

November 26 — December 2

## Advent at St. Clement's

This Sunday marks the first Sunday of Advent. The beginning of a new liturgical year for the church, and a season where we walk through a time of waiting and watching. Yet this waiting and watching is not passive. It's active. It is a time that invites us to open and prepare our hearts to celebrate once more the birth of Jesus.

One of the ways that we are invited into this time of preparation is through the lighting of the Advent Wreath. Each week at the beginning of our worship experience the lighting of candles helps us to mark the passage of time in a concrete and tangible way and allows us a moment to pause and reflect as we begin our time together.

Another way that we are invited into this time of preparation is by journeying together through the book, Honest Advent: Awakening to the wonder of God-with-us then, here, and now by Scott Erickson. Along with knowing that we are engaged in the daily reading of the devotions and art that Scott shares in his book with many others from this community, each Sunday we will be engaging more deeply with one of the images from this book and then sharing this work with the wider community -- building out an Advent montage of sorts on the lawn of St. Clement's. During our Wednesday Morning Online Prayer service, we will also engage with this book, further. If you haven't picked up your hard copy yet, we still have a few available at the church or you can pick up a copy online (digital or print) by clicking [here](#).

At this time when traditions still look different than they did two years ago, we give thanks that we are called into this time of preparation together and trust that we are most certainly led to the great celebration of the birth of our Lord, Jesus Christ.



## LEARNING TO FOLLOW JESUS

### Newcomers (Refugees): Calling for Donations

**Our current situation:** St. Clement's parish has a long and very generous history of supporting refugees from other countries in turmoil including displaced persons from Vietnam, Somalia, Syria and Eritrea, just to name a few. **We are writing now to ask you to support this work again.**

**Our most recent history:** Our Refugee Committee made an appeal to the parish in 2015 to raise funds to sponsor Syrian refugees, a country in great devastating upheaval at the time. We received a tremendous response from our parishioners -- **\$125,000.**



(continues on next page)

With these donations, our Church was able to support directly and indirectly a dozen newcomers to Canada.

We helped resettle the Brimo family of 6. We provided some additional assistance to the Brimos's eldest daughter Zeinab and her young family, although we were not their official sponsors. We supported Mariam Mousa, reuniting her with her daughter and introducing her to her granddaughters. Then we also sponsored Mahari from Eritrea. We have an outstanding commitment to support Eritrean Maharatab, whose journey to Canada from an Israeli refugee camp has been significantly delayed by the COVID pandemic. We require about \$22K-\$25K to support one adult and about \$30K-\$35K to support 2 adults. As of today, we still have \$12,500. to support Maharatab. About half of what is needed. The primary on-going cost of resettlement is to secure housing. Our parish provides newcomers financial assistance for one year after arrival in Canada.

**What about the people in Afghanistan?** A number of St. Clement's congregants have stated that they want to support Afghani people who are now in danger as a result of the withdrawal of US and Canadian troops and the resurgence of the Taliban. We have been monitoring this situation and would like to be in a position to support one or more Afghanis in the new year to resettle in Canada.

**Why donate?** Your Newcomers (Refugee), Outreach Committees and a number of individuals want to step up and continue to play an active role in refugee resettlement. **To what level will depend on YOU.** We are still committed to supporting Maharatab, from Eritrea. However, with enough donations, we would be able also to support an Afghani refugee or even a family. There are a number of choices for us: participate in a group sponsorship, provide aid through one of the organizations responding to the crises in Afghanistan or undertake to support an Afghani family, etc..

So please prayerfully consider this need. **Please donate.** Send your financial donations to the church, clearly marked **"For Refugees"**. For more information, please contact either Linda Kurdydyk at [lkurdydyk@rogers.com](mailto:lkurdydyk@rogers.com) or [Nancyhoodj@gmail.com](mailto:Nancyhoodj@gmail.com). Your level of generosity will determine our plans going forward. Thank you all for reaching out to love our neighbours.



## Angel Tree Christmas

350,000 Canadian children have a parent in prison, often leaving the child feeling abandoned. This year, with many prisons in lockdown since March, it has been devastating for families. For our 7th year, through Prison Fellowship, St. Clement's parishioners will purchase Christmas presents for prisoner's children, with a personal handwritten card from their parent.



Last year we bought 100 gifts from prisoners to their children. Caregivers tell us what a difference this makes to the well-being of the child -- that their parent has not forgotten them. Please sign up today or on-line for a gift or gift-card by clicking [here](#).

Heather Goodall will be at church Sundays following the 11 am services from now until mid-December to receive gifts. Contact her at [AngelTreeXmas@gmail.com](mailto:AngelTreeXmas@gmail.com) or (416) 486-1292.

## Warm Clothing Drive

What an amazing turnout on Sunday November 21st! Special volunteers from St Clement's School helped greet, collect and load the donations of warm coats, hats, scarves, mitts! We filled 3 carloads with donations to help keep our neighbours: Afghani refugees, Wednesday lunch guests and Flemingdon Park residents warm. Thanks to St Clement's School students: Amy, Alexis, Jade, Helen, Lillian, Ellie, Katie, Sydney and Kate pictured here with our Rector Andrew.



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRY

## Children's Ministry update

Earlier this fall we asked for parent feedback around the shape of Children's Ministry in our current climate. We followed up with a parent zoom night to talk out what was shared. Here is a snapshot of what we learned:

- The transition back to in-person school has been tough
- While there is an appreciation that online Children's ministry is offered, for the vast majority of kids, online isn't doable anymore. The kids are zoomed out.
- The vast majority of parents are not ready to come back to in-person, indoor worship at this time. This will change as vaccinations for kids roll out.
- Kids are missing connection with other kids from church.
- More than half of families would connect in-person as families if we offered a way to connect outside.

