



The Anglican Regional Ministry of Saugeen Shores, Tara and Chatsworth



Reverend Carrie writes ...

Dear friends in Christ,

“The Lord is coming, always coming. When you have ears to hear and eyes to see, you will recognize him at any moment of your life. Life is Advent; life is recognizing the coming of the Lord.” Henri Nouwen

The above quote caught my attention this week as I was preparing to write this Advent letter to you. It became another thread that wove into the tapestry my head and heart are creating as I attempt to stay in the presence of Advent, under the relentless flow of Christmas frenzy.

I am prayerfully and quietly defending this season of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love as I attempt to breathe in peace and breathe out compassion. You may remember me speaking of something very similar last week during my Sunday sermon. I spoke of the babe whose birth we will celebrate very soon, and I spoke of the utter vulnerability and humanness of that child who even in his first breath breathed in compassion and breathed out peace—a peace that is in the very air we breathe.

That babe, Jesus, was, is and will always be the Prince of Peace. His very breath breathed the promise of peace into the world, a world that now holds the incarnate presence of Christ in its memory and

yes, even in its midst. Jesus is coming, always coming at every moment of our lives. We need only to look and listen for His presence. How easy it might be to miss that promise in the frenzied lead up to Christmas, where gaily decorated stores, lively piped music and endless activity might drown out the quiet and rhythmic breath of God with us. How easy it might be to miss that promise in the cacophony of grief, fear and anxiety experienced by so many in our community and in our world, where our own ragged breath-sounds drown out everything else. Advent invites us into a time of quiet reflection, hope-filled expectation, and prayerful preparation.

Advent is a season of expecting, waiting, and hoping for God ‘s coming into our lives and hearts in all moments, all places, and all times—past, present, and future.



In this season of Advent, in the season of Christmas and into the New Year, I invite you to join us as we gather and offer praise and thanksgiving to God, where we offer up our joys and our sorrows. You will find a space, a sacred and welcoming space where we come together, listening for the breath of God with us, breathing in His peace, and breathing out compassion.

God bless,

Rev'd Carrie



Post Pandemic Pondering:

While we are still grappling with COVID, there is no doubt that we are now in a post-pandemic stage of recovery from what has been the most devastating global event of my lifetime. The question of how we move forward from here is on the hearts and minds of every organisation and institution. The church is no different. And as the church consists of the faithful people of God, it is likely on all our hearts and minds as well.

Recently I was asked to bring our voice to a panel discussion held as part of the Anglican Executive Archdeacons of Canada Conference, held in Toronto. This was their first in-person conference since the pandemic. The evening I joined them, the topic of discussion was “Learning from COVID”. Our panel that evening comprised of The Venerable Douglas Fenton, Executive Archdeacon of New Westminster, Ms Janet Marshal, Director of Congregational Development for the Diocese of Toronto, and me—three panellists from three very different communities and experiences.

There were several questions that we discussed, and a couple of them have stayed with me since that gathering, and I thought it might be helpful to share some of that with you.

The first question we discussed was about what we had discovered about the church over the past two years that gives us the most hope for the future. HOPE. The meaning of HOPE is to cherish a desire with anticipation: to want something to happen or be true. What I heard and offered in that discussion has filled me with a sense of peace like no other these past few weeks. There is no denying that we look and feel very different from who we were back in March of 2020. A lot has happened. People have moved away, passed away, or simply faded away. It would be so easy to focus on the loss we have all experienced during these past few years, but what we focused on as a starting place in our discussion that night was hope.

What gave us all HOPE was the incredible resiliency of the church and the people who make up this wonderful body. There was energy and passion behind the stories told of quick and creative ways cobbled together to keep people together and worship flowing. Whether the budget for broadcasting rivalled Hollywood, or was on a shoestring, people around Canada found ways to preach the good news of the gospel to a scattered and frightened people. Creativity is a gift directly from the very nature of God. The God of all creation, who made us in God’s own image instilled in us the very gifts we need to not just survive but thrive in a sometimes hostile and uncertain world.

Hope also was felt in our ability to set aside personal agendas and ambitions to work together. Churches reached out to one another, sharing ministries, resources, and creative ideas. We became global church attenders as we surfed the web for worship experiences that added new flavours to our palette. There was a deepening awareness of how crucial our connection to one another is, and how, through the working of the Holy Spirit, gifts and talents, new ways and sometimes old ways were raised up to meet the changing needs of our communities. We were reminded of our call to care for the sheep, not count the sheep, even as we go looking for our wandering sheep, because the landscape is so different. Hope was expressed in the many ways we are discovering how to care for one another, how we gain courage and confidence in trying new and exciting ways to be church, and to discover that we can do things differently.

