



All Are Welcome

Services Wed. 10:30 am  
Sunday 8:00 & 10:30 am

# Catch the Spirit News

Advent / Christmas, 2011

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## A Word from Canon Kevin

Bill McKibben wrote that Advent is *“the time to listen for footsteps – you can’t hear footsteps when you’re running yourself.”*

This is an interesting view of Advent. Advent is the time that we prepare for the One who is coming. The point made by McKibben is that if we are running away all we can hear are our own frantic footsteps and the panicked pounding of our own hectic heartbeat.

We are less than a month before Christmas. Advent 1 and Advent 2 are already behind us. We have a couple of weeks now of seeking to find the time and energy to prepare the way of the Lord. In these last days of Advent there will be great temptation to move with haste to ‘get it all done.’ We will run from store to store. We will race from post office to UPS. We will travel night after night to all the Christmas socials and staff parties that we can muster. All the while the pressure might build and we will feel overwhelmed by the need to measure up. In these last days of Advent, perhaps more than at any other time, we need to be reminded to stop running so that we can hear the soft and gentle footsteps of Prince of Peace who is hearkening unto us.

C. S. Lewis, in his book *Letters to Malcolm: Chiefly on Prayer*, wrote; “He came down from heaven’ can almost be transposed into ‘Heaven drew earth up into it,’ and locality, limitation, sleep, sweat, footsore weariness, frustration, pain, doubt, and death are, from before all worlds, known by God from within. The pure light walks the earth; the darkness, received into the heart of Deity, is there swallowed up. Where, except in uncreated light, can the darkness be drowned?”

A moment’s pause from running away from God and what God is doing, might allow us an opportunity to see that darkness and death are not the final answer. If we can listen for the steps coming toward us, we

may come to know that God wants to draw us up to that loving bosom. This is comforting to me. During this Advent I am trying to come to grips with the notion that my limitations and weariness, my frustration and pain, my guilt and my doubt, is known by God from the inside out. That can only be true by the grace of what C.S. Lewis is extolling. God becoming one with us assures us for all time that God knows us entirely, absolutely, and thoroughly.

Sometimes my limitations and fears, my frustrations and pains, my insecurities and hurts, cause me to run from God and from God’s loving embrace.

Advent is a splendid time for me to stop running. It is the ideal time to stop! Stop, and ask how I can make ready to accept the gift of Incarnation. How can I prepare for the gift that is a God who cares enough to become one with us? How about you? Are you on the run? Do you need to stop? Is your spiritual pace such that it does not allow for the sound of God’s footsteps approaching? What can you do to listen for the God who is walking toward us, seeking us out, and drawing us, with all of our imperfections, toward that Divine Grace that God offers? It is a good question for Advent ....I think.

Taking that moment to stop and listen may mean coming for worship. We have a host of opportunities over Advent and throughout the Christmas Season for you to come and hear God walking toward us, to feel God’s warm embrace and to celebrate the best of this season with our family, our friends, and with our community of faith. I pray you have a blessed and fruitful season of Advent and Holy and Happy Christmas. Catherinanne and I wish you all the very best in the New Year and give thanks to god for the blessing of you and your ministry in our lives.

## “Children of Abraham”

On November 27<sup>th</sup> our Church sponsored an event that brought people together to celebrate religious diversity. The event, held at Assumption University was a big hit. There were 75 people in attendance across the three Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Islam, and Christianity.

The day was planned, in part, as an event in conjunction with our Rector's thesis work. Canon Kevin's thesis is entitled: *'Conversation not Conversion: To be faithful to the baptismal covenant today, Christians must be engaged in interfaith relationships.'* This work is an examination of the notion that Christians can find a deeper expression of their own faith by being engaged in respectful relationships with people of other confessions. Specifically, Kevin hopes that we can come to know more about how we as Christians can better follow the way of Jesus of Nazareth in living a life that allows for a diversity of expression.

Sometimes we need to hear a younger voice speak about diversity as our youth often live this diversity in better ways. Learning from young people is always a gift. The three panellists were students and each brought a unique perspective to the hour and a half presentation that included respondents who were also young people of faith.

