

MAGDALA NEWS

November
2007

ADVENT/CHRISTMAS

OUR MISSION

Claiming the power of Christ to enable us to have meaningful worship, spiritual development and leadership in order to undertake pastoral and outreach ministries. (October, 2005)



THE PARISH OF ST. MARY MAGDALENE

(Anglican Church of Canada)

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From The Editors

One wonders what could possibly be said about Christmas that hasn't been said a million times before. Yet, in re-reading this issue as it's about to go to print, what jumps out are myriad new beginnings.

And isn't Advent is the perfect time to reflect on new beginnings? It is, after all, the beginning of the Christian year. In our worship, we focus on the coming of Christ: The Second Coming, John the Baptist's announcement of "one coming after me," Gabriel's invitation to Mary to become the favoured one who will give birth to Messiah. What better time to take stock of all the ways that Christ is coming among us at St. Mary Magdalene?

On November 8, three new vocational deacons were ordained, including our own Dayle Michaud (more about that in the next issue). A support group is currently pondering and praying about what new form Dayle's ministry might take, and we have already seen the beginnings of how the presence of a deacon will shape our worship.

We also have a new music director in place, Nancy Aasland (p. 5). Our theology student, Cassandra McCormack-Smith, has taken on duties as a server and as a lay reader.

Two study groups have formed recently, a monthly movie and discussion night led by Preston (p. 6) and a book study led by Jane Barter-Moulaison.

Our delegation to Faith Horizons has got the Vestry excited about "going green" (p. 8)

Calls and visits by parish leaders mark the start of a fresh relationship between our church and the community of St. Vital; and for the first time in many, many years, the possibility of a new Church planting looms on the horizon, and we are part of it (pp. 3 & 10).

Spend some time this Advent and Christmas season watching for the new things God is bringing to birth in your own life—you'll be amazed!

Jody Erlandson

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Opinions expressed in articles or notes in this publication are those of the writer and do not necessarily represent the opinion or policy of [The Parish of St. Mary Magdalene](#), [The Diocese of Rupert's Land](#), or [The Anglican Church of Canada](#).

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From the Rector's Desk



The Reverend
Preston Parsons

This summer I had the chance to spend some time in Chicago for a ministry development conference. As a parish we've been invited to be a part of a new church plant in Sage Creek, so I went away and spent a few days learning about building vibrant

ministries in both new church plants and long-standing local parishes.

They kept us all very busy, but I did find a little time to see Chicago. I spent part of one afternoon on a boat, taking in some of the spectacular architecture the Windy City has to offer.

There was one pair of buildings, called Marina City, which captured my imagination. (The buildings are featured on the cover of the Wilco album *Yankee Hotel Foxtrot*). They were completed in 1967, and the design ideas were advanced for the time. The intent was integrated living, where people could work, shop, and live in the same complex. People didn't have to go outside at all.

Now the thought of not having to go outside is not all that appealing any more. So Marina City has adapted itself, and is no longer a complex where people spend every minute of their day. Part of the building has even been converted into a blues club. It remains as a unique and useful part of the life of Chicago, even though it is no longer being used according to the original vision of the architects.

Appropriately enough, we spent a lot of time talking about buildings at the conference. We

didn't talk about how new churches are built, or what they are supposed to look like – we learned about the relationship between buildings and ministry. They called us to get to know our neighbourhoods and our neighbours, because this is where we will get the best sense of where God is calling us. The building always follows the ministry, they said.

So we've begun visiting leaders in our neighbourhood. Some people are interested in getting to know us; others have been guarded and reluctant. But we're learning about the community around us, and gathering information and developing friendships that will help us see what life is like on the ground in St. Vital. From there we will have a strong sense of what the needs are in our community, and better able to respond effectively.

This brings me back to Marina City. It was built with a particular vision in mind; but as Chicago changed, so did Marina City. We've just renovated the basement, and now we're looking to renovating the upper hall. As our neighbourhood changes, so does our ministries and our vision: and the building follows along, responsive to where God is calling us. The business of building renovation, seen in the right light, is profoundly spiritual, because it is deeply connected to our ministry and God's vision for St. Vital.

We will hopefully make the same adjustments that Marina City did, adapting our building around our new ministries in a changing neighbourhood, and responding to the spiritual needs of the community God has placed us in.

Preston+

From the Wardens

The period since our last *Magdala News* has been one of considerable activities in our parish.