There were many other questions discussed that night in Toronto, and I look forward to sharing more of them with you in the weeks ahead. As we approach the Christmas season with great expectation, holding hope, joy, peace and love in our hearts, may we hold most especially to the Hope that kindles a light in us that no crisis or pandemic can extinguish. It is the light of Christ shining out into the world, rejoicing and proclaiming, “Joy to the world, the Lord has come!

Rev’d Carrie



All is calm, all is bright...

You might be surprised to learn more about one of our most beloved Christmas Carols! It didn't begin as an English hymn. About 204 years ago in a small town in the Austrian Alps just a few weeks before December 25, a calamity occurred- the organ in the local church broke down. Imagine the thoughts of panic in the heart of the village priest as he went for a walk to ponder. What he experienced however, was the view of peace, a view of beauty, a sense of the holiness of the season. He knew that it would be hard to carry out the majesty of so many special hymns without the traditional organ so he decided to create a new hymn that could be enjoyed with just a simple instrument for accompaniment. His name was Father

Joseph Mohr and a few years earlier he had written a poem that captured his sense of calm & awe. He took the lyrics to his friend Franz Gruber, a teacher, organist & choir director who composed a melody that could easily be played by guitar. That Christmas Eve in 1818, the two of them debuted this classic carol as **Stille Nacht Heilige Nacht**. The rest is history! Over the years, the carol was heard by others, shared by the organ repairperson, by touring choir groups, by travelling folk singers and in 1839 a family of singers sang it in New York City. Over the years, rumour had it that the melody must

have been written by an esteemed composer like Mozart or Beethoven but in 1994 an original score in Mohr's script confirmed Gruber as the composer. Translations of this beloved carol have been made in hundreds of languages. By 1914, it was sung in French, German & English around the world. This Christmas, as you sing the beautiful words of **Silent Night**, appreciate the simple notes and imagine the Holy Wisdom of God flowing through the original composers and be thankful. Smiles,

Marilyn
Stewart



Assisting With Refugee Sponsorship:

At the beginning of our November 13th service, I reported very good news to share with members of St. Paul's. The Anglican Church of Canada, through participating dioceses, including Huron Diocese, is the largest sponsor of refugees in the country. Sponsorship can be by any community group, but, according to Huron's agreement with the government, it must be supported by a parish within the Diocese.

You may remember that last fall, Southampton hosted a number of refugees that the Canadian government had airlifted out of Kabul, Afghanistan. One of those refugees has been working at the Blue Mountain Resort since last December. Through the grace of God, some good luck, and persistence by many people, St. George's Church, Clarksburg, which is in our Diocese, has agreed to sponsor this refugee's parents and younger sister, who escaped to Pakistan last winter.

St. Paul's Parish Council voted unanimously to contribute \$5,000 to the fundraising effort, with the provision that if it is not needed to reach the \$55,000 goal, it will go to the Diocesan Refugee Committee to help bring other refugees, regardless of nationality, to Southwestern

Ontario. Our \$5,000 comes from interest on the Bevan Fund, part of our large endowment, and is completely separate from our Operating Budget and the contributions you make to assure our daily witness here in Southampton. Many of us knew Josephine Bevan well and

I'm sure you will agree that she would be pleased to know her legacy could be used in this way.

Earlier in November, the rector of St. George's advised me that they have already reached the fundraising goal, but are continuing the campaign because of broad community support (including from Southampton and other parishes in the Deanery of the Saugeens) and the desire to help parishes elsewhere in the Diocese sponsor other refugees. It is now likely that much, if not all of St. Paul's contribution will be used in this way.

Last weekend, the Huron Refugee Committee forwarded a report from Immigration, Refugee, Citizenship Canada ("IRCC") that acknowledged receipt of all the application forms and supporting documents in good order, and assigned a "G" number for this family. This means we have fulfilled the application requirements and it is now up to IRCC to determine if these people meet all of

Canada's other requirements for admission. That will likely take many weeks, especially as conditions in Pakistan, where the family is sheltering, are very bad.

We hope and pray that the family can be reunited within a few months.

If you have questions or want more information, please feel free to speak to the Rector, Wardens, Treasurer, or me.

