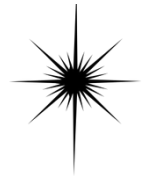


WINTER 2023/24

THE ST JOHN'S JOURNAL

Official Newsletter of St John The Baptist, Lakefield



Dates for Your Diary

December 8	Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony at Christ Church
December 20	Midweek Advent Eucharist at 11am
December 24	Advent Service at 10am Christmas Eve Candlelight Service at 4pm
December 31	New Year's Service

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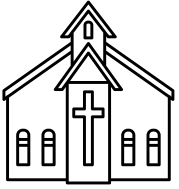
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ANNOUNCEMENTS

- ✦ In November, we welcomed our interim Priest Rev. Judy. If you need to reach her, she can be contacted at **revjudy@nexicom.net**
- ✦ The annual Christ Church Christmas Tree Lighting Ceremony takes place on Friday 8th December at 7pm. All are welcome for an evening of carols by candlelight and heartwarming seasonal music (*see Christ Church Update, pg 13*)
- ✦ Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Christmas gift card order. The order was for over \$24,000.00 and it generated \$892.30 in funds which are designated for outreach purposes. Well done St. John's!
- *submitted by Marty Smith*
- ✦ There will be a special Advent Eucharist on Wednesday, 20 December at 11 a.m. downstairs in the Rashleigh Room. All are welcome to attend this mid-week service.

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CHURCH NEWS

Christmas Comes to Lakefield

The Santa Claus Parade took place in Lakefield on Saturday 18th November and the Lakefield churches joined in the fun, ably assisted by some young volunteers.

The churches' float featured a nativity scene, manned by Mary, Joseph and a crowd of eager angels and shepherds.

The parade raised significant funds for one of our most impactful ministries – the Lakefield Community Food Bank (see *Celebrating Fall and Preparing for Christmas at Lakefield Community Food Bank*, pg 10).

Thanks to all who cheered on the float and donated!

Photo credit: Ann Turner-Murphy





The Blessing of Using All Our Gifts



There are different kinds of gifts, but the same Spirit distributes them. There are different kinds of service, but the same Lord. There are different kinds of working, but in all of them and in everyone it is the same God at work. Now to each one the manifestation of the Spirit is given for the common good. 1 Corinthians 12:4-7



When Paul wrote to the Christians living in the ancient city of Corinth he spoke about the community of faith as a body. Each part of that body, no matter how insignificant it seemed, had a role to play in the greater mission that God wanted to accomplish in that city. The body worked best, Paul wrote, when all the body parts did what they were meant to do.

This is still true today! We are all given gifts to use “for the common good”, to strengthen the ministry of our church. This definitely is true of St. John’s. As your interim priest I see so many of you offering your gifts in worship, in hospitality, in administration, and in outreach. But I think it’s time to grow this bank of gifts even further by welcoming more people to get involved.

Here are a few of the ways you can use your gifts on Sundays:

- Reading the Scriptures during our worship
- Serving the chalice during Communion
- Greeting those who come to worship and helping them find a seat
- Leading the Prayers of the People during the service

We will give you some training in each of these ministries and support you as you get started. So don’t be shy! Just speak to me on Sunday after church, and I’ll point you to the person who coordinates these ministries. By offering your gifts in just one of these ways you’ll both bless others and be blessed yourself.

- Rev Judy



Why not dip the bread into the wine? What if I need gluten free wafers?

While they were eating, Jesus took bread, and when he had given thanks, he broke it and gave it to his disciples, saying, "Take and eat; this is my body. Then he took a cup, and when he had given thanks, he gave it to them, saying, "Drink from it, all of you. This is my blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins." Matthew 26: 26-28

Let's face it. Covid spooked many of us and has made us much more aware of how bacteria and viruses are transmitted. For some people this means the age-old Christian practice of sharing 'one cup' at Communion seems downright hazardous.

But did you know that the high alcoholic content of Communion wine, together with the silver lining of the chalice, and the practice of wiping and turning the cup as each person receives it, means the risk of transmitting anything harmful is quite low?

However, this low-risk changes when people dip their bread, or wafer, into the chalice. It may *seem* more hygienic, but it is the opposite. This is largely because one must pick up the wafer from one palm with the other hand and then dip it into the wine. Our hands are among the least hygienic parts of our bodies simply because we use them so much throughout the day. They touch multiple surfaces and are used for so many purposes.

This is why handwashing was so stressed during the pandemic. Whatever germs are on your hands will now be on the wafer you are dipping. For this reason, the Diocese of Toronto has asked all churches to remind their members that intinction (dipping) is not permitted.



Why not dip the bread into the wine? What if I need gluten free wafers? cont.

If you have the sniffles, it's best to just receive the bread at Communion. You can let us know this by simply reaching up and touching the base of the chalice as it is passed in front of you. Alternately, you can cross your arms in front of your chest if you prefer to just receive the bread.

If it has been your normal practice to dip the bread into the wine, please don't be offended in any way. We hope you'll understand that this policy is meant to protect all of us, and to allow us all to focus on the gift that is at the heart of Holy Communion, God's gift of forgiveness and new life in and through Jesus.

Finally, don't be shy if you need gluten free wafers. We always have rice crackers available on the Altar, and these are consecrated right along with the usual wafers. When you come up for Communion just let us know you'd like the gluten free wafers as I administer the bread, and I'll gladly administer this to you.

Every blessing,
Rev. Judy



A Shout-Out to Some of the Workers in the Vineyard

One of the real blessings of interim ministry is that I've come to know so many of you, the people who make up St. John the Baptist, Lakefield.

