

# NEWS FROM THE PEWS

DECEMBER, 2017–JANUARY, 2018

THEY WILL CALL HIM IMMANUEL, GOD WITH US

Matthew 1:23

FOR NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE WITH GOD

Luke 1:27

## DECEMBER SERVICES

December 10:		ADVENTure 2017: How the Grouch found Christmas
December 17:		Music Sunday
December 24:	10:30 am	Christmas Eve Morning (one service only)
	4:30 pm	Afternoon—Family
	7:00 pm	Evening: Candlelight Service
	9:00 pm	Candlelight & Communion Service
December 25:	10:30 am	Christmas Day (one service only)
December 31:	10:30 am	New Year's Eve Day (one service only)
January 7, 2018	10:30 am	one service only



ON BEHALF OF THE MINISTRY TEAM  
HERE AT THE CHURCH,  
WE WANT TO WISH OUR FAITH FAMILY  
ALL THE JOYS OF THE SEASON.  
MERRY CHRISTMAS!

# FROM THE MINISTER'S DESK

Rev. Jared Miller

So,

I've been thinking a lot about the Exodus story lately. On the one hand, it's a wonderfully Presbyterian story. The broad story is where Presbyterians the world over find not just our logo, but our identity: we are a called-out people.

But I think it's bigger than that. I think it speaks to the church in an age of transition. The world that the church inhabited for a long time has gone away and doesn't seem to be coming back. Sunday is no longer a day set apart, and culture no longer seems to value the church as an institution and force for good. It can feel a little bit like we're being led into the desert.

The good news is that, if that's our story today, we're not original.

I think that the Exodus story feels so timely because it's inherently a human story. It's a story of people overwhelmed by the realities that the world puts on them and their relationship to the God who has called them to be in that situation. Exodus is filled with stories of God showing up to take care of his people for no other reason than that is what God does.

Exodus has been something of a guiding narrative for us at St. Andrew's over the past year and a bit. A minister that we thought God was calling to lead us with Vision and Direction left us with a vacancy that we haven't yet been able to fill; and to make matters more complicated, the minister with whom you've had the longest relationship has been wrestling with an impossible situation for more than a year now.

And when that happens, despair can set in if we don't have someone to blame. That is what happened to the Israelites, with their backs to the Red Sea, facing the greatest army that the world had ever known. "Was it because there were no graves in Egypt that you have taken us away to die in the wilderness? . . . For it would have been better for us to serve the Egyptians than to die in the wilderness."

But if you've been in church for long, or you've seen any movie version of this story, you know what happened next. The waters parted, the people crossed over on dry land, and the armies of Egypt were wiped away.

For me, this is the takeaway: **God does the best work when the odds are stacked against us.** There's a reason this story is still being told.

When your back is against the Red Sea, and you can't run, you can't fight, and you can't just stand there, what do you do? You let God fight for you. That's the promise of the exodus; that we don't have to kill ourselves fighting a battle we can't win, and we don't have to resign ourselves to the fate the world tells us is inevitable. God is writing a new story in our midst. So as we head into the holiday season, let's let God do the fighting for us. And who knows: we just might find ourselves walking on dry land after all.

Blessings in season and out.



## **ADVENTure 2017 Intergenerational Musical**

Please join us and experience

### **How The GROUCH Found Christmas**

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup> (both services)

EVERYONE is invited to join the Christian Education Team downstairs in Trinity Hall at 10:30 am to decorate and consume cookies!

## **FAMILY MINISTRY**

**The Advent Project** - This December, Family Ministry is presenting a new type of Advent calendar for kids of all ages. The Advent Project is asking our church families to look for some way to think of, or help, others each day of Advent. Beginning December 3<sup>rd</sup>, we will have The Advent Project calendars for all church families to take home and work on throughout the week. Each day, families will write down one thing they did to help someone else, such as buying someone coffee, shoveling a neighbor's sidewalk, donating to charity, baking muffins for someone, or something as simple as holding the door open for someone else. The give doesn't have to be big, it just has to be about actively thinking of others and making someone else smile. Each Sunday, families will be invited to write down one thing they did for someone else that week. These will serve as inspiration for the many ways our church family is spreading God's love. The Advent Project is inspired by the blog Give 365. The Ted Talk can be found at <http://blog.365give.ca>. Check it out and pick up your Advent Project Calendar starting December 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### **Parent/Adult Study – The Apostle’s Creed**

