



REVELATIONS

Ordinary People Learning to Follow Jesus

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Editor – Alexis Anderson

A Message from Our Clergy Team

(by The Rev. Matthew Brown, Incumbent)

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but may have eternal life.” John 3:16 (NRSV)

Dear Friends,

We often call Christmas the season of giving, and rightly so. Throughout our Advent journey we have been preparing our hearts to receive anew the greatest gift of all – Jesus, the Christ child – and in response to the gift of God’s Son our hearts cannot help but overflow with love and gratitude. God gives to each of us the gift of life, and then blesses us with the gift of our faith in Christ so that we can live life abundantly. This truly is a light that shines in the darkness and the darkness cannot overcome it.

Throughout this issue of *Revelations* you will read about the generosity of your neighbours. You will see and know how you, God’s people in this beloved Parish of the Valley, have given so freely of your time, talents, and resources to partner with God in helping to make the “kingdom” come, on earth as it is in heaven. For we are all truly kin – we are members of one body, one great family. And Jesus our king chooses both a manger and a cross for his throne to show us that God’s gracious and saving love is intended not just for a chosen few, but for all of humanity.

During this season of giving, I encourage us all to keep living with divine generosity. Keep giving freely of yourself in service to God and to this world that God so dearly loves. Volunteer, phone a friend, talk to a newcomer, offer a ride, email or drop off a Christmas card (or mail one when we can eventually do that again!) Give generously, as you are able, to your local congregation and to other important causes where you see God’s love at work. And above all else, share the precious gifts of time and relationship. Be mindful as you commune with others this Christmas that the light of Christ shines within you, and within the heart of every other human being you will ever meet. For the Word has become flesh and lives among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father’s only son, full of grace and truth.

Wishing you all a very Merry Christmas,

Matthew +

2025 Canadian Church Calendars

There are still a few 2025 Canadian Church Calendars for sale across the Parish of the Valley! If you aren’t sure where there are still some for sale, ask around or contact Gail Marion at the office (613-732-4658).

This year we are again thrilled that photos of two of our churches have been selected for inclusion. All Saints Petawawa for February 2025 (taken by Rev. Gillian from the Rectorry) and St. Patrick’s Lower Stafford for October 2025 (taken by Rev. Matthew while flying overhead in a de Havilland Beaver (!) piloted by none other than John Shaw of Holy Trinity Pembroke).



An Advent Reflection

(by Wendy Cayen, Licensed Lay Reader)

This season of Advent is a sacred time of waiting with each other in preparation to receive the incarnate being of Jesus, the Messiah. The Latin root for advent is arrival. It is the long-awaited Saviour’s arrival that we set this time of Advent aside to actively plan our welcome of God’s great gift, his Son, into our hearts.

Mary’s acceptance of her pregnancy came with an awareness of the part she would play in God’s plan, as she responded to the words of the angel Gabriel, “I am the Lord’s servant... May it be to me as you have said.” Luke 1:38. Mary’s response comes with a lifelong surrender of her will to God.

Each Sunday during advent we light a candle on the advent wreath to symbolize and celebrate hope, peace, joy, and love. We can draw similarities between these and Mary’s time of waiting for the birth of her baby.

A woman on coming to know that she is pregnant begins a process of great hope and expectation for her child and her life as the mother of this child. We too hope in waiting for Jesus to come again. As with Mary, our lives of

surrender can now rest in the great hope of the will of the Father in our lives and how this freedom can now be manifest in service, the central truth of our being.

There is little that the mother can do during this time but wait and take peace in knowing that this child is being formed within the depths of her body. This surrender is peace itself, letting God's plan take hold within us in our journey in Jesus. Through faith there is peace in Jesus and the saving power of the cross; the power of forgiveness of our sins.

The expectant arrival begins in labour and ends in the mother's great joy in receiving her child and in feeling the deep bonds of the relationship between them. Mary's journey to a stable in humble acceptance of her place in God's plan is the best example in leading us to the joyful fulfillment of God's plan. The joy through our Advent journey manifests in Jesus, the Messiah, and God made man, and it comes to us in the form of a baby.

