



Eglinton St. George's
United Church

Extending love · Serving others · Growing in faith

News and Announcements December 3, 2017

Growing in Spirituality

Sunday, December 3: Advent Begins!

On your marks, get ready, set, go! So begins our race

to Christmas: shopping, baking, decorating, partying . . .

Hold on just one moment. All those things sound great. Let's enjoy them all.

But Advent is a spiritual invitation to remember the birth of Jesus. We don't need to shop or bake or decorate or attend parties. We simply need to watch for signs of his birth. We only need to stay alert for movements of God's spirit in our hearts. Our mark is Advent one, so we can ready our hearts, set our eyes toward stars, and go where God leads us. Amen.

Dec 10 at 10:30 am Advent 2 is PEACE

Our own Justin Crabtree will be preaching during worship while our ESG children and youth create "Cookies-in-a-Jar" for sale after worship as a fundraiser for their Christmas charity *House of Lazarus*. PEACE comes through justice.

Dec 17 at 10:30 am Advent 3 is JOY

Come in a nativity costume or choose one when you arrive. Everyone gets to participate in our Christmas pageant. JOY is felt in remembering our Christmas story.



Dec 24 at 10:30 am Advent 4 is LOVE

In song and story, we will sing all our favourite carols and hear the familiar Christmas story in a fresh voice. LOVE is all around us as we celebrate our anticipation of Christmas.

Longest Night Worship:

Thursday, December 21, 6-7pm

With hope, believe that there more to Christmas than being a consumer. In candlelight, take a moment to breathe in peace. Despite our state of mind, remember that joy is possible. In quiet contemplation, glimpse signs of God's love.

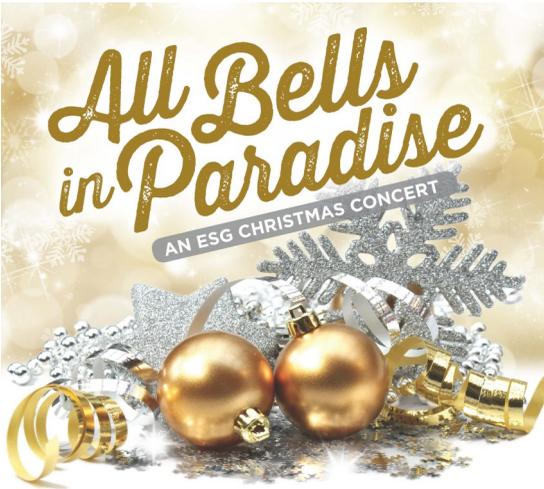
Family Christmas Eve Worship at 5pm

Join us for a family-focused Christmas Eve worship. Sing Christmas carols. Join the manger scene. Let the Christmas story come alive.

Christmas Eve Worship at 9pm

After all the rush to Christmas, take a moment to embrace the season in a quiet, contemplative worship service. In a traditional *Lessons and Carols* remember once again that the birth of Jesus brings hope, peace, joy, and love to the world and to our hearts.

Growing in Community



All Bells in Paradise

A wonderful way to entertain friends during the Christmas season: bring them to **All Bells in Paradise** on **December 10th at 4 pm**. The concert will run a little less than 2 hours, so you can get home with your dinner guests or out to a favourite restaurant. Groups of 8 or more may reserve seats for the concert. You can pick up tickets today after service in the lobby, call the ESG concert ticket line or ask any choir member. \$35 / \$25 students.

Parenting Drop-In group

Parenting Tweens/Teens? Join us every second Monday evening from 7- 8:30 pm, in the Hearth Room, as we discuss the issues of 'Parenting Tweens/Teens in the 21st Century'. [Dec 4](#), [Dec 18](#)

Cookies-in-a-Jar Event: Sunday December 10

Need some home baking? Get your cookies-in-a-jar after worship on Dec 10, just \$10 each. No ideas for a home-made gift? Pick up several cookies-in-a-jar from our ESG children and youth: oatmeal raisin, chocolate chip, and brownie. Looking for a teacher gift? Busy teachers love cookies-in-a-jar. Want to do social justice at Christmas? Cookies-in-a-jar project is our Children's Ministry fundraiser for *House of Lazarus*. Buy, bake, eat, and give for a good cause.



