

THE GOOD NEWS



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Advent is a season observed in the Anglican churches as a time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of the Nativity of Jesus at Christmas as well as the return of Jesus at the second coming. The term is a version of the Latin word meaning "coming".

ADVENT REFLECTION

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

Advent and Christmas are, for many people in the Parish of Fitzroy Harbour, the most important seasons in the Church year, according to the Parish Survey. These two liturgical seasons speak to us of hope, joy, peace and love. In the gloominess of the longest darkness, they speak to us of good, positive things that enlighten and bring joy to our lives. It's important that we not lose sight of the importance of Advent and its time of preparation; the rest of the world is already in Christmas mode – you see signs of it on TV and in the streets, and even President Donald Trump has issued a Merry Christmas Tweet on Twitter. As Christians, we're in Advent mode right now – waiting with hopeful anticipation for Christmas, and also for that day "when He shall come again". Our preparation is both inward, as we get ourselves spiritually ready for the great celebration

of Christmas, and outward – as we prepare and get ready for Christmas. The Christmas Season begins on Christmas Eve and lasts up to Epiphany. There are twelve days of Christmas. These days have nothing to do with partridges in pear trees, and everything to do with Jesus Christ coming into the world. As John's Gospel tells us: "The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not overcome it." (John 1:5) Jesus is that light, an image that is so significant at this time of year when the daylight is at its minimal. Let's maximize our celebration. It saddens me when I pass by homes where I see the Christmas tree dumped out in the trash on December 26th (or as one colleague observed, on the evening of the 25th of December itself! ☹)! Christmas is not merely a day, but a perfect number of days to mark the birth of the Christ Child. As

Christians, we have a rich heritage of music and story around this special season; as Christian families from various cultures, we celebrate Christmas in many diverse and wonderful ways. We need to reclaim our hold on Christmas as a spiritual holiday, and perhaps we need to look to creating new ways as a Church and as families to celebrate the birth of Jesus too. I wish you a beautiful and peaceful Advent season: one of hope, love, peace and joy. As you journey through it, I pray that you will discover something new this year. I pray that God will startle you with something wonderful and spectacular in this special season. Let me conclude with the Advent blessing: Be steadfast in faith, joyful in hope, and untiring in love all the days of your life; and the blessing of God almighty, the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, be among you and remain with you always. AMEN.

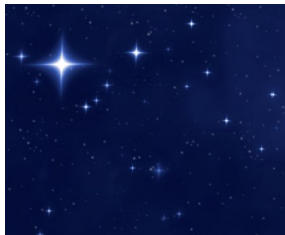
BLUE CHRISTMAS

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

We will be having a Blue Christmas service on Thursday, December 20th at 7:00 p.m. at St. Thomas's Anglican Church, Woodlawn, . This is a church service designed for those who for whatever reason find this time of year difficult. Through prayer, scripture and listening to music, we will have the opportunity to seek comfort and peace from the King of Peace and Holy Comforter, Jesus Christ.

All are welcome to attend





Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign: Behold, a virgin will be with child and bear a son, and she will call His name Immanuel.

Isaiah 7:14



Behold, I am coming soon! [...] I am the Alpha and the Omega, the First and the Last, the Beginning and the End.

Revelation 22:12a, 13



BARB STOPA

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

Barb is an Ottawa native who grew up in the Anglican Church. Her first memory is from the rectory in Mattawa, where her uncle, an Anglican priest, was based. When he was moved to Ottawa she helped in Sunday school with her cousins.

After a few years of actively taking part in her church community, Barb moved west, got married and stepped away. Years later, she returned east, children in tow, and met John through work. John, who would later become her husband, helped to lead her back. He invited her to attend the Anglican Church. It felt to her like she was coming home.

Barb was facing many challenges at that time. She had developed chronic and painful illnesses and had to undergo surgery, and then her mother passed away. Within a couple of years, Barb had to leave work because of her illnesses. John was there to help her along. They got married.

As John was moving towards become a priest, Barb was on her own spiritual journey along

with her physical challenges. She took part in a Cursillo, which she describes as a life-changing event. She got up early every morning to read her Bible and spend time with God. John was posted to a parish in the Pontiac. Together they faced the challenges that life has to offer.

Today, Barb rests every afternoon to help manage her chronic pain and fatigue, and is on a restricted diet. She attends one of the two services presided over by John each Sunday and goes to as many of the parish events as her illnesses will allow.

