

St. Timothy's Banner

Christmas 2018



*He will be great and will be called the Son
of the Most High.*

Luke 1:32

Lk 1:32 He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High.

The Son

By Do Fox

I, the Son,
Am a complete picture of the Father.
How He longs for you to know us both!
This knowing is far larger than you can imagine.
It embraces eternity, and is beyond time.
The Holy Spirit prints My Image deep inside you,
So the Love the Father has for Me
Is extended to you, for all time.
Rejoice in this, My child.
For Heaven begins to unfold Itself
Within your heart, as you commune with Me.
All the riches of My Father's Kingdom
Are yours, for the knowing.
Safety, and security are yours, in abundance,
Only stay true to My Love,
And seek My Face,
I am not far from those who love Me.



Christ in you, the Hope of glory

By Rev. Dan Endresen



“Hail, *one* having received grace! The Lord *is* with you. You *are* blessed among women” (Luke 1:28)! “You will conceive in *your* womb and bear a Son, and you will call His name Jesus” (Luke 1:31). Can you imagine *that*? I think most men will naturally have great difficulty doing so, but try, if you will, to grasp what is being said here, and then happening to Mary. “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and *the* power of *the* Most High will overshadow you, and for this reason that Holy *One* being born of you will be called Son of God” (Luke 1:35). That is exactly the miracle that happened in Mary. And after that, for nine months, the Son of God was physically developing inside of her, and she was nourishing his growth and development by what she consumed.

Oswald Chambers, in *My Utmost for His Highest*, relates what happened to Mary to what happens to us at conversion – Jesus, who already existed outside of us, comes into us. But what happens afterward? Is our attitude always consistent with Mary’s? “Behold the maidservant of the Lord! Let it be to me according to your word”. She then carried and fed the offspring of God inside of her, with all care and diligence respecting who He was.

Chambers says, “The evidence of the new birth is that I yield myself so completely to God that “Christ is formed” in me. And once “Christ is formed” in me, His nature immediately begins to work through me. **God Evident in the Flesh...**is what is made so profoundly possible for you and for me through the redemption of man by Jesus Christ (Dec. 25 *My Utmost for His Highest*).

“When a person is born again from above, the life of the Son of God is born in him, and he can either starve or nourish that life. Prayer is the way that the life of God in us is nourished. Prayer is not a matter of changing things externally, but one of working miracles in a person’s inner nature. God has established things so that prayer, on the basis of redemption, changes the way a person looks at things. Our common ideas regarding prayer are not found in the New Testament. We look upon prayer simply as a means of getting things for ourselves, but the biblical purpose of prayer is that we may get to know God Himself” (August 28 “*My Utmost for His Highest*”). Merry Christmas!

Related Scriptures, NKJV:

John 17:25-26: O righteous Father! The world has not known You, but I have known You; and these have known that You sent Me. ²⁶ And I have declared to them Your name, and will declare *it*, that the love with which You loved Me may be in them, **and I in them.**”

John 14:15-18: “If you love Me, ^[d]keep My commandments. ¹⁶ And I will pray the Father, and He will give you another ^[e]Helper, that He may abide with you forever— ¹⁷ the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees Him nor knows Him; but you know Him, for He dwells with you **and will be in you.** ¹⁸ I will not leave you orphans; I will come to you.

John 14:19-23: “A little while longer and the world will see Me no more, but you will see Me. Because I live, you will live also. ²⁰ At that day you will know that I *am* in My Father, and you in Me, and **I in you.** ²¹ He who has My commandments and keeps them, it is he who loves Me. And he who loves Me will be loved by My Father, and I will love him and ^[f]manifest Myself to him.”

²² Judas (not Iscariot) said to Him, “Lord, how is it that You will manifest Yourself to us, and not to the world?”

²³ Jesus answered and said to him, “If anyone loves Me, he will keep My word; and My Father will love him, and **We will come to him and make Our home with him.**

Colossians 1:25-27: I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which is **Christ in you**, the hope of glory.



Walk with God

By Deacon Alan Arnold

And they heard the sound of the LORD God walking in the garden in the cool of the day, and the man and his wife hid themselves from the presence of the LORD God among the trees of the garden. Gen. 3:8



What a strange place to start a Christmas message, Genesis, in the Old Testament? As we come to the end of Advent (looking forward to Christ's return to gather His Church to Himself) and prepare to celebrate His First Coming as a babe in the manger, I want to bring to mind something we tend to pass over.

