



# ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

## DECEMBER 2023

Volume 19, Issue 3  
December 2023



*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 ARCHDEACON JOHN

Dear Friends in Christ,

#### **Bring A Parent to Church Day**

It is not uncommon that people will tell me that there are not enough young people in church, and what can I do to change this trend. I have pointed out that the answer to this question is not simple. I have also remarked that perhaps we should start from the questions, "Why do your children or grandchildren not come to church? What can we do to encourage them to come?"

Recently, I was reminded from years back of a former parishioner who was diagnosed with terminal cancer. His three children took turns coming to church with their father to be with him. They would come with their own children and many times they would all come together. Over the year and half, they were faithful bringing their parents to church. I have to say it was the greatest gift that they could give their father. This parishioner was a cradle Anglican. The church was pastorally and spiritually important to him – going to church brought him joy. I think that the simple gift of the family coming to church with him extended his time with us and with them and brought him immense happiness. Likewise, they became closer as a family, and it was a privilege to serve them when their father passed away.

When a parishioner tells me that their children and grandchildren no longer go to church, I can tell there is a weight of sadness that sits with them. If you are one of those adult children or grandchildren that is reading this newsletter, I get it that you may be one who no longer has a belief in God, you may have found some other church to attend, or you may have fallen out of the practice of going to church. These are all good reasons that are important to you.

But as you continue reading this, I would like to suggest an early Christmas gift for your mom and dad. Take a parent to church this Sunday. Maybe it is just one Sunday per month or perhaps it's Christmas Eve. Make it part of your routine: go to church and then have a nice brunch together! There is no greater gift that you can give someone than by making time for them and sharing in an activity which is sacred to them. Take the time to ask, "Why do you go to church?", "Why is your faith in Jesus important to you?" or talk about those memories of going to church with mom and dad.

I would ask in this time of Advent, as we wait with patience to be reminded of Immanuel or 'God with us', that you find ways to rest in a mystery that passes all understanding, and being with a loved one who has given you so much.

Yours in Christ,  
Archdeacon John

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



## ST. JAMES' RECONCILIATION CIRCLE - DEC. 4TH

The St. James' Reconciliation Circle invites you to join them virtually on Monday, December 4th at 11 a.m. to discuss the book "Yellowhead's Revolt" by Dave Town. An OMAH History Series video on the same topic is available at <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uyonFK5OQtw>. If you have suggestions for additional book studies, we'd be happy to consider them.

Please contact Phyllis ([office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com)) to express your interest in attending this meeting and we will send you a Zoom link.

You are welcome to attend our future activities -

- A visit to the History Room at the Orillia Public Library (2nd floor) on Friday, December 1st at 10 a.m. The intent is to do some research on Chief Yellowhead. Space is limited to 4-5 people. If you would like to attend, please contact the church office.
- A visit to "Call to Action #83 Art Project" at St. Paul's is being planned for January.
- We are excited to announce that Bishop Ryscilla Shaw (who is Metis) has offered to meet with our Circle on a weekday this spring. Further details to follow.

Please consider joining us to explore reconciliation and build relationships with indigenous neighbours.

Marilyn Clark

*When I pray for another person, I am praying for God to open my eyes so that I can see that person as God does, and then enter into the stream of love that God already directs toward that person."*

*Phillip Yancey*

## ADVENT CONSPIRACY 2023 - DEC. 3RD

DO NOT FORGET!

A reminder that the Advent Conspiracy event for 2023 invites you to participate in the campaign to help Kingfisher Lake, ON get a water truck. Here are the steps you can take to assist:



1. Ask yourself what amount you might be spending for gift for a loved one.
2. Decide not to buy "stuff"- give the gift of water instead.
3. Donate to the PWRDF Indigenous Water Partnership, Kingfisher Lake.
4. Take a donation card from the Advent Conspiracy display in the church and read detailed information and instructions there.
5. Give the gift card to your loved one.

Donations should be made through St. James' Church by making your cheque out to St. James' Church with a note to PWRDF Pimatisiwin Nipi ("Living Waters") Kingfisher Lake project. If you donate cash, please submit in sealed envelop provided with your name and address for receipt purposes. Donations over \$20 will be receipted.

