



# News 'n' Views

MacNab Street Presbyterian Church Newsletter  
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December

2011

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## Ready! Set!... Relax?

By Rev. Thomas J. Kay

The most common remark that I will hear over the next few weeks is this: "You're a Minister? You must be so busy during this time of the year!" I usually just nod and smile in response, but in truth, the answer is, well yes, and *no!*

I'm not sure what people imagine clergy doing during Christmas, and yes, there are some additional services to conduct and events to attend, but overall it's fairly routine. That is, in the sense, that Christmas

comes with its own routines, if not exactly set in concrete, then certainly *well* established. Christmas is a time for tradition, not innovation. It's a time to let the old, old story speak for itself, without a heavy-handed commentary from the pulpit. It's a time to indulge our senses, and our spirits, in all the joys of the season. It's not my job to reinvent Christmas, but to guide the worshipping community through the delights and ancient traditions of our Christmas worship.

That Christmas is meant to be enjoyed rather than endured is evident in the Christian calendar. Christmas Day is preceded by four full weeks of expectant preparation. A time intended for soothing the spirit and preparing the heart. Christmas itself is not just a day, but a season – twelve *whole* days in fact – meant for celebration and enjoyment.

*Jesus  
is the  
Reason  
for the  
Season*

The celebration is then followed by the season of Epiphany, a time to reflect on the ongoing meaning of the Incarnation, even as the routines of the workaday world gradually re-assert themselves.

How sad that this season meant to be experienced and enjoyed at leisure has been supplanted by the noisy clamour and urgent demands of a commercialized Christmas—a season dominated by Santa rather than Christ, and dedicated

to spending rather than rejoicing, to partying rather than peace.

If it's true that the heart of Christmas is its traditions, then maybe it's not too late to save and experience again the true joy of the season. Maybe we don't need to reinvent Christmas, as much

as to *rediscover* it. Maybe we will find Christmas a joy rather than an ordeal, energizing rather than exhausting, if we simply *relax* about it – if we slow down, refuse to be hurried, and let the ancient rhythms of the season exert themselves and guide us in the journey from Advent, through Christmas, to Epiphany.

### FOOD DRIVE FOR DECEMBER:

Donations of CEREAL for the Inner City Breakfast Program continue to be needed. Non-perishable items such as peanut butter, tuna, pasta etc are also welcome.

Thank you for your generosity throughout the year!

## CHOIR NOTES- By Jack Brown



I am sure you will have noted the additions to our choir ranks recently and we are glad to have the assistance of Sopranos Amanda Joubert and Noelle Platt, and Contralto Kathleen Brooks (remember her solo November 6th?) The men continue their strong showing in the Tenor and Bass sections.

I am pleased to advise that in addition to Contralto Emily Colbert, Noelle Platt and Jozef Teeuwsen (Bass) have been selected and approved for Choral Scholarships. Welcome to you all.

Please be sure to check the events calendar on the back for upcoming choral events.

Woe is me—I was going to end with some medical jokes but can't find them. Instead, here are a couple of family "groaners":(but true!)

*Wife Joyce recently told my sister Nan that her wee brother is not a great shopper. Well, Nan is well aware of this but when you've seen one shopping centre you've seen a mall.....!*

*Hallowe'en is just past and every year I always think of my late mother whose birthday was October 31st. My late Dad used to kid her by saying, "Liz, no one can ever claim that your are two-faced, else you would not be wearing that one!" (actually, she was a good looking lady)*



## Holiday Worship

## Worship for the New Year

First Sunday after Christmas, January 1<sup>st</sup> at 10:30AM

Theme: "Lift High the Name of Jesus!"  
The morning service will be followed by a brief celebration of communion in the Chancel, for those wishing to participate.

First Sunday after Epiphany, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 10:30AM

Theme: "The Baptism of Jesus: God With Us"

**ADVENT** means "coming," of course, and the promise of Advent is that what is coming is an unimaginable invasion. The mythology of our age has to do with flying saucers, and invasions from outer space, and that is unimaginable enough.

But what is upon us now is even more so—a close encounter not of the third kind but of a different kind altogether.

An invasion of holiness.  
That's what Advent is all about.  
*Frederick Buechner, Listening to Your Life*

- Sat Nov 26 12 Noon  
**Magic of Christmas Tea**
- Sun Nov 27 10:30am -Advent 1  
*Sacrament of Baptism & Reception of New Members*
- Fri Dec 2 7:00pm  
*"Messiah" at Redeemer U.C.*
- Sat Dec 3 7:00pm  
**Redeemer U.C. Choir presents**  
*"Messiah" in Macnab's Sanctuary*
- Sun Dec 4 10:30am-Advent 2  
*Sacrament of Holy Communion*
- Fri Dec 9 6:30pm  
**"Dickens of a Christmas Dinner"**  
*Tickets-\$20 on sale in Johnston Hall*
- Sat Dec 10 9:30am  
*Decorating of the Sanctuary*  
10:00am  
*Pageant practice—Sanctuary*  
2:00pm  
*Preparations for Inner City Dinner—Help Needed! Contact Marguerite Gilbert*
- Sun Dec 11 10:30am-Advent 3  
**Nativity Pageant/White Gift Sunday**  
*Please bring new unwrapped toys, games, books, clothes, for all ages*  
*And place under the Christmas Tree*
- Tues Dec 13 12 Noon  
*Friendly Circle Christmas Lunch at the Mandarin*
- Sun Dec 18 10:30am-Advent 4  
7:00pm  
*Annual Carols by Candlelight Service*
- Sat Dec 24 7:00pm  
**Family Christmas Eve Service**  
*A Joyful Candlelight Celebration of the Season with Lesson, Carols and Special Music*
- Sun Dec 25 10:30am  
*An informal family service for Christmas Day*



**A CHRISTMAS NEWS-LETTER FOR THE CHILDREN IS NOW AVAILABLE IN THE NARTHEX AS WELL AS THE CHURCH SCHOOL!**

**THANK YOU** to all the men and ladies who worked so hard to make the Magic of Christmas Tea such a success. Dollars will be sent to help support Sleeping Children Around the World, Inner City Youth (Don MacVicar) PWS&D and a programme in Central America to help train nurses.

Our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Mandarin on Tuesday, December 13th at 12 noon.

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year to all!

Florence Sharman,  
President



**FINANCIAL INFORMATION-OCT 2011**

	Year to Date 2010	Year to Date 2011	Budget
<b>Weekly offerings:</b>	\$97,647	\$114,946	\$110,833
<b>Expenses</b>	\$258,415	\$239,438	\$245,538
<b>Transferred from Trust Accounts</b>			
<b>To meet shortfall:</b>	\$80,000	\$90,000	\$110,833
<b>Presbyterians Sharing to Oct 31st 2011</b>	\$21,113	<b>We have met our allocation!</b>	