

# grapevine

ST. STEPHEN'S  
NEWSLETTER

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## A Story for Advent 2013

Some of you may know the following most marvelous and meaningful Advent story:

There is an aboriginal story which, although it may not have happened exactly this way, nonetheless is true.

When the plants and trees were first made, the Great Mystery gave a gift to each species. But first a contest was set up to determine which gift would be most useful to whom.

"I want you to stay awake and keep watch over the earth for seven nights, the Great Mystery told the plants and trees. The young trees and plants were so excited to be entrusted with such an important job that the first night they did not find it difficult to stay awake. However, the second night was not so easy, and just before dawn a few fell asleep. On the third night, the trees and plants whispered among themselves in the wind, trying to keep from dropping off, but it was too much work for some of them. Even more fell asleep on the fourth night.

By the time the seventh night came, the only trees and plants still awake were the

cedar, the pine, the spruce, the fir, the holly and the laurel. "What wonderful endurance you have!" exclaimed the Great Mystery. "You shall be given the gift of remaining green forever. You will be the guardians of the forest. Even in the seeming dead of winter, your brother and

sister creatures will find life protected in your branches." Ever since then, all the other trees and plants lose their leaves and sleep all winter while the evergreens stay awake.

I love this story because it speaks to me about the wonder

of 'Advent,' the 'coming' of Jesus. It affirms our relationship with God. It reminds us that we need always to be awake and open to God's love, which is life-giving and enduring: a love which 'transforms' us like the leaves on a tree and equips us to deal with all things. And we, the St. Stephen the Martyr faith-community, are the 'evergreen' branches which enfold God, who enables each one of us to be 'transformed'!

*The Reverend Gary Hamblin*

**"We, the St. Stephen the Martyr faith-community, are the 'evergreen' branches which enfold God..."**

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### A Word from Warden Valerie

What a fabulous fall it has been! With the wonderful summer and fall weather we have enjoyed in the Lower Mainland and all of our special anniversary celebrations, it has been a memorable time for St. Stephen's Church. By the grace of God we have reached another milestone, 100 years of worshipping in the building we have all come to love so much. Whether you are

a new parishioner or have been a part of the St. Stephen's family for 50 years (yes, we really do have some parishioners who have been worshipping at St. Stephen's since the 1960s!), there was something for all of us to take part in.

We launched our celebrations with the Downton Abbey Tea on June 1st. The →

→ hall was transformed into a 1900s parlour, with music, menu, and entertainment to fit the venue. The ambiance was so fitting that we received a special mention in the Topic (the Anglican newspaper), complete with a lengthy write-up and pictures.

On September 14th, we hosted a concert by The Gentlemen of Fortune, an a cappella men's group, along with a wine and cheese reception and an art auction. This was a wonderful evening of music, art and conversation.

September 21st brought a scrumptious catered dinner with approximately 70 people in attendance. We celebrated the history of St.

Stephen's Church, played some games, and renewed old friendships with past parishioners in attendance.

September 29th was our actual 100th anniversary day, and we enjoyed a wonderful service with Archbishop Douglas Hambidge as our guest preacher. We welcomed our friends from St. Margaret's, past parishioners, and even Keith Donald, the architect who designed the parish hall we enjoy today (after the earlier parish hall was lost to a fire in the early 1980s). We enjoyed a luncheon following the service.

All of these events took an enormous amount of planning and we have the 100th Anniversary committee, co-chaired by Elaine Renforth and Colleen Butterley, to thank for their countless hours of organizing and preparing. Without all their hard work, none of these events would have made it past the planning stages. We did ourselves proud.....thank you all so much!

One last thing....to the members of the 100th Anniversary banner group—we look forward to seeing your hours of

stitching displayed in the church. The banner will be a beautiful addition to our worship space!

As I write this, we are approaching November 10th, when the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster will be presented to three of our parishioners, Joan Hobson, Joan Hodgkin, and Bob Rusch, in an afternoon celebration at Christ Church Cathedral, Vancouver. This order brings together laity from our diocese who have served faithfully and with distinction over many years. Membership in the order is a sign of the gratitude of the church for service and a thank-you for all these individuals have

done in Christ's ministry in this part of the world. It also provides the Diocese with a community of good examples of what it means to serve in God's mission.

Everyone in the parish is invited to celebrate this incredible honour

with Bob, the two Joans, and their families.

