



ST. JAMES' JOURNEY DECEMBER 2021

Volume 17, Issue 3
December 2021



*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,

It is hard to imagine that Advent, the beginning of a new church year, has arrived. Advent is that time when we prepare for the coming of Christ. It is not only preparing for the baby to be born in Bethlehem. It is about the kingdom of God breaking in – in all aspects of our lives. The time of Advent is an opportunity to think about themes of peace and joy and what it means to truly offer repentance and seek forgiveness. While Advent is built around the theme of waiting, it is not intended to be a passive state. Rather, the readings make us reflect deeply and think about suffering, opening our lives to the Spirit, or what it means to seek renewal in hope and expectation.

You may not know it, but since starting at St. James' I have not been able to catch a break at Advent and Christmas other than during my first year - 2017 was a relatively 'normal' Advent and Christmas Season. But then, if you remember, in 2018 there was a flu bug circulating around the parish, and I finally succumbed a half-hour before the Christmas Eve services. In 2019, I remained off on leave recovering from a new knee and partial distal femur surgery. Last year, 2020, our services were cancelled! Now, I find myself writing at home as I await Covid testing. Gosh!

However, I am looking forward to the next few weeks, as we say, 'Come, Lord Jesus Come.' I think it is an opportune time to take stock of what has happened for all of us over the last year, to ask Jesus to come into our lives, and be opened to the renewal that we will hear in Scripture.

I should say a few words about our Advent and Christmas services. It is welcome news that congregational singing (with masks) is now permitted. Jeff, Mae, and I had already chosen the music and will make some revisions as we know many of you want to sing. On Sunday, December 5th there will be only one service at 10:00 a.m., as we come together for Lessons and Carols. We have arranged to have a number of wonderful singers to be with us. After consultation, it was decided that there will only be one service on Christmas Eve. In part, this is because of the limited number of people (due to Covid) who can participate in singing, to serve as part of the Chancel team, or to volunteer in other ways. We likely will be using a reservation system to be offered first to our parishioners. We can comfortably accommodate about 85 people. However, we are also making arrangements to live-stream the Christmas Eve service.

I also invite you to consider coming to the Quiet Christmas service at 7:00 p.m. on Wednesday, December 22nd. This has been a difficult year for many of us. We have suffered personal losses of many kinds and this time of year can be hard for many of us. Quiet Christmas is a meditative service as we invite the Christ child into our lives. I hope it can provide healing, joy, and strengthen your faith.

Peace be with and your family during this blessed time of the year.

Canon John

COVID UPDATES

Happy Days!

The Diocese sent out this recent announcement: "Even though COVID-19 infection rates are still worryingly high, we are convinced from our consultations, from the scientific evidence and from the experience of our neighbouring dioceses and other faith communities that as long as worshippers and choristers are masked and distanced, congregational singing can return to our services.

We know that refraining from singing has been a tremendous grief in the life of our Church during this pandemic, and we have all longed for this day when we can again raise our voices in praise. As we enter the Season of Advent, we hope that this sign of hope will be a blessing to those who sing, and a witness to those who hear."





The Rev. Canon Richard W.E. Greene was the incumbent at St. James' Anglican Church from 1888 to 1911. While in Orillia, Richard started the Orillia Sketch Club and taught landscape painting to young Franklin Carmichael and other students. In 1912, he travelled to England with his second wife. He made a number of watercolour sketches about the country. Can you name the Royal chapel in the background of this sketch? Two major Royal events occurred there in recent years.

Fred Blair

Congratulations! On Wednesday November 24 at the Orillia Regional Arts and Heritage Awards, one of St. James' parishioners was recognized.

The Heritage: Restoration, Renovation and Publication Award – which recognizes an individual or group who brought to life regional history through a physical restoration or creation of a permanent public record – was won by local historian Fred Blair.

"I'm part of a long tradition of people in Orillia who record local history, writing journals and keeping diaries. I'm just trying to keep building on that long tradition that goes back to the 1830s," he said.

Mr. Blair has written several local history books, including one on St. James' WWI veterans and regularly contributes to the St. James' newsletter.

Well deserved, Fred!



