



FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
2 Global Mission Sunday 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	3	4	5	6 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	7	8
9 9:00 St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service	10	11 International Day of Women and Girls in Science	12	13 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	14 Valentine's Day	15 National Flag of Canada Day
16 10:00 Trinity Song Service	17 Family Day	18	19	20 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence World Day of Social Justice	21	22
23 Diaconal Sunday 9:00 St. John's Morning Prayer Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service	24 Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land	25 Shrove Tuesday/Mardi Gras 5:30 Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper at Hope	26 Ash Wednesday	27 Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	28	29

~ February 2020 ~



# Faith Country Chronicle

January 2020



## Message for Congregations and Lay and Rostered Leaders

Dear Beloved of God –

Christmas has come and gone for another year. The music that filled our ears for weeks on end is now hushed. For many the decorations have been stored away for another year.

As the story of the nativity with its shepherds, and the couple and the newborn baby was unfolding, another story was developing. The Magi came from the east and began to ask questions around town: “Where is the child who has been born king of the Jews? We have followed his rising star and we have come to give him honor.”

King Herod, shaken up by it all, works at getting the Magi to help him locate the child. Indeed, the strange foreigners find the child and are so overwhelmed by what they find that they fall upon their knees in worship and praise and adoration. Like the shepherds on the hillside, they begin to realize that something is changing in their world, that a new thing is happening, that a new world is being born.

It is a wonderful story, full of emotion and intrigue. It provides the inspiration for art and music, for poetry and song. Few stories told through the centuries are so familiar, so beloved, so rich with pathos and delight.

This gospel according to Matthew is telling the story of the birth of Jesus for new Christians, for new followers of the Way. And even in so young a church it seems that their vision was limited. The boundaries of their community were already closing tightly around them. The gospel writer could see already that the new believing community was too easily settling into the idea that this new life in Christ was for them; they were already getting too comfortable with themselves and too easily willing to put others outside.

Matthew shocks his readers right from the first verse of this gospel by recounting the genealogy of Jesus. He does so in a way that must have confounded those

who first read it. A genealogy in those days was traced through the male lineage, but Matthews breaks from tradition and includes four women in his list of the ancestors of Jesus. And they were not just any four women. They were women whose lives bore the scars of prostitution and incest, of adultery and murder. Matthew is laying the groundwork, even in his seemingly boring list of names of folks long dead, that the new day that is dawning is quite different from anything one might be expecting.

And this gospel writer keeps up the theme when he introduces the Magi. We often call them wise men. Some have suggested they were philosophers; others have called them astrologers because of their fascination with the stars. But whoever they were and wherever they were from, Matthew’s point is that they are not from here; these are not hometown folk, with hometown values, and hometown upbringing. These were odd folk from some foreign land. Not our kind.

The gospel writer unfolds the rest of the story of Jesus by reminding his readers – and he continues to remind us – that the saving word of God, the death and resurrection of Jesus, is not for some, but for all. Not for men only, but also for women. Not for the apparently perfect only, but for those whose lives bear the scars of unmentionable human pain. Not for the hometown crowd only, but for those on the other side of the tracks. Not for those who believe exactly as we do, but also for those who are struggling to believe anything at all, or those who have lost their faith.

The star comes and rests over the place where the infant Jesus is born. Keep your eyes on it. Gaze at the star. Focus on it. Fix it firmly in your mind. Because in time you will discover that the points of the star will stretch themselves into the form of a cross, and it will no longer rest over the place where the child lay, but will come to rest over your life and the world you inhabit.

Some years ago, the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of New York plastered the city with posters of the altar of St. Patrick's Cathedral lavishly decorated for Christmas. It was a warm and inviting sight. The poster's caption was simple: "Come home."

This Epiphany, "come home." That is the invitation implicit throughout the season. No matter where you've been or what you've been up to, or how long you may have been away, "come home."

This home is for everyone. For wise folk from the east who seek out the child, and the home for the Christ Child in every heart that will have it so.

## A New Year

by Stanley Davis

January 1 2020

Today marks the beginning of a new year and also the beginning of the next decade.

