



# Cape Neddick Tide

*What's Coming and Going at the Cape Neddick Baptist Church  
December 2018*

Rev. Donna Hailson

[www.cape-neddick-baptist.org](http://www.cape-neddick-baptist.org)

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## **Pastor's Ponderings**

### ***Pastor's Ponderings Where Can I Find Christmas?***

Some years ago, at this time of year, I was in London and one day I decided to go searching for Christmas in that city.

I asked a receptionist for directions to Christmas. With no hesitation, she blurted out one word: "Harrod's." So, I took the Tube—the London underground—to Knightsbridge and made my way out to Brompton Road. Harrods' windows were filled with lots of glitz, lots of bling. Lots of shiny baubles, whatsits and accoutrements.

I found the interior of the store to be equally an assault on the senses: as I entered I was bombarded by scents and scenes, eye candy and ear candy. On the fourth floor, little ones had queued up to visit Father

Christmas, aka Santa, in the Christmas Grotto.

At Harrods, I found a food hall with delicacies from all over the world. I found perfumes and tableware, designer clothing, pricey candles, gold and silver, luxury upon luxury. I even found a walking, snuffling, oinking pink pig. But I didn't find Christmas at Harrods.

I made my way to Covent Garden, pattered around the shops, watched the street entertainers, and felt warmed by the sparkling lights and music of the season. On a brightly lit carousel, I found mothers and fathers riding the horses with their little ones. And, right there, in the middle of this, I found Christmas. I found Christmas with a clown, a bear and a Santa. The three—a woman and two men dressed in costume—stood shivering outside an enormous igloo that had been set up near one of the entrances to the marketplace. It was billed as an Arctic Adventure and, if you

went inside, you could try out a snowboard simulator.

Now why do I say it was here that I found Christmas? Because the clown, the bear and the Santa were there trying to raise money for and awareness of the Demelza House Children's Hospice. The focus of Demelza is adding life to days when days cannot be added to life. I had an opportunity to chat with the clown, the bear and the Santa and discovered it was their faith in Christ that brought them out that night in the cold to do for those in need. From them I received a warm wish for a Happy Christmas and heartfelt hugs and smiles that I know had been placed on their faces by the Lord Jesus Christ.

This year, I won't have to go in search of Christmas. I know just where to go to find it. It's here in our family of faith. I know Christmas is here because of the warmth of our love instilled in us and fanned into flame within us

by the Lord Jesus. I know Christmas is,

Christmas—Navidad, Noel, Natal—is the celebration of Christ's birth, but every year it seems Christmas all around us is becoming more about shopping, the newest fad in lawn decorations and how many parties folks can pack into their already hectic schedules. As Christians, we struggle against this tide of commercialism, reminding ourselves that it's the simple, meaningful traditions that ground us in the season. But every year the tide grows stronger, pulling folks just a bit farther from Jesus—a bit farther from where the focus should be.

There are ways to put Jesus back into the center of Christmas. I'll offer some suggestions, and perhaps you'll come up with some of your own ideas for refocusing the season so it's on the One who began it all.

First, Let Prayer Be Your Gift. Create a prayer calendar as a gift to friends and family. Place the name of dear ones on specific days, for each of the 12 months, so that each has his or her own day of prayer each month. Give copies of the calendar to friends and family for Christmas, along with a letter explaining they will be lifted up in prayer on their designated days.

Second, Let us Appreciate the Work of Others. As we travel about and see homes decorated for Christmas, drop a note in the homeowners' mailboxes saying, "We really enjoy your lights display! Merry Christmas!" You could include our list of Christmas activities and a handwritten invitation on the page to come celebrate with

us. Or perhaps you might think of sending little notes throughout the year to thank those who have blessed you.

Third, Let us Serve Those Who Serve Us. A great way to remember the words of Jesus in Mark 10:45—"Even the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for many"—is to remember those who serve us even on Christmas. As you bake or buy Christmas goodies, make sure there are plenty of extras and put together platters for your local firefighters, police officers, or other civil servants or medical personnel. Dropping off platters on Christmas can brighten the day for many men and women who would rather be home celebrating with their own families.

Fourth, Let us consider what Jesus might want for us in the coming year. As you think about New Year resolutions, dedicate one or more to Jesus, determining in some way to walk closer with Him. This may be a recommitment to holding family devotions or making prayer a regular part of your workday. Look into your heart and listen. You'll hear a symphony of ideas. Choose one as your "gift" to Jesus.

Fifth, Let us consider creating a New Kind of Christmas Tree, a Chrismon or a Jesse tree. Chrismon stands for "Christ monograms" and a Chrismon tree's ornaments are all Christian symbols, without exception. These ornaments help convey the story of Christ through symbols. Common ornaments include a crown of thorns, an Ichthus or Christian fish, a cross, the Star of David, a manger, a lamb and the Greek letters Alpha

and Omega. You might try crafting them with your family. They become a wonderful teaching tool to help family members learn more about Jesus' life and ministry on earth. A Jesse Tree is similar to a Chrismon tree, except that the ornaments represent biblical characters in the lineage of Jesus, as well as events found in the Old Testament. Common symbols include Noah's ark, David's harp, Jacob's ladder and stone tablets. This tree teaches us about the Old Testament and the many years of waiting for the Christ. Just as God's people had to wait patiently for the fulfillment of His promises, family members must also wait for Christmas day to arrive.

