

Newsletter - Berwick- Trinity Pastoral Charge

December 2019

Happy Advent Preparations

How soon another new church year rolls around! Why we were just getting use to the well travelled Jesus of Pentecost, when Advent appears on the horizon and we are in the grips of Christmas preparations. The pre-black Friday sales have already begun as black Friday itself wasn't enough of a consumer frenzy of buying. We may be concerned that Christmas is getting away from us and turning too much into the wild spending spree that affects the finances of many. The carols are all ready out there in the stores. People are taking advantage of the mild weather and Christmas lights and decorations are going up on houses. We have just a month to get our act together! To get ourselves reacquainted with the holy child, son of God, Emmanuel. We may wonder what such preparations may look like, and where to turn for help. But we know... Besides shopping, we'll throw ourselves into the traditional Christmas preparations of sending

cards, baking, decorating our homes, trying to achieve perfection in all we do. But the common refrain is

that we're "Busy". And we wear it proudly like a medal around our necks. I don't believe busy is one of our weekly Advent themes again this year. Rather peace, hope, joy, and love beckon us to embrace what these next 4 weeks are about as we arrive on the eve of the 24th ready to receive the greatest gift freely given to those of us who believe.

Have a Merry and Safe Christmas,
Rev. Tom



Worship Services Times

December 1, 8, 15, 22 (Advent) - Trinity – 9:30
Berwick - 11:00

December 24 (Christmas Eve) - Berwick -
4:00 p.m. Trinity - **5:30 p.m.**

December 29 (Fifth Sunday) - Combined
service at Berwick - 11:00 a.m.

Life and Work of the Pastoral Charge

Mon., Dec 2nd - **Berwick UCW** will meet at Andrea Hale's home at 11:30 a.m. for our Christmas gathering, meeting, potluck luncheon and exchange of gifts.

Tues., Dec 3rd - **Trinity UCW** will meet at Fundy Villa from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. to entertain residents with a skit and carol sing followed by refreshments and visiting.

Wed., Dec 4th - **Memorial Christmas Tree Lighting.** Berwick – 5:00 p.m.; Trinity – 6:00 p.m. We remember those who have passed on and celebrate people who are important to us.

Thurs., Dec 5th - 7:00 p.m. at Berwick UC – **North Mountain Chorus Christmas Concert.** Freewill Offering.

Fri., Dec 6th -- Berwick UC **Lobster Dinner.** TAKE OUT ONLY. \$30 per person. Purchase Tickets in advance by Dec 4th; Contact Anne Bleakley @ 902-538-0703 or Pat Layton @ 902-538-9594.

Sat., Dec 7th -- **Trinity UCW** has table at the **Woodville Craft Fair.** Baked goods, preserves, and other odds and ends for sale. Contributions can be dropped off by 9:30 a.m. on that date at the Woodville Community Center, or to Marion Harris, Heather Kellock or Alison Bogan.

Mon., Dec 16th -- **Berwick UCW** will meet at the church at 9:30am to assemble baskets for our shut-in friends

Sunday, Dec 22nd - 2:00 p.m. at Waterville UC - Trinity Choir and Friends **Christmas Concert**

Council Chair's Message

Recently we observed one of the most solemn occasions on the calendar, the Season of Remembrance, and now we move toward the anticipation and joy of Advent / Christmas. A famous story that is part of the legacy of the First World War serves as a poignant bridge between the two seasons.

When hostilities broke out in the summer of 1914, the generals predicted the conflict would be brief. "The boys will be home for Christmas" they promised. As we know all too well, that didn't happen. By December the western front was already mired in the gridlock that defined the first three years of the war, and there was a comparative lull in the fighting while the generals reconsidered their flawed strategies. This led to numerous unofficial cease-fires that enabled both sides to venture into No Man's Land to retrieve and bury fallen comrades. Late on Christmas Eve, while soldiers huddled against bitter cold in the Ypres region of Belgium, German voices could be heard singing Stille Nacht in their trenches. British soldiers opposite them



joined in with Silent Night. Presently a few brave souls on both sides ventured out of their foxholes and into No Man's Land, soon followed by many more. There were handshakes and season's greetings, and gifts were exchanged from the special Christmas packages that both sides had received. The goodwill and camaraderie extended well into Christmas Day when impromptu soccer matches were played and group photos were taken. Soon, however, senior commanders found out what was happening and the troops were ordered back to their trenches. By the next day, the business of war resumed.

