



ST. PETER, QUAMICHAN

ANGLICAN CHURCH

The BEACON Newsletter for December 6, 2020

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A PRAYER for Uncertain Times

This is another day, O Lord. I know not what it will bring forth, but make me ready, Lord, for whatever it may be. If I am to stand up, help me to stand bravely. If I am to sit still, help me to sit quietly. If I am to lie low, help me to do it patiently. And if I am to do nothing, let me do it gallantly. Make these words more than words, and give me the Spirit of Jesus. Amen.

FLOWER CALENDAR for Special Occasions and Flowers in Memory of...

The Flower Calendar is ready to fill in for 2021; however, due to COVID restrictions, the calendar will **not** be posted on the hall notice board. If you wish to add your name to a special date, please contact Elaine Parker by email (elainebparker@gmail.com) or phone (250-748-2889). Special thanks to Doreen Chaperon for preparing the calendar and Elaine for looking after the scheduling while our activities are curtailed.



DECEMBER EDITION of the Anglican Journal and Diocesan Post

The December Editions of these two newspapers are now available to download from our website under the NEWS section or you can click [HERE](#) for the Diocesan Post and [HERE](#) for the Anglican Journal. A picture of St. Peter Quamichan is on the front cover of the Diocesan Post along with a short article. Enjoy!

Ruth Dearman's BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS during COVID



Thank you to my dear friends at St. Peter's. You gladdened my heart by remembering my 99th birthday in so many unique ways. It was a birthday to remember. I celebrated it in the garage with John and my daughter Susan at separate tables. Susan responded to my wish for caesar salad and tossed it with much ceremony. They both sang as they lit the cake. We were snug sitting on hot water bottles wrapped in blankets.....*such fun!!*

VIRTUAL SERVICES during December (from Rev. MJ)

As you are aware, we have returned to online services and they will continue to be available each week. Monica sends out an email which includes a link to the service, a copy of the bulletin and a copy of this newsletter, the Beacon. For the next two weeks of Advent, the service links will be sent to you as usual.

Over Christmas the following services will be posted in advance: **A Family Christmas Eve Service** with a homily directed towards families including younger children; **An Evening Service** which will be a calm, quiet and meditative service; and **A Service for Christmas Day**. Monica will send the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day links early; however, I suggest you wait and open them on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The Bishop's office has encouraged **all clergy and lay staff to take the week off between December 26 and January 2**. It is to be counted as a gift and not as holidays; therefore, there will not be any filming or posting, and the office will be closed. As always, I will be available for pastoral emergencies. Please do not hesitate to call me at (250) 619-7528. I will be here.

Finally, I invite you to give a heartfelt thanks to Mark & Jane Hird-Rutter and Barry DeSilva for their dedication and talents as together, our worship team enthusiastically and safely brings Church to you in your home.

Parishioners share their CHRISTMAS MEMORIES

From Eileen Curtis - I often wake, early in the morning, with thoughts or ideas of things past and present. Some of my more recent thoughts have been about Christmas celebrations. Because COVID Christmas will be quite different for some of us. It may be quieter than what we are usually used to, some traditions or practices may have to change. All of which made me recall Christmas as a child.

One of my first Christmas memories, about age 4 or 5, is of a lit Christmas tree. Living on a Saskatchewan farm we did not have the luxury of going out to the forest to cut down a tree or even going to a Christmas tree lot. The Christmas trees would be shipped, by train, to the local town. My dad would bring one home on one of his weekly trips to town for groceries and supplies. The tree would be untied and allowed to stand outside to shake out. Then on Dec 22 or 23 it would be brought into the house and decorated. Once it was decorated, we would wait until it was dark and then light the tree. I can still see that first lit tree with its bright lights. It was magical.



Besides the lights the tree was decorated with ornaments collected over the years, some garland, and tinsel. My mom liked to put on the tinsel, each strand placed just so. Also, special to the tree was a string of **bubble lights**. The story told my brother and I was that when the lights began to bubble Santa would be on his way. We would quickly get off to bed. Therefore, those lights were never lit before Christmas Eve. The tree stayed up until Jan 6 which was my mother's birthday and as I learned later, Epiphany.

When I was a teenager it was my job to decorate the tree a task I still enjoy and look forward to each year. I can still recall coming home my first year of university so excited about Christmas. My Dad remarked I was like a 5-year-old. When I was married, I continued some of those same traditions with my family – putting up the tree on the 22nd or 23rd, and turning on the bubble lights on Christmas Eve. One of my favorite times during the Christmas season is to sit in the room lit only by the tree lights and enjoy some quiet thoughts about events past and present, and reflect on possibilities for the coming year.

During this Advent and Christmas season, when everything seems chaotic and different, let's find ways to be together as a faith family. Do you have a favorite memory, or a family tradition you would like to share? It is the stories that knit us together as a community. You can send your Christmas memory to Monica in the parish office at admin@stpeterduncan.ca and she will put it in a future edition of the Beacon.

ON-LINE Christmas Market

Searching for the perfect Christmas present for a loved one? Since Christmas Fairs and Markets have been put on hold this year due to the pandemic, some creative churches are posting their wares on-line. Christ Church Cathedral Robin's Nest is [HERE](#) It can also be found on our website under the NEWS section.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE for the Week of December 6

Members of our Congregation: Rocke, Don, Audra, Cindy, Ruth, John, Bill, Jane, Peter, Vera, Sandee, Jennifer, Dorothy, Audrey, Vital, Theresa, Bob, Frank, Doris, Pearl, Connie and Brandon.

Anglican Cycle:

- Anna, Bishop-elect, Diocese of BC
- Barry and Ansley, Diocesan Leadership Team
- Mark, National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop
- Lincoln, Bishop, Territory of the People Anglican Church
- Selinde, Priest, St. Mary, Nanoose Bay
- Carlos, Bishop of Spanish Reformed Episcopal Church
- MJ, Chris, Jim and Norah, our Clergy, Kirsten, our Seminarian

Government Leaders: Justin, our Prime Minister, John our Premier, William, Chief of the Cowichan Tribes, and Al and Michelle our Mayors.

Parish Families: Lloyd and Connie, Rick and Janet, Rod and Denise

Birthday Blessings this week: John Bray (celebrated his 80th on Nov 30th), Linda Beaman (Dec 12th), Dave Erickson (Dec 12th).