We add our parish congratulations to Joan, Joan and Bob and we thank them for their years of dedication and work in our parish.

Please remember the Fall Fair, coming up on November 23rd. As in previous years, we will have a bake table, craft table, gift and thrift table, and silent auction, as well as a variety of gift baskets available for sale. It is not too late to bring in any items (new) that can be part of a gift basket, and please remember us when making jams, jellies etc. This year the planning committee has some changes in mind ... something different ... so make sure you come and check it out!

Commitment Sunday is fast approaching, on November 17th.

## Stewardship 2014 – Are you a good steward?

What does it mean to be a good steward? On Sunday, October 27th, the message was that God expects us to be stewards of our relationships by showing humility. Over the next few Sundays, we will focus on how we can also serve God's purpose through generosity and compassion. I am truly excited about the messages of stewardship this year! I, for one, am thrilled that the focus encompasses not only what we give, or how much we give, but also the spirit in which we give.

[Matthew 23:12](#)

**Whoever exalts himself shall be humbled; and whoever humbles himself shall be exalted.**

Commitment Sunday is November 17, 2013, please prayerfully consider what you are able to contribute towards our parish and greater community.

With blessings,  
*Desiree*

Please look for further information in the newsletter.

Finally, it is a pleasure to welcome our new People's Warden, Desiree Gore-Lindemere. I know you all join me in thanking her for taking on this job.

*Valerie Krause, Warden*

## Report from the World Council of Churches 10th Assembly



**M**y brothers and sisters at St. Stephen,

Roddy and I arrived in Busan safe and sound. We have already seen thousands of Christians from all around the world. I want to share my experience of the Pre-Assembly of the World Council of Churches, a Community of Women and Men.

As you see in the attached photo, there were more women than men at this gathering. Some women were beautifully dressed with their traditional dresses. I was dazzled. I experienced a spirit of solidarity, cooperation, generosity, shared pain, and hope.

Born in Korea and living in Canada there are so many things I accept as granted and guaranteed. But I am being forced to learn that the rights I hardly appreciate are the rights so many women and children can only hope to know in their lifetimes. Many women from Africa experience their being as though they are God's unwanted

children, without voice and value. The stories they shared were filled with pain, fear, and lament. A clergywoman from Taiwan called for this to be "not the time for forgiveness but the time to repent." Many women were crying.

I had a special interview with Rev. Dr. Evangeline Anderson-Rajkumar from India. She is an advocate for a Roman Catholic nun raped simply because she is a Christian nun. Under Hinduism, being a Christian can be challenged. Because the Church understood this rape as a symbolic rape of the Church, it did not want this shameful event to be exposed in public. As a result, the Church encouraged the victim to remain silent. The battle between the victim and the rapists has been extremely painful and heavy. It is too much for one person to bear. I urge you to pray for this nun.

The Rev. Evangeline also pointed out that the church in India incorporates the caste system. Women are not treated with respect inside the church. There

has been progress, but it is two steps forward and one step backward. Her conclusion is that when God is fully alive in Christians' minds and hearts, there is hope. As Christians, we have to pursue God's justice.

My other interview was with two Korean women, Jihae Yoon and Hyeju Gang. They are young, easygoing, and typical Koreans. They do not speak English, but with the help of a translation headset, they are not experiencing difficulty understanding the speakers. Wow—this technology, with the help of interpreters, is marvellous! I hope one day St. Stephen will be able to provide this service to our parishioners from the non-English-speaking world.

Jihae and Hyeju told me that before this Pre-Assembly, they did not have a clue what kinds of sexual crimes against women are happening in the world. They've learnt that raising awareness is important: it wakes up the conscience. They now feel they need to take action to rectify injustice against women. They are very grateful that God has given them this wonderful opportunity to participate in the WCC Assembly.

This is a great experience for me in meeting Christians from all over the world. We are different in terms of skin colour, language, customs, cultures, sexual orientation, generation, and gender. Yet when we call Christ our Lord and our Saviour, we are unified in the love of God. This makes us able to extend our power to support and help each other in the name of the loving Lord. This is God's will for us—to become fully human, reflecting God's image in us.

My prayer is with you.

