

# OUR ADVENTURE

Newsletter of the  
Church of the Advent  
*Anglican Parish of Colwood and Langford*  
*Reverend Kenneth Gray, Rector*

## HOME OF JAZZ VESPERS

*Advent and Christmas 2006 Issue 36*

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### Ken's Christmas Message

Hallelujah. This is one of those words we use all the time but are not sure what it really means. It has a particular linguistic evolution:

Phonetically it starts in Hebrew as *hal-**ooo-*loo*-yah*** which becomes something

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similar in Greek, and later in English **Alle-**  
**luia.** It finally finds musical expression in  
the music of Handel 's *Hallelujah Chorus*, and in  
countless cantatas, psalm settings, and even *the music*  
*of Leonard Cohen.*

So if this is how God's  
Good News is expressed in  
human language, how is  
God's Good News ex-  
pressed in human works  
and deeds? Certainly, the  
gospel is proclaimed  
through acts of financial  
generosity.

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God's Good News is proclaimed through the sharing of food and clothing for vulnerable and street involved youth and adults in our community.

God's Good News is shared as we share hospitality with family, friends, neighbours and even strangers in our midst.

God's Good News find voice in the music of choirs, bands, orchestras and popular musicians.

God's Good News finds expression in human actions, as we do seem to reach out to each other in a more tangible way.

Of course, such outreach should characterize our actions at all times. I once attended a rather populist and corny Christian musical called "365 Days of Christmas each year." The point was simple. God's grace is not restricted to Christmas Day, or season. So why should our action be so restricted? How do you measure grace? It comes without measure . . . and likewise our response. Let us encourage and challenge each other in these good ways.

## Cat Heaven

*A cat died and went to Heaven. God met her at the gates and said, "You have been a good cat all these years. Anything you want is yours for the asking."*

*The cat thought for a minute and then said, "All my life I lived on a farm and slept on hard wooden floors. I would like a real fluffy pillow to sleep on."*

*God said, "Say no more." Instantly the cat had a huge fluffy pillow.*

*A few days later, six mice were killed in an accident and they all went to Heaven together. God met the mice at the gates with the same offer that he made to the cat.*

*The mice said, "Well, we have had to run all of our lives: from cats, dogs, and even people with brooms! If we could just have some little roller skates, we would not have to run again." God answered, "It is done." All the mice had beautiful little roller skates.*

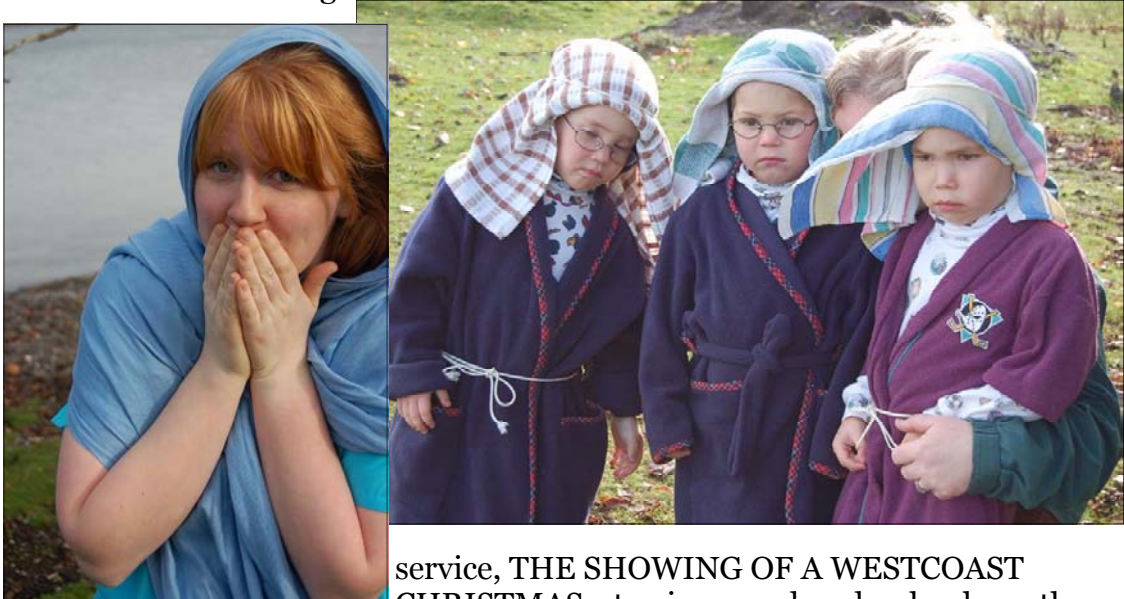
*About a week later, God decided to check on the cat. He found her sound asleep on her fluffy pillow. God gently awakened the cat and asked, "Is everything okay? How have you been doing? Are you happy?"*

