

CONTACT

Christmas 2012



“Light in the City”

CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION

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Don Mills, Ontario
M3C 2C3

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Rector

The Rev. Philip
Townshend-Carter
*Honorary Assistant
Emeritus*

The Rev. Dr. Derek Davidson
Deacon

Colin West
Lay Ministry Assistant

Lawrence Green
Organist & Choir Director

Andrew Gledhill
Ian Paul
Church Wardens

Peter Cranston
Barbara Rochard
Deputy Church Wardens

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Treasurer

Boa Burns
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*Community Share
Food Bank*

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Editors

PASTORAL MESSAGE

It is remarkable how dark the days become as the year progresses toward the Winter Solstice. Not too long ago you could take a walk at 4:30 in the afternoon with some decent light still in the sky. Now it is night by four. It's the "hinge of the year." From this point on the light of the sun grows stronger, and the urge to rejoice and celebrate only intensifies as the days slowly grow longer. We defy the frigidity and darkness of winter by the way in which we decorate our homes, streets and shops. I confess that my spirit is lifted when I walk into a store and hear “seasonal” music playing or see the Granite Club along Bayview Avenue in a winter wonderland of light.

This is also the time of year when we may find ourselves saddled with a bout of the “humbug” virus. We grumble Christmas has become too secular, grumble that seasonal music is played in the stores too early, or that folks decorate and light their homes far too brightly, that peoples gift-lists are too long or too extravagant. Some of us are just not in the mood for Christmas. We can no longer “do” what we were able to in previous years, and with all the chores needed to get ready for the “big day,” it’s all just too much!

For some, the shadow that falls over Christmas cannot be minimized. The very thought of an empty chair at the Christmas dinner table, the silence of a certain voice when carols are sung, the absence in the room of a distinctive laugh of a loved one no longer heard - even when we know that he or she is in the presence of the King of Light - is difficult

We should remember that there is no shadow without light. The lights of Christmas are in celebration of that great Light of the world that chases away the darkness and sadness in our hearts and minds. Jesus said, “***I am the light of the world!***”

At Christmastide we get glimpses of the human capacity for love and good will. Many may start by resisting this joy, but at some point it engulfs most people, and not just Christians, even in the smallest ways. To me this is the most convincing evidence of the power of Jesus – just the celebration of his birth alone brings out the best in most of us and we should embrace as much of this joy as we can

The Ghost of Christmas Future in Charles Dickens's *A Christmas Carol* nudges Ebenezer Scrooge, to proclaim: “***I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all year.***”

So it is that after Christmas, when we start to go about our ordinary business that we find out if Jesus was truly at the heart of our Christmas. When all the lights and trimmings are stored away and the last of the Christmas leftovers are gone, let us consider how we shall keep the Light of Christmas burning brightly all year here at the Ascension, both individually and collectively. Let us live to fulfill our mission as a “**Light in the City**”.

I hope in this coming year we will all place greater emphasis on the Ascension as a House of Prayer, not only to support our own personal devotions, but as a witness to our community. The New Year offers many opportunities for spiritual nurturing and growth. I pray that the kind and gentle light of Jesus will guide our way so that our lights will be in the world and declare his love.

Catherine and I wish you all a Blessed and Safe Christmas, and a New Year filled with opportunities to shine forth as a “**Light in the City**”.

May God keep you all, Fr. Nick

Saving A Life
Submitted by Peter Cranston

In the spring of 2012, the ladies of the ACW decided that they would like to sponsor the acquisition of a defibrillator for the Church.

They recognized that our congregation is aging and that the risk of one of our members suffering a cardiac event is increasing and that we needed to be alert to this possibility and be prepared to deal with it. People are aware of calling 911 in the event of an emergency, but it is unlikely that the Fire Dept. or EMS could arrive on the scene in less than 12 minutes. Even with CPR, there is only about a four-minute window to preserve circulation in the unconscious patient.

A defibrillator, if used promptly, can restore heart function in an individual whose heart is out of rhythm and save their life. In addition to our congregation, we must remember that there are a host of other people who utilize the Church throughout the week, such as the Food Bank, the Seneca School, the Amadeus Choir, the Ritmika Gymnastics Group and the Badminton players where an emergency could occur. With this in mind, the ACW approached the Corporation and a decision was made to investigate the availability and cost of a defibrillator.

I was designated to look into this project and found that these machines are readily available along with training in their use. They were not inexpensive as one might imagine, but Ed Ralph, while surfing on the net, found an organization known as the Mikey Network that would assist in acquiring an AED machine (Automatic Defibrillator Machine) at a reduced rate. They have provided these machines to schools, arenas, clubs, pools and police throughout the GTA as long as they satisfy their criteria.

