



St. Timothy's Gazette Advent 2013

Our Vision:

St. Timothy's **Vision** is to be a nurturing, biblically-based community growing Christ's Kingdom.

Our Mission:

St. Timothy's **Mission** is to:

Go out into the North Shore community to
Gather all ages into Christian fellowship,
so that we may

Glorify God in worship,

Grow to become more like Jesus Christ, and

Give of our time, talent and treasure to serve others.

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**Services held at Sutherland Church
www.st-timothy.com**

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St. Timothy's Anglican Church
Sunday Services at:
Sutherland Church
630 East 19th Street,, North Vancouver

All Services at 9:00 a.m.
including Children's Program

Sunday Sermons are available on our website

www.st-timothy.com

Holy Advent!

On Halloween night I, (somewhat jokingly), greeted people with “Happy holiday and season’s greetings”. In return, not surprisingly, I got blank stares or an awkward smile, ‘Ya, happy holidays’. I am not sure this new salutation will catch on but I will try again next year. It just seems appropriate (at least as appropriate as saying it in the month of December). After all with all the marketing and household decorating Halloween now marks the beginning of one long holiday season. From Halloween we move seamlessly into Remembrance Day and from there to the 50 days of Christmas.

Even the church does not want to be left out of the protracted holiday festival mash. The historic church has long celebrated ‘All Saints Day’ but then in modern times added ‘All Souls Day’ (for those who are dead but we are not sure we can call ‘saints’), Remembrance Day as a day for the war dead and then some 20 years ago added another feast and celebration called ‘The feast of Christ the King’. A day created by Pope Pius the XI in 1925, celebrated in October urging the church to work for peace and social responsibility. In 1970 the Catholic Church moved the feast to the Sunday before Advent and in 1990 some Anglican churches followed the festival parade. In the US you get to stuff Thanksgiving in too. From there we get to move right into Advent on route to Christmas.

Advent was originally a time of preparation, time to teach about death, judgement, and the second coming of Jesus while remembering and celebrating his first coming, his incarnation, the birth of the new born king. Many churches over the years thought this was

much too depressing to talk about during the ‘Holiday Season’ and so started to focus instead on themes of love, hope, peace and joy. Fine things to remember and celebrate but they do rather push sin, death, judgment and Jesus coming again to the side.

In our rush to the manger we can miss the point of the manger. In our desire to hug the babe, we miss noticing what his birth, life and subsequent death and resurrection is really all about; namely sin, death, judgement, kingship, salvation and redemption.

It is so hard not to run swiftly to Christmas, what with all the twinkling lights, shining stars, pretty bows and festive feasts. And I am not saying that we should ignore these things or not participate in the hope, joy, love, peace and feasts. What I am saying is that while we do that, while we celebrate and make merry, while we sing carols and decorate trees, let us also make room for Advent, make time for waiting, make space for preparation, and make a note of what we are supposed to be noticing. And maybe try not to get caught up in a 70 day long ‘holiday season’.

So from my heart to yours, I wish you a Merry Christmas and a Holy Advent (if we can use such a phrase).

God Bless
~ ken bell+

To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism; to steal from many is research!

Knowledge is knowing a tomato is a fruit;
Wisdom is not putting it in the fruit salad!

Our Sister Parish in Kaduha, Rwanda



27th November 2013

Way back in February of this past year, in response to studying the passage on “being my Brother’s Keeper” the children of St. Timothy’ sent a package of greeting cards and photographs to the children in our Sister Parish in Kaduha, Rwanda. Each child made their own card, which included a photograph of themselves, and we also included a group photograph.

So today I was delighted when we received an email from Pastor Callixte saying that he had received the parcel! One wonders where it has been since it left us now almost 9 months ago?! I will be very excited to tell the children about the letter and that, according to his response, we will also be receiving some photographs from them.

Here is the email from Pastor Callixte:

We will keep you posted and let you know when we hear from them!

