

Commissioner

NOVEMBER 2012

LOOKING AHEAD

Dec 1	Saturday Studios 9-11 am (see page 9)
Dec 2	9:30 & 11:15 am Advent 1 UCW Cookie Walk 10:30am 3:15 worship service at Park Manor Care Home
Dec 8	Saturday Studios 9-1 pm
Dec 9	9:30 & 11:15 am Advent 2 Service of Communion and Joyful Noise Singers 6:30 pm Journey to Bethlehem with St. George's Church
Dec 16	9:30 & 11:15 am Advent 3 Service of Baptism 4:30 pm Messy Church
Dec 21	7 pm Blue Christmas Service
Dec 23	9:30 & 11:15 am Advent 4 Cantata: "Joy to the World" with Chancel Choir & Carillon Singers
Dec 24	5 & 7 pm Christmas Eve Family Services 10 pm Communion Service
Dec 30	10 am Worship Around Breakfast Tables Service
Jan 6	10 am Worship Services begin (Feb 17 - 2 services)
Feb 3	10 am Worship Service 11 am Annual Congregational Meeting and Potluck Lunch

CONGREGATIONAL UPDATE MEETING

by Jeff Cook

The role of volunteers in the life and work of TMUC was highlighted during a congregational update meeting on Nov. 4.

Gail Purcell, Chair of the TMUC Council thanked all the volunteers who volunteer to serve on committees, teach Sunday School, help with Dinner Theatre, Food Bank and other programs. She said she calculated that over 4,200 hours of volunteer hours are part of TMUC's ministry every year. Purcell's calculations did not include the hours spent by members of the various choirs, which would probably add over 2500 more hours!

"We have amazing volunteers," said Purcell. "The church would not be the church without our volunteers of the past, our volunteers of the present and our volunteers of the future."

Purcell said that "volunteering will always be needed in the church."

She said that the church wants to provide everyone with an opportunity to participate, but to avoid burning anyone out.

Don Heinrichs, TMUC's treasurer, gave a financial update. He said that, as of the end of September 2012, the congregation had a deficit of \$8,178, compared to a deficit of \$23,000 at the same point last year.

"We are heading in the right direction," said Heinrichs. He expressed appreciation to all those involved in fund-raising efforts, especially the Dinner Theatre which raised \$12,000. Heinrichs also said the congregation is to be thanked for the "sweat equity" – work done by volunteers which otherwise would have required hiring someone.

Purcell said TMUC will be presenting a request at the November meeting of Winnipeg Presbytery to receive permission for conducting a capital funds campaign in the Spring of 2013. (NOTE: Presbytery did grant permission.) Following suggestions for the Presbytery committee which reviewed TMUC's renovation plan, the monetary amounts have been "rolled forward" to reflect a 2015 dollar amount of approximately \$1.5 million. The Velnes Group
(continued on page 2)

Congregational Life

(continued from page 1)

has been retained to assist TMUC with its capital campaign. TMUC has received a federal grant of \$25,000 (with an additional \$10,000 to be contributed by TMUC) for the new flooring in Yale Hall. The hall will receive new flooring, as well as wall sconces. The exterior walls have been dry-walled, mudded and painted.

An application has also been submitted for another \$50,000 grant (requiring a \$17,000 commitment from TMUC). If this grant is received, the money would be used to construct a ramp at the entrance to the choir room, replace the windows in the Christian Education building and fit them with remote controlled blinds. Several community groups/businesses have pledged to be our partners in this application, promising some financial assistance for the work.

Purcell said that TMUC will also apply for a \$46,000 Community Infrastructure Improvement Grant (TMUC would need to commit \$23,000), but will withdraw this application if the \$50,000 grant is procured.

The congregation approved using money from the Building Fund, if required, to support either of these grants if received.

Deanna Howard, Vice-Chair of the Council, reported on a new program called "Walk About" which will invite people to meet in four different locations (a corporate board room, an inner city ministry, a cathedral style sanctuary, and at TMUC) to discuss what it means to be the church today.

Rev. Carol Fletcher reported on the 'Saturday Studios: Healthy Together Now' program being offered in November and December (see the article on page 9).

Commissioner is the newsletter of Transcona Memorial United Church. It is published two times annually.

Submissions, news, and other items of interest are welcome. Contributions may be edited for length. To submit articles, please contact the church.

