Churches celebrate Christmas with pageants, hymns, carols

By Frances Niblock

With homemade mangers and Christmas pageants, soaring hymns and quiet carols, Acton Christians will celebrate the birth of Christ with prayer and music this holiday season.

At Bethel Christian Reformed Church, a candlelight service with a dramatic presentation called Angels - Heralds of Hope is slated for 6:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

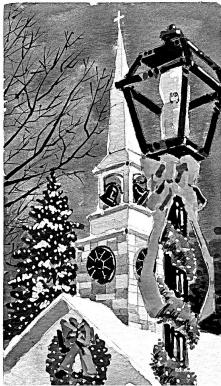
"It will be a very full celebration with different music, solos and groups sharing in song," Pastor Ray Vander Kooij said, adding the Christmas Day worship service is at 10 a.m., and his message is Good News for the Flock.

On Sunday, December 31, the CRC is holding a family New Year's Eve service at 6:30 p.m.

At Knox Presbyterian Church, where members enjoyed pre-Christmas carols and cider and a Sunday school pageant, the Christmas Eve family service with the Reverend Pieter van Harten is at 7:30 p.m.

On Christmas Day, at 10 a.m., traditionally a small group gathers for Knox's Communion ser-

With no service on Christmas Day, December 24 is going to be a very busy day at Trinity United Church where the Reverend Deborah McKellar will lead services at



10 a.m., 7:30 p.m. and 11 p.m.

Trinity will hold its usual 10 a.m. service on Sunday, and a family service with carol singing and story telling, at 7:30 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

At 11 p.m. on Christmas Eve there will be candlelight and Communion service, a more quiet and meditative service.

On December 31 at 10 a.m., Trinity member Keith Black will lead the New Year's service.

At St. Joseph Catholic Church, Father Bob Bulbrook will officiate at masses on Saturday night, and on Christmas Eve at 5 p.m., 7 p.m. and at midnight.

Normally, children of the parish attend the 5 p.m. family service on December 24, and caroling begins at 11:30 p.m., before the midnight mass.

On Christmas Day, mass is scheduled for 11 a.m.

The Acton corps of the Salvation Army will celebrate Christmas with services at 11 a.m. on December 24, and a candlelight service - usually a full house – at 6:30 p.m.

On December 31, there are services at 11 a.m., and a New Year's

Watch-Night service at 11 p.m.

p.m., and the traditional Christmas service is at 11 p.m.

There will be a regular Sunday worship service at 10:30 a.m. on December 24 at Evangel Family church.

The 6:30 p.m. candlelight service will feature carols, children's stories and the message of Jesus'

On December 31 the church says good bye to pastor Wil Sloos at a fellowship luncheon following the 10:30 a.m., service

There are three services scheduled on December 24 at St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, where Cannon Mark Miller invites everyone to attend. The 5 p.m. service is a children's service, the family service is at 7:30

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The Birth of Jesus, Luke 2 (NPV) 1In those days Caesar Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire Roman world. 2(This was the first census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) 3 And everyor vent to his own town to register. 4So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Salilee to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the house and line of David. 5 He vent there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be married to him and was expecting a child. 6While they were there, the time came for the baby to be born, 7and she gave birth to her firstborn, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there vas no room for them in the inn.

The Catholic Christian Community of St. Joseph's Parish, Acton, prays that you have a happy and holy Christmas.

Christmas Masses:

Sunday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) at 5 p.m., 7 p.m., and 12 midnight.

Monday, December 25 (Christmas Day) at 11a.m



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Wishes Everyone A Merry Christmas & A Happy New Year!