The Wardens are pleased to report on the many activities which demonstrate the spirit and enthusiasm of St. Mary Magdalene. The yearly budget process has benefited from almost one half of our donations coming from pre-authorized cheques. This has allowed us to even out all payments of our on-going commitment. Thank you to all who subscribe to this process. We hope more of our members will be added to the list for next year. We are happy to report on the generosity of your giving, especially as it relates to paying for our renovations. Giving by our members is now matching the goal set out for matching funds.

As you will now have noticed we have completed Sherstone Hall renovations, the windows of the upper hall and we plan to complete the insulation of the attic. We will be applying for a Community Places grant to assist in completing the renovation of the Upper Hall in 2008.

On your behalf, the wardens have attended Archdeaconry meetings and the educational component of Synod (known as Faith Horizons). As a result we are acting on suggestions presented there, to develop some new initiatives. One example of this is a new approach to the Parish Budget (new diocesan guidelines for apportionment) in which the various ministries will share their vision of the future and from this a narrative and/or pictorial budget can be presented at the Annual Meeting. We will also engage in a 'Creation Care' philosophy as part of our stewardship of the Earth and aim to become "carbon neutral."

We want to thank a number of people for their recent contribution to the church

- All the people who worked with the renovations. (The list is attached to the poster in the hall)
- Preston for representing the diocese in Chicago re: Conference on Church planting.
- Gary Brabant for leading the worship committee
- Pam for taking on the hospitality role in regard to meals etc.,
- Gerry Brown for taking pictures for our report and budget,
- Nancy Aasland for her new duties as music director,
- Nancy, Karen and Jane for working with the new Youth Church,
- Jane and Bea for initiating a book study
- Tannis for her role in communications,
- The Building Committee for their direction of work on the renovations,
- Margaret Jones for her review of rentals and work with Outreach
- Barbara Bater for her caring for the church grounds
- Gary and Sandra Brabant for the sale of Church Calendars
- The corporation for their review of all contracts with employees.

We want to take this opportunity to commend Dayle Michaud for becoming a candidate for ordination and welcome her to the calling of Deacon.

As we prepare for 2008 and the Advent Season, we welcome the challenges to our spiritual growth, giving thanks for all who contribute so much to our parish.

Yours in Christ,
The Wardens.

Bill Regehr, Alan Forrest, Heather Birtles

Companions on the Faith Journey

Nancy Aasland

by Heather Birtles

Nancy Aasland recently joined our community as Music Director. Nancy grew up in the St James area and graduated from Silver Heights Collegiate. She has been an Anglican since her teenage years and was active in the Anglican Youth Movement and Teens Encounter Christ, memories of which cause her to smile broadly! She has worshipped at St Chad's and at St Bede's where she was Choir Director for fourteen years before coming to be with us.

Following a brief period of exploring options, she pursued a degree in Religious Studies and Music at University of Winnipeg and what was then known as Concord College (now CMU), where she studied Music Theory with Linda Schwartz Trivett, a former Music Director here at St. Mary Magdalene. Other studies included choral conducting and worship planning. Among the instruments which Nancy uses are voice, piano, guitar, djembe (an African drum), recorder and penny whistle.

Nancy enjoys the music of Bach but also responds to the poetry and music of the modern composers John Bell of the Iona Community and Steve Bell of Winnipeg. She has contributed to Diocesan events such as Faith Horizons and the Music and Worship Conference at St. John's College, working alongside Lisa Ilchyshyn. She has sung with the Concord Singers, the Mennonite Oratorio Choir and the Mennonite Festival Chorus, who will present Haydn's *Creation* with the WSO this December.

Kindermusik Discovery, found at two locations in the city, one on Roblin Boulevard and the other at MTYP at the Forks, is under Nancy's direction. It is a large music school for infants to seven-year-olds which links music and movement.

Nancy and husband Kerniel have a daughter, Amadea, who is currently enjoying Sunday School here. They are founding members of a housing cooperative in the Corydon Area. As a family they enjoy time at their cottage in Matlock. All are avid readers; and if there is any time to spare, Nancy enjoys cross stitch.

Thank you, Nancy for joining with us in our faith journey and leading us in making a joyful noise unto the Lord.

