

# EMMANUEL ANGLICAN CHURCH

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## MERRY CHRISTMAS



### Message from the Rector

*Advent is one of the shortest seasons of the year, and is also one of the busiest seasons. It is as if there is no time to prepare our hearts and minds for Christmas, since our world seems to forget this important time of year.*

*Traditionally, Advent has focused on four themes: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Each of these themes is equally*

### Important Dates

**December 2** – ACW  
Bazaar

**December 5** – ACW  
Disbursement Meeting 1:00  
p.m.

**December 5** – Corporation  
Meeting 2:00 p.m.

**December 7** – Parish  
Council Meeting 11:00 a.m.

**December 7** - ACW  
Christmas Dinner 4:30 p.m.

#### Christmas Service Times

**Christmas Eve 24th**

8:00 a.m.

10:00 a.m. is CANCELLED

7:00 p.m.

10:00 p.m.

**Christmas Day Service  
25th**

10:00 a.m.

**Save the date February 25<sup>th</sup>,  
2018 for the Vestry Meeting**

important in their own way. If we take each week to think and pray about them, we can celebrate God coming among us in true faith.

Hope is something everyone looks for, and people are in need of it as much this time of year as any other. As people watch and wait upon loved ones sick or dying, they seek a hope for something they cannot achieve. Those caught up in poverty, in conflict, in mental illness, in areas of our world where there is so much despair, they seek a hope so real and so intangible: how to get out of this. The hope that God offers brings something so long lasting yet it calls us to be agents of bringing hope to the world.

Peace is something few can find. Among the demands of our time, our personal and working lives, it is difficult to find that inner peace, a calm in our lives. This past year we have witnessed so much pain and anguish from mass shootings, acts of terror, that to find a peace in our hearts seems too far out of reach. Yet with faith in God, we can hold on to a peace that never fails, despite the world around them.

Joy is one of the most misunderstood words. Often we think to have joy we should be always happy. The joy that God provides can be present when we are undergoing great pain, for it is a complete heart felt attitude. To be able to see joy in God's love even in painful days is God's gift to us. Joy comes with belief that when we are unable, God fills our minds and hearts with it.

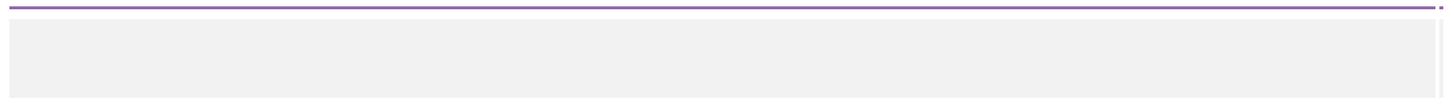
Finally, the greatest gift of God is love. In a world where many of our people compete with one another for better status, position, or more power, this gift eludes many. But for the few who take the time to understand God's love and to live it, this love can be shared throughout the world. For God's love is what Christmas is all about: out of love for the world and God's people, God came among us to show us just how to love others. We continue to feel God's presence among us all year long.

This Advent season we will encounter people in pain, in suffering and those who go through the motions. They seek a way out of their pain and suffering, something that is impossible. This is our opportunity to learn and share the love we have received to show others that in their lives they too can know and feel God's love.

May your Advent be as holy as your Christmas, and may you have a chance to share it with the world God loves. **Amen**

From my family to yours, may you truly celebrate a Merry Christmas!

