



St. Stephen's Anglican Church
Ottawa, Ontario

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Christmas and Special Services in 2018

Sunday December 24— Christmas Eve

4:00 p.m. Family Service

10:00 p.m. Choral Eucharist

Monday, December 25— Christmas Eucharist with Carols at 10:00 a.m.

Sunday, January 14, 2018 at 7:00 p.m. Blessing of the new Lift .

Ash Wednesday February 14, 2017 at 10.00 am and 7.00 pm.

Vestry Sunday, February 25, 2018

Holy Week Services

Monday, March 26th at 7.00 pm

Tuesday, March 27th at 7.00 pm

Wednesday, March 28th at 7.00 pm

Thursday, March 29th at 7.00 pm

Seder Meal and Holy Eucharist

Good Friday March 30th at 10.00 am

March 31st, Holy Saturday at 8.30 pm

April 1st, Easter Sunday— Christ is Risen

8.00 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10.00 am —Choral Eucharist

WINTER 2017

NEWSLETTER

Message from the Incumbent

Merry Christmas to Everyone!

Throughout the season of Advent we have been waiting. We have been busy making those special cookies and treats, decorating our homes with lights, and shopping for those perfect gifts. Children especially have been waiting for Christmas morning. The waiting is now over. Merry Christmas to everyone!



I don't know about you, but I have a hard time waiting patiently. I ask God for patience, but only if I can have it right away. Our lift project got off to a very good start, then came the waiting; waiting for parts, waiting for delivery, waiting and waiting.

The Church has an entire season dedicated to waiting for the birth of Jesus. We, too, have periods of waiting in our own lives. We wait for the birth of a child, we wait to receive our college diplomas, we wait by the death bed of a loved one. God uses waiting to let us come into communion with Him.

At God's appointed time, the Angel Gabriel visited Mary and told her that she was going to be the mother of the Messiah. Mary waited three months before she broke the news to Joseph. Mary and Joseph waited and wondered how to tell their families. They knew the news would cause a lot of controversy. It must have been a difficult time for Joseph, Mary, and their immediate families, but there was nothing they could do other than to accept their fate and face life.

They waited, waited and finally broke the news to the elders.

Message from the Incumbent, cont'd

Some believed it and others simply dismissed it as a cover to their failure not to have the forbidden fruit before marriage. In spite of what they said, Baby Jesus was born with an earthly mother and a Heavenly Father. Both divine and human! The joy that Mary and Joseph experienced when they first laid eyes on beautiful baby Jesus melted their pains and frustrations. And in this Christmas season we find joy in the birth of Christ. Sometimes the best thing we can do is just wait. We have to trust that God has a plan and that He is bringing it to a conclusion in our lives. I believe our waiting during the past four months has been rewarded by the joy of having a working lift. May this be a memorable Christmas. May the lessons we have learnt serve us well in the future.

I am looking forward to seeing you on Christmas Eve as we celebrate the birth of Christ.

A Blessed Christmas to all!

Father George Kwari

Incumbent

Dedication of New Lift

Please note—the dedication of the new lift will be held on January 14, 2018, at 7:00 p.m., with Bishop John preaching and Father George officiating. To date we have received \$65, 000 from fundraising and memorials, \$15,000 from Anglican Foundation and additional \$25, 000 pledged over time. Thank you for your support. Looking forward to seeing you all on Sunday, January 14 2018!

Confirmation Classes Continue

Our next series of confirmation classes will be held on February 4, March 4, April 15, May 13 and June 3, 2018, after which we will break for the summer. I will announce the dates for the September to December meetings after the end of summer 2018. If you have been thinking about signing up it is not too late, come along and we will be glad to have you. Please note Confirmation will take place on **December 2, 2018 at the 10:00 a.m.** service.

Lenten Bible Study

We have just concluded a very exciting and inspiring bible study which was led by the Reverend Canon Michael Fleming. We were exposed to evangelism in the early churches and how all lived in expectation and anticipation. People were full of courage rather than fear, and the Spirit of God was seen in action. Throughout the whole study we were invigorated and energized signaling that we can hold another seasonal bible study.

Therefore, I suggest another bible study be held during the season of Lent. The dates will be February 21, 28, March 7, 14 and 21, beginning at 6:00 p.m. with a light supper, and finishing at 8:00 p.m.

Goodbye to the SnowBirds

We wish you Godspeed as you travel south where it is warm. Keep us in your prayers as we hold the fort until your return. You will be greatly missed.

Here is our prayer for you; **"God whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go, preserve those who travel; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them to safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord." Amen** (B.A.S page 682)

Fall Food Fair 2017 – A Job well done!

Thank you everyone who worked long and hard on this year's FFF. It seems like preparation has



been going on for months - shopping, cooking, canning, cleaning, organizing, emailing, decorating and selling. It takes all these things and more to hold an event like ours, and your dedication in making sure everything went well is much appreciated. We made **\$14,730** in profits, the best ever. Thank you for helping to make our annual



FFF an event to look forward to. Coordinator: JoAnn



Goodbye St. Stephen's Church Hall

I think we all agree that we will miss having our 10:00 a.m. service in the church hall! Here are some of the comments I have heard about life in the basement:

- Having the service in the church hall is like having a service in a store front. Now I understand why other congregations are developing multi-purpose worship areas.
- Worshipping in the church hall with no fixed pews allowed us to be flexible and have any kind of configuration we could possibly dream of.
- I can see the choir and clergy better than when they are sitting behind the altar where they cannot be seen.
- Having Sunday School upstairs in the sanctuary rather than in the usual spot on the stage has been very good for the children. They have been very respectful that they are in the church and you can feel the reverence among them
- If we are going to claim we are a church without walls, then we need to live up to that and make sure everyone can participate in church. For those with mobility issues the stairs are that wall and I think we have done well to be inclusive of everyone.
- It was amazing to see how people tried to line themselves up based on where they usually sit upstairs. However, there were some who were flexible and sat on a different chair every Sunday.
- Though we missed being in the sanctuary, we must be grateful we had a place to meet and a space that was comfortable.
- By the time we are ready to go upstairs we will have forgotten how to conduct a church service and will be required to relearn the proper procedures.
- I love it in the basement – it's lively, all inclusive, flexible, casual and like a village atmosphere. Sort of like the way Jesus' gatherings would have been before it all moved into churches.
- Our liturgies should never change or be compromised because of a change of place but should be kept the same no matter where we meet.
- I think I'm the only one who will miss worshipping down there.
- Hallelujah, our lift is in and ready to take us up to Floor 135.
- We are now a church with stairs and a working lift.
- Everybody will show up on Christmas Eve because they want a ride in the New elevator.
- This will be the Best Ever Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Christ and our New Lift.
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New editor for the Newsletter

It is a pleasure—indeed an honour—to announce the appointment of Sheela Albert as our new Editor of the Seasonal Newsletter. Thank you, Sheela, for agreeing to help with this newsletter.



Father George