

Religious Service Directory

Christmas Mistake - by Carol Chand

Each December, I vowed to make Christmas a calm and peaceful experience. I had cut back on nonessential obligations - extensive card writing, endless baking, decorating and even overspending. Yet still, I found myself exhausted, unable to appreciate the precious family moments, and of course, the true meaning of Christmas.

My son, Nicholas was in kindergarten that year. It was an exciting season for a six year old. For weeks, he'd been memorizing songs for his school's "Winter Pageant." I didn't have the heart to tell him I'd be working the night of the production. Unwilling to miss his shining moment, I spoke with his teacher. She assured me there'd be a dress rehearsal the morning of the presentation. All parents unable to attend that evening were welcome to come then. Fortunately, Nicholas seemed happy with the compromise.

So, the morning of the dress rehearsal, I filed in ten minutes early, found a spot, on the cafeteria floor and sat down. Around the room, I saw several other parents quietly scampering to their seats. As I waited, the students were led

into the room. Each class, accompanied by their teacher, sat cross-legged on the floor.

Then, each group, one by one, rose to perform their song. Because the public school system had long stopped referring to the holiday as "Christmas," I didn't expect anything other than fun, commercial entertainment - songs of reindeer, Santa Claus, snowflakes and good cheer. So, when my son's class rose to sing, "Christmas Love," I was slightly taken aback by its bold title. Nicholas was aglow, as were all of his classmates, adorned in fuzzy mittens, red sweaters, and bright snowcaps upon their heads.

Those in the front row-centre stage - held up large letters, one by one, to spell out the title of the song. As the class would sing "C is for Christmas," a child would hold up the letter C. Then, "H is for Happy," and on and on, until each child holding up his portion had presented the complete message, "Christmas Love." The performance was going smoothly, until suddenly, we noticed her; a small quiet girl in the front row holding the letter "M" upside

down - totally unaware her letter "M" appeared as a "W." The audience of 1st through 6th graders snickered at this little one's mistake. But she had no idea they were laughing at her, so she stood tall, proudly holding her "W."

Although many teachers tried to shush the children, the laughter continued until the last letter was raised, and we all saw it together. A hush came over the audience and eyes began to widen. In that instant, we understood - the rea-

son we were there, why we celebrated the holiday in the first place, why even in the chaos - there was a purpose for our festivities. For when the last letter was held high, the message read loud and clear:

"CHRISTWAS LOVE"

And, I believe, He still is.

