

What do you seek to 'Resolve' in 2016?

Some people don't like the idea of New Year's resolutions. We often only use the word in the context of this season, but "resolution" is a nuanced noun. Some of its definitions include:

- *A firm decision to do or not to do something*
- *The quality of being determined or resolute*— see also: determination, purpose, steadfastness, perseverance, tenacity, tenaciousness, staying power, dedication, commitment, stubbornness, boldness, spiritedness, bravery, courage, pluck, grit.
- *The action of solving a problem, dispute, or contentious matter*— solution to, settlement of, conclusion to, e.g. "the peaceful resolution of all disputes."

In a world of seemingly endless conflicts, I sure like the sound of that. We need more of all of these qualities just now. All three meanings of resolution are wonderfully attractive to me — and timely for this brand new

So, here are 10 *resolutions* for 2016:

1. Love God

We can't really love anyone if we don't spend time with them. Take the time this year to be quiet and listen to God in prayer. My dad's old Bible, which I got to keep when he died, is full of multi-colored notes underlining the text, from his reading of it literally every day — every day for me too this year.

2. Extend who our neighbors are; whom we are also called to love.

When Jesus was asked, "Who is my neighbour,?" he told people to reach beyond themselves, their natural groups, and their regular boundaries to the neighbours who were further away from them, especially to those who are in most trouble. My mother's two instructions to us were always clear: If there is a kid on the playground that nobody else is playing with, you play with them. And if there is a bully picking on other kids, you stand up to him. Okay, Mom.

3. Love hardest those who are the closest.

The relationships that will bring us most joy and sorrow are inside our inner circle that we are most responsible for. Our wives, husbands, partners; dearest friends; and, especially, our children must be the first priority, the first claim on our lives and time. Whoever or whatever else we are or will ever be — to them we are really only dad or mom.

4. Build racial bridges.

We are at a crisis point — and a point of great opportunity to heal wounds and move racial justice forward. It's time to help lead America into its diverse and changing-demographic future.

5. Always Ask, "What does this mean for the poor and vulnerable?"

What happens to these members of society is a chief criterion for God's judgment on a nation's righteousness and our own integrity. So that must be the first question of every public policy debate this year, and we must be the ones to raise it.

6. Support and empower women and girls.

This half of God's children not only bears the brunt of the world's injustice and conflicts, but is absolutely essential to their resolutions. The most repressive hierarchies fear the education of girls above all else.

7. Stand up for the reality of climate change.

If we say we love God and care for God's creation, it is time to raise our voices over the crisis of climate change. It's time to start turning around, and we must begin to do that.

8. Question every act of war.

Peacemaking is not finding another war to win, but getting underneath the conflicts to their causes. We must question each escalation of war and continue to ask our leaders why this keeps happening.

9. Practice presence.

Spend less time with screens and more with books, less time with complaining and more with solving, less time with arguing and more with listening, less time with shopping and more time with being thankful, less time with worrying and more with exercising, less time obsessing about food and more time eating well, less time planning and more time doing, less time scheduling and more time living one day at a time.

10. Embrace hope and joy.

Try to replace disappointment and despair with hope — not as a feeling but as a decision. Try to replace anxiety with joy — which means to be open to all the surprises, blessings, and gifts that we can't control but are offered by God and the people God surrounds us with, if we are paying attention.

-Jim Wallis of Sojourner's (via Esther Weiler, thank you)



This Week at Inca



Refugee Sponsorship –

If you would like to support the Diocese of Niagara 140th Anniversary Campaign, envelopes are available on the greeter's table. Also, below is a template of a letter you may wish to use to solicit support from people around you- friends, family, colleagues

Dear Friends and Family,

As you know, the global refugee crisis is at historical proportions. My church, Church of the Incarnation, is stepping up and has made an application to sponsor a refugee family and then assist them in getting re-settled somewhere here in southern Ontario. We need to fund raise approximately \$25,000 to privately sponsor a family or 4-5 people and to date, without much effort we have raised about \$3000. This application is not associated with the 25,000 refugees that the Federal Government has committed to bringing in. We expect our application to take about 12 to 16 months. We will certainly keep you informed as we move through this process

If you have ever wondered how you personally can help a refugee family that is in need of a home, please consider making a tax-deductible donation to my church, Church of the Incarnation. Every little bit helps! I will be collecting cheques made out to "Church of the Incarnation" between now and February 14, 2016. Please write, "Refugee Fund" in the notes section of your cheque.