~ Patricia Young

Dear Pastor Rev Ken Bell

Greetings in the Name of our Saviour and Lord Jesus Christ

We think and we hope you still again well and we want to inform you that the cards sent by the children of St Timothy to our children are created us to be very happy because of our future love and partnership without forget to teach us the God’s love the children of our church thank a lot to Patricia young and Meir teen so they are preparing to send to you their photos, pictures that will help you to understand their and Rwanda Country.

Greet your church and your family

Yours in our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ

Roman: 12

Rev Pastor Callixte NSABIMANA

Council Update

Church Council continues to meet regularly to discuss details of our local church and the wider Anglican church in North America and the world. Of significance to us in world Anglicanism is the fact that the new Archbishop of Canterbury attended the recent GAFCON conference in Kenya. You might like to see his address at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oQPQyOigbpc> You might also like to see the interview of the new Archbishop with Rev, Nicky Gumbel <http://www.youtube.com/watch%3Fv%3DfjwmRnfwTbU> While you are on your computer, have a look at our St Timothy's Website at www.st-timothy.com. We are also on Facebook and Twitter

Locally , we continue to build on our "tree" as developed by Ken+ during his sermons this year, and presented by him in the last Gazette.(See the "Tree" next page repeated from last issue.) Our Church Council supports the structure of our church to this model, which encompasses our Vision and Mission statements. Our "G" groups continue to work on their areas of responsibility, and we encourage the congregation to comment on their efforts. It is quite remarkable how much activity does take place weekly within our congregation.- for the young (First Five and Kidz Church), for adults – Ladies and Men's groups, Bible studies for all ages, visits to the elderly and shut-in's, outreach to the local community (Harvest Project, North Shore Safe House, Missions to Seafarers, A-Rocha, etc.), Financial support of our National Church (the Network and ACNA) and particularly to Rwanda, where we support children at school and University, and the churches. Council has reviewed our financial position over the past year and presented our proposed budget for next year for the congregation to pray-fully consider. The final budget will be voted on at

our next AGM in February. We have so much going, so much to be grateful for, and we need to share our positive impact on the world with those around us. We are all the people of God and share the responsibility to share the good news.