*The Reverend Ka Hyun MacKenzie Shin*

## Believe-it-or-not Facts about the WCC's 10th Assembly in Korea

*(This information is courtesy of Roddy McKenzie, who is in Korea with the Rev. Ka Hyun MacKenzie Shin as Accredited Media of the Anglican Church of Canada.)*

### Who will be there?

- 1,000** Official Delegates from 90% of the WCC's 345 Christian Denominations in 110 countries
- 575** Representatives of non-WCC member Christian churches and other guests
- 1,000** Korean Host Volunteers
- 1,000** International Assembly Participants including hundreds of young people
- 150** Stewards – worldwide young people between 18 and 30 who will give their time and energy to assist the Assembly in its work
- 300** Staff and "Co-opted Staff" invited to assist WCC staff with various tasks at the Assembly
- 130** International Accredited Media and several hundred Korean Media
- 180** Students and faculty from the Global Ecumenical Theological Institute plus students and faculty of the Korean Ecumenical Theological Institute

### What is the 10th WCC assembly theme?

God of Life: Lead Us to Justice and Peace

### What is the World Council of Churches?

The WCC brings together most Protestant Christians, most Orthodox Christians, and the world's 80 million Anglican Christians. The WCC represents 560 million Christians in 110 countries. Roman Catholic Christians do not belong but the Vatican is sending official observers. The total membership of the WCC is 560 million Christians in 110 countries. The WCC's purpose since its founding in 1948 has been to unite all Christians in our one faith and fellowship in Christ.

### What do WCC Assemblies Do?

WCC Assemblies have three purposes:

1. To gather Christian member churches worldwide together to reaffirm and celebrate our common confession of Jesus Christ and to pray together for one Holy, Catholic, Apostolic Church;
2. To receive an accounting of the work of the WCC with its members and its partners in the seven years since the preceding Assembly;
3. As the highest decision-making body of the WCC, to set the WCC Policy and Program Guidelines for the years to come.

### Why is the 10th Assembly of the WCC becoming known as the Praying Assembly?

Events in which everyone present at this Assembly will be praying together include:

- Gathering Prayer on the first day
- Daily Morning Prayers for 30 minutes to commence each day at 8:30 am
- Daily Evening Prayers for 30 minutes to conclude each 12-hour day
- Worship with local congregations
- Taize Prayer under the leadership of the Taize Community of France
- Korean Protestant and Ecumenical Common Prayer
- Closing Prayer on the final day to send everyone into the world filled with the Holy Spirit

### What else is going on at the Assembly?

- 7** Thematic plenary addresses, on the assembly theme, and on the topics of Asia, Mission, Unity, Justice, and Peace
- 21** Ecumenical Conversations
- 6** Assembly Committees
- 21** Bible Study Groups
- 80** Workshops
- 100** Exhibitions

## What is the Berlin to Busan Peace Train?

Something like an Olympic torch relay, this train is compliments of the National Council of Churches in Korea and the Korean Host Committee for the WCC Assembly. Aboard are 130 people representing church and civil society worldwide. The train's route took it

first through eastern Germany and then north to Moscow, where on October 11, 2013 the Russian Orthodox Church organized with it a celebration of "Religious Communities for Peace and Justice." Then it headed east into Siberia to Irkutsk, then on to Beijing. Its grand finale of the tour is Korea: first, the capital city of North Korea, Pyongyang, then the capital city

of South Korea, Seoul, and finally the 10th Assembly of the WCC in South Korea's second largest city, Busan. The Peace Train highlights the worldwide importance of achieving lasting peace on the Korean Peninsula. May all aboard be filled with the Holy Spirit on this most holy of train trips!

*Roddy McKenzie*

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## The African Grandmothers' Tribunal, Sept 7th 2013

During the Thanksgiving season I find myself reflecting on all the things for which I am enormously grateful. This year the impact of the testimonies which were presented on September 7th in the Chan Centre at UBC finds me giving thanks for the bravery, stamina, and self-determination of the African grandmothers who spoke.

With the help of the Stephen Lewis Foundation, using donated Aeroplan miles, five grandmothers and their support workers travelled to this event from their various villages and countries. They were of course exhausted, having spent days travelling to get to Vancouver. But they were determined not to let that hinder the purpose of the trip. They were here to shine light on the situations and conditions under which they find themselves due to the effects of AIDS and the injustices women face.

Having nursed and lost their own children, they have become responsible for the care of their grandchildren, along with other children who have been orphaned. Here in North America, although this would be a difficult task for us grandparents, we have help from our social services, family and pensions.