Transcona Memorial United Church

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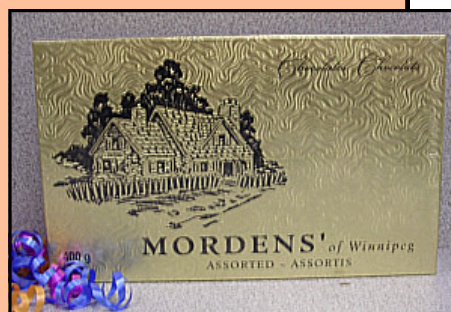
Phone: 204-222-1331

Email: tmuc@shaw.ca

Web: www.tmuc.ca

Morden's Chocolates

Once again we are selling Morden's chocolates as a fundraiser. These delicious chocolates make wonderful gifts to send to those out of town, as a hostess gift or to keep for yourself for Christmas.



Order forms are available in the office. Completed forms with payment (cheques payable to TMUC) should be returned to the office.

By the time you read this, we will have already placed our first order in November. Our second and final order deadline is December 10th. Delivery date will be sometime that week—you will be contacted.

Thank you for your support.

THE ROAD HOME FROM GENERAL COUNCIL

by Jeff Cook

This past summer I was one of 15 nominees for Moderator of The United Church of Canada. About 350 commissioners (voting representatives) from across Canada gathered for a week in Ottawa for the General Council meeting which would elect the Moderator.

The Rev. Dr. Gary Paterson, from British Columbia, was chosen Moderator on the sixth ballot.

I feel honoured to have been nominated by Winnipeg Presbytery. I feel my faith has been stretched and deepened by the time spent 'discerning' whether to allow my name to be placed in nomination (a time of prayer, reflection and discussion with others). Those who were nominees had to submit written materials and offer a five-minute speech during the GC meeting.

One of the lasting blessings I have of the experience is the sense of friendship and mutual support amongst the nominees. In an email to the nominees this Fall, a General Council staff person said, "There was truly something unique about this Council's group of nominees! Many people have commented to me about the bonds that formed between the nominees and your out-pouring of respect and support for each other."

During this process I have greatly appreciated the support offered by the TMUC community – by our M & P Committee, Church Council, and by many individuals who offered words of congratulations and encouragement. I also say thank you to Tristan Flett for technologically making it possible for a number of people to watch my speech by way of live streaming in TMUC's sanctuary.

My biggest thanks go to Carol, who not only supported my nomination but was prepared to accept the challenge of teaming with someone else for three years if I had been elected.

While I would have appreciated the opportunity to see what I could offer to the church in the role of Moderator, I am very happy to know that my next three years (at least) will be here at TMUC, discovering and responding to Christ's call to discipleship in the company of this wonderful congregation. THANK YOU



UNITED CHURCH WOMEN *by Lynn Measner*



2012 marked the 50th Anniversary of the UCW in the United Church, as well as in our own congregation of TMUC. We celebrated this milestone with a special anniversary service on October 21 which also featured a slideshow of our members and events of the past years as well as a rousing rendition of “Side by Side” sung by our group. Cake, coffee and tea were served between services. \$1256.00 for the Mission & Service Fund was raised by our special thankoffering that day.

Our annual Ladies Night Out event was held on November 2nd and the sold out evening was a huge success raising \$3590.72! Thank you to all the women who helped with this event, and also to those “friends and relatives of UCW” who pitched in; and to those who attended and supported this event.

We pre-sold Christmas cakes again this year—our baking team is hard at work making 58 cakes! They will be distributed on Sunday, December 2nd, which is our annual Cookie Walk between services. \$7 buys you a box to hold your choice of 2 dozen cookies from the many varieties available—we will also have nut free and diabetic cookies too.

We end the year by hosting a tea for the residents of Park Manor on Friday, December 7th. There is no meeting in December as we all take a well deserved break to enjoy the Christmas season.

Our next meeting will be a luncheon meeting on Saturday, January 12th at 11 a.m. in Suthwyn Hall. We hope to see many members come out for a short meeting with lunch to follow. Cost is \$10 for lunch payable prior to the 12th to Linda Antymis or the church office. We will resume our usual monthly meetings on the second Monday of each month from February to April, September to November at 1:30 p.m. in the Boardroom. All women of the congregation are invited to attend our meetings and join us for a time of fellowship.

