

Christmas message from the Rector's Study

by: Rev. Bryce Sangster

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I have often wondered why I don't get excited like others about Christmas. When I was younger, I did get excited about looking forward to Christmas, but as an adult Christmas no longer holds the same excitement. (I know my being considered an adult is subject to debate.)

Am I responding to the commercialization of Christmas, that Santa Claus, rather than the Christ child, is the central focus? And that as an adult, I can buy what I want or need anytime of year; and this takes away from the excitement and expectation of Christmas.

So when does Christmas start for me? The services Christmas Eve and Day and then I am off to see family. The joy is in the relationships, being together in church at Christmas and later on with family.

This is an interesting observation for me as an introvert. That Christmas is about the joy of relationship. And even though Christmas is not Christmas when one is alone and is meant to be shared, I do not think I would feel bad about being alone at Christmas, because being together is just an added bonus. I am used to birthdays being a movable feast so why not Christmas?

My birthday in the summer was rarely the best time for a birthday party since there was no school and we were at the cottage. As for Christmas, I remember an older parishioner in a previous parish who, because of snowstorms and other weather-related issues which could impact travel, decided she would not travel to be with family at Christmas but would visit them when the weather was better. She did have a community Christmas dinner she attended instead.

I cannot help thinking of Mary at the birth of her son, when we read in Luke 2 :19 that, “*Mary pondered all of these things in her heart.*”

The birth of any child is an indescribable joy, and the Christ Child would be even more so, with the shepherds and wise men in attendance. But is there something else going on which Mary was thinking about?

Continued on page 3



News from St. James, Roseneath ~ The little White Church

By Ross Stevenson

The Little White Church on the Hill is nearing completion. It looks great on the hillside overlooking the scenic valleys.

The driveway and associated walkway to the ground level porch at the back door allow convenient delivery of people and supplies to the Church Hall. The following photo is taken from the meadow area of the cemetery. The photos are courtesy of Barry Surerus.

The photo is taken from the hillside at the bank [south end] of the Church and look north over the picturesque valleys.

This email is sent on behalf of the Wardens, Allan McCracken, and Barry Surerus. It is a very busy year for the Executive Committee whose other members are Laurie Woodruff, Treasurer receiving a mound of invoices to pay, Gail Latchford and Helen Lee the Deputy Wardens.

The final grades and leveling of the topsoil near the Church are largely completed. Grass seed will soon be planted, and the church lot will look even better. Most of the landscaping involving planting of trees and shrubs will be done next spring.



Green crosses have been installed on the gables of both the front and back porches thanks to the foresight and planning of Barry Surerus. The dark green crosses are quite visible from a distance.

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News from St. James, Roseneath

The late Sherron Hardy, former Treasurer, and devoted worker for St James, used her innovative thought and amateur songwriting ability, to change a few of the words of the Church in the Wildwood. The little brown church in the vale became the little white church on the hill. Two additional verses have been found on the internet. A few words in the verses about the cemetery have been changed to better relate to St James Cemetery.

St James is a church near the wildwood because there is a small woodlot starting on the church property, another immediately east, and in the photos several other woodlots scattered near the church. While wildlife is seldom seen near the church, deer, wild turkey, and fox tracks are frequently visible in the sand along the interior roadways.

Words to the Little White Church on the Hill see insert – Sing and Enjoy

*The Grand Re-opening is Saturday December 9th, 11:00am
21 Church Rd. Roseneath, Ontario
Special Guest & Preacher
Bishop Riscylla Shaw*

Continued from page 1

Mary may not have fully understood or had a sense that her son would die a premature death on the cross, but she may have had a feeling that all would not be well. That being said, the pondering would more than likely be both the negative and the positive with the expectation and realization that the positive would ultimately outweigh the negative.

Mary can then be a good model for us as we look forward to Christmas and beyond.....
Christmas is like all mountain top experiences. (Jesus and the transfiguration) Jesus tells Peter and the others that they cannot stay on the mountain, so we too cannot stay on the mountain of “the joy of Christmas.” However, there will be other mountain top experiences for us to enjoy, and they can help us through the difficult times in the valleys of our lives.