Living with Hope January 24 & 31 from 7-9 pm

In a time when the world is sending us messages of fear, how do you live a life grounded in hope? Join us for two evenings where we will explore hope's place in your emotional makeup and daily practices that lift your resonance. Learn about the three kinds of stories that you create and how you can learn to write your own story of hope.

Leaders Patti Thompson, Abigail Johnson, and Deb McKenzie will share personal and biblical stories of faith and hope to challenge and inspire you.

Giving Generously

As part of the 2018 Stewardship appeal, we asked members of the congregation to tell us about their connection to ESG's programs.

Your words reflect the impact of our community on so many lives ...



Pastoral Care

Being a member of the Pastoral Care Team at ESG is a privilege. It has enriched my life with new friends and deep connections and has taught me so much about loving and supporting someone with compassion and without judgment. I believe that pastoral care is at the heart of a caring church community. - Barb

It's Almond Bark Time

New Perspectives will be selling our famous almond bark **today** after the service. All proceeds support outreach projects. Cost is \$10/bag. Cash only.



Welcome to ESG!

If you're new or just visiting, grab a red mug for your coffee after service so we can be sure to say hello!



Reaching Out

Advent Gifts: Sunday, December 10

In this season of sharing, please bring **new, unwrapped** gifts for those in need. The organizations supported by ESG this year and some suggestions for what to bring are listed here:



Massey Centre: new baby blankets, baby clothing & supplies, diapers (sizes 5 and 6), packages of wipes, drug store gift cards,

Fred Victor - women's clothing (new)

Thursday Drop In Outreach – non perishable food items (peanut butter, tuna, protein bars, individual serving fruit cups)

Toronto Urban Native Ministry - toys, movie gift cards

Amnesty International Letter Signing

Human Rights Days is December 10th. Celebrate today by signing a letter and/or sending a card to someone whose rights have been trampled. Cases from Mozambique, Israel/Occupied Territories, and Chad are ready for you to sign after service today. Check out the Peace with Justice table and take a moment to sign a letter or send a card. Donations for postage are appreciated. (One letter sent overseas costs \$2.50)

ESG Calendar

Monday December 4

9:15 am: **Fit Friends**
3:30 pm: **Yoga & Meditation**
5:00 pm: **NT Karate**
7:00 pm: **Parenting Support Group**
6:45 pm: **Yoga & Meditation**

Tuesday December 5

9:15 am: **Fit Friends**
9:15 am: **Quilters**
8:00 pm: **Alcoholics Anon.**

Wednesday December 6

9:15 am: **Fit Friends**
2:00 pm: **Nominating Committee**
5:00 pm: **North Toronto Karate**

Thursday December 7

9:15 am: **Fit Friends**
9:45 am: **Tai Chi**
2:30 pm: **Pastoral Care Visitors**
5:00 pm: **NT Karate**
6:00 pm: **VOX Choir**
7:15 pm: **ESG Choir**

Friday, December 8

9:15 am: **Fit Friends**
1:30 pm: **Axel Molema Yoga**
8:00 pm: **Alcoholics Anon.**

Sunday, December 10

8:00 am: **Sunday Morning Women**
8:15 am: **Sunday Morning Men**
10:30 am: **Sunday Worship: Advent Gifts**
Church School & Youth Group
Cookies in a Jar Sale
4:00 pm: **ESG Christmas Concert**

New here?

Welcome to our friendly and supportive caring community. We are families and individuals **seeking spiritual meaning** in a complex world. We are friends and neighbours committed to **helping those in need**. Connect with others and **build relationships** here.

Join us any Sunday morning at 10:30 am for a worship service where we can ask questions and explore our spirituality in a safe place. Can't come every Sunday? You're welcome any-time. Nursery care is available for babies and toddlers. Children and youth start in worship at 10:30, then head off to their programs. Children in JK—grade 6 enjoy a fun and creative program overseen by our minister and led by volunteers. Youth in grades 7 and up enjoy a program led by Morgan Bell, our Youth Minister. After the service, many people stay for conversation and coffee. Ask staff or our greeting team about ways to be involved here.