

The People's Pulpit

Advent 2024



St Thomas sets its heart toward being a Christian Home which welcomes, encourages, and seeks to inspire people.

St. Thomas Anglican Church

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ST THOMAS OFFICE HOLDERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STAFF

Incumbent	Reverend Lee Lambert
Parish Administrator	Carolyn Cheer
Organist & Choir Director	Bonnie MacDiarmid
Rector's Warden	Pat McNally
People's Warden	John Bottriell
Lay Members at Synod	Sheri Lambert and John Bottriell
Synod Alternate	
Facilities Rep.	David Hazen
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ryan Dallaway
Stewardship Officer	Bob Lomas
Outreach Rep	Bonnie McNally
God's Garden	Merilee Clarke
Youth Group Leaders	Rev. Lee Lambert, Merilee Clarke, Mary Attwell
People's Pulpit Editor	Mary Anne Reinhard
Website & Facebook Administrator	Moira Reade
Projection Co-ordinator	Pat McNally
Altar Guild Co-ordinator	Arlene Simonovich
Anglican Church Women President	Diane Clement
Pastoral Care	Roy and Eleanor Baumgart
Cemetery Committee Contact	Jane Walsh
Coffee Hour Co-ordinator	Susan Clark-Dow
Sides persons Co-ordinator	Carolyn Cheer
Co-ordinator of Liturgical Assistants	Carolyn Cheer
Cornerstone Leader	Mary Passmore
Counter Schedule Co-ordinator	Bonnie McNally
Envelope Secretary	Bob Lomas
Fundraising Committee	Committee leader
Nursery Coordinator	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Long Range Planning	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Open Table	Judy Dallaway
Prayer Chain	Sylvi Dawes
PWRDF Contact	Barb Bottriell
Telephone Team	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Funeral Tea Co-ordinator	Judy Dallaway
Autumn Leaves Co-ordinators	Bonnie McNally, Judy Dallaway
Auditors & Financial Reviewer	Eric Thomas

PEOPLE'S WARDEN: John Bottriell

Community Activities:



Busy Church! This autumn we held a very successful Autumn Leaves Yard Sale and Café at the beginning of October, and the A.C.W. held several Clothing/Blowout sales in support of the Stittsville Food Bank. A big thanks to the Altar Guild for the preparations they make weekly for our services. The Thanksgiving Altar shown here is just a sample of their creative presentations.

Looking ahead, planning is well underway now for our Snowflake Bazaar coming up on November 30th. This year we have added themed gift baskets to our usual fare of baking, crafts, Christmas table, Jewelry, home décor and silent auction. And don't forget our delicious soup luncheon. Don't miss the Anglican Church Women or St. Thomas Men's Group Christmas social events this year coming up in early December.

Thanks to Andrew Hall, we now have a new crèche structure to be installed in front of the Church for the Advent/Christmas season.

We will also be participating with a float in The Parade of Lights taking place December 7th, 2024, beginning at 6:00 pm and running along Stittsville Main Street from Brown's YIG to St. Thomas Church at Carleton Cathcart Street. St. Thomas will also be serving hot chocolate drinks from 5:30pm.

Maintenance and Repairs:

The usual ongoing maintenance activities requiring outside expertise and cost include elevator and furnace inspection, janitorial services, and piano tuning. Projects still underway are the installation of a back-flow valve (awaiting engineering drawings), removal of garbage storage locker and removing some cabinet material in the "old kitchen".

The weather was certainly kind to us as we prepared the Church property for winter. We had an exceptionally eager team who started at sunrise and filled dozens of bags with leaves for recycling. Our volunteer maintenance team, who are always looking for new members, continues with minor annoyances such as blocked toilets, noisy exhaust fans and burned-out light bulbs. The latter is a challenge when having to replace a ceiling spotlight high above the Altar. Thanks to Dave Hazen for tackling this acrobatic job.

Parking in our two parking lots had become an issue recently on Sunday mornings with our fitness business neighbour's clients parking in our lot during our Sunday service. We have been actively monitoring the situation and dealing with the owners. They have an agreement with St. Thomas to only park from Monday to Friday.