The positive is two-fold: to enjoy the mountaintop experiences like Christmas while feeling good about ourselves, God and others. Secondly, when we get through the problems we are facing in the valleys of our lives, we can celebrate and enjoy the feeling of getting through the ordeal.

In other words, Christmas can be a reminder for those of us who see and focus on the glass as half empty that there is a whole other part of the glass, and to realize that the glass is actually more than half full.

Maybe I just need to stop worrying and relax. And not expect to solve all the problems right away. It’s as if I cannot relax until my glass is totally full. I need to learn to let go and enjoy the parts of the glass which are full and not to obsess so much about the empty part. In other words, I cannot seem to totally relax and enjoy Christmas and look forward to it, because I want to get all the issues out of the way first. And if I let go of this and trust in God more, I would be able to relax and enjoy Christmas even if it is not perfect. It can be a mountain top experience which can allow me to see and to feel that my life is like a glass which is more than half full. It can help me to enjoy that part of my life and my relationship with God and others.

Christmas is a time for Joy and Hope and Peace. I hope it is for you and all you love. *Bryce*

Legend of the Christmas Spider

(A folk legend from Germany and the Ukraine)

Submitted by: Gabrielle Hamelin

A long time ago in Germany, a mother was cleaning for Christmas. Spiders fled up to the attic to escape the broom. On quiet Christmas Eve, the spiders slowly came down for a peek. “Oh, what a beautiful tree!”

In excitement, they scurried up and out along each branch. They were filled with happiness as they climbed amongst the glittering beauty. But alas! By the time they were done, the tree was shrouded in their dusty grey web

When Santa came with gifts for the children and saw The tree covered with spider webs, he smiled because he saw how happy the spiders were, but knew how heartbroken the mother would be if she saw it covered in dusty webs. So he turned the webs to strands of silver and the tree was even more beautiful than before.

That’s the story of tinsel on trees and why every tree should have a Christmas Spider in its branches.

Once upon a time, long ago, a gentle mother was busily cleaning the house for the most wonderful day of the year... The day on which the Christ child came to bless the house. Not a speck of dust was left. Even the spiders had been banished from their cozy corner in the ceiling to avoid the housewife’s busy cleaning. They finally fled to the farthest corner of the attic.

T’was the Christmas Eve at last! The tree was decorated and waiting for the children to see it. But the poor spiders were frantic, for they could not see the tree, nor be present for the child’s visit. But the oldest and wisest spider suggested that perhaps they could peep through the crack in the door to see him. Silently they crept out of their attic, down the stairs, and across the floor to wait in the crack in the threshold. Suddenly, the door opened a wee bit and quickly the spiders scurried into the room. They must see the tree closely, since their eyes weren’t accustomed to the brightness of the room... so they crept all over the tree, up and down, over every branch and twig and saw every one of the pretty things. At last they satisfied themselves complete-

ly of the Christmas tree beauty.

But alas!! Everywhere they went they had left their webs, and when the little Christ child came to bless the house he was dismayed. He loved the little spiders, for they were God’s creatures too, but he knew the mother, who had trimmed the tree for the little children, wouldn’t feel the same, so He touched the webs and they all turned to sparkling, shimmering, silver and gold!

Ever since that time we have hung tinsel on our Christmas trees, and according to the legend, it has been a custom to include a spider among the decoration of the tree.

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD by: Diane Williamson

A new commandment I give unto you. That ye love one another; as I have loved you, that ye also love one another. By this shall all men know that ye are my disciples, if ye have love one to another. John 13: 34-35 King James Version

The community of Christ Church, Campbellford; St. George, Hastings; Campbellford Baptist; and Campbellford and Warkworth Free Methodist churches put their best “feet” forward to participate in the Samaritan’s Purse Christmas Shoebox program this year. The harvest took place on November 12 with the

blessing of the boxes. Thus begins the shoeboxes’ journey to their final world-wide destinations via Calvary Church, Peterborough and the Samaritan’s Purse Canadian headquarters in Calgary.

