



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY DECEMBER 2022

Volume 18, Issue 3
December 2022



*Welcome to the Church of St. James', Orillia
Whether you are a follower of Christ, or on a spiritual journey, all
are welcome to this Holy and Sacred place.*



FROM THE DESK OF CANON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

The gospel reading for the first Sunday of Advent is Matthew 24:36-44. Jesus describes the end and instructs his disciples to be on watch for signs of it. "Keep awake therefore, for you do not know on what day your Lord is coming." Not a very pleasant way to start Advent. This does not seem to encapsulate the joyous time of year represented in holiday parties, merrymaking, gift wrapping presents – then again, this is not what Advent is about.

In the services we have planned for Advent, we will try to avoid jumping ahead to Christmas Eve! Before we can get to the part of God literally breaking into our world through the birth of Christ, we have to do a little self-examination. Rather than rushing passed the joy, peace, hope, and love (as relayed to us in the Advent Candle Lighting) which comes in the good news of Christ's birth; we need to ask why did this happen?

Advent is the opportunity to wrestle with difficult issues: sin, injustice, oppression, sickness, persecution, and poverty. It is about the failure of the earthly kingdoms to respond to our misery and the crying out for another way of living that is good and just. Advent has always been counter-cultural to the populism of mainstream society. It is about waiting and watching as we're instructed by Jesus.

Before we celebrate the breaking of God into our lives, we have to also to discover for ourselves that we have put up many barriers between us and God. So, this Advent let us sit and contemplate how the Scripture challenges us in a process of self-examination and not to be complacent and rush ahead to Christmas.

I invite you to join me each Wednesday evening at 7:00 p.m. throughout Advent for a zoom study that has been prepared by Bishop Andrew. We will watch a short video he has prepared on the themes of the readings, have a discussion, and offer prayer. If you are interested, please call me or email rector@stjamesorillia.com.

Yours in Christ, Canon John

WORSHIP UPDATE ADAPTING



In the November newsletter, I set out reasons why we were not using the high altar and limiting the activity in the chancel. I admit I have done an about-face, what we call in corporate management 'adaptive leadership'! It was just becoming too cumbersome every Sunday to manage the competing demands for space in front of the chancel area. To make the changes that are required is going to take time and money. I believe that liturgical change is needed, including how we use our chancel space. However, the quality of our worship is always our prime consideration. To that end, the choir has returned to the chancel, and we will use the high altar. Communion will be offered in the nave for those who cannot manage the multiple steps. The only requirement I have made is that anyone in the chancel and sanctuary, including the choir, must always wear a mask.

Our Vision - A strong faith community, reflecting God's Love to those around us.
Our Mission - To serve and share Jesus Christ
Our Values - Faith, Compassion, Integrity, Respect

STEWARDSHIP CORNER - GIVING THANKS

I'd like us to take a moment to think about the many activities that have happened over November and into December as you read this newsletter. Coming out of the pandemic, it seems that we have returned to the many activities that are important to our church. The Corporation and Treasurer are working tirelessly on renting the rectory, the photo directory, dealing with finances, and now budget discussions. Members of Social Justice are starting the Advent Conspiracy for this December and the ACW are busy with their Family Christmas Project to help those in need; the St. Nick's Day and Xmas Bake Sale. Then there was the ACW/Pennywise Fashion Show which was a huge success! We need to give thanks to all those who volunteer their time at St. James'.

The only caveat that should be made is that this work is falling on the shoulders of a few volunteers. It is important that we return to the many good things we do at St. James'. However, remember that many hands make light work. Calls have been to help out at worship for greeters; by Fellowship to assist with Sunday coffee or an event; or perhaps work on a committee such as the Library, Stewardship, or Social Justice. Unfortunately, that call is not being answered! So, if you have an interest, please speak to a ministry leader even if it means you only can give a few hours of your time.

Finally, we give thanks for all of you who continue to support your parish. At this time of year there are many monetary demands to support worthwhile causes. The work of the parish still continues. Just remember the heat, hydro, and building are important because they allow us to do the mission and ministry we are know for at St. James'.