Financial Update:

One of the responsibilities of a Church Warden is to monitor and report Information on the Church's financial health, including income, expenses, and any significant financial decisions or changes. Our treasurer has indicated to us the year-to-date position as of October 31st 2024 is as follows:

	Year-to-date October 31st 2024 Actual
Income	
Offerings & bequests	\$132,773
Investment Income	1,936
Other Income (fundraising)	11,941
Assessed income –(facilities recoveries)	9,703
Non-assessed income ((special fund offerings)	9,801
Total income	\$166,154
Expense	
Diocese commitments	\$118,185
Parish staff	31,769
Office supplies	3,402
Utilities	8,753
Church property maintenance	6,006
Ministry programs	463
Outreach	6,752
Other	1,544
Total Expenses	176,874
Excess income/(expense)	(\$10,720)

Spiritual Life:

One of the privileges of being a Warden is the opportunity to attend the annual Diocesan meeting known as Synod which is when we learn and discuss how we pursue Christ in our changing culture and society.

Clergy and Lay members from almost 50 Anglican Parishes in the Diocese of Ottawa met over three days in November to receive reports from Diocese committees, review financial statements and elect Provincial Synod, General Synod, Advisory Panel and Diocesan Council delegates.

Synod began with a Thursday evening opening service and Bishop's Charge held at Christ Church Cathedral. This was followed by a day and a half of presentations, discussions and decisions. 2024 was the first year of the three years coinciding with the three-year cycle of diocesan budget approvals and the bishop identified some preliminary results including:

- The Diocese becoming less reliant on parish revenues by reductions in fare share contributions from parishes,

- Providing Increased support and assistance to parish leaders through communications, support for stewardship, advice on financial & legal matters and property and asset management
- Offering Guidance to parishes facing change through collaboration and innovation such as the Anglican Diocese Youth initiative connecting parish youth 12-18 years of age across the diocese, and
- Addressing training needs through workshops for Wardens, Treasurers and Clergy on finances, governance, and Cemetery management and making learning resources available on-line.

The common thread over the weekend was the **Telling our Parish Ministry Story**. This was our opportunity to share the stories of our ministries with other parishes in the diocese. Each parish was asked to consider five different aspects of our ministries and describe what we had done recently in each one.

The focus was on:

1. Worship
2. Building care / maintenance
3. Learning & formation
4. Pastoral care
5. Engagement with our broader community

We had the opportunity to discuss these aspects with our fellow table synod members from St. Thomas the Apostle Church in Alta Vista. Results from almost 50 parishes were posted on the walls around the hall. We were all invited to read them over the two days and highlight responses that appeared creative and worthy of trying out. It was somewhat overwhelming trying to see everything. Our Facilitator, The Venerable Monique Stone, Archdeacon for the Deanery of West Ottawa, indicated that all the results would be consolidated and shared with us in the near future. Several initiatives undertaken in other parishes intrigued me to the point that I thought that we might consider them for St. Thomas. So, I'll be interested in this summary.

Synod presentations included updates on the Diocese's community ministries:

- Belong Ottawa
 - Centre 454
 - The Well
 - St. Luke' Table
- Cornerstone Housing for Women
- Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre
- Refugee Ministry Office.

Also presented was the Bishop's Panel on Housing Justice, encouraging parishes to be engaged in housing justice in some way through prayer, learning, advocacy and action. Overall, I found this year's Synod very uplifting and extremely interesting and am thankful for the opportunity of being one of the representatives for our parish.



As our "Church Year" winds down to the last Sunday in Pentecost, we anticipate the coming of Christ through our preparations in Advent. Although this is a busy time in our own lives as we prepare for the holiday season, it is also a blessed season full of warmth, hope and joy that God in Christ is coming to the world. This season is God's precious gift to us. May we appreciate it and honor his generosity. Happy Advent!

John Bottriell
Peoples' Warden

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: Mary Anne Reinhard

First, I wish to thank everyone who has contributed a wide range of articles and reports for this edition of The People's Pulpit. I have enjoyed reading them all and hope you will too. Rather than add a long note here I will add a calendar page with upcoming events and activities at St. Thomas. If I have missed anything I apologize. You will find the calendar on the next page. Note that you can scroll to the right on your computer to see the rest of the calendar page.

CHOIR REPORT

Thanksgiving was a time of great thanks. We recruited Liz, Sylvi and Darci to join the Choir for Thanksgiving Sunday. We sang a beautiful Thanksgiving Canon which received a lovely applause from the congregation. Thank you for showing your appreciation for our efforts.

The Music ministry in our Church, I believe, is very important. We have tried very hard to present an anthem each week but with only 5 or 6 people to count on each week, it has been very difficult to do so. We desperately would love to see new members join us, and I think if one man showed up - besides being hugged by every woman, he might just start a "thing"....we could sing in 3 parts!!!! We come together every Thursday at 7:00 pm and are usually finished by 8:00. Our anthems are picked out well in advance, so they are practiced many times before any given Sunday. Even if you would like to join us for the month of December to sing our beautiful Advent and Christmas music, that would be so helpful.