Mankind was created to **“walk with God in the garden”**, in His kingdom.

²⁷ So God created man in his own image, in the image of God he created him; male and female he created them. ²⁸ And God blessed them.

³¹ And God saw everything that he had made, and behold, it was very good. And there was evening and there was morning, the sixth day. Gen. 1:27,

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Because of the Fall that relationship was broken, and we walked away from God. The Old Testament is the history of God's call through His

presence (Exodus), & his prophets for His Chosen people to come back to Him and walk with Him, and to bring others with them, but they repeatedly turned away. And then for 400 years there was silence from God. No wonder that the Jews resisted Jesus' claims of deity, no-one alive had heard God's spoken word.

And yet,

Now the Word became flesh and took up residence among us. We saw his glory—the glory of the one and only, full of grace and truth, who came from the Father. John 1:14 NET

That's right, God the Son, Christ Jesus, intruded into the natural world. He once again brought the eternal, spiritual kingdom into this physical world. For 33 years he gave a taste of **“walking in the presence of God”** in His kingdom. Even now, we too can get that taste, through reading of His time with the disciples and interactions with those around Him as he walked this earth.

We are presented with a choice. Do we respond in faith to Jesus' claims to be saviour of all who believe in Him and Lord of all, or do we continue to harden our hearts to the truth and the reality of His Kingdom?

For those that have accepted Jesus' Lordship, are we waiting for his return to once again **“walk in His presence”**? Why?

¹⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, ²⁰ teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you. **And behold, I am with you always, to the end of the age.”** Matthew 28:19–20

¹⁶ **And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Helper, to be with you forever,** ¹⁷ even the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it neither sees him nor knows him. **You know him, for he dwells with you and will be in you.** John 14:16–17

Jesus has promised his presence with us throughout eternity, including now as our phys-

ical bodies remain on earth, indwelt with the Holy Spirit. In His prayer for disciples (us too) in John 17, Jesus says we are not of this world but sent into it. If we are not of this world, then where are we "of"? If indwelt with the Holy Spirit, then we are **"walking in God's presence"**. Should we not live as if that is our true reality, or are we hiding ourselves from Him? Peter says,

¹³ Therefore, preparing your minds for action, and being sober-minded, set your hope fully on the grace that will be brought to you at the revelation of Jesus Christ. ¹⁴ As obedient children, do not be conformed to the passions of your former ignorance, ¹⁵ but as he who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, ¹⁶ since it is written, "You shall be holy, for I am holy." 1 Peter 1:13

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This is leading to another sermon (hear that Pastor Dan) so I will only add, if we are indeed sent into this physical world, then it must be for the purpose once given to the Israelites in the Old Testament, to bring others into the Kingdom of God. How are we doing?

May this Christmas Season be a time of Blessing as we celebrate God's Gift of His Son to bring us back to Him

For God So Loved the World

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life. John 3:16

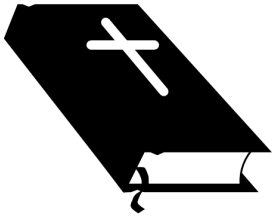


Jn. 14:24 Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid.

The Secret of My Peace

By Do Fox

The secret of My Peace
Is to turn your trusting over to Me.
I will order your life in a way
That gives dimension and depth
To everything you think, say, and do.
This is to My Father's Glory!
Nothing will give you more joy than this!
You will have the 'peace that passes
understanding',
And My Glory will shine through you
To warm the hearts of those around you.
Peace and Love are the heartbeat of My
Kingdom.
Your joy shall overflow, and give health to
your bones.
Come and see, and taste what real freedom
is.
You will never want to go back to the past.
I am the Life you cannot lose,
So come, and let My Peace enfold you,
And you shall know the high flight of the
eagles!