Sincerely,

Bill Bowden



2023 Church Calendars Are Available Now!

Have you purchased your 2023 church calendar yet. If not, call Ann at the church office (519-797-2984), or Thelma or Scott. The cost is \$10, with proceeds assisting the ministry of the Chancel Guilds.



If you wish to place flowers in the church for the Christmas season, contact Scott or Thelma.





Great Christmas Gift Ideas

Give the gift of knowledge and truth

Let's encourage reconciliation by increasing our understanding of Indigenous issues, cultures, and history.

These amazing books by Indigenous authors will open hearts and help with healing. Maybe we can start a book club in 2023!

Adults

True Reconciliation How to be a Force For Change: by Jody Wilson-Raybould

Indian Horse by Richard Wagamese

Five Little Indians by Michelle Good

Son of a Trickster by Eden Robinson

The Marrow Thieves by Cherie Dimalin

Call Me Indian: From the Trauma of Residential School to Becoming the NHL's First Treaty Indigenous Player by Fred Sasakamoose

Moon of the Crusted Snow by Waubgeshig Rice

From the Ashes: My Story of Being Métis, Homeless, and Finding My Way by Jesse Thistle

Seven Fallen Feathers by Tanya Talaga

Jonny Appleseed by Joshua Whitehead

Children's books:

Nokum Is My Teacher by David Bouchard, illustrated by Allen Sapp

PHYLLIS'S ORANGE SHIRT, Phyllis Webstad

Shi-shi-etko by Nicola I. Campbell, illustrated by Kim LaFave

Sometimes I Feel Like a Fox by Danielle Daniel

The Moccasins by Earl Einarson, illustrated by Julie Flett

Coyote Tales by Thomas King, illustrated by Byron Eggenschwiler

A Promise Is A Promise by Michael

Kusugak and Robert Munsch, illustrated by Vladyana Krykorka

Being Christian, by Rowan Williams

The following is taken, verbatim, from the Introduction to this book, and written by Rowan Williams, former Archbishop of Canterbury (2002 - 2012), a Welsh theologian and poet. He says:

“What are the essential elements of the Christian life? I am not thinking in terms of individuals leading wonderful lives, but just in terms of those simple and recognizable things that make you realize that you are part of a Christian community. This little book is designed to help you think about four of the most obvious of these things: baptism, Bible, Eucharist and prayer.

Christians are received into full membership of the Church by having water poured or sprinkled over them (or, in some traditions, being fully immersed); Christians read the Bible; Christians gather and share bread and wine in memory of the death and resurrection of Jesus of Nazareth; and Christians pray. There is a huge and bewildering variety in Christian thinking and practice

ROWAN WILLIAMS
**BEING
CHRISTIAN**
BAPTISM, BIBLE, EUCHARIST, PRAYER

about all kinds of things, but these four basic activities have remained constant and indispensable for the majority of those who call themselves Christians.

In this book we shall be looking at what those activities tell us about the essence of Christian life, and what kind of people we might hope to become in a community where these things are done.

These chapters are based on talks given in Canterbury Cathedral as part of a regular series of open lectures during Holy Week”.

This accessible and thought-provoking book, **Being Christian**, is being used as a weekly book study throughout Advent. Everyone is invited to join the group, either in person at St. John's, Port Elgin, or virtually via Zoom link. Sessions are taking place on Wednesday evenings (Nov. 30, Dec 7,14,21), between 7 and 8:30 pm, and ending with Compline. The four sessions will allow discussion on Baptism, Bible, Eucharist, and Prayer. Mark these dates on your calendar, and plan to attend, allowing you to rediscover these essential elements of our Christian life.

St. Paul's, Chatsworth Shares of its Mission to the Community:

On October 12 this year members of St. Paul's Chatsworth shared of its legacy from the sale of the church building



Chatsworth Hub: Mayor Scott Mackey, Kara Borowski, Kim Stewart, Rev Annie, Heather Stirling, Maureen Campsall, Diane Spencer

with a massive cheque presentation event held at St. Stanislaw's Church in Chatsworth. The four worthy recipients of St. Paul's gifts were The Chatsworth Hub which is fund raising for the new community centre, affectionately called "The Hub". Also present was Chatsworth Legion Branch 464, The Agricultural Society and a great contingent from the Food Bank which operates out of the basement of St. Stanislaw's. It was exciting and yes, sad too, to be able to be part of the continued mission and ministry in Chatsworth. Great work by Heather Stirling who piloted the ship on this endeavour to have St. Paul's Chatsworth continue to give to their home town from the proceeds of the church sale.