Look for the Advent Conspiracy display in church throughout December until Christmas. You can follow the Pimatisiwin Nipi group work on Facebook. The Social Justice Committee will keep you as updated as possible.



## 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 (\$50 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.

Mae Cox



## VOLUNTEERS ARE NEEDED

We are in desperate need of help if we are to continue with special events and our usual activities. Please consider where you could help and register with Christine Blair or Anne Thompson.

### All Sundays - Do you enjoy Coffee Hour?

Help set-up for the coffee hour before the church service (15 minutes).  
Serve coffee after the service (45 minutes).  
Clean-up after the coffee hour (15 minutes).

### St. Nick's Children's Shopping Day on Dec. 2

Help set up for the sale on Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> from 1:00 to about 3:30 p.m.  
Work behind tables while children shop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.  
Teenagers needed to help the youngest children shop from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

### Christmas Lunch on Dec. 10

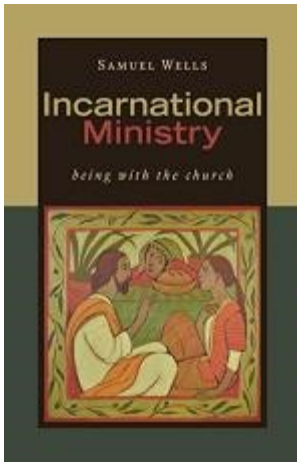
Bring a plate of Christmas goodies to share.  
Help set-up lunch tables immediately after Communion.  
Help clean-up after the lunch.



*A mom texts, "Hi, son what does IDK, LY, and TYL mean?"*

*He replies, "I Don't Know, Love You, Talk to You Later."*

*The mom texts back, "It's ok, don't worry about it, I'll ask your sister, love you too."*



Samuel Wells, **Incarnational Ministry being with the church**, William Eerdmans Publishing Company, Grand Rapids, Michigan ©2017

This book, as its title indicates, explores the notion of “being with” the church. Throughout the book we consider a theological understanding of discipleship in all its various expressions, and the incarnational demands of following Jesus. Wells introduces us to this topic of “the Ministry of Being With” followed by 11 chapters describing how it impacts every permutation we are called to embrace as Church.

“Incarnational” as described and understood by the author means to embody Jesus in our words, our actions, our very being. It brings a deeper meaning to all we say and do, our attitude and the way we approach our presence and interactions with others.

Throughout the book we discover that “being with” makes the difference between the way the social agencies in our society approach the assistance they offer and how they deliver it to those in need, over against the ministry actions and community support from members of Christian churches.

I highly recommend this book to all who want to explore the difference we can make when Jesus is at the centre of who we are and all that we do as his disciples.

Rev. Carol

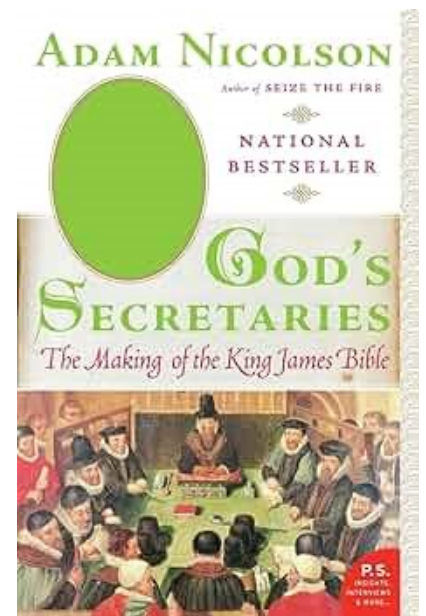
## ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP - JAN. 8TH

The St. James' Book Discussion Group is not meeting during December but will resume in the New Year on January 8th, 2024.

Come and join us in the Church Parlour at 10 a.m. for discussion, fellowship and coffee and goodies. January's book is *God's Secretaries: The Making of the King James Bible* written by Adam Nicolson. The King James Bible is considered one of the most important works ever written in English and one which dramatically changed English society with its publishing.