~ *Matthew and Peter*

The Christmas Card List

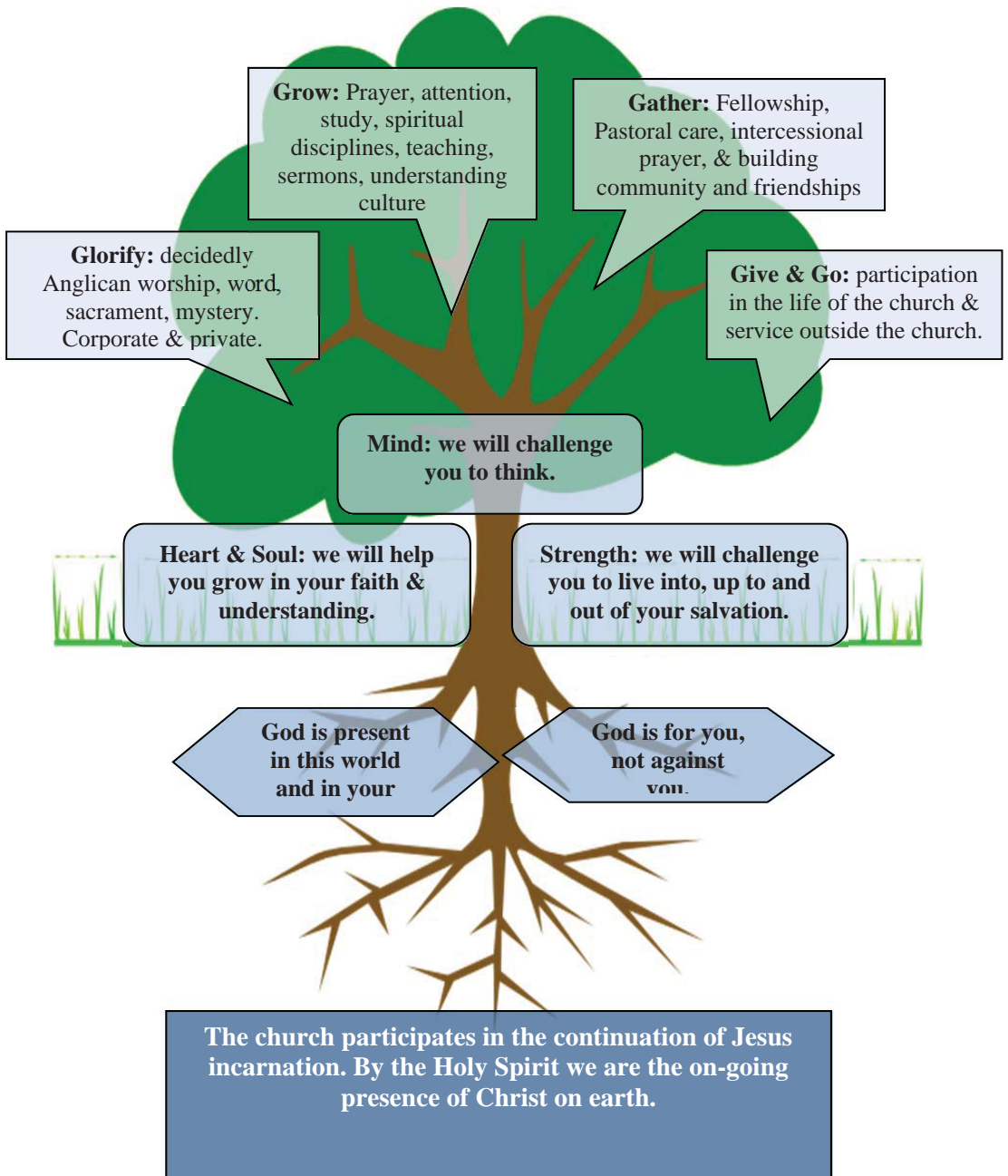
I have a list of folks I know, all written in a book,
And every year when Christmas comes I go and take a look,
And that is when I realize, that these names are indeed a part
Not of the book they're written in, but of my very heart.
For each name stands for someone that has crossed my path sometime
And in that meeting they've become that rhythm in every rhyme
And while this sounds fantastic for me to make this claim
I really feel that I'm composed of each remembered name,
And while they may not be aware of any special link,
Just meeting you has changed my life a lot more than you think

For once I've met somebody the years cannot erase
The memory of a pleasant word, or of a friendly face
So never think my Christmas cards are just a mere routine
Of names upon a Christmas list, forgotten in between
For when I send a Christmas card that is addressed to you
It's because you're on the list of folks that I'm indebted to

For I am but the total of the many folks I've met
And you happen to be one of those I prefer not to forget
And whether I've known you for many years or few
In some way you have had a part of sharing things I do
And every year when Christmas comes, I realise anew
The best gift life can offer is meeting folks like you.

And may the spirit of Christmas that forever more endures
Leave its richest blessing in the heart of you and yours.

*****.



Reports from our "G"s

Gather Groups

Gather all ages into Christian fellowship

Ladies Group Report

The Ladies Group has had a very busy November. We participated in two craft fairs, one at Churchill House mid-November, at the end of November at Amica and our final craft sale will be during coffee hour this Sunday! We have also invited our members and St. Timothy's family to join in attending three musicals/plays, the proceeds from the crafts and the shows are going to The Northshore Youth Safe House and Covenant House. We have also been able to pledge again to support three Rwandan High School students for 2014.

We welcomed to our November meeting Sharyn Thomson from Burkina Faso and she spoke on her work organizing the translation of the New Testament into Buamu, one of the local languages of Burkina Faso



She showed a DVD of the celebrations held in April 2013 in her village when the New Testament became available so they could read it in their own

language. Last month they recorded the entire New Testament in Buamu so that even more people may have the opportunity of hearing the bible, as only 30% can read, so the audio version will be very valuable particularly now that so many people have cell phones with an application to hear audio recordings. Sharyn is returning to Burkina Faso at the end of November.