Our Mission and Vision



By Rev Dan Endresen

Deacon Alan recently wrote, “In January 2019 we will have been gathering as a community in Christ for ten years. As such, Corporation has decided that we should spend time together this year renewing Our Vision and, more importantly, how we incorporate this vision in our daily lives, both individually and as a corporate body, to become a congregation of bold Witnesses, Biblically grounded, Loving children & families, on Mission, and Planting & Growing churches [Bishop Charlie’s 5 Priorities]. Of course, we realize that we cannot do this outside of God’s will and provision which we discover in His Word and in prayer. As such, we are calling the congregation together for a time of prayer of discernment...”. That’s what the first visioning payer meeting was for on June 3, and that is what our Visioning day held on December 1 was for.

When we set out ten years ago, we made both mission and vision statements.

Our Mission: “Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Saviour & Lord, as revealed in Holy Scripture, and serving all people for His Sake”. This is our mission, because Jesus said, “Go into all the world and preach the gospel to every creature (Mark 16:15). He said, “All authority has been given to Me in heaven and on earth.⁴⁹ Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit,²⁰ teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, *even* to the end of the age.” (Matthew 28:18-20). He said, “As the Father has sent Me, I also send you.”

(John 20:21) He said, “Thus it is written, and thus it was necessary for the Christ to suffer and to rise from the dead the third day,⁴⁷ and that repentance and remission of sins should be preached in His name to all nations, beginning at Jerusalem.⁴⁸ And you are witnesses of these things.⁴⁹ Behold, I send the Promise of My Father upon you; but tarry in the city of Jerusalem until you are endued with power from on high.” (Luke 24:46-

49). He said, “But you shall receive power when the Holy Spirit has come upon you; and you shall be witnesses to Me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the earth” (Acts 1:8).



Now none of the 12 disciples made it to the end of the earth called Canada. So the mission goes on. And from these words of Jesus we can see that “Proclaiming Jesus Christ as Saviour and Lord, as revealed in Holy Scripture” is the Church’s primary mission – that’s what we are here to do. And “Serving all people for His sake” is to that end. Our dependence on the Holy Spirit is vital to our fulfilling that mission. The disciples did wait, as Jesus told them to in Jerusalem – Acts 1:14 says, “These all continued with one accord in prayer and supplication, with the women and Mary the mother of Jesus, and with His brothers”. They did that until they received the promise Jesus spoke about. And when the Holy Spirit fell on them and then they spoke “the wonderful works of God to Jews and proselytes from every nation – that’s the Church’s job (Acts 2:47 b) “And **the Lord** added to the church daily those who were being saved” – that’s the Lord’s job. We read on in Acts that the Lord did amazing things through the apostles to affirm their witness of Him, and many of these miracles served as catalysts that God used to get the attention of the non-believers around them. And the Holy Spirit specifically led them – even

through an angel of the Lord saying, “Go, stand in the temple and speak to the people all the words of this life” (Acts 5:20).

But as the church grew, the Apostles found they could not administer the Church on their own – in fact it wasn’t their job to do so. Prayer and the ministry of the Word was their job (Acts 6:4).

The apostles said, “Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of *good* reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; ⁴ but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.”

⁵ And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, ⁶ whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them (Acts 6:3-6).

From that point on, “the word of God spread, and the number of disciples multiplied...” (Acts 6:7). Proclaiming Christ became not only what the Apostles did, but what everyone in the Church did. And when everyone did it, it caused such a stir that there was much opposition and persecution – Stephen was stoned to death and the Christian community scattered. “Therefore those who were scattered went everywhere preaching the word” (Acts 8:4). From that point on we read stories of others, beside the apostles, getting specific words from the Lord where to proclaim Jesus – like Philip in Acts 8. Then in Acts 11:19-21, we read, Now those who were scattered after the persecution that arose over Stephen traveled as far as Phoenicia, Cyprus, and Antioch, preaching the word to no one but the Jews only. ²⁰ But some of them were men from Cyprus and Cyrene, who, when they had come to Antioch, spoke to the Hellenists, preaching the Lord Jesus. ²¹ And the hand of the Lord was with them, and a great number believed and turned to the Lord. That is how the Church worked in Acts. What about us?

What do we have to do to proclaim Jesus Christ effectively to the people of the West Island and beyond? ...The same thing as the early Church – pray, and speak the wonderful works of God as led and

empowered by the Holy Spirit. How and where can we serve, as individuals and as a community? Listen to Acts 11:22-30:

“Then news of these things came to the ears of the church in Jerusalem, and they sent out Barnabas to go as far as Antioch. ²³ When he came and had seen the grace of God, he was glad, and encouraged them all that with purpose of heart they should continue with the Lord. ²⁴ For he was a good man, full of the Holy Spirit and of faith. And a great many people were added to the Lord.