Every Sunday I marvel at the music coming from the congregation and give thanks for that. It makes the hymns come alive and hearing harmony and descants even adds more to the hymns. When we sing Go Now in Peace as our benediction, I get shivers because it is so beautiful to hear everyone singing a blessing as we leave the sanctuary.

I pray that God will bless each of you with music to enrich your soul and your lives.
Respectfully submitted on behalf of St. Thomas' Choir and Music Director.
Bonnie MacDiarmid

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Service at 9:30 am Advent 1 Pageant rehearsal	2 A.C.W. Luncheon 12:00 pm	3 Cornerstone Practice 6:15 pm	4 Service at 10:00 am	5 Men's Group Supper 6:00 pm Choir practice 7 pm	6	7 Christmas Parade 6:00 pm and Hot Chocolate Ministry begins at 5:30 pm
8 Service at 9:30 am Pageant rehearsal	9	10 Cornerstone Practice 6:15 pm	11 Service at 10:00 am	12 Choir practice 7 pm	13	14
15 Service at 9:30 am God's Garden Christmas Pageant 10:15 am	16	17 Cornerstone Practice 6:15 pm	18 Service at 10:00 am	19 Choir practice 7 pm	20	21 Open Table doors open at 4:30 pm
22 Service at 9:30 am The Bishop is visiting and Luncheon after service.	23	24 4:30 pm Family Service (Cornerstone) 8:30 pm Carol Service	25 10:00 Christmas Day Service	26	27 FundScrip order deadline 10:00 am	28
29 Service at 9:30 am	30	31				

GOD'S GARDEN

We had a great summer delving into the Old Testament. Adam and Eve and the snake, Cain and Abel, the tower of Babel that came tumbling down, Abraham and Issac preparing a sacrifice for God, Noah's Ark , the animals, the flood and the rainbow! We spent two Sundays on each story. Now we are back on track with the Lectionary that you are hearing upstairs. The children love carrying the wooden cross up the aisle. I want them all to feel part of the Church.

Each week, one of my amazing assistants, Merri Curtain and Karen Davie, meets me at the Church Tuesday morning to spend one and half to two hours preparing for the coming Sunday. Thank you both so much. On Wednesday, I meet up with Ryan Smith at the church where he creates a video of me doing the kid's talk, 2 crafts, and singing the song for that lesson. Ryan Smith, you are indispensable. You will find the videos on the church web site each week. On Sunday, everything is ready. I am thankful for my assistants who take turns helping the children. Along with Karen and Merri, Ewan Roy and Bonnie McNally take their turns. Many thanks for helping the children grow in their faith. I like to have the children take home their craft and perhaps tell someone else the story.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me for such is the kingdom of God." I pray that these children will encounter Jesus here, at home, and everywhere.

Blessings Merilee Clarke

Christmas Pageant Rehearsals are Nov. 24. Dec.1, 8

The pageant will be performed in church Sunday December 15 during the Service.

After the children choose their parts. parents are welcome to take on the parts that are left. Scripts will only be given out to actors.

A Savior Is Born: Nativity Play 2024

Narrator: Anna ? reads from the script.

Mary: 0 lines

Joseph: 1 line

Sheep: 2 or 3, all they say is Baa, Baa, Baa twice. (more sheep are welcome)

Shepherds: 2 shepherds with 1 line each

Angels: 3 have one line said together and 1 line more for each of 2 angels.

3 Wisemen: Caspar, Melchior, Balthasar.

Caspar has 2 lines, Melchior has 1 line, Balthasar has 1 line.

Call or text me at 613-591-9351 or email me at godsgardenstt@gmail.com



A.C.W. REPORT

The A.C.W. have been a very busy group.

We continue to collect MILK BAGS for the Anglican Church in Greely. They continue to make the beds and mats for the Homeless as their Outreach project. Thanks to everyone who continues to bring their bags in for collection. We also collect used eyeglasses and stamps and pop tabs. Labelled containers can be found in the coat room on the upper shelves.

Some of the ladies will be visiting the Carleton apartments on December 11th, to have a tea party and share treats and Christmas music with the residents.

In memory of Josee Young, the A.C.W. purchased one white set and one green set of burses and veils to be used on the Altar. Thanks to Arlene for ordering this for us from Liturgica.