Submitted by Reverend Dan Rogge, Senior Pastor of New Life Church, Milton

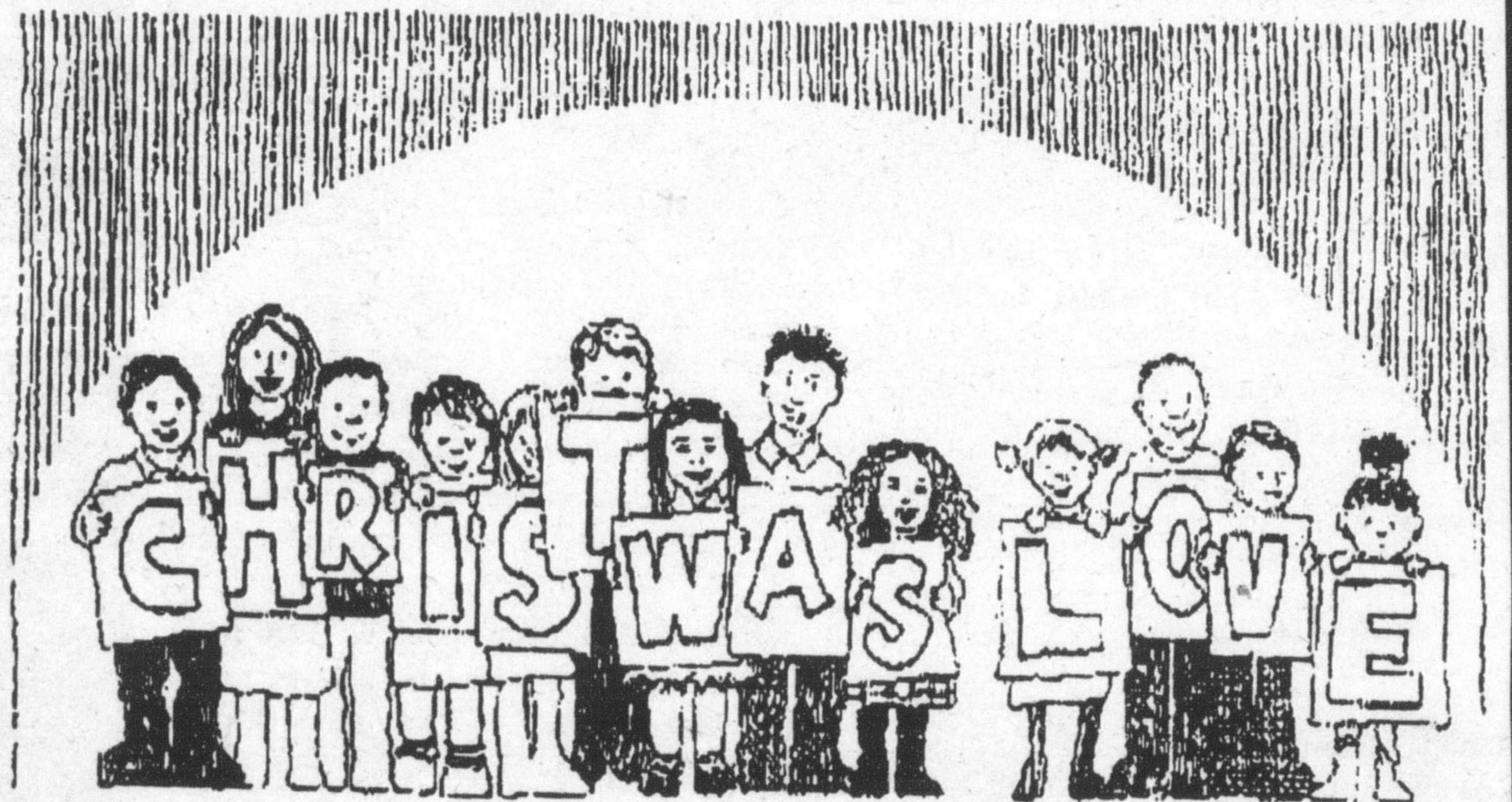


Illustration by Carol Cuatt

St. George's Anglican Church, Lowville
 7051 Guelph Line, just north of Derry Road
Sunday, January 4, 2004
CHRISTMAS 2
 8:30 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. Holy Communion
 10:30 a.m. - Family Service in the Auditorium
 Sunday School and Nursery provided
 For more information call the church office 905-878-1363
Rector: The Reverend Canon Charlie Masters
 Visit our Websites
www.stgeorgeslowville.org and www.rflweb.com

You're Invited to...
Milton Bible Church!
 Sundays @
Milton District High School
 395 Williams Ave. at Commercial St.
 10:30 AM Coffee & Conversation
 11:00 AM Worship Service
 Children's program running concurrently
www.MiltonBibleChurch.ca
 Look to the 200 Main St. Opening!
 905-876-3586

To Advertise in the Church Directory please call **Colleen Gorman** at 905-878-2341 ext. 228



KNOX PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
WELCOMES YOU
 170 Main St. E., Milton 905-878-6066
 Minister - Rev. Joseph Gray
 Director of Music & Children's Ministries - Sonja van de Hoef
Sunday Worship 10:30 a.m.
 Nursery
 Youth Class Grades 7-12: 9:30 a.m.
 Sunday School Age 3 - Grade 6: 10:30 a.m.
"Called to Serve the Lord"
 Wheelchair access and washrooms provided so that all may come and worship.
 Access off Mary St.