As she explains, life does not stop. She has discovered quilting, a hobby that has helped restore some of her energy. She is currently the President of the Quilters Guild of Renfrew. Barb describes this as a huge endeavor for someone like her, a self-described background person.

Barb would like to have an event where people bring in their crafts and share their work over a lunch, or have a drop in here in the parish.

Barb and John have the support and prayer of friends, including

Fran from St. Thomas' whom Barb and John have known for many years. It was a dream for Barb when John was first posted at Fitzroy Parish last year, and then later asked to stay. They bought a home in Renfrew four years ago, where they now live, they have worshipped in Arnprior and know many people there. They have many connections to the area and it feels to Barb like their lives have come full circle.

Looking ahead, Barb and John are staying put. They love St. George's and St. Thomas', and the people in the parish. They feel welcomed and are glad to be part of the Fitzroy and Woodlawn communities



MARCELLA TOMASI: THE JOURNEY CONTINUES

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE



Marcella comes to Canada and to St. Thomas' from South America. In her old country she was a teacher. She also worked at her church helping girls prepare for their confirmation and reaching out to help get vulnerable youth off the streets. A change in her life circumstances meant that she was no longer accepted where she was attending. It was a difficult time for her, and she became distant from

the church, although not from God.

Through the years she had continued to have a personal relationship with God, but she was missing the community of believers that is found in a church. She also wanted her young son Thomas to not only know God, but also be part of the community of believers. Marcella knew that she had to lead by example. Previous study of religion led her to consider the Anglican Church. She was in Constance Bay and so decided to look at St. Thomas'. Marcella called Father John who welcomed her into the community.

Marcella firmly believes that this has been the right decision for her and her son. Thomas has recently been baptized. Marcella has found the people at the

church to be, in her words, fantastic. She says that St. Thomas' and St. George's are places that accept people as they are and that here she is able to have a relationship with God through the community. Marcella has been on a long journey. Throughout she has rejoiced in her relationship with Christ and with Jesus. They have helped her when no one else was there for her. They helped her realize how much better all of us can be. She knows that she is still learning, that the journey is continuing but that she is enjoying it.

Marcella is now at a place where she wants to give back, to help in some capacity and get more involved. She intends on starting with baking cookies for the upcoming sale. She also points out that she loves to garden. (cont'd page 3)

MARCELLA TOMASI:

THE JOURNEY CONTINUES (CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

She is well aware that there are not many people her age at the church, but she wants it to part of her life and part of her son's life. That is why the baptism was so important for them. She wants to lead him by example.

Marcella is clear that she is at St. Thomas for the long haul. She wants to go as far as she can as an individual and as part of a community. After the many years when she felt that God was not there in a practical way, she is happy with her life now and with God. Community with people and with Jesus is important and it has made a huge difference to have that back in her life today.

A CHRISTMAS SERMON FOR ADVENT

FROM GEORGE MACDONALD

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

It is not the high summer alone that is God's. The winter also is His. And into His winter He came to visit us. And all man's winters are His-the winter of our poverty, the winter of our sorrow, the winter of our unhappiness-even 'the winter of our discontent.'

Winter does not belong to death, although the outside of it looks like death. Beneath the snow, the grass is growing. Below the frost, the roots are warm and alive. Winter is only a spring too weak and feeble for us to see that it is living. The cold does for all things what the gardener has sometimes to do for valuable trees: he must half kill them before they will bear any fruit.



Winter is in truth the small beginnings of the spring. The winter is the childhood of the year. Into this childhood of the year came the child Jesus;

and into this childhood of the year must we all descend. It is as if God spoke to each of us according to our need: My son, my daughter, you are growing old and cunning; you must grow a child again, with my son, this blessed birth-time. You are growing old and selfish; you must become a child. You are growing old and careful; you must become a child. You are growing old and distrustful; you must become a child. You are growing old and petty, and weak, and foolish; you must become a child-my child, like the baby there, that strong sunrise of faith and hope and love, lying in his mother's arms in the stable.

