



The Grapevine

I am the vine, you are the branches. Those who abide in me and I in them bear much fruit, because apart from me you can do nothing. John 15:5

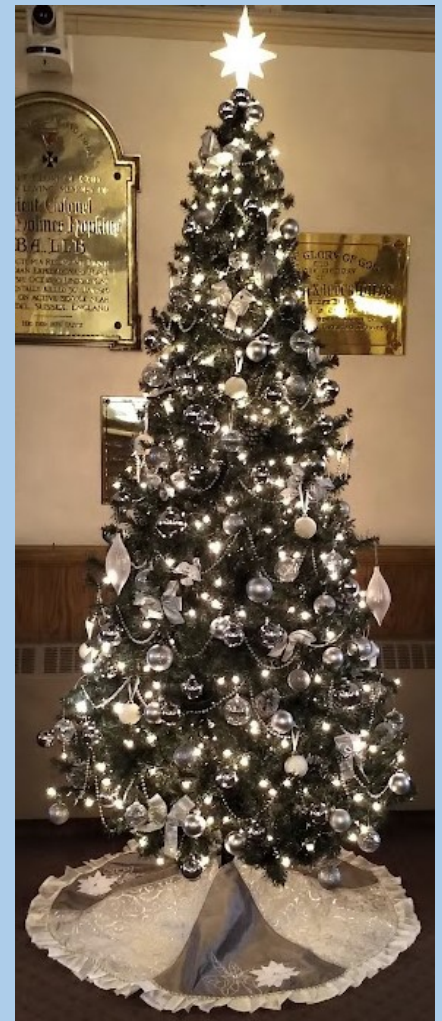
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ADVENT/CHRISTMAS ISSUE NO. 105 DECEMBER 2023



Have a peaceful Advent, a joyous Christmas,
and a blessed New Year!





This Advent our annual study revolves around the book Advent in Narnia: Reflections for the Season. This is based upon C. S. Lewis' "Chronicles of Narnia", which I first encountered at the tender age of nine. I have "visited" Narnia many times since then and am always in awe of the lion, Aslan, who represents Jesus.

Time and again I have spent many moments contemplating one line in particular. It occurs as the two heroines, Susan and Lucy, speak with Mr. Beaver about Aslan's return. They have questions about Aslan and if he is safe. Mr. Beaver responds, "Who said anything about safe? 'Course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's the King, I tell you."

Over the years, as my own spirit has matured, I have come to realize the truth about this response. Following Jesus' lead is just about the least "safe" thing that one can do. It often leads us outside of our comfort zone and stretches us in ways that expand our heart, our spirit and our mind. Esteemed Civil Rights leader, John Lewis once said, "Speak up, speak out, get in the way. Get in good trouble, necessary trouble". As a Baptist minister, and peer of Billy Graham and Martin Luther King Jr., Mr. Lewis knew a thing or two about Jesus and what being a follower of Christ called us to do and to be.

As we turn our thoughts to Christmas, there can be no doubt that Mary & Joseph, arguably the first Christians, experienced trouble which began shortly after the angel Gabriel's visit. A young teen girl, pregnant out of wedlock and a fiancé who's wondering what to do with her is the start of the troubles, and as we know, it only gets worse as they eventually find themselves far from home with nowhere to go and the baby on its way. While there is no doubt that the birth of the Christ-child was a magnificent scene lauded by heavenly angels and lowly shepherds alike, it is good for us to remember that disruption began even before the Prince of Peace entered our world. No one can change the world in the way that Jesus changed the world without causing some disruption, some trouble to the old ways of doing and being. That tiny infant in the manger turned the whole world upside down and this is what we celebrate; the "good trouble" that he brought with him culminated in our redemption and salvation. Alleluia!

This Advent & Christmas, I encourage you to follow Jesus outside of your comfort zone and into "good trouble". Reach out to the poor, the lonely, the sick, the hungry in ways that you may not have done before. In these difficult times, even a small action, like a smile, can have a great impact on another's life. Take time to reflect upon our Advent and Christmas readings and notice if something new is revealed to you this year. Pray for Holy Spirit to show you how you can help others, in small ways and large, and be open to the leading of the Spirit.

My prayer for you is that God may richly bless you during this special season in unexpected ways.
In Christian love, Rev. Bonnie



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Sunday, Dec. 10, 2023
2:30 - 5pm

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Recital Only: \$10

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Pianist Myrna Sloboda!