I think Mary knew that if anything, her son was special. Her love for Him has endured through millennia and we experience it as we continue our relationship with Jesus.

Mary surrendered; and our hope, peace, joy, and love in this life are manifest too in our surrender, in our waiting through this Advent season.

Looking for Some Camaraderie? Like to Sing?

If you're looking for some camaraderie, consider joining the Holy Trinity Anglican Church Women as they serve the church and the wider community in a variety of ways. For more information, contact Maggie Jacques at (613) 687-8189.

Or perhaps you like to sing? The Holy Trinity Choir is always looking for new voices. Young or young at heart, bass or soprano or anything in between. If you are interested, contact Paula Lundrigan through the Holy Trinity office at (613) 732-4658.

Always Wanted to Publish?

If you've always wanted to publish, now's your chance! We are looking for someone to take over as Editor of Revelations in the new year. Working with Rev. Gillian, you will pull together and lay out contributions from across the parish for four issues a year. If you're interested, please contact Rev. Gillian at (613) 687-9123.

Tips for Donating to your Local Congregation

If you are donating to PWRDF (Alongside Hope) and make your cheque out directly to PWRDF, your tax receipt will come from that agency. If you make the cheque out to your home church but put PWRDF on the memo line, your tax receipt will come from your church.

If you are not using numbered envelopes issued to you, but would like a tax receipt for your donation, please ensure you put your name and address on your envelope. Cash not identified with name or address is considered an "open" offering and is not tax receipted.

When writing cheques, please write LEGIBLY to help us ensure accuracy when recording your donations.

Donations are welcome through any method, and you are encouraged to use your favourite; however, some methods "cost" more than others. Due to processing costs, \$100 given through Tithely is actually \$96.70; through Canada Helps is \$96.00; and through PAR is \$99.70.

If you are donating to food banks or other "external" registered charities and make your cheque out directly to them, your tax receipt will come from them. If you make the cheque out to your home church but put the entity's name on the memo line, your tax receipt will come from your home church.

Our parish's cemeteries are not registered charities and thus cannot issue tax receipts. To make a tax-deductible donation, make your cheque payable to your home congregation, with "Cemetery Fund" clergy written on the memo line.

Update from All Saints Petawawa

Submitted by Louise Doran, People's Warden and Marion LeMotte, Rector's Warden

Wow! How the time flies. Here it is December and with that comes the beginning of the new Church year. So lovely to see the rich Advent blue of the church hangings once again.

Some things stay the same. For Remembrance Sunday all the graves in the church yard were decorated, thanks to Linda & John Long, with Canadian flags and poppies. Many of our military personnel are resting there.

We continue to support Food Bank Sundays and the feedback from the workers is "we can't believe how much

support we get from your small church"! Let's keep it up! This month we will be gathering articles that will be for the residents at Carefor.

November 16th was the date of our very successful Christmas Tea and Bazaar. The beautiful weather added to the enjoyment of everyone, workers and guests alike. From the proceeds the Ladies' Group was able to give \$2,000.00 to All Saints. So once again it was a financial success as well as a lovely time to connect with the community. We must mention that Phil Cottrell aka, "Phil the Music Man," added to the festivities with his musical selections at the keyboard. Thanks also to Jeffrey Doran for stepping outside of his comfort zone by keeping the tea & coffee pots full!

To wrap up the work done in 2024 the Ladies will be getting together for lunch and some Christmas festivities.

As churchwardens we are looking forward to assisting with our parish's Lay Visitation Program which is being expanded. We are also planning on refreshing and upgrading the church office and hallway in the new year.

And as a last note, be sure to check out February in 2025's church calendar. A beautiful picture of All Saints taken by Rev Gillian from a window in the rectory. Also, a great aerial shot for October of St. Patrick's in Lower Stafford, taken by Rev Matthew. Karsh would be impressed!

Until next time, remember that no act of kindness, no matter how small, goes unnoticed. Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!

