



Wyman Memorial & Cotz St. Charles United Churches  
Hudson Pastoral Charge  
Christmas 2017 Newsletter

Abuses of power. Threats to peace. An enormous gap between the haves and the have-nots, with the reality of great wealth and people begging in the streets. Lack of respect of the worth and dignity of women and children. Ethnic and racial division, stereotyping and hatred. A great sense of self-centeredness, rather than a deep sense of caring for all.

A time of darkness. It was time for the Messiah to come to Bethlehem.

Does that sound familiar? Do we encounter darkness in our own lives, or do we feel empathy toward family and friends who are living in a period of darkness? Do we see darkness in the world, with poverty, with the ongoing struggles of First Nations peoples within Canada, and the difficulties in daily life for ethnic and racial minorities in our midst? Do we know darkness with millions of refugees around the world, terror attacks on civilians, test missiles being launched and underground shelters being re-opened?

A time of darkness. It is time for the Messiah to come to us.

*But there will be no gloom for those who were in anguish. The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1a, 2, NRSV)*

This was the promise of the prophet Isaiah. This was the promise that came to be seen in Bethlehem.

But this promise is not over. The Light that dared shine in a dark and troubled land some 2000 years ago is shining still. The Light still dares to shine - in our world, in your life and in mine.

And it is in Advent that we prepare for this light, and it is at Christmas and Epiphany that we celebrate this light.

Many people enjoy the things of light at this time of year - the Christmas lights on trees and houses, the glittering ornaments, candles gracing groaning tables in many homes. But by the time Epiphany rolls around on January 6, these lights have been extinguished.

How fortunate for us that when we get to January 6 we are just getting rolling! On that Epiphany day, we celebrate the reality that the Light came into the world not just for one group of people, but for all peoples. It's as though through Christmas we see the light, concentrated and powerful, and we celebrate that wonder..... and then on Epiphany we see the light burst out upon all of us: we are included. No matter the darkness in our lives, nor the darkness in the world about us: we are included in the bursting forth of the Light of God.

*The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light; those who lived in a land of deep darkness— on them light has shined. (Isaiah 9:1a, 2, NRSV)*

Glory to God on the highest! For, in spite of any darkness, we know the Eternal Light: the Light of God, the Messiah.

May you know the light through each day of this season, through to Epiphany, and into the days of the New Year.

Peace  
Kent Chown (Rev)



# Our Seasonal Calendar Sundays and Other Services

**Sunday Dec. 3** \_\_\_\_\_ 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Advent \_\_\_\_\_ 10.30 a.m.  
Sacrament of Holy Communion

**Sunday Dec. 10** \_\_\_\_\_ 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent. \_\_\_\_\_ 10.30 a.m.  
White Gift Sunday  
Choir Candlelight Service \_\_\_\_\_ 7.30 p.m.

**Sunday Dec. 17** \_\_\_\_\_ 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent. \_\_\_\_\_ 10.30 a.m.

**Wed. Dec. 20** "Blue Christmas" Service at Cote St. Charles Church \_\_\_\_\_ 7.30 p.m.

## **Sunday Dec. 24**

Christmas Eve Family Service - Wyman Church \_\_\_\_\_ 7.30 p.m.

Christmas Eve Service - Cote St. Charles Church \_\_\_\_\_ 11.00 p.m.



**Sunday December 31** \_\_\_\_\_ Worship Service & Carol Singing \_\_\_\_\_ 10.30 a.m.



**Sunday December 3** - during the Santa Claus Parade **Hot Chocolate and Coffee** will be handed out by some members of our congregation at the corner of Main Road and Selkirk. You will find the spot easily identified by our new Feather Flag blowing in the breeze.



## **December 10 - White Gift Sunday**



For White Gift Sunday, we ask members to bring toys to be given to St. Columba House for distribution to the children there. Gifts don't need to be wrapped as they set them out by appropriate age and therefore the wrapping is removed anyway.

The mittens, hats and socks on the mitten tree will be divided between St. Columba House and The Women's Shelter and will get there in time for Christmas.

## **Hurry to the Manger**

The most wonderful time of the year is upon us and Wyman Choir's annual evening Candlelight Service, with its joyful celebration of carols and readings, is in full preparation for the coming of Christmas and what it represents in our lives.



