

Dear Friends:

September 2018

While Labour Day comes the cooler nights and shorter days, it also come with sense of renewal and energy at Christ Church as we gather together after the summer, launch our fall programs and gear ourselves up for Vestry and the new program year. More than January, September always feel like the beginning of a New Year! This letter comes with our own "Welcome Back" to Christ Church greetings and some news of what is to come.

### DISCIPLESHIP - Children, Youth & Family Ministry

**Looking backward** – Certainly the high-water mark for the summer was our 2018 Day Camp "Babylon – Daniel's Courage in Captivity". Forty-two campers joined us for a week in August. We are so grateful for the ministry of Tina Clarke and her team of both teen and adult volunteers who made this a fun-filled, energy-packed and worshipful week. Plans are already under way for next year! Stay tuned.

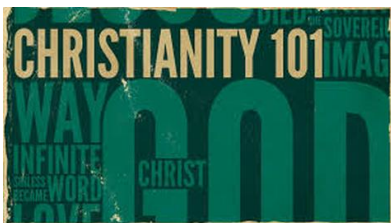


Please do take a look on our website for all the photos ~ you won't be disappointed.

**Looking Forward** – What a fall we have planned for our Child, Youth & Families! Our September Kick-Off is a Community Prayer Walk for Youth Group and then on the weekend of September 21 – 23, our youth aged 12 – 17 are off to the Diocesan Youth Retreat ~ Recharge. At the time of writing, we have 14 of our youth registered to attend. The September – December schedule was released earlier this month and, of course, is readily available on our website <http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/youth>. The fall focus theme of *Prayer* is sprinkled throughout our scheduled events.

### Adult Study Opportunities – North Peel Deanery

#### York-Credit Valley Bishop's Fall Teaching Series



This Christian basics course is an inviting, thoughtful, and energizing journey into the meaning and message of Jesus.

These evenings are designed for anyone who is spiritually searching, or simply wants to explore – for the first time or once again – who Jesus was and is. This course is relaxed and informal and there is always plenty of laughter. Doubts welcomed and questions encouraged.

Each gathering begins at 7 pm with coffee and dessert. Our evenings include upfront talks and lively discussions, wrapping up by 9 pm.

**When:** Weekly on Wednesdays, October 17, 2018 to November 14, 2018, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM (*excluding October 31*)

**Where:** St. Joseph of Nazareth, Bramalea  
290 Balmoral Drive, Brampton

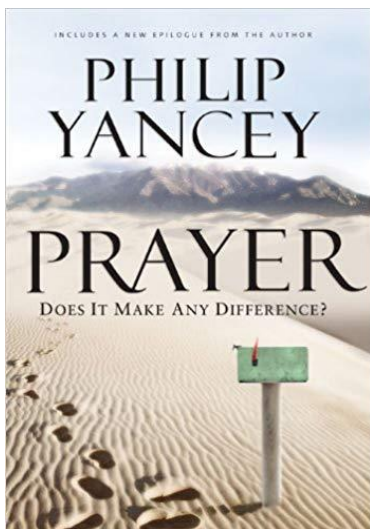
**How:** On line at:

<http://events.r20.constantcontact.com/register/event?llr=zulsehqab&oeidk=a07efknu9hy8a7e155a>

Or contact:

Arlene Ralph, The Incorporated Synod of the Diocese of Toronto  
416-363-6021 Ext 223 / [aralph@toronto.anglican.ca](mailto:aralph@toronto.anglican.ca)

**Adult Study Opportunities – Christ Church**



**Prayer ~ Does it Make a Difference?** by Philip Yancey

*In his most powerful book since What's So Amazing About Grace? and The Jesus I Never Knew, Philip Yancey explores the intimate place where God and humans meet in Prayer.*

*Polls reveal that 90 percent of people pray. Yet prayer, which should be the most nourishing and uplifting time of the believer's day, can also be frustrating, confusing, and fraught with mystery. Writing as a fellow pilgrim, Yancey probes such questions as:*

- *Is God listening?*
- *Why should God care about me?*
- *If God knows everything, what's the point of prayer?*
- *Why do answers to prayer seem so inconsistent?*
- *Why does God sometimes seem close and sometimes seem far away?*
- *How can I make prayer more satisfying*

*Yancey tackles the tough questions and in the process comes up with a fresh new approach to this timeless topic. "I have learned to pray as a privilege, not a duty," he says, and he invites you to join him on this all-important journey.*

Join our leaders and hosts for these small group sessions. We plan to start after Thanksgiving for 6 sessions and wrap-up in time for the beginning of Advent. Stay tuned for more information.

**LITURGY & WORSHIP**

**When things change, God is with you!** A paraphrase of one of our Bible points at Day Camp (*Hebrews 13:5*). In August, The Rev'd Jeff Nowers left us to take up his new appointment at St. Aidan's in the east-end of Toronto and we welcomed back The Rev'd Canon Dr. Byron Gilmore from his Sabbath sabbatical and vacation. Earlier this month, we also said good-bye to our Honorary Assistant, The Rev'd Rob Payton. Rob and his wife, Jackie, moved to Conestoga to be closer to family. We wish Godspeed to both Jeff, Rob and their families and thank them for their ministry at Christ Church. We also welcomed Archbishop Colin Johnson for Rally Sunday and the Blessing of the Backpack

As part of our fall planning, we would like to highlight the following ~ some things are new and some things are re-introduced.

**Friday,  
October 5**

Blessing of the Animals from Noon to 1:00 pm. With this being a P.D. for both Elementary and Secondary schools in Peel, we thought we would give this a try ~ *what a great way to open our doors to the public!*

**Sunday,  
November 11**

On behalf of Christ Church, our Youth Group will be laying a wreath as part of the Remembrance Day Service at the Brampton Cenotaph.