Canon John



Advent Conspiracy Kenya Mission Trip - May 18 - June 3

This Advent season the focus will be on the upcoming Kenya medical mission in the spring of 2023. A group of 16 people (7 from this parish) will be heading to Nairobi to provide free medical clinic services to the people of the Kibera slum for a 2-week period. Our services consist of medical evaluation and treatment where feasible, free medications, lab service, eyesight evaluations and free eyeglasses, dental services. All services are offered on the compound of Holy Trinity Anglican Church in the Kibera slum of Nairobi. All expenses for these services are paid through our general fundraising campaign. Those of us going on this mission are totally responsible for ALL our own expenses.

Because our clients at the clinics are very poor and suffering often from food insecurity, we would really like to be able to give out some additional food to stretch their meagre diets. Things like maize, rice, corn, beans, oil are staples.

This year's Advent Conspiracy event is asking for contributions towards purchasing these staples. Many factors have made food scarcity a major problem in East African countries including Kenya. Slum city dwellers are particularly affected because of COVID restrictions, increased unemployment, climate changes reducing food availability, water shortages and many other elements. Approximately 85% of slum households have severe food scarcity. Households headed by women are even more vulnerable.

You can help us with this need by donating to the Advent Conspiracy campaign. Visit the parish Christmas card display in the church near the pulpit to sign the Christmas card and provide a cheque or cash donation in one of the donations envelopes available. Donations of \$20 or more would receive a tax receipt. You can make your donation either in memory of a loved one or as a Christmas gift to someone. There are cards you can fill out to send to anyone you wish to notify of your donation. Thanks, you for your support!

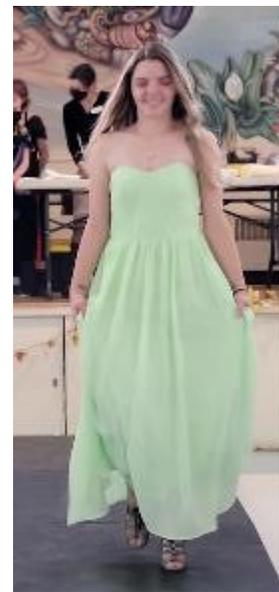
Rosemarie Freeman

A COLLABORATIVE SUCCESS!!

The Pennywise Shop and our ACW groups held a very delightful afternoon that combined a unique fashion show with a delicious high tea on November 19. The auditorium was full of cheerful people indulging in good food, good company and very good clothing and wares from our Pennywise Shop, despite some challenges from our contrary kitchen oven and disappearing equipment. There were so many volunteers from both sponsoring groups that it is too difficult to mention all by name, but it was truly a cooperative venture that included several visiting family members, and other friends. Many compliments have been received and much thanks is due to all those who helped. There are some great photographs posted on the St. James' Facebook page if you would like to check them out, in addition to the photos in this newsletter.

Rosemarie Freeman





A NEW LOOK FOR CHURCH PARLOUR



Something great was happening in the church parlour! The old carpet was ripped up and new laminate flooring went down! All of this along with a refresh paint job on the fireplace! Special thanks to James Beamish, Dave Simpson, Jen Hill, and Judith Beamish for their hard work on this project!

"The great challenge left to us is to cut through all the glitz and glam of the season that has grown increasingly secular and commercial, and be reminded of the beauty of the One who is Christmas."

Bill Crowder

SUNDAY'S "PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE"



Prayers bring strength and comfort for anyone having a difficult time, and our Parish Family prays for those who have been placed on our Prayer List through the Intercessor (usually Beth or Mae) every Sunday morning. Usually only first names are read, unless a person specifically asks for more identification. You may have noticed the list becoming very long, because people request prayer but rarely tell us when we can stop. So, as of October, names will be kept on our list for FOUR Sundays and then removed, unless we receive further instructions. Please don't think we don't want to pray for anyone; we'll continue as long as this is requested. If you need our Parish Family to be like the "persistent widow" in Jesus' parable (Luke 18: 9-14), we will be! So, let us uphold each other and any others who ask us, with our prayers.