²⁵ Then Barnabas departed for Tarsus to seek Saul. ²⁶ And when he had found him, he brought him to Antioch. So it was that for a whole year they assembled with the church and taught a great many people. And the disciples were first called Christians in Antioch.

And in these days prophets came from Jerusalem to Antioch. ²⁸ Then one of them, named Agabus, stood up and showed by the Spirit that there was going to be a great famine throughout all the world, which also happened in the days of Claudius Caesar. ²⁹ Then the disciples, each according to his ability, determined to send relief to the brethren dwelling in Judea. ³⁰ This they also did, and sent it to the elders by the hands of Barnabas and Saul”.

And Acts 13:1-3: “Now in the church that was at Antioch there were certain prophets and teachers: Barnabas, Simeon who was called Niger, Lucius of Cyrene, Manaen who had been brought up with Herod the tetrarch, and Saul. ² As they ministered to the Lord and fasted, the Holy Spirit said, “Now separate to Me Barnabas and Saul for the work to which I have called them.” ³ Then, having fasted and prayed, and laid hands on them, they sent *them* away”. Is that what we desire for St. Timothy’s?

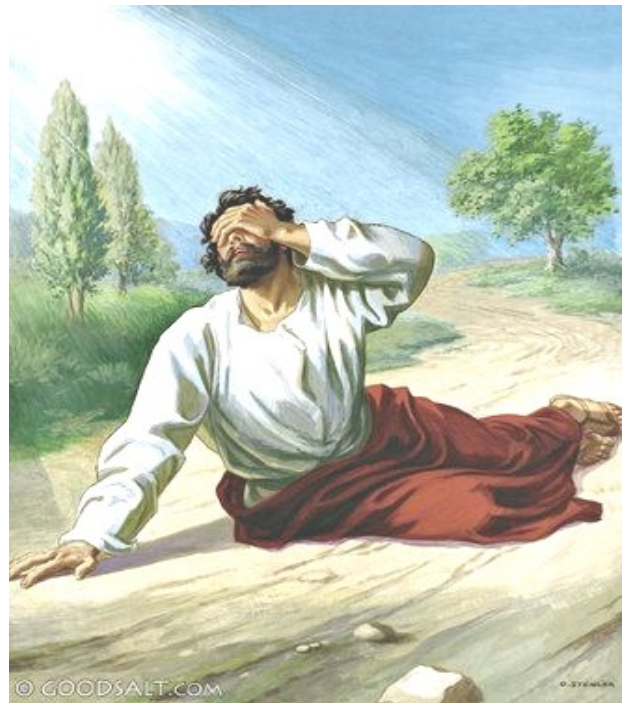
Now to Our Vision: And remember it must be first of all, God’s vision. “**We are a Christ-centred and Bible-based church...**”, As Pastor Mario shared with us, at Parkside, God has to be number one. Being Christ centered we must first of all strive to do as Jesus said, “... love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.’ This *is* the first commandment. ³¹ And the second, like *it*, *is* this: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ There is no other commandment greater than these.” (Mark 12:29-31).

So the first question each individual must always ask is, “What priority has God and his Church in our lives”? Is He first? Next, does everything we do as a Church spring from the Bible? Are we truly, “...**built on a foundation of the apostles’ teaching...**”? As far as Bishop Charlie’s 5 priorities go – that’s what it means to be biblically grounded. What about “...**fellowship...**”? How are we doing there? Should we have a mid-week worship and fellowship time at the church again? What about “...**the breaking of bread...**”? That’s eating together as well as communion, i.e., ...Christians in the early Church were, “breaking bread from house to house” (Acts 2:46) daily. What about “...prayer” (Acts 2:42)? How is our individual and corporate prayer life? How are we doing in these four areas? We have to ask God, “How can we do better”?

“In our evangelism and our service, we seek to move **outside ourselves** to impact our community and our world with the good news of the redemptive and transforming power of Jesus Christ” Do we? That is what it means to be a bold witness on mission, two of the priorities. How are we doing in this area – individually and corporately?