Given all of this, as of December:

- We will begin to offer outside Children's Ministry opportunities for families (parents/grandparents & kids) that align with current COVID guidelines.
- We will begin to offer outside Children's Ministry opportunities for families (parents/grandparents & kids) that align with current COVID guidelines.
- The first Children's Ministry: Outside Family Edition will happen on Sunday Dec. 5 1-2pm on Briar Hill Terrace. We hope to add more opportunities for outside connection throughout the winter months!
- We will be pressing pause on weekly Sunday online Children's Ministry. We offer our sincere thanks to our incredible volunteers who have kept this ministry going the past four months

With vaccination of children under 12 beginning, we are hopeful that parents will be ready to head back to in-person as more families are fully vaccinated. We are looking forward to a renewed time for Children's Ministry in the months to come and remain committed to engaging our youngest members of St. Clement's in learning to follow Jesus.



**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY**  
**Outside**  
**Family Edition**  
**JOIN US FOR PRAYER & PLAY**

**SUNDAY, DEC. 5TH**  
**1PM - 2PM BRIAR HILL TERRACE**

**Parents & Kids**  
**ORNAMENT HUNT & TREE DECORATING**  
**GAMES & CREATIVE PLAY**  
**STORY & PRAYER**

Dress for the weather.  
Mask required for children over 2yrs.

Questions? Email Rev. Pam  
[prayment@stclements-church.org](mailto:prayment@stclements-church.org)

## Youth Ministry updates

We will be pausing Online Tuesday Youth Group for December. Our last Tuesday Youth Group for this year will be Tuesday November 23rd, and we will provide an updated Tuesday Youth Group plan in the New Year!



Our Youth Minister Mackenzie will be preaching at both services on December 12th, and we will have Youth participating in the 11am service as readers and intercessors! We will not be going up to the Youth Room on this day but we invite all of our youth to engage with the entire main service, and to take some notes about the main focus of the sermon! We will chat about this the following week at Youth Ministry!

There will be **no Youth Ministry** on Boxing Day (Sunday December 26th) or Sunday January 2nd. We hope you enjoy your Christmas holidays and find some time to relax!

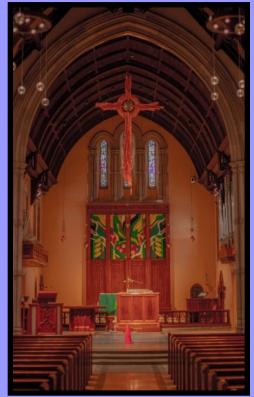
Through December, Youth Ministry will be working through an Advent Workbook that the youth can take home. Please contact our Youth Minister Mackenzie if you would like to bring home a copy to a young person who doesn't normally attend Youth Ministry!

# ST. CLEMENT'S SPECIAL UPDATES

## Word and Song: New protocols for Worship

What a gift it has been to continue to gather together for worship both in-person and online in creative ways as we respond to the changing landscape of diocesan, municipal, and provincial safety protocols through the pandemic. This past week, the Anglican Diocese of Toronto (our governing body) made another change to our current covid guidelines around singing.

Choral singing by fully vaccinated choristers, masked and distanced 2 metres from each other and at least two metres from the congregation is permitted and we have been enjoying the return of the choir for a few weeks now. Beginning Sunday, November 28th, congregational singing may resume, with strict adherence to the wearing of masks at all times (above the nose and below the chin) and a distance of 2 meters between households being maintained.



A reminder to all that fully vaccinated worship leaders (preachers, readers, and intercessors) are permitted to remove their masks indoors for liturgical speaking, should they choose to do so. Only one person may unmask at a time, and the unmasked speaker must be stationary and physically distanced from others by a minimum of 4 metres. Presiders at the altar, whether speaking or singing, must remain masked when the elements of bread and wine are before them, and during the distribution of holy communion.

We know that masks have been one of the many layers of keeping one another safe throughout the pandemic. We also know that masks have been a barrier, in particular for those who rely on facial cues and lip reading for comprehension. We also know that everyone's comfort level around removing their mask is unique and can fluctuate based on their own situation and those with whom they are in close contact (e.g., unvaccinated children, those with compromised immune systems, etc). Given all of this, we continue to give thanks for the respect and patience of this community as we strive to consider varying perspectives, always working toward creating a safe space at St. Clement's.

## Connecting with St. Clement's School!

Pamela Rayment had a blast as she spent time with the Grade 1 Students from St. Clement's School. Here's a sweet note and picture of their time together.

*Dear Rev. Rayment, We loved going on a tour of the church and learning about it. It was exciting to see our old school too. Thank you for teaching us the rhyme about all the people in the church. We learned that the church is about sharing, coming together and community. We learned that SCS started in the church. The bell tower is very tall! You are very nice and we liked talking to you. Love, The SCS Grade 1 Students*



## A Farewell to Elisabeth

*Please join us in celebrating Elisabeth's well-deserved retirement by contributing to a farewell gift for her. In keeping with tradition, a financial 'purse' will be collected and given to Elisabeth upon her departure. If you would like to make a non-tax-receiptable donation, please do so by putting your donation in an envelope clearly marked for Elisabeth and place it in the offering plate on Sundays or drop it off to our marked mailbox at the St. Clement's entrance. Cheques should be made out to St. Clement's church and clearly marked for Elisabeth.*