We will be holding our Christmas Luncheon on Monday 9th December at 12 noon at the Haighs followed by a games afternoon. Anyone wishing to join in on the scrabble challenge/whist or crib is most welcome to attend. Our next regular meeting will be Monday 20th January at Sutherland Church.

Rwandan Students.

St. Timothy's Church has been supporting many high school students. In the current year 2013 we supported a total of 37; 16 through the Parish Council, 4 through the Ladies Group and 17 through individual parishioners. We have heard that many of our sponsored students will graduate this year which is very encouraging. Many students have written to their sponsors, and these will be distributed in the near future. Those students supported in the separate

university scholarship program are also doing well. Just a reminder that all cheques to support our students are now due, (\$250.00/per student) and must be made out to St. Timothy's Church, clearly marked (K4K or University Program) and placed in the weekly collection, so the counters know it is for supporting your student! Alternatively, hand cheques to Audrey Haigh if this is easier.

~ Audrey

Post Secondary Students in Rwanda

In a letter from Carolyn Spence, she reports to have a list now of all 10 post-secondary students, and where / what they are studying. She is in touch, either email or Facebook with 7 out of 10, and all report doing well and working hard!!

Kids for Kids reports that all ten students currently being sponsored under St. Timothy's program of support for University studies in Rwanda are doing well. Of the ten, seven are in their second year and three are in their first year. As the result of changes in post-secondary funding in Rwanda in the past year (requiring some students to contribute to tuition costs), we elected to support fewer students, but at a higher grant level than originally planned. The good news is that, at last,, we are sponsoring female as well as male students in the program. That said, students are accepted to the program on ability/merit and not on the basis of some artificial affirmative action quota.

It is gratifying to see that one student is studying Economics!

~ Gerry Taunton

Men's Group

On Saturday, 23 November, about 25 men from both St Timothy's and Sutherland joined in fellowship for breakfast followed by a powerful and moving talk from Sutherland parishioner James Copp, who spoke on the topic "Grasping at Straws; Clinging to Faith". James laid bare his soul as he spoke of his walk through very difficult personal times of marriage breakdown, separation and reconciliation. He detailed his very painful experiences over a period of more than 5 years, shunned by previous friends, deep concern for



his children and the slow but miraculous path back to full reconciliation, still evolving. In retrospect he sees God's hand in his as he worked through the tough times. James also shared the challenges he had in his life, outlining issues he had in his relationships with siblings and dying parents and ongoing concern for the effect on his children. The descriptions of the challenges in these relationships provoked questions, in those who attended, of the shortcomings in their own relationships with friends and family. He was good enough to share his journey with us as a current example of God's unerring support of us and his consistent presence with us, if only we will recognize the signs He gives along the way.

We encourage our St Timothy's men (in particular), to note the next event – likely February- and take the time to join fellow sojourners as we live our daily lives in an unchurched world.

~ Peter & Chris

Glorify, *God in worship*

Favourite Christmas Carols

Christmas Carols, we all love to sing them; well perhaps that's a bit too much of an assumption, but I certainly do and Christmas is one of my favourite times of year for music in the church and I suspect it's the same for many people. One of my personal "faves" is the Felix Mendelssohn composed "Hark The Herald Angles Sing", but I also enjoy some that are a little less obvious such as former St Paul's Cathedral organist John Goss' "See Amid the Winter's Snow" (Goss also wrote "Praise My Soul The King of Heaven") as well as Gustav Holst's composition of Christina Rosetti's lovely poem, "In the Deep Midwinter".



Those of us in the choir are able to sing some wonderful Christmas music such as Hector

Berlioz' gorgeous "Shepherd's Farewell", Harold Darke's beautiful version of the same Christina Rosetti poem as well as RR Terry's very pretty version of "Myn Lyking" a 15th century carol. Maybe one year we can try John Rutter's haunting "What Sweeter Music" (Lois- hint!).

