



Christmas 2009

A Christmas Reflection

The Birth of Possibility

Advent is the season of hope brought by the prospect of new beginnings. Advent invites us to wait for the coming of salvation once again by preparing our hearts and minds for God to break into the world, and into each of our lives in new and surprising ways.

Advent's invitation to preparation is difficult because it is about hope in possibility, not hope in an expected outcome. Indeed, many of the stories of the season are about a surprising twist on expectation. For instance, the Gospel according to Luke begins with the foretelling of the birth of John the Baptist to the priest Zechariah and his wife Elizabeth, who "was barren, and both were getting on in years." (Lk 1:7) Next comes the foretelling of the birth of "the Son of the Most High" to a young girl, not yet married, in a small backwater village in Galilee: "How can this be?" Mary exclaims... it is impossible. But God is not limited by the impossible, and instead plants seeds of possibility where once there was barrenness and the expectation of an everyday life as an everyday woman.

When these 2 babies, born out of the impossible, grow into men, they each live in their own way as the incarnation of Possibility. John is called as a prophet to announce the coming of One greater than he. The people hear the power of his message and become filled with expectation that he may be the Messiah (Lk 3:15). And again God defies expectations, in this case for a Messiah who conquers with military might, political power, or religious regulations. Instead, God Incarnates the possibility of a different world... a world of peace, justice and joy, through sacrificial love, healing, mercy and grace.

This Christmas we celebrate God's birth into the world and into each of our lives once again. Let us prepare for God's coming not by clinging to our expectation of what God might do, but by hoping in the possibility God brings.

Christine



Christmas Greetings from the Wardens of St. Martin's

As we enter Advent and the beginning of a new year, we would like to give thanks for the commitment and amazing work that has occurred over the past year. The building and finance committees are moving forward such that we hope to be making critical decisions in the spring. With great energy and love, we acted as disciples of the church and revitalized the house on our property so that we could adopt a homeless family. Congregational life has also been blessed with educational events such as the World Religions series and our first Vacation Bible School. We have joined in fellowship at our spring Potluck and Talent show, Pancake breakfast, Homecoming picnic, Patronal Dinner and Auction, teas and Ladies Bunco nights. Through Conversations that Matter, we have voiced our priorities for the new year and prepare to carry out these directions.

May this holy season bless you with peace and joy in every way.

Your Wardens,

Laurie McIntosh (403-242-0047)

Mollie Cole (403-686-6927)

Murray Tait (403-695-7736)



Christmas Worship

Sunday, December 13

8:30 am Eucharist at the chapel.
10:00 am Children's Christmas Pageant and Carols

Sunday, December 20

8:30 am Eucharist at the chapel.
10:00 am Lessons and Carols with Communion
Youth program, nursery & children's program

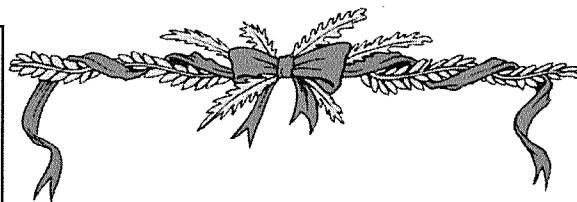
CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 pm Family Christmas Eucharist & children's talk
8:00 pm Festive Christmas Eve Liturgy & homily

CHRISTMAS DAY

9:00 am Christmas Eucharist at the Chapel
3704 37th Street SW

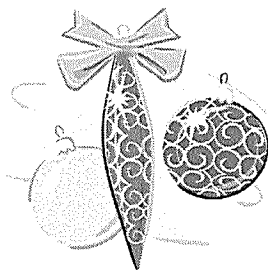
"O Come Let us Adore, Christ the Lord"



*The Christian community
is to be the means by which people
around it recognize the presence
and activity of God that they may
be drawn
to the light of God's life and
Love.*

Poinsettias for Christmas

Consider ordering a poinsettia to be placed at the altar on Christmas Eve and then delivered to the homes of those who are housebound, or in hospitals and care facilities. Poinsettias are \$15. You may call the office or add your name to the list on the Sundays of Advent.