Our collective efforts resulted in over 90 boxes designated for children ages 2 -14. Times are changing as some parishioners chose to pack their shoebox online while some chose to make a monetary donation.

We send these gifts with our hearts that they might reach children worldwide to share the good news of Jesus Christ. Well done everyone!

BBQ AND PARISH GET TOGETHER

by: Sharon Peeling

Saturday, September 9th was a beautiful, sunny day for the 6 parish BBQ and fellowship get together hosted by Christ Church Anglican in Campbellford. Approximately 43 adults and 3 children from Campbellford, Hastings, Havelock, Peterborough, Roseneath and Westwood were in attendance.

Some of the adults and the children enjoyed a game of cornhole. There was also a 50/50 draw which was won by Hilda Cole of Havelock.



Rev. Bryce having said grace, we then enjoyed a feast of BBQed burgers and hotdogs. Corn on the cob, potato salad, macaroni salad & coleslaw, topped off by a large half white, half chocolate beautifully decorated cake and ice cream to boot.

A big thank you goes out to all who donated food and beverages, with a special thank you to Rev. Sharon Sangster for shucking the corn.

The organizing committee hopes everyone who attended enjoyed themselves as much as we did put this event on.

Reaching Out With Outreach

The Outreach Committee of Christ Church met in September to discuss organizations we felt would benefit from our support. The list could go on indefinitely, but the committee agreed to distribute funds designated for Outreach in the following ways.

Have you heard of The Canada Way? Neither had I until Shirley Warr brought it to our attention. The Canada Way is a grassroots organization operating in the Ukraine providing much needed medical supplies. Check them out on Facebook to find their latest communications of the help they are providing.

We decided to make a donation of \$500 which we channeled through John Graham of Church Key Brewery to be concentrated into Front Line medic bags. The response was beyond grateful and appreciative as communicated through an email: "Christ Church Anglican's more than generous \$500 donation will go very far to support the filling of about 6 crew support bags. Six may not sound like a lot but....1 bag equals 8-10+ lives supported via consumable (one time use kit) in a medical emergency. The diagnostic gear is a reusable kit meaning that in its lifespan, it will probably go on to serve countless more. Six bags will likely equal hundreds of lives sustained by Christ Church Anglican's donation."

"It is just such a beautiful feeling to know that we connected the dots from a community in Canada to the very front lines in Ukraine."

EMAS (Education, Medical Aid and Service) healing, teaching, and serving those in need in a Christ-like manner was our next choice to support as we have in the past. Our connection to EMAS is through a long-time advocate, Dr. Bob Stephens. This year we gave \$300.

Finally, we chose to support locally our Community Care, Northumberland--\$500 to be directed toward elder care.

The Regional Ministry has a number of ideas on ways we might support Kent Public School. If you are interested in lending your talents to help the children next door, please get in touch with one of our Committee members. This endeavour is in the brainstorming stage and needing assistance from the ground up.

In faith,
Diane Williamson, Shirley Warr, Evelyn Field,
Elizabeth Hogle, Sharon Peeling.

Treasured Coins

by: Margaret Eley

Let me take you back nearly eighty years. As a child in England, I belonged to a church school in the small historic West Country town of Minehead. One morning whilst sitting in Miss Folliet's tiny classroom crammed with thirty small desks and chairs, we had a visitor. I assumed this man was from the church somehow. He held up a new coin of 3d value, a heavy copper coin with a number of straight sides, asking us if we knew how many sides it had.

Instantly, I took a dislike to it, thinking it clunky and ugly. I much preferred the small silvery coin currently in circulation. I vowed I would keep the next elegant 3d which might come my way. So began the beginning of my collection. I guess I must have been very intent and soon gathered a few more of these now beloved coins.