Christmas Tea: 2:30pm

Carol Sing: 3:30pm

Myrna Sloboda

Organ Recital: 4:00pm

Alex Ripley



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Updated Dec. 2023

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The Canon's Corner: The Rev. Canon Greg Physick Dec. '23



Isaiah 40:3 In the wilderness prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.

The carnage of war fills our news, along with the looks of many who find no room in the inn, and stories of overburdened food banks. A fatigue can settle in for so much can feel overwhelming. Still the ancient words come forth: prepare the way.... Make straight in the desert a highway... Words from Ecclesiastes often whisper in my mind. "There is nothing new under the sun." John the Baptist, his cousin Jesus and the others, lived under a foreign regime and many hardships. John spoke to a people who looked for light in the darkness, hope in their time of despair. He spoke of the one who was to come. John spoke of not just any 'way' or 'highway' but "the way of the Lord... a highway for our God.": Images from Isaiah, writing in a time of war and the Babylonian exile. Isaiah and later John spoke of hope in broken times. And hope walked in the wilderness, in the person of Jesus Christ.

We too have our own desert moments--wilderness moments. The ancient words are heard each Advent. Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God. We listen, watch, agonize and yes, pray to understand what it means for each of us to 'prepare the way', to 'make straight in the desert a highway'. We are called to be faithful even when there is so much chaos. Where is God in all of this? In this season of wonder and expectation, may we do what we are able to prepare the way, to lesson the twists and turns of God's highway, that God's grace, love and wonder may not be met with those turns and bends that can cause one to waver and lose hope as they shout out: 'How long, O Lord, how long?'

Again the news comes forth: Onto the paths of our challenges, into our desert and wilderness moments, Jesus Christ comes, as he did in that Judean wilderness, with purpose and intent. He would call the people to walk with him, to be witnesses of God's love and care. They discovered such in their time as we must in ours. Christ comes again, for we give birth to him anew in our deeds and words.

Anglican priest Herbert O'Driscoll wrote this almost 25 years ago: "the atmosphere of our time is full of the sense of enormous changes....We feel helpless in the face of this great transition from a known past to an unknown and rather intimidating future. John told people that they had to get ready to live in a very different kind of world. So it is for us..."

Yes, nothing new under the sun. In the chaos of this time, still the message goes forth: *prepare the way of the Lord, make straight in the desert a highway for our God.*

Pax

Canon Greg



PHOTOS FROM THE MYSTERY DINNER THEATRE!



Don Brohm as "Tony Bonello"



John Sale as "Dr. Julius Prescott"



Michael Green as "Joey Zinger"



Judy Sedgley as "Granny Clara Smith"



Ian McKechnie as "Lucky Nick Lukopolis"



Jo Sale as "Cookie Daniels"



Emily Weber as "Bridget Damien"



Donna Williams as "Katy Morgan"



Barb Truax our Emcee & Event Organizer



Final chance to guess which cast member was the murderer.....



**THE MYSTERIOUS MURDERER WAS
REVEALED: COOKIE DANIELS**

Pg. 7



MURDER MYSTERY DINNER October 28,2023

My thanks to the “2023 St. Paul’s Acting Company” starring Cookie Daniels who was THE MURDERER played by Jo Sale and the rest of the company: John Sale, Don Brohm, Judy Sedgley, Emily Weber, Donna Williams, Michael Green and Ian McKechnie. All the ‘suspects’ were very good sports and provided lots of laughs!

The Wizard Casino (Parish Hall) was the setting of the 30th Annual Mystery Dinner Theatre on Saturday October 28th, 2023

It requires many people to make an evening a success.

I would like to express special thanks- .

..... to those who helped with setting up tables, dressed tables, and stuffed wine glasses

..... to Betty Tyndall who acted as hostess and Bob Sedgley as master of the bar

..... to Jo Sale who laundered all the tablecloths

..... to all who stayed to help clean up

AND -thank you to everyone who attended the Dinner. Your support is essential. Without your attendance and interest, this evening could not be successfully held annually.

Barb Truax



A huge thank you to Barb Truax, who has organized & directed our Annual Mystery Dinner since 1993! This year’s was our 30th Mystery Dinner Theatre! Barb is great at recruiting a variety of cast members each year from our congregation, and elsewhere. Bravo Barb!!!



WARDEN'S WALK by Betty Hooper and Paul Carpentier.

Merry Christmas to you and your families.

Thank you for all you do to support St. Paul's', and us your wardens. Your gifts of time, talent and encouragement are appreciated.