This year, our Candlelight Service occurs on Sunday, December 10 at 7:30 pm. The 2017 edition is titled *Hurry to the Manger*, offering homage to the Shepherds who, watching their flocks that special night, scurried as quickly as they could to the stable in Bethlehem to be the first to share in the joy of Jesus' birth.

This annual event continues a long tradition at Wyman whereby, with every Christmas season, the choir steps forward in song to express its gratitude to the members of our congregation, and to the larger community.

While there is no admission fee, a free-will offering is suggested, with all revenues earmarked for the purchase of music, and other related expenses for the choir.

As a special treat, following the concert, you are invited to gather in the lower hall to enjoy a tasty collation of Christmas treats, and chat with our choir members.

Wyman is located at 513 Main, corner of Selkirk, across from the Vivery.  
For more information please call the church office – 450 458-4912 or email [admin@wyman-hudson.ca](mailto:admin@wyman-hudson.ca).

We hope you are able to join us.

The Wyman Choir



***From the Outreach Committee.....***

**Christmas Plants: Poinsettia & Cyclamen.  
An OUTREACH FUNDRAISER.**



Red, White and Pink Poinsettia and any colour Cyclamen available @ \$15.00; and large Tri-colour Poinsettia @ \$25.00. Place your orders now with Inga Lawson 450-424-2893 and they will be available from Sunday 3rd to 17th December.



***Blue Christmas Service  
Wednesday December 20 - 7.30 p.m.  
Côte St. Charles Church***

We would like to invite you to our Blue Christmas service in the evening of Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> (7:30 p.m.) at the Côte Church

December can be a difficult month for many. Partly because of the panic to be ready for Christmas, plus all the seasonal events that take place. And partly because stresses and griefs are often amplified in December.

For those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, especially a fresher loss, December is a time when one feels, or frequently dreads feeling, that empty space left by the person who is no longer with us. How many times do I hear “this will be my first Christmas without this person”, or second, or fifth. The grief is very real as we approach the Christmas season.

But even for those who are not carrying a fresh grief, this season can be difficult. There are lots of stresses - the stresses of getting everything done, and fitting in all the events; the stresses of finances as we tend to spend more, and feel compelled to spend more, in this month than any other; as well as the real issues that are felt with the long hours of darkness and only short hours of light.

And so you are invited to join with us for a service, a quiet, reflective service, a moment apart from the frantic times of this month: and time to remember, a time to pause and be still, a time to seek strength, courage, peace..... and hope.

During this service, there will be a lighting of candles by those in attendance - candles of remembrance, candles of reflection, and candles of prayer.

So we invite you to join us at the Côte Church - Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 p.m. And everyone is welcome.

### Turkey Dinner

Our Annual Turkey Dinner took place on Saturday evening, Nov. 18 along with a mini-bazaar. The end result of the turkey dinner was a profit of \$3,562.21 - one of our most successful dinners. Thanks to all who helped in the kitchen, the young servers, the cooks and those who prepared the vegetables and set the tables and to those who attended and brought friends. Special thanks to the co-ordinators, Carol Laws and Jean Wood.

### Stewardship Campaign

Many thanks to all those who returned their pledge forms. We have 44 contributors to PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance). Remember that contributing by PAR is a way to regularly support your church and avoids "catch-up" periods. As the church has ongoing commitments every week, the more people on PAR makes the programme more valuable and viable. There is still time to send your commitment in if you have not already done so or, if you prefer, a one-time donation would be appreciated. An added way to support your church is by using Fundscrip.....

**Fundscrip** 'TIS THE SEASON TO BUY GIFT CARDS...



To take advantage of this time of year you need to ask your friends and family to help support our group by purchasing gift cards. There are so many participating retailers that they will easily find one or several they can use to pay for their gifts and daily expenses. Three new retailers are now available: Simons, David's Tea & Tim Hortons. There are also retailers giving a larger percentage during the month of December : Esso, Canadian Tire, Winners, Marshalls, Home Sense, The Bay, American Eagle, The Gap, Old Navy, Banana Republic, La Vie en Rose, Stokes, Way Spa & Pet Smart.