Parish Leadership Contact Information

Rector's Warden	Bill Regehr*	257-3714
Deputy Rector's Warden	Heather Birtles	255-8128
People's Warden	Alan Forrest	256-3471

Vestry/*Synod Delegates

Heather Birtles	255-8128	Margaret Jones*	256-3832
Gerry Brown	257-5027	Christina Okwumabua	256-0016
Alan Forrest*	256-3471	Marguerite Pernitsky	256-4867
Doreen Giesbrecht	256-1668	Bill Regehr	257-3714
John Haitisma	261-8236	Tannis Webster*	237-6081

Parish News

Conversation and a Movie

A new film study group was launched on November 14, featuring *An Inconvenient Truth*. Movies followed by conversation will continue on the second Wednesday of each month—mark these dates in your calendar: December 12, January 9, February 13, March 12. For more information contact **The Rev'd Preston Parsons** at 253-0555 or therevpreston@mts.net.

Consecration Sunday

Because our Patronal Festival falls on July 22 at a time when many people are “taking a break,” we are never certain how many people will be at church to celebrate. This year there were many, and we were happy to have **The Rev'd Canon David Pate** taking the service and also to welcome **Bryn Orvis** into the family through baptism. Following a joyful time of worship, we moved to Sherstone Hall where it was “all hands on deck” to present the potluck lunch, admire the ongoing work of the building committee and feast in style and comfort.

When we research St. Mary Magdalene, it is not at all clear which of the women we read of in the New Testament whose name was Mary. Clearly, however, she was a follower of Jesus, who was ministered to by Him and in turn used her gifts to minister to others. On the basis of her example, we shared at our tables some thoughts on the giftedness of those around us and gave thanks for the way these gifts are used to benefit us and the community at large, when people are willing to exercise them in God's name. Some of the gifts discerned are listed for you to enjoy. Kind, Thoughtful, a good Parent, Able to

Sing, able to Play a musical instrument, can Write stories, a Nurse, a Doctor, an Accountant, an Engineer, a Teacher, can Bake, can Sew, is good at Crafts, can Organize, is good at Shopping, is Hospitable, can Preach, is a good Listener, is a good Photographer, can Amuse and Entertain others, is a good Fisherman, can Draw and Paint, has great Computer skills, Visits the sick and shut-in, is a good Friend and Neighbour . . . Such gifts and attributes, when the Spirit of God is invoked, can be used to achieve infinitely more than we can ask or imagine, wouldn't you say? These are surely part of our offering when we focus on stewardship of time, talent and treasure at Consecration Sunday this year.

And speaking of offerings, here is a recipe for just one of the amazing dishes people bring to potluck feasts:

Bernice Johannesson's Bean Salad

1 can sliced Green Beans (drained)
 1 can sliced Wax Beans (drained)
 1 can Kidney Beans (drained)
 1 medium Red Onion (sliced)
 1/2 cup Salad Oil
 1/2 cup Cider Vinegar
 1/2 cup Sugar
 1/2 tsp Salt
 1/2 tsp Pepper

Combine the above ingredients in a glass bowl and marinate overnight. Drain and Serve

"Above all else, know this: Be prepared at all times for the gifts of God and be ready always for new ones. For God is a thousand times more ready to give than we are to receive."

- Meister Eckhart

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White Gifts/Christmas Cheer

“for I was hungry and you gave me food”
(Matt. 25:35)

White Gift Sundays will be **December 2, 9 and 16**. Please take a tag that the Sunday School has provided and buy the selected gift. Put the tag on the wrapped gift and place it in the box labelled “white gifts.” The gifts will be blessed on Sunday, **December 16**.

St. Matthew’s-Maryland Community Ministry

- Toys/gifts for children: unwrapped, preferably new, non-violent gifts for all ages of children, remembering especially older children (toys not needing batteries preferred).
- Belts and socks for children and adults: a wool blend or sport sock is best.
- Gifts for Silent Auction.
- Toiletries: shampoo, toothpaste, deodorant, bath soap, etc.

Please place the items in the box labelled “Toys” by Sunday, **December 16**.

Christmas Food Hampers

Once again we will be making up hampers to help out the Christmas Cheer Board. Please sign up to bring food items. Donations of cash or cheque are also welcome. Monetary gifts should be placed in an envelope marked “Christmas Hampers” and included in the offering. If you know of anyone needing a hamper, leave their name(s) at the office.

Place food items in the box labelled “Christmas Hampers” by Sunday, **December 16**.