"Just so you know" (the famous Don Brohm quote) here are some of the things we have been doing:

- The shrubs at the front of the hall and church have been significantly trimmed back and Ray Marshall has hauled them off to re-cycling. Thanks Don Chase, Don Brohm and Ray.
- The "dead" pop cooler and assorted metal from the dungeon has been hauled off to recycling (thanks again Ray Marshall) and \$69 deposited in the church account
- The dungeon clean-up/organization is completed; we can find things now!
- New office hours are in place; a consistent Monday to Friday, 9:00am to 1:00pm.
- A hand rail has been installed at the chancel steps. Our thanks go to Don Chase for the design and construction.
- Three digital thermostats have been installed (one still to do) and two zone controls replaced (2 still to do) in our effort to get the heating right. The upper hall and wardens' office were running 10F high. The main hall and basement will soon be fixed. These changes, along with lowering the church to 60F during the week will make a big difference on the gas we use, as well as our comfort.
- We have received a bequest from Muriel Kent's' estate. We are grateful for her thoughtfulness.
- A Nominating Committee has been set up for Vestry (Dawn Evans, Doug Read, Paul Carpentier). Please give prayerful consideration to any positions you may be approached to fill.
- The management team have met with Mac Moreau (Diocesan Property) to discuss "the many possibilities" one has with such a large property.
- We continue to be concerned with cash flow and will need to address this sooner than later.
- Our thanks go to Don and Marg Brohm for the many hours they have dedicated in keeping our church clean and tidy.
- Thank you for those who volunteer to do coffee on Sunday as it is nice to have a social time with so many single people in our church family. Don't be shy consider signing up yourself. We'll help.
- Thank you to our members, and Tai Chi members, who contribute to the food cupboard.



Our St. Paul's Family:

FROM OUR REGISTERS: FUNERALS

Date of death:

Sept. 26, 2023 Keith John Salmon

Nov. 14 Walter Ross Smyth

Nov. 22 Carol Ann Margaret Gritzan

Go in peace.

Mark 5:34

CELEBRATING.....

**A special "WELCOME" to newcomers,
and visitors to St. Paul's. We are glad to
have you worshipping with us!**

Our Newest Members:

Anna Abraham

Heidi Appell

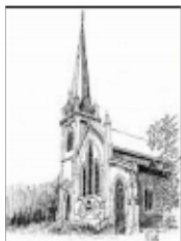
Ruth Gillis

Edward (Ted) Lawrence

Graham Walsh

Kim Walsh

Note: We strive not to miss anyone. If you know of someone celebrating a special day, please let us know. Contact Diane S. "THE GRAPEVINE" editor. The celebrations in this issue are from Jan. through Mar. 2024.



St. Paul's Church Services are listed on the last page of this Grapevine.

Due to our wide circulation on the internet and to the new Privacy Act regulations, no personal phone numbers are listed on the first or last page of all issues.



January through March 2024:

Jeanette Bowrin

Margaret Elizabeth Hurlburt

Ian McKechnie

Marilyn Warner

Jim Buchanan

Marg Brohm

Betty Drummond

Ross Graham

Bob Sedgley

Happy Anniversary

Rev. Bonnie, & Michael Skerritt



NEW CHURCH OFFICE HOURS:



OUR SPONSORS!


REMINDER: We encourage all parishioners to use the quality goods and services of our sponsors and, when you do, please let them know that you have learned of them through "THE GRAPEVINE". Their generosity helps to make this publication possible. We wish all of our sponsors the best of the winter season.
Thank you. Diane Stecher, Editor.



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What is Blue Christmas?

Blue Christmas services are typically held on December 21st as it is the darkest day of the year. In some parishes, the service is called the "Longest Night of the Year Service".

Blue Christmas services were developed as a pastoral response to those who, for a wide variety of reasons, are having difficulty with the Christmas season. It may be that they are experiencing loneliness, depression, grief, loss, some other sort of pain or just find Christmas Eve services too much for them. These are low-key services which strive to find a balance between acknowledging Christmas and that this can be a very difficult time for some folks. In our service at St. Paul's, we take time to remember those we love but see no longer and light candles in memory of them.

These services are typically held in the evening, however this year our Worship Committee and Rev. Bonnie decided to try having the service at 11:00 am as so many of our parishioners have difficulty with getting around in the dark. We encourage you to join us this year and stay afterwards for a time of fellowship over a soup luncheon.



CHURCH PROPERTY UPDATE

Don Brohm, Church Property Manager, assisted by Ray Marshall and Don Chase



As reported in the September grapevine all rents continue to be up to date and we say Thanks and God Bless our Great Tenants.

