



December Mini-Voice

The Season of Giving

Just a quick pre-Christmas note to keep in touch. We receive most of our announcements through email or the weekly bulletin or printed flyers, but many members still like a direct personal touch.

This year our fundraising Advent project will not focus on mosquito nets or microcredit or other worthy overseas causes, but on a serious need very close to home: the Community Share Food Bank right here in Don Mills. You or your neighbour may not need the extra food, but you would be surprised (and saddened) to see how many families in our society turn to the Bank on a regular basis. Not only are the client numbers growing, but donations in food and cash are not keeping up; it is at a crisis point. Please be generous, especially with cash; they can buy items wholesale and zero in on the type of food especially needed. Instead of Christmas or hostess gifts to your friends, think of giving to the Food Bank in their name. Your generosity will be much appreciated!

In October we received an update from Fairlawn United Church regarding their Syrian refugees, as we have contributed financially to their sponsorship. The several families/single people are settling in quite well, and Fairlawn is looking for a new family to bring over from a Lebanon refugee camp. While this overwhelming refugee problem continues, we can always send more funds through the United Church or other organizations. Surely we can afford both: refugees AND Food Bank!

There but for the Grace of God....

This oft-used phrase really hit home recently. On the TV news was a segment about a bombed out hospital in Aleppo, Syria, showing a doctor trying to operate on a wounded man's head, as he lay on a bloody, dirty floor. A couple of days later, while I was in a Toronto hospital for routine treatment, the nurses asked "Would you like a heated blanket? Or another pillow?" Then a volunteer went by with a food cart, offering (for free) cheese and crackers or sandwiches and juices. To say that I felt privileged or actually spoiled is an understatement. I am not a better person than that poor victim (and so many others like him) on the hospital floor; by accident of birth and circumstance I am the lucky one. We must never forget our incredible luck, or, if you wish, the Grace of God. We should also ask, is there anything we can do to even out the odds?

Have a joyful and grateful Christmas season. Share our church events with family, neighbours and friends. Reach out to someone you think may be sad or lonely. And if you can, open up your wallets and give with love and the true spirit of Christmas.

Jill Reeve

Editor

P.S. Support Amnesty International when you buy a unique Christmas card made by Jennifer for \$5. They are available at coffee hour or in the office.

December 2016

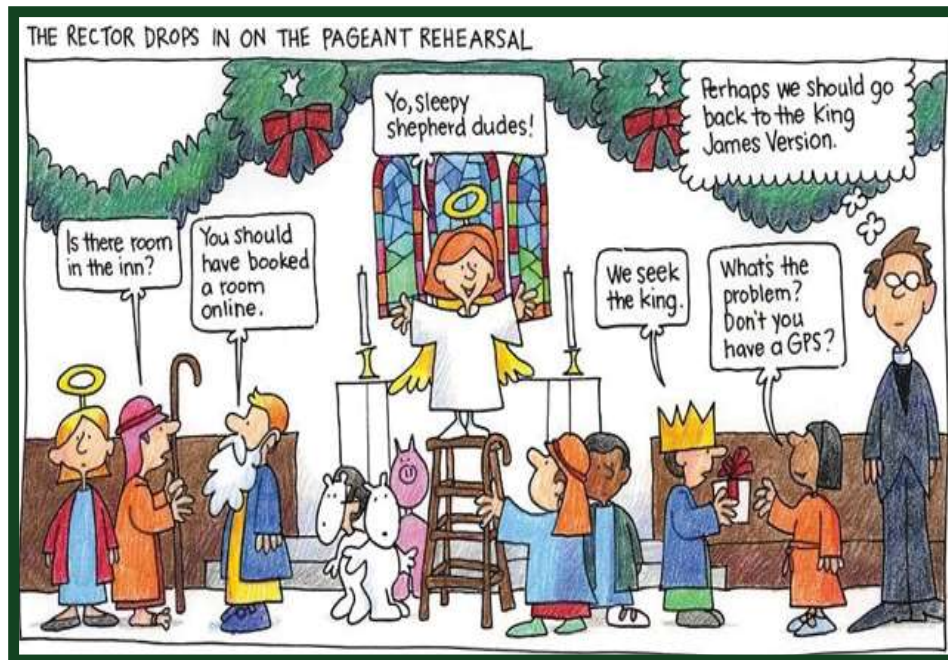
Christmas Cheer



While Mary was giving birth to the son of God, Joseph was having his own problems.



MOMENTS LATER, THE LITTLE DRUMMER BOY WAS FORCIBLY REMOVED FROM THE MANGER.



Thanks to Nadine Fafard (See Luke 2:1-16)
THAT'S THE BEST ONE-STAR HOTEL THAT I'VE EVER SEEN



MERRY CHRISTMAS!