For more information speak with **Alan Livingstone, Margaret Jones, or Barbara Bater**.

Blue Christmas

Christmas got you down? Or just looking for some quiet in a season of craziness? Join us for an afternoon with a little bit of quiet, some jazz and a few prayers at **4 pm** on **Sunday, December 9**. An excellent opportunity to invite others who might also need an hour’s respite from pre-Christmas preparations.

Christmas Services

- The **Family Service** on Christmas Eve will begin at **7 pm**, as usual.
- The **Candlelight Service** will begin at **11 pm**. (Note change of time from 9 pm.)
- No service on Christmas Day.

Memorials Report

by Norma Edwards

Donations to the Memorial Fund are always welcomed and appreciated. Donors may designate a specific use for the funds, and your gifts have helped with special projects as well as building maintenance. Contributions are tax deductible and may be made on a one-time or regular basis, or as a bequest in a will.

All donations are recorded in the Memorial Book, and for a fee of \$20, a plate may be engraved for the Memorial Board giving information regarding the person in whose memory the donation was made.

Pew Bibles are still available for \$20 each. They will be acknowledged by a printed bookplate, as a Memorial or Thanksgiving from the donor, and are gratefully accepted.

For more information, contact **Norma Edwards** at 256-7292.

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Congratulations to . . .

- **Abigail Harding** and her children, **Sarah** and **Kelvin** who took the Oath of Allegiance and became Canadian Citizens at a beautiful ceremony held at the Union Station on Thursday Sept 27th 2007.
- Long-time parishioner **Wilf Thomas**, who was recently presented with the Melvin Jones Award for his many years of service and dedication to the Riverside Lions Club. Presenters included **Pat Carvelli**, with whom Wilf worked at the Riverside Estates for many years; and fellow Lion **Stan Puchniak**, who recalled Wilf's role in getting Riverside Estates "off the ground."
- **Jean Johnson**, who has won Creative Retirement's "Love of Learning" award. Jean was nominated "because she is very much a person with compassion and loving concern for all and a person with deepest respect for her Creator. She demonstrates an eagerness to learn, has an enquiring mind and an enthusiasm to experiment with and test new ideas in the computer classroom and has a unique ability to be a source of inspiration to students requiring assistance in many aspects of their lives Jean thrives on the life-long learning process and has recently become involved with immigrant EAL seniors. Known as a person of foresight and vision, intuition and judgment, a thinker, a person of devotion, sincerity and humility, Jean continues to be an influential source of inspiration. Her love for teaching and sharing knowledge with other people motivates them to excel." The award was presented by Ken Hildahl of Manitoba Blue Cross, at the Creative Retirement Annual Lunch on October 30.. Well done Jean—we are proud of you!

Creation Care

At a recent Vestry meeting a motion was passed "to support the Worldwide Anglican Communion's mark of mission to strive to safeguard the integrity of creation, and sustain and renew the life of the earth by committing to the 5 R's of Creation Care."

We are all hopefully aware of the need to be good stewards of our world and environment, and many of us have been taking this responsibility to heart over the years. The motion came before vestry because the eight people from our parish who attended the recent Faith Horizons Conference felt it important to review what we are doing at church and in our own homes, and to encourage one another to be in tune with current knowledge and solutions available, which address the present predicament in our lives of pollution, waste and depletion of resources.

Much of the information and inspiration we received was from people who attend St. Peter's Anglican Church and also from individuals who promote Fair trade. Our motion follows the guidelines of the Anglican Communion, the Anglican Church of Canada, PWRDF and KAIROS, and comes from educational materials produced by these groups.

The 5R's of Creation Care are:

Reverence and show respect for all creation.

Reduce the amount of waste, purchase carefully, buy and use only what we really need. Buy things made to last and items with minimal packaging.

Repair items so that they can continue to be used.

Reuse as much as possible including paper, jars, cans, boxes, bags, paper clips and string etc. Compost.

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Recycle unwanted items and materials for others to use.

We acknowledge and applaud the magnificent work already done through the leadership of those involved in maintenance and renovation of the church property over the past years. This has been done following an audit of the facility and upgrading according to current government guidelines and codes which protect the environment. (Brian Crow, Alan Ferris and Bill Regher would be happy to expand on this information for you). The plan is to continue along this track and upgrade accessibility for the disabled.

We applaud the work done by so many people under the leadership of John and Nancy Chan to recycle goods through the garage sales and remind you that the next sale will be May 2 and 3, 2008.