We have had to deal with some repairs as 32 Glenelg upper needed new taps and vanity for the bathroom as old age takes its toll and a leak in the bathtub drain pipe was cause for concern but has been looked after along with a leak in the basement. We also had a smoke alarm that wouldn't shutoff in 32 upper that had to be dealt with. 36 Glenelg required a new stove for their kitchen and 38 upper required a new tap on the bathtub and 38 lower required repairs to kitchen tap as well. The veranda roof on 36 Glenelg will need to be replaced in 2024 due to the age.

We had some loose boards on the wheelchair ramp at Midwives (Rectory) and that has been looked after. Midwives as did the Church had trouble with homeless sleeping in behind bushes at the Church and on the veranda at Midwives. Extra light seems to have remedied the problem along with bush removal.

We replaced two zone control valves in the Church hall which gives better control over the heating of the building. All the A/C units are now covered up for the winter and the portable A/C unit put away. Our heating system required attention as in circulating pump showing evidence of bearings needing attention; so the backup pump was activated and noisy pump pulled and sent out for new bearings.

JUST SO YOU KNOW





ST. PAUL'S BOOK CLUB



By Lorna Green

"I will honour Christmas in my heart, and try to keep it all the year."

A Merry Christmas to all during this joyful season!

St. Paul's Book Club is meeting on our usual schedule again: the first Tuesday of each month except for the months of December, July, and August. We continue to meet for a pot luck lunch at a member's home.

We will meet in December but not for a book discussion. On December 12th we will meet for a Christmas lunch at Castle John's restaurant.

The next three months we have a variety of books for discussion:

January 2, 2024: State of Terror by Hillary Clinton and Louise Penny

February 6, 2024: Courage in a White Coat by Mary Schwaner

March 5, 2024: Lessons in Chemistry by Bonnie Garmus

All of these books are quite different in genre but alike in telling stories of strong women surviving in the world. We look forward to the conviviality, feasting, and discussions to follow.

SYNOD REPORT By Lorna Green

The 162nd session of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto Synod met at the Sheraton Parkway Hotel, Richmond Hill on November 17th and 18th 2023. Present from St. Paul's Church, Lindsay were the Reverend Bonnie Skerritt, lay Synod delegate Lorna Green, and alternate delegate Barb Truax.

After registration of clergy and delegates, there was an opening Eucharist at 9:30 celebrated by Bishop Andrew Asbil. A call to order followed.

Bishop Asbil welcomed all and expressed his gratitude for the first in person meeting of Synod in 4 years. The bishop gave an inspiring talk that touched on looking to the future, letting go, and following the call to cast the net to grow the church in membership and in spiritual life. We have used creative solutions to solve problems during Covid and it is hoped that we continue on that path.

The call for Cast the Net was titled: Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves. Twenty calls to the diocese were shared and listed under four categories:

1. Renewing Spirituality
2. Inspiring Faith in Action
3. Reimagining Ministry
4. Transforming Diocesan Culture.

(continued on page 14)



For a complete list of the individual calls I recommend that you access the Toronto Diocese site under www.toronto.anglican.ca/castthenet

Br. Reginald Crenshaw and the Rev. Canon David Bryan Hoopes of the Order of the Holy Cross led mid-day prayers. Bishop Asbil informed Synod that the Holy Cross Priory was closing in May 2024 after several decades of service.

Throughout the meeting we were shown videos of missional and outreach moments from individual parishes. Some of the subject matters were:

1. Hiking Church: holding services outdoors with an emphasis on appreciating God's glory in nature.
2. Scarborough Steeplechase: a group of Anglican churches in Scarborough spent a day meeting at each other's buildings.
3. The Common Table (Church of the Redeemer)
4. Children and Youth programmes (All Saints Peterborough)

Eight breakout sessions were held Friday afternoon around the following topics:

1. Wills, Estates, and Tax
2. Discerning Vocations
3. Where Have All the Volunteers Gone?
4. Children's Ministry Conversation Starters
5. Lusophone Ministry in Toronto
6. Regional Ministry Approaches
7. Parish Finances
8. Property Mandate from Synod

The Synod Banquet on Friday evening welcomed the Bishop of Brasilia as guest speaker. He spoke about his hopes for the companionship program between the Diocese of Toronto and the Diocese of Brasilia.

"Partnership is our strength," he said, adding that the dioceses can do much together to serve their communities. He spoke about the diversity of both dioceses and the mission of God in their communities.

Morning prayer on Saturday was led by the Sisters of St. John the Divine.

Following that, there were elections for members of the Synod Council, General Synod, and Provincial Synod. Those names may be found on the diocesan website.

