

December 2019

Emmanuel Anglican Church

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CHRISTMAS WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE WITH CAROLS AND MUSIC

Christmas Eve,
December 24th

Worship with Carols and
Candlelight

7:00 p.m. & 10:00 p.m.

Christmas Day,
December 25th

Worship 10:00 a.m.



**Take time in this busy season
to remember the reason for the season**

the birth of Jesus

Catherine Pulsifer

Rector's Message...

Traditions are those things we do each and every year as a group or a family. Our short season of Advent and Christmas is filled with traditions, from decorating to baking and visiting friends and family to gathering for worship. In each of these areas, from the tree to the favourite treats to hosting dinners, traditions are set to remind us of this special time.

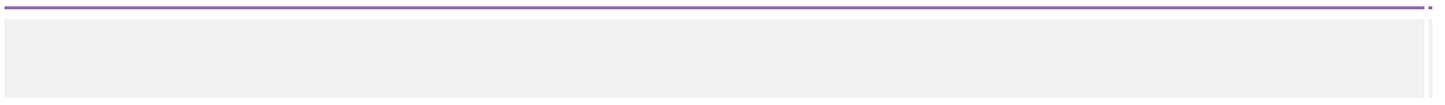
In worship, we prepare for the birth of Christ, the baby who saves, Jesus. The miracle of the gift of life is the tradition that reminds us of God's gift of love to all the world. Through carols, prayers and fellowship we celebrate that gift that all have received.

It is our mission now to behold that Christmas miracle all year long. Living out this faith we rejoice at that which is to come and seek out how it is God calls each of us to live out Christmas longer than the short season it is.

May you and your family have a special Christmas this year from our family to yours.

Blessings!

Rev. Cathy McCaig



From the Wardens

The Christmas season has already begun with Advent and Christmas Eve is just around the corner. Most of us are busy buying the gifts we need for family and friends, preparing food, decorating the tree and so on and, perhaps, getting caught up in the frenzy of it all. Wishing it would be over before it even got started. Is this how we define Christmas?

Christmas is about Jesus Christ, our Lord, his birth and his teachings of love and sharing in the community. This always seems to be accentuated at Christmas time but we need to remember that love and sharing must continue throughout the year. Can we as a community make a difference in the world? Can you, as an individual, make a difference to someone's life?

Take a breath, enjoy the Christmas music, the smiles and cheery hellos on the street, the excitement of children, the beauty of the snow covered trees, the twinkling coloured lights and the company of family and friends. Let's spread love with our community and share with everyone this amazing feeling.

From Geoff Barnes and myself, Diane Bresson, we both wish you a very Merry Christmas; may Love, Peace and Joy always surround you and your family and friends.

Emmanuel's Ministry over the past year.

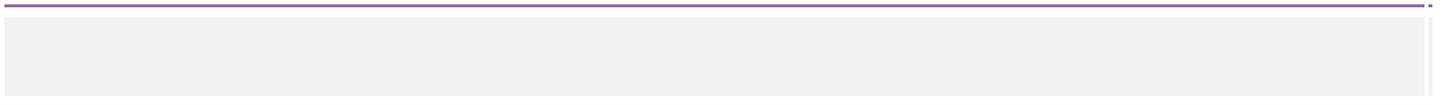
We thank all those who share in ministry and gave of their time, talents and monetary donations to the successful events held over the year.

Outreach and Mission:

- ACW Morning breakfast and private funding to raise funds to send children to Camp Wanago.
- The Celebration jar, half the year to The Renfrew Hospice, half a year to the Fountain
- The Big Give, free food donations handed out and remains given to the Food Bank
- Support of an 11 year old girl at the October Market to allow her to raise funds to compete in Calgary at the high diving championships in July of 2020.
- Bibles given to children at their Baptism
- Advent wreaths to families whose children under the age of six years had been Baptized
- Christmas flowers to shut-ins
- Coffee Hour
-

Fund raising Events:

- Roast Beef Dinner Feb 10
- Pancake Supper March 5
- Spaghetti Dinner April 26



- Roll out the Dough Cup Cake Campaign
- Chicken Dinner September 21
- Craft and bake sale October 5
- Fashion Show October 23
- The ACW will be baking rhubarb pies in the spring and meat pies in the fall
- ACW Christmas Bazaar

Collaboration:

- Combined Church service & potluck lunch (Parishes of Arnprior, Pakenham, Fitzroy)

Again we thank the leaders and individuals who make Emmanuel what it is: the Alter guild, Readers, Intercessors, Lay assistants, Greeters, Servers, Anglican Church Women, Anglican Church Men, Organist, Secretary, Treasurer, Counters, Synod Members, PWRDF, Coffee Hour, Property Management and Maintenance

We welcome anyone who wishes to become a new volunteer.

