



# ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

## FEBRUARY 2026

Volume 22, Issue 3  
February 2026



*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,

In a recent sermon, I announced that the congregation of St. James' should consider asking the Diocese to put the parish under Administration and/or Board of Management. I would like to take this opportunity to explain what is meant by these concepts.

#### What is the Administration and/or Board of Management

Pursuant to Canon 24 Diocesan Administration of Parishes, an Administrator or Board of Management can be put in place to assist a parish in its administration and management of parish affairs. In Administration, the Administrator is seized with the management of parish affairs, finances, employees, and property. The rights and responsibilities of the wardens and the incumbent are suspended during the period of Administration. However, a Board of Management can also be appointed, which is less 'draconian'. The wardens and incumbent have day-to-day management of the parish, and the Board of Management offers skills and expertise in visioning, finances, property, congregational and policy development, and stewardship. The Board thus supports the wardens, incumbent, and Advisory Board.

#### Why Canon 24?

As I have previously indicated, the Diocese pays the incumbent and then invoices the parish for reimbursement. St. James has fallen into significant arrears for the payment of the incumbent's remuneration in recent months. In many ways, this is a warning sign that the parish is no longer able to meet its obligations to have a full-time and/or senior cleric. Many other parishes are in the same situation, with aging and declining congregations. However, when we are also stewards of a large, old building at St. James, it makes overall administration and management of our parish much more difficult. The Diocese cannot ignore our present situation.

The good news is that with the added rental incomes for 2026 at St James', this will help to improve our financial picture and reduce our deficit and hopefully will put us in a better position to remit our payments to the Diocese. On the strength of that possibility, I think the Diocese would likely at this time prefer to proceed with a Board of Management as opposed to Administration.

#### What is the Process for Canon 24?

At our annual vestry, a motion can be made pursuant to Canon 24 to make a request for a Board of Management. I note that the wardens and incumbent can make this request, but I think it is important that it comes from the congregation. A Board of Management is then appointed, and volunteers are assembled with the appropriate skill set to assist the parish.

Continued on the next page



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

### Is Canon 24 a Sign of Failure?

Canon 24 is not a sign of failure. Rather, it is a way of breathing new life into a parish that the Diocese wants to see succeed. I would note that all of this will not happen overnight, and it likely will be a two-to-three-year process, with lots of work to be done in the future. Bishop Andrew likes to tell the story of the Church of the Redeemer at Avenue Road and Bloor Street in Toronto. At the time when it was facing significant challenges, the thinking was that it might have to close. A group of senior women from the parish met with the then Bishop of Toronto and asked that the church be put under a Board of Management as a last chance effort. That church is now a thriving and joyful parish. Recently, St. Peter's, Cobourg, a church similar in size and prestige to St. James', also just finished working under a Board of Management. Two years ago, when their new priest started, the Board provided the guidance and management that was needed to help reboot a struggling parish. The good news is that the Board helped St. Peter's to rebuild its congregational attendance and address its stewardship challenges.

I believe that this is very much a time for the congregation of St. James' to be led by the Spirit. This may feel like your moment of wandering in the wilderness, but be assured that God is with you, leading you to new beginnings. Keep the faith, continue to support the important work of our church, and the future will unfold as God leads us.

Yours in Christ,  
Archdeacon John

## A SWEET FUNDRAISER

9" apple pie (2), cooked & frozen, 6-8 servings ea.-- \$15 ea.

9" turkey pie (2), cooked & frozen--4-6 servings ea.--\$17 ea.

5" turkey pie (24), cooked & frozen--individual serving ea.--\$7 ea.

3+ cups turkey stew (6), cooked & frozen--1-2 servings ea.--\$7 ea.

4+ cups turkey stew (6), cooked & frozen--2-3 servings ea.--\$10 ea.

sweetheart pastries (50), frozen & baked on Sat.--\$3 ea. or 2 for \$5



**SUNDAY FEBRUARY 8**  
following the 10 a.m. Service.

Ladies of St. James' will be selling delicious home-made turkey pies, turkey stew, apple pies, and special edible valentines to take home and enjoy. Come to Coffee Hour to catch the sweet deals.