*May the beautiful lights of every Christmas Season
reminds us of HIM who is the source of all light.*

David A. Bednar

FELLOWSHIP (DURING COVID)

Covid has put quite a damper on our Ministry. Christine has offered "Tea at Three on Thursdays" by Zoom and there have been regular Zoom meetings for groups BUT it is not the same as chatting together over a glass of wine (or tea!) in person!. We look forward to a New Year when we can once again host coffee after service, or a reception for a birthday or show our support at a funeral with our church sandwiches. We do a wonderful Pub Night with themed meals - St Patrick's or Valentine or even Robbie Burns. We have enjoyed the Red and White Canada Day Pot Luck, English Tea on the Lawn and a Parish barbeque for the Feast of St James. We are a family and we enjoy being together. So let us pray that soon we can once again enjoy "Fellowship" as St. James' is a very warm and friendly family.

Being together and sharing our lives as a family, that is what we hope to have back in the near future. God will watch over us.

The Fellowship Committee



2021 ADVENT CONSPIRACY—LOONIE LUNCH



Advent Conspiracy was founded on the idea that we can relate to Christmas humbly, beautifully, and generously. Advent is the story of a wondrous moment when God entered our world to make things "right". It is the greatest story ever told and it changes everything - including the way we celebrate Christmas. Here are some ways you could choose to celebrate Christmas differently:

1. **Worship Fully** - Nearly every character in the Christmas story that encountered our King responded in the same way: worship. Let's make a conscious effort to reorient our hearts toward Christ. Christmas began with worship; may it continue with worship.
2. **Spend Less** - In our hearts we know endless consumption is not the way to celebrate Jesus. But spending less does not mean spending nothing. Rather we will thoughtfully evaluate what companies and causes we support through our purchases.
3. **Give More** - The best gifts celebrate a relationship and most often they require our time and energy. Relational giving means that we think about the other person-who they are and what they care about. We focus more on giving our undivided presence and less on a pile of presents under the tree.
4. **Love All** - Christmas is a chance to move closer to those in crisis. We will love others as Jesus has loved us. The poor and hurting in our world can be reached by God through the way we choose to celebrate Christmas.
(Taken from the Advent Conspiracy website)

This year, through our parish Christmas card, posted in the church during Advent, we invite you to GIVE MORE to our **Loonie Lunch** services. Since we can no longer accept soups made in private kitchens our expenses have risen greatly to cover the purchase of commercial soups and supplies. Each week we provide lunch to a sizable crowd and offer warm clothing, friendship, and a listening ear to those who come. We invite you to consider an intentional donation to the Loonie Lunch by signing the Christmas card and placing your donation in the envelop provided. If you include your name and address, we will issue a charitable tax donation slip for funds of \$10 or more.

How can you Give More and Spend Less – here are a few ideas

- a. Start small - choose on person/service to give a meaningful gift to.
- b. On Christmas Day turn off your cell phone. Be present with family and friends, focused on the people in your life.
- c. Invest in experiences that can be shared - camping, going for a walk together, invite others for dinner
- d. Pass on your memories - your favourite recipes, or a photo album of days gone by
- e. Give a blank journal to record notes and prayers
- f. Give a copy of your favourite book, then discuss with the person receiving
- g. Give a gift that relieves a burden - shovel snow, rake leaves, babysit
- h. Give a gift of hospitality - invite someone for games or a meal
- i. Do an activity with your family - puzzles, crafts, games, sports

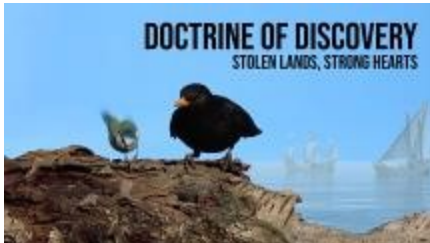
Rosemarie Freeman, Outreach Ministry Representative

A flyer for 'ST. JAMES' LOONIE LUNCH'. It features a small photo of the church, a photo of people at a table, and a photo of food preparation. The text reads: 'Take-Out Service Every Wednesday 11 a.m. to 12 p.m. A free will donation of a loonie or more is greatly appreciated'. There are also small circular icons at the bottom left.

In early November Peter Mentis, Director of Faithworks, Diocese of Toronto presents Canon John with a Faithworks plaque



WHAT'S NEXT FOR THE RECONCILIATION CIRCLE?