Chatsworth Legion Branch 464: Mayor Scott Mackey, Legion President Steve Nickels, Rev Annie, Heather Stirling, Maureen Campsall, Diane Spencer



Chatsworth Agricultural Society: Mayor Scott Mackey, Ag Soc President Joanne Anderson, Rev Annie, Heather Stirling, Maureen Campsall, Diane Spencer



Chatsworth Food Bank (Outreach):

Maureen Campsall, Janet McCarthy, Lois Gamble, Faye Phinney, Mayor Scott Mackey, Rev Annie, Bill King, Heather Stirling, April King, Brandon Stauffer, Diane Spencer, Marlene King, Carol Deering, Bruce Glasser and Carl Seeley

St. John's Antique, Vintage and Collectible Show Funds Distributed:

St John's Congregation was pleased to distribute the Antique, Vintage and Collectible Show funds this week. Tara and Area Food Bank, Salvation Army Food Bank, and Living Hope Food Bank received \$1,667.00 each. Special Olympics Central Bruce to support their bowling / swimming programs and Saugeen Shores Police Contingency Fund each received \$500.

The remaining \$5000 of profits were donated to support St John's church operational costs. All organizations were thrilled for the much needed donations!

Mark your calendar July 14th and 15th 2023....Our 45th Show and Sale!!!



Christmas / New Years Service / Vestry Schedule for the Regional Ministry

Saturday, December 24—Christmas Eve

5 PM Family Service at St. John's

7 PM Holy Eucharist Service at Christ Church

8 PM Candlelight Holy Eucharist Service at St. Paul's

Sunday, December 25—10 AM Christmas Day Eucharist at St. John's

Sunday, January 1— 10 AM Epiphany Holy Eucharist Service at St. Paul's, followed by Brunch

Vestry Dates: Jan 22—St. Paul's, January 29—Christ Church, February 5—St. John's



From the Priest Assistant's Pew:

Advent—a time when we don't see the sun very often, anticipate the coming of The Son, and spend time worrying about travel for the first time in months. It's a time where we pack up the summer/fall and open up the cartons, boxes and crates of trees, trimmings, cards and lights. We also open up, in our hearts, the hope—the hope of the Coming One—the One that is, as Carrie+ says often, fully human and fully Divine. It's also a time, for me, to reflect on the year past. What was fun? What

wasn't? What was joyful and life giving, what am I glad that I don't have to worry about? In early December, I "switch over" to a new planner for the coming year. You know the



deal. You have to look at the "old" one to see that you don't miss anything in the future plans you've made. I know what you're thinking...why not electronic? Well, if you know my life, there are way too many schedules, notes, stickies and plans that one little electronic device simply doesn't cut it. I like to think I'm recording things in an analog way, slowly, methodically, with colour, with flourish...not old school, really, just making it more 3D!

Christ Church Tara participated once again at the Tara Festival of Crafts. Pictured here is the "table of wares", and what a table it was! The Christ Church Team rallied by

baking, canning, sewing, knitting, crocheting, lugging, sorting, labelling and caring about every item that went out for sale. It was a team effort and though there were challenges, it was fun! (Oh, and the Guild made money too, best ever actually). Christ Church Guild then shared of its abundance by giving to local, community, global, provincial and Diocesan causes near and dear to their heart. They do this every year. They have a list, they discuss, they care.

As we approach Christmas and its planning and prepping and worry (about travel weather) and staying healthy, we need to look back at our gifts. The ones that we've received, the ones that we've given away and also the ones that are yet to come. We may not know what those ones are that are to come but we do know the Child Christ, born to us, yes US, so many years ago came into the world to be our Saviour, to live for us, die for us and care for us like no one has ever or will ever again. As we live in the joy of the next few weeks, let's be thankful that we have been able to

participate in events that have been put on hold. Let's remember the reason for the season! Jesus Christ the Lord!

Shalom

Rev. Annie+



St. Paul's Anglican Church, 248 High Street, Southampton, ON, N0H 2L0 519-797-2984

St. John's Anglican Church, 516 Mill Street, Box 1059, Port Elgin, ON, N0H 2C0 519-832-5757

Christ Church, 56 Bruce Road 17, Tara, ON, N0H 2N0

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