**Shrove Tuesday**  
*Pancake  
Dinner*

**February 17**  
**5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

**\$8 - Adults**  
**\$4 - 10 yrs.**  
**8 under**

Graciously hosted by  
**Orillia Scouts**  
in the auditorium.  
**All are welcome!**





Greetings from your Wardens!

On Sunday, January 4, we welcomed Bishop Riscylla Shaw. She led us in worship through her sermon, highlighting God's love. She spoke of how we continue to demonstrate that, not only in our outreach programs but also in our various ministries. Our Loonie Lunch and Community Breakfast programs, Social Justice, Pastoral Care and ACW initiatives all speak to our desire to fulfill God's plan for St. James'. She spoke of resilience and looking ahead while envisioning our future as part of the family of churches in our Deanery

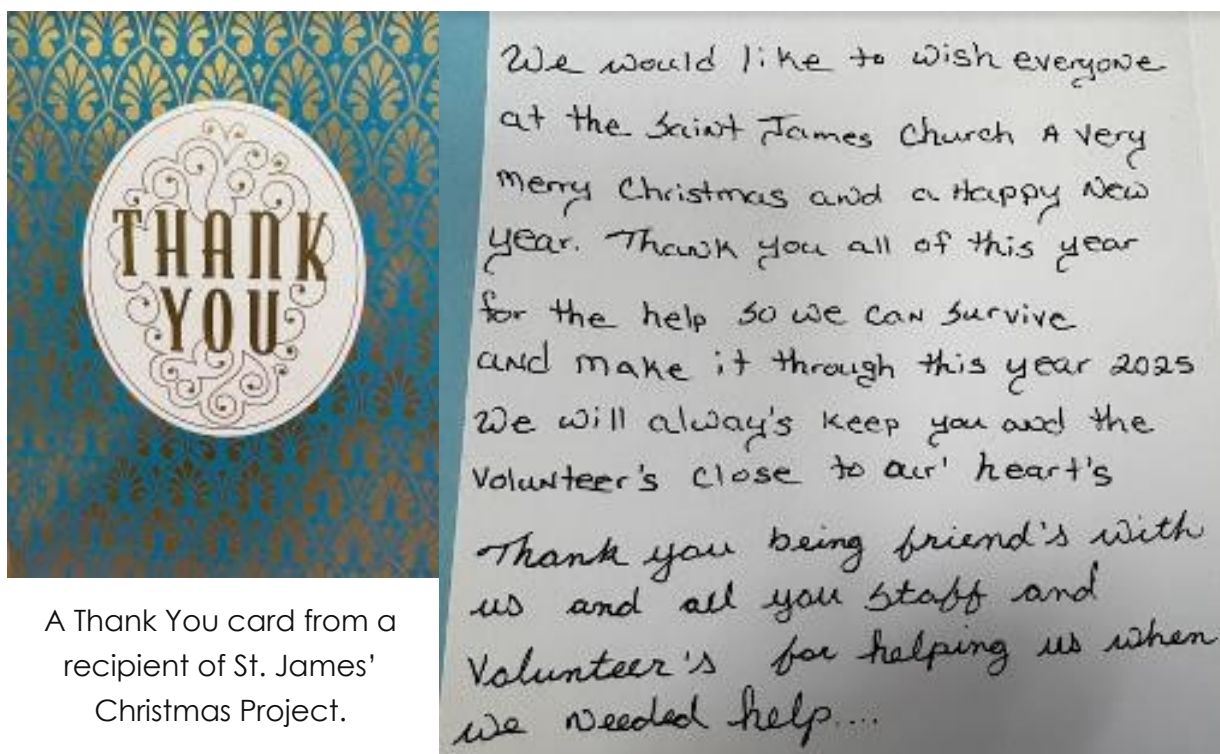
Bishop Shaw concluded her visit by honouring Christine Blair with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. Christine was selected from a list of nominees who have given so much of their time, talent and treasure not only to St. James', but to the Diocese as well.