Being wartime, my father was away, but he, along with my mother and grandparents saved the odd 3d whenever one turned up in their change. My collection was growing and frequently I cared for it; washing the coins, always studying them carefully to see the dates and heads of the relevant monarch.

By 1943, perhaps the darkest and most austere times of the war, non-essentials had disappeared from the shops. As there was nothing to buy as presents, my family searched for and saved these little coins. Birthday & Christmas brought me a few more of these treasures and my collection grew, much to my delight. Within a few years these 3d went out of circulation, but I must have had about 80 of varying ages. I sorted them by monarch or date; Victorian, Edwardian, 1910-19, 1920s, 1930s. I have one coin bearing the head of a young Queen Victoria, but the date has worn away.

Of course, my coins are British, but this currency is your heritage too. The very same coin was in use

here, in Canada, for several hundred years, and in 1845 it began to be issued in large numbers for general circulation. Soon after 1870, it disappeared when Canada legislated to develop its own currency.

I stored my collection carefully, as there would be no more. I had a bracelet made with earnings from my first holiday job, but I was never really happy with it. My collection, cosseted in an old evening bag of my maternal grandmother, rested in the drawer for years.

About twenty years ago when a widowed long-time friend remarried, I pondered on what to send as a present. I hit on the idea of a 1930s silver 3d piece, searching for one having the date of her birth year. She & Louis were thrilled. Since then, I have given one of these treasured coins, with a brief explanatory card, to friends celebrating special occasions.

The card reads:

This is an English silver 3d piece, last minted in the early 1940s. These coins were thought to bring good luck and were often added to the Christmas Pudding. I collected them as a child and it is now my pleasure to give to friends to mark milestone occasions.



Evelyn’s Culinary Corner

This is an old family recipe from Sandy Philp that has been passed down through generations from Sandy’s Grandmother. It is just in time for the Christmas Season.

No Fail Gingerbread Men

Ingredients:

- 3 1/2 cups flour

1 1/3 cups shortening

1 1/2 cups sugar

1/3 cup molasses
- 2 eggs

1 1/2 tbsp ginger

1 1/2 tsp cinnamon

1 tsp salt

3 tsp baking soda



Preparation:

Add spices to the flour then add the creamed shortening and sugar. Add molasses and eggs. Mix well in a large bowl. Roll dough out in a floured surface. Use floured cookie cutters to make a gingerbread men.

Bake at 350 degrees oven for 10 to 12 minutes. Don’t let them brown too much. Can be decorated when cooled.



Do you have a favourite recipe, or one from a family member, which we might include in a future issue of the Voice? Thank you in advance for your contributions.

Please give to Evelyn Field or call 705-947-2303

See yourself in print!

KUDOS TO MARGARET

by: Sharon Peeling

Margaret....what can I say about this vibrant, boisterous, unique individual. She joined Christ Church choir in 1999 and has been a mainstay until she decided to retire in September of 2023.

Margaret is a person who belonging to either a choir, a committee, a spokesperson for the Voice or an exercise class, she gives it her all.

Nancy presented Margaret with a lovely bouquet of flowers on September 17th and thanked her on behalf of the choir and the congregation for a job well done.



Have You Ever Wondered How Hymns Are Chosen for Worship Service

by Nancy Wright-DeKuyper, Christ Church Lay Reader

For the last several months, with consultation from June Seaborn (Christ Church & St. George), I have selected the hymns for our services.

The chosen hymns are based on the lectionary texts for each given Sunday, usually with a common theme, from the Revised Common Lectionary, a service of the Vanderbilt Divinity Library. This online resource is easy to navigate, accessed by Church Year (A, B, or C), Season, and date.

For example, at the time of this writing, we are close to finishing the Season After Pentecost, Year A, which ends with Reign of Christ Sunday on November 23rd. We will then commence Year B, the first Sunday of Advent. When I navigate to the page for Reign of Christ, I read the lectionary texts, highlight a theme, and on the right side of the page there is another link to Art, Prayer, Colours, Hymns, etc. I click on the Hymns and this opens the page for Hymnary.org with a list of hymns "hand-selected by a Hymnary editor as corresponding to this lectionary week."