Rev. Jared’s study on the Apostle’s Creed continues! Running through April in the Karl English Lounge, this study is geared toward parents, but is open to everyone. Each night, Rev. Jared takes one line in the Apostle’s Creed, breaking it down to explain Christianity and our faith. The study covers two different topics that can be taken independently, so if you can’t make them all or stay so late, that’s okay! Check out the list and come out to what works for you, OR, if you can’t make it, you can watch the study LIVE on the church’s Facebook page (or check them out at a later date). For those able to attend, the nursery will be open with a movie playing for little kids, and the youth group study will still be happening upstairs. If you are dropping off your youth, feel free to come visit with other parents from 6:30 - 7:00 pm.

Dec 7 (7:00 - 8:00 pm) – To say, “Born of the Virgin Mary” - A study on the virgin birth

Jan 25 (7:00 – 8:00 pm) – To say, “Suffered under Pontius Pilate” - A study on the atonement: substitution

Jan 25 (8:00 – 9:00 pm) – To say, “Crucified, Died, and Buried” - A study on atonement: satisfaction

# AROUND AND ABOUT US

By Terry Zimmer



## MARLENE LAMONTAGNE

Seeing a quiet, unassuming woman in a pew close to the front on a Sunday morning, one might not guess at Marlene LaMontagne's adventurous spirit or her lifetime of contributions to her church and community.

Marlene grew up in Moose Jaw, Saskatchewan. "After high school she worked as a writer with CHAB Radio and part time at the local cinema, with dreams of saving for the day she could leave the small city. As luck would have it, before this day came, her best friend's brother came home for a surprise visit from his posting in Korea. Their meeting, like a story from a romance novel, led to Art and Marlene being married in 1953. . . . They led an . . . adventurous life together. . . .

"While Art continued his military service, they lived in Canada and abroad until the early 1960s, when he transitioned to the security industry. Marlene worked for a number of radio stations across Canada and volunteered for organizations like the Regina Women's Club, the MD Foothills Assessment Review Board and the Canadian Club of Calgary, of which she is a current director and a past president."\*

When Art passed away in 2000, Marlene returned to post-secondary education and finished her degree in history. "During her time on campus she started the Canadian Club for Students, where she connected students to the community. . . . She was asked to join the Senate, where she contributed on a number of committees. . . . "While at university Marlene completed two travel study programs --- one in the Mediterranean and another in South America.

Marlene and Art joined St. Andrew's after the closing of St. Paul's United in Calgary. Both had been active in helping with the Canadian Christian Festival, which was held in Calgary in 1986. . . . Following their first visit to St. Andrew's, Karl English was in their kitchen the following Tuesday, and Art was on the Board of Managers, and Marlene was on the Worship Team.

In 2001, the year after Art died, Marlene became an elder at St. Andrew's. She was soon chairman of Communion and Districts, --- continuing for over a decade. Meanwhile, she has filled several offices within Presbytery, as well as General Assembly, and served as Presbyterian representative to the Council of Christians and Jews, an organization of which she is a past president.

Marlene has always been active in the Ladies Afternoon Guild and in the WMS, having served as synodical president for the past seven years. Attending our 9:30 am Bible class has been one of her greatest pleasures she says, equating that group to be almost like family. She recently resigned from Session meetings, due to the necessity of driving home late at night in winter. However, she will continue to serve her district.

\* From Emily Aalbers, Faculty of Arts, University of Calgary, November, 2017.

## FEEL THE WARMTH



It feels good to be warm, both inside and out! But for many in our city the winter months bring nothing but cold, bone-chilling cold. We, as a missional church, can help lessen that cold and bring warmth to others by supplying mittens, gloves, hats, scarves, warm socks, ear muffs and headbands to those in need. They will not only feel warmth against the cold weather, but maybe also a little inner warmth knowing that others in Calgary care.

