

Dear Friends:

April 2017

As we write this, we are quickly approaching the end of the Lenten season and are looking forward in anticipation to Easter and beyond. Lent, inevitably, brings with it a certain amount of tension ~ the tension between a desire to slow down for intentional prayer and a need to plan for the months ahead. This year was no different, however we believe that we hit the right balance between our own faith journeys and our roles as your Wardens. The “business” of Christ Church is not suspended during Lent so with that comes required management meetings and Diocesan Reports. That said, our Ministry Leaders across all fronts are *celebrating God, proclaiming Christ and serving others*. This brief communique will give you a snap shot of what has taken place and equally important highlight what we have in store in the months to come.

### DISCIPLESHIP - Children’s Ministry

**Looking backward** – You may recall that God’s Grace ~ how to receive it, see it and give it was the focus of our Lenten programming. In addition to their volunteer activities, together our Youth Groups learned the life story of Michael Bull Roberts who transformed from a life of violent crime to one of love. In late March we watched a documentary of his life, *Notorious to Glorious* and then had him come to present to our Youth Groups. We continue to marvel at how blessed we are to have these groups out in our own neighbourhood being a witness to God’s grace.

**And looking forward** – The balance of year for our Youth Groups will be no less engaging. In late April, the Youth Groups will be hosting a “Mad Hatter’s Tea Party” and then in May we have our Annual Youth Retreat for Senior Youth & College/Career Groups and our Junior Youth has a building project ~ Buddy Benches!

As parishioners, you will know that Children, Youth and Family Ministry has been an intentional ministry at Christ Church for many years. We have heard from Byron on more than one occasion that this ministry is about life and that is something that we, as your Wardens, are firmly committed to. We know that the leaders in this area of ministry do their best to keep our young people engaged but we all have a role to play in the encouragement and nurturing of our youth, for they are our future. Please keep this area of ministry in your prayers. Some of these events (like the Mad Hatter’s Tea Party and Movie Nights) are very much designed to be intergenerational ~ please do plan to attend! Events are always well advertised in our weekly bulletins, on our website and on our Facebook page. And not to be exclusive in any way, folks are always invited to bring a friend.

**Summer Plans** – The discipleship of our children and youth does not simply stop in June! Tina is already making plans for summer! Stay tuned for more information after Easter but yes Cool Church is back on and so is Vacation Bible School.

 <p>Our summer program for children aged 4 to 12 will run on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 am service from June 18<sup>th</sup> to September 10<sup>th</sup></p>	 <p>Vacation Bible School 2017</p> <p>Rome ~ Paul and the Underground Church</p> <p>Mon. Aug. 21 to Fri. Aug 25.</p> <p><b>Early-bird registration for Christ Church families opens May 1 &amp; closes May 15</b></p>
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Our thanks to the Christmas Tree Bazaar for providing funding for these programs.

## Adult Lenten Study



During Lent, four small groups studied Timothy Keller's *The Prodigal God* over a 6-week period. This gem of a book was well received by those taking part. Over the study, leaders asked thought-provoking questions that helped the group further deepen their faith. You might just ask a participant to which of the brothers in the story they most identified with and what they learned from that!

## OUTREACH



On February 25<sup>th</sup>, our Rector led Christ Church team for the Coldest Night of the Year Walk in support of Regeneration Outreach Community. A big shout-out to those that walked and to all those who donated. **Christ Church raised over \$5,300** that will directly help the homeless and near homeless right in our neighbourhood.

In addition, we were able to provide **\$1,000 to Ste. Louise Outreach** from the Pancake Supper proceeds and the "Sunday Afternoon at the Movies" freewill offering.

As mentioned, the theme of Grace was the underpinning of our Lenten activities ~ from our Lenten study, to our outreach endeavours, to our youth activities, to the showing of the movie Grace Card, grace just kept showing up again and again. The intentional focus during Lent reminds us that God's grace is free but it is never cheap. Over time, our youth leaders have nurtured relationships with local ministry partners. Specifically, our Junior Youth with Ste. Louise and Senior Youth with Regeneration. Both these groups carved out time to volunteer at these local ministries during Lent.



An early Saturday morning start for our Senior Youth!  
Our Senior Youth will also be volunteering at the Regeneration Easter Dinner.



And a little later in the morning for our Junior Youth

## Easter Seasonal Food Drive

As is our custom during Lent and Easter, we collect food for our community partners. Let us fill the Narthex again this year with a great showing of thankfulness to God and the abundance that we are able to share with others. In particular, we are asked to consider donating food that is appealing to children.



## LITURGY & WORSHIP

We draw your attention to the sidebar to the right that highlights a few new things being planned for this year. The entire Holy Week schedule is listed below.

Please join us as we journey from the palms to the cross, to the grave and to the resurrection.