The final charge from Bishop Asbil at the closing of Synod was the following:

Followers of Jesus, inspired by the Holy Spirit, serve the world God loves!



Christmas House Tour 2023 By Barb Truax

Seven lovely homes were all dressed up for your viewing. They were an interesting array of styles and sizes located in Lindsay, Oakwood and Dunsford. Entry tickets were \$25.00 each and were sold from The Kent Florist, Hill's Florist, Kawartha Lakes Classic flowers and Gifts, Houghton Creek, Kate & Co., and at The Butterfly Boutique in Fenelon Falls, Thompson Ladies' Wear in Bobcaygeon, and at all houses. Florists provided dining room floral arrangements for houses. About 80 volunteers were needed for this event and we had the support of the Optimist Club, the Soroptimist Club, the Ladies Curling Club, The Lindsay Garden Club, Tai Chi Club and St. Paul's who provided security positions in the houses as well as greeters.

Mats were provided by the Lindsay Cleaners for entryways. Beautiful posters all around town and city, Mailings to all churches, Promotion and Ad in the Lindsay Advocate, on church, City Advocate websites Bounce Radio interview on the 20th November. About 400 Tickets were sold. Our sponsors – GMC, Lindsay Pontiac, Dr. Julie Johnson and Lawyer Heather Richardson, provided support that covered our major expenditures.

The home owners were Lisa Hart, Stephanie & Linden Mackey, Paula and Dave Linkleter, Jeff and Amanda Todd, Tanya Sheehey., Ann Scarlett in Oakwood and Bill and Fay Carslake in Dunsford – a beautiful array of festive homes in Christmas attire.

Wine and Cheese Tour was held two evenings prior to which the homeowners were invited to meet each other and a caravan of cars followed to view all the houses. The weather was kind for the event – a light snowfall in the morning and about 4 degree temperature.

A Mini Photo Collection of 5 of the Houses:



To

THE ENTIRE CONGREGATION

ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

A HUGE THANK YOU

For all your support and hard work

In presenting the 2023 Christmas House Tour
Held December 2, 2023

With the generosity of the seven homeowners and the Lindsay Florists, the Optimist Club, the Lindsay Ladies' Curling Club, Tai Chi Club, the Lindsay Garden Club, the Soroptimist Club, we were able to present a high-quality and most successful event raising much needed funds for the church.

We were also most appreciative for our **Sponsors**, - GMC, Lindsay Pontiac Buick, Dr. Julie Johnson and Lawyer, Heather Richardson whose support covered all our major expenditures.

WE COULDN'T HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!!!!

From

The 2023 House Tour Committee: Barb Truax, Linda Todd, Paul Carpentier, Shirley Williams, Ian McKechnie, Jo-Anne Burrige, Lorna Green and Mike Green.



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THE FLAT PANEL SHOPPE

Do you have a business that would benefit by becoming a sponsor of our Grapevine newsletter? Your business card would appear in every issue, and reach potential customers! Please let us know!!!



OUTREACH COMMITTEE by Gail Payne

Your Outreach Committee last met on Dec.3, 2023. We strive to reflect Christ's great love and compassion toward the disadvantaged and oppressed, on behalf of St. Paul's.

We are once again supporting King Albert School students by collecting donations of several types of winter clothing. We have had a gratifying response with many donations. In the new year we will canvas Queen Victoria school to determine their needs for the children.

Several parishioners travelled to Curve Lake for their Pow Wow in mid-Sept. They reported it to be a great learning experience and celebration of Indigenous culture. A significant step on our road to knowing and truly reconciling with our indigenous sisters and brothers.

Our food pantry continues to fill an obvious need in our community as it always empties quickly. During this winter weather we will have to restrict our donation of canned goods in case of freezing and bursting. We do welcome all other donations.

In late Nov. We delivered 23 toques, 23 scarves and several pairs of knitted mitts to the Mission to Seafarers. These items were all kindly knitted and donated by The Sisterhood. Much appreciated!

We have received, from the Angel Tree program, the names of 5 children for whom we will purchase, wrap and deliver Christmas gifts on behalf of an incarcerated parent. This is important in maintaining the bond between child and absent parent .

The quarterly Allotments are as follows:

Outreach

Local: AURA

National: Living Waters

International: Hope and Healing

Designated Givings

January: Local Alzheimers Society

February: Women's Resources

March: A Place Called Home

Thank you all for your continued prayerful and financial support of St. Paul's many Outreach programs. We welcome all to our quarterly meetings on the 2nd Sundays of March, June, September and December.