Sponsor a Valley Bulletin!

Would you like to sponsor a colour Valley Bulletin, and offer it to the glory of God and in dedication of a special event, or in memory of loved ones? All members of the Parish of the Valley can now do so!

One of the main ways that we share in prayer and in fellowship across our parish on a weekly basis is through the Parish of the Valley Pew Bulletin. Each week, the clergy team and Gail in the office takes the prayer requests and events shared by our congregations and produces a joint bulletin to help keep us all informed and connected.

For the last three years, Holy Trinity Pembroke has offered a Valley Bulletin sponsorship program. For a donation, members of the Pembroke congregation have dedicated pew bulletins to the glory of God and in loving

memory of a loved one or a special event (anniversary, birthday, baptism, wedding, etc). On weeks when the bulletin has been sponsored with a dedication, the office prints the bulletins in full colour. Sponsorship also supports baptism and funeral bulletins throughout the Parish of the Valley, Revelations, website hosting costs, etc.

Bulletin sponsorship can be offered for a donation of \$40, payable by cash or cheque to Holy Trinity Anglican Church (special event bulletins may be more). Please call Gail at the office at 613-732-4658 or email office@valleyanglicans.ca to make arrangements. 100% of the proceeds will benefit the Parish of the Valley's shared Communications Fund and you will receive a tax receipt from Holy Trinity at year-end.

Parish of the Valley Food Bank Support

Four times per year, the Parish of the Valley holds "Food Bank Sunday," a Sunday on which we intentionally bring donations to our local food banks to church, so that we might gather and share the gifts God has given to us.

But our support of our local food banks goes much deeper than four Sundays per year! What follows are just three stories from across our parish of how local churches connect with and support the food banks in our communities.

All Saints Petawawa (with notes from Louise Doran)

The Independent Grocer in Petawawa offers a program by which grocery receipts can be stamped and collected, and a percentage of the receipt totals are given in points to the charity for their shopping use.

All Saints has long participated in this program and passes along a significant amount to the local food banks each year: In 2020, All Saints' points "purchased" 18 Christmas turkeys for St. Joseph's Food Bank in Pembroke. In 2021, the points were used for \$20 grocery gift cards for the Petawawa Pantry and St. Joseph's Food Bank to give out to clients. In addition, the All Saints Ladies Group commits at least \$100 to the food bank each December.

Often, food left over from Sunday church lunches is taken to the food bank on Monday morning for clients to enjoy with a coffee while they shop at the food bank. Upon receiving donations from All Saints, former food bank staff member used to repeatedly say, "I just can't believe how much your small church donates!"

St. John the Evangelist Eganville
(with notes from Heather Park-Wheeler)

The Eganville Food Bank has been managed for many years by the Rev. Gale Edmundson, retired priest at St. John the Evangelist and Honorary Assistant in the Parish of the Valley.

Food bank volunteers are recruited from across the village. Currently, there are three members of St. John's serving as Board Members: Dave Clark, Heather Park-Wheeler, and Rev. Gale, who continues to mentor her successor as Director.

During the lead-up to Christmas, the Eganville Food Bank puts on a Toy Drive, and this year it is being organized by Heather Park-Wheeler. It is a whole community initiative. The ages and gender of children of food bank clients who request a Christmas Hamper are given to the village library. The staff create an Angel tree with each child represented there. People from the wider community choose an angel, purchase a gift, and return it to the library one week before the Christmas Hamper distribution date. Over six days, three teams pick up gifts and deliver them to St. John's, sort the gifts stored at St. John's, and on the distribution day, hand out toys to parents as they come to pick up their food.

Anyone can get involved with the Food Bank and one of the many teams it takes to run this service. St. John's is very pleased to be able to host the Food Bank's AGM each year in St. Mark's Hall (the church basement), as well as offer the space for the Christmas Toy Drive.