*The cat replied, "Oh, it is WONDERFUL. I have never been so happy in my life. The pillow is so fluffy, and those little Meals on Wheels you have been sending over are delicious!"*

## **The Busiest (and Best?) Day of the Year**

*December 17th—December 17th—December 17th—December 17th—December 17th—  
December 17th—December 17th—December 17th—December 17th*

At 10 a.m. in the morning



service, THE SHOWING OF A WESTCOAST CHRISTMAS, starring our church school, youth group and friends, with the UnderHour Eucharist at 10 a.m. How can you miss scenes like the following: **This will also be WHITE GIFT SUNDAY when we will be collecting non-perishable food items for our local Food Bank. Please do not wrap your food donations.**

Then in the evening starting at 5:30 p.m., come out for an **INDOOR PICNIC** –

bring potluck contributions PLUS YOUR OWN DISHES, GLASSWARE AND CUTLERY. Food will be followed by a **CHORAL CANTATA WITH GUEST NARRATOR** and community **CAROL SING**

**ALL WELCOME—this is a VISITOR-FRIENDLY Parish event.**

**Meet Marguerite Adala Moore**  
*Interviewed by Barbara MacDowell*

Born in Edmonton in 1923, Adala and Ralph joined St. John's church in 1984, and then walked down the road to the new Church of the Advent with the rest of us. Here is some of what went on in the intervening years:

Adala's father was a Pharmacist in Edmonton who bundled his family off to a fishing village on Lesser Slave Lake each summer for eleven years. His purpose was to avoid his children being exposed to polio. Adala and her brother loved the environment where people raised mink and bred huskies. Adala chopped wood, hauled water and cleaned sooty chimneys of the oil lamps each morning. Wearing long johns in winter with lisle stockings on top did not make her happy -- "lumpy legs".

War happened in 1939. Adala worked for the Edmonton Journal in the circulation department, and then be-

came a working reporter. Along with a female friend, she lived in a converted chicken coup (housing was at a premium). An oil fire in an old cauldron which they used for heat brought this accommodation to an

end. Too embarrassed to be homeless, she left the newspaper and joined her parents on Langford Lake. Adala then joined the Navy, the sea and hunky sailors being the attraction. While waiting to be called up, she worked at Dockyard. She was then posted to Ottawa for the entire war (no sea or hunky sailors).

A friend, Ruth, asked Adala to be a blind date for her brother. He had been overseas for six years in the Special Forces signal corp. It was love at first sight!! Marriage happened. Ralph enrolled at McGill and spent eight years in Environmental Studies and was then employed by the Departments of Agriculture and Environment in Ontario. They had fourteen moves during their marriage, ten in Quebec and the rest in Ontario. Their two daughters and one son run busi-



nesses in Ontario.

Adala became very involved and very successful in a variety of ways. She was the first Pastoral Care Worker trained to work in a hospital -- the Sudbury General. Moving to Kingston, she was referred to the Hotel Dieu. She and Ralph stirred up the Nuns, frequently having them as guests. She also took short related university courses at McMaster and Queens during this period.

After their retirement to Victoria, Adala was a peer counselor for Seniors Serving Seniors. She spent time on advisory committees for the BC Ministry of Health Medical Services Plan. This dealt with issues of respite, as well as being a Peer Counselor for home care. She was also on the Board for the Centre of Aging at the University of Victoria and the Board of the Wellesley Retirement Facility. For her service to the community, Adala received the Queen's Medal, along with Harry Chow, a former Mayor of Colwood.

At our church, Adala was in charge of Readers and organized coffee with Jane Brule, and did a lot of pastoral care visitation. She became a caregiver for her 99 year old parents and eventually for her husband, Ralph, until his death from Alzheimer's.

Adala has a great philosophy regarding downsizing and moving (which she has

## JAZZ VESPERS

done seventeen times in total): Keep the memories and throw out the stuff!

Thanks to you, Adala, for all you have done for our Parish and community, for your sage advice, and for your wonderful sense of humour!!