Matthew 25:31-40





ST. PAUL'S SISTERHOOD

Shirley Hanes, Coordinator



We have now completed our knitting for both King Albert and Queen Victoria schools. Two car trunk boxes of hats and mittens have been delivered. Apparently our delivery was just in time for one of the schools. Our donations are always gratefully received.

We have also completed this years knitting of scarves and toques for the Seafarers. Thanks to Gail Payne for looking after the delivery.

We had a mini craft sale after the Service on November 26 th. It was well supported and we thank all our shoppers. We are looking at establishing a flower fund with some of the funds we raised.

The future of this group is uncertain. For now we will continue to meet. The ladies that do attend are a support to one another and enjoy an afternoon of tea and fellowship.



From the Music Director



The Choir and I have been preparing the music for Advent and Christmas, and I thank them for their dedication, time and talents. Your Choir members are: Barb Appleton, Don Chase, Betty Drummond, Shirley Hanes, Betty Hooper, Carol Hughes, Suzanne McAllister, Ursula Ruhbach, Liam Skeritt-Ricketts, and Fred Wellings. Thanks to Paul Carpentier as well.

Our Choir was invited to sing at the Cenotaph again this year by the local Legion, for the November 11th Remembrance Day ceremonies. As a former officer in the Armed Forces, the service touches me in a very personal way, and I'm honoured to be a part of it. Thanks to Shirley, Ursula, Don, Carol, Fred and Suzanne for participating that morning! When the choir was setting up at the Cenotaph, a lady came up and asked to take our picture. I assumed she was from the local media, but wish I'd thought to get her name, because I have not seen the photo in the local paper, magazine, or online, and would love to get a copy of it for the choir. If anyone happened to see that photo, or took photos on Nov. 11th, please let me know.

Both the Heintzman piano, and our Keates pipe organ were tuned this month. I am looking forward to hearing Alex Ripley bring all of the pipes and reeds to life at the Recital Dec. 10th.

On behalf of the St. Paul's Choir, I'd like to wish everyone a safe and blessed Christmas season, and a Happy New Year!

Musically yours, Diane Stecher





FAMILY TIME ACTIVITIES: LEARNING ABOUT ANGELS

Here are some ideas to share with your children or grandchildren about Angels, which are often in Advent & Christmas bible readings, and the carols we sing.

An Advent excerpt from *Rings, Kings and Butterflies*:

Lessons on Christian Symbols for Children by Harriet VanderMeer

Verse to Learn: And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heaven-host, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours!'

A Children's Message

You can put many things on top of your Christmas tree. Some people put a star there and some put a big bow. Some people put a bird up there or their favourite decoration. One of the most beautiful decorations for the top of the tree is an angel. With an angel on top of your tree, you proclaim with the angel that Jesus is coming!

Angels are messengers. Sometimes angels sing their message, sometimes they shout, sometimes they play instruments, sometimes they whisper, and sometimes they are quiet. Angels appear to tell the story or make an announcement. They say, "Fear not!" or they shout, "Behold!" or they sing, "Holy, Holy, Holy." There are angels of proclamation with a forceful message. There are angels of protection, they quietly surround you, guard you, and take care of you. People sometimes refer to "an angel on my shoulder watching over me." Angels guided the Israelites out of the wilderness. They were guardian angels.

There are also praising angels in the Bible, who show us how to worship and praise God. We sing as they did when we sign, "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty." Little angels sometimes called "cherubs." A young children's choir may be called a "cherub choir" because they look and act like cherubs.

The Advent and Christmas stories are filled with angels. A proclamation angel comes to announce the forerunner of Jesus, John the Baptist. A pronouncing angel tells Mary that she will have a baby, Jesus. Praising angels give the message to the shepherds to go to Bethlehem to see the newborn king. Singing angels sing, "Glory to God in the Highest". A messenger angel tells Joseph to leave and take the baby to Egypt. And finally, when Herod dies and it is safe, a guardian angel takes Jesus back to Israel.

During this Advent season, we need to look for all angels around us: angels of preparation, telling us to get ready for Jesus; angels of promise, telling us Jesus is coming; angels of praise, showing us how to worship Jesus; angels of patience, teaching us how to search and wait for him; angels of proclamation announcing the birth of Jesus. Christmas trees are exciting to get and fun to decorate. Instead of looking to see what is under the tree, put an angel on top of your tree. Then raise your head, look, and listen. Do you hear the angel whispering, "Gloria in excelsis Deo" ?

Pray with Children

Dear God, may we hear your angels as they proclaim Jesus' birth. May we join the angels in praising you this Christmas season, and sing with them throughout the year. Amen.