Church of the Ascension, Killaloe
(with notes from Judy Martin)

The Killaloe Food Bank opens every second week, and each time members of Church of the Ascension Killaloe/St. John's Tramore, along with other members of the community, provide a homemade soup, sandwich, and dessert lunch for all food bank clients. There are two teams to alternate, making large pots of soup and loaves of sandwiches on a monthly basis each.

One day this past summer, while shopping for produce at the Killaloe Farmer's Market, Judy Martin commented with joy at the size of a lovely, big, head of cabbage that one farmer was offering for sale. By way of explanation, she said, "I wanted to make cabbage roll soup for the food bank."

Upon learning that Judy was buying vegetables to make

soup for food bank clients, the farmer declared that she would give Judy and members of the church all of the vegetables they needed to make soup, and an incredible partnership was created.

The Journey of the Indian Residential School Memorial Monument *(by The Rev. Christine Muise, Associate Incumbent)*

On September 30, 2024, the National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, I was honoured and humbled to be present at the Canadian Museum of History in Gatineau to witness the raising of the Indian Residential School Memorial Monument.

My journey with the Monument, and the Monument's journey to the Museum on the traditional and unceded



territory of the Algonquin Anishinabeg, goes back a few years and starts at the northern tip of Vancouver Island, in the community of Port Hardy on

traditional Kwakwaka'wakw territory, where I served a shared Anglican-United Church.

In June 2023, Kwakiutl First Nation carver, Stanley Hunt completed the Indian Residential School Memorial Monument. It is a work of heart featuring 130 unsmiling children's faces carved into a tree trunk more than five metres tall and topped by a large black raven looking down on them and, as Hunt says, "cradling the seed of life" in its beak. The entire monument is painted black and orange. The Canadian Maple Leaf and the Initials for the Royal Canadian Mounted Police are carved into a cross—all of which are inverted.

In talking about the imagery on the Monument, Hunt stated that, "I didn't write Canadian history. I'm just marking a time in Canadian history that's very dark, and that there were some very bad decisions made." The raven, Hunt explained, is the creator in Indigenous culture but



“also the trickster,” and from its vantage point atop the monument sees the Canadian symbols right side up. “He (the Raven) has been created to help us find these children — and not just to find them, but I’m really hoping that they’ll go and find each one of these children’s names. How old they were, where they came from. And they get a proper burial.”

On June 18, 2023, a ceremony was held with the Indian Residential School Memorial Monument at what is known as Carrot Park in Port Hardy. Kwakiutl singers and dancers and the wider community had the opportunity to interact with the Monument as it was prepared to make the long journey from its birthplace to its new home.

The Canadian Coast Guard and the RCMP gave logistical and transportation support to the journey. Along the way, the Monument made multiple stops on Vancouver Island



before arriving on June 21, 2023 in Victoria. It was held in Victoria Harbour in front of the Empress Hotel for the start of National Indigenous Peoples Day before being loaded onto a

Coast Guard Vessel to sail to Canada Place in Vancouver where ceremony continued.

The Monument continued its journey uncovered, so that people could see it and bear witness to its journey and for the Raven of the Monument to call the childrens’ spirits home. It made stops at the Kamloops Indian Residential School Site and then stayed at the RCMP Heritage Centre in Regina, Saskatchewan for several days to mark the 3rd annual National Day for Truth and Reconciliation.

And then, this past September 30, the Indian Residential School Memorial Monument was raised in the Canadian Museum of History with the help of Stanley Hunt, Chief Dr. Robert Joseph, and about 50 members from Kwakiutl First Nation. It was an amazing ceremony with an official welcome from Algonquin Anishinabeg Peoples which included drummers and jingle dress dancers. The Kwakiutl Nation held Ceremony offering all those in attendance a window into their sacred songs, dances, and traditions. It was a phenomenal offering. I felt very humbled that I got to see this monument before it left Port Hardy and that I happened to be able to attend its permanent installation at the Museum.

Seeing the Kwakiutl Nation at the Canadian Museum of History, singing and dancing openly in ceremony that had

been banned, offered to me so much hope. May we work to create a society where truly, in word and deed, Every Child Matters.