Another truce happened the following year but on a much smaller scale because, by then, strict orders had been issued forbidding fraternization with the enemy. By 1916 the fighting had become so bitter that there was never again any thought of a peaceful interlude. But the Christmas Truce of 1914 remains forever on the pages of history as that magic night when the guns of Flanders were silenced, however briefly, by the beautiful strains of Silent Night.

A Blessed Christmas to all!
Doug Hill

Trinity UCW will be busy this Christmas season. On December 3rd we host a time of carol singing, a skit and refreshments with our friends at Fundy Villa. We are preparing for a bake table at the Woodville Craft Fair on Saturday, Dec 7th, and welcome any donations of baked goods. These can be delivered to the Woodville Community Hall before 9:30 on Saturday or dropped off on Friday at the homes of Marion Harris, Alison Bogan or Heather Kellock. The following week we will be reaching out to members of the Trinity congregation with beautiful hand crafted Christmas cards. After a break for Christmas we will resume activities in January with a pot luck lunch.

Alison Bogan

Time to light the Christmas trees

outside our churches sending the glow of love and memories into the night skies. This is a time of remembering those who have gone ahead of us and/or celebrating people/events in our lives. Light refreshments will follow the lighting.

If you have not had an opportunity to make a donation please complete the information form at the church entrance, then drop it in the offering plate or bring it with you.

Christmas Hampers and Good News

Christmas is a time our thoughts turn to the circumstances of others a little quicker and more often. If you know someone in our area who's



Christmas would be a little easier and eyes would sparkle a bit more through our sharing please let us know. Contacts: Rev. Tom, Sheila Stewart 538-9176 or Carolina Tucker – 678-6251. We presently have four hampers and the gift list can be found in the church entrance for those wishing to pick a person or family to shop for. Some may like to sign up to donate a turkey and we include a grocery gift card with each hamper.

Your generosity to the Good News Fund helps make these hampers possible as well as assistance with heat, gas, food, etc. throughout the year. Envelopes are available at the church entrances or use any envelope you have – mark it with Good News Fund, your name and the amount so it can be included in your income tax receipt. Thank you for all the support in years past for the outreach work of Berwick Trinity Pastoral Charge.

Support for Local Outreach

The Spiritual Enrichment and Outreach Team met recently and considered ways that we might make a difference for those in our community who may “live on the margins” and/or would benefit from a “hand up”. A pastoral charge chicken barbeque was held in September. All money raised at the barbeque was designated for local outreach, a total of \$5000.00.

Berwick Trinity Pastoral Charge Council approved the following disbursement of monies:

- \$1000 to the Berwick & District Refugee Settlement Group to help in defraying the travel loans that the two newcomer families have to pay;
- \$500 to the Berwick Food Bank;
- \$500 to School Plus Program - West Kings;
- \$500 to Open Arms Resource Centre -- with \$250 designated for the Berwick Outreach program and \$250 designated for the In From the Cold - Shelter for homeless in Kentville;
- \$250 to “The Evangeline Club in Berwick;
- \$250 to Waterville Fire Department to support their work in the community;
- \$200 to both the Berwick Legion and Berwick Lions Club to assist in their outreach work;
- \$1000 to be used for ‘seniors lunches’, hosted at both churches beginning in January with written invitations going to residents in Seniors Housing and offering an opportunity to have a nutritious meal, meet your neighbour and socialize;
- \$600 to be used at the discretion of the team as the need arises.

WE offer our sincere thanks to the sponsor to the Chicken Barbeque for designating this charge fundraiser for local outreach. By supporting the work of others we too are helping to make a difference in the lives of many who use these services.

Edith Menzies,
Spiritual Enrichment and Outreach Team

