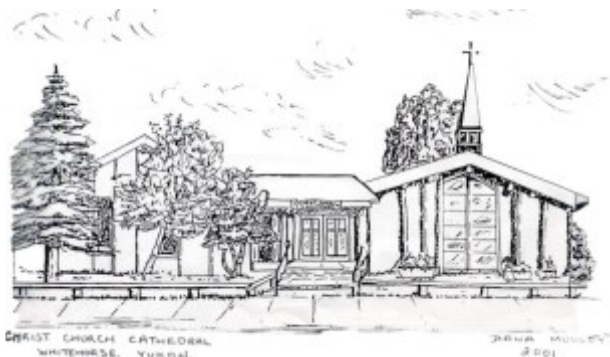


Christ Church Cathedral

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Christmas Newsletter 2019



A Christmas Word from the Dean

The Very Reverend Bert Chestnut

In those days a decree went out from Emperor Augustus that all the world should be registered. ²This was the first registration and was taken while Quirinius was governor of Syria. ³All went to their own towns to be registered. ⁴Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. ⁵He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child.

As we enter the Advent season, it's time to reflect back on a time of waiting, a time of expectation and a time of excitement. Scripture says that Mary held all these things in her heart...imagine, expecting your first child, knowing that this child is going to be different...maybe the understanding that he was going to be totally human and totally divine was not completely clear, but the visit from the angel made it clear that this child would be different...this child would be a King.

We are fortunate to be able to reflect back on the events of the nativity; but, have you ever taken the time to place yourself into one of the characters involved. What was Mary thinking... anxious because this was her first child, was she able to look after this infant, the son of God, what would this child look like, what did it mean to be the mother of the Christ child? What about Joseph? We hear so little about him and history doesn't tell

much more. I get the feeling he may have been considerably older than Mary, did good work with his hands, was a carpenter amongst the people of his village...what would people think or say about his expected wife carrying a child that was not his... would that be bad for business? Their reactions would only be human. How often do we find ourselves in the place of Mary, in a situation she did not ask for, or Joseph, who cared so greatly for Mary he could not imagine letting anything happen to her or the baby.

I once participated in a play centered around the donkey that carried Mary into Bethlehem, who was given very human traits. In the play the poor donkey spent much of his time complaining about carrying this pregnant girl and how maybe his load could be made a little easier. His shoulders hurt and his hoofs were sore and hadn't anyone taken in consideration that even though he was a beast of burden, he still had his pride.

I am pleased and honoured to be allowed to share Advent with each person at Christ Church Cathedral. Yes, there have been times, in my life, when I have felt that I have been asked to take on a responsibility that I didn't ask for, or had to carry a burden too great for me to bear...was I being reasonable...are we being reasonable when we have thoughts like that. I think our responsibility this Advent season is to know that we are all children of God and this time of waiting is an opportunity to allow God's great work to happen in our lives.

God Bless and Merry Christmas
Rev. Bert Chestnut
Rector, Christ Church Cathedral,
Dean of the Yukon

Fall News Roundup

The big news of fall 2019 was the arrival and then installation of our new Dean, The Very Rev. Bert Chestnut.

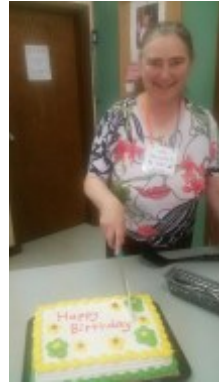
He was installed by the Bishop, The Rt. Rev. Lesley Wheeler-Dame on Friday, October 11, and began his ministry as our Dean on October 15.



Keep Fit happens on Wednesdays.



Messy Church started in September after the summer. Anne Coates and Rosemary Smith led the first one, and in October Rosemary took on the role of co-ordinator for this ministry.



Common Threads continues to make prayer shawls, and was also drafted in to make angels for the angel tree for the church in Advent.



Christmas Quotes

"How many observe Christ's birthday! How few, His precepts!" (**Benjamin Franklin**)

"Mankind is a great, an immense family... This is proved by what we feel in our hearts at Christmas" (**Pope John Paul XXIII**)

"Jesus was God and man in one person, that God and man might be happy together again" (**George Whitefield**)

"Rejoice, that the immortal God is born, so that mortal man may live in eternity" (**John Huss**)

"What is Christmas? It is tenderness for the past, courage for the present, hope for the future. It is a fervent wish that every cup may overflow with blessings rich and eternal, and that every path may lead to peace." (**Anges M. Pharo**)

"The very purpose of Christ's coming into the world was that he might offer up his life as a sacrifice for the sins of men. He came to die. This is the heart of Christmas." (**Rev. Billy Graham**)

"Christmas is not a time nor a season, but a state of mind. To cherish peace and goodwill, to be plenteous in mercy, is to have the real spirit of Christmas." (**Calvin Coolidge**)

"It is Christmas in the heart that puts Christmas in the air." (**W.T. Ellis**)

"God walked down the stairs of heaven with a Baby in His arms." (**Paul Scherer**)

"Great little One! whose all-embracing birth Lifts Earth to Heaven, stoops Heaven to Earth." (**Richard Crashaw**)

"Christmas day is a day of joy and charity. May God make you very rich in both." (**Phillips Brooks**)

"For it is good to be children sometimes, and never better than at Christmas, when its mighty Founder was a child Himself." (**Charles Dickens**)

"When we were children we were grateful to those who filled our stockings at Christmas time. Why are we not grateful to God for filling our stockings with legs?" (**Gilbert K. Chesterton**)

If you enjoy the pictures, consider sending yours to the Cathedral by email, or to Anne Coates.

Deadline for next edition is March 25, 2020.

Puzzle answers: Identify these Bible stories

They were all from the Moses cycle:



Pharaoh



Red Sea dry



Plague of frogs etc.



The Ark of the Covenant



Dropping sins at the cross

The children at ROAR Vacation Bible School talked about sin and then dropped their sins in the form of a stone at the foot of the cross.

I wondered about the well, too



Water in desert

Editor Anne Coates. Cover art: Diana Mulloy & clipartpal.com,

Photos :Very Rev. Bert's installation from David Robertson, Messy Church from Emil Beaudoin. Keep Fit and Common Threads from Betty Davidson, also pictures in reprise of last issue's puzzle. Shawls for blessing from Anne Coates.

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Regular Events/Activities

Weekly:

Common Threads	Tuesday	9:30 am
Keep Fit	Wednesday	10 am
Choir	Thursday	7:30 pm
Table Talk (at A&W)	Thursday	9:30 am

Monthly:

Men's Breakfast for Braeburn Camp (rotating venue)		
—	1st Wednesday	7 am
Sisters Breakfast	1st Saturday	9:30 am
Anglican Church Women	2nd Thursday	2 pm
Vestry	2nd Tuesday	7 pm
Messy Church	3rd Sunday	3 pm
The Gathering	2nd & 4th Monday	7 pm
Tea and Hymn Sing	3rd Friday	2 pm

Special Dates:

Epiphany of the Lord observed	January 5
Baptism of the Lord observed	January 12
Ash Wednesday	February 26
Palm Sunday	April 5
Maundy Thursday	April 9
Good Friday	April 10
Easter Day	April 12