To Do Together

Look through your books, Christmas cards, and in some stores to see how angels are depicted. Do they have wings and halos? What colour are their robes? Where are they located in the picture? Draw or make a variety of angels to decorate your Christmas tree or wrapping paper. Make and display a collage of the angels from past years' Christmas cards.



CHANCEL GUILD REPORT

The Chancel Guild is responsible for preparing the church each week for the Sunday church service, clearing up after the service as well as any special services during the week such as Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, funerals and weddings. As we have eight volunteers working in teams of two we are on duty for one week a month. Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas we all work together to decorate the church. If this ministry would be one that interests you please speak to Rev. Bonnie or me or one of the members of the guild and we can discuss any questions you might have.

There is now a flower chart and envelopes available on the bulletin board for anyone wishing to make a donation for flowers in memory of loved ones or in thanksgiving for blessings received. You can fill out the date you wish on the chart and fill in the information on the envelope and put it on the collection plate or take it to the office. If you have any questions please call me at (705) 324-0624.

God bless.

Submitted by Marg Brohm



CHURCH ENVELOPES



Anyone who wishes to have envelopes or if you would like to go on PAG please contact the church office at 705-324-4666.

There are 2024 envelopes at the back of the church. Please contact the office if you do not have your envelopes, or if you are a PAG donor and would like to receive your box of envelopes. Please contact me via the Church office to arrange for pickup or delivery of your envelopes to you. Please advise the church office of any change to your address or telephone number so that our records are correct. Please contact me if you have any questions regarding envelopes, Pre Authorized givings (PAG), contributions or receipts. Thank you.

Marlene Wood, Envelope Secretary



Pre-Authorized Giving

PAG is a form of giving to the Church. A monthly amount is automatically deducted from your bank account or your VISA/credit card to support your church. This program enables you to give your offering intentionally, proportionally and faithfully all year long through an automatic monthly withdrawal. Forms are available online on our church website. Or by contacting the church office by phone 705-324-4666 or by email: office@st-pauls-lindsay.ca the form can be mailed to you.

LIST OF DESIGNATED GIVINGS:

You may wish to direct a portion of your givings to a designated fund:

- 1 – Living Waters ***
- 8 – Adoption of Foster Children
- 40 – Kawartha Lakes Food Source
- 44 – Sunday School & Youth Ministries
- 60 – PWRDF
- 67 – Renovations
- 95 – Church roof renovations
- 97 – Christmas Dinner
- 99 – Outreach (Including Local Outreach)
- 100 – Place Called Home
- 101 – Special Sound System
- 101 A – A Special Jacobs Gift
- 138 A – Chancel Guild Flowers
- 146 – Choir gowns, Music
- 150 – Faithworks
- 215 – Special Outreach Projects
- 250 – Special (Rector's discretionary fund)

Do you want to donate flowers in memory of someone, or in thanksgiving for blessings received?

There is now a Flower Chart, and Flower Donation Envelopes on the bulletin board in our church hall ready to be filled out. Just put the date you wish on the chart, and complete the information on the envelope along with your donation, and take it to the church office, or place in on the collection plate during the service. Thank you! Questions? Please call Marg at 705 324-0624.



Designated Givings #215 for December 2023: is in support of Kawartha Lakes Food Source.

As Christians have always done we feed the hungry, and we know the need this winter is even more greater than ever, Our monetary donations help the Food Source fund nutritious things like fresh produce, milk and eggs and fund the cost of breakfast programs in our schools.



SHOPPING CARDS



Please support our Shopping Card program! You get full value for each gift card you purchase, and then the church receives a small percentage of sales when you use the card. So, while you shop, you are also supporting St. Paul's Church! Gift cards can be an handy way to shop for yourself and your family, and also to give away as gifts for birthdays, Christmas, or other occasions. Shopping cards can be purchased from the church office each week, or Sunday mornings in the church hall. If you have questions, please speak to Linda Todd, the coordinator.

Take a look at the gift cards available:

Restaurant cards available are Hobarts, Kelsey's, & Tim Horton's.

Grocery cards include Food Basics, La Mantias, Loblaws, and Bulk Barn.

Other cards: Canadian Tire, Giant Tiger, Home Hardware, & Shopper's Drug Mart.



CHRISTMAS DINNER

By Paul Carpentier

I would like to acknowledge John and Liz Gundy for the many years they have devoted to this outreach event for St. Paul's, especially with all the curves covid presented. This year they have passed on the torch so they can have the opportunity to once again spend Christmas day with their family. Thank you for the decade of Christmas days you gave to St. Pauls' and the community we serve at this event.

