

The Territory of the People

Anglican Church of Canada

TERRITORY BULLETIN

30 November 2017

“The Territory of the People walk together with all God’s people, journeying into a new creation, and trusting with faith and courage in the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We love as Jesus loves, living with integrity and openness, and are committed stewards of God’s world.”

Dean’s Message: From the Very Rev. Ken Gray, Episcopal Commissary

Greetings friends and colleagues in the Territory of the People.

ADVENT MESSAGE

A colleague once quipped that Anglicans *believe* Christ will come again; they just don’t *expect* it. From his very charismatic point of view, our behaviour doesn’t match our language. We don’t act in a particularly observant or counter-cultural way. He would say, that we don’t want Christ to disturb our quiet and stable comfort.

While avoiding the controversies of the *end times* for now, he did have a point. Expectation influences outcomes in a significant way. My Auntie Mary, God rest her soul, embodied this concept well. I actually heard her say, many times that “I don’t want to hope for something good today because there is a good chance I will be disappointed.” She symbolized a long and deep strain of pessimism and low self-esteem which runs through my father’s side of the family, one which I have resisted for many years now.

When I think of our church congregations throughout the Territory, I often ask myself *why people come* and *what expectations they bring* with them. If we gather for worship expecting little, our expectations will likely be met, regardless of what actually happens. Whether in the realm of family life, politics, or religion, to approach events, challenges or rituals with energy and expectation transforms not only the self, but the community.

As we move into Advent season, the season of expectation, *let us expect God to do good and great things* in our lives, in our communities and in our churches. Our expectation certainly extends to the annual celebration of Christ’s incarnation in the day-to-day life of Bethlehem and ancient Palestine. But God’s expectant energy goes way beyond this historical re-enactment, into the minutiae of all our lives and loves.

As Tiny Tim says in *A Christmas Carol*, God bless us all, each and every day. *Expect* nothing less.

Ken+



We wish you all an expectant, peaceful Advent as you prepare for the celebrations of Christmas.

CHRISTMAS GIVINGS:

PWRDF WORLD OF GIFTS PROMOTION

Christmas World of Gifts (PWRDF section) guide is available in the October, November and December issues of the *Anglican Journal*. [The PWRDF section is online here.](#)

A bulletin insert is [available for downloading for printing and distribution here.](#)

STEPHEN LEWIS FOUNDATION

Christmas cards and Christmas givings... [click here](#)

Week Of Prayer For Christian Unity - 2018

Please consider the resources from the World Council of Churches for the [Week of Prayer for Christian Unity](#). While it can be used at any time, the traditional dates are from the Confession of Peter (Jan 18) to the Conversion of Paul (Jan 25).

I Have Called You Friends

The Society of Saint John the Evangelist is offering a 2018 Lenten video series – “Meeting Jesus in the Gospel of John” which some parishes may consider accessing. Through this resource, specific passages will be explored from John’s gospel, and this very personal account of the life of Jesus will be considered through meditation, questions and reflections from the brothers of SSJE. For more information [click here](#).

Prayer Requests:

- ❖ Please pray for Bishop Barbara as she ends her sabbatical and takes vacation time with her family
- ❖ Please pray for Archbishop John Privett and the Diocese of Caledonia
- ❖ Your continuing prayers are asked for the work of healing and reconciliation in our country
- ❖ Please pray for the Rev Canon Tom Sugden, for strength and healing.

News from the Anglican Church

- [Recalling summer’s wildfire exodus in the Territory of the People](#)

In this extensive feature, Matt Gardner, communications officer for the Anglican Church of Canada, details the experience and aftermath of the British Columbia summer wildfires – the worst on record – from an Anglican perspective.

New News:

- The Territory of the People office will be closed from Friday December 22nd through Christmas and New Year and will reopen January 2nd 2018.
- The Next Territory Bulletin will be issued on December 20th. Contributions will be accepted up to December 19th

YOUR COORDINATING COUNCIL AT WORK – A Glimpse

I am pleased to provide here a brief summary of conversation at the recent meeting of the Territory of the People Coordinating Council held at the Immaculate Heart of Mary Shrine and Retreat Centre, Cache Creek, November 24 & 25, 2017

As we gathered we sang Linnea Good's setting of Psalm 100, "Make a Joyful Noise to the Lord" Indeed, in speech and song we did just that. We further reflected on the epistle text for the Reign of Christ which connected well with our task.