Those grandmothers told us about the non-existence of social service programs, and the taboos surrounding

individuals who have been associated with AIDS and its victims. Often the death of a husband results in the wife being "inherited" by the husband's brother.

One grandmother, who managed not to contract HIV from her husband, remained determined not to be "inherited" by her AIDS-afflicted brother-in-law. So she was left with no possessions or family support (the culture allows everything to be claimed by the husband's family). She and her six children were "out on their ear" to survive however they were able. Her drive and determination led her through this, as she earned what she could by a variety of means to feed and keep her children, and now her grandchildren, in school.

With the support of the Stephen Lewis Foundation she now also leads programs which help other women who find themselves in the situation of being "inherited". She had, and still has, the strength to "buck the system" and stand up for what she sees as right. I am left in awe of this strength and will to overcome great odds.

The judges were Gloria Steinem, Mary Ellen Turpel-Lafond [B.C. Children's Advocate], Joy Phumaphi [Minister of Health in Botswana] and Theo Sowa [CEO of the African Women's Development Fund]. They were asked "to speak to the remedies that must now

be secured as an urgent priority for the grandmothers at the local, national and international levels."

Quoting from the Tribunal program booklet:

***"African grandmothers deserve better – they deserve justice. The Stephen Lewis Foundation is hosting this peoples' tribunal to shine a public light on the denial of their rights, and to stand with African grandmothers and their organizations as they issue a call for action."***

Let us rejoice in the grandmothers' passion for life and support them all in our prayers.

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## Survey, Survey, Survey!

### Service Time Survey

As you are aware, our service time over the past couple of years, while Rev. Bowie was with us in a shared ministry with St. Margaret's Church, was 11:00 a.m. St. Margaret's worshipped at 9 a.m. and St. Stephen's at 11 in order to give Rev. Bowie time to travel from one church to the other. Since Rev. Bowie left and Revs. Hamblin and MacKenzie Shin came to join us, the question has been asked quite often about returning to the 10:00 a.m. time. Over the summer months we switched to the 10:00 a.m. time slot, and in September/October we circulated a survey to poll the congregation's wishes moving forward. The results of that survey are as follows:

Total number of surveys returned: 34

# for 10:00 a.m.: 19

# for 10:30 a.m.: 8

# for 11:00 a.m.: 7

Thank-you all for taking the time to complete the survey. The results were overwhelmingly in favour of a 10:00 a.m. service. Having reviewed this information, the Parish Council has voted to continue with the 10:00 a.m. service time from now on.

*Valerie Krause, Warden*

### Survey Results for the Sharing of the Peace

On October 6th and 13th, our parishioners were invited to participate in a survey conducted by Colleen Butterley and Elaine Renforth regarding the Exchange of the Peace. We would like to share the survey results with you.

Firstly, 68% of the average Sunday congregation attendance responded to the survey. Comments ranged from "Stay the same, because we talk to each other and get to know them" and "Love it as it is" to the other end of the spectrum, saying, "Right now it gives the impression of kids being let out for recess. Spoils the quiet contemplation of worship, takes a bit to settle down, should be some kind of dignity." Some people also focused on the lack of education of what the Peace actually represents.

For Question #1, "Would you say that on an average Sunday the Peace is chaotic?" 37% said NO and 51% said YES (with 10% having no opinion either way), leaving only a 14% difference. For Question #2, "Would you say that there is too much noise during the Peace?" 46% of respondents said NO and 44% said YES, with 10% having no opinion either way—only a 2% difference. For Question #5, "Would you say some changes should be made to the Exchange of the Peace?" 44% said NO change was needed, and 51% wanted some change, with 5% having no opinion either way. This made a 7% difference between the two. Therefore, with respect to these three questions the congregation is almost equally divided in their opinions. In other words, we are split right down the middle.

This leaves us with the last two questions, numbers 3 and 4.

For Question #3, which asked "Would you say it takes too much time to do the Peace?" 34% said NO and 56% said YES (with 10% having no opinion); therefore 22% more people felt that the Peace was too long. For Question #4, which asked "Would you say that there are too many conversations going on during the Peace?" the exact same percentages occurred, with 34% saying

there were not too many side conversations going on during the Peace and 56% saying that there were too many side conversations going on, with 10% having no opinion either way—again, a 22% difference. This difference is where some change may be warranted.