**We put JAZZ and VESPERS  
together on selected  
Sunday Nights  
commencing at 7 p.m.**

Sunday, January 21st  
Sunday, February the 18<sup>th</sup>

**Ian McDougall with Ron Johnston  
Monique Nordine and Friends**

Sunday, March 18<sup>th</sup>

**The Roy Styffe Group**

Sunday, April 15<sup>th</sup>

**The Joey Smith Trio**

Sunday, May 20<sup>th</sup>

**Hugh Fraser with special guests**

**The Holiday Season: A Time of Mixed Messages** *submitted by John  
MacDowell*

Advent, Christmas, Santa Claus, the baby Jesus, the winter solstice, advertising, carols and nostalgic music, decorating, shopping and over-spending, baking, gift giving, multiple commitments and trade-offs, visiting and entertaining. And of course, staff parties and New Years.

For many, this can be an exhausting and confusing time of the year. For others it is a time of rest, peace, joy, loving and sharing. Sometimes it's good to just take stock and decide what's important to us. To build on our own family traditions.

Observing this time of year is, for various reasons, important to most of humanity:

For ancient people, the arrival of the winter solstice signaled a time of darkness and hunger when it was difficult to hunt and impossible to grow food. They built great fires to warm themselves and push back the night and developed rituals and stories to overcome their fear. For some people, things haven't changed very much.

For Christians, this time of year is especially important. Our church year is divided up with events which remind us of the life of Jesus. It begins with the sea-

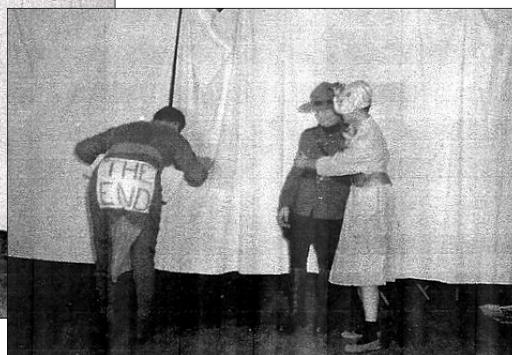
son of Advent, at the very end of November, which is a period of preparation for the coming of Christ, and then moves through the story of his life to the important focus of Holy Week and Easter. After celebrating the resurrection of Jesus, the story focuses on the founding of the Church itself, with the coming of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, before settling down for a period of teaching and consolidation of the faith during the weeks of Trinity.

Most people in Canada, regardless of their beliefs, celebrate this holiday season. Many have their own family customs and traditions, such as skiing or traveling to someplace warm. Children have time off school and parents try to share the time with them. And of course, sharing and Santa and presents under the tree, Christmas stockings and turkey dinner are cherished by Christians too. Older folk also like to say goodbye to the passing calendar year and welcome the new one.

## The Haircut

*A young boy had just gotten his driving permit. He asked his father, who was a minister, if they could discuss the use of the car. His father took him to his study and said to him, "I'll make a deal with you. You bring your grades up, study your Bible a little and get your hair cut and we'll talk about it." After about a month the boy came back and again asked his father if they could discuss use of the car. They again went to the father's study where his father said, "Son, I've been real proud of you. You have brought your grades up, you've studied your Bible diligently, but you didn't get your hair cut!"*

*The young man waited a moment and replied, "You know Dad, I've been thinking about that. Samson had long hair, Moses had long hair, Noah had long hair, and even Jesus had long hair...."*



*To which his father replied, "Yes, and they walked everywhere they went!"*

**St. John's Men's Group *from Sylvia Hatfield***

Sylvia Hatfield reminds us that the men of St. John's used to organize parish dinners for the purpose of fellowship. Sylvia supplied the following of images of an early 1960s production of the musical *Rose Marie*, put on to entertain participants. Bill Allan is no longer with us, but John & Don are still active members of the congregation.

**Go Gregorys Go *submitted***

Sara is the daughter of David and Joanne Gregory. She was born Jan. 31, 1998 here in Victoria. As she likes to say she's almost 9. Sara loves to sing, move and dance. She's taken lots of dancing, figure skating, gymnastics and a bit of piano. This year she's in Musical Theatre, Jazz dance, HipHop and Ballet at the Karen Clarke Dance Studio. She goes to Colwood School and is in the School Choir. Her favourite subjects at school are Math,

Art, Gym and Music. She wants to be a fashion designer and famous singer.