With support from Joyce Hird and her Pennywise shop team, Jen Hill and volunteers, the lower level has been transformed into exciting and welcoming classrooms for the Montessori school, which has been relocated since the St. David's fire. The green space allows the classes to enjoy time outside as well.

As we look ahead to February, we see two important dates. Ash Wednesday on February 18 begins our walk toward Easter. There will be two services. St. Luke's service is at 1:00 p.m., followed by St. James' at 7:00 p.m. Lent is a time of reflection and spiritual renewal, representing the 40 days Jesus spent in the wilderness praying and fasting. For us here at St. James', we can pray for our future here in Orillia and know that God is leading us.

The second important date is our annual Vestry meeting on February 22. It is the one time in our church year when we can hear about the impact of our presence on Orillia and learn about important new plans going ahead. You have a voice. This is an opportunity for you to share your thoughts and vote on the proposed budget for 2026. Please plan to attend.

Your Wardens, Leslie, Julia and Sue



A Thank You card from a recipient of St. James' Christmas Project.



# SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION 2026



**Social Justice Vestry Motion 2026:  
Recommitting to “protect, sustain, and renew the life of the earth.”**

**We, the parish of \_\_\_\_\_ in the Diocese of Toronto,  
Pledge to honour our baptismal commitment to “safeguard the integrity of God’s creation” and urge the  
Government of Canada to honour its commitments to the Paris Accord, 2015: to reduce greenhouse gas  
(GHG) emissions by 40-45% below 2005 levels by 2030 and to achieve net-zero emissions by 2050.**

The Social Justice and Outreach Committee is bringing forward this Vestry Motion to the St. James' congregation for consideration at Vestry. This was first approved by the College of Bishops on Oct. 23, 2025, and presented to the Regional Deans and Archdeacons on Nov. 20, 2025.

Why? Three reasons.

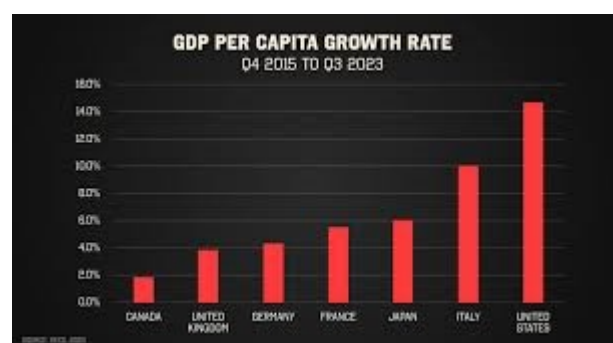
- 1) This motion reminds us of our baptismal covenant in which we pledge to “**safeguard the integrity of God’s creation and respect, sustain and renew the life of the earth.**” It is noted that this is not only part of worshipping God who created all things but our duty of care to our neighbour, particularly those who are most vulnerable to a changing climate.
- 2) Over this past year the diocese experienced a range of weather events associated with climate change. For example, Kawartha Lakes and Haliburton experienced wildfires while crops and gardens suffered drought conditions. Toronto had double or triple the number of heat warnings this past summer while our community suffered from the March ice storm leaving most of us without power and heat for several days and thousands of trees were heavily damaged. I think most longtime members of St. James' can attest to the changes in the predictability of the weather they have experienced over their lives.
- 3) This motion is coming forward due to a sense of urgency given the lack of progress in reducing emissions over the last 35 years. Since 1990, the Government of Canada has made many domestic and international commitments. Yet Canada’s greenhouse gas emissions have decreased by only 8.5% over the last 19 years and Canada is the worst performing of the G7 countries in terms of meeting its targets.

## What's Next

There are things governments can do - but there are also things we can do both as individuals and in our parish to minimize and mitigate climate impacts. Ideas for action can be raised and committed to by the congregation during vestry when discussing our support for the motion.

More information prepared in support of the motion.