Nicolson focuses on Jacobean English society to analyze how the norms and institutions of Jacobean English society in the early 17th century influenced the book's production given the involvement of the more than 50 translators who worked on this between 1604 and 1611 during a period of religious turbulence and divisions. All are welcome including those who have not read this book but would just like to hear the discussion.

Linda Davidson



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*



This note is a brief review of the involvement of the Social Justice Committee in 2023. A group of seven parishioners (Linda Davidson, Christine Hager, Rob Beadle, Wayne Cox, Bill Manley, Joyce Hird and Rosemarie Freeman) meet every month to research our chosen missions and update parishioners about our local, national, and international mission commitments. We sponsor some educational information, publish updates in the parish newsletter and seek out social justice needs around the world.

Here is a recap of some of our activities in 2023:



1. Provision of information and support for the **Fox Lake, Alberta** elementary school children's needs in this isolated, indigenous community plagued by destructive wildfires this past spring. It is the community where Sean Davidson and his wife, Ashley are stationed. Thanks to their visit to Orillia in the summer we have firsthand information of the enormous difficulties faced by this community. St. James' has focused primarily on providing some support for school children's needs there. Sean's visit to us in the summer enabled us to raise funds to send to the Fox Lake school principal this fall to provide for the needs of children in school affected by the wildfire destruction and displacement.
2. **The Kenya Medical Mission** headed off to Nairobi in May 2023 under the leadership of Dr. Fran McCordic. This team of 17 people, 7 of whom are from this parish, provided free medical clinics and medications, laboratory tests, eyeglasses, and dental services to the residents of the Kibera slum in Nairobi. St. James' parish generously responded to the December 2022 Advent Conspiracy campaign to raise funds for the purchase of medications and lab supplies for this mission. A recent slide presentation and luncheon for the parish provided detailed information on the great success for this mission.
3. **Honduras Scholarships** for high school students have been provided by St. James' for many years now. In our 2023 Lenten Challenge, funds were raised to assist 12 Honduran students to pay for uniforms and books to attend high school. These funds have been forwarded to Honduras recently.



4. **The vegetable gardens** to the east of the church were ably maintained by Christine Hager and Sandra Mosher. This year pollinator plants were mainly cultivated since the property is proving too shady for successful vegetable crops. Attracting parishioners interested in assisting with the gardens has been very difficult.
5. **Coldest Night of the Year Walk**, a community-based fundraiser for the local Lighthouse Ministries, was an annual event in which a group of parishioners, headed by Bill Manley, participated.
6. **Faithworks** was once again successfully promoted within the parish. This programme supports the work of several local social services including Couchiching Jubilee House, The Lighthouse, and Sharing Place Food Bank.
7. **Monthly parish newsletter submissions** were submitted by the Social Justice Committee to keep parishioners as well informed and interested as possible in our various social justice ventures.
8. **Advent Conspiracy event 2023**-We are about to launch 2023's Advent Conspiracy event to support the "Living Waters" group, under the leadership of Rev. Martha Tatarnic, to raise funds for the Kingfisher Lake Reserve in northwestern Ontario. This community of indigenous folks desperately need a new water truck to bring clean water to this community. It is a venture supported by PWRDF as well. The goal for this event across Canada is \$35,000. We will be providing background literature and an opportunity to contribute during the Advent season in our parish.



**coldest**  
**\*night**  
OF THE YEAR

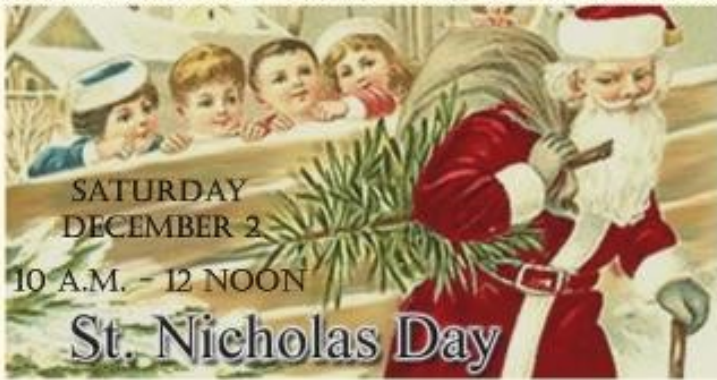
*Faith*  
**WORKS** | Works of faith  
for over 25 years

**[★] ADVENT  
CONSPIRACY**

This is an active committee which would welcome additional members interested in a wide variety of social justice issues. Let us know if you wish to join us.