But one may say to me: 'You are talking in a dream. The Son of God is a child no longer. He is the King of Heaven.' True, my friends. But He who is the Unchangeable, could never become anything that He was not always, for that would be to change. He is as much a child now as ever he was. When he became a child, it was only to show us by itself, that we might understand it better, what he was always in his deepest na-

ture. And when he was a child, he was not less the King of Heaven; for it is in virtue of his childhood, of his sonship, that he is Lord of Heaven and of Earth-'for of such'-namely, of children-'is the kingdom of heaven.' And, therefore, when we think of the baby now, it is still of the Son of man, of the King of men, that we think. And all the feelings that the thought of that babe can wake in us, are as true now as they were on that first Christmas day, when Mary covered from the cold his little naked feet, ere long to be washed with the tears of repentant women, and nailed by the hands of thoughtless men, who knew not what they did, to the cross of fainting, and desolation, and death.

So, my friends, let us be children this Christmas. Of course, when I say to anyone, 'You must be like a child,' I mean a good child. A naughty child is not a child as long as his naughtiness lasts. He is not what God meant when He said, 'I will make a child. Think of the best child you know-the one who has filled you with most' (cont'd page 4)

SOME EVENTS OF THE FALL

Father John's Induction



Blessing the Animals



Holy Hops



Lasagne Dinner



PARISH COOKBOOK

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE



Food provided at recent pot-lucks, coffee times, cookie sales, fashion shows and general get-togethers is fabulous. It has also made some realize that it is time for another parish cookbook.

So please breakout those recipes and share them for what will be a good cause. Announcements and further details will be coming during services. For further information and to share your recipes, please contact: St. George's - Victoria Morency; St. Thomas' - Lorraine Madore, through the Parish Office at 613-623-3882.

But as for me, I will watch expectantly for the LORD; I will wait for the God of my salvation My God will hear me.

Micah 7:7

HOPE



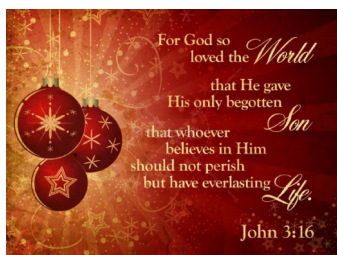
The Christmas message is that there is hope for a ruined humanity—hope of pardon, hope of peace with God, hope of glory.

J.I. Packer



And if I go and prepare a place for you, I will come back and take you to be with me that you also may be where I am.

John 14:3



REPORT FROM SYNOD 2018

SUBMITTED BY JIM WILSON

Four of our parishioners and Fr. John attended the 2018 Diocesan Synod in Ottawa. The Synod members are Jim Wilson and Gloria Wilson from St. Thomas' and Mary McNeill from St. George's. Tom Jones is People's Warden from St. George's. This combined report highlights some of the presentations at the Synod sessions.

Synod began with an evening Eucharist at Christ Church Cathedral, and the Bishop's charge to Synod.

The Friday and Saturday sessions were held at the St. Elias Centre. The keynote speaker was The Reverend Dr. Richard LeSueur, recently Dean of St. George's college in Jerusalem. He has been facilitating programs of pilgrimage in the Middle East for more than twenty-five years and spoke on Anglican ministry in the Holy Land. You can hear the Bishop's charge and the keynote addresses by going to the website:

<https://ottawa.anglican.ca/synod-2018/>

Rev. Monique Stone, in partnership with a local pharmacist, arranged to hand out naloxone kits to any Synod members who requested them. Naloxone can save the life of someone experiencing an opioid overdose.

Each year at Synod, one deanery makes a presentation about their activities. This year we heard about the ten churches in the Ottawa East Deanery.

Don Smith and Joyce Couvrette from the Refugee Ministry Working Group reported that over 700 refugees have been settled in Ottawa. This is more than any other diocese in the country.

Many Ottawa churches participate in "The Big Give", held the first Saturday in June. By providing free activities, items, or food to their communities, they become more relevant.

Peter Cazaly talked about the second year of the Trinity Cornwall Drop-in Centre which has grown from five to feeding over 500 people a month; they now operate three times a week from that church. Other people help out with free legal advice, haircuts; face painting, etc. for the people who are isolated in their community to a place of welcome and acceptance. This is reminiscent of what Gloria Wilson does at St. Luke's here in Ottawa.