It is clear from our survey that St. Stephen's, like many other churches, is on the fence as to whether changes should be made to the Exchange of the Peace. However, our data did show that with some slight changes—simple tweaks, really—the Peace could retain much of what people like about it—i.e. the personal connectedness with others, especially with the young children—but still improve the decorum and efficiency of this time-honoured Anglican tradition.

Our analysis of this data brings us to recommend to the Clergy, Parish Council and Congregation of St. Stephen's the implementation of two simple steps which we feel will improve the Exchange of the Peace.

Firstly, some comments were made about the lack of education regarding the significance of the Peace. We recommend that we educate ourselves (see below) about why we Exchange the Peace, and why it is done at that particular time in the service. Our hope is that by doing this, the Peace will be more meaningful to the parishioners, and will therefore be conducted in a more reverent way.

Secondly, a recent filming of the Peace showed that it took four and a half minutes to complete. This was an unremarkable Sunday of our usual congregational numbers; therefore, we suggest that after no more than two minutes, the clergy announce the number of the offertory hymn, at which time the organist will immediately →

→ begin to play, signalling the end of the peace. (It also occurred to us that parishioners could be instructed to stay in their pews and only share the Peace with those in their immediate surroundings; however, we did not feel that parishioners would approve of this change and would thus not comply.)

## Why and How to Exchange the Peace

(from an article by Rev. Michael Fuller which appeared in *The Topic*; edited for brevity)

The tradition of exchanging the Peace gives concrete expression of our sincere desire to love our neighbour. How could we hate our neighbour if we are wishing them divine peace? And so, this exchange of Peace becomes a beautiful expression of supernatural love for one another which opens our hearts to receive more worthily and fruitfully the grace of God. It is a fitting preparation for our approach to the Altar and to Holy Communion. So we are not supposed to approach the Altar unless we are living in basic charity with our neighbour in and out of the Church. If we are holding something against or refusing reconciliation with another person, it's as if we are doing the same thing towards God himself, that person's Creator and Redeemer. So it would be a contradiction to come to receive Holy Communion while at the same time refusing to work for reconciliation and union with our neighbours. The correct procedure is to exchange the Peace by shaking hands with those who are worshipping with you. The only greeting necessary is, 'Peace be with you' or 'The peace of the Lord.'"

(For the full article see *The Topic*, Oct. 2013, p. 15, or [www.vancouver.anglican.ca](http://www.vancouver.anglican.ca))

## ATTENTION ALL PARENTS:

### News from the Children and Youth Ministry

With the start of a new Sunday-school year we are thrilled to have two new teachers—Dave Doherty to assist Wendy Hodgkin with the Pre-school class and Ashley Krause to help teach the Intermediate class. All of our classes this year are using a lectionary-based curriculum, so parents, feel free to discuss the Sunday readings with your young people. We also appreciate the efforts of our clergy Ka Hyun and Gary to adapt their Young People's Time to these themes. The Intermediate children have a new, challenging curriculum which requires them to look up and read Bible verses; they will often come home with activities left to do in their leaflets. These can be a fun way of reviewing the Sunday lesson at home!

We are working to raise the funds we need to support our foster-brother, Leonard-Kim Ndume, in Kenya. We have about \$100 left to raise before the end of the year. Please help your child remember to bring a coin to class. We are also collecting refundable bottles and cans for this project – if you have any around the house, we'd love to see them in the bin right beside the blue recycling box in the hall. We also gladly accept your refund money if you are able to return the bottles and cans yourself. And watch for the poster introducing Leonard-Kim in the church hall.

Some of our special plans for the year:

1. We will be preparing one or two items for the Christmas Eve 7 p.m. service – please plan on being there!
2. We are putting together an occasional Sunday-morning series on "Children and Churches around the World." We have already lined

up presentations on Haiti, Trinidad, and Korea, and are arranging for others. Stay tuned!

3. For Easter, we will be doing a ceramics project with Pauline Doyle, making wall plaques. Mark your calendars for March 30 and April 6!