As Christians in today's world, what will the next few years be like? Will your light shine as the sun or will you succumb to the darkness that is in the world. As we see the day of Christ approaching and the turmoil that is in the world around us, will you stand and be the "Called of God." I haven't written in a long time so I decided it is time to say a few words from my perspective. The state of the Church has not gotten better over the last decade, it has diminished and as Christians, I mean true Christians; you know it. The Church has forgotten what we are all about, technology has advanced and the Church has grabbed hold and ran with it just like everybody else. The problem is that we have moved away from a personal relationship to a social and media relationship. In doing this we have won a few battles along the way, but the truth is, we have lost a lot more. Look at today's generation, they are more technically advance in computers, games, music, media and in general they are smarter than most people over fifty when it comes to technology. This is unfortunate because they have forgotten the simplicity of life and the true meaning of it. I noticed in a pole earlier that we now have the first generation of non Christians in the world. This generation was surveyed about their belief structure in the Christian faith and a large part did not go to Church nor recognize God for who he is. The abandonment of the Church is well in progress. With new government laws and regulations on our books we are not able to call a sinner a sinner anymore, nor a man a man if he so chooses. There once was power in the Church and people went to Church because they knew there was a right way. They wanted cleansing, healing, deliverance, and Salvation. Today people come to Church for a hand-out, or to watch a program, or be in a social click. I do not have a problem with hand-outs, but we need to get back to God. With that said, even the music in Church has moved to a more secular sound. The world around us is changing quickly, will you stand and fight for the God you claim to love or will you be put in the closet. There is way too much to write about in one sitting , so I will do my best to break it down in topics for those who want to read them.

In Christ Jesus –  
Shalom,  
+Bishop Larry Kochendorfer

"The God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that you may abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit." (Romans 15:13)

# FAITH COUNTRY SHARED MINISTRY





The **Faith Country Chronicle** is published monthly from September through May by the partners in the Faith Country Shared Ministry:

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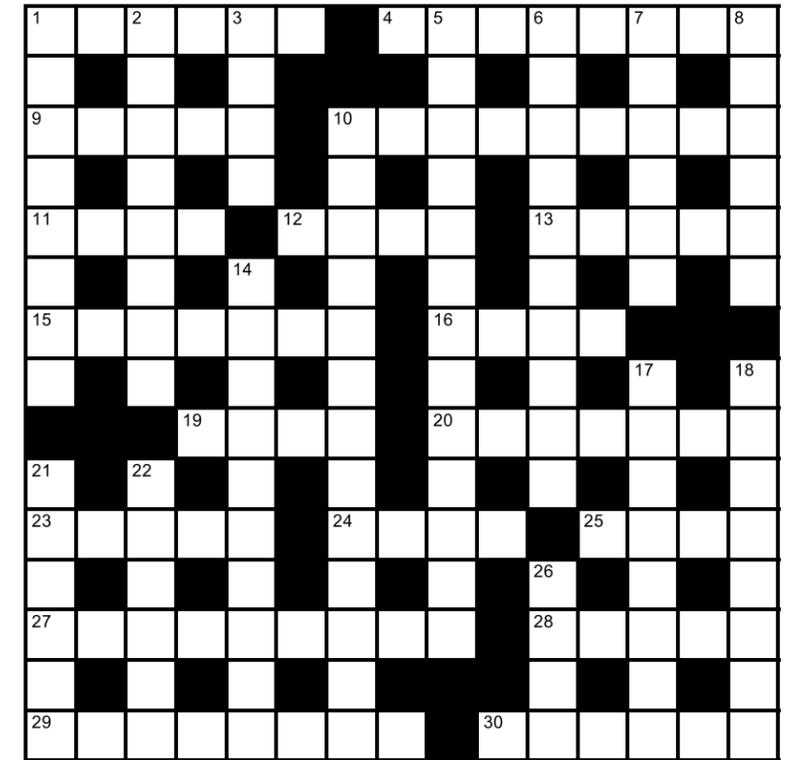
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~ January 2020 ~						
Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
			<b>1</b> New Year's Day	<b>2</b> Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	<b>3</b>	<b>4</b>
<b>5</b> 10:00 Trinity Communion Service	<b>6</b> Epiphany	<b>7</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>9</b> Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	<b>10</b>	<b>11</b> Sir John A. Macdonald Day
<b>12</b> 9:00 St. John's Eucharist Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service	<b>13</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>16</b> Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	<b>17</b>	<b>18</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<b>19</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 10:00 Trinity Song Service	<b>20</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>21</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>22</b> Week of Prayer for Christian Unity 7:30 FCSM Council Meeting at St. John's	<b>23</b> Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>24</b> Day of Prayer for Peace in the Holy Land Week of Prayer for Christian Unity	<b>25</b> Chinese New Year Week of Prayer for Christian Unity
<b>26</b> 9:00 St. John's Morning Prayer Service 11:15 Hope Communion Service 12:30 Hope Council Meeting	<b>27</b> International Holocaust Remembrance Day	<b>28</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>30</b> Thursdays in Black - Towards A World Without Violence	<b>31</b>	<b>Notes:</b>