Our first task of drafting a “Land Acknowledgment” for our parish has been completed – for now, and is awaiting approval by St. James’ Corporation. This document is soon to be introduced to the whole parish for regular use as a reminder of the tribute we owe to our local Indigenous peoples and the responsibility we must care for the lands we occupy.

To continue to enhance our understanding of the events of the past that shaped our attitude and actions around our relationship with Indigenous peoples, we will be launching some study opportunities for you.

The first study in January of 2022 will be viewing of the film “Doctrine of Discovery” – a film about the devastating decision, made over 500 years ago, which continues to profoundly impact Indigenous and settler peoples in Canada.

Pope Alexander VI ruled then that the land being discovered by European explorers at the time was “empty land and its million of indigenous habitants were non-human.”

The purpose of the film is to respond to calls to action by helping to provide education and insight into the foundations of many of our property and other laws still in existence today. This film is a production of the Anglican Diocese of Canada.

We hope that you will join on **Sunday, January 16 at 1 p.m.** in the Upper Room to watch this film. Hopefully it will stir up lots of issues for discussion for subsequent gatherings we hope to have in the new year.

STEWARDSHIP UPDATE

As we come to the end of December it is important that we continue to respond to those in need in our communities, specifically those that go without food or warm clothing and shelter. Throughout Advent you can make a unique and personal difference by supporting our outreach ministries. I would ask that you give consideration to supporting Faithworks, the Christmas Hamper project, and/or the Advent Conspiracy in support of the Loonie Lunch.



With the return to in-person services we have come to rely on many of you to make things work! There are so many of you and we give thanks for what you are doing to assist in worship, greeting or side’s duty, singing, sound and video, altar guild, or serving on the chancel team. All of you are making a profound difference in the life our parish.

At our 2020 Vestry we made a collective decision that there would be a deficit of 63,430 and commit to an increase in our annual givings. Within a few short weeks, the Covid protocols became a regular feature at all churches in the Diocese. Covid has impacted our revenue stream resulting in a reduction in givings and income from church users. It impacted on our ability to fundraise and it removed any possibility of engaging in congregational development. Despite these challenges, you all continued to support your church and have responded to the difficult challenges over the year.

I would like to share with you the following important information about St. James’ current financial affairs. Revenues at the end of October are \$325,626 which is \$6,329 short of plan. Expenses as at the end of October are \$403,723 which in excess of plan by \$15,413. The current deficit as at the end of October is \$63,342 which is \$12,912 over plan. Givings as at the end of October are \$211,742 which is short of plan by \$16,789.

I can tell you that all of the ministries have done a great job in keeping expenses in line. As part of your regular givings, I would ask that you consider how you can continue to support St. James’ as we move towards our year-end.

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

AN OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE



If you have an interest in local, national, and international issues of justice and advocacy in a Christian state of mind the Social Justice and Mission Committee needs YOU! We meet monthly on the first Thursday of the month at 10 a.m. via zoom for about one and a half hours. In addition, each committee member should be willing to be actively involved in the research of our selected issues, planning for events, educating our parishioners re the needs, etc. It is a very active group dealing with serious subject matter and taking responsibility for the use of a sizable amount of parish funds to assist the selected issues. Current members are all a delight to work with. (We think so, anyway!)

If you think you would like to join us, please ask the Church Office to forward your contact information to the Outreach Chairperson, Rosemarie Freeman

P.S.

Our very loyal, longstanding committee member, **Hugh Rowlinson**, is withdrawing from active involvement in our group and he has been our main liaison with the Honduran missions. He leaves a huge gap to be filled but we thank him for his many years of service to this committee.

We would like to thank those of our parish family who have sponsored a month of our Newsletter. For some parishioners this has been their only means of following in our church life. The Ministries have taken their turn with an article on their progress. The Canon speaks with us and Fred adds very informative historical articles. Some of our projects have managed to continue and some are growing – Outreach keeps us updated. But this would never happen without Nancy pulling everything together each month and creating a complete, informative way to communicate with so many of our family. The \$100.00 monthly fee allows us to forward the newsletter to those out of town or who cannot get it by e-mail.



Thanks so much to the contributors of articles and to those who have allowed us to continue financially.

The Communications Committee



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS

Soon it will be time to make our church more beautiful with some trees, lights, wreaths and of course flowers. The week before Christmas we will add some poinsettias. If you wish to make a donation towards these please advise Church Office. You may take one home right after New Year's Sunday.