We also plan to engage in formal worship and thanksgiving on occasions such as Earth Day which is celebrated April 22, and to participate in such community events as Buy Nothing Day, November 23, 2007, to mark our respect for creation.

It is hoped that we can share information with one another in various ways; e.g., a showing of the Al Gore movie *An Inconvenient Truth* will inaugurate the Wednesday Night Movie group on November 14.

Other individuals have committed to the following actions:

- **Dayle Michaud** will focus on prayer around these issues and will engage other members of the parish in this in as many ways as she sees fit.
- **Margaret Jones** will continue to be involved with PWRDF and KAIROS and will bring to us ideas regarding water use.
- **Tannis Webster** will research use of

environmentally friendly products and methods for cleaning and clean up (e.g. dish washing) at the church and recommend change where necessary.

- **Vickie and Bob English** are encouraging us all to have reusable bags for shopping, with the possibility of having some marked with the parish logo.
- **Heather Birtles** will encourage composting of vegetable waste at church and where we live.
- **Bill Regher** will review the office supplies for environmental friendliness and will continue to encourage recycling of paper, drink cans and glass at the church.

What other suggestions do you have? What other information would you like to share? What experience and wisdom do you bring to this enterprise? Please let the vestry know or share your ideas with any of those mentioned in this article. We're in this together!

"There is absolutely no reason for being rushed along with the rush. Everybody should be free to go slow."

- Robert Frost

Around the Diocese

Advent Quiet Day

If all the shopping, planning, and partying leave you tired and ill-prepared to celebrate the real "reason for the season," perhaps you need to get grounded and focused before it even begins.

St. John's Cathedral, 135 Anderson Avenue, will host a Quiet Day on Saturday, December

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1, from 9 am 4 pm, led by **The Rev'd Mary Lysecki**, Incumbent, St. Martin-in-the-Fields. This retreat day will help to provide a little breathing space and opportunity to reflect on what Advent and Christmas really mean to us as Christians (Hint: It isn't Santa, Rudolph or turkey!)

This annual retreat day is co-sponsored by The Dean and the Cathedral Chapter, The Anglican Fellowship of Prayer and The Associates of The Sisterhood of St. John the Divine. Suggested donation is \$15 and lunch is provided. For more information, contact [St. John's Cathedral](#) at 586-8385.

What's God up to in Sage Creek?

On September 27th, representatives from two Anglican and two Lutheran churches in the St. Vital and Windsor Park areas met to discuss the possibility of coming together to plant a new church in the Sage Creek area of Winnipeg. Representatives from St. Bartholomew and St. Mary Magdalene Anglican, and Prince of Peace and Faith Lutheran, met at Prince of Peace for a pot-luck supper, bible study, and discussion to discern the next steps. There was a sense of excitement about the possibilities. This meeting was a follow-up to a May meeting where **The Rev'd Phil Hink**, Lutheran mission consultant from Alberta, took a group of 50 people from 14 Lutheran and Anglican congregations through the basics of planting a new mission congregation.

Each congregation will designate three people to be part of a Sage Creek Mission Discernment Team. They will meet on a regular basis to pray, study scripture, and assist our congregations to decide what God is calling us to do together in Sage Creek. Our representatives

are **Alan Forrest, Dayle Michaud, and Marguerite Pernitsky**. It was noted by way of interest and encouragement that a similar group of churches in south-west Winnipeg has also started to discern the planting of a new church in the Waverly West area. Please keep this mission initiative and the Discernment Team in your prayers.

Trinity Institute Annual Conference

St. John's Cathedral hosts (via video link) the 38th Trinity Institute International Theological Conference, **January 21—28, 2008**. This year's topic is Religion & Violence, an interfaith dialogue, with **James Carroll, James H. Cone, Susannah Heschel, and Tariq Ramada**. **Katherine Jefferts Schori**, presiding bishop of ECUSA, will preach. Explore with a panel of leading theologians how religion becomes entangled with violence and what are the resources within each tradition for living together in peace without losing unique identities. This live video conference will begin on Monday, January 21, from 5—7:30 p.m. and continues on Tuesday and Wednesday from 8 am—4 pm. Cost is \$50/person; \$35/spouse or partner. To register, contact [St. John's Cathedral](#), 135 Anderson Avenue, at 586-8385.