NEW LIFE
 824 THOMPSON RD. S., MILTON
 "Only 1/2 km South of Derry Road"
 Phone: (905) 878-3358
 Church Affiliated with the Pentecostal Assemblies of Canada
 Senior Pastor **Rev. Dan Rogge**
 Children **Mrs. Natalie Rogge**
 Assistant/Worship **Mrs. Esther Kessler**
 Youth/Outreach **Mr. Tim Stevens**

9 a.m. - Early Worship Service
 9:30 a.m. - Sunday School for All Ages
 10:45 a.m. - Second Worship Service
TAKE AWAY THE TINSEL WHAT'S LEFT?

Supervised Nursery & Dynamic Children's Programs available during all services!

CC CAPTIONING PROVIDED FOR DEAF/HARD OF HEARING EVERY SUNDAY AT 10:45 AM

NEW YEARS EVE CALENDAR
 Make it a Night to Remember!
 7 p.m. - Year-end Reflections
 Family-Friendly Service Begins
 8 p.m. - 2Spys Youth Depart
 Head out to Playdium, Skating, Football, Pizza Bash - All welcome
 9 p.m. - Finger Food Social
 Website: www.newlife-milton.org

Wheelchair Access Through Parking
"ENLARGE YOUR CIRCLE OF LOVE"

SOUTHSIDE COMMUNITY CHURCH
 2850 DERRY RD.
 Phone 905-878-5664
 PASTOR OF YOUTH MINISTRIES - JACK NINABER
Sunday Ministries:
 Please note that there will not be any Children's Sunday School or Adult Bible Class this week. Both will resume next Sunday, Jan. 4th
 10:30 am - Church Service -
How to score a goal! - Jack Ninaber
Southside Youth - are enjoying their Christmas break but resume again in the New Year
Safari (for grades 6-8) at 6:30 p.m. on Tues. nights, starting Jan. 6
Jungle (for grades 9-12) at 7:00 p.m. on Wed. nights, starting Jan. 7.

GRACE ANGLICAN CHURCH
 Clergy: **Rev. Dr. Mark McDermott**
 Rev. Amy Cousineau
 Rev. Carole Langlotz
 317 Main St. E., Milton
 the Church on the Hill
 905-878-2411
KIDS' SPIRIT
 Sundays at 10 am

Services
 Sun. 8:00 - Holy Communion
 10:00 - Sung Eucharist followed by coffee hour
 Thurs. 10:00 Holy Communion followed by Tea and Sharing
 Wheelchair Access Through Parking
www.gracechurchmilton.com

MILTON GOSPEL HALL
 306 Ontario St. N. • 878-3873
 10:00 a.m. - The Lord's Supper
 11:45 a.m. - Sunday School
 6:30 p.m. - Gospel Service
 Wednesday 7:30 p.m.
 Prayer and Bible Study
 Behold the Lamb of God which taketh away the sin of the world.
 John 1.29

We welcome you to...
ST. PAUL'S UNITED CHURCH
 123 Main St. E., Milton
 Sun. Dec. 28 10:30 a.m.
INTERGENERATIONAL WORSHIP
 Worship supported by music from the St. Paul's Choir
 Nursery available for babies & toddlers
 Wed. Dec 31 6:00 pm
NEW YEAR'S EVE PRAISE SERVICE
 supported by music from the St. Paul's Worship Band
 Rev. John Benham & Rev. Gerry Hofstetter
 Church office: (905) 878-8895
www.stpaulsmilton.org

Milton Baptist Church
 900 Nipissing Rd.
 (905) 875-1626
 9:45 am Sunday School
Special Birthday Party Celebration
 11:00 am Worship Service
 Choir Cantata
The Promise of a King
 Everyone Welcome!
 Rev. Greg Macaulay - B.A., M.Div.

GRACEWAY BAPTIST CHURCH
 103 Martin Street
 905-878-1629
 Pastor Walter H. Isaak
Services
 Sun. 10:30 am
 Sunday Morning Service (for this week only)
 Wed 7:00 pm
 New Year's Eve Service
"You'll always find a friend at Graceway"
www.gracewaybaptist.org