Perry Teicher is 26 and is currently pursuing a JD/MBA at the University of Michigan Law School and the Ross School of Business. Perry previously served as the first Fellow at Repair the World, a New York-based organization focused on making service and volunteerism central parts of American Jewish life. From 2007-2009, Perry served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Kazakhstan as part of the Organizational and Community Assistance Program. Perry also sits on the American Jewish Joint Distribution Committee's NextGen Steering Committee. Perry is a graduate of the Organizational Studies program at the University of Michigan (LSA, OS/Political Science '07).



Zeinab Dabaja is 20 years old. She is a College student studying Journalism at St. Clair College's MediaPlex. She graduates in April 2012. She has a love for writing and passion for activism; speaking out for the things she believes in. She is very grateful for this opportunity today. She not only feels she is representing Islam as she speaks today, but feels she is representing FAITH in general, "as a person of faith". She has friends from various religions, faiths, backgrounds and cultures. Diversity is a big part of her life and is what makes life beautiful, in her eyes. Zeinab's ultimate dream is to travel one day worldwide and create documentaries on the different cultures of the world, helping people see "the beauty in what is different". She believes that there is beauty in our differences.



## Catch the spirit news

Kieran Maddock is 23 and is completing a degree in Earth and Environmental Science and Communication Studies.

After completing his graduate studies, he hopes to find work in the reclamation and remediation of contaminated sites, and hopes to one day work with Engineers Without Borders or a similar organization to bring skills and knowledge to developing nations in the hopes of helping to provide a clean environment and clean water to those living there. Kieran was raised Anglican and has continued in his faith as an adult. He seeks to serve God, the church, and all people as best as he is able in all that he does, and strives to live in humility of the innumerable blessings that we, as humans, have been given. Kieran is always seeking to learn more about faith, his own and that of other peoples' and religions, to the end that we might all work together to bring about the peaceful and just world that is at the heart of all religions. Kieran was both honoured and excited to participate in this gathering of the youth of the Abrahamic faiths, and truly hopes that through efforts such as *Children of Abraham*, we can come to better understand one another, and to form great bonds between all of our communities.



The day saw many people come together and share over faith and fellowship. The 'after-glow' party provided by our hosts at Assumption University also afforded opportunity for us to further discuss God, diversity, interfaith relationships and how we can come to achieve more together.

One of the Respondents – Adamo La Civita reminded us that The Qur'an states: *Chapter 30:22 "Therefore, diversity is willed by God and is an inevitable reality of our human existence and experience. Let's learn to come to common terms and dialogue with one another."*

We are also reminded in the The Bible: *Exodus 23:9 "Don't oppress an immigrant. You know what it's like to be an immigrant, because you were immigrants in the land of Egypt."*

Each opportunity we have to come together to celebrate diversity and what God is doing in the midst of that diversity is a gift. We shall take advantage of future opportunities to give glory to God by working toward respectful and peaceful relationships with our brothers and sisters of other faiths.



# Catch the spirit news

St. Mark's by-the-Lake is having an



## Epiphany Party

Friday, Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>

6-830pm

Dinner, crafts, games, music and a celebration of the arrival of the Magi!



Please bring a salad or dessert to share!

A fun evening for all ages!

(Please sign up at welcome desk)

## HERE WE COME A-CAROLLING!!



Please join the Tweens group on Dec. 16<sup>th</sup> as we go carolling around the neighbourhood, spreading Christmas cheer!! We will gather at the church at 7pm- bundle up!

We will enjoy hot chocolate, cider and cookies afterwards! Bring a friend! Fa la la la la..... start practicing!



# Knit wits

Pastor Daryl Brisebois collected our donation for the Homeless Coalition on Tuesday Nov. 1/11. Our boxes were full with 365 Adult hats, 330 scarves and 140 children's hats. Pastor Daryl was very impressed with our donation!