## ST. NICK'S CHILDREN'S SHOPPING DAY



SATURDAY  
DECEMBER 2  
10 A.M. - 12 NOON

### St. Nicholas Day

For Children 12 & under ONLY. Little ones will have an "elf" to assist them. All items are \$3.00 & under. With a Mini-Bazaar & Bake Sale for Adults to shop while waiting for the children.



Thank you to those who have already donated books for the book sale. If you have books that you would like to donate, please bring them to the office or the library. They will be displayed in the Parlour at the sale on December 2. With your help, all money raised from the sale will be used to purchase new books for our library. Thank you for your support!

Sue Glowa



Please  
join  
us  
for  
a

PARISH CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH  
and CAROL SING  
Following the  
10 a.m. service  
on  
SUNDAY DECEMBER 10

Donations of cookies, tarts and squares for our Christmas lunch on December 10 would be gratefully appreciated. If you love to bake, a dozen or two would be a great addition to our celebration.

## ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL FOR ADVENT

SUNDAY DECEMBER 3 and 17  
following the 10 a.m. Service

Led by Archdeacon John and Rev. Carol in the Parlour.  
The Advent Study is taken from the Iona Community.  
Reading, Reflection, Discussion followed by Prayer.

WATCH...WAIT...LISTEN

## You Are Invited To Our Worship Services



Sunday December 10th - 10 a.m.

Lessons and Carols

Featuring The St. James' Choir and  
Guest Cellist Marta Solek

Wednesday December 20th - 7 p.m.

Quiet Christmas

Sunday December 24th - 10 a.m.

Christmas Eve Morning  
Family Service

Sunday December 24th

Christmas Eve  
Carol Sing 7:30 p.m.,  
Seasonal Music  
7:50 - 8 p.m.

Choral Eucharist 8 p.m. with  
The St. James' Choir,  
Guest Soloists and Musicians.

Monday December 25th - 10 a.m.

Christmas Day

## Christmas Music, Stories & Carols

Wednesdays

12 noon to 1:00 p.m.

December 6

Mae Cox, storyteller  
Susan and John Smith on  
Celtic Harp and Clarinet

December 13

Susan Charters,  
Alan and Sophy Cooper  
with songs and stories

December 20

Rebecca Campbell, Kate Ward,  
Mary Skinner, and Faith  
Roebuck-Shergold  
Seasonal Songs/Music

Hot Cider  
provided.  
Free will  
offering.

All are  
welcome







Cartoon by the Rev. Jay Sidebotham

## FOOD BANK SUNDAY

First Sunday of every month




**Our Green Bags** are located in the narthex for your use. Fill them with any item listed here. They will be delivered to The Sharing Place Food Bank.

*Thank you!!*

**TOP NEEDED ITEMS**

- o Hygiene products
- o Canned Soup Veg/Mushroom/Chicken Noodle
- o Canned Vegetables
- o Canned Meat and Fish
- o Peanut Butter (375 g & 500 g)
- o Pasta Sauce and Pasta
- o Rice (not instant or minute)
- o Wholegrain Cereal (less than 12g sugar)
- o Flour
- o Coffee (not instant)
- o Tea

**WEDNESDAY BIBLE**




**IN-PERSON STUDY**

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

## CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION

TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Choir 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 conversation with Christ to communion with Christ.

