

Passings & Blessings

We recently lost Rita Purcell. We uplift her soul to our Lord. May the Lord bless her and keep her forever in everlasting life.

Our prayers and support go out for continued healing and recovery for Sterling and Sue and many others in need within the parish.

Happenings

Happenings around the parish.

- **Parish Council Meetings** – Nov. 19th and Dec. 17th.
- **NEW – Coffee Hour** – Wednesdays, 11 a.m. Parish Hall.
- **Keenagers** – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, every month at 10 to 11 a.m. – Civitan Hall.
- **Sounds of Christmas** – Nov. 23 @ 6:00 p.m. at Bethel Pentecostal
- **Winter Gear Giveaway** – Nov. 29 @ 10:00 a.m. Location Parish Hall
- **Advent Walk** – Nov. 30 @ 4:00 p.m. Location St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church
- **Pray K7A** – Nov. 30 @ 7:00 p.m. Location Calvary Bible Church
- **Community Games Night** – December 5th, Food @ 5:30, Games start 6:30.
- **Concert** – December 6th, 7 p.m. in the Church

If you have any events you would like to have posted here you can drop us a line at: stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com "Events" in the title.



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Advent: Adventure In Discovery

The holiday season can easily get crowded out by the noise and busyness of consumerism if we aren't careful. In an effort to anchor Christmas to its true meaning, many families include traditions such as lighting Advent candles.

Advent is a time of anticipation leading up to the celebration of Jesus' birth and now the second coming of Christ. Families may light Advent candles, one each week during dinner, followed by a meaningful reading or prayer.

Each candle represents something different—hope, peace, joy, and love. Whether you participate in Advent or not, there is beauty in reflecting upon how Jesus delivers these virtues to the world and to our lives.

Each element is symbolic of aspects of the Christmas story and our faith. Traditionally the candles used are three purple and one pink. Purple, the color associated of royalty, represents prayer, penance, and works of mercy we take on during the season. The pink (rose) represents joy.

The Advent candles are lit in a specific [\(continue on Pg. 3 – Advent Adventure\)](#)

Seasonal Music Series Continues

As introduced last month, St. John's Fall and Winter musical entertainment program continues. The program consists of several concerts and events spread throughout the seasons. These events are open to all who are interested in attending.

The first event, Music Series, Part I, had St. John's hosting the first of two, Autumn, music concerts. It featured Stephen Palmer. Held in the evening of Saturday, October 4th. It was a resounding success!

Stephen performed original and traditional folk songs interspersed with gospel sing-alongs. It lived up to its promise to be an enjoyable, intimate evening engaging up close with Stephen.

For more on Steve's music, see:

spmusic.ca

The next event in this series is rapidly approaching.

December 6th is "Masters in the Hall - Celtic Music for Christmastime by the Castle Trio. The show will feature the musical trio of Justin Theriault, Kyle Burghout, and Susan Toman. When they will offer a collection of

[\(continue on Pg. 2 – Seasonal Music\)](#)

Winter Gear

We need your help!!!

As we have recently felt in the air and on the ground, Winter is fast approaching. It looks like it might be a very cold and snowy one.

With that thought an enterprising group at St. John's though it would be helpful to make sure our community is ready for the wintry blasts. The idea is to have a winter coat or gear such as hats, scarves, gloves or mittens, give away. That's right it is a Give Away! Free to those in need from our community.

It will include men's, women's, and children's sizes. The date is set for Saturday, November 29th from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. at the Parish Hall.

Eligible community members need only stop by the Parish Hall, during the posted hours, and choose a coat and gear for themselves or their family.

Clothing selection will be on a first-come, first-served basis and while supplies last.

You can help this worthy effort by donating gently used or new items. Due to the generosity of local merchants, cash can also be converted into wearable warmth. All will be accepted, coats, hats, scarves, gloves and mittens. You can also help by spreading the word for both donations and for participants. Talk to everyone you know, family, friends, colleagues and coworkers.

Our only worry is we won't have enough donations to meet the needs of the community. Help us make this a success. Together we can help our community stay warm this winter. For more information, ask at the parish office or contact Debbie Lewis.