Mae Cox

PS - Baby Sebastian, for whom we are praying each Sunday in our prayers, is the son of the Principal in Fox Lake, spoken of in the article by Linda Davidson on the next page.

HEARTS (HELPING ELDERLY WITH ARTS)

The Orillia & District Arts Council (ODAC) had applied for, and received, funding from the Federal government New Horizons for Seniors program in early 2022. The HeARTS program had money and St. James' had space so this match up is a solution where everyone benefits.

After extensive planning and community input, HeARTS was launched mid September in the Upper Room of St. James.' On Tuesdays and Thursdays, there are themed art activities that encourage creativity, increase self-esteem, support friendship and social inclusion. A movement and dance component by local instructor Miriam Goldberger is a fun and physical health program addition that is quite popular. Church staff and clergy can attest to the exuberance of the groups!

Program participants do not need previous art training – the activities of the program help them discover unknown talent and the self-satisfaction of learning new skills. These group settings are intended to be a nonjudgmental space that nurtures the act of creating, which helps the mind to focus, to be calm and to explore a life outside of age-related conditions.

For elders who may be uncertain of committing to weekly classes, there is also a drop-in session that requires no registration – just show up! All supplies, snacks and fun are free of charge. The church lift is available for those with mobility challenges.

HeARTS also pays local musicians, arts instructors, and special guests to provide a variety of performances that highlight local talent within the arts and culture sector. We have enjoyed sessions with our own Judith Sophie and Susan Smith, as well as upcoming Christmas performances at local retirement homes by Errol Lee.

For more information contact Sukhi Kaur, Activities Manager heARTSorillia@gmail.com
Christine Hager



FOX LAKE (LITTLE RED RIVER CREE NATION) ALBERTA UPDATE

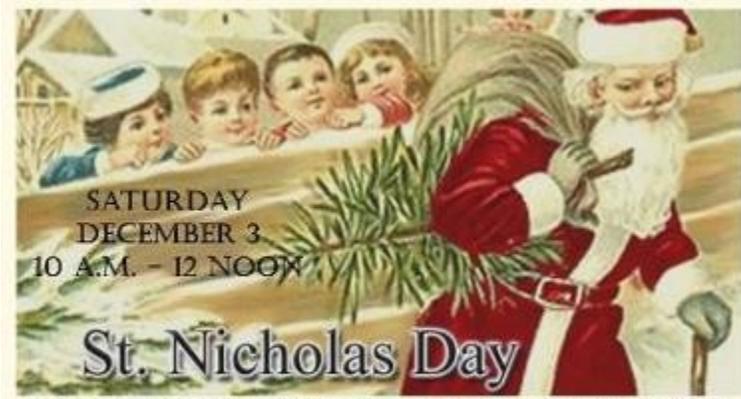


The St. James' Social Justice Committee has been supporting students in the Fox Lake community for several years now with a donation that allows the schools to decide how this gift could best be used. The school principal notes that the community has been struggling with drinking water, with a boil water advisory issued last March, that has only recently been lifted. Given the issues faced with getting jugs of potable water filled, usually in either High Level or the neighbouring community of John D'Or, we decided to purchase additional water bottles for students. The need for these additional water bottles was also made necessary given that, happily, school attendance is now just as good, if not better, than it was before COVID. There have been days with almost 300 students attending, which is 75% of the registrants. Normal day-to-day attendance is between 175-215 students. Because of this, the 150 bottles bought last year with the help of St. James' (allowing students a personal water bottle - a Covid necessity) couldn't support all the students. Our donation is going to help fund the additional water bottles for this school year.

The principal notes that the community has opened up more as far as restrictions for COVID. Consequently, there are now some school trips as well as guest speakers coming into the community and into the schools. He concluded by saying that we are running like a normal school, which he has not seen since becoming principal.