## Catch the spirit news

### Warden's Report : November, 2011

Advent has begun! How quickly 2011 seems to be passing. At this time as our thoughts turn to the Christmas season and what that means to us a community, the Wardens would like to express their thanks to each and every one of you who contribute to the vibrancy of life within our parish. We are continually grateful for the countless hours that you as individuals contribute to our various activities within the parish and to our outreach efforts. We are so blessed to be part of such a loving and sharing community. We recognize our blessings in having Kevin as our leader, and Geoff as our assistant. Their passion for living the love of God each and every day is evident in their daily lives and in the wonderful homilies that they share with us throughout the year.

We also recognize how extremely fortunate we are to have Mark to guide us in responsibly managing the finances of our parish. His countless hours of work for us demonstrate his strong commitment to our parish community. Thank you Mark, for your guidance and for your care for us.

We encourage each of you to take some time during this season to reflect on the wonder of Christ's birth and the promise of his life and resurrection. Our schedule of services will celebrate this joyous season, and help us to remain centered on the real meaning of Christmas. Please plan to attend and share in these celebrations with your parish family. We now have a tradition to uphold in maintaining our healthy attendance on the Christmas day service so please come and join us!

We wish each and every one of you a joyous, peaceful and safe Christmas season, and look forward with anticipation to what 2012 will hold in store for our parish family. You will find an envelope enclosed

with your winter newsletter as is our tradition. You can offer a gift to show your appreciation to Kevin for all that he means to our family of St Marks by the Lake. The Wardens would encourage you to make use of these, and to remember that as this is a gift for the rector, it is not received. Thank you and best wishes for the Christmas season and the year to come.



**2011 BBQ/Auction  
Huge Success!!!**



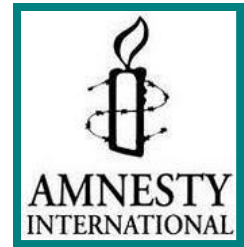
# Catch the spirit news

## OUTREACH AND JUSTICE TEAM – NOVEMBER, 2011

Thank you all for donating the fresh produce for the Unemployment Center Food Bank. The people receiving these donations were very appreciative of fresh produce, providing a healthier diet. All food donations are shared by those in need. If you have any spare grocery bags, please put them in the large bag near the Food Bank drop off, in the Narthex. Some of the folks receiving food from the Food Bank, do not have bags to carry the items home. Thank you for your ongoing donations which are shared by a number of food banks in the City. The Unemployment Center

Food Bank, located at Lauzon Parkway and Cantelon can always use volunteers to help fill baskets. If you have any spare time, please pick up a Volunteer Form at the Welcome Desk. We have received many Christmas gifts for the three Nursing Homes for which we currently provide communion. Thank you for your generosity which helps others enjoy a gift at the holiday time. Ten Thousand Villages will be visiting St. Mark's on Sunday, December 4, 2011, before and after the two services. We hope

you will find some exciting gift ideas and support the efforts of this organization. We are busy planning speakers for the 2012 Lenten Series. Much time is taken selecting speakers felt to help St. Mark's by the Lake in our Outreach projects. Please plan to attend some or all of these events. If you have any suggestions or if you would like to be a part of this group, please come on the second Monday of the month and help our planning for the new year.



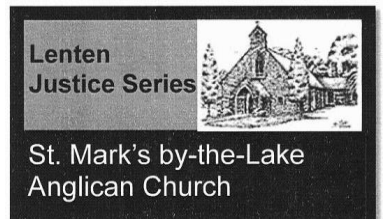
### Similac Sunday

Prayers & Meditations For Lent



Art by Megan Park

Lent 2011



Extendicare Tecumseh



Société Alzheimer Society  
WINDSOR-ESSEX COUNTY



New skills  
New start  
New job

## Catch the spirit news

### St Mark's By the Lake Golf Tournament -- 2011

Our annual Golf Tourney took place this year on Sunday September 18th.