Our Outreach items for our November meeting were toothbrushes and toothpaste along with other donations to Hope Living. In December, we will be donating gift cards to the staff at Frederick Banting School, to be used as awards for the students.

The Clothing Cupboard in conjunction with The Stittsville Food Bank, is still in high gear and is a fabulous Outreach Project for St. Thomas. We are still collecting gently used clean clothing (No stains, no rips, no cat or dog hair). Shoes, boots, coats along with all clothing are greatly needed. Due to this being such a huge project to set up and run, we have decided to hold it every 2-3 months as a Blow Out Sale. This provides more access to Foodbank people and on the same weekend to the public. Pop in and visit us and see this project in operation.

On October 25th and 26th, over 3,000 pieces of clothing left the St. Thomas basement. Our hours were from 9-12 for Food Bank people only and then from 12 - 5 on Friday, we opened to the public, as we did on Saturday from 9-1. Our donation to the Food Bank in October was \$2,611.21.

Mark your calendars for the next Blow Out Sale and come and shop or help us out. Friday, January 31st from 9-12 Food Bank People only and 12-5 for the public and on February 1st from 9-1 for the general public.

You may bring your clothes in during office hours or on Sundays. You can also offer to help; we have lots of things our volunteers can do.

A big shout out of thanks to Pam Hazen, A.C.W. Chairperson for the Clothing Cupboard, and her team of Arlene Simonovich, Mary Anne Reinhard, Brenda Miller, Sharon Manoukian and Diane Clement.

Submitted by:

Diane Clement,
A. C. W. President.

ST. THOMAS ANGLICAN CEMETERY

On Sunday November 10, 2024, while the congregation was observing Remembrance Day at the Church, the #12 Stittsville Girl Guides held their Remembrance Day ceremony at the St. Thomas cemetery.

This ceremony was part of the No Stone Left Alone (NSLA) Program. The vision of NSLA is to inspire youth to honour Canada's veterans through personal acts of remembrance, gratitude and citizenship, every year forever.

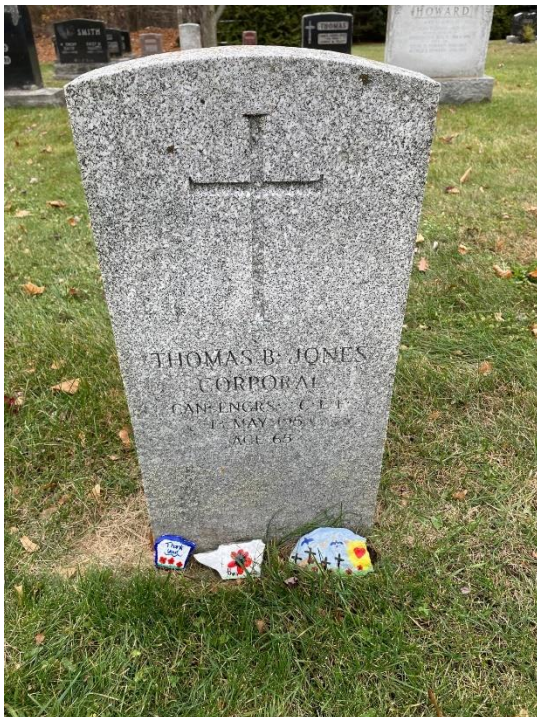
The girls tidied the graves of four veterans and left their hand painted stones of gratitude and remembrance at their gravesites. The Guides also said poems of remembrance, listened to the Last Post, and observed a minute of silence followed by Reveille for each of the four soldiers laid to rest in our cemetery.

The Girl Guides thanked us for welcoming them at the visit to St. Thomas Anglican Cemetery, as the experience was "meaningful and had a lasting impact on the Girl Guides", according to their leader Jen Rowland.

We hope that they will visit again.

Submitted by Jane Walsh

St Thomas Anglican Cemetery Contact Person

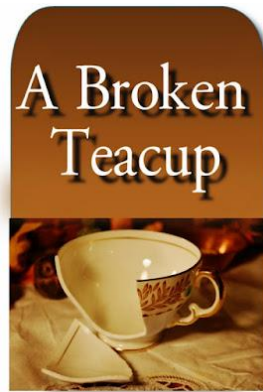




Pictures from the Girl Guide's visit.

The Poppies on display at the Goulbourn Museum beside the Cemetery.





A Broken Teacup

By John W. Vander Velden

If you searched the cupboard of a woman I once knew, you would find at least one broken teacup, standing unused in the far reaches behind all the unblemished. Once I drew out a bit of china examined how it had been carefully reassembled, the yellowed glue the only sign of its repair. "This cup is beautiful, why don't you use it?"