There are opportunities, even now, at the Cambridge and Manior Kirkland, Praise in the parlor, LaCorde, the Ste. Anne’s group, VBS, AWANA, visiting, and programs such as Alpha (no programs were offered this fall). Members are involved but more members could be. Again, we have to ask God, “How can we do better”? **“We strive to be a community where people from all walks of life feel welcomed, loved, and encouraged to grow in their faith and in good works”**. I think we are that. And if we would add, “especially children” we would have another one of the priorities covered in our vision statement. **“We support the discovery and use of each Christian’s spiritual gifts to build up the Body of Christ”**. We must ask ourselves, “How do we do that? Student internships? Is that the only way? Again, we must ask God, “How can we do better”? Can we encourage one another more, perhaps like Barnabas did in Acts 9 and 11? ²⁶ And when Saul had come to Jerusalem, he tried to join the disciples; but they were all afraid of him, and did not believe that he was a disciple. ²⁷ But Barnabas took him and brought *him* to the apostles. And he declared to them how he had seen the Lord on the road, and

that He had spoken to him, and how he had preached boldly at Damascus in the name of Jesus.



²⁸ So he was with them at Jerusalem, coming in and going out” (Acts 9:26-28). Should the board meet with individual members for this type of discernment and discovery of gifts, or should it come through prayer and prophecy, even today? Should the members choose, from among them, people to send as ministers and missionaries? Again, we must ask God. **“Our worship and fellowship are a balance between Anglican traditions and contemporary expressions of faith which allow us to reach out to our society and culture”**. Is that working? Is this still our vision? Is the vision respected by the decisions that Corporation makes? Is it a description of our church or what we want to be? What if anything, should be changed?

Lord, Thank you for gathering us together as Your Church in this specific place, at this specific time. Help us to live up to our calling. Give to us at St. Timothy’s a renewed desire to pray. Help us to persist in prayer, so that: together we may know Your will, have an awareness of Your loving goodness, and Your ability to accomplish abundantly far more than all we can ask or imagine, that we may be witnesses in our communities to Your grace and power, praising and glorifying You. We ask this in the Name of our Risen Saviour, Jesus. Amen



St. Timothy's Visioning Meeting

By Helen Yawnhwe

St. Timothy's visioning meeting was held from 9 am to noon on Saturday, 1 December 2018 at the church. Sixteen members of the congregation attended.

Pastor Dan began the session with a reflection on, and questions about, our current vision and mission statements. We then viewed the following short videos from ANiC on the Five Priorities.

1. Bold witnesses: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ycmx4E35ZQA>

2. Biblically-grounded: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=-WpKP3aehYY>

3. Loving children & families: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V5SIFEMJDT4>

4. On mission: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=czW427c3tDM>

5. Planting & growing churches: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6CGHcpFVWD8>

Chuck Eason gave an update on the work at La Corde and outlined the needs and opportunities for ministry.

Directed by Thomas Gruetzner, we then broke into four small groups, with each group discussing questions related to one of the first four of the five priorities. A spokesperson from each group reported back in the plenary session; this was followed by a general discussion.

These follow-up actions were proposed:

*Run a course on personal evangelism. Alan Arnold offered to organize this.

*Apprise the congregation of the many tools on ANiC's website regarding the 5 Priorities:

Bold witnesses: <https://>

www.anglicannetwork.ca/bold-witnesses/

Biblically grounded: <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/biblically-grounded/>

Loving children & families: <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/loving-children-families>

On mission: <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/on-mission/>

Planting & growing churches: <https://www.anglicannetwork.ca/planting-growing-churches>

*Emphasize links with other organizations: AWANA, CEF, Focus on the Family. Chris Abadir has put a link on the church website to FOTF's free Advent calendar

*Focus on intergenerational care, including deliberate mentoring of teens

*Coordinate ways to meet various needs within the congregation

*Organize parish outings, e.g. hikes, etc.

*Invite VBS families to the Dec 30th family service and potluck

*Support Youth Unlimited's Options Pregnancy Centre in Chateaugay (<https://www.centreoptions.org/>).

