



4 What Happens Here
Doesn't Stay Here
"Acceptance"
Rev. Dr. Jeremy Mahood
November 6 2016

1. Share a time in your life when you felt accepted or rejected. What were the circumstances that contributed to those feelings? What does it feel like to be accepted? What does it feel like to be rejected?
2. One of the characteristics of people of faith is that they have learned how to accept people without necessarily always agreeing with the person. Why do you think that it is important that people feel accepted before you share the gospel with them?
3. Give an example from scripture where Jesus built a relationship with a person before he spoke, instructed them, or corrected them or even encouraged them. (See John 4 or John 8 for examples)
4. Read Luke 19:1-10
 - a. How is the story of Zacchaeus an illustration of relationship building prior to faith sharing?
5. Based on the idea of building relationships and then waiting for God given opportunities to share our faith journey, comment on the following statement, *"People don't care how much you know, until they know how much you care"*.
6. Our model for accepting people the way they are comes from God himself. We can't divorce the FACT that he accepted us from the WAY that he accepted us. Let's examine how God has accepted us in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Discuss each of the verses below, including how they can be our guide for accepting others.
Romans 5:8; Romans 3:11; Romans 5:10; Luke 15:4; John 6:37
7. Read 1 Corinthians 3:7-7
 - a. In light of this scripture discuss this statement, *"Our job is not to change someone's life, but to have an environment where that change becomes possible"*
 - b. In what ways can you see this shift in attitude setting you free to truly love people and be more compassionate?
8. Read Romans 5:17
 - a. How do you think God is glorified when we accept people the way Christ accepted us?

9. A SERIOUS QUESTION: Do you believe that each person born in our world should have the right to live with dignity, respect, and the right to live free from oppression?
 - a. As you discuss this question discuss the attitudes that we must develop to make this true in our church and then in our communities.

10. Read John 13:34-35
 - a. How can learning to accept people just the way they are, help us fulfill this commandment of Christ?
 - b. Who do you find it hard to accept unconditionally? What types or groups of people do you find difficult to love?
 - c. Would you be willing to begin to pray for that person or group? God changes our hearts as we pray.

CHRISTMAS AT ALL NATIONS

YOU CAN HELP SOMEONE IN NEED THIS CHRISTMAS

1. Hats and Mittens are needed for the students at Queen Elizabeth public school. There are 194 students there, JK – Grade 6. Please bring gently used or new items to church.
2. BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS: we have a number of teenagers that need our help this Christmas. Their names are on the Gift Tree in the Courtyard. You may brighten a teenager's life this Christmas. Your gifts can come in back packs, gift bags, shoe boxes or purses. Please also enclose something of an inspirational nature. These must be returned by Sunday Dec. 4th.
3. THE GREAT CHRISTMAS OFFERING. Here is advanced notice of our Christmas offering. You will receive a letter in the mail shortly. We have a new and exciting project to help the homeless in the downtown core. We are partnering with three other churches and the Social Planning Council. Watch for it!!

CONCERTS:

Wednesday NOVEMBER 30th 7 p.m., **THE ENNIS SISTERS** national Christmas Tour comes to ANC. Down East folk and Celtic music at its best.
Tickets at the giving centre (\$25.00 cash only)

Sunday night DECEMBER 5th the **HEART AND SOUL** 21st Annual Christmas Concert. Whether singing accompanied or a capella, this fourteen member vocal group has a song repertoire ranging from sacred to secular, classical to contemporary, including jazz, pop, rock & folk. They will be joined this year by guest musicians Iona Reed (piano) and Jack Broumpton (percussion). Heart & Soul has raised funds to help a variety of outreach and non-profit organizations in this community and around the world. General admission \$25.

Sunday morning 10 am DECEMBER 18th **THE CHRISTMAS GALA:** invite your friends, a free gift to our community with a reception to follow.

DECEMBER 20-24th 7:30 each night **LIVING NATIVITY** outside at Science North