Linda Davidson

ST. NICK'S CHILDREN'S SHOPPING DAY



SATURDAY
DECEMBER 3
10 A.M. - 12 NOON

St. Nicholas Day

Children 12 and under only can shop. Little ones will have an "elf" to assist them. All articles are \$2.50 and under. A separate mini-bazaar will be available for adults.

The Pennywise Thrift Shop will also be open for your shopping pleasure!

Christmas Music, Stories & Carols

Wednesdays
12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

- November 30th
Susan Charters - Storyteller
Dr. Norm Kee - vocalist
Susan Smith - Pianist
- December 7th
Alan & Sophie Cooper - Musicians
Guitar, Violin, Recorder, & Vocal
Anna Trubashnik - Pianist
- December 14th
Rebecca Campbell & Alex Teske
Vocalists
Susan & John Smith
Celtic Harp & Clarinet
- December 21st
Anna Trubashnik - Vocal & Piano
Cheryl Behan - Flute



Hot Cider provided. Free will offering.

All are welcome

Join us every Wednesday in Advent at 12 noon in the church for some great seasonal music and special guest performances as noted on poster. You are bound to leave the event with a warm heart and in great spirit!

FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST

Sunday December 25
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Join us for
Worship Service
at 9 a.m.



Sunday January 1
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.

Join us for
Worship Service
at 10 a.m.

ALL ARE WELCOME

LIGHT ONE CANDLE ZOOM ADVENT STUDY



Advent reflections offered by Bishop Asbil.
The videos explore the four themes of the season.

- Wednesdays by Zoom at 7:00 p.m.
- November 30 (Advent 1) Hope
- December 7 (Advent 2) Peace
- December 14 (Advent 3) Joy
- December 21 (Advent 4) Love

Contact Canon John
rector@stjamesorillia.com

STAR SO BRIGHT

A Journey of Faith

A presentation in word and song
by Jackie Bennett

Hosted by The Parishes of
Washago, Prince's Cove and St. James Orillia

St. James' Anglican Church

58 Peter Street North, Orillia

December 8, 2022
7:00 p.m.

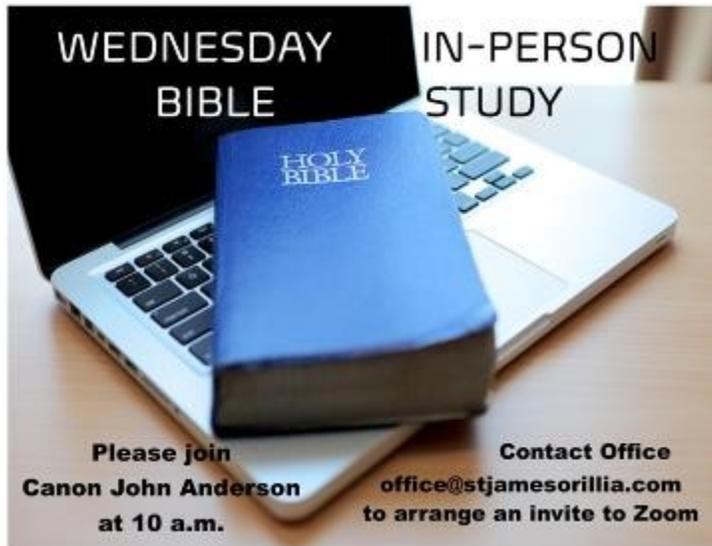
For more information
(705) 325 2742

A free will offering will be gratefully accepted
with proceeds after expenses going to FaithWorks.

A NEW CHRISTMAS STORY STAR SO BRIGHT

Come see and hear the Christmas Story from a new perspective: Naomi, a young, childless widow, tells her story in word and song. Five woman readers from each of the two parishes will lend their voices to Naomi, while the songs of a small band will enhance the immersion of our imaginations into her journey. All are welcome. A free will offering would be gratefully accepted. See you at 7 p.m. on Thursday, December 8th in the Church!