Rev. Cathy



## **Treasurer's Notes**

*Although the end of November has not yet arrived as these notes are being written, sufficient information is available to forecast a Year to Date position of a deficit of slightly less than twelve thousand dollars at month end. This shows an increase in our deficit during the month of November, perhaps a reflection of the winter-like weather and church attendance. It is hoped that this rather bleak picture will change with the arrival of Advent and we look toward Christmas, as it has in years gone by.*

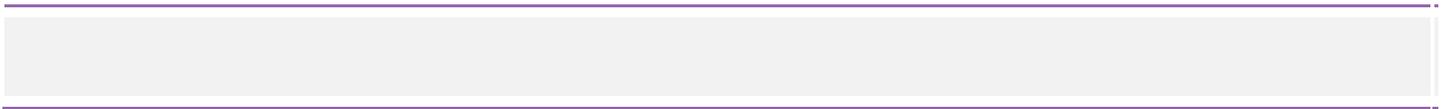
## **From the Wardens**

*Well winter has arrived with dustings of snow and bitter wind; the kind of weather that makes you want to curl up in a comfy chair by the fireside and read a good book. But we, as Anglicans, are busy people and that comfy chair has to wait on us some times.*

*This fall was a busy time. The garage sale, our second Oktoberfest dinner and, new this year, fashion show were all successful and enjoyed by many with positive comments on all three events. The ACW ladies have been busily baking meat pies and preparing for their annual Christmas bazaar on Saturday December 2<sup>nd</sup>, something we all look forward to. Thank you to the many parishioners who dedicate their time and donations to the bazaar. The ACW Christmas dinner will be held December 7<sup>th</sup> at Galilee and all ladies of the parish are welcome.*

*Emmanuel, in comparison to other parishes within the Deanery, has one of the best maintained churches. The men did a fine job of the fall clean-up of the church grounds in preparation for winter. We are very grateful to Cecil and the men for their time and efforts to keep our Church in such great condition.*

*The 136<sup>th</sup> Session of Diocesan Synod was held November 2 to 4<sup>th</sup> in Ottawa. The theme this year was "The Church of Christ in Every Age". Our Synod members Rob Cross and Diane Bresson, along with Reverend Cathy attended. Some of you may have heard the reports of Synod business when presented in Church by our members. For those of you who were not in attendance that day you can read the entire synod highlights on the diocesan web page. The message was clear; we all need to look at renewing our faith, to see the church not as a building but each of us as a stone building up the Church, to take our faith to the community and do God's work as he had willed us; to feed the poor, shelter the homeless, help all in need, and take risks. Our actions may not make the front page of a newspaper but every little action has a profound impact on someone's life.*



*As we are sure you are aware, operation costs to maintain our Church and pay the bills has becoming increasingly difficult as costs increase and our parish numbers diminish. Please, prayerfully, consider how you can help.*

*While fund raising events help to bring funds into the church, it is not something we should totally depend on to stay afloat. There needs to be a balance between raising money to support the operations of a church and supporting outreach programs. A group of volunteers met in mid-November to bring forward ideas for fundraising with the understanding that some of the funds raised will be used for outreach. They will meet again in January to finalize 2018 events. All are welcome to attend; watch for the date.*

*Each quarter the funds received from the celebration jar are sent to various outreach needs within the community. Once again this year donations received from the celebration jar from October through December will be used to support the food Bank. We are waiting to hear if the food bank will be calling on us to donate food baskets to those in need.*

*Thank you to all the various groups, leaders and individuals who make Emmanuel what it is: Parish Council, Alter guild, Readers, Intercessors, Lay assistants, Greeters, Servers, Anglican Church Women, Anglican Church Men, Organist, Choir members, Pastoral Care, Secretary, Treasurer, Counters, Synod Members, PWRDF volunteer, Coffee Hour, Property Management and Maintenance, and those involved with the Refugee Committee.*

*As we see and hear more negative and destructive news in the media let us all actively pray for peace, justice, reconciliation, a global effort towards climate change, elimination of hunger and thirst, homelessness, discrimination and hatred.*

*(John 3:16).For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life" "In this was manifested the love of God toward us, because that God sent His only begotten Son into the world, that we might live through Him." (Henry M. Morris)*

*We the Wardens wish you all a Merry Christmas; may you cherish the season with family and friends and may you have peace, health and happiness in 2018.*

*Diane Bresson  
Geoff Barnes*

*Wardens*

***“Have a safe and Happy Holiday with Family and Friends”***

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