Church of the Epiphany Barry’s Bay Wine & Cheese *(by Dave Eagles, People’s Warden)*

For years, Pat Hope-Kosnaskie had been inviting friends and neighbours over to her lovely lakeside house for her very British Christmas “At Home” on Mask Island in Barry’s Bay. Fourteen years ago, she decided to turn this pre-Christmas gathering into a fundraiser to get new sheet music for the church choir. This first fundraiser was held at a larger lakeside house of other parishioners, Pia and Tom, and involved about 40 people who paid \$25 to sample vintage wines specially paired with gourmet cheeses. It was also held once or twice at 4 other houses of friends and neighbours, including Bishop Michael.

Then Covid-19 cancelled our 2020 event, so for 2021 we approached our local Legion for permission to hold it there so that we could separate tables sufficiently to meet the Covid safety protocols. It was a hit, and despite missing the chance to see lovely homes, the advantages were many, and it is now our preferred option.

A Wine & Cheese Event, now at \$50 a person, is not a typical church fundraiser, but it works well in our area. Like any fundraiser there is the need to organize, sell tickets, prepare for the event and get volunteers to help. We are blessed with a team of repeat volunteers who enjoy the event, so it runs smoothly. But the key to this event, compared to more typical fundraisers, is people who know wine and cheese. That challenge is met by Pat’s son, daughter and son-in-law. They read the vinophile magazines and gourmet food magazines then talk to sommeliers at the LCBO and merchants at specialty shops. Thus educated, they then buy special wines and cheeses to try and see how they actually go together before deciding on the 7 wines and 5 cheeses that will be selected.

Our 3-to-4-hour event on a Saturday afternoon now draws about 65 to 70 attendees including the volunteers (who also pay and get to sample) and makes about \$2,000 for our church. Most attendees return the following year, and we are being asked for tickets by early September. If your church is looking to run a similar event contact Dave Eagles, but the real takeaway here is to try something different, like Pat did 14 years ago.



Meet The Rev. Christine Muise *(by Pat Burn)*

We were very sad to bid farewell to our Assistant Curate the Reverend Claire Brama in June. Claire had been part of our ministry team for two years, and although we knew that she was only here for that long, and that she was moving on to an exciting new posting in a place where she was looking forward to living, we had loved having her among us and would sorely miss her.

Then, in September, we were delighted to welcome our new Associate Incumbent, the Reverend Christine Muise. Christine comes with lots of experience in ministry, a great deal of energy and enthusiasm, and a wonderful smile for everyone.

She tells us that she travelled nearly 5,000 kilometers from the Territory of The Kwakwaka'wakw Peoples in the north of Vancouver Island to the Territory of The Algonquin Anishnabec People here in the Ottawa Valley.

Christine was born in Montreal and raised in Southern Ontario. Her parents now live in Nova Scotia, and she has



a sister, two nieces, and five great nieces and nephews, all of whom live in Ohio. Since her youth, she has had a circle of love in friendship and care in the places she lived and has many sisters and brothers in faith.

She was educated in Ottawa and Abbotsford, BC, earning a degree in Criminology. After graduation she worked for a few years for the International Centre for Criminal Justice Reform and Justice Policy, and later for the John Howard Society in halfway houses for men recently released from federal prisons. She said she later planned to attend Law School, but as she says, “God had different plans” for her.

She felt a calling to serve Christ in the Anglican Church of Canada and completed her Master of Divinity in 2006; later being ordained in 2008. Between then, and her joining us this year, she served in various communities in BC, including the Kokanee Region, Golden, Parksville, and Port Hardy. Some of these included team ministries,

and she feels this is a much healthier and faithful way of being in ministry than in situations where only one minister serves a community or communities.

Much of her work was focused on the poorest and most desolate people among us – the homeless, those with opiate addictions, and those with mental health problems. Although some might have found it to be exhausting work, she thrived while helping to establish supports for those affected, and it was not without its successes and rewards, with people’s lives improved and the seeds of faith planted.