Christopher is the son of David and Joanne Gregory. He was born Feb. 27, 1994 here in Victoria. He's done karate, lacrosse, school volleyball, basketball, soccer and track and field (long jump, high jump, 100m sprint and shotput). He was second in the district a year ago in 10 year old Boys' shotput. His main love is music and



he has a wonderful ear for it. He has his Grade 2 piano and his Preliminary Theory. He can also play the Baritone Horn, Upright String Bass, and is currently learning to play the Clarinet. Next he'd like to play the violin. We think he'll be our one man band. Chris is the only Grade 7 in the Grade 8 Dunsmuir Concert band and has just got back from his first band trip (they went to the Comox Band Festival).

Chris does well at school and has an especially wide and varied knowledge in Social Studies and Science. He plans to become an structural engineer. In his sparetime he loves to play on his Nintendo Gamecube and

Portable Playstation and ride his Mountain Bike. He enjoys being part of the Church Youth Group and the Breakfast Club. He proudly stands taller than his mom and wears shoes larger than his mom, soon to be larger than his dad's.

### **A Seasonal Question**

*"Q. Do you know what Adam said to Eve in the garden on December 24th? (You'll find the answer on page 15 if you need help)*

### **Fixed and Moveable Church Events *submitted by John MacDowell***

You may have wondered why some of the Christians festivals are not on the same date each year. Some festivals, like Christmas Day, happen on the same date every year, while others move around within a range of dates. The reason is because the Christian Calendar grew out of two other Calendars, the Jewish and the Roman.

In the distant past, the Jews were a nomadic (wandering) people. As they often traveled at night, the moon was of great importance to them, and they based their calendar on its phases. The first great Christian festivals sprang from Jewish ones.

The Christian Church grew and ex-

panded under the Roman Empire which followed a calendar controlled by the sun. When the church began to introduce festivals of its very own, not based on the Jews, they fixed them on dates already in the Roman calendar.

The Christian Calendar is thus a dual one, with 'fixed' feasts based on the Roman 'solar' calendar, and 'moveable' ones based on the Jewish 'lunar' calendar.

### **Youth News *submitted***

Well the secret is out! We at the Church of the Advent are thrilled to announce the appointment, effective January the 8<sup>th</sup>, 2007 of Mr. Rohan Rupf as our Parish Youth Worker.

Born in Johannesburg, South Africa, where he just missed out on rowing for S. Africa in the Olympic Games, Rohan met his wife France while teaching Scuba Diving and working for St. Vincent de Paul Society in Australia. Through France's Canadian connections, the couple came for a time to Montreal to be with her mother, where the couple had their first child, Jiyen. The family had planned to relocate to the West Coast of Canada when Rohan stumbled across our youth position advertisement in October. He spoke with our interview committee in early November after which we had already de-



cided “he’s the one we need to get here.” We doubled our efforts to assert the virtues of both the Church of the Advent and Victoria as a place to raise a young family. In the end, the Rupf’s needs and abilities jived well with our own strengths and passions and we have come to an agreement. The SCOPE AND STYLE OF WORK is

described thus:

- ◆ Efforts will be made to include and draw in youth who attend regularly, youth affiliated with our church but not attending, and other youth in our community.
- ◆ Activities will need to appeal to many youth including those with no faith tradition.
- ◆ Bible study and other spiritual formation exercises will need to be presented in creative ways.
- ◆ Youth are keen to participate in the design and form of church services throughout the year. Preparation for this will occur during youth group meeting times.
- ◆ There is good opportunity for coordination of local events with diocesan youth initiatives.

#### BUILDING RELATIONSHIPS

We believe that connectiveness in a variety of ways is integral to the health and welfare of youth. Therefore:

- ◆ The youth worker will provide opportunities for intergenerational activity and events with support from other groups or individuals in our parish.

- ◆ The youth worker will establish a relationship as mentor and guide to youth in our parish.
- ◆ Where possible, the youth worker will establish relationship with other family members of youth in order to promote a sense of community.