*Be intentional about mission

*Build links with C2C Network (<https://www.c2cnetwork.ca/>)

*Encourage church members to attend the C2C Multiply Conference on church planting at Dalhousie University in Halifax (May 14-15, 2019): <https://www.multiplyconference.net/halifax>

A follow-up meeting will be held sometime in early 2019



ANiC Synod 2018

By Maria Endresen

This year's synod was held in Abbotsford, B.C. November 6-9. It was hosted by St. Matthew's church, which rents from Grace Church (Mennonite). Their premises are perfect for events like these since it is a 3 story building with a large sanctuary, many classrooms for the workshops and a large gym used for serving lunches. St. Matthew's did an awesome job organizing the synod. We were well cared for. The theme of this year's synod was "For the Harvest".

Tuesday was a clergy day that has its own program but from Wednesday on we started each day with Morning Prayer followed by a Bible teaching. The first day our Bible lesson was from the Gospel of John, chapter 21. It was led by Mike Stewart, the rector of St. Matthew's. He was talking about the heart of the worker for the harvest. Jesus' aim is not to leave any stone unturned. He wants to visit the very places we want him to miss. In the case of Peter, Jesus went straight to where his pain was, and revisited Peter's three betrayals by asking him three times if he loved Him. He did so to free him from guilt and prepare him for the work of the harvest.

After coffee break, the first day, we could choose from five different workshops. I went to "Listening to God in Reaching Out to Others" led by Rev. Terry Lamb. He started by telling us of his personal experience of how God gave him a specific word for a perfect stranger on a train to start a conversation. That person turned out to be a member of the British government, and the word received opened the door to sharing the gospel. Terry has been in the ministry for 40 years and his advice was: Seek solitude to listen to the Lord. Find a silent space and don't fall asleep. Listen to what the Spirit is saying. Take risks of love. Be generous. Love without expecting love in return.

Be involved in your community by serving. Be willing to drink the cup Lord is giving you to drink. Retain your position in Christ", etc. We then had a time of listening to the Lord and we were encouraged to share if we had a specific word for someone else in the class. God's specific word came for two individuals.

After a delicious lunch we had a set of five other workshops. This time I went to "Gospel Ministry to the Dying" led by Rev. Rick Bergh. After experiencing the death of his wife to cancer, the Lord led him to ministering to the dying and the suffering. His opening sentence was something like, "In these days ministry to the dying, and the grieving, is unfortunately given to institutions other than the Church". He believes that even in the final stages of our life we can live fully, right until the end. Research tells us that three reasons people give up on living fully is lack of purpose, undue suffering, and the sense of being a burden to others. We therefore need to instill a sense of purpose in life to those in the final stages, showing that they still can contribute. He explained that suffering can be physical, mental, spiritual, emotional, or relational. Suffering can be from purposelessness and from past losses. We need to initiate a "soul Full" conversation. A framework for engagement and expanding conversations is firstly always the scripture for the opening thought. Secondly, instead of giving answers, ask the questions that would lead to something deeper. Thirdly, give space to the Holy Spirit to provide insights and reflections. And lastly cover everything in prayer. Conversation should focus on suffering, purpose, family, legacy, heaven and Jesus.

The afternoon was concluded with the time of corporate prayer with Rev. Rob Stringer from Calgary.



At the Wednesday evening service we had Holy Communion and Bishop Charlie gave his charge.

The Thursday morning bible teaching was led by Bishop Andy Lyons, bishop for Europe.

He preached from John 4, underlining verse 35b: "...Open your eyes and look", showing us that Jesus' preoccupation was with completing his Father's will, even though he was hungry, while the Samaritan woman and the disciples had been preoccupied with their natural needs. His three main points were, 1. the importance of gathering fruit for eternal life, and the verbal proclamation of Jesus Christ. 2. That we should expect the abnormal: "The plowman will be overcome by the reaper" (Amos 9:13). The Samaritan woman's heart was hard ground, and yet she received the gospel right there. 3. We have different roles. Success of the reaper depends on the sower.

The rest of the morning was filled with business. The budget for the next year was approved.