"It's broken," the only response. And I wondered why she had gone to the labor of putting it together, piece by piece.

In life every person faces blows, physical, emotional, spiritual. On occasions most of us find ourselves unable to withstand the force of the impact we must face. Things bend us, things at last, break us. For, though few would acknowledge, we are as delicate as bone china.

I am a broken teacup, shattered by trials and pains of life. My pieces have been scattered, laid out, but never lost. Mended over time, none can see the fractures, few know they exist.

But I do not find myself upon the shelf, not yet anyway. For my God places me among others, which seem pristine, upon the table. Through my tears I say, "I am broken and ugly."

And God responds, "I have gathered all your pieces, the small as well as the large. I have bound them together and have made you whole again. Broken time and time again but mended by My hand. There is yet much you can do."

Through my breaking and repairs and in my truthful examination of each chip and crack, my compassion for others grows. I have been mended...and yes, there is much I can do, for my task remains incomplete. So, I say, "Fill me, Lord."

You see...I am a broken teacup...perhaps you are as well.

Submitted by Susan Clarke-Dow with the author's permission.

I contacted John W. Vander Velden for his permission to include this short story that Susan submitted and received an enthusiastic reply granting that permission. It was followed by another email from John with more information about his background and another short story. John has also published three Christian novels including Misty Creek I share this email with you here:

I thought that I might introduce myself. I am John W. Vander Velden, retired farmer, an Elder in First Presbyterian Church of Wallerton, Indiana. Husband to my beloved Jackie, father of my son Nick, an engineer in the medical device field, author, but most of all a servant of my Savior Jesus Christ. When I began to become serious about my writing I understood the need for an internet presence, that was the stimulus to starting ***Ramblings...Essays and Such...*** in 2012. Since that modest beginning, I have posted 440 essays and micro stories. And among them ***Broken Teacup***. Often my words come from some place deep within, but other times I find myself astounded by words that come from some inspiration far beyond my abilities. ***Broken Teacup*** comes from such an inspiration. Bound to an experience from my youth that led to the essay. ***Broken Teacup*** is far and away the most viewed of all. I find myself amazed that those few words have been read more than 46K times. Surely it is proof of God at work.

So, you can see that I am deeply touched when someone reaches out to me. The gratitude I feel that the gift I have been given and the words God allowed to flow through my fingertips touches others in positive ways. So, it is I that must thank you for considering my feeble words are worth sharing.

Thank you!

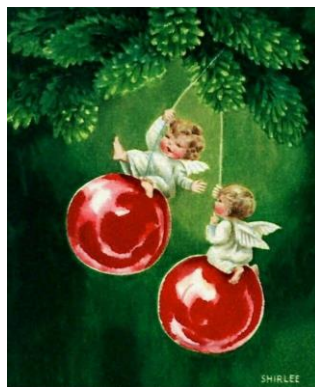
John

P.S. I am attaching a link to an essay I wrote for my congregation some years ago, titled, ***Where Does Christmas Find You.*** Perhaps you might find something within those words beneficial as well.

<https://jwvandervelden.blogspot.com/2020/12/where-does-christmas-find-you.html>

Submitted by Mary Anne Reinhard

*This Christmas season we count our blessings and what we are thankful for.
Thank you to the Coffee Hour volunteers, we are blessed to have you.*



*Merry Christmas to every one of the Coffee Hour Volunteers,
Sue*

A short story of a flight remembered – by Pat McNally

I must have been Waco

The name Waco is usually associated with a city in Texas. In flying circles, the name Waco represents the best in biplane technology from the early 1930s to date. In 1935 my dad learned to fly in a Waco Cabin biplane off the frozen surface of Lake Ramsey in Sudbury, Ontario. He bequeathed his love of flying to me and at the tender age of 17, I began my formal flight training at the Sept Iles Aero Club in northeastern Quebec. My Certified Flight Instructor was an ex-railroad veteran, who had decided a change of jobs was in order, and in time became an Airline Transport rated pilot and when I first knew him, he was already manager of the flying club as well.

For the purpose of this story, let's say his name was John. As CFI he was very strict and definitely old school in his technique of teaching the nuances of flight. For example, a simulated engine failure was not simulated at all – mixture out, prop stopped, now what? Sure, makes you think fast in order to perform a restart before impact with terra very firma. After somehow doing my first solo, I passed all my required exams and then quickly obtained my night rating.