<https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/Vestry-Motion-2026-Committing-to-Climate-Action.pdf>





## EVOLUTION OF THE PENNYWISE THRIFT SHOP

Friends of Pennywise-Orillia

Private group · 332 members



Leads

Share

Joined

Over its many years of existence, Pennywise has been a part of St. James' parish, but in the last 6 years has undergone dramatic change. The major force behind this change has been Joyce Hird. Joyce has always been involved in social justice activities since she moved to the Orillia area quite a few years ago. Most notable has been her service to our parish thrift shop, called The Pennywise Shop. Joyce assumed management of this shop in January of 2019, when it was a small, languishing effort and has since brought it to a thriving, essential thrift shop in the downtown core of Orillia. Over several years, Joyce has organized the physical shop area into a clean, very organized, welcoming shop that customers repeatedly comment on how pleasant it is to visit and shop. The quality of the goods for sale is very good and prices are reputed to be the best in town, making it attractive to customers of all income levels.

Joyce has developed essential policies and procedures for shop operations, orients new volunteers thoroughly, monitors all service levels and attracts volunteer workers with many service-oriented skills to work in the shop.

In addition, Joyce offers families/individuals with very scarce means or in crisis, vouchers for free essential clothing and household items every month. The shop features an area where some items are offered for free. Free clothing is also set out for people who attend our parish Loonie Lunch and Sunday Breakfast programmes every week. Joyce ensures that customers can have warm, suitable attire at any time.

Concerns about our environment are paramount in Joyce's practices of recycling fabrics to the Kidney Foundation, recycling all metals, including jewellery that can be melted or repurposed and reusable plastics. In fact, Joyce is fanatical about preserving our planet!

It is difficult to accurately record the amount of time that is devoted to managing Pennywise-related activities because work continues at home with scheduling, managing financial matters, consulting with volunteers, etc. Joyce herself frequently cleans the shop areas and, with her nephew's help, looks after minor repairs. Joyce and her volunteers spend a huge number of hours weekly in the management and operation of this shop. Some volunteers, including Joyce, are working on Pennywise business 5 days a week!

Needless to say, the parish income generated by the efforts of the Pennywise staff in the thrift shop is very substantial and has been critical to our parish budget.

Perhaps more important is the contribution of the shop to the community in service to disadvantaged people and creating St. James' as a welcoming place for many to come for much-needed assistance.

In addition to her work in the thrift shop, it should be noted that the force behind the Pennywise Shop, Joyce Hird, has been on the parish Social Justice and Mission committee for several years, was church warden in the past, participates in the Sunday community breakfast programme and, in the past, was a part of James' Place social services offered here at the church. She is also often seen working at a great variety of parish events. She is, indeed, a true "Dorcas".

Of course, the volunteer staff are to be highly commended for their devotion to the success of the shop and service to our community and Joyce is to be credited with spearheading a very successful and essential St. James' activity.

Rosemarie Freeman



2019

Joyce Hird & Marian Wallis



## IT'S LENTEN CHALLENGE TIME AGAIN

Even in this bitter wintertime, time has flown away, and by February 19 (3 short weeks away), we will be at Ash Wednesday and considering our 2026 Lenten Challenge.

Since there will be a group heading to Nairobi, Kenya, for another medical mission in May 2026, this seems like a very worthwhile service for us to support. The mission group includes Joyce Hird, Dr. Chris Decker and Dr. Fran McCordic, all from this parish, along with 12 other people with medical-related skills.

You may remember that we have supported this medical mission for a number of years. Although the mission members totally pay for their own expenses, funds are needed for the following:

Purchase of medications (given for free to patients), Laboratory supplies, medical supplies such as dressings, splints, etc., medicine cupboard needs for the St Nicholas Children's Home, additional services such as dental, optometry, translators, etc., and additional food.

The free medical clinics are held on the compound of Holy Trinity Church in the Kibera slum of Nairobi and attended by literally hundreds of people each day of the service. The need is very great, and the service is very much appreciated.

We urge you to consider making a financial contribution of any size, small or large, to this most worthy social justice cause as a part of your Lenten sacrifice.