We made an application to Mikey and were accepted as a recipient for a fee of \$1,500 – considerably less than we would have paid to commercial suppliers. They also provided training for eight people without charge and up to eight more for \$67 dollars per person. We are required to put up a plaque acknowledging their organization and to help at fund raising events.

The Church received our AED in the latter part of November and you will find it on the east wall of the Chancel. The training was under the aegis of The Toronto Safe City PAD programme that includes the paramedics, police, fire fighters and ongoing education and quality assurance programmes.

On Saturday, November 17, we had thirteen volunteers gather in the Ascension Hall for our initial training programme conducted by a representative of EMS. It was a four-hour session on CPR with the use of

mannequins and AED machines. At the end of the session we were tested on our knowledge in a multiple choice quiz.

It is required that we recertify yearly in CPR and AED use. We have yet to establish a disaster plan similar to our Fire Alarm plan and it is hoped we can train others in the use of CPR and AED. It would be useful for everyone to be familiar with the location of the AED and how to respond properly to an emergency.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Christmas Lessons and Carols

Sunday, December 23 at 4:00 pm
followed by a festive Yuletide reception

Christmas Eve

Monday, December 24th at 7:00 pm
Carol Sing at 7; Holy Eucharist at 7:30

Christmas Day

Tuesday, December 25th at 10 am
Holy Communion

Sunday, December 30th at 10:00 am

Holy Communion with Carols

Epiphany

Sunday, January 6th at 8:00 am & 10:30 am
Holy Communion

December Boiler & Heating Update

Submitted by Andrew Gledhill

In the last issue of Contact I reported that at the Oct. 4 meeting of the Boiler Subcommittee a decision was made to further engage LKM (SNC-Lavalin) to prepare a design-build submission that could be used to obtain revised quotes from our bidders. Their subsequent report on Nov. 2 provided details on two possible options; #1 Replace Non-Functioning Steam Boiler with New Steam Boiler and Maintain Functioning Boiler as a Backup and #2 Provide New Hot Water Boilers and Convert Church Steam Heating to Hot Water. We requested a clarification meeting between LKM and the Boiler Subcommittee that was held on Nov. 15. After a great deal of discussion, we reached a consensus that choosing the second option and converting the church heating to a complete hot water heating system was the better long-term solution. We discussed taking a two-phase approach; in Phase 1, this winter, we would install a new hot water boiler to heat the parish hall. Then in Phase 2, next summer, we would

replace the steam boiler with a second hot water boiler and convert the steam radiators to hot water. Arrangements were then made with LKM to have two of their engineers visit the church on Nov. 20 to obtain additional information to fully detail the scope of work required for Option #2.

LKM then produced a follow-up letter on Nov. 26 recommending that we not start Phase 1 this winter, but to wait until the summer and perform all the work at once for reasons of cost, design changes, chimney venting and possible risk. The Boiler Subcommittee has not had a chance to consider these recommendations. In the meantime, work is required to keep our existing heating system operational; we recently had to replace/rebuild a steam condensate pump, and a short time before that, had to replace a steam condensate tank float valve whose failure caused a loss of water before it was discovered and repaired.

Christmas Lessons and Carols
Sunday, December 23rd at 4 pm

Featuring the music and readings
of the Christmas Season

*Festive Yuletide Reception to follow
In the Ascension Hall. All are welcome.*

Requiem for All Souls
Submitted by Lynn Green

This past November 3rd, we celebrated our fourth mass of Requiem for All Souls – a service to remember those of us who have passed before us.

This was the first major service that has been held in the newly configured sanctuary space. It was a solemn occasion with deep emotion, made more poignant by the recent passing of Fr. Nick's father a few weeks earlier.

A special thank you goes out to the choir that this year ended up being a combination of singers from four different organizations; St. George's of Oshawa, Trinity Presbyterian Church, the Toronto Choral Society, and our own Ascension Choir – thirty-eight singers, led by our music director, Lawrence Green, whose dedication to music was apparent in their performance of the Fauré *Requiem* that was used for the ordinary prayers of the service.

Soloists Stephen King and Melanie Conly added to the spectacle with their fine voices and interpretations of their solos. Organist Shawn Grenke (All Saints Kingsway & Amadeus Choir) gave of his expert playing and well-chosen registrations to ensure a deeply moving experience for all those who attended.

It was not only good to see our congregation well represented, but also the number of out-of-town guests and their families in attendance. Among those guests were Joan Leadbeater Graham and some of her family, who came for the service from Ottawa. Ms. Leadbeater Graham's family – her father particularly – were founding members of our church. She was very pleased to see the newly configured sanctuary and to know that the church's musical tradition was being maintained.

