



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY

DECEMBER 2020

Volume 16, Issue 11
December 2020



*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,

I think that one of the remarkable things that has happened when our parish was reopened, was the number of people who stepped up to assist in our services. The protocols that have been put in place has had an enormous impact on arranging a service. Whether there are 20 or 70 people coming to a Eucharistic service, it is still imperative that there are two greeters to control the flow of people into the Narthex and do contact tracing; two sides people are needed to ensure masks are worn, people sitting appropriately distance and there are sufficient number of people to act as servers.

We are fortunate that both Loonie Lunch and Pennywise continue to operate as outreach ministries. Again, you have stepped up to make this happen by being a volunteer.

Whether we are caring for people in need, undertaking a property matter, or running a worship service, the volunteer is the backbone of this church.

I can share with you that it is becoming increasingly difficult to find volunteers especially in leadership positions. This is very much a factor of an aging congregation. Many of you have served in a multitude of roles and responsibilities. Some have told me that they would like to take a break and pass the baton! As well, the next generation of volunteers are not there to serve whether this is because they are fewer in numbers, many are still working, or may have other volunteer duties. Even with Covid, there is a need for volunteers to ensure that the ministry and mission of St. James' continues.

I'd like to make a couple of suggestions that may help in discerning how you may or may not offer your time:

- It is okay for you to say, "I need a break." I want to ensure that no one is burned out from undertaking too many duties or they feel that they have put their time in but no one is listening. If you have anxiety about leaving a position and worry who will follow please speak to a ministry leader or me.
- You should not feel your term of office is a life sentence but rather your expectation (and that of the church) should be one to three years.
- It is important to have a change in activity or rest from all involvement. Everyone needs a sabbath leave. I always say that you should undertake one signature ministry versus wearing several different hats.
- Do the things that excite you, that may speak to your creative side, or taps into your spiritual life.

The reality is that our churches are become increasingly challenged to be relevant in our secular world. Nevertheless, demands continue to be put on our parish to meet the social support services required in our communities. Therefore, we must continue to have opportunities for thinking about volunteering in our parishes. I would appreciate any suggestions that you may have.

As we move towards Vestry I will preach and write more about this subject. I want to know that each one of is valued and appreciated. Thank you for your service.

Yours in Christ,
John

<p>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</p>
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BY THE NUMBERS—TREASURER'S REPORT

As at October Month-End

Although we approved at Vestry a budget for 2020, little did we know that very shortly thereafter Covid would strike and the projections contained in this document would have no resemblance to our reality. Revenues have diminished significantly but also have expenses resulting in a financial position at the end of October very close to our planned deficit.

To date revenues have fallen short of plan by \$ 50,941 Significant contributors to this result is the lack of rental income, minimal fundraising, and a reduction in givings. But amidst this unfortunate reality we should celebrate the success of the Dan needles Concert in February and our creative golf tournament in the summer. Loonie lunch and Pennywise are again operational and contributing their share to revenues. Givings are not what we would want or expect but we are inspired by the year to date results - only being off plan by \$ 14,072. Further we have received assistance from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) in the amount of \$11,676.

Expenses are well ahead of plan by \$ 48,354. One major contributor in this area was the Diocesan decision to forego 3 months of payment obligations totaling \$35,586. Further all ministries have exercised excellent expense control in doing their share to affect this cost saving.

Investment income is as expected, and capital expenditures have been approved only where necessary.

My hope going forward for the remainder of this fiscal year is that the membership of St James' continues to support our church financially where possible so we can continue to maintain a strong financial base without further erosion.

Dave Simpson

HERITAGE PROJECT



On July 18, 1932, Harold Hale, a newspaper editor, and a St. James' parishioner, published the first and only copy of The Orillia Centenarian. Orillia was 100 years old that day! The Rev. Canon Richard W.E. Greene had pneumonia and was unable to take part in the celebration. His son, Alan Greene, had given his first sermon in church the day before.

A parade led to Couchiching Beach Park where Mayor Curran gave a speech. Sid Passmore roasted a whole heifer to feed those attending the celebration. (The first barbecue at Couchiching Beach Park had been held in 1897.) Doctors Stephen Leacock and Jim Harvie were the star players in the afternoon cricket match.

The merchants on Mississaga Street were asked to leave their window lights on in the evening because the streetlights were inadequate for the street dance and promenade. The next edition of the news sheet would be in 2032.

The Hale family memorial is in the west transept of St. James'.


Fred Blair

PARISH CHRISTMAS GREETINGS


Once again you will be able to send Christmas Greetings to all our parish friends through the parish Christmas card in the church while, at the same time, making a meaningful contribution to Diocesan Faithworks services. Don't forget that your donation helps support the services of organizations like the local Lighthouse Shelter and Couchiching Jubilee House, as well as many others in the area.