(D. Lewis)

Celtic Music for Christmas:

Justin, Kyle, & Susan,

Dec. 6th at 7 p.m.



Seasonal Music

(continued from page 1 – Music Series)

contemporary and traditional Celtic music from Ireland, Scotland, and Canada.

These are some of Ottawa's finest musicians. Justin brings to life the whistles, flutes and pipes. Kyle is a North American fiddle champion. Susan will be on the Celtic Harp.

For more info on the Castle Trio see: www.justinkylesusan.ca.

The concert will feature music specially selected for the holiday season, with accompanying anecdotes about the history of the tunes and stories from the trio's travels. Come enjoy an intimate evening with a trio that

has played our National Arts Centre; only in a less formal setting, more aligned with the music and the spirit behind it.

Tickets are on sale now. \$25 for adults and \$10 for children ages 12 and under. Tickets are available online at their website.

www.justinkylesusan.ca

or from Laura in the church office, Karen Bryan, or any Music Ministries Team or any Parish council member.

Please join us for this joyful, family-friendly event.

A portion of the proceeds will go towards our organ replacement fund. Light refreshments will be available, at a nominal cost.

Further information, contact Karen Bryan or Trish Warren.

(K. Bryan, D. Willis)

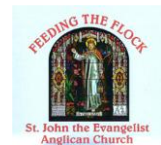
Harvest? Potluck

It has been a very busy Autumn here at St. John's. Music in October and December, and the Bazaar in October. We had planned in November to host our Harvest Potluck Feast. However, plans change.

Due to circumstances beyond our control, we will be pushing the Feast from November 15th to a date, to be determined after Christmas.

We still expect the Parish Hall will be filled with the sounds of conversation and fellowship and the aromas of everyone's signature dishes and comfort foods. It will indeed be a feast for the senses.

To keep things interesting, attendees are encouraged to bring their signature favorites, but the recipe must come from the parish cookbook, **Feeding the Flock**. Published in 2018, this



cookbook has over 200 pages of delicious recipes; from antipasto to zucchini. Don't have one yet? They are available through the office.



Enjoying an evening with Stephen Palmer



Photo – L. Porter

(from page 1 – Advent Adventure) sequence each week to represent the four weeks of Advent: first one candle, then two, then three, and finally all four. The order of the candles themselves is generally: the first purple candle (hope), the second purple candle (peace), the pink candle (joy), and the final purple candle (love).

During Advent, we prepare ourselves spiritually for the anniversary of Christ's birth. But what do the Advent candles represent together? The four Advent candles are arranged on a circular Advent wreath, with no beginning or end, reminding us of the eternity of God's love we find in Jesus. Together the Advent candles are a reminder of God's

promise to us of salvation through Christ. The wreath is placed in a prominent position in the home - at the front door, the dinner table or on a windowsill so that all can see it and can be a constant reminder of Advent.

"But as for me. I watch in hope for the Lord" – Micah 7:7

Let's follow the candles a journey through each week of Advent, starting with: **Hope**

Often called the Prophecy Candle, it represents the hope of the prophets and the anticipation of the Messiah. The first candle symbolizes a shining light in anticipation of the coming of Christ. It represents God's forgiveness of man's sins.

Our Savior's birth delivered hope into the world. No matter the hardship we face, God's hope-filled arrival means we can have hope right here, right now.

The gift of hope was not just for the past—it's for our present and our future too. We can hold a hopeful expectation for the dreams in our hearts, the deep prayers, and the desires we hold dear.

Questions for reflection:

- ❖ What am I hopeful for today?
- ❖ Where have I put hope in my circumstances rather than my Savior?
- ❖ Who needs the hope that I have?

(Advent Adventure continues next month)

Fall Bazaar

Another awesome Bazaar, raising \$4,258.90!

We welcomed many people, and again there was a lineup outside waiting for us to open., and people were very happy to visit our Bazaar.

We would like to thank all - who donated items and made this beautiful fall day a great success.