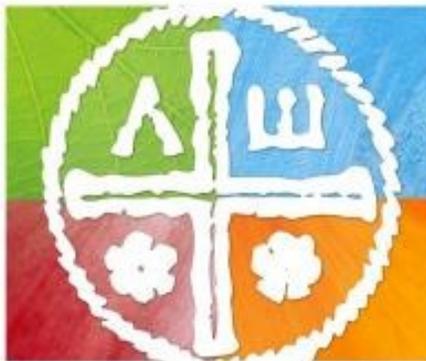
WEDNESDAY BIBLE IN-PERSON STUDY



Please join **Canon John Anderson** at 10 a.m.

Contact Office **office@stjamesorillia.com** to arrange an invite to Zoom

CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION
TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Upper Room



Centering Prayer is a receptive method of silent prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of the experience of God's presence within us. This method of prayer is both a relationship with God and a discipline to foster that relationship.

Centering Prayer is not meant to replace other kinds of prayer. Rather, it adds depth to all prayer and facilitates the movement into a receptive prayer of resting in God. Centering Prayer emphasizes prayer as a personal relationship with God and as a movement beyond relationship with God and as a movement beyond conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact **office@stjamesorillia.com** or 705-325-2742

PRE-AUTHORIZED GIVING

What is the Pre-Authorized Giving Plan?

Sponsored by the Diocese of Toronto, Pre-Authorized Giving (P.A.G.) assists parishioners in the diocese to make their regular offertory donations to their church by direct debit.

Why Should I Participate?

Advantages for you:

- Convenience: your offering is received automatically every month and automatically deposited in the Parish account.
- You can plan your giving in advance for the whole year
- You can continue to support St. James' when you are away.
- You can continue to support of ministries and programs
- Decreased environmental impact to reduce envelope use.
- Changes may be made any time by contacting the church office
- Givers do not have to write a cheque or carry cash each week
- Safe and secure

Advantages for St. James'

- A regular, dependable flow of contributions to St. James',
- Easier to plan the budget in advance for the whole year
- A reduction of paperwork and bookkeeping.
- Decreased environmental impact.

JOIN TODAY! CONTACT THE CHURCH OFFICE



TEA AT THREE ON THURSDAYS



Tea at Three on Thursdays at 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. This will be a Zoom meeting with no agenda other than to connect with Church friends face to face for a casual time. Anyone wishing to join should contact Christine Blair at: **office@stjamesorillia.com** for an invitation.

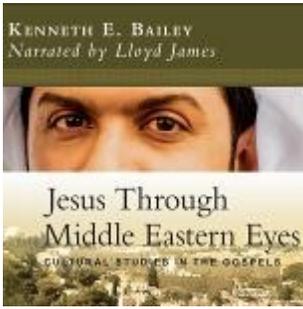


"During the pandemic the only choir we had was the one from the basement. Led by Charlie".
Marg Casebow

"The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness has not overcome it."
John 1:5

Three ways you can celebrate with us:
 In-person Sundays at 8 a.m. or 10 a.m.
 Livestream at 10 a.m. on YouTube
 Sunday 10 a.m. recordings can be viewed any time from our Past-Virtual Services

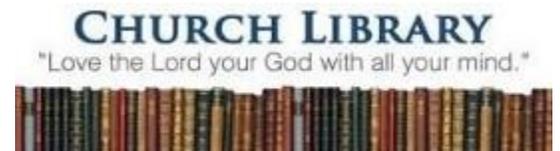
ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The St. James' Book Discussion Group will be meeting January 9th, 2023. Come join us in the Upper Room at 10 a.m. to discuss “*Jesus Through Middle Eastern Eyes: Cultural Studies of the Gospels*” by Kenneth E. Bailey. Bailey is an ordained minister, theologian, author and lecturer in Middle Eastern New Testament studies. This book provides ideas that are frequently as old as the earliest church but that may well be new to many Western readers. Also described as an imaginative, humorous reading of key Gospel passages that emphasize the concrete world presupposed in the New Testament, all are welcome to join us for a lively discussion and the sharing of different perspectives and thoughts. (Note – this book is available through the Orillia Public Library as a downloadable audiobook.)

