

Dear Friends:

March 2018

With Easter arriving early this year, it seems like we just wrote to you! That said, it is our privilege to once again share news from Christ Church.

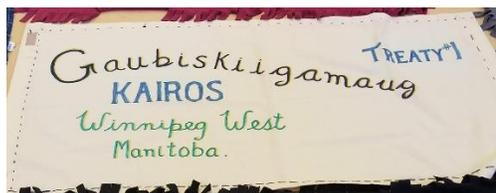
We have had an inspiring Lent and very much look forward to our Easter celebrations. We know that our clergy, staff and lay leaders are diligently working to put the final touches on what will be a wonderful Holy Week. We stand in awe having glimpsed behind the seasons to all that goes into these preparations. We do so hope that you will join us.

DISCIPLESHIP - Children's Ministry

Looking backward – At our Family Lenten Worship on Shrove Tuesday, Tina introduced Lenten Devotions for our families. This “kit-ready” program provided the resources for our families to journey together at home throughout Lent.



Tying into our Lenten Focus on *Truth & Reconciliation*, on March 3rd we hosted the KAIROS Blanket Exercise. This intergenerational and interactive event covered 500 years of Indigenous history in Canada. We concluded the morning with a light lunch and shared our experiences in the form of a talking circle.



KAIROS Blanket Exercise, Mar 3/18



We would encourage you to speak with someone who attended this powerful morning or with one of our Confirmants who attended the Ash Wednesday Discovery Day at the Cathedral where they also participated in a Blanket Exercise.

If you haven't already, please take a look at event photos posted on our website under recent events at: <https://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/recent-events> There you find photos from our Pancake Supper, Family Lenten service, Ash Wednesday Discovery Day, Coldest Night of Year and the KAIROS Blanket Exercise ~ and check back often as updates happen regularly.

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 Talent Tea Party” and then on May 19 to May 21 we have our Annual Youth Retreat for Senior Youth & College/Career Groups. This weekend away provides an opportunity to encounter scripture, explore worship and celebrate our life together as beloved children of God. The full January to June schedule is posted at: <http://www.christchurchbrampton.ca/youth>.

Summer Plans – The discipleship of our children and youth does not simply stop in June! Plans are afoot for the summer! Stay tuned for more information after Easter but yes Cool Church is back on and so is our Summer Day Camp.

 <p>Our summer program for children aged 4 to 12 will run on Sunday mornings during the 10:00 am service from June 17th to September 9th</p>	 <p>Summer Day Camp 2018 <i>Doniel's Courage in Captivity</i> <i>Mon. Aug. 13 to Fri. Aug 17</i></p> <p>For children aged 4 - 12 from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Extended care will be available. Early Bird registration for Christ Church families will be April 15 to April 30 ~ make sure to check our website or weekly bulletin for more info. Please reach out to Tina Clarke if you are able to volunteer.</p>
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Confirmation

Our 2017/2018 Confirmation Program concludes with Confirmation and Reception being planned for the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday, March 31st at 7:00 pm with Bishop Jenny Andison presiding.

The Rev'd. Jeff Nowers has been preparing our candidates since last September with variety of field exercises and in-class teaching. At the end of January, the congregation was treated to an Instructed Eucharist presented by class. The concluding field exercise will be an Eucharist at Rattlesnake Point.

Please plan to attend the Easter Vigil and keep our candidates in your prayers.



Above, our 2017/2018 Confirmation Class (with a few missing) at the Ash Wednesday Cathedral Discovery Day with The Rev'd. Jeff Nowers and The Rev'd. Chris Harper

As you know that Children, Youth and Family Ministry has been an intentional ministry at Christ Church for many years and as your Wardens, we are firmly committed to this investment. We know that the leaders in this area 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**. We also know from ample research, that we live in an age where are children have never been more "connected" but paradoxically never more alone ~ a personal invitation from us is always extended, so please know that your children are always welcome to invite a friend. Events are always well advertised in our weekly bulletins, on our website and on our Facebook page.

We remain grateful for all those that minister in this area and to those parents, grandparents and guardians that make youth faith development a priority in this world of many conflicting priorities. Please keep this area of ministry in your prayers.