I had begun my work life as part of a survey crew on the railroad in the area, a line which extends from the north shore of the St. Lawrence River through rugged unpopulated terrain to about 600km into Labrador and the iron mining area of Quebec. Along the 'line', as it was affectionately known, there are periodic sidings and maintenance section buildings, as it was a single track only operation. The sidings or stations are usually named after a nearby lake, river or historical personality. One station was called Waco. As far as I know, there was no correlation between this station and anything else in the locale. It was and is 101 statute miles from the north shore. In railroad jargon, all distances are measured resolutely in the British system. This also takes place in the pre-metric era in Canada.

On a Thanksgiving weekend at the tender age of 20, when I had accumulated the sum of 145 or so hours solo, I thought it would be cool to fly cross country, and air drop an affectionate note to a cute girl whom I believed to be at that station camp for the weekend.

I quickly booked my, by now, familiar PA-28-140 (Piper Cherokee) and mid-way through the long weekend, I did my required weight and balance calculations, checked the weather and thus having signed my winged steed out, with sectional map and precious cargo in hand, departed for points north. By the way, basic instruments only in this machine, as an ab initio trainer, and GPS had not yet been invented. No radar coverage either. Boy does that makes me feel older than I am.

It was overcast all the way, but with a fairly high ceiling. I maintained about 2000 feet AGL and took the easy way of navigating – IFR – in this case – I Follow Railroad. It was an uneventful flight all the way up, and as I approached my target, did a couple of circling passes at about 500 feet, then dropped to about 200 feet for my bomb drop run. As you may know, the PA-28 has a small vent window on the pilot's side, perfect size for launching my special air mail gift package.

It was bombs away, one circling Immelmann 360 climbing to 2000 feet AGL, and my trusty aerodyne and I headed south to the point from whence I came. At this juncture I felt on a high at many levels. How romantically 'barnstormer' cavalier and dashing I was. One more note as regards my route. There were only two alternate landing fields along the way. Both were unmaintained 3500-foot gravel strips next to

the railway, placed there during construction of the line 20 years previously. Better than nothing but just barely.

Well, how did my mission go you may well be wondering? To this day I have not been made aware of any reaction whatsoever. Did I miss the mark? Was anybody home? At least I didn't get in trouble with the flying club for my bending some rules of flight. In that era, registration letters were emblazoned on the underside of the wing for easy recognition.

To conclude then, I count my silly cross country as an adventure, quite a bit of fanciful fun and dead reckoning navigation. I wouldn't blame you if you thought that I just made the story up, having no corroborating witnesses to offer. But it did happen, and I have no regrets about it. After all, if you can't have a bit of fun aloft then why bother flying at all?

Pat McNally is Rector's Warden and holds a Private Pilot licence.



Notice

On the next page you will see a flyer from Nicole & Mario. These are the people who own the food truck that rents our parking lot in the summer. They are creating a new charity that will launch a pilot program with the Catholic School Board this coming Spring. They are hoping to collect funds to offer lunches without embarrassment to students who do not have/cannot afford lunches.



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lunchbox at a time in
the
Ottawa Valley**



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REFLECTIONS CHRISTMAS 2024



Away in a manger, no crib for His bed, the little Lord Jesus lay down His sweet head. The stars in the bright sky looked where He lay. The little Lord Jesus, asleep on the hay.

He was in the world, and the world was made through him, yet the world did not know him. He came to his own, and his own people did not receive him. But to all who did receive him, who believed in his name, he gave the right to become children of God, who were born, not of blood nor of the will of the flesh nor of the will of man, but of God.

—John 1:10-13

It's an unwed woman
who carried God.
It's the pagans from the East
who recognize God.
It's the workers in the field
who hear from God.
It's the marginalized neighbourhood
who welcomes God.
It's God who chooses
the lowly and the broken to rise!
It's God who gives us hope
for the future.
Christmas is here.
It's us who welcome the Christ Child
and sing His praises. Amen



Submitted by Merilee Clarke

CHURCH LADIES WITH TYPEWRITERS

They're back! Those wonderful Church Bulletins! Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters. These sentences actually appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.

Scouts are saving aluminium cans, bottles and other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used to cripple children.

The sermon this morning: 'Jesus Walks on the Water' The sermon tonight: 'Searching for Jesus'

Ladies don't forget the rummage sale. It's a chance to get rid of those things not worth keeping around the house. Bring your husbands.

Don't let worry kill you off - let the Church help.

Miss Charlene Mason sang 'I will not pass this way again', giving obvious pleasure to the congregation.