TRANSCONA MEMORIAL UNITED CHURCH

OUR MISSION:

As a Church we seek justice, foster and nurture growth by teaching, worshiping, through music, sharing and being welcoming to all. We value and share our gifts, protect the earth and walk humbly with our God.

OUR VISION:

TMUC is an evolving, welcoming, sharing and inclusive community church serving Christ.

EMPTY BOWLS

The youth of TMUC raised over \$800 for the Transcona Food Bank by participating in the Empty Bowls project. Empty Bowls is an international movement to raise awareness about hunger and resources to feed people. Prior to TMUC's congregational meeting on November 4, youth served soup to people in Yale Hall. Three soups were available. There was no charge for the soups, but donations were accepted. During the meeting, 'empty bowls' were available to purchase through silent bidding.



Sunday School, youth and adult members of the TMUC community had made the clay bowls several weeks earlier. The bowls were then fired, and painted by Sunday School and youth. The bowls were then fired again and made available through the silent auction.

The Spirituality of the Labyrinth *by Gail Purcell*

A labyrinth is a single winding path that leads you in and back out of a center. Labyrinths have been around for more than 3,000 years.

The following words have all been used to describe a labyrinth:

prayer and reflection

space to listen to ourselves

meditation and realignment

help us to ground ourselves

relaxing and refreshing

help us to find our way

peace and joy

The labyrinth has been described as a symbol of our journey through life. The centre may be taken to represent enlightenment, self realization, perfection or salvation.

The first time you walk a labyrinth you may feel slightly confused and feel like you might get lost. You will quickly see that as long as you stay on the path and keep walking, you can't get lost. Labyrinths are not new to Transcona Memorial. A few years ago we made labyrinths out of clay in Sunday School for the children to learn a different way to pray.

Have you wanted to walk a labyrinth? The floor in the newly renovated Yale Hall contains one. Watch for your invitation to walk the labyrinth together as a faith community. The labyrinth will also be available during the week for private journeys and reflection time.

TOUR OF A LIFETIME

This was the music that helped connect us as the church for the past 40 years.

This was the music of Ron Klusmeier.

Klusmeier brought his 'Tour of a Lifetime' to TMUC on October 22.

Klusmeier is a composer and arranger who has been composing music for hymns for over 40 years.



Klusmeier composed 17 of the hymns in *Voices United*, including 'Teach Me, God, To Wonder', 'Worship the Lord', 'To Show by Touch and Word', and 'Give to us Laughter.' He also has hymns included in *More Voices*, as well as in the hymn books of the Anglican, Lutheran, Presbyterian and Roman Catholic denominations in Canada.

Klusmeier has collaborated with numerous authors, including Walter Farquharson, Ruth Duck, and Brian Wren.

A volunteer choir participated in the TMUC concert. Ron played piano, shared stories and both the choir and audience joined in singing.

The Tour of a Lifetime will be Klusmeier's last Canadian Tour.

Besides celebrating Ron's ministry of music, the Tour also raises awareness and funds for the Canadian Food Grains Bank, as well as informing people about the value of the United Church Observer magazine to the life of The United Church of Canada.

Klusmeier has also recorded several CD's and composed the music for two cantatas written by Walter Farquharson. Klusmeier lives on Vancouver Island. He has served as Minister of Music at several congregations and has led workshops throughout Canada and the United States.

TMUC Walkabout by Deanna Howard

What does 'Church' mean to you?

What does it mean to be a 'person of faith'?

TMUC has a plan to explore these questions.

In January, we plan a 'Walkabout'.

We plan conversations at different places, at different times. Let's talk in a corporate boardroom, at an inner city community ministry, in a downtown sanctuary, and at TMUC. Let's ignite our imaginations. Everyone is welcome – watch Church News and the announcements to keep in touch.



BRAVING THE MAZE *by Jeff Cook*

The Amazing Maze of Corn could have added one more adjective to its title when TMUC arrived for their annual visit. It should have been called the Amazing 'Muddy' Maze of Corn.

We went on Friday evening of October 19th. It had been raining for two days previous, so we knew the paths through the maze would be boggy. However, the rain had stopped and it was a clear evening for mazing. Seventeen of us, including children and adults, still made the trip south of the perimeter to face the maze.