*Betty Schellenberg*

*Children's Ministry Co-ordinator*

### Christmas Service Schedule

**Dec. 1:** 1st Sunday in Advent - 10 A.M. Family Service with Children's Ministry

**Dec. 8:** 2nd Sunday in Advent - 10 A.M. Family Service with Children's Ministry

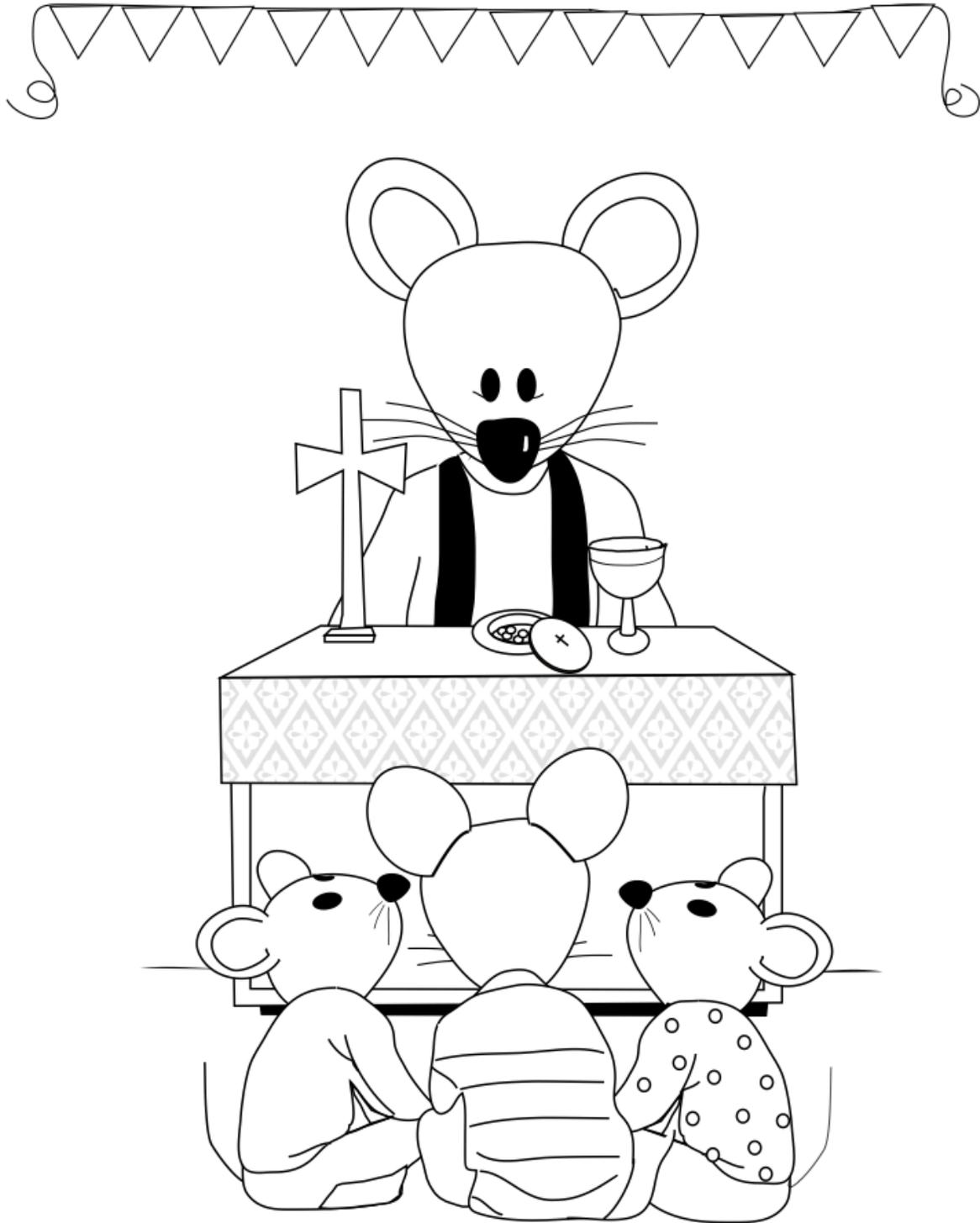
**Dec. 15:** 3rd Sunday in Advent - 10 A.M. Family Service with Children's Ministry

**Dec. 22:** 4th Sunday in Advent - 10 A.M. Service of Readings and Carols

**Tues, Dec. 24:**  
Christmas Eve - 7 P.M.  
Family Service with Christmas Story and Carols  
Christmas Eve - 11 P.M.  
Candlelight Christmas Mass

**Wed, Dec. 25:**  
Christmas Day - 10 A.M.  
Christmas Eucharist with Carols

## Colouring Page for kids



Source: The Compendium of the Church Mice Colouring Book.