After lunch we heard from the people responsible for managing Bishop Charlie's 5 priorities. Jeremy, in charge of "Loving children and families", 1., encouraged us to visit the website and send testimonies, 2., appoint people in our local church to pray for children regularly. He said, do not to hesitate to invite him to our parish if we need help or advice. Allister, from "Church planting", informed us that the number of church planter candidates is growing. What kills a church plant is bad leadership and lack of funds. (note: the new budget proposed \$50,000 for church planting). For "Church development", Rev. Rob Stringer expressed necessity of the parishioners to support their clergy by asking them how they are doing and praying for them. What is needed is a strategic ministry of care and encouragement. Rev. George Sinclair from the "Clarity of

the Word" team admitted that not too much had been done recently, and expressed a need for a new team. He asked for prayers for clarity, 2 Tim. 3:16-17. The report on "On Missions" was done by a few people and about the successful ministry to Cuba providing water filters, and CMJ ministry in Israel. Lastly, it was Scott Hunt, on the "Bold Witness" priority. He started with the question: "Is it okay to be bold in today's Canadian society"? He answered with the loud, "Yes". We need to be clear and bold. After doing a survey, he came up with some obstacles to boldness: 1. We are not confident that we can articulate the message. 2. We are not sure our identity can sustain rejection. 3. Our personal testimony is not convincing. 4. We are not sure that the gospel clearly impacts our everyday life. He told us that our goals should be to intentionally and consistently train our people in the gospel message, and to be so identified with Christ that that identification will invade every part of our life and supply us, everyday, with the gospel as a conversation subject and with transformational testimonies.

Overall, it was a very good synod.



Things To Be Thankful For

The good, green earth beneath our feet,
The air we breathe, the food we eat,
Some work to do, a goal to win,
A hidden longing deep within
That spurs us on to bigger things
And helps us meet what each day brings
All these things and many more
Are things we should be thankful for.
And most of all, our thankful prayers
Should rise to God because He cares.

Submitted by Marion Parks



Poetry



A Christmas Thought

Just For You

There is no problem too big
 And no question too small.
 Just ask God in Faith
 And He'll answer them all-
 Just ask God in Faith
 and He'll answer them all-
 Not always at once,
 so be patient and wait
 For "God never comes
 too soon or too late"-
 So trust in His wisdom
 and believe in His Word
 For no prayer's unanswered
 and no prayer unheard.
Helen Steiner Rice

Christmas Blessings

Christmas blessings from above
 Fills our hearts this day
 As we focus on the Christmas message
 And the wonder it conveys

It gives us reason to praise God
 For all that He has done
 And for all that He is yet to do
 In those who trust His Son

So this Christmas time, thank the Lord
 For the precious gift He gave
 And for loved ones who help create
 The memories that are made

Submitted by Marion Parks

The Night of Nights

By Do Fox

Light blazed about the shepherds,
 Casting shadows on the ground,
 As the sky was filled with glory,
 And the air was full of sound!

The message of the angels
 Was announced to frightened men,
 Such a glory from the heavens
 Was a shock to comprehend!

But the shepherds went to see Him,
 Tiny baby on the straw,
 And they spread the word about Him,
 Filling everyone with awe!

Now Jesus, in the heavens,
 Is a Shepherd to us all,
 Let us revel in His Love Light
 As we answer His great call.

Love Came Down

By Do Fox

It started in a stable
 So very small, you see,
 But then became a river
 Running far, and wide, and free!

This mystery of the ages
 Revealed the Father's Heart,
 His passion to befriend us
 Was His Plan right from the start!

He wanted to be Visible,
 So we could see, and touch,
 And know, despite His Greatness,
 That He Loves us very much!



Humour



So you think you know everything ???

A cat has 32 muscles in each ear.

A crocodile cannot stick out its tongue.

A dragonfly has a lifespan of 24 hours.

A goldfish has a memory span of three seconds.

A "jiffy" is an actual unit of time for 1/100th of a second.

A shark is the only fish that can blink with both eyes.

A snail can sleep for three years.

Almonds are a member of the peach family.

No word in the English language rhymes with month, orange, silver, or purple.

Babies are born without kneecaps. They don't appear until the child reaches 2 to 6 years of age.

Butterflies taste with their feet.

Cats have over 100 vocal sounds. Dogs have about 10.

"Dreamt" is the only English word that ends in the letters "MT".

February 1865 is the only month in recorded history not to have a full moon.

In the last 4 000 years, no new animals have been domesticated.

If the population of China walked past you, in single file, the line would never end because of the rate of reproduction.

It is impossible to sneeze with your eyes open.