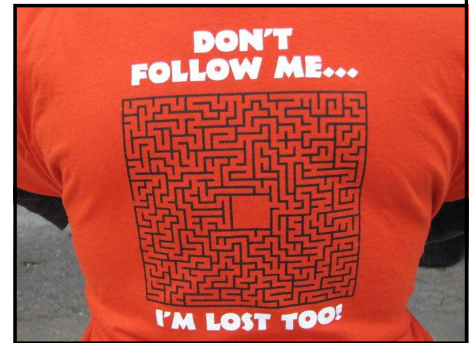
Flashlights in hand, we entered the corn maze, choosing paths, zigging and zagging...and feeling our shoes become heavier as the mud clung to them and began to build up.

A couple of people, myself included, decided to find an exit and return to our campfire site using the exterior path that encircles the maze.

The others continued and impressed us by finding their way to the maze's main exit. Some even ventured into the haunted forest exhibit.

Eventually we all gathered at the campfire to enjoy hotdogs, chips, hot chocolate and marshmallows. It was a fun conclusion to another memorable trip to the amazing maze of corn.

Thanks to Brenda LeBeau, TMUC's Youth Point Person, for organizing the event.



HELP STAMP OUT LEPROSY



Now that Christmas is fast approaching would you please save the postage stamps from your Christmas cards and parcels and hand them into the church office or to Beth Newell on Sundays.

Just rip the envelope leaving at least 1/4 inch of envelope around the stamp. They don't need to be trimmed neatly. The UCW sells these stamps to a stamp dealer and the money we receive is sent to the Leprosy Mission to help fight leprosy. Perhaps you work in a business that receives mail with stamps? If so, how about asking if your office would collect the stamps for us, we would appreciate it.

Caught In the Act Co. DINNER THEATRE



Mark your calendars for April 25—28, 2013 as we present our 3rd annual production of "The Boarding-house" by Vern Harden (Pioneer Drama Service). Come see the Holmes Sweet Home Boardinghouse where life is anything but normal in this comedy with a zany cast of characters.

Tickets for a fabulous meal and an evening of great entertainment go on sale Saturday, January 19th from 9—1 pm. in Yale Hall. Cost is \$40 per ticket (a \$20 tax receipt is issued at the time of purchase). Producers Melanie Sidorow and Lynn Measner appreciate the support of the congregation for this fundraiser, so please consider volunteering for the various duties when the sign up poster goes up in the new year. Together we can make this another successful event!

MESSY-ING AROUND



It takes many hands to prepare a meal at Messy Church. It also takes people of all ages.

TMUC has hosted two Messy Church gatherings this Fall – a burrito supper on September 16 and a pancake brunch on October 13. People ages 5 to much older (the polite way of referring to some of us senior middle-aged folk) helped slice, peel, mix and cook the food.

Messy Church is a combination of sharing a meal, worshipping together and 'doing a craft'. It is a way for the church family to gather as family – all ages are welcomed.

The term 'Messy Church' refers to the, well, messiness of everyone participating to prepare the food, set-up tables and chairs, and help with clean-up. Messy Church is held in one of the church's lower halls. People sit in a semi-circle for worship, which is inter-generational.

At the September Messy Church, worship included the reading of the story "Jeremiah and the Letter e", written by former Moderator David Giuliano. Five year old Adrian Flett and his mother Heather read the story as part of the worship service.

Messy Church offers an opportunity to gather and worship at a time other than Sunday mornings. People get to meet other members of the congregation in an informal atmosphere, while sharing in the preparing and eating of the meal.

Everyone is invited and welcome to join us for future Messy Church gatherings, which will be announced in the monthly calendar.

Amnesty International

For more than 25 years, Transcona Memorial has participated in Amnesty International campaigns for justice.

Amnesty International (AI) was founded in 1961. It is a non-governmental organization which researches and raises awareness of human rights abuses. AI invites people to participate in letter writing campaigns to pressure governments to comply with international rights and standards. In 1977, Amnesty was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize for its campaign against torture.

The Outreach Committee of TMUC has supported Amnesty's work, has often been a paid member of AI, and has promoted letter signing and writing campaigns within the congregation.

The internet now allows more people to access Amnesty's resources. On the Amnesty sites you can learn about specific instances of human rights concerns and to whom you may direct emails or letters calling for action. You are encouraged to look at these sites and participate in Amnesty's work.

Amnesty's international website is amnesty.org.uk. Amnesty also has a Canadian website which contains more information on some specifically Canadian campaigns, such as focusing public attention on the need to stop violence against Indigenous women and girls in Canada and calling on the Canadian government to ensure the protection and safety of First Nations, Métis and Inuit women and their families. The Canadian website is amnesty.ca.