I browse the list and write down a selection of hymns with which most members of our congregations are familiar.

I then turn to the old-fashioned route of hard copy source: turning away from my laptop, I open our blue hymnal, Common Praise. There are two resources provided at the back. The first is thematic (Subject Index, pp 927-937) and the second is the Biblical Index (pp 937-960) which provides the corresponding hymns (by hymn number) that complement the scripture readings for each week.

Some lectionary texts list a great number of hymns; other readings may only have one or two. Accordingly, I write down several hymns from both resources which I add to my first list from Hymnary.org and then select the final four for each

week: Processional, Gradual, Offertory, and Recessional which "round out the themes of biblical readings used in a liturgy...enriching the total environment of worship in its various moments of gathering, proclamation, intercession, thanksgiving, and dismissal for mission." (Common Praise, pg. 937)

Although the hymnal is organized in sections which correspond to the time of date, frequent acts of worship, the Christian year, and various themes and topics of faith and devotion...[it] does not mean that every hymn in each section....cannot be used at other times." (Common Praise, pg. 8) For example, Hymn #181 is labelled a Sunday of the Passion hymn; it is also a recommended hymn for the Fourth Sunday of Advent, Year B. (Hymnary.org)

Selecting hymns is a joy-filled experience for me, a retired elementary music teacher. May we all continue "to make joyful noise unto the Lord..and come into His presence with singing." (Psalm 100)



Don't know the hymn?

Our Common Praise hymnal is online. " To hear what a particular hymn sounds like, simply use the hymn number menu to find the hymn you're after, then click on the arrow to hear the music. This site is optimized for use on smartphones, so you can listen to your favorite hymn just about anywhere. It's not really meant for singing along, its purpose is to help you know how the music goes."

Link: <https://www.commonpraiseonline.ca>

Marilyn McMillian

by: June Seaborn

I met Marilyn when she came to play the organ at St. George. When looking at my 1957-58 Teachers' College book, I discovered that we were there the same year but never met.

Marilyn could play by ear and gave us enjoyment when she played for nursing homes and the retirement home.

She was a faithful member of the IODE. She enjoyed her Teachers' groups and shared some meetings with me. During the pandemic, every Sunday at 12 noon, we sang, "O' Canada" with her neighbourhood. She always gave me a delicious lunch which I enjoyed and appreciated.

Every Wednesday, her daughter-in-law and two great grandsons came over to sing, draw and

play games. She loved her family and was proud of them all.



Wallie Brown told us he played at Marilyn and Ron's wedding in Trent River when he was only 15. I took the bulletin to Marilyn every Thursday, and we checked out the hymns for Sunday. Every year, Marilyn gave many of us the awesome McMillian corn and butter tarts, chocolate, and Tim Cards from our church. When Marilyn's health began to fail and stomach cancer was diagnosed, even treatments didn't help, and she passed away on September 6. She was given a beautiful, meaningful service attended by hundreds. Rest in peace, dear Marilyn. We will always miss you and your music.

Christ Church Prayer Shawl Ministry

By: Shirley Warr

Recently I gifted Dr. Robert Stephens with a beautiful handcrafted Prayer Shawl, combining some of his favorite colours. I had the pleasure of enjoying lunch with Dr. Bob & his lovely wife Sylver at Island Park Retirement Residence.

They are both doing well and enjoying their new surroundings. There are several shawls available, in many colour combinations. If you have a loved one, neighbour or friend who would find warmth, love, and peace with a shawl, please contact me at 705-947-2063.



SERVICE AT THE ROSENEATH FAIR

October 1. How shall we start the most beautiful month of the year? Let's go to a church service and then take in some of the Roseneath harvest fair on this golden Sunday morning!