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(And in Other News—Continued from page 10)

And in Other News . . .

PWRDF Response Bangladesh: Cyclone Sidr

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) is responding to victims of Cyclone Sidr with non-food emergency items for affected families in Bangladesh. The purpose of the project is to meet the immediate and short-term basic human needs of approximately 8000 cyclone-affected households in six districts. Project interventions include the distribution of essential non-food items aimed at improving post-disaster health, shelter and access to household goods.

This project aims to focus on the distribution on non-food relief items. Each eligible household will receive as part of a family kit:

- Five corrugated iron sheets
- One blanket
- Clothing
- Three cooking pots
- Six packets of oral rehydration salts
- 40 Water purification tablets.

This project compliments the provision of food already being funded by the Canadian Foodgrains Bank to meet the food needs of 5000 families for one month. A second phase for food will be added shortly to meet the longer-term food needs and food security rehabilitation needs of the same households

Five Canadian Churches in Action members have jointly contributed \$105,000 and a proposal has been presented to the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA) for \$ 249,323 with Christian Reformed World Relief Committee as a lead agency. PWRDF will contribute \$10,000 to this initiative.

To Make a Donation:

On-line:

At the Canada Helps website:
<<http://www.canadahelps.org/CharityProfilePage.aspx?CharityID=s50860>>

By Phone:

Contact **Barbara Wilkins** at (416) 924-9199, ext. 320 for credit card donations. Please *do not* send your credit card number by e-mail or fax.

By Mail:

Please make cheques out to "PWRDF" and send them to:

The Primate's World Relief and
Development Fund
The Anglican Church of Canada
80 Hayden Street
Toronto, Ontario M4Y 3G2

Fair Trade: The One-Month Challenge

For 30 days starting February 14, 2008, thousands of Manitobans will take part in Fair Trade Manitoba's One-Month Challenge, making the commitment to consume only fair trade tea, coffee, and chocolate for one month. The One-Month Challenge will:

- Promote awareness of fair trade issues.
- Introduce thousands of consumers to quality fair trade products.
- Provide participants with the basis to consider making the fair trade choice over the long term.
- Help to increase availability of fair trade products throughout Manitoba.

How Can Organizations Help?

Participation in the One-Month Challenge is a positive and joyful way for organizations to put their values into everyday practice. FTM is inviting organizations with aspirations for a better world to run their own One-Month Challenge campaigns in conjunction with the larger public campaign. This would involve:

- If not already in place, adopting fair trade purchasing policies during the 30 days of the One-Month Challenge.
- Promoting participation in the One-Month Challenge among staff and/or members.

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(And in Other News—Continued from page 11)

As supporters of the One-Month Challenge, each participating organization will be recognized on Fair Trade Manitoba's web page. Reports on participation levels and impact can also be provided to supporting organizations based on those persons and families who indicate an affiliation when they sign up (registration will be done on-line).

How Can You Help?

Could our parish sign on? Talk to any member of Vestry if you are willing to participate.

What is Fair Trade?

Fair Trade Manitoba defines Fair Trade as an alternative approach to trading that:

- Promotes global economic justice, dignity and environmental sustainability through equitable trading relationships between northern importers and southern producers.
- Is based on fair trade principles as adopted by the Fair Trade Labelling Organizations International (FLO – International) and adapted by FTM. These include:
 - Direct trade,
 - Fair price,
 - Long-term commitment,
 - Access to credit,
 - Democratic management,
 - Public information,
 - Environmental sustainability and
 - Community development
- Recognizes that adherence to the principles of fair trade can contribute to a more equitable and sustainable system of production and trade that benefits people and communities

'Twas The Night Before Christmas— Not a Sign of Baby Jesus

'Twas the night before Christmas, and all through the town
Not a sign of Baby Jesus was anywhere to be found.

The people were busy with Christmas time chores
Like decorating, baking, and shopping in stores.

No one sang "Away in a manger, no crib for a bed".
No, they all sang of Santa, dressed-up in bright red.

Mama watched Martha Stewart, Papa drank beer from a tap.
As hour upon hour the presents they'd wrap

When what from the TV did they suddenly hear?
'Cept an ad, which told of a big sale at Sears.

So away to the mall they all flew like a flash
Buying some things on credit and others with cash!

And, on the way home from their trip to the mall,
Did they think about Jesus? Oh, no, not at all.