By Ash Wednesday, you will find more information and donation envelopes in the narthex so that you can do this. If you are unable to donate at church, you may simply send it to St. James' Church or drop it off at the office. Cheques must be made out to **St. James' Anglican Church**

Social Justice and Outreach Committee







Rt. Reverend Riscylla Shaw presenting Christine Blair from St. James'; Gord Launchbury from St. Athanasius, and Catherine King from St. David with the Order of the Diocese of Toronto. (Mae Cox is present as she is a past recipient of the ODT).

## A.C.W. UPDATE



Thanks to the generous support of our Parishioners, the St. James Christmas Project was able to provide gift cards to 24 families, comprising 88 people, 49 of whom were children, to help brighten their Christmas.

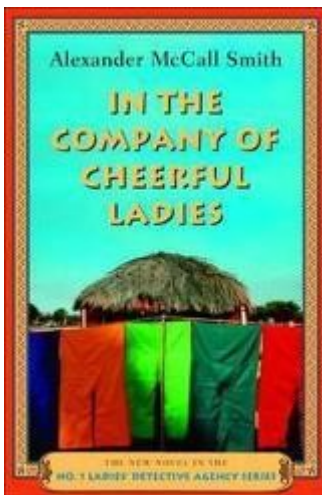
On December 6<sup>th</sup>, we held our annual St. Nick's Children's Christmas Shopping Day with a craft and bake sale. This year, the church also featured many nativity scenes for people to view while they waited for their children. Thanks to all the elves and volunteers for helping with this project.

Mark your calendars for our annual Plant and Bake Sale on Mother's Day weekend, Saturday, May 9<sup>th</sup>. We will be looking for bakers to help make it another success.

Dawn Johnson



## ST. JAMES' BOOK DISCUSSION GROUP



The St. James' Book Discussion Group will be meeting on March 9<sup>th</sup> at 10 a.m. in the Church Parlour to discuss the novel 'In the Company of Cheerful Ladies' by Alexander McCall Smith, the 6<sup>th</sup> in the best-selling 'No. 1 Ladies Detective Agency' series. Both entertaining and moving, this novel is described as another masterpiece of comic understatement as well as an affectionate homage to Botswana and its people.

All are welcome to join us for coffee, friendship and an always interesting discussion, sharing perspectives and experiences.

Linda Davidson



## Ash Wednesday Services

February 18th

1:00 p.m.  
at St. Luke's  
with Rev. Samuel  
Celebrant

7:00 p.m.  
at St. James'  
with Ven. John and  
Choral Eucharist



## 2026 ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

**SUNDAY  
FEBRUARY 22**  
Immediately  
following  
the 10 a.m. Service

In the Stubley Auditorium.  
Coffee/tea & light snacks to  
enjoy during the meeting.




**OPEN** 

Tuesday, Wednesday,  
Thursday  
12 noon to 3 p.m.

Open Every Saturday  
10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

A little Thrift Shop promoting big rewards. Donations greatly accepted.  
CASH only. Phone 705-325-2750

**CENTERING PRAYER AND MEDITATION**  
TUESDAY AT 12 NOON in person in Choir Room



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

## 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**

- Canned Soup
  - Veg / Chicken Noodle / Mushroom / Tomato
- Canned Vegetables
  - Corn / Peas / Beans / Tomatoes
- Peanut Butter
- Canned Meat and Fish
- Pull Tab Canned Goods
- Rice
- Sugar
- Flour
- Tea Bags
- Instant and Ground Coffee
- Whole Grain, Low-Sugar Cereal
- Cooking Oils
- Broth / Bouillon Cubes
- Toilet Paper

## FündScrip

Where Shopping is Fundraising!

A Great Way to Support St. James' While Giving to Others!

**WHAT:** Gift card program that gives a percentage to our Church


**WHO:** Most major retailers and more (gas, groceries, entertainment, etc.)

**WHERE:** Across Canada

**WHEN:** Right now! Great way to budget for household shopping

**WHY:** To support St. James' Church

**HOW:** Pick up Order Forms by calling the church office;  
Place order the **FIRST SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH**,  
Pick up gift cards the following Sunday



## ST. JAMES' LOONIE LUNCH


Every Wednesday  
10:30 a.m. to 12 noon

Hot Soup,  
Donuts or Muffins,  
Fresh Rolls,  
A Frozen Dinner To Go.