When I heard of the solid trust you have in the Master Jesus and your outpouring of love to all the followers of Jesus, I couldn't stop thanking God for you—every time I prayed, I'd think of you and give thanks. But I do more than thank. I ask—ask the God of our Master, Jesus Christ, the God of glory—to make you intelligent and discerning in knowing him personally, your eyes focused and clear, so that you can see exactly what it is he is calling you to do, grasp the immensity of this glorious way of life he has for his followers, oh, the utter extravagance of his work in us who trust him—endless energy, boundless strength!

Ephesians 1:15-23 (The Message)

Most of Friday was spent receiving and considering our Territory financial position which to put things simply, could be better, could be worse. Certainly, the wildfires affected most parish activity, travel and operational life significantly. We further agreed to a realistic and hopeful budget for 2018.

We noted matters referred to the Council from Assembly, many requiring research and development and eventually assignment of duties.

- support for the Anglican Healing Fund
- find ways to encourage parishes to find ways to support Healing Ministries within our Territory
- assemble a plan to implement training for pastoral care workers around the issue of suicide and how it is affecting our families within the Territory.
- develop an award to honour faithful lay leadership.

We received reports, written and verbal from Dean Ken who is Episcopal Commissary in Bishop Barbara's absence and from both regional deans.

We gave the Equip Planning Committee Chair, the Rev. Len Fraser feedback and suggestions regarding the forthcoming Equip gathering in late May. Folks value this gathering tremendously and look forward to opportunities for worship, fellowship, networking, education and spiritual encouragement. We repeat here what we will say everywhere, that cost should never preclude anyone from attending.

Other reports focused on Territory policy, activities of Lay Ministers of Word and Sacrament, PWRDF, retreat ministry and the website. Concerning the ANGLICAN JOURNAL readers are encouraged to read the notes of a recent meeting of the Council of General Synod at <http://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/CoGS-highlights-November-10-2017-1.pdf> Scroll down to the section "Anglican Journal and CIRC Working Group Report."

Finally, the council engaged in a lengthy conversation around the use of Fire Fund Relief monies received from a variety of sources. Essentially, decisions around distribution are challenging. A motion passed has since proved to be impractical. The conversation continues with thanks to all who have contributed.

With thanks to the committee, for all they do and are, I respectfully submit these notes as I hand the chair back to Bishop Barbara in the new year.

The Very Rev. Ken Gray, Episcopal Commissary

Handy Links:

Resources for Advent are available on the Anglican Church of Canada website [here](#)

Book of Alternative Services: Click [here](#)

Common Praise online: Click [here](#)

Territory of the People website: click [here](#)

Calendar of Intercessions Prayer Cycle: click [here](#)

Pilgrim Paths: labyrinth prayer walks accompanying the church year of prayer, feasts and celebrations. Volumes One and Two in pdf format. For more information click [here](#)

Employee Assistance Program (Lifeworks). Click [here](#) to see the *Balance Sheet* monthly newsletters.

Important dates and deadlines

December 1 – Jan 9, 2018 Bishop on Annual Vacation

December 19 Deadline for Territory Bulletin contributions
December 22 Territory Office closed for Christmas/New Year

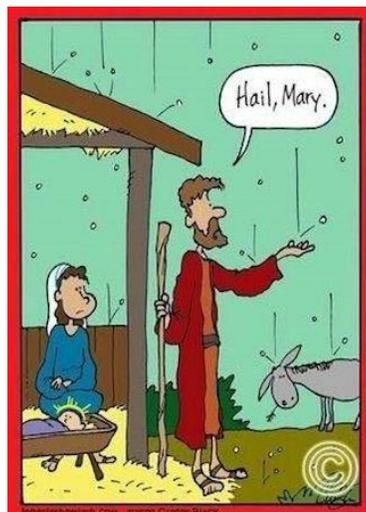
2018

January 2, 2018 Territory Office re-opens
January 18 Administration Committee – WebEx 7pm
February 16-17 February Faith Lectures, St. Paul's Cathedral, Kamloops
March 15 Administration Committee – WebEx 7pm
April 20-21 Coordinating Council – The Shrine, Cache Creek
May 25-27 Equip, Prince George... more information to come...
June 21 Administration Committee – WebEx 7pm
September 20 Administration Committee – WebEx 7pm
October 25-30 National House of Bishops, Nova Scotia & Prince Edward Island
November 3 Administration Committee – In person meeting: Budget 2019
November 23-24 Coordinating Council – The Shrine, Cache Creek

2019-July 10-16 General Synod, Vancouver

2020-July 24-Aug 3

Lambeth Conference, England



And on the slightly irreverent side...