Reverend Christine says that she had imagined that her ministry would be in the downtown core of major cities. But that didn’t happen, and she has ended up in rural team ministry and she loves it, finding, “Opportunities to live out the gospel values, and to walk in a godly way with indigenous people whose land I have come to share.”

The Order of Franciscans is very dear to her heart, and she is presently a novice in the Third Order and will soon become a Professed Member of the Third Order. It forms an important and integral part of her life. She looks forward to one day going on a retreat with them and maybe visiting cathedrals, labyrinths, and other holy sites. Meantime, she shares joyful time with fellow members in different parts of North and South America.

Her hobbies and lifestyle suit life here in the Valley. She’s a gymnast (coach and participant) and a lover of nature, swimming, and kayaking. In answer to my observation that she seemed to be busy, she insisted that she feels “full”, rather than busy.

While I was talking to her, one of my cats put in an appearance, which prompted me to ask her about pets. She loves animals, and while living in Golden, BC, she had cats and a house-trained Vietnamese pig who was a beloved and entertaining pet. Right now she doesn’t have any pets as she thinks it would be cruel because she is away from home so much.

When you meet Christine, with her wide, spontaneous smile, it is impossible not to feel her warmth and her enthusiasm for meeting you and being part of our parish. She’s full of energy, and sometimes sings and dances around the sanctuary while preparing for Holy Communion.

One of the benefits of being part of an area parish, served by four different clergy, is the sum of the talent available to us. Our clergy have varied viewpoints and special

strengths and gifts, but they are united in their efforts to being their very best to us all. We are blessed and can be assured that Reverend Christine will be a valuable part of that team.

Come and Journey



The Parish of the Valley is so excited to invite families to an inaugural Messy Church Event happening on Saturday February 1st, 2025, at the Laurentian Valley Four Trail Lodge. Located at 2 Henan Road, Pembroke, ON K8A 6W5.

Seasons

This is an 'all family' participation event, so bring your kids and/or grandkids for some faith-based activities, a short time of worship, share in a delicious meal, and enjoy the skating trail or snowshoe trail. Please stay tuned for information about Messy Church in the new year!

*“A room of quiet .. a temple of peace;
A home of faith .. where doubtings cease;
A house of comfort .. where hope is given;
A source of strength .. to make earth heaven
A shrine of worship .. a place to pray—
I found all this .. in my church today.”*

-Anonymous



**Impact
Zambia**

**A Report from Impact
Zambia 2024** (by The Rev. Allan
Studd, Honorary Assistant Priest)

Wendy Wilker-Blakely and I (Allan Studd) left from Montreal very early on Tuesday July 30 and flew to New York, JFK airport where we met up with the rest of the Impact Team arriving from Toronto. We then flew on together to Nairobi, Kenya where we stopped overnight and had a good sleep. The following day (now Thursday) we flew into Livingstone, Zambia and got settled into Fawltly Towers hotel and hostel which has become our home away from home over the years. It was good to see the friendly, welcoming faces after travelling 12,000 kms. Their accommodations are always a welcome sight.

With never a moment's rest we settled into our rooms and then piled into our rented pickup trucks and drove out to Victoria Falls. To everyone's delight there were wild animals all along the route. The Falls were spectacular although there was a very reduced flow of water passing over them as Zambia was suffering through the worst drought in 60 years. We hiked through the parkland

around the Falls running into an Africa wildcat and then a troop of baboons. Not sure what to do at that point we hesitated, which the male interpreted as his chance to charge – which he did, and he made a grab at one of the women in our group. Luckily, our fearless leader, Lianti Muller, chased the baboon away with a stick which had to be at least 6 inches long. We turned around and went back the way we had come. Our adventures with animals were not over for the trip, or even for that day. We met with



friends at a riverside restaurant for dinner. Meeting with friends is one of the important ministries that we do during our time in country, this

time Amber and Jocko, their growing boys, from the Mission of Love Orphanage, and some friends visiting from the US. The excitement that evening was a crocodile swimming past with fresh kill clamped in its jaws. This was only our first day. The next day was even more exciting when we were taken out to a game preserve to visit with a group of white rhinoceros.