**Every Sunday**

Sermons on Line. Earlier this summer, we started posting videos of the sermons online ~ why not check out the website for a "look-see".

**December 7 &  
December 8**

On this Friday and Saturday in early December, Prayer Rooms will be set up throughout the church to provide an opportunity to experience different forms of prayer ~ *more information to come.*

**BLESSING OF THE PETS**



**OUTREACH**

Earlier this month a team of 8 golfers from Christ Church played in the Regeneration Outreach Community (“Regen”) Annual Golf Tournament. In October, our Youth Group will be serving breakfast early one Sunday morning (*did you know that Regen serves a hot breakfast 7 days a week?*) before coming to church. For many years, Christ Church has been an active community partner with this downtown Brampton ministry that works with the homeless and near homeless right in our neighbourhood. With Byron as the Vice-Chair of Regen, we know how vital this organization is in Brampton and how it lines up with our mission to serve others. How fortunate we are to have yet another opportunity to fully engage in ministry outside the walls of Christ Church!

**Harvest Food Drive**

In the fall, two things historically happen – the first is that our local foodbanks run at critically low levels and second, we share our abundance with a Harvest Collection. From now through to Thanksgiving, we will be taking donations for St. Louise Outreach and Knight’s Table. When you are next out shopping, please consider those less fortunate and pick-up a few extra things to drop off at the church. High demand items include:

**Breakfast Supplies**

- Cereal (hot & cold)
- Pancake Mix
- Syrup

**Sanitary Products**

- Toilet Paper
- Pads
- Tampons

**Canned Goods**

- Meat & Fish
- Vegetables
- Fruit

**Hygiene Products**

- Soap
- Deodorant
- Shampoo
- Toothbrush & Tooth Paste

**Snacks**

- Puddings
- Jello
- Granola Bars
- Juices & Drink Boxes

**Baby & Infant**

- Diapers
- Wipes
- Powder

*If you can't feed a hundred people, then feed just one.* Mother Teresa

**PARISH LIFE**

Amongst the many things going on, we wanted to particularly draw your attention to two coming events:

1. **Women’s Breakfast on Saturday, October 27<sup>th</sup> @ 9:00 pm.** We welcome The Rev’d Monique Taylor as our Guest Speaker. Monique takes up her new appointment as Priest-in-Charge at St. James the Apostle on October 1<sup>st</sup>. What a wonderful way to welcome her to the neighbourhood. Tickets will be on sale in October.
2. The **Georgetown Bach Chorale on Saturday, November 24<sup>th</sup> @ 8:00 pm** will be performing Handel’s *Messiah*. With Advent approaching, this timeless work complete with period orchestra, fine soloists and heavenly choir of angels, will help set the mood for the season.

Adults \$40 / Student \$10 Tickets are available at:  
<http://www.georgetownbachchorale.com> or at Christ Church.



Don't forget to check out our Website, Facebook page and/or Instagram feed for more information on events and photos. And while you are at it, why don't get your friends and family to look too!

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

### Vestry

The Annual Meeting of Vestry is scheduled for Sunday, September 30<sup>th</sup> following the 10:00 am service. The meeting typically concludes by 1:00 pm ~ in good time to get you home for lunch! Similar to an Annual General Meeting, members of the congregation meet to conduct the business of a parish, specifically to elect officers, review the financial statements and approve the budget. It may sound dry but it is important and we will have a Children's Program to keep the kids occupied.

A word about our F2018 Financial Statements and F2019 Budget ~ it will be no surprise that we entered into F2018 with some significant financial challenges. At this time last year, we presented a budget that seriously contemplated staff cuts in January 2018 should our financial picture not improve. You can well imagine that this a very difficult and disappointing position to be in. Over the course of the year, income and expenses were closely monitored and cuts to staff were not necessary ~ thanks be to God! But more than that, we had a **generous turnaround in our income** that made a **positive difference in our financial position** for last year and our planning for next year. Come to Vestry and hear all about the good news!

### Roof Replacement

In May, a Special Meeting of Vestry was held to approve the replacement of the flat roof over the auditorium. This work, including extra insulation, was completed over the course of the summer with a minimum disruption to parish operations and within budget.

### Stewardship

Over the course of a few weeks in late spring, we had our Annual Stewardship Focus concluding with the Blessing of the Pledges on June 3, 2018. We celebrated this day – our *Commitment Sunday* – with a parish potluck. It has been our practice (*for over 10 years*) to hold a stewardship focus period late in the fiscal year. A prudent fiscal management practice is to know your expected financial resources before preparing a realistic budget for the following year.



We are grateful that each year, more and more, of your fellow parishioners make an annual pledge to Christ Church and this year was no different! Full results are published in the Annual Vestry Report, however it is most worthwhile to highlight the following:

- ✓ An additional \$17,500 was pledged for this year!
- ✓ Our thanks to Joan Powell and Luigi Battista for their inspiring and thought-provoking testimonies.
- ✓ It's never too late read our 2018 Stewardship Story or watch the video at:

<https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/commitment>

### Harvest Giving

As we celebrate our abundance in this season of Harvest, please consider your commitment to Christ Church and what we do together as a parish family in **celebrating, proclaiming and serving** God in the name of His Son.

### **OUR THANKS**

There are always many people to thank for their efforts at Christ Church and to mention any one person can be tricky. That said, want to especially thank Peter Volkes for his assistance in both the Roof Replacement project and his financial acumen in monitoring last year's financial position and assistance in preparing this year's budget.

We wish you and your family a wonderful Thanksgiving with friends and family.

*Peter Harvey*  
Rector's Warden

*Sonia Sobers*  
People's Warden

*Shumaila Desrochers*  
Deputy Rector's Warden

*Stephen Nilam*  
Deputy People's Warden