Saturday Studios: Learning Together *TMUC in partnership with the WRHA and Healthy Together Now*

Open to all—no charge. Pre-registration is appreciated but not necessary—204-222-1331

November 24: 9 am to 11 am

- 9 am **It's More than Pretty Baskets—Clarity over Clutter** *led by* Susan Macaulay
10:15 am **Healthy Lunches for Children** *led by* Colleen Rand
Meals for One or Two *led by* Taisa Antoine

December 1: 9 am to 11 am

- 9 am **Stress-LESS** *led by* Pam Jansen
10:15am **Family Friendly Yoga** *led by* Leslie Towler
Labyrinth Walking *led by* Jeff Cook
Home Safe for all Ages *led by* Heather Flett

December 8: 9 am to 1 pm

- 9 am **The Sacredness of Story—the Christmas Story and Us** *led by* Walter Farquharson
10:30 **Brunch**
11:30 **Telling Stories Through Photography** *led by* Manny Sousa
Music for the Joy of It *led by* Marilyn Houser Hamm

Susan Macaulay: is a Professional Organizer and Organizing Specialist for Chronic Disorganization and Hoarding. She is a sought after speaker and believes that getting organized can save time, money and give you peace of mind.

Colleen Rand is the Regional Manager of the Winnipeg Health Region's Clinical Nutrition program who is especially interested in helping parents and children to establish good eating early!

Taisa Antoine is a chef and a student in nutrition.

Pam Jansen has worked in the River East Transcona School Division with youth programming for 5 years, is married, has 2 grown wonderful kids and thrives on stress!

Leslie Towler is a specialist in family friendly yoga, teaching in the River East Transcona Area, and inviting adults and children to have fun together.

Jeff Cook is in team ministry at Transcona Memorial United Church and is a regular walker of labyrinths.

Heather Flett is an Occupational Therapist with two young children and a passion for making things safe for all people.

The Very Reverend Walter Farquharson is a teacher, preacher, writer of hymns and plays, storyteller, and gardener. He has served as Moderator of The United Church of Canada, and Mayor of Saltcoats, Saskatchewan.

Manny Sousa specializes in travel and wedding photography – he will bring to life ‘a picture tells a thousand words’.

Marilyn Houser Hamm is a vibrant and passionate musician, bringing sound to life through her interpretations at the piano, in solo vocal performance, as a professional accompanist, choral and congregational director and in her private teaching.

CHOIR NOTES

by Dorothy Ross

The choirs are all back in full swing, busy rehearsing for the Advent and Christmas season. Folk Communion falls on November 25th, Reign of Christ Sunday, the last Sunday before Advent 1, with the Carillon Singers.

The Joyful Noise Singers (ages 3 to 12) are now rehearsing on Saturday mornings from 11:30 to 12 for their Christmas services on December 9th.

On December 23rd the Chancel Choir and the Carillons will present the Cantata "Joy to the World" at both services.

The Carillon Singers will be presenting a Christmas Concert at Park Manor on November 28th and at Vista Park Lodge on December 11th.

On Christmas Eve, the Carillons will be singing at the 5 & 7 p.m. family services, and the Chancel Choir at the 10 p.m. Communion Service.

COMING UP: Mark Friday, February 15, 2013 on your calendar. The Choirs will be presenting a Valentine's Concert called "Love Makes the World Go Round". Tickets on sale soon!

From all of us to each one of you...a Blessed Christmas Season!



LIVING GIFTS THAT MAKE A DIFFERENCE

1HopeWinnipeg is a cooperative venture of United Church of Canada outreach ministries, with community and other church partners, working toward a brighter future by connecting with, supporting and empowering some of the most disenfranchised people of our city.

Our five community ministries (North End Stella, Oak Table, Rainbow, St. Matthew's—Maryland and West Broadway) serve those living with addictions, those shunned by others based on race, sexual orientation and income and those without a place to call home. In these times of economic stress 1Hope's presence is needed more and more. They believe that everyone wants to make their city, their country and their world a better place but just needs the right avenue to express their gift.

This year they have created an Advent/Christmas calendar for you and your family to participate in (see page 11). After New Year's Day, your gift may be mailed to 1HopeWinnipeg, Winnipeg Presbytery, 1622-B St. Mary's Road, Wpg, MB R2M 3W7 or visit their website www.1hopewinnipeg.com and use the Donate Now button.