Linda Davidson

Not only does the library provide a variety of topics on the shelves, but Canon John has added a series of DVD's and study guides that were used for a study session. Some of the topics include: 'Practicing Mindfulness', 'Stress and Your Body', and 'Why Evil Exists'. They are available to borrow. Please sign your name on the accompanying card and leave it on the desk.



If you have not visited the library, take a few minutes to browse the shelves. Two titles I chose were, '**Jesus in Blue Jeans**' and '**Finding God in Unexpected Places**'. Those appealed to me. Come and find out what appeals to you!

Sue Glowa

“God gives us things to SHARE; God doesn’t give us things to HOLD.”
Mother Teresa

CHRISTMAS PROJECT

Will you help our St. James' Annual Christmas Project?

Did you know? It's been well over 40 years that St. James' ACW has been heading up our Christmas Project. Long ago at its start, we managed gifts for six families through their social workers with an agency in Orillia called "Tamarac" - which later become "Catulpa-Tamarac". The number of families grew and what we provided did, too: from random presents to a "Special Wish Gift" plus extras, plus mittens and hats; from any food we were given to food to prepare a Christmas Dinner plus extras, and the choice of a turkey or ham. Our number of families not only grew to come from more agencies - Couchiching Jubilee House, New Path and Community Living Huronia, as well as Catulpa - but we also added single teens from the Orillia Youth Centre - from perhaps 20 people to over 100! (We used agencies because they know their clients' needs already.)

Then came COVID. Like everyone else, ACW had to "pivot" but we didn't miss a Christmas! Now we provide GIFT CARDS: in November, cards to buy children's presents (\$40 per child); in December, cards to buy Christmas Dinner plus (\$25 per person in the family). It's not as much fun as our "Wrapping Day" used to be, but it's safer for health reasons and it's cost effective because we purchase the gift cards through our St. James' FUNDScriP program, which brings in at least a bit of money for St. James' on the side.

WILL YOU HELP US? Simply note that your money is for the "St. James' ACW Christmas Project" and it will get to us - on a Sunday or through the Church Office. Any amount will help. THANKS!

Mae Cox



WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

Sunday December 4, 11, 18, 25

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist (not on 25th)
 8:30-9:30 Community Breakfast
 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist (9 a.m. on 25th)

Friday December 24

5 & 7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve

Tuesday December 6, 13, 20, 27

12 noon Centering Prayer (not on 27th)
 12 p.m. Pennywise Shop

Wednesday December 7, 14, 21, 28

10 a.m. Bible Study (not on 21st & 28th)
 10: a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch
 12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop
 12 noon Christmas Music (not on 28th)

Thursday December 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop
 (Closed on 29th & Jan 3rd)

Sunday January 1

10 a.m. Morning Prayer (Low Sunday)
 (one service only)
 Regular Sunday Services for the rest of January

Friday December 2

Set-up for St. Nick's

Saturday December 3

10 a.m. St. Nick's Children's Shopping Day & ACW Mini-Bazaar

Sunday December 4

Food Bank & Fundscrip Sunday

Tuesday December 6

2 p.m. A.C.W. meeting

Thursday December 8

7 p.m. Star So Bright

Saturday December 10

2 -5 p.m. C.S. Rehearsal in Church

Sunday December 11

4 p.m. Cellar Singers' Concert

Tuesday December 13

7 p.m. Ministry Council via zoom

Friday Dec 24 Christmas Eve

5 p.m. Family Contemporary Service
 7:30 pm. Carol Sing-along
 8:00 p.m. Traditional Holy Eucharist

Saturday December 25

Christmas Day

* 9:00 a.m. Holy Communion

Monday December 26

Boxing Day (Office Closed)