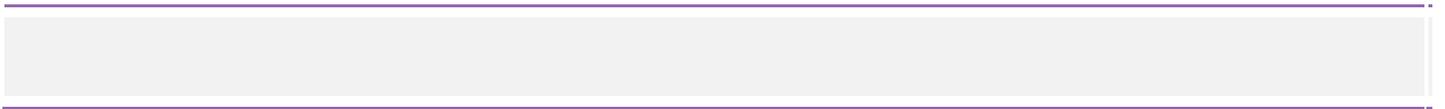
We welcome newcomers, families to our Parish. An area at the front of the Church is planned to include young children during Sunday service; a place where they have a little table and chairs to sit at and colour or play.

We are honoured to serve Reverend Cathy and our Parish in 2019 and we thank her for her guidance, understanding and compassion

2020 is shaping up to be another busy year, perhaps some changes along the way and new ways of doing things. Let us put our trust in God and pray that he will guide us through the unknown.

God Bless,

Wardens, Geoff Barnes / Diane Bresson



INTERIM REPORT TO THE PARISH FROM THE WAY FORWARD COMMITTEE

Background

In the past few years we have been dealing with declining numbers. While we have welcomed new members, we are continuing to experience the loss of elderly members. As a result, the number of those who give has dropped. Consequently, our main source of revenue, our envelope offerings, has decreased. This has been offset by increased contributions from fundraising and the ACW allowing us to finish 2017 and 2018 with small deficits.

We are grateful to all who give, to the ACW and to the fundraising efforts of others.

This year is different. The number of us who give has fallen. Our costs continue to rise driven by the steady rise in the equalized cost of priestly services (ECOPS). Our other costs have also risen but much more slowly. For example the amount we pay to the diocese for priestly services (ECOPS) has over the last five (5) years risen to \$101,619 an increase of 29% while all our other costs over the same period rose by only 5%

Please note that the amount we pay the diocese for ECOPS includes much more than an individual priest's salary.

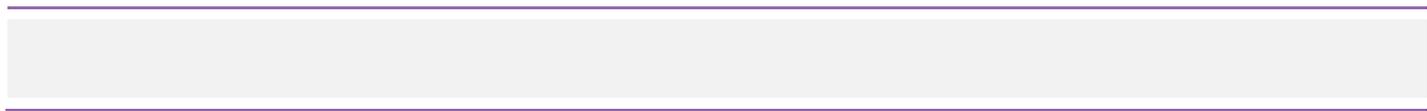
Our deficit as of November 30 is -\$27,104. This is some \$7,000 more last year at this time. Assuming the usual upturn in revenue in December we forecast a yearend deficit in the order of \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Our revenue (both envelope offerings and contributions from the ACW and fundraising) is now at a level that will be difficult to sustain in the short term. Other sources of revenue such as hall rental can and have been explored, but to date have not proven sustainable and can't be expected to be a solution.

While this downward trend continues, and we see no reason why it will not, our annual deficits will increase.

There is still good news to share: our building is in excellent condition. Any renovation or new roofing can be supported by funds and bequests from past faithful members that are only available for expenses related to our buildings and not for our operational costs.

More importantly we are a congregation committed to carrying out God's work at Emmanuel; to understand that as a church we should be about mission first and foremost. Unfortunately with our attention on deficits, decreasing revenue, and declining members, our minds are elsewhere. How do we change our focus, and look outward to a hurting world in which we are called to serve?



What Are We Doing About It

As you are aware in October at the direction of Parish Council a committee (The Way Forward) was formed. Its purpose is to determine the will of the parish going forward.

The committee has met twice and has reached some preliminary observations.

1. The current situation is not tenable
2. The committee believes we have two choices; we can stay as we are or we can work for renewal, for a future

Working for renewal gives us options

We can try something new on our own or in collaboration with another congregation. However these would take time to work out. At this time their possible outcomes are unknown.

We can participate in an Area Parish.