Their lives were so busy with Christmas time things
No time to remember Christ Jesus, the King.

There were presents to wrap and cookies to bake.
How could they stop and remember who died for their sake?

To pray to the Saviour they had no time to stop.
Because they needed more time to "Shop 'til they dropped!"

On Wal-mart! On K-mart! On Target! On Penney's!
On Hallmark! On Zales! A quick lunch at Denny's

From the big stores downtown to the stores at the mall
They would dash away, dash away, and visit them all!

And up on the roof, there arose such a clatter
As grandpa hung lights with his brand new step ladder.

He hung lights that would flash. he hung lights that would twirl.
Yet, he never once prayed to Jesus, Light of the World.

Christ's eyes... how they twinkle!
Christ's Spirit... how merry!
Christ's love... how enormous!
All our burdens... He'll carry!

So instead of being busy, overworked, and uptight
Put Christ back in Christmas and enjoy some good nights!

—Author unknown

Epiphany Puzzle Review

Look in all directions to find each word in the word bank below. As you look for each word, think about how it is connected with the texts you've read so far during the Season after the Epiphany. After you have found all the hidden words, find the message that is hidden in the puzzle by writing all the remaining letters on the lines at the bottom of the page. Begin in the upper left-hand corner and move from left to right for each line.

I	S	A	I	A	H	A	I	S	S	E	M	I	W
B	E	L	O	V	E	D	H	I	O	L	J	D	L
M	S	P	I	R	I	T	A	S	N	H	O	J	K
E	Y	H	C	A	E	R	P	I	O	G	R	O	R
C	A	P	E	R	N	A	U	M	F	W	D	U	E
F	I	R	A	B	B	I	S	O	G	O	A	H	P
F	E	Z	I	T	P	A	B	N	O	L	N	O	E
R	A	P	S	C	O	M	E	P	D	L	E	O	N
N	P	T	H	C	A	E	T	E	V	O	D	L	T
E	E	L	I	L	A	G	E	T	S	F	T	O	D
N	S	E	M	A	J	A	W	E	R	D	N	A	Y
J	E	S	U	S	N	E	M	R	E	H	S	I	F

Word bank:

ANDREW	DOVE	JAMES	MESSIAH	REPENT
BAPTIZE	FISHERMEN	JESUS	NAZARETH	SEE
BELOVED	FOLLOW	JOHN	NETS	SIMON PETER
CAPERNAUM	GALILEE	JORDAN	PREACH	SON OF GOD
COME	ISAIAH	LAMB OF GOD	RABBI	SPIRIT
				TEACH

Hidden verse _____



Calendar

December 2007 - March 2008

December 2007	January 2008	February 2008	March 2008
2 Advent 1 Advent lunch	6 Epiphany	3 Last Sunday after Epiphany	2 Lent 4
Lisa Tucker's Christmas Concert 3 – 5:15 pm			
9 Advent 2 Blue Christmas 4 pm	8 Vista Park Lodge 2 pm	10 Lent 1	9 Lent 5
11 Vital Seniors Christmas lunch noon – 1:15 pm Vista Park 2 pm	9 Conversation and a Movie 7 pm	12 Vista Park 2 pm	11 Vista Park 2 pm
12 Conversation and a Movie 7 pm	13 Baptism of the Lord	13 Conversation and a Movie 7 pm	12 Conversation and a Movie 7 pm
16 Advent 3	17 Meadowood Manor 2 pm	17 Lent 2	16 Palm Sunday
18 Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm			
20 Meadowood Manor 2 pm	20 Epiphany 2	21 Meadowood Manor 2 pm	20 Meadowood Manor 2 pm Maundy Thursday
23 Advent 4			21 Good Friday
24 Christmas Eve early service 7 pm late service 11 pm	25 Catherine Place 2 pm	22 Catherine Place 2 pm	22 Great Vigil of Easter
25 Christmas Day	27 Epiphany 3	24 Lent 3	23 Easter Sunday
			25 Vital Seniors lunch noon – 1:15 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm
28 Catherine Place 2 pm	29 Vital Seniors lunch noon – 1:15 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm	26 Vital Seniors lunch noon – 1:15 pm Vestry Meeting 7:30 pm	28 Catherine Place 2 pm
30 1 st after Christmas			30 Easter 2

Wednesday	Bible Study	12:00 pm
Saturday	Bible Study	10:00 am

Deadline for next issue: January 20, 2008

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