After lunch Monica Patten updated us on the five diocesan ministries. Cornerstone has now opened a 42-unit facility for women at 373 Princeton

Ave... The Ottawa Pastoral Counseling Centre has grown and now operates as well in Carleton Place and Manotick. Centre 454 now only operates five days a week serving homeless and people living in poverty. St Luke's Table now serves 50 breakfasts and 150 lunches five days per week on a cost of \$2 per person per day for food. The Well serves 30 breakfasts and 70 lunches per day to women and children.

There were several reports from the Property and Finance Committee.

1. Sanjay Grover told us that three properties have been sold: St Matthias, Temple Pastures and St Mark's, Cumberland.
2. Jim Lyons reported that the diocesan headquarters at 71 Bronson is in need of a 1.9 million renovation which will start next year. Staff will move into the Cathedral and the Refugee Working Group into a parish. Funding for this renovation is through bank funding and will not impact Fair Share.
3. Diocesan HR management is complex; Jane Bridges has been hired as a part-time interim manager to identify risks and make recommendations. (cont'd page 6)

A CHRISTMAS SERMON FOR ADVENT FROM GEORGE MACDONALD (CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE

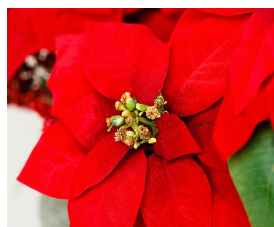
admiration. It is his child-likeness that has so delighted you. It is because he is so true to the child-nature that you admire him. Jesus is like that child. You must be like that child. But you cannot help knowing some faults in him—some things that are like ill-grown men and women. Jesus is not like him, there. Think of the best child you can imagine; nay, think of a better than you can imagine—of the one that God thinks of when he invents a child in the depth of his fatherhood: such child-like men and women must you one day become; and what day better to begin, than this blessed Christmas Morn? Let such a child be born in your hearts this day. Take the child Jesus to your bosoms, into your very souls, and let him grow there till he is one with your every thought, and purpose, and hope. As a good child born in a family will make the family good; so Jesus, born into the world, will make the world good at last. And this perfect child, born in your hearts, will make your hearts good; and that is God's best gift to you.

Then be happy this Christmas Day; for to you a child is born. Childless women, this infant is yours—wives or maidens. Fathers and mothers, he is your first-born, and he will save his brethren. Eat and drink, and be merry and kind, for the love of God is the source of all joy and all good things, and this love is present in the child Jesus.

(source: <http://messianicparsha.blogspot.com/2013/11/a-christmas-sermon-for-advent-from.html>)



Joy to the World! The Lord is
come;
Let earth receive her King;
Let every heart prepare him
room,
And heaven and nature sing.
Isaac Watts



"Everyone has gifts; we need
to be willing to use them."

Amy Newell



And if I go and prepare a
place for you, I will come
back and take you to be with
me that you also may be
where I am.

John 14:3



HONOURING AMY NEWELL'S LIFE OF SERVICE

SUBMITTED BY LORRAINE MADORE



St. Georges' in Fitzroy Harbour has honoured the memory of long-time member Amy Newell in a very special way. On November 25, 2018, the church hall was dedicated as The Amy Newell Hall. A banner with the new name has been mounted over the entrance into the hall and a plaque with Amy's picture now greets you as you step inside.



During the dedication Father John Stopa, the incumbent for Fitzroy Parish, which includes St. Georges', and Archdeacon David Selzer spoke in celebration of Amy. Both described the critical role she played during her 47 years at the church. Father John shared that he first met Amy in 1998, when he was going to the Seychelles as a theological student. Amy was involved in Volunteers in Mission, which helped to support these trips, and was delighted to have John take part in this ministry. In the following years Father John and Amy kept up

their friendship, meeting at Diocese and Synod, among other activities. When Father John was posted to Fitzroy Parish in January 2017, the first person he met when walked into was his friend Amy.

During Amy Newell 47 years at St. Georges', she was an active and consistent helping hand in the church and beyond. According to Father John, it had been said at vestry that "Amy ran the place."

A life spent serving others is no surprise. Amy was raised in a family that had long been involved in volunteering. One of her earliest memories is joining with her family to help at a seniors' home, her mother at the piano while she sang with her cousin. As she once explained, "I am carrying on what I've inherited, a strong faith, willingness to serve and a strong feeling of responsibility."



Amy was involved with Anglican Church Women at St. Georges' and at the Diocese. She took part several in national consultations including ministry consultations with the Church of England in 1987 and 1988. She was a member of Volunteers in Mission, including time spend as chair. She served as the Prolocutor of the General Synod from 1992 to 1995,

which is the second-highest elected official in the Anglican Church of Canada.