Working together to make a difference in our world.

Advent/Christmas 2012

December 2, 2012 – January 1, 2013

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
Dec. 2nd 1st Sunday Pray for PEACE in our world	Dec. 3rd Add \$.25 for each cell phone in your home	Dec. 4th \$.50 if you have a microwave	Dec. 5th Add \$.25 for every team or group that you belong to	Dec. 6th For each computer game you have add \$.05	Dec. 7th Name the 5 Community Ministries – No peeking!	Dec. 8th If you have a cottage, add \$1.00
Dec. 9th 2nd Sunday Bring a gift for White Gift Sunday HOPE	Dec. 10th Add \$.25 for each family pet	Dec. 11th Add \$.25 for each Sunday School class at your church	Dec. 12th Add thanks for access to safe water. Add \$.25 for each faucet in your home	Dec. 13th \$.05 for each personal email that you sent in the last 3 days	Dec. 14th Add \$.25 for each electronic gadget you own	Dec. 15th Deposit \$.25 for each jacket or coat you own
Dec. 16th 3rd Sunday Pray for the health of our world. JOY	Dec. 17th Give thanks for clean water. Add \$.25 for each glass of milk you drank yesterday	Dec. 18th Trees help keep our world healthy. Add \$.25 per tree in your yard	Dec. 19th Add \$.10 for each light you have in your home.	Dec. 20th Add \$.25 for each kind of fresh fruit in your home	Dec. 21st We are grateful for comfortable homes. Add \$.50 for a furnace or air conditioner	Dec. 22nd Add \$.50 per vehicle at your home
Dec. 23rd 4th Sunday Pray for those we serve through 1HopeWinnipeg LOVE	Dec. 24th Give \$.10 for each relative you spent time with today	Dec. 25th Deposit \$.10cents for each gift you received.	Dec. 26th Add \$.25 for each meal you had today	Dec. 27th Deposit \$.10 for each person who was kind to you today	Dec. 28th Add \$.50 for each Christmas dinner you enjoyed	Dec. 29th Add \$.25 for each appliance in your kitchen
Dec. 30th 1st Sunday After Pray for our M&S world partners	Dec. 31st Add \$.25 for each year of schooling you have	New Year's For each favorite TV Show add \$.25				

How to use: Cut off the lower portion, fasten around a jar, make a cut in the lid, contribute daily beginning December 2nd (1st Sunday in Advent). On New Year's Day, open the can, count your offering, write a cheque and mail to: **1HopeWinnipeg, Winnipeg Presbytery, 1622-B St. Mary's Road, Winnipeg, MB R2M 3W7** or visit the website www.1hopewinnipeg.com and use the Donate Now button to process your donation. Tax receipts will be issued for donations of \$20.00 or more.



Five Communities, 1 Hope: Oak Table Community Ministry, North End (Stella) Community Ministry, Rainbow Ministry, St. Matthew's-Maryland Community Ministry and West Broadway Community Ministry.

COMING TO CHRISTMAS
by Carol Fletcher and Jeff Cook

Have you ever been asked: Are you coming to dinner? Are you coming to the movies? Are you coming to the service? Are you coming to that concert?

Are you coming...to Christmas?

Christians come to Christmas. We spend four weeks coming to Christmas. We call those four weeks 'Advent' (which means 'to come to').

We take time to come to Christmas. We 'approach' Christmas. We can't just show up, we have to approach, to come to, to journey. We have to take time to get to Christmas, time to hear stories about an odd wilderness-dweller named John. Time to hear stories about two expectant peasant women – women expecting not only the birth of their children but the birth of something new into their world.

We take time to pray, to ask God for some sense of peace, of stillness, of hope in this often troubled and troubling and hectic world.

We take time to wonder about Mary and Joseph as they come to the village of Bethlehem, as they come to a place of birth.

We take time. We approach Christmas. We come to Christmas, because for Christians, coming to Christmas is a kind of homecoming. Coming to Christmas is coming to a baby named Jesus. Coming to Christmas is coming to a birth from which we cannot walk away.

Something about this birth, something about this Jesus, keeps coming back to us, whispering to us that God is up to something in this world; whispering to us that a child of God was born to remind us that each of us is a child of God; whispering to us that each of God's children is, amazingly, God's favourite child.

Are you coming to Christmas again this year?

Are you ready for the Advent of our God?