Adult Lenten Study



Our Lenten focus this year was *Truth & Reconciliation*. You may recall that we welcomed The Rt. Rev'd. Mark MacDonald, National Indigenous Bishop who preached on Rally Sunday and in early February The Rev'd. Chris Harper, the Diocese of Toronto's Native Indigenous Priest preached. With that, our Lenten study was well set up. Wab Kinew's *The Reason You Walk* explored the themes of cross-cultural reconciliation made all the more powerful for those who attended the KAIROS Blanket Exercise and the Leader's Guide prepared by Jeff Nowers.

WARDENS' UPDATE

LITURGY & WORSHIP

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

HOLY WEEK

- ✘ **Sunday, March 25, 2018 – Palm Sunday**
 - 7:45 am - Said Eucharist
 - 9:00 am - Contemporary Eucharist
 - **11:00 am** – Choral Eucharist
- ✘ **Thursday, March 29, 2018 – Maundy Thursday**
 - 7:00 pm with foot washing and stripping of the altar
- ✘ **Friday, March 30, 2018 – Good Friday**
 - 9:00 am Family Service
 - **11:00 am** Commemoration of Our Lord's Passion
 - 7:00 pm Stations of the Cross
- ✘ **Saturday, March 31, 2018 – Holy Saturday**
 - Easter Vigil @ 7:00 pm with Confirmation & Reception

"Potluck" Resurrection Party to follow.
Please consider bringing something to share.
- ✘ **Sunday, April 1, 2018 – Easter Sunday**
 - 7:45 am - Said Eucharist
 - 9:00 am - Contemporary Eucharist
 - **11:00 am** – Choral Eucharist

Please note that our services move to 11:00 am during Holy Week.

Looking forward, please take note of the following dates & events:

Sunday, June 3rd: Summer Hours commence with services at 8:00 am and 10:00 am. We will celebrate with a Parish Potluck following the 10:00 am service.

Sunday, June 10th: Our Annual Ecumenical Worship Service and Picnic at 10:15 am at Gage Park. Services at Christ Church will be at 8:00 am and 10:00 am.

OUTREACH

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. We think we heard Jean Jamieson, our Outreach Co-ordinator, say something about strawberry jam!



Family Service

Good Friday

March 30 @ 9:00 am

Our Family Service tells the story of Good Friday in a creative adaption of the Stations of the Cross.

The Great Vigil of Easter
Saturday, March 31
@ 7:00 pm



The Right Reverend Jenny Andison, Bishop Suffragan in the Diocese of Toronto will be presiding. We will be celebrating Confirmation and Reception of our 2017/2018 confirmation candidates.



OUTREACH

In our Ash Wednesday service, we are invited to observe a holy Lent by self-examination, penitence, prayer, fasting and almsgiving (BAS pp 282). Our practice has been to support our local ministry partners.

We were able to provide **\$750 to Ste. Louise Outreach** from the Pancake Supper proceeds. Ste. Louise currently supports close to 2,700 families through its food bank and provision of personal care items, clothing and back-to-school packages.

On February 24th, 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 \$7,200** that will directly help the homeless and near homeless right in our neighbourhood. A significant portion of the funds raised came from people outside of our Christ Church community ~ a great way of showing Mathew 25 in action!



Coldest Night of the Year, Feb 24/18



RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

Planning & Finances – Later this month, we will commence planning for Fiscal 2019. Our F2018 financial results will play a significant role in our planning. We have made no secret that our offerings declined by \$32,000 in the 2-year period between 2015 and 2017. While our results at the end of December did show a positive turnaround, we remain concerned that this offering pattern will not be sustained. **To be clear, if offerings are not sustained our programming and staffing will need to be reduced ~ it is as simple as that.** Maybe this Easter, as you review how our community of Christ Church has moved in your life, it is time to increase your financial commitment?

Sabbath Sabbatical – As a reminder, Byron’s 3-month Sabbath Sabbatical starts April 2, 2018. His plan is to use this time for a period of rest, spiritual renewal and education. We are truly delighted for Byron and ask that you keep him in your prayers.

Our Ask – As previously mentioned, we know that it is the personal touch that invites people into our community. Folks are often very receptive to an invitation ~ whether church is new to them or they have simply fallen out of habit. Advertising and social media reach can only do so much. What is stopping you from making an invitation this Easter?

OUR THANKS

To conclude, we would be remiss not to take this opportunity to wish you God’s blessings for the Easter season and throughout the year.

Peter Harvey
 Rector’s Warden

Sonia Sobers
 People’s Warden

Shumaila Desrochers
 Deputy Rector’s Warden

Stephen Nilam
 Deputy People’s Warden



EASTER 2018
WARDENS' UPDATE