Friday December 30

Office Open 10 a.m. to 12 noon
 Final Day for 2022 Tax Receipted Givings

Monday January 2

Office Closed

Sunday January 8

Fundscrip Sunday

Christmas Word Find

G C P M E H E F F N Y Y A S E
 V F I O G K N O C Y R R I L B
 Z H S J Z X U H E G A B Z N B
 H A T I D U R X S Z M E I P E
 R P L R S I L E N T N I G H T
 R K O Q S N E M E S I W A J H
 Y L X T Y Z S W C Z S P E P L
 M I M F H F N P N S J V E K E
 J A B T T B A R I O R S X Z H
 S A I Y L Y T E K V O F L W E
 H A Y E Y T I G N J I O E E M
 F A M K R H V N A E V U G P E
 M A A N W A I A R S A S N O E
 C I H O T C T M F U S O A H F
 D J E D K Q Y S V S W T E K Q

| | |
|-----------|--------------|
| JESUS | HAY |
| MARY | ANGEL |
| JOSEPH | FAITH |
| WISEMEN | HOPE |
| MANGER | FRANKINCENSE |
| NATIVITY | MYRRH |
| BETHLEHEM | SILENT NIGHT |
| CAMEL | LORD |
| DONKEY | SAVIOR |
| STAR | CHRISTMAS |



Your Ministry Council

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy.

Are you ill? In the Hospital? Now in a nursing home?

If you or someone you know from our congregation is ill, in the hospital or has moved to a nursing home, please let us know by calling the church office. **We have no other way of knowing**, as the hospital and nursing homes are no longer permitted to give this information out due to the Privacy Act.

Hospital Pastoral Care

Having met the required hospital protocols, Mae Cox, our Pastoral Care Visitor for OSMH, is now able to actually visit patients in person. If you know anyone from our Parish Family who is in Soldiers, please notify the Church Office so a visit can be arranged.

Newsletter Sponsorship

Each month we ask for a sponsor to support the publication of our parish newsletter. Many of our family receive it via the internet but many still enjoy receiving the paper copy and/or they might not have access to a computer. The donation of \$100.00 each month pays to produce our internet copies, the paper copies and their mailing. Please contact Phyllis in the office 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month.

Thank you so much for all of you who sponsored a month of the newsletter. Your donation of \$100.00 allowed us to keep in touch with many of our parishioners who no longer attend, moved away, or whose families like to be part of St James'. Those who do not have computer access, get a copy mailed out each month. Thank you thank you.

Fundscrip

The Fundscrip deadline is **Sunday December 4**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off in the bin at the Gardys'. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. Pick up will be **Friday December 9**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.

The Fundscrip deadline for **January will be Sunday January 8 with pick up date on Friday January 13 2023**.



FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS

Prayer. The original wireless connection.

What size was the lumber that was made to build the ark?
2 x 2.

Did Eve ever have a date with Adam? No, just an apple.

December Birthdays
 JA Code, Sophy Cooper, Rosemarie Freeman,
 Leonora Mason, Arlene Meakin-Dawes, Robert
 Miles, Doug Nicholls, Julia Nicholls, Kristine
 Preston, Peter Schuepp, Robin Windrem

December Anniversaries
 Lori & Stephen McClelland,
 Julia & Doug Nicholls

January Birthdays
 Ruth Bark, Shirley Bromley, Wendy Caston,
 Karen Har t, Jen Hill, Vic Howarth,
 Jo Levasseur, Ellie MacPhail, George Smith,
 Sylvia Smith

Happy **NEW YEAR**
 You crown the year with Your goodness,
 And Your paths drip with abundance.
 PSALM 65:11

ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH
 58 Peter St. North, Box 272, Orillia, Ontario
 L3V 6J6 325-2742
 office@stjamesorillia.com
 http://www.stjamesorillia.com

Rector: The Reverend Canon John Anderson
 Editors: The Communications Committee
 Composer: Nancy Noakes-Morrison
 Production: Phyllis Johnson