### ✘ Sunday, April 9, 2017 – Palm Sunday

- 7:45 am - Said Eucharist
- 9:00 am - Contemporary Eucharist
- **11:00 am** – Choral Eucharist
- 4:00 pm – Christian Seder Presentation (*see right*)

### ✘ Thursday, April 13, 2017 – Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 pm – Institution of the Eucharist with foot washing and stripping of the altar

### ✘ Friday, April 14, 2017 – Good Friday

- 9:00 am – A Good Friday Walk (*see right*)
- 11:00 am - Solemn Service (*see right*)
- 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross

### ✘ Saturday, April 15, 2017 – Holy Saturday

- Easter Vigil @ 7:30 pm at St. James the Apostle \*

### ✘ Sunday, April 16, 2015 – Easter Sunday

- 7:45 am - Said Eucharist
- 9:00 am - Contemporary Eucharist
- **11:00 am** – Choral Eucharist

\* At Christ Church, we offer **Confirmation** on a bi-annual basis starting on the odd-numbered years culminating with Confirmation at the Easter Vigil of the even numbered year. Our next Confirmation Program will start in the fall of 2017. As is our practice, on the years where we do not have Confirmation, we celebrate the Great Vigil of Easter at our neighbours, St. James the Apostle.

### The Rev. Jeff Nowers – Ordination to the Priesthood

On Trinity Sunday (June 11<sup>th</sup>) at 4:00 pm, The Rev. Jeff Nowers will be ordained to the Priesthood at Christ Church. The Rev. Rev. Jenny Andison will be presiding. It has been some years since Christ Church has hosted an ordination so this will be an auspicious occasion. Please mark this on your calendars and plan to attend as a way publically supporting Jeff in his vocation.

### Christian Seder Presentation

#### Palm Sunday

April 9 @ 4:00 pm

Come and experience, the Passover from a Jewish and Christian perspective and see the connection between the events of the first Passover in Egypt and the redemption that Jesus accomplished, as well as the deep bond between the ancient Passover feast and the Holy Eucharist.

### A Good Friday Walk

#### Good Friday

April 14 @ 9:00 am

Our family service this year is a 1-hour interactive service of the Stations of the Cross for all ages. Join us in the auditorium.

### Solemn Service

#### Good Friday

April 14 @ 11:00 am



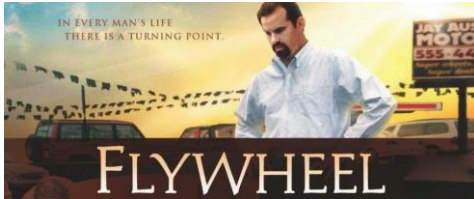
The Right Reverend Jenny Andison, Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto and our new Area Bishop will be preaching and leading us in worship.





## PARISH LIFE

Our Lenten letter invited you to the Pancake Supper and *Grace Card*...and now to more opportunities for parish fellowship. And remember, all you have to do is show up and maybe bring a friend along!



April 7<sup>th</sup> @ 4:00 pm  
**Sunday Afternoon at the Movies**  
 A Free Event ~ Come As You Are!

Jay Austin wants to sell used cars in the worst way ... and that's *exactly* how he does business at his dealership. Promising much more than he can ever deliver, he'll do whatever it takes to sell a car. His manipulative ways permeate all of his relationships—even his wife and son know they can't trust him.

But as Jay works on restoring a classic convertible, he begins to see that God is working on restoring him as well. Coming face-to-face with the reality of how he truly conducts himself, Jay Austin begins the ride of his life as he commits to honoring God with his business, his relationships, and his life!

***In every man's life there's a turning point***  
 A freewill offering will be directed to our local foodbank partners

Our Youth Groups cordially invite you to  
 "A Mad Hatter's Tea Party"



Date & Time: Sunday, April 30 @ Noon to 1:30 pm  
 Location: C. Allen Johnson Auditorium

**A freewill offering will be directed to the Youth Retreat.**

## Parish Potluck



**Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> immediately following the 10:00 am service. \***

\* Please note that Sunday, June 4<sup>th</sup> will mark the beginning of our summer schedule with services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

## RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**Director – Children, Youth & Family** We are delighted to announce that Tina Clarke has accepted the position of Director ~ Family Ministry effective April 1, 2017. As you will know Tina joined us January 1<sup>st</sup> as the Interim Director and admirably stepped into a program that was already launched. We look forward to her ministry at Christ Church. You really cannot argue with God's timing!

**Assistant Curate – Parental Leave** In December of last year, Jeff and his wife Alison became the adoptive parents of 3-year-old Ava. Jeff will be on parental leave effective April 3 through to July 23. That said, Jeff will be at Christ Church to help celebrate Easter and, of course, will be back on Trinity Sunday as the "guest of honour" at his ordination. We wish warm blessings on Jeff, Alison and Ava during this family time and ask that you keep them in your prayers.

**Our Ask** In concluding Lent, we are reminded of our theme of Grace. We are to thank God for His Grace that fills our lives each and every day and for our wonderful community at Christ Church of which we are a part of. We ask you to join us in expressing our gratitude. As we make generous offerings, we experience God's Grace anew. These offerings, are a demonstration of our gratitude and thanks to God in what He is doing through us at Christ Church and beyond.

## IN CLOSING

Should you find that we did not cover something that you were curious about or have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us ~ we are always available.

And finally, as you prepare to connect with family and friends throughout Easter we wish you all God's blessings for this season, and throughout the year.

*Peter Harvey*  
Rector's Warden

*Janet Volkes*  
People's Warden

*Stephen Nilam*  
Deputy Rector's Warden

*Sonia Sobers*  
Deputy People's Warden