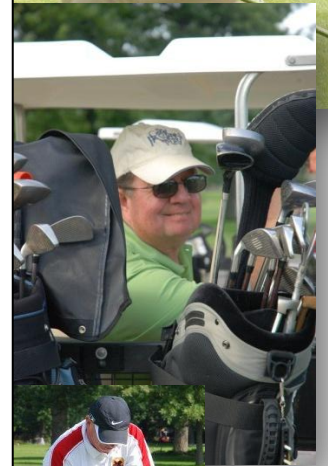
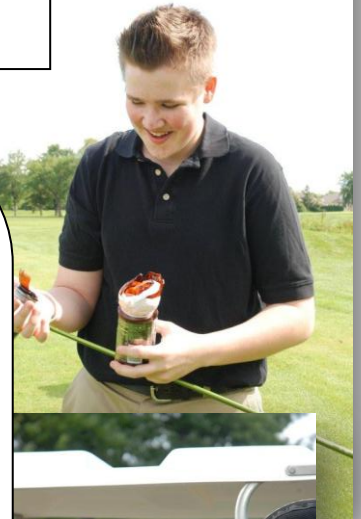
It was a picture perfect day! 120 golfers took to the course at Lakewood at 1.00 p.m. after the Annual Blessing of their clubs at the 10.30a.m. mass. After the Shotgun start golfers of all levels swung their weapons as they drove, chipped, pitched and putted their way around the 18 hole course for over four hours.

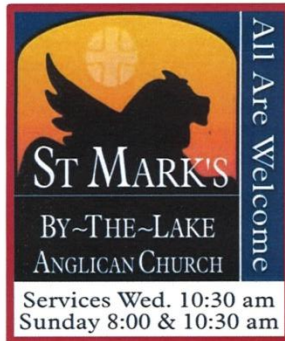
The number one spot was won by Dave Goetz and his team for the second year in a row but thanks to the generosity of our donors prizes were presented to all participants at the Steak Dinner held afterwards at the Knights of Columbus.

I would like to thank once again all members of the Committee, hole watchers, and volunteers for making this a success.

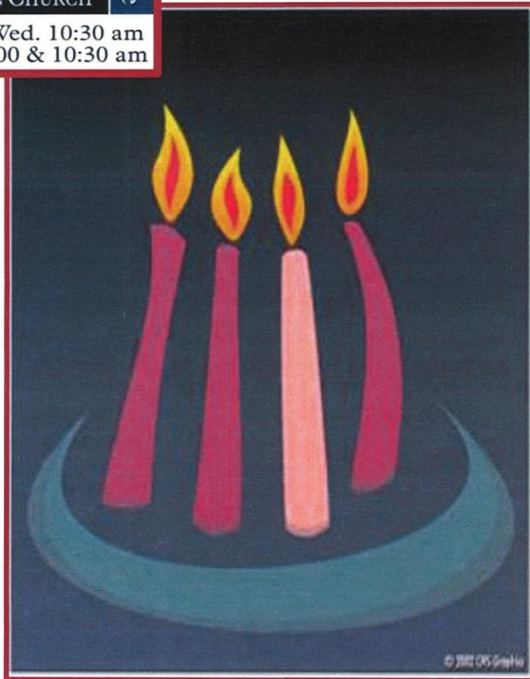
Last but not least appreciation goes out to our loyal sponsors and gift donors.

Chris McVeigh  
Golf Committee Chair





## 2011 Advent and Christmas Schedule



### **Sunday, Nov 20<sup>th</sup>, Christ The King**

Mass at 8: and 10:30

Psalm Study between the masses, 9.00 AM

### **Sunday, Nov 27<sup>th</sup>, 1<sup>st</sup> of Advent**

Mass at 8: and 10:30

Psalm Study between the masses, 9.00 AM

### **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> of Advent**

Mass at 8: and 10:30

Psalm Study between the masses, 9.00 AM

### **Sunday, December 11<sup>th</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> of Advent**

Mass at 8: and 10:30

Psalm Study between the masses, 9.00 AM

### **Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup> of Advent**

Mass at 8: and 10:30

Lessons and Carols Service at 7:30 PM

### **Saturday, December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Eve**

Mass at 7:30 and 10:30 PM

### **Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup>, Christmas day**

Mass at 10:30 AM

### **ST. MARK'S BY-THE-LAKE**

150 St. Mark's Road  
Tecumseh, ON  
N8N 2H4

«FirstName» «LastName»

«StreetAddress»

«City» «Province» «PostalCode»