoy our pot luck luncheon. Please bring toiletries for our Christmas donation to Women’s resources in Lindsay.

From the Pastoral Care Committee . . .

This year has been a sad one for us as three wonderful women are no longer here in the Church (although they are in heaven): Rhonda Smith, Barbara Brown and Shelley Wild. Rhonda Smith was a very educated lady and I marveled at the long words she used at the Wednesday morning Bible study. She was also very kind and generous. She had moved back to Bobcaygeon to help her father and I know she loved her cottage and dreamed of living there.

Barbarb Brown was a lively and enthusiastic leader of our Craft Group. Our group used to be in the Parish hall for hours making Christmas ornaments for the Christmas Bazaar. Barbara would spend lots of Al’s money making these ornaments to sell for 50 cents. You could always depend on Barb to support our Bazaar

and each year she would buy a large decoration for the silent auction.

Shelley Wild had a tragic accident which many of us still cannot believe. I spoke to her the weekend before at the Farmers' Market. The day I heard about this accident I went for a walk around town to clear my mind. I met Sylvia Green, who was a friend of Shelley's and she talked about her time sitting on the dock with Shelley looking at the stars. Then as I walked past Strang's Valu Mart there was a young girl carrying a sign which said "This is our happy place". When I returned home my husband said "Look at what is on your Spider Plant". Something I haven't seen for at least 30 years was a Praying Mantis. I am sure Shelley was sending me signs.

Joyce Bryon

Food Bank Report

It is almost Advent and the food bank would like to give an idea for all the local Churches to consider: **Reverse Advent Calendar**

- 1) Put a box in your home and add a food bank staple to the box every day until Sunday then take the box to Church for the food bank to collect, then start all over again for the next week.

Consider making one Sunday of each month (Perhaps the 4th Sunday) starting in the new year a "Catch" Sunday. This acronym stands for "C" Christian "A" Awareness "T" To "C" Community "H" Hunger. There is definitely a need to recognize hunger in our community.

Bobcaygeon Helps is able as a registered Charity to give tax receipts for your donations which you can make thru the Bobcaygeon Helps Website or Facebook Page.



Christmas Bazaar

Firstly we would like to thank everyone who was involved with the Christmas Bazaar. It's amazing how we all work together.

The total proceeds to date amount to \$2,511.90. Thank you to Robbie who balanced the Summary Sheet.

Tea Room	\$470.35
Bake Table	704.80
Gift Shop	215.50
Silent Auction	709.00
Jewellery	276.45
Toys and Books	62.75
Country Auction	73.00

Thanks again

Co-ordinators - Joyce Bryon and Wendy Hall

Lay Pastoral Care

The Lay Pastoral Care group is presently working out of Christ Church, Bobcaygeon. This ministry is divided into 6 areas.

- 1.) Nursing home visitation
- 2.) Visiting parishioners in their homes or Kawartha Suites
- 3.) Hospital visitation, in conjunction with the Interim Priest, David.
- 4.) Card Ministry (cards sent for illness, concerns, sympathy and celebrations)
- 5.) Prayer Shawl Ministry
- 6.) Overseeing the prayer list i.e., keeping it current and calling to enquire if the group could be of any help.

Each member of the group is invited to join and must have completed training and screening as suggested by the diocese. A monthly meeting is held at Christ Church in the friendship room, the Incumbent or Interim Priest also attends if able. We meet at 12 noon to have 'Bag' lunch with meeting commencing at 12:30ish.

At the meetings we share our concerns and ideas, opening each session with prayer.

We also assist in the joint Bobcaygeon Ministerial church services, for those in the nursing homes or those who need assistance getting to a service. This service is followed by a reception where 'goodies' and friendship are shared.

The next service will be held at Lakes Church on December 7th at 2PM.

Please let any member or David know if you or anyone you know would like to attend. Pastoral Care members will also be available to accompany any Parishioner to the church and be with them until they return home.

When they are available members attend workshops and other educational sessions.

Everything that is discussed is confidential and is not shared outside of the group. If you have questions about a member of the congregation, we are unable to divulge anything unless the individual has given their permission.

You can help us by letting us know if there is anyone needing a card, a visit, prayer shawl or to be on the prayer list.

For prayer concerns please fill out the form found on the table in the Narthex, put it mail slot in the office door or give directly to Robbie. If you have permission to place someone's name on the prayer list tick the appropriate box and both names will be listed, otherwise only the first name will be written.