If you have your own favourites this is your chance to provide input to help Lois select the Carols for our Christmas services. Please send an e-mail to me at (youngcpl@shaw.ca), but include only your top three choices. We will total the results and make the choices from them. Or, if you prefer there will also be a form at the back of the church to complete and then it can be left in the Hymn suggestion box. So that we can include as many of your favourite Carols please let us know your choices by December 15th.

St Timothy's service of Nine Lessons and Carols will be held on the fourth Sunday of Advent (December 22nd). In addition, we will be singing Christmas music and Carols on Christmas Eve, (December 24th) and the first Sunday after Christmas (December 29th).

*~ Chris Young
Glorify Council Member*

Grow

to become more like Jesus,

Thoughts on Advent....

I recently came across an article written in 2007 by the Reverend Peter Toon and thought that it might help us to more fully understand the season of Advent. Reverend Toon, who died in 2009, was a gifted theologian and biblical commentator. He is perhaps best known as the President and CEO of the Prayer Book Society of the USA.

This is a much-shortened version of the original article. If you want to see the full article it is posted on the Internet at Virtureonline.org.

The Meaning of Advent

In the Christian Year, the season of Advent (Latin, *adventus*, "Coming") runs from the fourth Sunday before Christmas until the eve of Christmas Day. It is also the beginning of the Christian Year.

But consider this. For us, in the secularized West in 2007, it is as though for all practical purposes Advent has disappeared. For Christmas has devoured Advent, gobbled it up with the turkey giblets and the goblets of seasonal ale. In fact the practical disappearance of Advent has opened a major hole from Thanksgiving to Christmas Day and this hole has been filled up with many different attempts to anticipate Christmas! More Christmas trees, more Christmas lights, more tinsel, more tassels, more glitter, more glee-so that the glut of candles and carols, ornaments and trimmings, parties, programs and performances, has left nothing for Christmas Day. In fact, Christmas Day arrives for most people not as the fulfillment of Advent but

rather as the end of the long Yule season that has burned without ceasing since the Thanksgiving sales began in late November in the malls. In fact, Christmas Day is like the peace after the storm.



To avoid this profanation of Advent is a massive task and is probably impossible if we live in the West in 2007. However, we can put up some kind of fight against this heavy secularization and this I shall attempt to do now. One way of thinking about the purpose and meaning of ADVENT is to take each letter of the word, a-d-v-e-n-t, and let it represent a theme or aspect of this season.

A - Arrival

During the season of Advent, the Church of Christ joins, as it were, the remnant of Israel (represented by such as Simeon & Anna) in preparing for the Arrival of the Messiah and further, the Church joins Israel out in the wilderness of Judea in listening to John the Baptist, who prepares the way of the Messiah. In our Liturgy, and with the Spirit of the Lord, it is as though we are joined to the people of God two thousand years ago in faith, hope and charity.

Also, during the season of Advent the Church,

as the Bride of Christ, looks for his return to earth, his Arrival as the King of kings to raise the dead, judge the nations and inaugurate the kingdom of God. In fact the expectance of the Second Coming adds greatly to the true piety and spirituality of Advent season.

D-Devotion

The four weeks of Advent provide the possibility of a period of intense and deep Devotion both in the public liturgy of the Church and in personal times of prayer and meditation. We are called to walk with God in humility and obedience. Through our Collect we earnestly request that he will gather up his power and descend to his people (by the Holy Ghost) in order to help, succour and sustain us in the race we are running our earthly pilgrimage towards the goal & fullness of the kingdom of heaven.

If God's people are to live as those who expect the return of the Lord Jesus Christ, then they need not only to watch and pray but also to live as the obedient and faithful servants of God, engaged daily in his service and running the race that is set before them. This is true Devotion!

V- Volition (the act of willing or resolving)

God is merciful and gives us grace, but we have to be willing to receive that grace and to commit ourselves to his will and purpose. The Devotion of Advent requires definition Volition! But this we prayed for in the week before Advent: "Stir up, we beseech thee, O Lord, the wills of thy faithful people..."