Just add your name to the Christmas card near the north transept, put your donation (cash or cheque) in the envelope provided and put the whole thing in the big brown envelop at the station. Make sure your cheque is noted for Faithworks. Your greeting to all will be included in Christmas Eve bulletins. Blessings to you all!

Rosemarie Freeman

An Afternoon of Christmas Stories and Music
Sunday December 13
3 p.m.

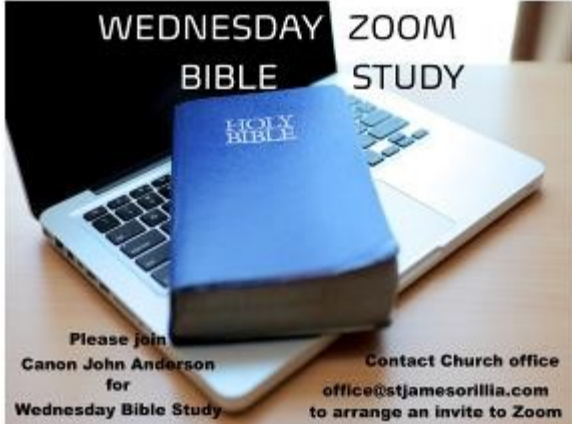


Stories of a seasonal nature and instrumental music including Irish harp, piano and violin. Free concert for community of Orillia.

TEA AT THREE ON THURSDAYS



Tea at Three on Thursdays at 3:00 to 3:30 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.



Please join
Canon John Anderson
for
Wednesday Bible Study

Contact Church office
office@stjamesorillia.com
to arrange an invite to Zoom

WINTER WARMTH

Boots, Coats, Mitts, Hats!

Pennywise and Loonie Lunch are teaming up to make warm winter clothing available free of charge to those in need. Please consider donating your extra coats, footwear, mitts, hats and scarves. They will be greatly appreciated!



EVENING PRAYER

Compline (/kəmˈplɪn/ KUM plin), also known as *Gespelle*, *Night Prayer*, or the *Prayers at the End of the Day*, is the final church service (or office) of the day in the Christian tradition of canonical hours. *Compline* tends to be a contemplative Office that emphasizes spiritual peace.

We invite you to our meditative Evening Prayer for spiritual peace.

<http://stjamesorillia.com/>



HELPING THOSE IN NEED AT CHRISTMAS TIME

This is a strange year indeed and there are many, many people here in Orillia and around the world in more serious need of support than ever. Here are some of the ways through St. James' that you can make a difference at Christmas time for many less fortunate.



Faithworks contribution- Look for our parish Christmas card in the church beginning Advent 1 for sending best wishes to the parish AND making a financial donation to the Diocesan Faithworks which supports many services throughout the diocese offering programs for disadvantaged people (such as Couchiching Jubilee House and the Lighthouse). You can research those services online through the Diocesan web site. Details for making that contribution are posted on the Christmas card OR you may simply deliver or mail a cheque (noted for Faithworks) into the church office anytime.



Christmas Hamper Project

This is a project sponsored by the ACW. Instead of purchasing a specific gift for a child this year, you are asked to consider donating \$40 (or any amount you wish) for a gift card which selected families in need may use to purchase a Christmas gift for their child (ren). Families in need will receive gift cards for each of the children in the family plus a sizeable gift card for groceries. Needy youth from the Youth Centre will also be given a gift card. Your help is **urgently** needed for this. You may provide a cheque (made out to St. James', noted to Christmas hamper project), or cash in a labelled envelop in the weekly offering plate or submitted to the church office in person or by mail. Help make a struggling family enjoy a blessed Christmas Day!



Sunday Lighthouse Dinners

Every Sunday afternoon a small team prepares a Sunday dinner for all the shelter residents in Orillia (both men and women) and delivers to their current residence. Usually there are about 46-47 people to feed each week. Although we try to be careful in our purchases it does cost the church each week. If you would like to support this service, you are invited to make your donation through the church office. Cash or cheque gratefully accepted (cheques made out to St. James' and noted for shelter dinners)

Kenya Mission

The December newsletter tells you about the current needs of our Kenya mission including their lack of funds to purchase PPE's in a slum area with no running water, crowding and weak social services. This vibrant mission continues to need your support. You can send your cheque for this project to the church office, earmarked for the Kenyan mission. Charitable receipt available



Rosemarie Freeman

THANK YOU FROM A GRATEFUL CUSTOMER OF PENNYWISE!



When a young couple lost most of their possessions in a fire in March (just as the Pandemic started), they came to Pennywise and were permitted to take any items they needed. They were thrilled with the generosity of St. James' and came in last week with a gift basket for the volunteer staff.