Fifth, Let us give the Time We Don't Have. In Matthew 25:40 we read, "Truly, I say to you, as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me." Make it a priority to serve those who are materially "least among us."

Sixth, Let us extend our Christmas traditions to include Epiphany, the arrival of the wise men to worship the baby Jesus. Epiphany is celebrated on January 6th and wonderfully extends the beauty of Christmas into the New Year. We can celebrate this day in our homes by simply saving one Christmas gift to be opened on Epiphany.

Seventh, Let us look for the beauty in an "Ugly Tree." We've probably all come across a "Charlie Brown" tree, a scraggly thing that hangs out in the back of the lot, missing a few branches, not quite symmetric. Perhaps that will be the one to take home this year. Once it's home and decorated it becomes beautiful, simply because it

becomes a Christmas tree. The transformation also reminds us of what happens in our hearts as we accept Christ. Next time round, consider adopting an obviously imperfect tree, and let the beauty of Christmas transform it before your eyes.

Eighth, Let us reach back for today's traditions. As we gather with loved ones for Christmas, let's chat about our traditions and reclaim any that especially speak to our hearts. In our family, traditions include Christmas crackers and the Christmas pickle. If you ask our children what they look forward to, they may tell you it's the cookies or gingerbread display they help make each year..

Finally, let us all—this Christmas—play down Santa and instead play up Jesus. We are all attracted to the glitter of the decorations, but if we look just behind the tinsel we'll find our salvation. And that's truly something worth celebrating. Amen?

Merry Christmas to All!!  
In the love of Christ Jesus, Pastor Donna and the PH, Gene



On November 12th sixty-three shoeboxes began their journeys to children around the world. The purpose of distributing these boxes is to introduce and connect children and their families to the love of Jesus. We will be tracking the final destination of our shoeboxes.

Thank you to all who were able to participate in Samaritan's Purse's Operation Christmas Child through CNBC.



On November 18<sup>th</sup> the Sunday School made twelve loaves of pumpkin bread to be included in the Community Thanksgiving Baskets. It was a labor of love. In addition we helped to label and wrap the other breads which were made by our church family. In total, there were ninety-six loaves of bread made and delivered to YCSA for the Community Thanksgiving baskets. Wow!



We created decorations for our Sanctuary Christmas Tree on Sunday, November 25<sup>th</sup> during the Sunday School hour. And on December 2<sup>nd</sup> we decorated our Sanctuary Christmas Tree with our ornaments, new and old. Now our sanctuary reminds us that the wonderful season of advent is here!



During December the members of our Sunday School will experience new ways to use their gifts and talents during the worship services. We will also be learning about the family names of Jesus to help us see Jesus in a very personal familiar way. Jesus explained God's intentions when He defined His relationship to us as our Brother, our Friend, our Teacher and our Provider. These are great ways to celebrate Christmas in 2018.



Retired  
Ministers &  
Missionaries  
Offering  
2018

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## **nisters and Missionary Offering- During December**

This offering is rooted in thankfulness and honors the individual acts of support and faith that recipients have shown to their congregations and communities. This year's theme, *Extending Our Hands to Our Neighbors* illustrates the importance of being there for one another and remembering we are stronger together than on our own is central to the Christian faith.



### **A Cup of Friendship**

Coffee & Friends the Perfect Blend

What better way to enter into the advent season, than with each other!

All Women of the church are invited, & encouraged to bring a friend, plus your favorite Bible verse.

Please come to enjoy the morning with old and new friends

**Tuesday, December 11, 10-12**

Pam Trafton's home  
20 Hutchins Lane,  
Cape Neddick. 363-3051

### **Faith Crafting**



On November 28<sup>th</sup> a group of women gathered for Faith Crafting and made over 30 cards to be donated to York Community Services.



### **Birthday and Anniversary**

sheets are on the back table. If there is anyone interested in having their name added to the sheets, please call. Betty Lovering. 207 363 8009

**From the Heart** December 4 & 5, 6:45-9:00 PM. Bethany Church, 500 Breakfast Hill Rd., Greenland, NH

Guest Speaker will be Melanie Shankle, author of "Antelope in the Living Room" and "Sparkly Green Earrings". Come and enjoy refreshments and a wonderful time! Tickets are \$10.00. 603-431-3646  
[bethanychurch.com](http://bethanychurch.com)



# Advent Schedule

## Our Nativity Float in the Festival of Lights Parade



December 1 in York

The parade starts at Axholme Road and ends at the Village Elementary School.



## A Cup of Friendship

*Coffee & Friends, the Perfect Blend*

All women of the church are invited and encouraged to bring a friend—or two—plus one of your favorite Bible verses. Tuesday, December 11, 10-12 at the home of Pam Trafton, 20 Hutchins Lane, Cape Neddick. RSVP: 207.363.3051

## Advent Season Worship at 10:15 a.m.



Sunday, December 2 ~ “Hope Fulfilled”

Sunday, December 9 ~ “Prepare the Way”

Sunday, December 16 ~ “Joy to the World”

Sunday, December 23 ~ “The Light”

## Caroling in the



in

## Community

Saturday, December 16. Meet at the CNBC at 1 p.m. We will be singing at Sentry Hill, Durgin Pines, and other locations. Returning to the church building for cookies and hot cocoa.

## An Evening of Lessons and Carols



Christmas Eve,  
December 24 at 7 p.m



## Holiday Potluck Luncheon

December 9, following the worship service. Bring your favorite salad, hot dish or dessert. Cider and coffee will be available. The event

will feature special Christmas activities.