After the service, there was an elegant wine and cheese reception for everyone attending the service, thanks to Anita and Ronald Joshua, Joey Solomon and Evelyn Goodyear.

Re-imagining the Worship Space
Submitted by Carol Hamilton

'What does that mean?' Why make any changes? I like the Altar where it is! What about the cost? Is it really necessary?

For some time now, we have been talking about moving the Altar forward so Fr. Nick would be closer to the congregation and to open up the sanctuary space for concerts, the Christmas pageant, and other happenings.

There were meetings in early April with the congregation and the plans were presented. These plans, to me, were a bunch of lines and squares and triangles and maybe to others as well! I could not really visualize what it was going to look like.

Work finally got underway on August 7 and it had to be one of the hottest days of the summer. Carlos Nunes and his wonderful talented crew of guys and gals arrived and started to work.

They first of all had to remove the very heavy choir stalls and find a place for them. They removed the Altar rail and placed it carefully in the hall. The Altar was moved close to where it is now placed. The carpet (with it's dust) was taken up and the steps in the Sanctuary were removed.

The fans were going and the temperature kept going up, but on they worked. It was total chaos!

Soon after, the walls of the chapel were up and everything started to take shape. The raised floor in the chapel was installed and the extension of the floor where the Altar now sits was erected. The heat continued but so did the work. The crew just kept going.

While this work was being done Doug Rose came in to remove and replace the lighting in the church. He spent most of his time close to the heavens on the scaffolding taking down the old fixtures, rewiring and installing the

new lights. It was hot up there too and the fans did not help him at all.

The gold trim around the brass cross was designed and hand painted by one of the girls on the crew. Everything was designed to flow with the existing arches, architecture and wood of our church.

One morning, Carlos and Jason arrived each carrying 2 large pieces of 2 by 4 oak slabs. ‘What are those for?’ Of course I had to know! ‘They are for the hanging cross’ was the reply. Just look at how beautiful it is! It is very secure and I watched them raise it with ease.

The rail was installed at the new Altar step where we can all now receive communion. Our friends from Thompson House and anyone else with walkers or wheelchairs can now partake at the Altar rail, as this is a very important improvement.

Our church now looks a little different – to many a little friendlier as Fr. Nick is now closer to everyone when he says the mass. But we still worship the same, wonderful God who gives us so much. Let us all enjoy it.

Meet our Confirmands



Elizabeth Kellas

Hi my name is Elizabeth Kellas. I am 13 years old. I live with my mom, dad, grandma, my cat Smokey, and my 2 sisters Kathleen and Colleen. At the church I sing in the choir and I am a confirmand. My favorite colours are purple and green. I love Rabbits and Owls. At school my favorite subjects are Science and Music, I play the Flute and Oboe. I sing high soprano in the Bach Children’s Chorus. Something people don’t know about me is that I love Archery (bow & arrow) I use a long bow and enjoy shooting distances. I also enjoy writing long imaginative mystery stories. Maybe one day I could get my stories published.



Kathleen Kellas

Hi my name is Kathleen. The people in my family are my mom, dad, 2 sisters Liz and Colleen, grandmother, and our cat Smokey. My hobbies are reading and drawing. I also like to act, sing, dance, and play music. Nobody really knows this but I would like to be an actress when I grow up.



Alex Solomons

Hello, my name is Alex Solomons. I am 13 years old. My mom’s name is Candy Solomons and my dad’s name is Joey Solomons. A hobby that I have is I like to draw pictures of anything that is inspirational. My favorite subject is math because I like challenging things that can make you think and makes your brain work even harder. I really like to listen to music. I find all the music I listen to really makes me energetic and happy. I also listen to music while I do my homework because I find it relaxes me and kind of helps me finish my work. My favorite meal is penne pasta with a creamy white sauce.

Something you might not know about me is that I like to snowboard in the winter, and my favorite place to snowboard is in Mount Saint Louis.

Services in Lent and Holy Week 2013

Ash Wednesday, February 13th

*Imposition of Ashes at 12 Noon &
7:30 pm Eucharist's*

Passion Sunday, Palm Sunday

March 24th at 10:30 am

Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 27th at 7:30 pm

Maundy Thursday

March 28th, 7:30 pm

Good Friday

March 29th at 10:30 am
Passiontide Devotion

Holy Saturday, Easter Vigil

March 30th at 7:30 pm
wine and cheese reception following

Easter Day

Sunday, March 31st at 10:30 am
Simmel Cake served in the Ascension Hall

SINCE THE LAST CONTACT...