Please contact me if you need any more information.

Thank you for your consideration and support.

INCA NEWS

Parish Council Meeting

Sunday, January 24 after the 10 o'clock service.

Please send your reports to Jim Stevens before Friday at 5pm

Vestry Meeting

Sunday February 7, 2016

Reports must be sent to the office by January 20th



For Social Justice and
the Environment

Oakville Book Reading Club for the Environment and Social Justice, January 14 2016

This club has been formed to encourage people to read books that deal with some of the most important issues of the day and then come together to discuss the subject matter of these books. We will meet in the Chapel for five consecutive Thursdays beginning on January 14 2016, from 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm. Contact Mervyn Russell for more information mervicia@gmail.com



Youth Group Events- for info contact Phil Carver at incayouthprogram@gmail.com

Sunday, January 10 following worship approx 11:30 to 1 pm

Thanks to all who have been participating and building this group. Let's keep the energy going - Bring your ideas and enthusiasm!



Choir Practice –

The choir rehearses every Wednesday at 7:30. Share your voice, all welcome.

No Choir practice on January 27



Contemplative Fire Service – Sunday, January 17, 8:00pm.

Are you looking for time to reflect, meditate and recharge your spiritual life? Each meeting begins with a communal sharing of food followed by quiet and intentional reflection in the gathering area. The response to this service has been very encouraging. We continue to see new faces at each meeting and look forward to growing this community.

For more information, please speak to Michael. All are welcome.



Wing and a Prayer – January 21, 2016!

We meet at 6:30pm at Monaghan's. Cost: \$25 per person including food and drink. RSVP Rob Moniuk (Robert@Moniuk.ca).

Everyone is welcome!

Community News



St. Jude's Celebration of the Arts Concert
Saturday, January 30, 8:00pm
 "In Praise of Holier Women" performed by Schola Magdalena. Tickets \$30 from www.OakvilleConcerts.com or 905-844-3972



Halton Green Screens at FILM.CA cinemas
 7pm, second Thursday of the month
Jan 14 - *The True Cost* - who really pays the price for our clothing
Feb 11 - *Blackfish* - the story of a killer whale who killed several people while in custody
Mar 10 - *Bottled Life* - the truth about Nestle's business with water

This & That



Volunteering - needed for altar prep, greeters, hosts and coffee preparation. Youth can gain some volunteer high school hours. Training will be provided.
 Contact Claudine Boulert, at boulert@rogers.com for more information, or call 905-825-2851.



Changes to Order of Service or Bulletin News - Any changes need to be sent to the office by Tuesday, noon. office@incarnationchurch.ca
Nametags let people know who you are and make it helpful for people to put names to faces, especially for newcomers



Receiving Communion
 All people at Incarnation are invited to receive the bread and wine at communion. The bread is received from the priest who stands between the servers who offer wine from the common cup; choose whatever side is free. You may choose to receive from an individual wine cups available to the left of the altar. Take one, consume the wine and replace the empty cup in the same spot. We hope this provides an inclusive approach to communion whereALL are welcome.

| VOLUNTEER! | January 10 | January 17 |
|---------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Bread Making | L. Hickey | A. Moniuk |
| Altar Prep | M. Stevens | J. Lockhart |
| Coffee | L. Jenkins | Adensamer |
| Coffee | L. Hickey | J. Vanderwater |
| Host | E. Lee | F. Berrizbeitia |
| Reader 1 | G. Hughes | E. Lee |
| Gospel | J. Grieve | J. Bowden |
| Prayers | D. Weiler | L. Hickey |
| Server 1 | L. Hickey | P. Moffat |
| Server 2 | P. Moffat | T. Burk |
| Wine Cups | C. Boulert | Z. Boulert |
| Counting | M. Thompson | P. Moffat |