Finally, on Saturday morning we loaded up and began our long trip up country. In the city of Choma we stopped and connected with Dorothy Simfukwe, another good friend. She is a Canadian missionary. We were joined by her good friend Koyi Kchikonga, their pastor's wife and a grade-school teacher. Koyi had arranged for us to see the "Black Jesus", a series of murals of Jesus' life set in Zambia. The painting of Jesus' entrance into Jerusalem was our POTV bulletin cover art on Palm Sunday. Painted on the walls of the chapel of a protestant private school just outside of town; it was amazing to see these depictions of Jesus' life set in the familiar Zambian countryside. Afterwards, we continued up the road to the town of Namwalla. Here we drove directly to a church that Impact Zambia had helped to build. We were met by the parishioners pouring out of the church singing songs of praise and welcome. So many familiar faces. So many people who have shared their lives with us through the past 10 years. They created another of many emotional moments on this trip. We stayed overnight in a local lodge and the next morning made our way along the banks of the Kafue River to the barge that would transport us across the water. On the opposite side we joined the road to Itezhi-tezhi and completed the short trip into town and our destination. It was now Sunday morning, and a huge

crowd was waiting for us at New Life Tabernacle and Cell Ministries.

It was another emotional moment when we met with Daniel and Florence Mayapi, the pastors at New Life, and Impact Zambia's in-country agents. As always, Florence welcomed us and told us we were now "home". As we entered the already packed church, the space erupted with applause and keening. My response was to feel completely and utterly humbled. So many familiar faces, so much joy that we had arrived to help them celebrate 30 years of God's action in their lives over the week to come. The purpose of our trip this year was to join in the



celebration of 30 years of ministry in the area.

So how do I describe the following week? Much of it is a blur. We met for

the celebrations and conference at the Life Impact Training Centre, about 25 kms outside of Itezhi-tezhi. In the end, 660 individuals attended. They came from all over Zambia. They came by the truckload, by bus, by bicycle, motorcycle and on foot. They brought their music and their faith with them. Impact Zambia's Canadian team consisted of our leader Lianti and Heather from Acton, myself and Bonnie Borchardt (the seniors), Wendy from Eganville, Connie from Stratford, and Kim and Hugh from Goderich. Bonnie and I taught about trauma. I twice presented a workshop called The Tree of Life. Kim

taught cooking classes using local ingredients. Wendy worked with parents of disabled



children. Connie taught various types of massage therapy. Heather had the hardest job of working each day with up to 200 children. Hugh worked all week with the architectural drawings for the expanding Training Centre and pulled together lists of materials that will be needed to begin the construction of the new campus. Daniel Mayapi gave us a guided tour of the proposed campus. All Zambians brought their music. From dawn to well past

dusk they filled our lives with their music and dancing. We began each day with worship. Saturday was put aside for a daylong celebration with ordinations, speeches, worship, music, presentations and skits. Oh, and a feast, something really special in a land marked by drought and crop failures. All of this took place outside in an amphitheatre, in the open classrooms, and under the trees. On Sunday, at the end of the week of festivities, we met one last time for worship outside in the amphitheatre and gave great thanks for the abundance that God provides even in the midst of drought and hunger. As Daniel says, "God is good. All the time, God is good".

For Allan, perhaps the most important moment came when a group of Zambian Military Veterans sought him out to talk about their experiences, trauma and the sense of being forgotten by the government. I promised to approach a few Canadian Veterans and just set up some communications between Zambia and Canada. I am happy to report that that has come about as I write this.

At the final worship I was asked to preach. I used as my text the story in Genesis about Jacob fleeing from his brother and father. He stopped at dusk and lay down to sleep. All night he dreamed about a stairway to heaven on which angels constantly ascended and descended. In the morning when Jacob awoke, he declared that "God must be in this place ... and I did not know". Well, God was in the midst of our celebrations and conference at Life impact Training Centre. It is one of the reasons that I keep going to Zambia. God is always found to be present in our sharing of ministry with the Zambians and their strong and happy faith.