**Rohan will live in the Rectory during December while he seeks additional employment to round out his income and find a more permanent place to live. Rohan has extensive experience in social services, sales and management, construction and of course, the church. France and Jiyan will join him on Boxing Day.**

In materials submitted to us, Rohan said the following about youth and Christian Ministry:

*“In today’s climate connecting with the youth is a challenge at best. However it is my experience that even the most vulnerable and at risk young people respond well to relationships and activities that are authentic and they feel are respectful of where and who they are as they wrestle through adolescence. I have been amazed at the variety of and incredibly affirmative responses I have seen as teenagers have grappled with issues of un-*

*derstanding, developing and practising their spirituality – teenagers both from within the faith community and those not even exposed to any particular tradition working together to build their community. Within the scope and style of work required for this role the two issues I’ve mentioned above seem foundational. In addition I believe that as a youth worker one has always to keep the well-being of the individual at heart and grow in a personal relationship with individuals and it is of utmost importance in today’s world to do what can be done in order to facilitate the development of resilience, self knowledge, self esteem and self efficacy of each individual young person.”*

It must be mentioned at this point the fine leadership of Maureen Garry these past four months. She has gathered a larger and more diverse group of youth around her. It is however time to release her from this particular ministry for the benefit of other projects and personal ambitions. The youth interview team will now evolve into a youth ministry support team and will provide support to Rohan as he initiates ministry here in a safe, transparent and effective way.

Rohan, its good to have you with us in so many ways. God bless you!

**Bible Book Brain Teaser** *Submitted by Doris Barnsley*

There really are 21 Bible book names hidden in the paragraph below, with no overlapping of one name with another.

*I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu and kept people looking so hard for acts. For others it was a real revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. It should be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there are some books that will be a hard job to find, but those are the most fun. Can a human being really find all twenty-one of them? At the worst, you should find fifteen. No defect in the genes is required, although I will admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. What will keep you from answering this challenge? A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. How long you keep working on it only you can judge, so long as you try to compete. Remember, we've had fun seeking out 21 books of the Bible, but it is by far more important to "seek first His kingdom and His righteousness." It's always true, God loves you.*

**The Pockett Family: A short Biography:** *by Carolyn Hamar*

Ken tells us, over and over, "the best way to invite people to church . . . is to invite them." God's word is best proclaimed by 'word of mouth.'

We have known The Pockett Family for five years. We met when our children attended school together. Wyatt is in The Navy where he works in communications. Dianne is a stay at home mom who in the past has worked for cleaning services and child care.

They have two boys. Bradley 10, was born in Victoria. Kyle 8, was born in Chilliwack. So both are west coasters unlike their parents. Wyatt was born in Swift Current and grew up in Flin Flon Manitoba, and Dianne was born and raised in Halifax. Her Dad was in



The Navy on the east coast.

They met through a mutual friend here in Victoria. They were married two years later (in Aug. 97) at The Archie Browning Sports Centre.

They are animal lovers. They have two dogs. Their latest addition is Brando, a rescued dog from Quesnel. They also have a cat, and fish. They are very much into doing their own home reno's, computers, and auto mechanics. They enjoy camping also.

Wyatt just joined the church band where he plays guitar. When he gets a chance, Wyatt also enjoys hunting, fishing, and drag racing motor cycles.

The Pocketts joined our Advent Family in April of this year. I think mostly God with a little bit of help from me, brought them here. They blessed Jim and I this year, by letting us become first time Godparents to Kyle. Both boys were baptized June 4<sup>th</sup>, 06.

Welcome to our Advent Family, Dianne, Wyatt, Bradley and Kyle. Much love and many blessings to you.

**Looking for Rest Amidst the Pressures of Life, Ron Rolheiser submitted by Sarah Donnelly Sarah Donnelly will lead a parish Event on the theme of Sab-**

***bath and Rest January 26-7, 2007; registration form available in early January***

The poet, Rumi, once wrote:

*"What I want  
is to leap out of this personality  
And then sit apart  
from that leaping  
I've lived too long  
where I can be reached."*

In a day of instant and constant communication, cell-phones and emails, I suspect that we all fit that description. Certainly I do. I've lived too long where I can be reached.

It seems that we're almost always over-stretched with too much to do. We come to the end of each day tired, yet conscious of what we've left undone. There's always someone else we should have phoned, emailed, or attended to in some way. Our lives often seem like overpacked suitcases, crammed to the brim, and still unable to hold all we need to carry along. What's wrong here?

Whenever we feel that way, it's a sure sign that we've lost the proper sense of time. Life is meant to be busy, but we're also meant, at regular times, to have sabbatical, sabbath time, to rest and enjoy.

When we look at scripture we see that God established a certain rhythm to time.