Leonardo Da Vinci invented the scissors.

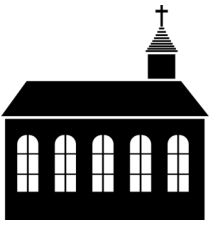
An ostrich's eye is bigger than its brain.

Our eyes are always the same size from birth, but our noses and ears never stop growing.

Peanuts are one of the ingredients of dynamite.

"Stewardesses" is the longest word typed with only the left hand and "lollipop" with your right.

Submitted by Bob Sumner



Church Bloopers

The third verse of Blessed Assurance will be sung without musical accomplishment.

Next Sunday Mrs. Vinson will be soloist for the morning service. The pastor will then speak on "It's a Terrible Experience."

Due to the Rector's illness, Wednesday's healing services will be discontinued until further notice.

The music for today's service was all composed by George Friedrich Handel in celebration of the 300th anniversary of his birth.

The concert held in Fellowship Hall was a great success. Special thanks are due to the minister's daughter, who labored the whole evening at the piano, which as usual fell upon her.

22 members were present at the church meeting held at the home of Mrs. Marsha Crutchfield last evening. Mrs. Crutchfield and Mrs. Rankin sang a duet, The Lord Knows Why.

Today's Sermon: HOW MUCH CAN A MAN DRINK? with hymns from a full choir.

Hymn 43: "Great God, what do I see here?" Preacher: The Rev. Horace Blodgett - Hymn 47: "Hark! an awful voice is sounding"

On a church bulletin during the minister's illness: GOD IS GOOD - Dr. Hargreaves is better.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the church help.

Pastor is on vacation. Massages can be given to church secretary.

This afternoon there will be a meeting in the South and North ends of the church. Children will be baptized at both ends.

Tuesday at 4:00 PM there will be an ice cream social. All ladies giving milk will please come early.

The ladies of the church have cast off clothing of every kind. They can be seen in the church basement Saturday.

A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in the church hall. Music will follow.

At the evening service tonight, the sermon topic will be "What is hell?" Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Weight Watchers will meet at 7 p.m. at the First Presbyterian Church. Please use large double door at the side entrance.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed, due to the addition of several new members and to the deterioration of some older ones.

The Senior Choir invites any member of the congregation who enjoys sinning to join the choir.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, superb entertainment, and gracious hostility.

The peacemaking meeting scheduled for today has been canceled due to a conflict.

The pastor will preach his farewell message, after which the choir will sing, "Break Forth into Joy."

Our next song is "Angels We Have Heard Get High."

The church is glad to have with us today as our guest minister the Rev. Shirley Green, who has Mrs. Green with him. After the service we request that all remain in the sanctuary for the Hanging of the Greens.

Miss Charlene Mason sang, "I Will Not Pass This Way Again," giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

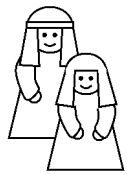
Submitted by Bernie Meier

Activity Page

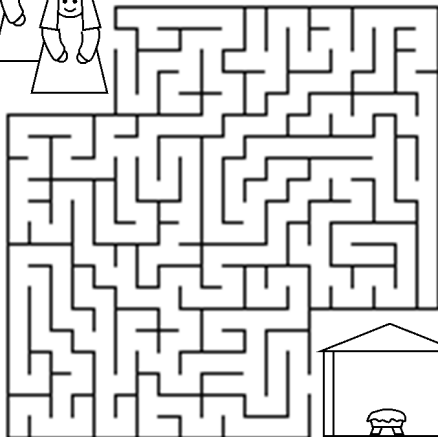
The Hard Christmas Word Search
(Ages 12 and up/ adult ESL learners)



- | | |
|---|--|
| <p>MISTLETOE
SAVIOR
JOYOUS
MANGER
BETHLEHEM
CAROLERS
SHEPHERD
CANDLE
FRANKINCENSE</p> | <p>WREATH
HEAVENLY
TINSEL
DECORATION
BLESSED
CHESTNUTS
ADVENT
NATIVITY
MYRRH</p> |
|---|--|



Help Mary and Joseph get to the stable.



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Merry Christmas

Today, our savior is born!
May His love, blessings and serenity
be with you now and forever.
Here's wishing you a holy and merry
Christmas!