The final worship service marked the halfway point for Impact Zambia 2024. There was another week of adventures and connections, which I will write about in the next edition of Revelations. Our plans for 2025 have not been finalized yet, other than there will be another trip in August 2025. If you have interest in this trip, please express that to Allan.

Advent Vespers: Come and Find a Quiet Centre

Holy Trinity Pembroke has had the absolute pleasure this year of hosting Advent Vespers on Wednesday evenings on behalf of our Parish of the Valley. Vespers is also known as Evening Prayer and is part



of the Liturgy of the Hours, or the Divine Office. Advent



Vespers not only lets us fulfill Jesus' command to "pray always" (Luke 18:1), but it allows us to combine music and liturgy to prepare

for the joyous celebration of the incarnation. If you were unable to attend in person, you can still watch the services on YouTube by searching "YouTube Parish of the Valley Vespers".



Christmas Services in the Parish of the Valley 2024

Christmas Eve – Tuesday, 24 December

4PM Services

- All Saints Petawawa
- Ascension Killaloe
- St Paul's Cobden
- St Anthony's Whitney

7PM Services

- Holy Trinity Pembroke
- St George's South Alice
- St John the Evangelist Eganville
- Epiphany Barry's Bay
- St Thomas Rankin
- St Augustine Chapel Beachburg

Christmas Day – Wednesday, 25 December

- 9AM – Ascension Killaloe
- 10AM – Holy Trinity Pembroke
- 11AM – St John the Evangelist Eganville

For more information, please visit www.ValleyAnglicans.ca



Christmas Quotes



"My idea of Christmas, whether old-fashioned or modern, is simple: loving others. Come to think of it, why do we have to wait for Christmas to do that?" – *Bob Hope*

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year." – *Charles Dickens in "A Christmas Carol"*

"The way you spend Christmas is far more important than how much." – *Henry David Thoreau*

"It's Christmas Eve. It's the one night of the year when we all act a little nicer, we smile a little easier, we cheer a little more. For a couple of hours out of the whole year, we are the people that we always hoped we would be." – *Frank Cross*

"Maybe Christmas, he thought, doesn't come from a store. Maybe Christmas ... perhaps ... means a little bit more!" – *Theodore Seuss Geisel in "How the Grinch Stole Christmas"*

A Joyous Prelude to Christmas in Pembroke

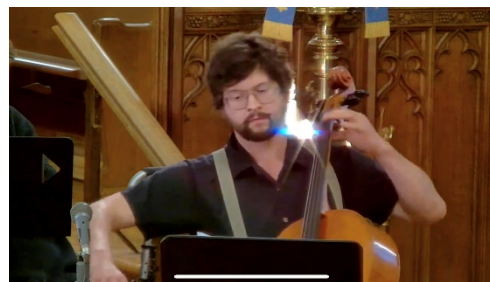
Holy Trinity Pembroke was again proud to host the annual "A Joyous Prelude to Christmas" concert. The event was organized by Paula Lundrigan (also on piano and organ)



and included not just "home-grown" talent like the Holy Trinity Choir and The Intermittents, but special

guests Sarah Coles (saxophone), Sandra Allen (flute),

Anthony Lambermont (cello), Lawrence Mahusky (vocals), and Ainsleigh MacInnis (guitar and vocals).



A big thanks to everyone for another great evening of worship and camaraderie.

This edition of Revelations was generously sponsored by:

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Joseph (Christine Krantz) and Mary (Lily Hoyer Brown) watch over Baby Jesus during the Holy Trinity Pembroke “pick-up” Christmas Pageant on December 8th.



In late October at Holy Trinity Pembroke, Sean McCann, from “Great Big Sea”, delighted the audience with a stellar performance that included inviting Holy Trinity’s own Ainsleigh MacInnis to join him on stage for a couple of songs.