The “mitten tree” will be decorated with your warm items at both services during the children’s time on **Sunday, December 17**. This is a unique opportunity for all ages to participate in mission. Items will then be donated to various charities such as the Mustard Seed, Drop In Centre, Acadia House or others as the need becomes known. Last year, we received 252 items to hand out – so this year, let’s strive for 275!! *Please help spread the warmth!*

## OUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE WITH:

- ◇ Emma McIntyre, whose brother, Walter Crichton, passed away in Scotland on November 4
- ◇ Judy Roberts, whose brother, Jonah Kasmally, passed away in Trinidad on November 15



## THANK YOU



The **Annual Christmas Bazaar** was a great success again this year. Countless hours were contributed by volunteers who sewed, crafted, baked, cooked, sorted, organized, advertised, set-up, served and cleaned up. We appreciate your commitment to this wonderful event that brings so many people together in fellowship. To all of you who so generously donated, shopped, bounced and enjoyed the fellowship in the tea room, we are grateful for your loyalty and support of the work we do at St Andrew’s. The majority of the \$12,000 in proceeds will be used for St Andrew’s, with the remainder funding smaller community mission projects beyond its walls.

Ladies Afternoon and Evening Guild

## Photo/Phone Directory Volunteers

Many thanks to all those who have helped with the preparation of the photo/phone directory. Your time and effort greeting/registering people for their photos, telephoning, compiling names and addresses, and accomplishing many other tasks are much appreciated. Our new directory would not have been possible without you.





## LADIES GUILD CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON

The Ladies Guild's Christmas luncheon will be held on Tuesday, December 12 at Smugglers Inn, 6920 Macleod Trail South at 11:30 am. All ladies of the congregation are welcome. Carpooling will be available. Please sign up at the volunteer centre today.

## SESSION NOTES

- **Building relationship** can be done in many ways. Session is trying to reach out to people in the way that is most meaningful to them. We realize some people prefer one-on-one visits. Some would rather receive a phone call or an email. We will do our best to be responsive to YOU in the way that works best for you.
- You don't have to worry about forgetting your **communion cards** at home anymore, because Session has approved the elimination of communion cards. All you have to remember now is to sign the attendance sheet before you enter the sanctuary on Communion Sundays.
- We have many faithful 'unnamed elders' in our congregation, and we know that **servicing Communion** can be a significant way to act out our faith, and to grow in faith. Therefore, starting in 2018, non-Session faith leaders will be invited to participate in serving Communion by intinction. More details on this (including training) will be available at the volunteer centre in the new year.
- The **Search Team** is now moving forward with the revised position descriptions and new model. Please **continue to pray** that God will speak to the heart of the right person for St. Andrew's.

## HOUSEKEEPING NOTES

**Locking the doors:** If you are the last to leave the church, could you please ensure that all the outside doors are locked. Once again, there have been issues with the double doors in Trinity Hall.

**Parking:** When there is snow, our parking area is further reduced. Please do not waste space between vehicles and remember that Visitor Parking is for visitors to our church and Accessible Parking is by permit.

# IMMANUEL

God be with us as we go forward  
in January 2018

“For nothing will be impossible with God”

Luke 1.37



## HAVE YOU CONSIDERED PARTICIPATING IN A STUDY SESSION IN 2018?

### Sundays at 9:30 am

“Israel's Mission - Becoming a Kingdom of Priests in a Prodigal World”. This study looks back to earlier examples of God's partnering with people in the world, and it promises to help us think about our partnership with God in the church today. Contact Bill Judd for further information

### Tuesdays at 9:30 am

Come and join our Bible study on **Tuesday mornings**. Arrive in the Karl English Lounge for a time of gathering and refreshment beginning at 9:30 am. Our more formal time of study begins at 10:00 am. This year we are working on Discipleship and being disciples in our lives today. All are welcome!

### Wednesday at 6:30 pm

Please join us for a Bible study on Wednesday evenings at 6:30 pm in the Inner Hall. We are studying “Walk as Jesus walks—making Disciples” by Ray Vander Laan. Sign up at the volunteer corner, or just join us on Wednesdays!

### Youth Bible Study

Surge Youth Group – The Bible Project

Youth meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 -9:00 pm in the upstairs small youth room. We will meet every Thursday, with the exception of holidays. We are using a video series through the group The Bible Project, [www.thebibleproject.com](http://www.thebibleproject.com).