Call the office or the Interim Priest, David, for any need and every effort will be made for a visit or phone call.

Please remember if we don't know that some one is in need we can't help.

The following parishioners belong to the Lay Pastoral Committee

Angela Beaven-Prayer shawls & letters

Yvonne Manol-Prayer list

Libby Poirier -Pinecrest

Ron King- home visits and Burnt River

Vicky Baxter-Hospital Visits

We all look forward to continuing this ministry.

Warden's Report for Christ Church

It is almost Advent time again, the church year goes by very fast. Thank you Lord, for all your blessings. The Wardens would like to report for this Besorah that Christ Church is doing okay. We continue to thank all the parishioners for your support. We are doing "okay" because we have the Reverend David on a part time basis and we need to be mindful that the wardens are in the process of looking for David's replacement. We will be looking for a full time minister for the three points and at Vestry next year we will present a budget that reflects that reality. For now the Wardens are thankful for David and at the same time we are always looking for ways to cut costs and increase revenue.

To give you an update on the Parish Selection Committee, we have updated our Parish Profile once again for the Bishop and we have been meeting regularly with our facilitator Susan Abell (Port Hope). Our committee consists of Carol Morris (Chair) and Joanne Flint (Secretary) from Burnt River; Jean Bartlett and Jeff Thurston from Dunsford; and Todd Jermyn, Doug Shaw and me, Wendy Hall, from Christ Church. All points are well represented on the committee.

We would like to recognize some parishioners who have been working inside and outside at the church. Work is being done in the rectory to get it into shape for the new minister: the walls downstairs and up are being repainted, the flooring in the kitchen will be replaced and the kitchen cupboards will be given a fresh coat of paint. The wood flooring in the dining room is going to be repaired as well.

On the outside we need to thank Rob Dicks for leaf raking as well as Sandra and John Parsons who have been working for days on the leaves in the parking lot as well as the rectory. We need to thank Aaron Shaw who came to our aid in doing the eaves troughs this year as well as repairs to the light in the parking lot.

Great work by all parishioners in all you do every day at Christ Church.

Thank you from your Wardens

St Luke's News and Views

An **Angel Tree** is part of the Christmas decorations at St Luke's this year, and by the time of the Carol Service (7 pm Sunday, December 11th), the tree it will be covered with beautiful angels. Each is about 2½" high, made of wood, and custom decorated. The date and a name will be printed on each one before it is hung on the tree.

If you would like to thank, commemorate or celebrate a friend(s) or loved one(s) by having an angel(s) on the tree, please contact **Ruth or Beth Handley at 705-454-8327**. You will be asked to make a donation of your choice for each angel when you submit the name(s). After the Carol Service you may take "your" angel(s) home and hang it/them on your own tree, or give them as gifts to others.

This is a wonderful way to express and share the spirit of Christmas.

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A traditional Service of 7 Lessons and Carols will be held at St Luke's at 7 pm on Sunday, December 11th, followed by a reception featuring specially baked Christmas treats. All are welcome to remember and rejoice in the true meaning of Christmas. Members of the Burnt River United Church will participate and, in turn, will welcome everyone to their Christmas service the following Sunday evening.

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Following the 2 pm Eucharist Sunday, December 18th, St Luke's will be closed until Palm Sunday, April 9, 2017.

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St Luke's is an attractive, solid and well-maintained church often described as "the prettiest church in the Kawarthas". It was built of stone over one hundred and ten years ago and expanded in 2003. You can't miss it — for St Luke's is situated prominently on the main street in Burnt River, and stands as a proud presence of strong and enduring Christian faith.

In our Community

Christmas Service on December 7 at 2 p.m. at Lakes Community Church, sponsored by all the churches in the community. We will be enabling people from the Nursing Homes and the Retirement Homes to attend this service. Come, join us, and help make this a wonderful event.

Annual Community Christmas Dinner will be held at noon on Christmas Day at Trinity United Church, 44 William St, again this year. Volunteers are needed for setup, cooking, clean up, serving and hosting gthe dinner. Please call Ann at 705-878-9939 or email annron24@gmail.com.

Candlelight Service of Remembrance

The Hendren Funeral Home invites the community to a special non-denominational Candlelight Service on Friday December 9 at 2:00 pm at the Chapel at 6 Helen Street, Bobcaygeon.

Remembering is part of the healing process of grief. Each holiday is a reminder of all the things you shared with the person you loved who has died. Hendren Funeral Home is inviting everyone to a service for support, comfort, fellowship, and refreshments.