A Free will donation of a  
Loonie or more  
is greatly appreciated





## FREE SUNDAY COMMUNITY BREAKFAST



**ALL ARE  
WELCOME**

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



## WEEKLY ACTIVITIES and WORSHIP SERVICES

### **Sunday February 1, 8, 15, 22**

8 a.m. Holy Eucharist

10 a.m. Holy Eucharist

8:30 – 9:30 a.m. Community Breakfast

### **Tuesday February 3, 10, 17, 24**

12 noon Centering Prayer

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

### **Wednesday February 4, 11, 18, 25**

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

11 a.m. Holy Eucharist

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

### **Wednesday February 18**

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

### **Thursday February 5, 12, 19, 26**

12 - 3 p.m. Pennywise Shop

7 p.m. Choir Practice

### **Sunday February 1**

Food Bank Sunday

FundScrip Sunday

### **Tuesday February 3**

6:30 p.m. A.C.W. meeting

### **Sunday February 8**

"A Sweetheart of a Deal"

after 10 a.m. service.

### **Monday February 9**

10 a.m. - Book Discussion

### **Tuesday February 10**

7 p.m. via zoom Ministry Council

### **Thursday February 12**

6 p.m. Worship Committee Mtg.

### **Monday February 16**

Family Day - Office is closed

### **Tuesday February 17**

2 p.m. Pastoral Care Mtg.

5:30 p.m. Pancake Tuesday

### **Wednesday February 18**

7 p.m. Ash Wednesday Service

### **Sunday February 22**

Vestry following the 10 a.m. Service



## CHURCH FUNNIES



### Christian Valentine Jokes

- What did the flame say to the other flame on Valentine's Day? "We're a perfect match"
- You're looking for a knight in shining armor. I just so happen to be wearing the armour of God.
- The Bible says to "Give drink to those who are thirsty and feed the hungry"; So how about dinner tonight?
- What flowers get the most kisses on Valentine's Day: Tulips.
- So last night I was reading in the book of Numbers, and then I realized, I don't have yours.
- I am not exactly single. I am in a relationship with Jesus. Talk to Him if you want me.



### 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 the Bulletin Board in the 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

Beth Morum is a Pastoral Care Visitor for OSMH now as well as Mae Cox. If you know anyone from our Parish Family who is in Soldiers, please notify the Church Office so a visit can be arranged.

### Greeting Cards for Parishioners

Lay-Pastoral Team and ACW have had an important ministry of sending out greeting cards for birthdays, anniversaries, sympathy, or get-well cards. If there is a parishioner that you wish a greeting card to be sent to, please let us know! Contact the Church office to connect with Christine Blair for Birthday or Anniversary Cards or Lynda Harris for Thinking of You, Sympathy, Get Well or Congratulations.

### 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 the office at 705-325-2742 if you would like to sponsor a month. (There only 4 months left that are unsponsored.)

### The Next Newsletter

If you wish to place a submission, announcement, prayer, pictures etc. into any future newsletter, please contact Nancy at [nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com](mailto:nancynoakesmorrison@gmail.com). Please provide any submissions for the **March Newsletter** by **Wednesday February 18, 2026**

### FundScrip

The FundScrip deadline is **Sunday February 1**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' Anglican Church) can be dropped off at the Church office. Pick up will be **Sunday February 8**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.



#### February Birthdays

John Anderson, Cheryl Behan,  
Heather Crate, Wayne Gardy,  
Sue Glowa, Norm Kee,  
Ellie McClland

#### February Anniversaries

Jen and Andrew Hill

### **IMPORTANT**

Any cheques made out to the church must read as follows: **"St. James' Anglican Church"**

#### *ST. JAMES' ANGLICAN CHURCH*

*58 Peter St. North, Box 272, Orillia, Ontario*

*L3V 6J6 705 - 325-2742*

*[office@stjamesorillia.com](mailto:office@stjamesorillia.com)*

*<http://www.stjamesorillia.com>*

Rector

Archdeacon John Anderson

Editors:

The Communications Committee