### Apostles Creed Study

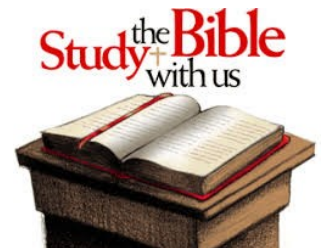
Rev. Jared has put together an amazing study on the Apostles Creed that he will be offering on the first and fourth Thursday evenings of the month from October to April in the Karl English Lounge 7:00 pm to 9:00 pm. Each night covers two different topics and can be taken independently, so, if you can't make them all or stay so late, that's okay! Check out the list and come out to what works for you. The nursery will be open with a movie playing for little kids and the youth group study will still be happening upstairs.

The next dates will be:

December 7 “Born of the Virgin Mary” – a study on the virgin birth

January 25<sup>th</sup> “Suffered under Pontius Pilate” – a study on atonement: substitution

“Crucified, Died, and Buried” – a study on atonement: satisfaction



## HAVE YOU HEARD OF 'THE AFTER PEOPLE'?

"Stephen Ministers are there:

. . . **after** the phone call you hoped you'd never get.

. . . **after** the funeral, when everyone has left and the emotions you've held at bay come crashing in on you.

. . . **after** the relationship falls apart and the bottom falls out of your life.

. . . **after** the doctor says, "I'm sorry, but there's nothing more we can do."

. . . **after** the nursing home director shakes your hand and says, "Welcome to your new home."

. . . **after** the last child honks the horn, waves, and drives away --- and the house suddenly seems empty.

. . . **after** the gavel comes down, the handcuffs go on, and your loved one is led away.

. . . **after** the baby arrives, demanding more of you than you ever dreamed possible.

. . . **after** you find a pink slip with your final paycheck.

. . . **after** your family and friends have heard your story one too many times, but you still need to talk it out."\*

"Ministers will always be the primary caregivers. Stephen Ministry expands caregiving by enabling lay people to provide caring ministry as well. Ministers are alert to people who can benefit from a Stephen Minister and make referrals to the program. . . . Stephen Ministers are not counsellors; they are trained lay caregivers. Their role is to listen and care --- not to give advice or counsel.

"Care Receivers: People from the congregation . . . or others in the community who receive care from a Stephen Minister. These are people experiencing a difficult time in life such as grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness. Some important guidelines for this caring relationship protect both the care receiver and the Stephen Minister:

- The relationship between a care receiver and a Stephen Minister is confidential.
- Men are matched with men; women with women.
- If a care receiver's needs exceed what a Stephen Minister can provide, the Stephen Ministry team makes a referral to an appropriate professional or community resource."\*

If you are interested in becoming a Stephen Minister for St. Andrew's, a training program led by a qualified Stephen Leader will take place at St. Peter's Anglican Church (903 - 75th Avenue SW) beginning on Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 1:00 pm. This training provides 50 hours of instruction in pastoral care. If you would like more information or to register, please contact Judie Coleman at 403-281-4605 or judieco@yahoo.ca. Visit this website for additional information: [www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org).

\*[www.stephenministries.org](http://www.stephenministries.org)



# LEARN ABOUT OUR PARTICIPATION AS A CHURCH IN THE “TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION REPORT”

For the last year St. Andrew’s has been engaging in some important conversations. As a national body, The Presbyterian Church in Canada has taken the initial steps to affirm the calls to action for churches found in the Truth and Reconciliation report. Quoting from that report, here is what we’ve said we are going to do:

“We call upon the church ... to formally adopt and comply with the principles, norms, and standards of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples as a framework for reconciliation. **We call upon [the Church] to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church’s role in colonization, the history and legacy of residential schools, and why apologies to former residential school students, their families, and communities were necessary.** We call upon [the Church] in collaboration with Survivors and representatives of Aboriginal organizations, to establish permanent funding to Aboriginal people for: i. Community-controlled healing and reconciliation projects. ii. Community-controlled culture- and language revitalization projects. iii. Community-controlled education and relationship building projects. iv. Regional dialogues for Indigenous spiritual leaders and youth to discuss Indigenous spirituality, self-determination, and reconciliation.”

