

The Fish Net

www.bostonpresbyterianchurch.ca

Rev. Shawn Croll

905-875-2804 / scroll@sympatico.ca

Christmas 2019

Dear Friends,

Even though I was a very young child at the time the memory is still quite vivid. Knox Oakville was holding its annual candlelight service and except for the candles in the windows, the church was in darkness. Then the choir processed down the centre aisle holding their lit candles singing the hymn they always did at the beginning of the candlelight service, "Once in Royal David's City".

As I just mentioned, I was quite young. Surrounded by all of the adults I really couldn't see much of anything but even so it still had quite an impact on me. It is hard to convey but even after all of these years I still remember the sense of awe, wonder and even mystery I felt that night; that we were celebrating something truly special.

All of us of course are well acquainted with the Christmas story, especially as related in Luke's gospel; there being no room in the inn, the angels and shepherds. To that we can also add Matthew's story of the mysterious magi or wise men as we usually call them. These are an integral part of our Christmas celebrations and yet it is no mistake that the traditional gospel lesson commonly read at the end of the Christmas Eve service is taken from John's gospel:

"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was with God in the beginning. Through Him all things were made. In Him was life, and that life was the light of all mankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."

John was not concerned about the details of Jesus' birth but rather its meaning, and the beginning of John's gospel captures some of the holy awe, wonder and mystery that is Christmas. Indeed I sometimes wonder if the more we try to understand and explain Christmas with all of its meaning, the less we really do understand; we either "get it" or we don't.

Wishing you a most blessed and awesome Christmas!

Calendar of Events

The annual Christmas Pageant, "On the Way to Bethlehem", will be presented by the Milton Area Christian Churches Working Together at Country Heritage Park from Friday, November 29th to Sunday, December 1st from 6:30 to 8:30 each evening. Admission is \$5 for those 13 years of age and older, \$2 for children 6 to 12 years old, and is free for children 5 and under.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on December 1st, which is also the First Sunday in Advent. Fittingly on this special Sunday, we will be resuming worship upstairs in the newly-painted sanctuary. Also as we usually do at the December communion, we will be supporting the local Salvation Army's food bank that morning. Everyone is invited to contribute gifts of non-perishable food, or if you prefer a monetary gift may be designated for the food bank in your regular offering envelope. The money donated enables the Salvation Army to purchase needed food items that have not been donated.

The Ladies Fellowship Group will be going to the "Risposta Bistro" (24 Crawford Crescent in Campbellville) for lunch on Monday, December 2nd, at noon. All other women interested in joining the group for lunch are most welcome. Please let Shirley Lawrence know (905-878-6415) if you plan on attending. The lunch will follow the regularly scheduled meeting of the Ladies Fellowship Group at the church at 9:30.

The congregational Pot-Luck Dinner and Christmas Party will be held at the church on Friday, December 6th beginning at 6:30.

The Craig Kielburger Secondary School's Christmas Buffet will be held on Wednesday, December 11th from 10:30 a.m. to 1:15. The price is \$18. Call 905-878-0575 ext. 353 to make a reservation.

The Choir will be presenting their Christmas Cantata "I Heard the Bells on Christmas Day" during the morning worship service on December 15th. Following the service there will be a special Christmas coffee and fellowship time downstairs, hosted by the choir. That Sunday, the choir will also be officially launching the release of their CD. (There will **not** be a coffee and fellowship time the next week as would normally be the case).

The Christmas Eve "Carols and Lessons Service" will be held at 7:00 p.m. The service will end with the lighting of the candles followed by everyone singing "Silent Night" in the darkened sanctuary, symbolizing the meaning of Christmas; the birth of The One who is the Light of the World.

Shawn will be away on holidays from Wednesday, January 8th until Tuesday January 21st. In his absence the services on January 12th and 19th will be led by the Rev. Howard Sullivan. In the event of a pastoral emergency the Rev. Drew Jacques of St. David's, Campbellville will be available (705-676-5844).

The Bible Study Group will resume meeting on Wednesday, January 29th at 10:00 a.m. The group meets at the manse (373 Wilson Drive) every second Wednesday. The topic will be the life of King David. All are welcome.

The Annual Meeting will be held at the church on Wednesday, February 5th at 7:00 p.m.

The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper will be celebrated on Sunday, March 1st.

Missions

So far this year we have raised \$7454 of the \$8000 we committed ourselves to giving to *Presbyterians Sharing*. At this point last year we had raised \$5622.

Once again during the month of December we are collecting needed items for Evangel Hall, a Presbyterian Mission in the inner city of Toronto. Requested items include: new men's and women's underwear, gently-used long underwear, jackets, coats, t-shirts, boots, blue jeans, hats, gloves, sweaters, sleeping bags and blankets. There is also a need for disposable razors, deodorants, body lotions, lip balms, feminine products, toothbrushes, small tubes of toothpaste, and small packages of Q-tips. A reminder too that donations of Canadian Tire money and gift cards are also gratefully accepted. Please place all clothing in green garbage bags and the toiletries in a separate bag inside the bags of clothing. A couple of empty green bags will be available at the back of the church to accommodate smaller bags of donations.

The TSC store in Milton is holding a "Heat the Feet" fundraiser again this year where for \$1.00 a particular selection of socks in the store can be purchased to support the needy. All of these socks purchased at the store during this campaign will be given to the Ladies Fellowship Group to send on to Evangel Hall.

Flowers in the Sanctuary

The poinsettias in the church this Christmas season have been given by Audrey Peddie in loving memory of her husband Jim, her grandson Jack and her parents, Cliff and Mary Brown.

Food for Thought