The season of Advent may be viewed as a short Lent as a time when strict discipline over the

body through Fasting is one means of deepening awareness of God and devotion to him. The colour for this season, like Lent, is purple pointing to asceticism (self discipline, abstinence). Then the words of the Advent Collect, "Give us grace that we may cast away the works of darkness" also suggest the need for discipline & Fasting.

E - Expectancy

As the righteous remnant in Israel waited for the Messiah in hopeful expectancy, and greeted him with great joy-Lord, now let thy servant depart in peace for mine eyes have seen.... -so Christian worshippers in the Liturgy throughout Advent grow in expectancy week by week for the arrival of the Son of God Incarnate. And their expectancy is joyfully fulfilled at the first service of Christmas as either they hear (a) the words of the angel first spoken to the shepherds: "To you is born this day in the city of David, a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord," or (b) the majestic words of John 1, "And the Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, full of grace and truth..."

N - Narrative

The Scripture passages, the Bible narrative, read, heard and pondered during Advent are of critical importance. In the Daily Offices of Morning and Evening Prayer, the Book of Isaiah the Prophet is prominent and is read extensively throughout the four weeks as the Old Testament Lesson. In this book, not only are there many passages addressed to ancient Israel but there are also prophecies that look into the future to proclaim the arrival of the Messiah, the nature of his kingdom, his exaltation through suffering, and the triumph of his cause.

T - Thanksgiving

Though there is a strong element of penitence accompanying the fasting and asceticism in Advent, there is a stronger element of Thanksgiving! For God is praised and thanked for his saving deeds and his inspired words recorded in the Old Testament, all of which point to their climax in the arrival of the Messiah, the Saviour, who came to "fulfil the Law and the Prophets." There is celebration of God's mighty salvation experienced by the Israelites and there is anticipation of the even mightier salvation wrought in the Lord Jesus Christ.

And of course the meaning of the word, "Eucharist", is "Thanksgiving" and thus in the Sacrament each week there is profound thanksgiving offered to the Father through the Son and with the Holy Spirit.

I hope this article helped you to more fully understand this very important season in the Church year – Advent.

Submitted by,

~ Patricia Young
Grow Council Member

Kidz Church

This year was an exciting year in the Old Testament. We have been studying the book of Genesis in January 2013, from the beginning when the world was created to the story about Abraham and Sarah. We have covered 25 chapters of Genesis. It has been great to learn about God's love and faithfulness through our journey in Genesis. We have been through the ups and downs of Abraham's life, waiting for God's promise to come true. Although Abraham would not see the promise be

fulfilled, the promise of his descendants being as numerous as the stars, Abraham does witness his son Isaac getting married. Even though Abraham does make mistakes, God stays faithful and true to His Word.

Now we turn our attention to the familiar story of the birth of Christ. Starting December we are introducing Liturgy to the children. Since our liturgical service is mostly taken from the bible, we are going to use the Christmas story as our starting point. As we explore Christmas with new eyes, we will be discussing "why we do what we do in church?" We will be taking a closer look at the components of service like reading, worship, offering and prayer. Our hope is that the children will become familiar with the prayers and be able to understand and participate in the service. We are excited to teach Liturgy and hope that the children will grow to love this style of worship.

We would like to thank all of our volunteers for their creative minds, their caring hearts and for all their hard work. We wish everyone a Christmas filled with the wonder of Jesus' birth and the love that our God has for us.

Blessings and Merry Christmas to you all,

~ Sonya Bell

Pope Francis – Five Finger Prayer

(This has been used as a format in different ways, but this one was used recently by Pope Francis. I find it useful for keeping my mind in focus and for helping me get my priorities straight)

1. The thumb is the closest finger to you. So start praying for those who are closest to you. They are the persons easiest to remember. To pray for our dear ones is a "sweet obligation."

2. The next finger is the index. Pray for those who teach you, instruct you and heal you. They need the support and wisdom to show direction to others. Always keep them in your prayers.

