



THE NATIVITY

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FALL 2016

Issue No. 34

A Message from the Rector...

I really like Anne Lamott's idea that there are only three kinds of prayers: "Wow," "Help Me," and "Thank You."

"Wow" prayers marvel at God's goodness, or the way God's glory is displayed. Sometimes we get caught by a beautiful rainbow; a visit to Niagara Falls astonishes us; or an act of self-less kindness delights and moves us to wonder and to praise.

"Help Me" prayers aren't to be knocked. We pray them when we remember how dependent we are on God and on another, how we need help to make it through what we're facing. Whether it's medical news or moving to a new home, or worry for a child or self—we are a people who do better with help. And it's an ok and even a good thing to ask for help—from God or from a fellow human being.

"Thank You" prayers are the ones that I find myself praying the most. The simple daily act of saying grace before each meal—remembering that what we have is a gift from God—moves me to gratitude and transforms me into someone who starts from a place of delight.

One of the deep privileges I enjoy as the rector of the Church of the Nativity is how often I get to say thank you. I love thanking the servers, the readers, the choir, the altar guild, the communion ministers, the greeters Sunday by Sunday as they take roles in making our worship services possible. I love thanking the myriad volunteers who make our community lunches places of laughter and joy. I love thanking each of you for making our common life possible: the years of being the Church of the Nativity and the way together we join to say wow, to ask for help—and to thank God for all that is lavished upon us.

Harvest is about more than just having enough. It's about more than just the astonishing riches of this beautiful planet. Harvest is also about taking time to be thankful for the people in our parish community and in our larger community who make life richer and better and more full of joy.

Let us join our hearts and voices and give thanks to God!

- Matthew

From the Wardens

It's been a busy summer and early fall, with much going on! We were glad to welcome Bishop Michael to join us for a wonderful celebration of our tenth anniversary as the Church of the Nativity on September 11th, and are so grateful to all who made the luncheon that day a special occasion.

We've seen a number of improvements to our facility this year. We're grateful to a number of our parish groups that have helped to make them happen.

- Our organ received some much-needed servicing in the early summer; quite a number of pipes weren't sounding at all. After two weeks, the stops have been fixed and they're back in working order! We thank the Bag Ladies and the lunch program for making this work possible.
- Bartonville Hall looks fresh and clean with its new coat of paint! Again, our thanks to the Bag Ladies for making that space more vibrant and pleasant to be in. We should note that we've heard the concerns about how hard it can be to hear in Bartonville Hall, and are investigating how best to dampen the echoes.
- We made an investment from our Memorial Fund to increase the number of hearing assist devices available in the church. We purchased four units when we first upgraded the sound system, but there have been many Sundays when we haven't had enough units for all who wanted them, and so we have added two more.

The Canada Summer Jobs program funded some 77,000 positions for students this summer, and one of them worked with us here at the Nativity! Thanks to hard work from Laura in putting together our grant application, we were able to hire Ms. Sabrina Pinto to be with us and to put together a great curriculum for our Sunday School program for the fall and the winter.

We are still looking for volunteers to work with our children and young people, and hope that you'll consider helping out: the resources that Sabrina created make it an easy thing to do—and our children and young people are delightful!

We are also looking to hire a new nursery coordinator, and hope to be able to give you an update soon.

As your wardens, we work hard to make sure that all of our investments in ministry are used carefully and well. It's our responsibility to share with you that our parish givings are down by \$3,200 at the beginning of September from where they were last year. Please join us in praying and thinking about how you can support the parish's ministry. If you've never considered Pre-Authorized Giving, it's worth thinking about it now: it's easy, Laura can help you get set up, and it regularizes the parish cash flow throughout the summer months when numbers drop a bit.

SABBATICAL

The Reverend Matthew Griffin will be on sabbatical leave from October 1st through November 10th. The bishop has appointed our honorary assistant, the Reverend Canon David Linn, as priest-in-charge during Matthew's sabbatical. We're very glad to have someone we know and trust to support us during this time, and are grateful to him for agreeing to be with us!

MEMORIAL GIFT

We are deeply grateful to Mr. Bill Wear, who before his recent death, arranged to give a set of Sanctus bells to the Church of the Nativity.

Sanctus Bells have been used since the fifth century, chiming and joining with our voices as we praise God in the celebration of the Eucharist. They're rung at the beginning of the "Sanctus"—the part of the prayer that begins "Holy, Holy, Holy", echoing the song sung in God's throne room (Isaiah 6.1—5), and at the end of the Eucharistic prayer as the gifts are elevated.

Bishop Michael blessed the bells when he was with us on the morning of our 10th anniversary, and we look forward to using them on special occasions!



HARVEST FESTIVAL – SUNDAY, OCTOBER 2, 2016

The Decorating Committee will be at the church on Saturday, October 1st from 9am to 12 noon to accept donations of fruits, vegetables and spices to decorate the church. All donations will go to St. Matthew's House so others in need may enjoy a happy Thanksgiving.