#### Why Buy Fundscrip?

- Skip out on the madness of last minute holiday shopping – get the cards delivered to you instead of fighting for parking spots and waiting in long lines to pay in store.
- If you're still missing some gifts for people on your list, you can't go wrong with gift cards – not only is it convenient to get gift cards through FundScrip, but it also allows the recipient to choose what he or she really wants.
- Use gift cards to purchase supplies and groceries for holiday meals or events – gift cards are great as presents, but don't forget that FundScrip carries gift cards from most major grocery stores in Canada so you can get everything you need to cook that perfect meal!
- Best reason of all is that you are help raise funds for our church at no extra cost to you!!



### Wyman Breakfast Group

The Wyman Group Breakfast will meet again on February 10 at 9.00 a.m. A Continental Breakfast is served following which a guest speaker will talk, show slides etc. Special speakers will be announced in the weekly bulletins.

Geoff. Cobden, Chairman Wyman Breakfast Group

## **Helping Out**

*Have you ever thought of helping out by driving people to appointments (locally or downtown)? Some folk in the congregation already do this valuable ministry. If you would like to offer to do this - often or just very occasionally - contact Don Wood, chair of our Pastoral Care Team, at 450-458-4021.*

## **Villa Wyman Update**

The Board of Villa Wyman would like to give you an update on the project. As with any major multi-million dollar project, there are a lot of steps between beginning and end, and when one requires a government grant, there are some extra steps. So things have taken a bit longer than we originally hoped, but the complete first stage application has been received by the AccèsLogis program. Indeed, already included are many elements of the second stage application which will be required a little later on. Once we have approval on the stage one application, we will be granted a guaranteed line of credit. (If for any reason the project does not go ahead, the AccèsLogis program becomes liable for this line of credit.) These funds will allow us to go ahead with some follow-up steps, including more details on the architectural plans.

We have heard various rumours around town about our project that are not accurate. One such rumour is that the Town of Hudson could be on the hook if the project is not completed. This is not correct: The Town has no liability if the project is not approved. However, if the project goes ahead, the Town of Hudson will have tax revenue on the property and there will be some employment opportunities for residents of the area.

We would also like remind you that Villa Wyman is organizationally and financially a completely separate non-profit corporation, with no formal links to Wyman Memorial United Church.

Most importantly, of course, is that we dream of being able to respond to the needs of our seniors in the community.

If you hear things about the Villa Wyman Project that make you wonder, please contact anyone on the Board\* for information and clarification.

Kent Chown, Secretary

The Board, Villa Wyman

\*Villa Wyman Board:

Diane Ratcliffe, President

Sally Janson, Member

Kent Chown, Secretary

Bill Young, Member

Peter Mundie, Treasurer

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A message from the tech team of Quebec Presbytery ( Montreal region) .....

We are currently looking for someone with a computer background who could be trained to run our video-conferencing meetings over the internet. Meetings take place on Saturday ( approx. 4-6 meetings per year) and equipment needs to be setup the day or evening before. It offers a great experience in a field of technology that is constantly expanding. A small honorarium is offered. If you, a member of your family or a friend you know works in the field of computers and might be able to help us please contact: Paul Stanfield e-mail: paul.stanfield@videotron.ca



## Letter from Lucy Alaimo and the OCC team at Westview Bible Church

Hello friends,

*Our shoeboxes have been packed, counted, loaded on the truck and on their way to the processing center in Kitchener, Ontario. There they will be verified and sent to children in Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Ivory Coast, Sierra Leone, Senegal, and Gambia. Thanks to all your efforts and dedication, our collection center collected 5599 shoeboxes, which is 119 more shoeboxes than last year. That's amazing! I am honored to share this project with people who have a heart for God's children and who give of themselves selflessly. We are extremely grateful that so many children will receive the gift of hope and the opportunity to learn about God's salvation.*

*Please pray for protection over the boxes; that they reach their destination and they touch the lives of the children who will receive them, their families and their communities. We thank God for your compassion and generosity and we want to express our deep appreciation for those who volunteered at our collection center. We could not have done it without you.*

*On behalf on the OCC team, I want to wish you and yours a safe and joyful Christmas as you celebrate the birth of our Lord Jesus.*

God bless.



### **Annual Reports**

**Annual Reports** must be submitted to the church office by the 21<sup>st</sup> of January 2018 in readiness for the Annual Meeting in February. It would be appreciated, if possible, that the reports be sent by e-mail or on discs. Your cooperation is appreciated

**Income Tax Receipts** - Donations which you wish credited to 2017 must be received by December 31, 2017 .

Merry Christmas and a Happy New year to all!



