

# Churches welcome 'Christmas Christians'...

Continued from page 1  
accomplish His mighty purposes. Little is much when God is in it."

At the Salvation Army's Acton Corps carols, readings and special music will be the focus of a family Candlelight

Service on December 24 at 6:30 p.m.

"We often get a full house and we're happy to see them," said Captain Dean Locke, adding the next service is Sunday, December 28 at 11 a.m.

At Trinity United Church, the interim transitional minister, Reverend Phil Rodgers will lead the congregation in

two services on Christmas Eve, a family-oriented service at 7 p.m., and a Communion and carol sing at 10 p.m.

"The family service at 5 p.m., will include an impromptu nativity scene - a "tableau" is what its called," said Reverend Rodgers, adding they will have living charters dressed as shepherds, angels and Mary and

Joseph.

"It's just the way of setting the scene for the nativity - its very audience participating," Rev. Rodgers said, adding the 10 p.m. service will be a traditional Communion service.

Rev. Rodgers said Trinity has seen an increase of 25 to 30 per cent in attendance at services during the Advent season.

"We have registered concern right from the get go that we need to have more people in our pews - it would be heartening if we could hang on to some of those folks that were here prior to Christmas - then we'd all be happy and they'd be happy too."

Knox Presbyterian Church I anticipating a large crowd at its family service at 7 p.m. on Christmas Eve. There will be meditations and scripture readings with corresponding

Ending Christmas carols. On Christmas Day, Knox will hold a Communion service at 10:30 a.m. All are welcome at both services.

At St. Joseph Catholic Church, the Christmas Eve masses are at 5 p.m., 7 p.m.

and midnight. On Christmas Day, mass is at 11 a.m. and on December 31 at 5 p.m. On New Year's Day there are masses scheduled for 9 a.m. and 11 a.m.

Father Bob Bulbrook said he does not doesn't find "Christmas Christians" who only attend church on holy days disconcerting.

"I find it hopeful - the invitation that I sometimes give is that 'I'm glad you've come home for Christmas and I hope you come home more often.'" I find it hopeful because at least it means they are hanging onto to something," Father Bulbrook said.

"The other things that draws people to church on Christmas is that we think of God the Almighty and all powerful and awesome and that's true. But at Christmas he comes to us as a baby and God comes in smallness and gentleness and that attracts people."

At St. Alban the Martyr Anglican Church, there are three services scheduled for Christmas Even, including a children's service at 5 p.m., a

family service at 7 p.m., and a traditional service at 11 p.m.

The congregation of Evangel Family Church will celebrate with a family candlelight service on Christmas Even featuring lots of music and readings, The church will hold a regular Sunday service on December 28 at 10:30 a.m.

Some Acton churches did not respond to a request for information on Christmas services.



### Damage to Property

A mother and her two children were beyond startled on December 18 at 9:45 pm, a large piece of ice was thrown through their front window, out of the blue. There are no suspects to the tis crime. Damage is estimated at \$2,000.

### Not a Merry Christmas

Police were called to an Acton residence in the early a.m. of December 20 for an altercation between a husband and wife. Following their investigation, police have charged the 31-year old Acton male with 2 counts of assault, 2 counts of uttering threats, 1 charge of assault with a weapon (baseball bat), 1 count of mischief to property (a motor vehicle), and forcible confinement. The female victim had no injuries.




### Good news

I was delighted to read such a positive front page story in this week's issue. Kudos to The Tanner for choosing to highlight the good economic news that our local merchants are having a good Christmas season. I expect that more people are choosing to shop locally. I know I have been. We need to support the people who provide the goods and services we need and want so close to home

Merry Christmas  
Helen MacCormack



**SEASON'S GREETINGS**



During this holiday season and every day of the year, we wish you all the best.

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