Committee's Interim Recommendations

We feel that, as a first choice, we look at the option of joining an Area Parish. As a start this could be limited to sharing two priests between the three parishes. This would provide immediate budget relief as three parishes would share the cost of two priests. We would then have resources to fulfill our true mission as a church

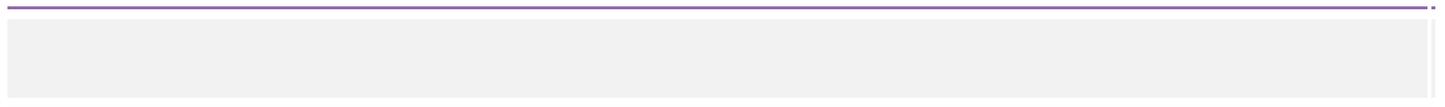
We do not recommend staying as we are.

Next Steps

1. Identify an absolute minimum of two parishioners willing to become Lay Readers in Training. To work an Area Parish needs a group of Licenced Lay readers to lead services when a priest is not available. Emmanuel would need a minimum of two.
2. Once and only until we have our lay readers can we in good faith participate in a meeting with our neighbouring parishes to explore the area parish model.

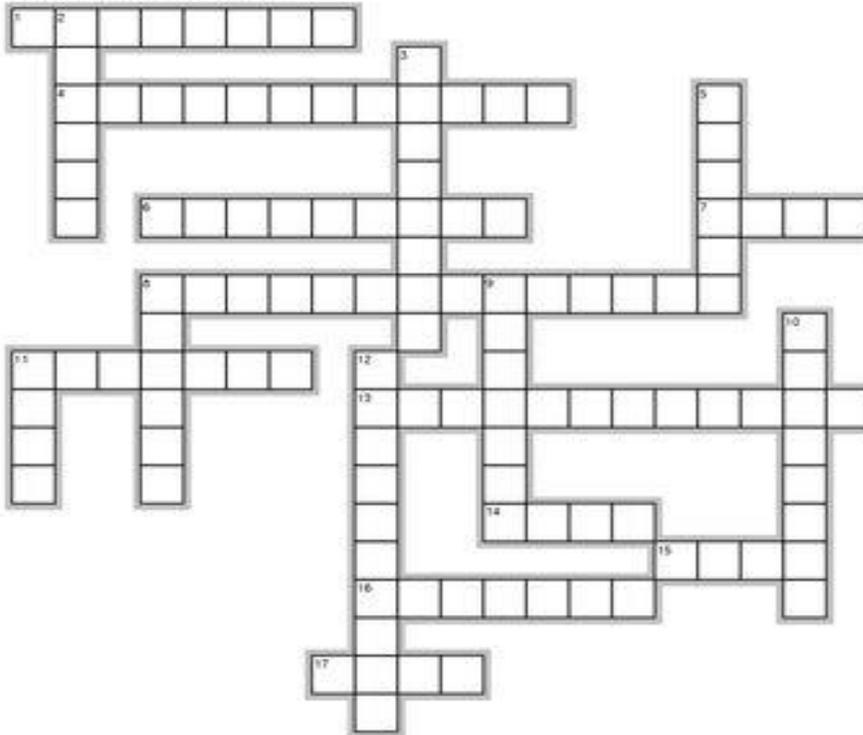
Definition of an Area Parish – it is the coming together of a group of neighbouring parishes to form a new unit. The form of the new unit can vary. Typically, to start with the original parishes do not lose their identity. They retain and manage their own infrastructure. In a grouping of six they may be served by four priests. In time they may decide to integrate further.

Way Forward Committee Members - Rev C. McCaig, G. Barnes, D. Bresson, J. Wahay, P. Dalphy, R. Cross, Cec Goold, Al Graham, Geoff Booth, Wayne Mossman.



Advent Crossword Puzzle

David Bennett, ChurchYear.Net



EclipseCrossword.com

Across

1. Famous saint, who is associated with Christmas, whose feast is celebrated during Advent
4. Popular evergreen family devotion used during Advent (2 words)
6. Church holiday right after Advent
7. "Our _____ of Guadalupe," Catholic feast falling during Advent
8. Jesus' cousin who prepared the way for Jesus (3 words)
11. Title of Jesus, meaning "anointed one," and the name of an oratorio by Handel
13. Church season immediately before Advent (2 words)
14. Title of Jesus meaning "master"
15. Pinkish color used during the third Sunday of Advent
16. "Christ _____": Church holiday celebrated the Sunday before Advent (2 words)

17. Number of Sundays during the Advent season

Down

2. One of the major Old Testament prophets
3. Month when Advent usually begins
5. Liturgical color of the Advent season
8. Foster-father of Jesus
9. What the word "Advent" means
10. Advent Hymn: "O come, O come _____"
11. Mother of Jesus
12. "The Immaculate _____": Marian holiday that falls during the Advent season