This years' dinner is planned to be in house with basic covid protocols in place. There will be 10 tables on both the main and upper halls to avoid crowding.

As usual we will be offering a turkey and ham dinner with all the trimmings. The dessert table will abound with assorted Christmas squares, cookies and other delectable treats.

How can you help with this event?

- bake a few extra of your families favorite Christmas desserts to donate
- offer to assist with set-up, advance prep and/or serving of the dinner
- cash donations to off-set the costs incurred
- spread the news to people and invite them to the event

The phone system has been set up so people can reserve a seat(s) or volunteer to help.

We will also have a 40 lb turkey from the Food Source cooked, and available, to send home with those experiencing food insecurity.

We look forward to this time of fellowship when we can feed the body and the soul in joining together around a meal.

If you have any questions/suggestions about the dinner, please speak to me.



COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE, Barb Truax Chairperson

SAVE THE UPCOMING DATES!!!

Dec 25 Christmas Day Dinner – 4 pm - available to anyone who is going to be alone. Just phone the church at 705 324-4666 and select #6 to reserve a dinner seat(s), or #7 to sign up as a volunteer to help at the Christmas Dinner.

Pancake Supper: Feb. 13, 2024

April 6, 2024 Spring Thaw & Loonie Auction

SHOPPING CARDS We continue to offer our shopping cards for sale -- An easy way to shop for Christmas gifts, birthdays, special gifts.

Watch this site (www.st-pauls-lindsay.ca) for upcoming events and news that Mary Sullivan, our webmaster, posts as well as special services, sermons and past live streamed services. There is also a 'Donate' button if you wish an easy way to support the church.

THE GRAPEVINE (our quarterly newsletter to you)

This quarterly newsletter, "The GrapeVine" is possibly the major source of church information along with our weekly "This 'N That". Due to the procurement of sponsorships, this newsletter is completely self-sustaining. We encourage you to patronize these sponsoring businesses and thank them for their support of St. Paul's. As well, each edition of The Grapevine is sent to you via Canada Post. By presorting these newsletters at the Church we are allowed postage at a much-reduced rate.

Sincere thanks is expressed to these committee members who undertake their responsibilities with thoughtfulness and good humour on your behalf: **They are Betty Tyndall, Beverly Baxter, Shirley Williams, Linda Todd, Diane Stecher, Lorna Green and Barb Truax.**

DEADLINE FOR THE LENT/EASTER ISSUE OF

THE GRAPEVINE IS

MONDAY MARCH 4, 2024

Period covered: March through June 2024

Editor's email: dskayaker@gmail.com

A sincere **thank you** to the groups, and individuals who submitted information, and helped with the production and distribution of this Advent/Christmas issue of "The Grapevine".

Diane Stecher, Editor ☺



Getting set for the House Tour Wine & Cheese! (Nov. 30)



**Coffee Hour & a Special Welcome
to New Members! (Dec. 3)**





PHOTOS

Christmas Tree Lighting
Grapevine Mailing
Coffee Hour/Welcome Event
Choir at Cenotaph Nov. 11
House Tour Wine & Cheese Set up
Rev. Bonnie's birthday
Guest speakers Sunday morning



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

45 Russell Street, West, Lindsay, Ontario

The Reverend Bonnie Skerritt

office@st-pauls-lindsay.ca

705-324-4666

www.st-pauls-lindsay.ca

Mission Statement: **“To know Jesus and make Him known.”**

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Our services on Sundays are at 10:00am.

Please join us in person, or watch our services online.

Sunday Dec. 10—Advent 2 10am Holy Communion

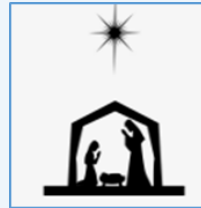
Sunday Dec. 17—Advent 3 10am Holy Communion

Thursday Dec. 21—Blue Christmas (11am)

Sunday Dec. 24—Advent 4/Christmas Eve

Lessons & Carols—10am

Candlelight Holy Communion—7pm



Monday Dec. 25—Christmas Day 10am Holy Communion

Christmas Day Dinner: Dine-in only

Please phone to pre-book your sit-down dinner reservation.

Dial (705)324-4666. Press #6 to reserve dinner seat(s).

Press #7 to sign up as a volunteer at the dinner.

Sunday Dec. 31—Christmas 1 10am Morning Prayer & Carol Sing

Sunday Jan. 7, 2024 — Epiphany 10am Holy Communion



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