In 2005, Amy was presented with the Anglican Award of Merit, the highest honour that can be bestowed on an Anglican lay person.



At the time, then-primate, Archbishop Andrew Hutchison described her as a treasure, not only for her parish but for the whole Anglican Church of Canada, as well as a gift to the Anglican Communion.

Closer to home, Amy served as Warden, Catering Convener and sang in the choir. She ran the bridge club in Fitzroy Harbour, an organization with which she had been involved with since moving to the community in 1970. Among the many other activities she was involved in Amy enjoyed baking for coffee hour, and the bake sale in the fall.

Amy Newell passed away on February 22, 2018.

God Bless You Amy



On Jordan's bank, the Baptist's cry
Announces that the Lord is high;
Awake, and harken, for he brings
Glad tidings of the King of kings.

Traditional

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facebook.com/stgeorgesfitzroyharbour

Your business tag line here.

For to us a child is born,
To us a son is given,
And the government will be on
his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor
Mighty God,
Everlasting Father
Prince of Peace

Isaiah 9: 6



The Parish of Fitzroy Harbour is a community inspired and strengthened by the Holy Spirit guided through spiritual discernment, to Support, Share and Serve in the World

St. George's and St. Thomas' are strong churches, beautifully warm sanctuaries brimming with history, love and devotion. The sacred religious traditions are carried out by Father John

REPORT FROM SYNOD 2018 (CONT'D)

SUBMITTED BY JIM WILSON

We then heard from the Ottawa School for Parish Development followed by the Homelessness and Affordable Housing Group. We also heard about Provincial Synod and the Embracing God's Future Review Task Force. The day ended with dinner and entertainment.

On Saturday morning Jim Wilson led the Cursillo group in a short morning prayer. Gloria Wilson did the reading. William Postma, Executive Director of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund mentioned that they are now 60 years in existence as an organization, working in twenty-five countries with forty-five partner agencies. Our keynote speaker, The Reverend Dr. Richard LeSueur, returned and talked about Fresh Expressions with four key ideas: Messy Church, Outpost Ministry, Belong-Behave - Believe and Intentional Communities. Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two so we are meant to be together. This session was of particular relevance to diminishing congregations and to the ancient traditions of the Anglican Church which apparently do not currently attract the next young generations to traditional attendance and participation.

Dr. LeSueur asked 'Why do we have to go inside to be in God's house?'. He invited consideration of 'de-institutionalized spiritual practice; expansive and unpredictable, and communal'. Today, young people want their religious experience to be experiential, participatory, connected and image-rich.

In conclusion, he likened our work in evolving the Church today to four rules for living and surviving in the desert:

1. Never go alone
2. Take only what you can carry – and care for the flock
3. Expect anxiety – the way is not always clear, and
4. You have to want – solutions do not always emerge quickly

Jesus sent his disciples out two-by-two so we are meant to be together.

Suzanne Lee talked about the Multi-Faith Housing Initiative. In conjunction with the Canadian Legion and Salus Ottawa, this group is looking to open 40 units for homeless veterans on Rockcliffe Air Base.

Joe Gunn spoke about Citizens for Public Justice which deals with issues of poverty, refugee rights and ecological issues. A presentation by participants in the Youth Internship Program

emphasized the benefits of leadership training, mentoring and faith formation available to them, especially in their work placements.

There was a motion to change By-law 5.07 of the Canons, but it was referred to Diocesan Council for more discussion, and the formulation of a new motion next year. This original motion proposed changes to the method for allotting the number of Synod members per parish and would have reduced our parish synod delegates from three to one.

Diocesan lay and clerical delegates to General Synod were elected at Synod 2018. Mary McNeill volunteered as a scrutinizer in the election and enjoyed the experience.

Jim Wilson notes that he and Gloria have been delegates for about the last ten years and would welcome others to take their place in this important part of our church life.



PRAYER

SUBMITTED BY FATHER JOHN STOPA

Almighty God, give us grace to cast away the works of darkness and put on the armour of light, now in the time of this mortal life in which your Son Jesus Christ came to us in great humility, that on the last day, when he shall come again in his glorious majesty to judge both the living and the dead, we may rise to the life immortal, through him who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **AMEN.**