Biblically, this is the pattern: We're meant to work for six days, then have a one-day sabbatical; work for seven years and have a one year sabbatical; work for seven times seven years (forty-nine years) and have a Jubilee year; and finally work for a lifetime and have an eternity of sabbatical. The idea is that our pressured, hurried, working days should be regularly punctured by times of rest, celebration, enjoyment, non-work, non-pressure, and that ultimately all work will cease and we will have nothing to do except to luxuriate in life itself.

And what's supposed to happen on a sabbath? What constitutes sabbath time?

First, a sabbath is meant to be unordinary time, a time when our normal work and the everyday pressures of life are stopped. Partly this is meant to free us up for deeper things, but mainly it is meant to remind us that we do not live to work, but rather work in order to live and love.

Next a sabbath is meant to be a time for enjoyment, for high celebration. And this isn't abstract: On a sabbath we're meant to eat our best meal of the week, wear our best clothing, rest, enjoy the earth and each other, and (if you're really an Orthodox believer) to make love. On a sabbath we're meant to drink in life in all its fullness, in-

cluding its sensuality. Our language still carries some remnants of this when, for example, we speak of wearing our Sunday best and having our Sunday dinner.

Finally, sabbath is meant to be a time for reconciliation, for forgiving debts, for giving up grudges, for making peace with our enemies. The cessation of work, the rest, the celebration, the drinking in of enjoyment, and the making love are all partly ends in themselves. The sabbath was made for us. However they're also in function of something else, namely, reconciliation, forgiveness. We only truly celebrate the sabbath, have a genuine holiday, if we forgive someone and it's because we don't do this that, so often, our vacations don't relax us for long. We're tired, go on vacation, get a good rest, get away from the pressures of our work, enjoy some unpressured time, perhaps even get some sun and a tan, but then come home and very soon, within hours or days, are just as tired as we were before we went on vacation. Why? Because we didn't forgive anybody and our hurts and bitterness are the deep root of our tiredness. There's a statute of limitations to all debts, including our personal hurts.

A couple of years ago, Wayne Muller wrote a little book entitled, *Sabbath: Finding Rest, Renewal, and Delight in our Busy Lives*. I leave you with some

of his wisdom:

\*Sabbath need not be a year or even a day. It can also be an afternoon, an hour, a walk, a dinner. Sabbath is a time when we drink, if only for a few moments, from the fountain of rest and delight. It is a time to listen to what is most deeply beautiful, nourishing, and true.

\*Sabbath is different kind of fertility, it honours the wisdom of dormancy. If certain plant species do not lie dormant for winter, they will not bear fruit in spring. A period of rest, within which our roots quietly take in nourishment, is the key to health. Like plants, we too must have periods in which we lie fallow and silently nourish our roots.

\*We are almost always running, trying to catch the things that will make us happy when, in fact, those very things are trying to catch us!

\*God said: "Remember to rest." This is not a lifestyle suggestion, but a commandment, as important as not stealing, not murdering, or not lying.

We need sabbath. We've all lived too long where we can be reached.

## **ANSWER to the joke on Page 9 = "It's Christmas, Eve."**

### **An Emerging Ladies Evening Group *survey submitted by Patricia Mckenaie***

The focus and activities of this supplemental ladies program will be determined with your input.

	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thr	Fri	Sat	Sun	Its pur- w i t - p r e s s Christi- b u s y who are attend f r e -
pose is to ness, ex- and affirm								
anity of w o m e n	wk 1							
unable to daytime or	wk 3							
quent meetings. For those who seek an evening program PLEASE take time out to answer the following:	wk 3							
	wk 4							

Would the first Tuesday of the month at 7 PM fit into your schedule? Yes No

If not please circle 1st and 2nd choice for day of week AND week of month that work for you.

Would going to a movie like "The Nativity Story" or \_\_\_\_\_ followed with tea, coffee, discussion interest you?

Does hearing about the life of a Rabbi's wife living their Jewish traditions appeal to you?



What should

do you suggest the theme or focus be?





Questions?? Contact Patricia McKenzie (474-5970) or [patriciamckenzie@shaw.ca](mailto:patriciamckenzie@shaw.ca) Thank

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### The Post Office

*A local consumer went to the post office to buy stamps for Christmas Cards. “May I have fifty Christmas Stamps please?” The clerk says “what denomination?” The consumer says “my gosh, has it come to this!” Well then, I will have six catholic, twelve Presbyterian, ten Lutheran, and twenty-two Baptist”*

### Winter Came Early to the Church of the Advent

## **Craft Fair memories**