For those of you who have children and don't know it, we have a nursery downstairs.

Next Thursday there will be try-outs for the choir. They need all the help they can get.

Irving Benson and Jessie Carter were married on October 24 in the church. So ends a friendship that began in their school days.

At the evening service tonight the sermon topic will be 'What Is Hell?' Come early and listen to our choir practice.

Eight new choir robes are currently needed due to the addition of several new members and the deterioration of some older ones.

Please place your donation in the envelope along with the deceased person you want remembered.

The church will host an evening of fine dining, super entertainment and gracious hostility.

Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and medication to follow.

The ladies of the Church have cast off clothing of every kind. They may be seen in the basement on Friday afternoon.

This evening at 7PM there will be a hymn singing in the park across from the Church. Bring a blanket and come prepared to sin.

The pastor would appreciate it if the ladies of the Congregation would lend him their electric girdles for the pancake breakfast next Sunday.

Low Self Esteem Support Group will meet Thursday at 7 PM. Please use the back door.

The eighth graders will be presenting Shakespeare's Hamlet in the Church basement Friday at 7 PM. The congregation is invited to attend this tragedy.

Submitted by Brenda Miller and her father.



BUTTERSCOTCH NO-BAKES

1/2 CUP SUGAR
1/2 CUP BUTTER OR MARGARINE
2/3 CUP EVAPORATED MILK
1 CUP BUTTERSCOTCH CHIPS
3.5 CUPS ROLLED OATS
1/2 CUP COCONUT

Combine sugar, butter, and milk in a saucepan.
Bring to a boil and boil for 1 minute stirring constantly.
Remove from heat and add chips. Stir until smoothly blended.
Add oats and coconut.

Mix thoroughly, cool mixture for 5 - 10 minutes.
Drop by rounded teaspoon onto waxed paper. Chill to firm.

Makes about 5 dozen. Keep cookies in an airtight container in refrigerator.

Recipe from Diane Clement



1 Corinthians 13 –a Christmas Version



If I decorate my house perfectly with plaid bows, strands of twinkling lights and shiny balls, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another decorator.

If I slave away in the kitchen, baking dozens of Christmas cookies, preparing gourmet meals and arranging a beautifully adorned table at mealtime, but do not show love to my family, I'm just another cook.

If I work at the soup kitchen, carol in the nursing home and give all that I have to charity, but do not show love to my family, it profits me nothing.

If I trim the spruce with shimmering angels and crocheted snowflakes, attend a myriad of holiday parties and sing in the choir's cantata but do not focus on Christ, I have missed the point.

Love stops the cooking to hug the child.

Love sets aside the decorating to kiss the husband.

Love is kind, though harried and tired.

Love doesn't envy another's home that has coordinated Christmas china and table linens.

Love doesn't yell at the kids to get out of the way but is thankful they are there to be in the way.

Love doesn't give only to those who are able to give in return but rejoices in giving to those who can't.

Love bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things.

Love never fails.

Video games will break, pearl necklaces will be lost, golf clubs will rust, but giving the gift of love will endure.



From <http://www.appleseeds.org/christmas-quotes.htm> (anonymous)

Submitted by Maureen Anderson





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We're excited to share an update about our vibrant Women, Wine, and Words Book Club! Over the past few months, we've been gathering in one another's homes, enjoying the warmth of camaraderie, spirited conversations, and the joy of fellowship. Our meetings have been a wonderful way to connect and share our love for literature.

Recently, we've explored a diverse range of fiction and memoir that have sparked engaging discussions. Among our recent reads are *Demon Copperhead* by Barbara Kingsolver, a powerful contemporary retelling of the classic tale of *Oliver Twist*; *The Thursday Murder Club* by Richard Osman, which brought out our inner detectives and led to many laughs; *The Glass Castle* by Jeanette Walls, a poignant memoir that prompted heartfelt conversations about family dynamics; and *Washington Black* by Esi Edugyan, which took us on an extraordinary journey, challenging our perspectives on freedom and adventure.

We invite all women in our congregation to join us! Whether you're an avid reader or just looking for a way to connect with others, our book club welcomes you. Each meeting is a chance to share insights, enjoy refreshments, and deepen our friendships.

Warmly submitted by Casey Hurrell
On behalf of the Women, Wine, and Words

Looking for a Good Book? Try This!

A God named Josh

Uncovering the Human Life of Jesus Christ

by Jared Brock

This book was a Christmas present last year and has brought to me a new understanding of what life was like two thousand years ago. What was daily life like for the normal Jewish family and how were their lives affected by the Jewish Church? Because, after all, the man we call Jesus was a Jew.