As a church, we have a role to play in the ongoing process of reconciliation, and that role will continue. But we want to share with you what it feels like to walk through this process from a participant’s perspective. Recently Jayne Martin attended an Aboriginal Awareness evening. The topic was “**Honouring Aboriginal Culture, History, Present, and Future Positive Journey**”. Below are some of her “gleanings” on that topic:

“In 1880, Canada instituted a “pass system” in order to assimilate Indians with white people. The Indians hid their children. Prime Minister John A. MacDonald referred to them as “savages”. Children, aged 7 to 15, were separated forcefully from their families and culture. They were assigned a number, and this number was recorded on their clothing items. In 1930, 75 per cent of Indian children aged 7 to 15 were living in residential schools. Residential schooling led to past and current trauma — fear, disorganized behaviour, and the avoidance of everything associated with trauma (emotional numbing). The last residential school closed in 1996.

“Today, for the first time in 100 years, Indian children are being raised by their parents. It has been a difficult journey for the parents, who grew up in residential schools where they were not loved, and yet must somehow find it in themselves to show love to their children.

“In closing, [the presenters] said that the government did not succeed in destroying them. Their land is what sustains them. We reviewed the Medicine Wheel, consisting in equal parts of the Spiritual, Emotional, Physical, and Mental. The Medicine Wheel is fundamental to the Aboriginal belief system and their road to healing. They ask that they be treated with dignity and respect. You will be interested in knowing that they were not granted the right to vote until 1960. We can all learn from the past and journey together for the future. We watched two episodes of “Elder in the Making,” a very professional and insightful documentary by a Chinese-Canadian who embarks on a spiritual journey of reconciliation with a Blackfoot. (Continued next page)

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I highly recommend all five episodes. We ended the evening with rhythmic drumming and a round dance. It was a very enlightening evening, and I would encourage any and all to come and join us for any future Aboriginal Awareness evenings. Thanks to all of the presenters for sharing their stories and their time with us.”

Jayne Martin

If you are interested in participating in 2018, please sign up at the volunteer centre, or, contact Brian Hawco at 403-650-2265.



## HERITAGE SENIORS

### WELCOME

#### Heritage Seniors' Luncheon

Monday, January 9, 2018  
at 12 noon

*Calgary Fire Department speaks on Fire Safety*

Tickets available from John or Ron

Contact John Young or Jan Kozbial for further  
details, if required.

Last day of activities before Christmas is

December 21

Activities resume on Thursday, January 4, 2018

(registration fee: September—August - \$20.00)



## HOLIDAY OFFICE SCHEDULE

The office will be closed on Monday, December 25 and Tuesday, December 26, reopening on Wednesday, December 27 at 9:00 am. The office will also be closed on Monday, January 1, 2018.

Rev. Jared will be on vacation from December 25 to January 8. Please contact the office for any pastoral needs. Rev. Fiona Swanson will be providing pulpit supply.

### Editorial Team of NFTP

Rhonda Mullan, Norah Finlay,  
Terry Zimmer, Judie Coleman,  
Linda Haines, Rev. Jan Hazlett

Articles may be submitted in the mailbox in the Karl English Lounge or emailed to :

newsletter@standrewscalgary.ca

**NEXT DEADLINE: JANUARY 15, 2018**

\*The editorial team may edit your submission due to space limitations.

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, 703 Heritage Dr. SW  
Calgary, AB T2V 2W4

## Help Keep St Andrew's Alive for Future Generations

Have you considered supporting our church in your will or estate plan? Get information on how you can leave a legacy that will benefit St. Andrew's for many years to come. Brochures are available at the welcome desk, or check out the "Planned Giving" information under the "Resources" tab on The Presbyterian Church in Canada website: [presbyterian.ca](http://presbyterian.ca).

Stewardship & Planning Team

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church ~ 403-255-0001 ~ [www.standrewscalgary.ca](http://www.standrewscalgary.ca) ~ [office@standrewscalgary.ca](mailto:office@standrewscalgary.ca)

December, 2017—January, 2018