The choir chairs are ready and waiting for the All Souls service – in our new worship space.



Our loved ones proudly displayed for the All Souls service.



After the All Souls service, some wine & cheese.



Mary, Barbara, and Honi enjoying some wine at the reception.



Ron Joshua making sure everything runs smoothly.



Our new Advent altar frontal – sparkling and blue!
Thank you, Bill Fitches!

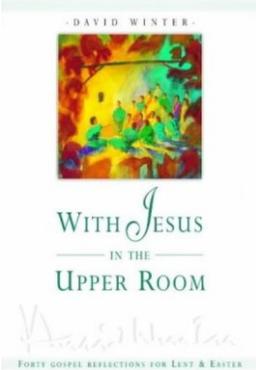


Bill & Evelyn Hullah are giving the CPR mannequin a workout.

**Lenten Study –
With Jesus in the Upper Room:
Forty Gospel Reflections for Lent and Easter
By David Winter**

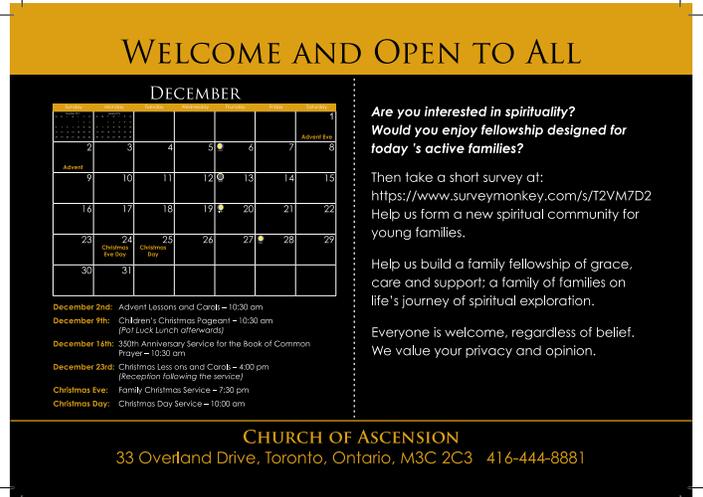
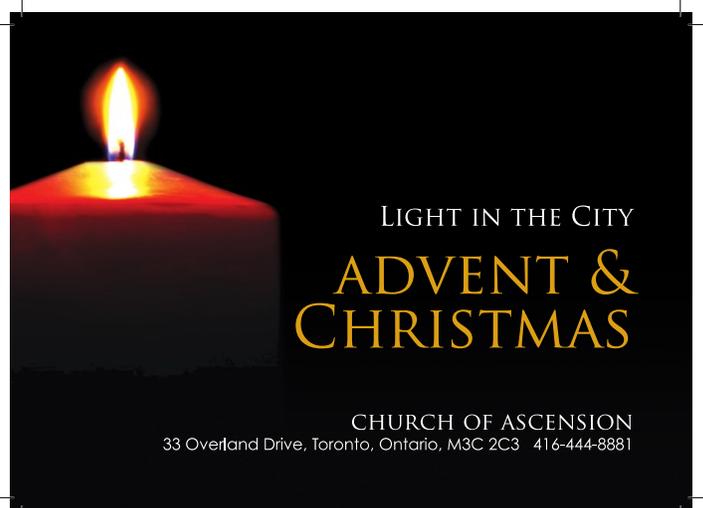
David Winter invites us to spend forty days reflecting on five key chapters of John's Gospel, the so-called 'Upper Room Discourses' that record the conversation between Jesus and his disciples on the night before he died. As we read, we can imagine ourselves sitting with those disciples as the darkness falls outside, while the light among them grows brighter and brighter. Through the ears, eyes and memory of the 'Beloved Disciple' who recalled what took

place long after the event, we can share in the wonder of a quite extraordinary evening. Study times TBA.



Deep Water Fishing

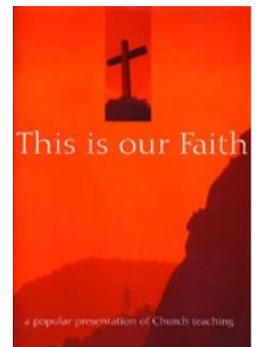
Good News - Bishop Patrick has recently informed the parish that our application for a "Reach Grant" was successful and that we will soon be receiving a cheque of \$3,500.00 which will go toward our *Deep Water Fishing* ministry. God is Good.



Here is the front and back of the postcard distributed throughout the parish.