The office will close at noon on Wednesday, December 23. During the following two weeks, when schools are out, the office will be open on Tuesday, Dec. 29 and Wednesday, Dec. 30 from 9am-noon. Kate will check messages regularly and any pastoral concerns will be forwarded to the clergy on-call, Bishop Gary Woolsey.

CHRISTMAS EUCHARIST & TEA

Wednesday, December 9, 2009

At 2 pm

Knox Presbyterian Church

3704 - 37th St. SW

R.S.V.P to the office: 403-249-3014

We are in need of baked goodies for the tea. If you are able to provide some, they can be dropped off at the office on Tues. Dec. 8.

St. Martin's Christmas Pageant

Sunday, December 13 at 10am

Christmas is fast approaching and planning for our annual Christmas Pageant has begun. Children and Youth are welcome to participate in this year's Christmas Pageant. All helpers are welcome too.

Please contact Danielle Wahl via email at dewahl@shaw.ca if you would like to participate in any way. Alternate contact by telephone 403- 698-6987.

events to watch for in 2010

Living the Questions

People know that at its core, Christianity has something good to offer the human race. At the same time, many have a sense that they are alone in being a "thinking" Christian and that "salvaging" Christianity is a hopeless task. What is needed is a safe environment where people have permission to ask the questions they've always wanted to ask but have been afraid to voice for fear of being thought a heretic.

Living the Questions is a DVD and web-based small group study exploring beyond the traditions and rote theologies in which so many people and local churches seem to be stuck. Ideal for Christian invitation, initiation and spiritual formation, Living the Questions will help seekers and "church alumni/ae" alike in discovering the significance of Christianity in the 21st Century and what a meaningful faith can look like in today's world.

Monday evenings Jan. 11- Mar. 1

7:00pm – 9:00pm

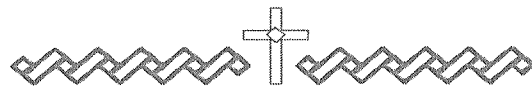
Knox Presbyterian Hall

For more information call the Knox office (403-242-1808). All are welcome.

Stephen Ministry equips lay people to provide confidential, one-to-one Christian care to individuals in our congregation and community who are experiencing difficulties in their lives. A complete training program is being offered at St. Peter's on Tuesday mornings (9:30am-12noon) beginning January 5 and running to the end of May. There is a small cost for books. For more information, please contact Betty Milner at 403-243-5347 or to register, please contact Christine at the office.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

St. Martin's Annual General Meeting will be on Sunday, February 8, 2010. Bring a potluck lunch item to share!



Easter 2010



Ash Wednesday - February 17, 2010
Palm Sunday - March 28, 2010
Easter Sunday - April 4, 2010

Happy New Year

Growing in faith is a life-long process marked by rituals such as baptism and 'first' communion. Early in 2010 we will offer an opportunity for families (with school age children) to deepen their Christian life, leading to baptism or a renewed commitment to Holy Communion, if desired. Please contact Christine in the office with your interest and for further information.



New “OneBody” Youth Program

With a kick-off Christmas party on December 4, we are beginning a new collaborative youth program with St. Laurence and Good Shepherd. Our fabulous youth leader, Jill Thompson’s role is expanding to lead weekend and evening events for the youth of all three parishes. She will remain with us on Sunday mornings. The expected benefits of the program include reaching out to youth in a visible and significant way from different parishes who live in geographical proximity; increasing the size and diversity of the group; and perhaps developing a model for collaboration that could be used by the larger church as we seek ways to expand and improve our ministry in cost effective ways. The Centre for Transformation Dynamics (a new non-profit) is assisting us in putting this collaboration together.

MERRY
CHRISTMAS