# BIBLE CROSSWORD V

## Across

- 1 Silenced (6)
- 4 Allocated (8)
- 9 Kingdoms or domains (5)
- 10 Babylonians (9)
- 11 Left behind when Peter and Andrew followed Jesus (4)
- 12 Lame man's entrance to the house where Jesus healed him (4)
- 13 Depart (5)
- 15 Stamens of a crocus (7)
- 16 New thought (4)
- 19 Unhearing (4)
- 20 Absconded (7)
- 23 Enticed (5)
- 24 The coldest of the ten plagues (4)
- 25 Insult rendering the giver in danger of hell fire (4)
- 27 First visitors to the baby Jesus (9)
- 28 Twinkle (5)
- 29 Sin (8)
- 30 Physical state after absence of food (6)



by Philologus

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## Down

- 1 Written on the Priest's headband (8)
- 2 To set apart for sacred use (8)
- 3 Wise men's domain (4)
- 5 Location where Jesus met the disciples for breakfast (3,2,8)
- 6 Greediness (10)
- 7 Cured of leprosy by washing in the River Jordan (6)
- 8 Crockery (6)
- 10 Worn by Jesus on the cross (5,2,6)
- 14 Amity between David and Jonathan (10)
- 17 Against (8)
- 18 Forbidden in the seventh commandment (8)
- 21 A place to pray (6)
- 22 Country visited by Paul (6)
- 26 Hairy Old Testament hunter (4)

Solution found on page 4

BIBLE CROSSWORD V - SOLUTION

Across: 1 Hushed, 4 Assigned, 9 Lands, 10 Chaldeans, 11 Nets, 12 Roof, 13 Leave, 15 Saffron, 16 Idea, 19 Deaf, 20 Escaped, 23 Lured, 24 Hall, 25 Fool, 27 Shepherds, 28 Shine, 29 Trespass, 30 Hungry.

Down: 1 Holiness, 2 Sanctify, 3 East, 5 Sea of Tiberias, 6 Indulgence, 7 Naaman, 8 Dishes, 10 Crown of thorns, 14 Friendship, 17 Opposing, 18 Adultery, 21 Closet, 22 Greece, 26 Esau.

Bible Crossword by BiblePuzzles.org.uk

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

Father Time and Mother Time Discuss 2019 and 2020

by Greg Miller

Father Time and Mother Time spent the morning hours of New Year’s Eve calculating their successes and failures of 2019 and their hopes for 2020.

“I see more people spent additional time this year praying and reading the Bible than in 2018,” Father Time told his loyal spouse.

“That’s wonderful news,” Mother Time responded.

“But I’m also noticing that in some countries, people have developed a tendency to provide less care for the world’s most vulnerable citizens, like those who are starving to death from malnutrition or are dying from lack of adequate medical care,” the caretaker of minutes and seconds mused.

“The number of people who are less than appreciative of their time on earth has also risen,” said Mother Time. “I’ve noticed a growing trend in people demanding more time for selfish pursuits and being less concerned about fulfilling God’s will for their lives.”

“I have an idea,” Father Time stated. “In 2020, why don’t we work hard to ensure measureable growth in the number of Christians who actively and regularly witness to others about their faith in Jesus Christ?”

“If we can accomplish that goal, there should be an enormous growth in the number of people who accept Jesus as their personal savior during 2020,” Mother Time smiled.

“That will mean more people who will get to spend eternity with the Lord,” Father Time grinned.

“Yes, and more people will be praying to the heavenly father and reading the Bible, His love letter to the world’s people,” Mother Time said.

“People will read in Genesis how the Sovereign Lord spoke everything into existence,” said Father Time. “It’s always amazed me how He was able to do that with nothing at all to work with.”

“And they’ll read how Peter went fishing and caught a fish with enough gold in its mouth to pay the taxes of both Jesus and Peter,” said Mother Time.

“They’ll read about Jesus’ death on Calvary’s cross and His resurrection three days later!” Father Time beamed.

“They’ll read about time and its gigantic value in their lives,” Father Time continued.

“But unless they place a greater value on time than most of the people of the world now do, they may not realize lost time can’t be replaced,” Mother Time said.

“That’s right,” said Father Time. “They may not even realize that one day there will be no more time. All that’s left will be eternity. And that means our job as the Treasurers of Time will only be a memory, because there will be no more need for time. In the light of eternity, all of time’s measurements simply disappear!”