This Is Our Faith

Beginning January 9th from 6:30 – 8:30 pm for four Wednesdays. Please speak with Fr. Nick if you are interested in reaffirming your baptismal vows when Bishop Patrick comes on February 3rd. We will be using the resource "This is Our Faith" – ideal for all who wish to deepen their knowledge of Church teaching. The cost is \$15.00.



Our Faith Our Hope Campaign

To date the Ascension has received \$15,075.32 from the campaign and we can expect to receive approximately another \$4000.00 by the end of the year. If Ascension donors faithfully honour their pledges we can expect to receive approximately \$4000.00 per quarter: March, June, September and December. Ian Paul, the Rector's Warden, will be working with a small team to make recommendations to the Corporation of how these funds are to be divided amongst those areas of ministry and need we campaigned on. The committee will also be petitioning the diocese for extra funds to help with replacing our boiler and expanding the work of ministry at the Ascension.

Confirmation, Re-Affirmation and Dedication of New Worship Space

On Sunday, February 3, 2013, all are welcome and encouraged to attend this special day of celebration when Bishop Patrick Yu will be in attendance to confirm three and Re-Affirm three of our members and to dedicate our new worship space. A luncheon reception honouring our six candidates will be given following the service.

A Day Apart – Quiet Day

Wednesday, February 6th, 2013, 9:30 am - 3:30 pm

Join other members of the Ascension as we gather at St. John's Convent for a quiet day to prepare ourselves for the Lenten Season. Cost is \$25.00 per person, includes refreshments and lunch. Please speak with Fr. Nick if you are interested in participating.

Good News from the Mikey Network

We received the best kind of news yesterday, and we wanted to share it with you. One of our Mikey's Kids families called to let us know we gave their son a second chance at life.



The child's father, Craig, was kind enough to tell his story. Craig tells us, "Our 2-year-old son Carter went into arrhythmia and then cardiac arrest back in May due to a previously undiagnosed benign heart tumor. The paramedics got a rhythm back after 27 minutes, but the resulting significant brain injury kept us in Sick Kids and Holland Bloorview Children's Rehab Hospital for 6 months and we're still fighting to regain as much of our son's coordination and mobility and speech as we can. A month ago, we went home with an AED from The Mikey Network, knowing that any further arrest would be incredibly critical. Neurologists told us that by the time EMS arrived, it would be too late. Our only chance was the defibrillator.

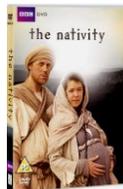
Carter went into arrhythmia again [Tuesday] morning. We started CPR immediately. Due to the training supplied by The Mikey Network, we had his shirt off and the pads on him well ahead of the voice prompts from the AED. The defibrillator analyzed and advised a shock, which we delivered. The change in our son was immediate. He started breathing on his own again. We observed him and kept the AED on him until EMS arrived.

You guys gave us another chance with our son. Thank you, thank you, thank you." The Mikey's Kids program allows children who have been diagnosed with a heart disease to go home while waiting for treatment or transplants. By providing the family with a MIKEY, and CPR/AED training, these children are able to be at home when they would otherwise have to stay in the hospital. Stories like Carter's is why we do what we do.

Thanks to the support and generosity of everyone on Team Mikey, this little boy's life was saved.

To learn more about the Mikey's Kids program, or to donate to The Mikey Network and allow us to help more families like Carter's, please visit MikeyNetwork.com

The Nativity



BBC's popular four-part drama series introduces the compelling story of the nativity brought to you in a fresh and contemporary way. The instalments will be shown on Thursday, December 20th at 5 pm. Followed by discussion and Supper at 6.



Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year

**From all of us at
the Church of the Ascension.**

The Rev. Nicholas H.
Morkel

The Rev. Philip Townshend-
Carter

Honorary Assistant Emeritus

The Rev. Dr. Derek
Davidson

Parish Council Members

Una

Cambridge

Barbara

Gledhill

Treasure

Kizas

Anne Grant

Footprints Representative

Janet

Tyrell

Josie Gibbs-

Kennet

New Comers' Coordinators

Julia

Cockerill

Anita Joshua

Colin West

Lay Assistant

Lawrence Green

Organist & Choir Master

Boa

Burns

Ronald Joshua

Forward Planning & Synod Delegate

Pat Paul

Parochial Tribunal

Malcolm Wood

Rental Manager

Lynn Green

Social Committee

Paran

Kulasingham

Andrew Gledhill

People's Warden

Ian Paul

Rector's Warden

Deputy Wardens

Peter Cranston

Barbara Rochard

Sylvia

Wood

Altar Guild

Pat Dunnill

Carol

Hamilton

Jack

Jones

Bill Hullah

Food Bank Representative