Special thanks to all the Convenors and Assistants (practically living at the church the week before); opening boxes, arranging and pricing all items; the day of the Bazaar, and after - as we passed along.

Special thanks to Laura Porter - on advertising, Leah Hicks - who generously donated one of her original paintings, and one of our Parishioners who donated an Inuit Soapstone Carving. Both of these were sold by silent auction.

Thanks to Kay and Sue Norman for counting after the Bazaar.

Many, many thanks to everyone for all their donations and hard work that made this Bazaar a great success."

(L. Sherry)

The J. John & NT Wright Podcast:

An exploratory series of Christian conversations.

The podcast where two old friends, one an evangelist, one a theologian, tackle the big questions of life and faith.

Find it on Youtube at:

[The J. John and Tom Wright Podcast.](#)

(C. Kerfoot)



Sound at St. Johns

St. John's is going through an evolution of sound, both traditional choral offerings and contemporary. On the traditional side, Wendy has been working with the choir and the music ministry team to offer a new depth to the musical experience.

We have also recently had an expansion of the role of Beginnings, moving from their initial fit in the prelude and during communion to a theme that embraces full interaction throughout the service. We have also had a Sunday service that very effectively merged the two, blending traditional prayer and readings and the more contemporary praise and worship found in newer churches.

Supporting this evolution of sound St. John's is taking the instruments and the sound system up several notches, as well. Our current pipe organ is in dire need of repair. Its replacement has been ordered. We were hoping for a pre-Christmas delivery, but that may be too tight. Whether in Advent or just after, our praise will reach higher to the heavens and broader throughout the church with its musical power and capabilities.

The sound system at St. Johns has also undergone an overhaul, replacing mics, cables, amps and speakers with exciting technologies that fill our worship space with audible sound that embraces the listener without overpowering.

(D. Willis)

Upcoming Events

- **Parish Council Meetings.**

Next council meeting is Wednesday, November 19th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. In December, the meeting will be on Wednesday, December 17th at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

- **New – Mid-Week Coffee Hour!**

A relaxing hour of sips and fellowship. Starting Wednesday, November 19th at 11 a.m. in the Parish Hall. This is a weekly event.

- **Keenagers.**

Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. At The Smiths Falls Civitan Club Hall. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m.-11am. All are welcome. Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.

- **Sounds of Christmas.**

Annual Ecumenical Fundraiser for Food Security. On Saturday, November 23rd, at the Bethel Pentecostal Church, starting at 6:00 p.m.

- **Winter Gear Giveaway.**

Gently used coats, scarves, mittens, and snowpants will be given to those in need. On Saturday, November 29th, at the Parish Hall, starting at 10:00 a.m. Donations welcome in advance.

- **Advent Walk.**

On the first Sunday of Advent (November 30th) the local Christian community will gather together for shared fellowship and prayers as they walk among the downtown churches. It begins at St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic church and ends at St. John's with cocoa and cider to warm you up.

- **Pray K7A.**

On the last Sunday of each month, the local Christian community gathers together for shared fellowship and prayers. It will be held on November 30th starting at 7 p.m. at the Calvary Bible Church – 15 Beech Street, Smiths Falls.

- **Games Night.**

Games nights happen regularly each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next games night is on Friday, December 5th, starting with food at 5:30 and games at 6:30 p.m.

- **Musical Concert – A Celtic Christmas.**

Fall Music Series Part 2: Celtic Music for Christmastime. On Saturday, December 6th, at the Church, starting at 7:00 p.m.

- **Upcoming Events – Winter Wonderland Potluck.**

Winter Potluck dinner. Jan/Feb 2026. This one is with a twist. All dishes brought to the dinner must be from: **Feeding the Flock.**

Times of Worship:

Sundays:

- 8 a.m. spoken eucharist.
- 10 a.m. sung eucharist.

Wednesdays:

- 10:30 a.m. spoken eucharist.

Parish Office:

- 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays; excepting Thursday. On Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m. (613)283-1261

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Disclaimer: The thoughts and opinions expressed herein are those of the contributors and are not meant to represent the views or positions of the Parish of St. Johns or the Anglican Church of Canada.