**George Sanders leads the group. For more info contact [office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com) or 705-325-2742**

## FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



**ALL ARE WELCOME**

**Every Sunday  
8:30 to 9:30 a.m.  
in St. James'  
Auditorium**

*A joint venture with St. David Anglican-Lutheran, St. Athanasius Anglican, St. James' Anglican & Community Members.  
Our goal is to provide food and fellowship in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord.*





A.C.W. Sunday with  
Bishop Riscylla  
Sunday Nov. 19th



## FUNNY CHURCH BULLETINS

These sentences appeared in church bulletins or were announced at church services:

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



Our beautiful sanctuary  
waiting for you!  
Photos courtesy of Jeff Campbell





## GIVE A GIFT CARD!

Support our church by purchasing gift cards for gift-giving and your everyday needs. Cards are purchased at face value with a commission coming back to the church. You will still receive your loyalty points (PC, Airmiles, Aeroplan) when you use the gift card to pay for your purchases.



Do you buy groceries, toiletries, gas, clothing, or gifts? With FundScrip, there is something for everyone! It is so easy! Order forms are available at the back of the church, beside the office door, and online. Bring your order and payment to the church by the first Sunday of the month and pick up your cards the following Sunday!

Please consider supporting this fundraising opportunity by placing an order. No order is too small! When our total order is large enough, we are not charged for shipping. Currently we have 8 loyal supporters. We would love to have you join us! FundScrip orders will be going in on Sunday, December 3rd. Please speak with Sylvia Baker or Leslie Fortune if you have any questions.

### WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

#### **Sunday December 3, 10, 17, 31**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:30 - 9:30 a.m. Community Breakfast

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Sunday December 24**

No 8 a.m. Service

10 a.m. Christmas Eve Morning Family Service

7:30 p.m. Carol Sing

8 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

#### **Monday December 25**

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

#### **Tuesday December 7, 14, 21, 28**

12 noon Centering Prayer

12 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### **Wednesday December 6, 13, 20, 27**

10 a.m. Bible Study

10:30 a.m. to 12 noon Loonie Lunch

12 noon Holy Eucharist

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### **Wednesday December 20**

7 p.m. Quiet Christmas

#### **Thursday December 7, 14, 21**

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

#### **Friday December 1, 8, 15, 22**

11:30—1 p.m. Knit/Crochet Group

#### **Saturday December 2**

10 a.m.—1 p.m. Pennywise Shop

*"Once in our world, a stable had something in it that was bigger than our whole world."*

*C.S. Lewis*

### MONTHLY ACTIVITIES and SPECIAL EVENTS

#### **Saturday December 2**

10 a.m. – 12 noon St. Nick's Children's Shopping Day, ACW Mini Bazaar

#### **Sunday December 3**

Food Bank Sunday

FundScrip Sunday

#### **Sunday December 3, 17**

11:30 a.m. Advent Study

#### **Tuesday December 5**

2 p.m. ACW Executive Meeting

#### **Wednesday December 6, 13, 20**

Christmas Music, Stories & Carols

#### **Saturday December 9**

**7 p.m. Maple Leaf Club Swingin' Christmas**

The Orillia Big Band – Proceeds to St.

James' Food Programs

#### **Sunday December 10**

Parish Christmas Lunch & Carol Sing following 10 a.m. Service

### Your Ministry Council

Anyone interested in reading the current Ministry Council minutes may contact the Church office for a copy. A copy is also posted on Bulletin Board in Hall.

### 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.

### FundScrip

The Fundscrip deadline is **Sunday December 3**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday December 10** Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



### December Birthdays

J.A. Code, Sophy Cooper,  
Rosemarie Freeman, Nynka Greer,  
Arlene Meakins-Dawe, Leonora Mason  
Doug Nicholls, Julia Nicholls,  
Kristine Preston, Peter Schuepp,  
Robin Windrem

### December Anniversaries

Stephen & Lori McClelland,  
Doug & Julia Nicholls

### January Birthdays

Ruth Bark, Shirley Bromley,  
Wendy Caston, Karen Hart,  
Jen Hill, Vic Howarth,  
Jo Levasseur, Ellie MacPhail,  
Sylvia Smith



He came for the oppressed, broken-hearted and the sick.

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

Rector:	Archdeacon John Anderson
Editors:	The Communications Committee
Compositor:	Nancy Noakes-Morrison
Production:	Phyllis Johnson