Our **Annual Harvest Lunch** will be held after the service on Sunday, October 2nd. If you are able to supply a dish of scalloped potatoes or vegetables, please see Elaine Fleming or call her at 905-870-9217.

Included in your newsletter is a Thanksgiving offering envelope.

NATIVITY MARKETPLACE AND BAKE & DELI SALE

Saturday, November 26th

Mark your calendar and join us on Saturday, November 26th between 9am and 2pm for our Nativity Marketplace & Bake Sale. This is a great opportunity to get all of your Christmas shopping done as well as buying those baked goods and deli items for your Christmas parties! Vendors who have already booked a spot at our Marketplace include those selling glass creations, Christmas Crafts, handmade cards, hand-knitted items, antiques, plus much more! And don't forget our very own Bake & Deli table filled with delicious goodies!

In the weeks before the sale we will be putting a recipe on the table in the narthex and asking you to bake for our sale! If you'd like to share one of your recipes, please call or email the Church Office. Containers will be available to take home and fill up (and bring back)! Goodies that are always popular include things like Belgian cookies, lemon squares, brownies, and pies. If you are making relish or pickles this fall, please think of the bake & deli sale and make a jar or two for the sale!

There are still tables left to rent. If you would like to rent a table please call the Church Office at 905-549-4335 or email nativity@cogeco.ca. The cost is \$25 for one 6ft. table.



CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDAR

If you are interested in purchasing a 2017 Canadian Church Calendar for only \$5.00, please sign up on the sheet on the table in the Narthex or call the Church office.

THE MARK PREECE HOUSE - UPDATE

We had a very successful response to our appeal for donations in June. They were truly appreciative of our efforts when we delivered the supplies. Thank you to everyone who helped with this project.

On Friday, September 16, in conjunction with our Community Lunch Program, we supported their "Thyme4Dinner" program. We prepared and delivered 30 meals for the families who were staying in the house.



NEWS FROM THE LADIES' GROUP

We welcome all ladies to join us on the second Monday each month (except October – which is on the third Monday) beginning at 11:30 am in Addison Hall. . We start with a brown-bag lunch and lots of good fellowship. Following lunch we either have a guest speaker or deal with current business. Please call Blanche for further information 905-573-3891.

SPECIAL GUEST IN OCTOBER

The ladies will welcome Mr. John Clinton at our October meeting. John is the Executive Director of the ***St. Leonard's Society of Hamilton***. They provide a therapeutic environment for those who need help making the transition from a life behind bars to independent living. They operate two halfway houses in Hamilton. We welcome everyone at the Nativity to join us on Monday, October 17 at noon to welcome John. It is sure to be an interesting and enlightening presentation.

COMMUNITY LUNCHES

Since November 2009, we have been providing lunch on the ***third Friday*** each month downstairs in Addison Hall. These events have proven to be very popular and on October 21st we are preparing to serve 140 people. Our sincere thanks to everyone who has willingly volunteered to help us and to those who join us each month for lunch. For the very reasonable price of \$5.00, you can enjoy a hot entrée with two vegetables, rolls, juice, dessert and beverage. We serve continuously from 11:30 am until 12:30 pm. PLEASE JOIN US.

PENNY SALE

Our fall Penny Sale is scheduled for Wednesday, November 2nd. These sales are great fun and your support in the past has been appreciated. We hope you will continue to help us with donations of new articles such as toys, linens, gift cards, baby items, household items, handmade crafts, toiletries, etc. Have you received gifts that you have never had an opportunity to use? We gladly accept re-gifts! They can be dropped off at the church office anytime.

NEWS FROM YOUR OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Baby Drive

The Baby Drive begins in November. Together, let's fill the playpen in the narthex with baby items, food, toiletries, clothing and anything else you can think of that babies and toddlers need!

Operation Christmas Child -- "The Shoebox Project"

Shoeboxes will be available the week of October 9th if you'd like to fill one. Please see Jeanette Piper if there are none on the table in the Narthex. The boxes are due back no later than November 13th. Great items include:



- **School Supplies** –pencils, pens, pencil crayons, note pads, and picture books
- **Toys & Other Gifts** - stuffed animals, small musical instruments, hair clips, toy jewelry, t-shirts, socks, and candy (loose, individually wrapped hard candy in a sealable bag)
- **Hygiene Items** - Please place soap in a sealable bag. Do not include toothpaste, or shampoo (anything liquid or that can break).
- **NO CANDY OR FOOD**

STAMPS



We received a letter during the summer from the stamp coordinator at Oxfam Canada, thanking us most sincerely for our donations of used stamps. Just leave a wide space around the stamps and deposit them in the basket in the Narthex.

He has requested that we be on the lookout for large stamps and foreign stamps. They collect complete picture postcards... old, very old and modern ones from Canada or any part of the world. If you have old envelopes or postcards from the war years, these would be gratefully appreciated.