Coffee Break Basket to show their appreciation



Just Flatten the Curve - Marg Casebow

ST. JAMES' ANNUAL FAMILY CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT RETHOUGHT FOR COVID-19!



The St. James' A.C.W. Executive has come up with a way to keep our Christmas Project going, despite a pandemic with all the health and safety protocols involved. After discussing our idea with the three agencies with which we are involved - Catulpa, New Path and the Orillia Youth Centre – the A.C.W. is going to use the funds we have on hand (after paying all our 2020 commitments) to start our project early this year. The forms have already gone out and within a week we should be ordering Walmart Gift Cards (allowing \$40 per child) to give to the parents of our 18-20 families so they can buy their children's Christmas gifts, while the sales are on. Then, in mid-December, the same families will receive a grocery gift card (their choice of Metro/Food Basic or Zehrs/No-Frills) to buy their Christmas Holiday food (allowing \$20-25 per person in the family).

Every year for about 40 years, you ACW has underwritten the cost of this project and gratefully received donations from our Parish Family to replenish our funds, and to add to the amount we can give away. We hope and pray that you will do so again, by marking an envelope "ACW Christmas Project" and placing it in the Offering if you are coming to Church, or by mailing or dropping off a cheque at the office, made out to St. James', with ACW Christmas Project" on the memo line. If this has been a tough year for many of us, just imagine how hard it has been for some others! Let's share Christ's Love at Christmas, as we have done before!

Mae Cox

*"I heard the bells on Christmas Day
Their old familiar carols play
And wild and sweet, the words repeat
Of peace on earth,
Good-will to men."
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*



FAITHWORKS 2020

FaithWorks. As you know, is the annual appeal of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto to build communities of hope and compassion. FaithWorks feeds, shelters, nurtures and befriends over 30,000 people in our diocese and around the world. It helps people who are homeless, newcomers and refugees, at risk women and children, indigenous people, and people impacted by HIV/Aids.

In our own community Couchiching Jubilee House has been the recipient of FaithWorks grants for ten years and more recently, the Orillia Christian Ministries (The Lighthouse) has received grants in support of the Building Hope facility.

To give us added inspiration to reach our goal a generous donor has offered a \$100,000 matching challenge grant for increases in parish contributions over last year. Will St James' be able to help FaithWorks take advantage of the opportunity this matching challenge grant offers us?

On the Reign of Christ Sunday. November 22 we heard an inspiring guest speaker, Lynn Thomas, from Orillia Christian Ministries speak to the launch of our 2020 campaign and what FaithWorks has meant to The Lighthouse. Lynn is Development Coordinator for The Lighthouse and Building Hope campaign manager.

Have you made a donation yet?

Bill Manley



WENDY AND PATRICK SLATTERY

Wendy and Patrick's house sits quietly on the bay at Cumberland Beach. From the large and beautiful windows in their living room they can observe the whole panoply of life on the lake: a duck and her drake feeding on fallen morsels from the bird feeder hanging close to the house: an errant and cheeky squirrel ever intent on seeking easy sustenance among the myriad birds at the feeder: a flotilla of Canada geese at the water's edge, both the bane and delight of Patrick's life.

In over forty years in this lovely home, on which Patrick has worked devotedly, using all his engineering and carpenter's skills, he and Wendy have never tired of their spectacular lake-side view. The strains of classical and choral music playing in the background as well as the occasional healthy dose of Celtic music, which appeals especially to Patrick's Irish heart, have been their accompaniment.



They are fortunate that their two daughters live close by and they also have an extended family of four grandsons and four great-grandchildren as well as a host of good friends gathered over a long and successful life together.

Patrick was born and raised in Ireland in Clonmel in County Tipperary and studied aeronautical engineering in Dublin. Like many an Irishman before him, he made the journey across the Irish Sea to seek his fortune as a young engineer in England.

Wendy was born and raised in Effingham in Surrey. Unable to realize her dream of becoming a teacher, she initially became a secretary and set her sights on travelling to see some of the world. However, she did later train as a teacher here in Canada, teaching in all Elementary grades and in Special Education. In time she became a Primary Junior Consultant and implemented Junior Kindergarten and French Immersion classes.

Wendy then progressed to becoming a Student Services Co-ordinator covering all the Muskokas from Severn Bridge to Huntsville, implementing Special Education programs throughout the area schools. Ultimately Wendy became Principal of Bracebridge Public School, introducing an Alternative school program during her seven years there prior to her retirement.

Patrick and Wendy met when they both worked for the P&O Shipping and Cruise Line, based at Tilbury, an old and storied port in Essex and their well-known love of travel perhaps had some of its origins during those early years. They eventually married, settling into their new life together and having their two daughters. Adventure beckoned once again, however, and they decided to emigrate to Canada. Patrick secured a position as an engineer with the Precision Rubber Company here in Orillia, eventually broadening his range to work in Health and Safety. They initially stayed in Orillia but finally decided to move farther north and purchase their present home.