Thank you - The Altar Guild

CELEBRATE THE SEASON WITH THE CELLAR SINGERS

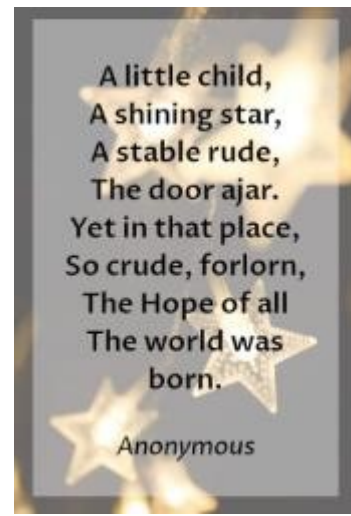
Cellar Singers presents Handel's Messiah. Join us at St. James' for this classic masterpiece of choral music to celebrate the birth of Christ. The concert is Friday December 10 at 7.30 p.m. Tickets are \$30 or \$15 for people under 30 years. To order tickets visit the choir website at thecellarsingers.com or contact a member. Proof of vaccination and masking required.



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.



WEDNESDAY BIBLE STUDY **ZOOM STUDY**

Please join Canon John Anderson at 10 a.m. Contact Office office@stjamesorillia.com to arrange an invite to Zoom

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

Pennywise is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays
12 noon to 3 p.m.
Winter clothing is available now
For any special occasion come in to see our gowns for \$50 (worth \$300 or more).
Masks required. Covid protocols in place.
CASH only please; small bills or coins preferred.



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 continued 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.

Pre-Authorized Giving Plan – Authorization Form

DIGGIN' FOR GOLD

COVID-19 has affected all of us. We **NEED** your help for our Outreach programs. Locally we currently assist The Sharing Place Food Centre, Green Haven Shelter, Lighthouse Shelter, Couchiching Jubilee House as well as our own Loonie Lunch on Wednesdays. Drop off your broken or unused gold jewelry to our Pennywise store. We accept 10k, 12k, 14k, 18k yellow or white gold.

CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT

We are working on our Christmas project and need your support. Last year your donations gave 98 people a better Christmas with gifts for the children and food. In November families are given a gift card from Walmart, the amount of which is based on their number of children. They can purchase a toy or clothing or whatever is needed. In December the gift cards are for either Zehrs or Metro for food, again based on the number of members of the family. Teenagers received Tim Horton cards in lieu of groceries cards.

If you attend the 8:00 service, please talk with Anne Thompson and for the 10:00 service Julia Nicholls, or you can give a donation to Church Office. The gift cards are ordered through our Fundscrip project, so we are again earning funds for our church.

Thank you once again for your support The ACW Team



CHRISTMAS HAMPER PROJECT

ACW is needing your support to help give people a better Christmas with gifts for children and food.

In **NOVEMBER** families will be given a **GIFT CARD for GIFTS**
In **DECEMBER** a **GIFT CARD for FOOD**

The Gift Cards will be ordered through our **FUNDSCRIP** project.

For an opportunity for **YOU** to help see Anne Thompson at the 8 a.m. service
Julia Nicholls at the 10 a.m. service.

You can also contact the church office to give a donation.

Thank **YOU** for your support!

ACW BAKE & CRAFT SALE



Pennywise Thrift Shop was open for shoppers as well.



December Calendar

We are not able to provide a calendar of meeting times, events, or programs, due to COVID-19. Please join us for in-person Worship on Sundays at 10 a.m. or by watching the Sunday webcast service on our website, Facebook or YouTube.

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.

Fundscrip

The Fundscrip deadline is **Sunday December 5**. Orders and cheques (payable to St James' church) can be dropped off at the bin at the Gardys'. If you need directions, please call Phyllis in the office 325-2742. Pick up will be **Friday December 10**. Thank you for your continued support of this beneficial project.

FUNNY CHURCH SIGNS



Looking for the perfect gift? Find Him here.

Practice thanking God for more than elastic waistbands.



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

December Anniversaries

Steph & Lori McClelland, Doug & Julia Nicholls

January Birthdays

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

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
Compositor: Nancy Noakes-Morrison
Production: Phyllis Johnson