Let me start by pointing out that being Jewish, his name would not have been Jesus but rather, as the son of Joseph, his name would have Yehoshua ben Yehoseph. It is quite likely that his father would have called him Josh. This is where the title comes from.

Before opening the book, I thought I had a fairly good understanding of the life of Jesus. Boy was I wrong! I was amazed by how little I really understood about the back history. Somewhere along the line the Christian churches have recreated a much meeker Jesus and seem to emphasize less the idea that He is truly God and truly man. His sacrifice and death were truly experienced as a man! Jesus did walk upon the earth as a man. In fact, it's estimated in the book that He probably walked over 28,000 miles in his lifetime.

The book also presents a vivid picture of the hardship the people of the Jewish faith were experiencing at that time and how many of their hardships were at the hands of their church leaders. It wasn't just the sellers in the Temple that Jesus was calling out.

I think that this is a book that many of our Parish may find interesting. In particular, I feel that chapter seven: The Economic Josh and chapter eight: The Political Josh should be required reading for all.

Above all else, I found that the Josh presented in the book is the Josh I want to meet someday. If you would like to read the book, I have placed it on the bookshelf in the basement of the Church.

Submitted by Dave Dallaway

- *A God Named Josh: Uncovering the Human Life of Jesus Christ by Jared Brock is published by Bethany House Publishers. 2023. ISBN-13 : 978-0764239625*



HOW TO AVOID BEING A VICTIM OF GRANDPARENT OR EMERGENCY SCAMS

While you may want to help a family member in crisis, it's important to be vigilant.

6 tips to avoid being a victim of an emergency or grandparent scam:

- Be suspicious if anyone contacts you with an urgent request for money. Remember scammers can find your phone number.
- Do not be afraid to say no and hang up the phone.
- Do not provide extra information to fill in the blanks for a potential scammer. For example, if someone calls and says they're your grandchild and you say you don't have a grandchild, but you have a nephew, Jason. A scammer may pick up on that clue and say they are calling on behalf of Jason.
- Do not send money through the mail or agree to have someone come to your house to pick up money. Do not provide your home address over the phone to a caller if you cannot confirm their identity.
- Verify with another family member the details of any urgent request. Hang up the phone and contact that relative or friend using a phone number or email that you already have.
- If you get a call from someone who says they are a police officer or lawyer, they will never ask for money or valuables.

Visit the [Canadian Anti-Fraud Centre](#) for the latest details on current frauds and scams.

Submitted by Merilee Clarke

THE LAST WORD

I sit here trying to decide what to write and various Christmas memories dance across my brain. I remember stirring Christmas puddings at my childhood home on what was then “Stir up Sunday” and is now known as “Christ the King Sunday”. We also had a real Christmas tree each year. I also remember my Mom being up until the wee hours of the morning finishing the preparations for Christmas day. As my sibling grew older and the family grew that would require more work.

As a newly wed there were Christmas seasons spent an ocean away from home and making new traditions while keeping some of my familiar ones. The German homes in our area were decorated with outside white lights and Christmas trees didn’t appear in my landlord’s home until Christmas Eve as they might still have small candles rather than lights on it. Some years we “enjoyed” the adventure of flying back to our Parent’s home from a distant location. There is a story to each of those trips too.

There were years that we spent with our family, the four of us together, forming new traditions such as going to Christmas Eve services, once in Winnipeg in -35-degree weather! Early on Christmas morning the girls would open their stocking gifts with us in our room and then I would try to get them to eat breakfast before opening gifts but was often overruled. Those seasons we had to decide what we would like to do on those quieter Boxing Days when family wasn’t close enough to visit. (It seemed strange at those times not to be driving back and forth between families.)

In the more recent years, we don’t always manage to get together with our daughters and their children for Christmas day. We may be travelling to our siblings, or my Mother-in-Law, or our grandchildren may spend Christmas day with their fathers. The “grands” are also getting older so we will need to work around post-secondary schedules next year. We still observe many of our shared traditions in our own homes and get together using Technology at some point in the day.

I had a “memory” pop up on my Facebook page that reminded me that not too many years ago COVID kept us all physically apart that Christmas season. That was less pleasant memorable one so I still rejoice that we may now gather at Services, and in our homes.

All that to say, no matter where you are; Pierre, our extended family and I wish you a peaceful, reflective Advent and a Merry Christmas. Enjoy old traditions, and possibly begin new ones.



Mary Anne

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