A pleasant drive down to the Roseneath Fair Ground for the annual ecumenical service held this year in the old (not the new) fire hall. The weather was so beautiful that the service could have been held outside, and perhaps it would have, but for the display of dancing, playing, rather noisy dogs on the fairground. Rev. Jamie York decided to buck the canine competition, however, by serenading both the folks out on the fairgrounds and the congregation inside the hall as he rendered a rousing version of *Lord of The Dance* on the bagpipes from just outside the back door. That delightful ditty took place at the end of the service and had everyone singing joyously. One or two were even inspired to dance. (Notice the gentleman on the right in the photo)

This was indeed a day to be thankful; for both Rev. Jamie and Rev. Brad Smith gave homilies. Rev. Brad spoke on the well-known passage from Matthew wherein Jesus speaks about God's abiding love for all of creation. "The birds of the heaven . . . your heavenly father feeds them." Why then ought we to be anxious about our lives? To illustrate he (Brad not Jesus) quoted the great sage, Clint Eastwood: "Worrying is like a rocking chair. It gives you plenty to do but doesn't get you anywhere." A good thing to remember as we all grow a little older. Rev. Jamie



spoke to us about the Israelites' entry into the Promised Land. Moses nearing the end of his days, admonishes his people to cherish the land that God has given them. A gift from God to be used but cared for as well. We in the 21st century should take heed of this ancient story. We are a *part of* the biosphere, *not apart from* it. We often take for granted God's good earth, overuse it and extract too much from it at our own peril.

As we give thanks at harvest time each year, what better way to express our gratitude than to visit the country fair grounds after church. The entire morning had a turn of the century feel to it (20th, that is). We paid a call at the various stalls and pens of the most loveable farm animals in the county. Taking the message, we had heard at the service to heart, we gave thanks to the folks who raise these creatures and for the bounteous harvest they bring forth. "Hey Ma, put the kettle on! We got company for lunch!" Larry Ricciardelli, Agricultural Affairs Committee

Remembrance Day Reflection

by: Nancy Wright-DeKuyper, Lay Reader, Christ Church

Ours be the torch to hold it high.
If we break faith with those who die,
They shall not sleep,
though poppies grow in Flanders
Fields.

Remembrance is at the heart of our
Christian faith.
*"Do this in remembrance of me," said
Jesus, and we do so faithfully, Sunday
by Sunday.*

On Remembrance Day we
acknowledge the courage and sacrifice
of those who served our country and
acknowledge our responsibility to
work for the peace they fought hard
to achieve.

Service, Courage and Sacrifice – At
home, around the world and across
generations. This year marks the 75th
anniversary of the first United Nations peacekeeping mission and Canada has long been a leader in
international peacekeeping. The pioneering vision of Lester B. Pearson, Nobel Peace Prize Laureate and
Canada's 14th Prime Minister, helped pave the way for many large-scale peacekeeping missions that have
taken place around the globe over the decades. To date, 130 Canadian service members have died in these
missions, and we honour their service and sacrifice in the name of peace.

We especially remember those who gave their lives through war in service of our country. They left home
and family to foreign lands in the search of justice, freedom and peace, the effects of which we feel in our
society today. The world could have been a very different place for us without their sacrifice, which cannot
and should not be forgotten.

With this comes the call to renew our commitment and responsibility to live out that
hard-won and costly freedom to the utmost effect, building the world and our local
communities more and more in the way God wants them to be, with his lasting peace,
care and justice.

Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God. Matthew 5:9 NRSV



December 17th Lesson & Carols
Christ Church Campbellford 9:00am
St. George, Hastings 11:00am

Christmas Eve Services
December 16th 5pm St. James Roseneath
December 24th, Holy Communion
St. George, Hastings ~ 4pm
Morning Service Advent 4 11:00am
Christ Church, Campbellford ~ 7pm



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CHRIST CHURCH

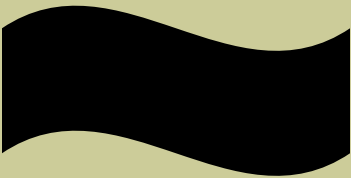
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