True to his Catholic roots, Patrick attended Guardian Angels Church in Orillia, while Wendy, equally true to her Anglican origins, went to tea at St James' one day and found a kind and welcoming congregation which meant so much to a newcomer to Orillia and to Canada.

Patrick would occasionally accompany Wendy to church on Sunday and these sporadic visits became more and more frequent until Patrick himself eventually became a parishioner at St James'. This choice proved to be of great benefit to the church as Patrick went on to become a Warden and Property Manager, seeing to new flooring in the church, the Narthex windows with Doug Annesley, the Bell Tower and the Memorial Garden where Chief Yellowhead's headstone has pride of place. Patrick worked closely with officials from Rama to ensure that all was done according to their wishes. Lastly, the fine cabinets in the North Transept were built by Patrick and Doug.

We all know Wendy from her long association with the choir, as a reader and with the ACW, with her great friend of many years, Jean Kemp, who is well - known to so many at St James'. Many of us will also recognize Wendy for her many hard-working years as organizer of the annual Christmas Dinner, always a special event in the church's year.

Patrick and Wendy have lived very full professional, family, volunteer, and spiritual lives here in Orillia and especially at St. James'. Wendy's earlier' comment about our church being a kind and welcoming place has been echoed by many over the years. All that remains is to say:" Amen to that."

Beth Morum

WORK AND ACTIVITIES AT ST. JAMES'



Farewell Presentation to Rev. Colin Bowler



New lighting was installed in the chancel
What a difference!!



ACW Online Craft Sale
Pick Up Day



Our very awesome and hardworking church Sexton Jen Hill not only keeps the building in top notch condition, but she also wears the most awesome clothing messages!

THANK YOU TO JOYCE HIRD

Less than two years ago we thought Pennywise would have to close. Doug and Julia Nicholls had resigned, and no one seemed about to take on the leadership. It was Joyce Hird who stepped up and brought in a few new people with sales experience, turning the store into a thriving enterprise. Joyce, herself, is in the store countless hours and during our lockdown had her garage fill with donations. In her extra time, she has created and cared for a flower bed along the side of the auditorium and weeds the Children's Garden.

One Sunday a month she helps with breakfast at St. David's and most Sunday afternoons she can be found with Rosemarie Freeman in our Church kitchen cooking dinner for forty plus residents of the Lighthouse. Somehow, she still finds time to care for her own lovely gardens, create beautiful, quilted pieces and care for her gentle Newfoundland dog. I am sure she must have more than 24 hours in her days. We are so grateful to have you, Joyce.

Christine Blair



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 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.

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 325-2742 if you like to sponsor a month.

Fundscrip

Well, it is definitely fall now, and a perfect time to start to put away an extra gift card for your grandson in school or your daughter for a dinner out. The Fundscrip order date is **December 6th**. You could order a Sport Check, or Kelsey's, a gas card or even Amazon to get in the mood for Christmas shopping. We have just asked for our second refund cheque for this year. Every little bit helps. Please deposit your order form (and cheque payable to St James') in the plastic bin on our deck. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. The order will go in the first Sunday in December (1st) pickup (again in the bin) will be **Friday December 11th** . Thank you for your continued support of this very worthwhile project.

Christmas Poinsettia

We will be reducing our number of plants this year (with camera views and such) but we still wish to have a warm and cheery atmosphere for Christmas services. If you wish to donate towards a plant, please contact Phyllis in the office or Joan Gardy.

December Calendar

We are not able to provide a calendar of meeting times, events, or programs, due to COVID-19.

Please join us **IN** Church or by watching the Sunday webcast service on our website or Facebook

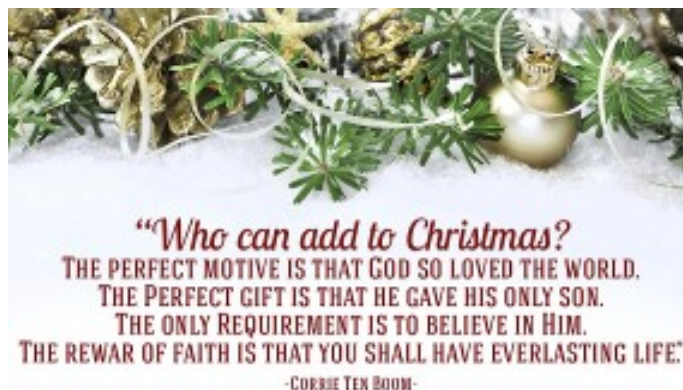


December Anniversaries

Stephen & Lori McClelland,
Doug & Julia Nicholls

December Birthdays

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



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