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Holy Trinity Church, Thornhill

Established in 1830

**Trinity Monthly**

DECEMBER 2016

*"Something good is happening here!!"*

## THANKS

Thanks to Swan Li, office administrator, Rachel Yoon, organist, the choir, liturgical assistants, sidespersons, organizers of the reception, and all who supported the newly minted Fr. Jeff at his ordination on Nov. 20. It's was a blessed occasion. He celebrated his first mass on the following Tuesday. We pray God's blessing on his priestly ministry.

## SERMON SERIES

**Nov. 27, December 4 & 11**

**DWELLING IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD:** A 3-part sermon series during the season of **Advent** by the Rev. Jeff Potter...



As the world around us buys and sells a sanitized version of the Christmas story, we invite you into a season of preparation in which the brokenness of humanity collides with the love of God. For the first three Sundays in Advent, Fr Jeff will lead us in as we "argue this out."

## CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM

Our annual CAP, a joint ministerial project with Thornhill churches, is underway. We accept donation of non-perishable food items, new toys and "cash" which is to purchase supermarket gift-cards to allow families to buy fresh items. To donate cash please send in your cheque **payable to Holy Trinity Church**, and mark with 'Christmas Assistance'. **We'd appreciate receiving cheques by Thursday December 1, 2016** so that they can be used for 2016 program.

## SENIORS' LUNCHEON

**Wednesday December 7**

Join us for **11:00 am Eucharist**, then move to auditorium for lunch. We welcome all mature adults to this fellowship. To ensure adequate kitchen staff, tables/seats and food, if you are planning to come, please **notify Jean Challoner at 905 889 1413** or the church office 905 889 5931 ext. 21.

## REMEMBRANCE & HOPE

**December 7**

The annual Service of Remembrance & Hope will be held at **7:30 pm on Wednesday, December 7** with reception after the service. It is excellent place to care for your grief, whether recent or longer-standing. Please consider joining us. Hang a white dove on our Christmas tree in memory of your loved ones.

## ARTFUL HOLIDAYS

**December 3 & 4**

Free yourself from pre-Christmas stress and come to enjoy the Rev. Don Downer's wildlife photography (including Australian beauties), watercolours by Sandra MacPherson, and crocheted items by budding artist Kate Macpherson. HTC Auditorium between **10:00 am - 4:00 pm**, on **Saturday & Sunday December 3 & 4**. FREE Admission.

## STEWARDSHIP 2017 PRIORITIES

It's time again for us to considered how we will engage the Mission of God during the coming year. The Churchwardens will soon begin to consider our 2017 budget. They will be greatly helped if we give them an indication of the level of our financial commitment. All the information needed may be found in the mailing of the current edition of Trinity News. Please read the document carefully, pray about your ministry in the context of our parish family and **return the pledge card on or before Commitment Sunday, December 11**.

## CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

Parents/Grandparents, please plan on coming to our Christmas Pageant (The Innkeeper's Christmas), part of the Family Service, on **Dec. 24, Christmas Eve, at 5:00 p.m.**

Children are always welcome to join us. If they would like to be part of the Pageant, we need them in Room B (lower hall) by 4:30 p.m. in order to dress in costume. If they just want to be part of the congregation, they are invited to sit in the front pews.

Thank you to all of you who donated Shoe Box Gifts to Samaritan's Purse. We delivered 46 shoe boxes.

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Just a gentle reminder to HTC Knitters - if you are able, amidst the hustle & bustle of December - please complete your shawl (*don't forget to knot any raw yarn ends!!*), as I'd like to make a delivery to Chaplain George at Mackenzie Health hospital the week before Christmas.

Thanks -

Cathy, the Christmas Knit-Wit

## SIDESPEOPLE & GREETERS WELCOME TEAM

Thank you! to all team embers who have assisted with, and contributed to the 8:00 & 10:00 and special services during November and December. Much appreciated!

## **PARISH HEALTH MINISTRY**

Every so often we find that a parishioner has been in hospital or unable to come out to church and Stephen and I haven't known, so we can visit or call. As the colder weather approaches, please let us know if you notice someone is missing or that you have concerns about. When health challenges arise, that is especially when we want to be supportive. I am also continuing to look for people willing to be pastoral visitors. You would only have one or two people to visit per month, depending on the amount of time you have to give to the ministry. A pastoral visitor's training course is required and is available periodically through the diocese or Major Mackenzie Hospital. Even if you are away for some of the winter, visiting can be done when you're available. Please give this some thought, it can be very rewarding.

I want to remind you that I have a library of health related books and articles. There are Alzheimers and caregiving materials, heart and stroke, nutrition and immunization, depression, resources; a wide variety of materials that previous parish nurse and I have gathered. Please consider contacting me if any of it may be helpful, or if you have questions.

Our **Remembrance and Hope service Dec 7 at 7:30 pm** is a good way to help all who are grieving over this up-coming holiday time. Even if it has been a few years, the loss of a loved one can be felt acutely at special times like Christmas. I will be putting out materials for advent to help with grieving during this time, as well. One sheet can be used with the advent wreath. These handouts will be at the back of the church from the first Sunday of Advent.

For those who prefer not to go out after dark, here are the churches that hold the services during the day:

Lansing United Church 49 Bogert Ave., North York	<b>Sunday Dec. 4 10:00 am</b>
St. Theodore of Canterbury Anglican Church 111 Cactus Ave., Toronto	<b>Wednesday Dec. 7 3:00 pm</b>

With the shorter day light hours and increasing cold, don't forget to plan for regular physical activity, to keep you healthy over the winter. There are lots of programs available nearby that will provide a physical and social benefit. *Susan*

## **OUTREACH**

Do you have someone to whom you would like to give a Christmas gift, but are not sure what to give. PIKANGIKUM WATER PROJECT gift cards are for sale for \$2.00 each in the auditorium. A donation can be made by making a cheque payable to Holy Trinity Church, clearly marking it for the Pikangikum project.

## **CHRISTMAS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

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### ***Richmond Hill Food Bank, All Saints Community Kitchen/ Clothing Closet, Eva's Place***

As of November 25, there have been 28 deliveries of canned/package food and personal use items to the Richmond Hill Food Bank, All Saints Community Kitchen and Eva's Place. There also have been nine deliveries of adult apparel to the All Saints Clothing Closet. THANK YOU! for your continued interest and support including financial contribution to purchase food items. Much appreciated!

## **2016 TAX RECEIPTS**

Please be reminded that to qualify for 2016 tax receipts your contribution need to arrive in the church office by Dec.30.

## **DRAFT PRIORITIES**

Last month, we introduced the draft 2017-2020 Priorities. These priorities seek to define, in broad terms, our purpose at Holy Trinity, Thornhill as we address what is "immediate" for us. As we look to the future, all members are invited to discuss what has been presented and share their thoughts with the Wardens and clergy. Vestry will be asked to approved them and commit the parish to use them as our road map to 2020.

As you do, please consider the following questions.

- Which of the following Ministry Areas do you think ought to be our TOP PRIORITY
- Which Bible verse or Bible story highlights this priority for you?
- As you read the "action items" in the priority you have identified, which "action" should be the first to be attempted?
- What other action should be considered in the priority you have identified?

Thanks for your support.

## **LOOKING FORWARD: 2017**

All women of the Church are invited to the **ACW Annual General Meeting & Potluck Supper** on **Tuesday, January 17 at 6:00 pm**. We will have a guest speaker not yet named.

On Sunday January 29 at 10:00 am we will celebrate **ACW Ingathering Service** with our very special preacher, Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald. All members of the parish will come out to welcome him.