3. The following finger is the tallest. It reminds us of our leaders, the governors and those who have authority. They need God's guidance.

4. The fourth finger is the ring finger. Even that it may surprise you, it is our weakest finger. It should remind us to pray for the weakest, the sick or those plagued by problems. They need your prayers.

5. And finally we have our smallest finger, the smallest of all. Your pinkie should remind you to pray for yourself. When you are done praying for the other four groups, you will be able to see your own needs but in the proper perspective, and also you will be able to pray for your own needs in a better way.

~ Florence Wilton

Not Only Christmas Day

by Mary Fairchild

Lord, this is my prayer
Not only on Christmas Day
But until I see you face to face
May I live my life this way:

Just like the baby Jesus
I ever hope to be,
Resting in your loving arms
Trusting in Your sovereignty

And like the growing Christ child
In wisdom daily learning,
May I ever seek to know You
With my mind and spirit yearning.

Like the Son so faithful
Let me follow in Your light,
Meek and bold, humble and strong
Not afraid to face the night

Nor cowardly to suffer
And stand for truth alone,
Knowing that Your kingdom
Awaits my going home.

Not afraid to sacrifice
Though great may be the cost,
Mindful how You rescued me
From broken-hearted loss.

Like my risen Saviour
The babe, the child, the Son,
May my life forever speak
Of who You are and all You've done.

So while this world rejoices
And celebrates Your birth,
I treasure You, the greatest gift
Unequaled in Your worth.

I long to hear the same words
That welcomed home Your Son.
"Come good and faithful servant"
Your Master says, "Well done."

And may heaven welcome others
Who will join with me in praise
Because I lived for Jesus Christ
Not only Christmas Day.

*Taken from the Christian Salvage Mission's
Newsletter: Issue 4, 2013*

~ Florence Wilton

***CHRISTMAS PUDDING GRANDMA COLE (1855-1930)
IN THE FAMILY SINCE 1885!***

Should be made on Stir-Up Sunday (just past) and kept!

8 oz breadcrumbs
2 oz all purpose flour
8 oz dark brown sugar
8 oz shredded suet (in frozen section in meat department in supermarket)
1 lb dark raisins
8 oz golden sultanas
8 oz currants
4 oz finely chopped dried apricots
(for economy buy at bulk foods e.g. Save-on Foods or Galloways and weigh just the right amount) of
dried fruits and nuts)
2 oz chopped prunes
4 oz grated apple
8 oz mixed peel
6 oz ground almonds
Grated rind and juice of 2 lemons
Grated rind and juice of 1 orange
Grate 1 small carrot
¼ teaspoon grated nutmeg
2 teaspoons mixed spice (in Canada called allspice)
1 teaspoon cinnamon
4 large eggs – beaten well or whisked prior to adding
10 oz stout (Guinness) can also use other dark ale or beer
2-3 tablespoons Cross and Blackwell gravy browning
(imported from England) (not gravy mix) – makes a nice dark pudding doesn't add any flavouring



Method –

In a very large bowl or largest saucepan add all the above ingredients – add the frozen suet last as it's the only ingredient you have to be careful about (supposed to be kept cool until used for cooking) Mix thoroughly and get family members to stir and make a wish!! Put into pudding basins and cover with margarine paper and then foil to cover around rim and place in large steamer or saucepan. Put a jam jar lid or foil pie plate upside down in saucepan and place bowl on top to prevent bowl being on burner and cracking. (Pudding basin can be bought at Ming Ho Capilano Mall). Boil water 1/3 way up sides and boil for 6-10 hours depending on size. Makes one large and two small puddings.–

On Christmas Day steam for 2 hours – put knife around edge of bowl tip upside down onto a plate – pour on brandy ¼ cup and light as it is presented. Decorate with holly – wrap stem of holly in foil and insert into pudding – wrap coins in foil and place if you wish into the pudding before you put onto the plate for a surprise for the young at heart! Enjoy and Merry Christmas

~ Audrey