While you've been through some tumultuous times, I have a strong sense that you're ready to look to the future, trusting that God has some rebuilding and growth in store.

As we move into December, I look forward to celebrating both Advent and Christmas with you. There is a definite buzz in the air about a baptism happening on December 3rd, as we welcome little Luelle Davis into the family of God. We're looking forward to seeing our new 'family-friendly' area in our main sanctuary used for the first time.

We'll then move through the season of Advent, a time of preparation and anticipation, as we journey to our beautiful 4 pm Christmas Eve candlelight service. I'm really looking forward to it all!

Finally, I want to take this opportunity to thank several of you who have been especially important in helping me get to know St. John's and helping me lead you through this period. These include Mike and Connie Dry, Sheila Bishop, Ann Turner, Rene Jackman, Jackie Miller, Ann Jakins, Shirley Twist, Mike Kollard, Kay Nickle, Catherine Hawley, Catherine Morris, and Prim Lowry.

Additionally, I want to thank all of you who have welcomed me on Sundays or dropped by the church office to say hello. I don't yet know all your names, nor do I know all of what each of you do in the parish, but I'm convinced that God has good things in store for this church.

God be with us, as together we journey through Advent and then celebrate the birth of Jesus, the Christ.

-Rev. Judy



Don't Forget St John's This Giving Season - a Note From Our Wardens

On November 1st we welcomed Reverend Judy Paulsen as our interim Priest-in-Charge and we have been greatly encouraged by her enthusiasm and help given to us as wardens and congregation.

She has reminded us that St John's is an important presence in the community and reaches out in many ways. Sadly, we only have her till the end of this year. We don't have any details yet, but Bishop Shaw is working on who to send us next; as soon as we know something definite, we'll let everyone know.

Wardens have a reputation of being the ones who are always looking for more money, which we do, because one of the roles of a warden is to take care of the temporal things of the church. This means paying our clergy, looking after the upkeep of buildings, making sure bills are paid for utilities etc.

With this in mind we have had to put off some projects which should have been done this past year. We are reminded each time we come to worship that the inside of the church needs attention. The outside of the hall and church needs painting, we need snow clearing in the winter, and there are always surprises which must be given priority.

On the next page, you'll find an update of the analysis we have presented before. The number of donors is creeping up, which is encouraging. Looking at our shortfall per donor per week, the number is down from June, but up a bit again from September.

Therefore, we urge you to prayerfully consider St John's when you are working out your own personal finances, knowing how costs have risen. Think about what St John's community means to you and why you come.



Wardens' Note cont.

One popular way of giving is through Pre-Authorized Giving (PAR). Many people prefer this option; it guarantees a monthly donation and helps us in preparing the annual budget. There are envelopes which can be taken home and serve as a reminder to give weekly or monthly.

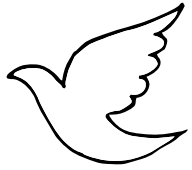
If you have any questions or not sure who to ask about giving, please contact Mike Dry, Rene Jackman or Ann Turner Murphy; we're all happy to help.

We are not all about doom and gloom, and we are grateful for the many people who offer their time and talents to help us keep the church a safe and welcoming place for all.

May you have a blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Mike Dry, Ann Turner Murphy, Sheila Bishop

	June	September	November
2023 budget (Regular, initial, open)	\$80,769	\$80,769	\$80,769
Offerings, % of budget to date	48%	71%	78%
Percentage of year	48%	67%	85%
Projected revenue at end of 2023	\$80,769	\$90,716	\$97,684
Routine expenses by end April	\$45,170	\$89,494	\$116,830
Projected expenses to end 2023	\$180,680	\$129,270	\$132,069
Projected shortfall	\$99,911	\$38,553	\$34,384
Bequest interest	\$19,000	\$19,000	\$19,000
Canada Gives	\$1,152	\$1,152	\$1,152
Remaining shortfall	\$79,759	\$18,401	\$14,232
Number of donors in 2023	42	45	47
Shortfall per donor to end 2023	\$1,899	\$409	\$303
Remaining weeks in 2023	26	16	6
Shortfall per donor per week	\$73	\$26	\$50



NEWS FROM OUR MINISTRIES

Celebrating Fall & Preparing for Christmas at Lakefield Community Food Bank

We continue to distribute food outside - on the sidewalk leading up to the Regent Street entrance and on the adjacent lawn. Our volunteers aim to provide our recipients with a reliable source of healthy food in a safe and caring environment.

Here are highlights of a few things that have happened recently....



Several of our food bank volunteers were recognized at the Ontario Volunteer Service Awards ceremony, held on October 16th.

Cathy Pettifer has volunteered with us for 25 years. Faith Bellamy received acknowledgement for 10 years volunteering. Richard and Hilary Nunes, Cathy Smith, and Nancy Charlton received certificates for 5 years volunteering.

On October 31st, Lakefield Village Lions distributed complimentary winter clothing to our recipients. The ladies set up their tents and displayed the clothing. Our food bank recipients eagerly selected coats, sweaters, hats, mittens, and scarves. The event was a huge hit.



Celebrating Fall & Preparing for Christmas at Lakefield Community Food Bank cont.

We have an awesome group of volunteers that faithfully and joyfully come out each week to do the various tasks to serve our community. For the distribution on October 31st, we had some strange looking characters preparing and distributing food.



It was a blustery day on November 3rd, as teams of volunteers stood outside Lakefield Foodland for a food drive. Volunteers greeted shoppers and encouraged them to donate. Then the food was brought to the food bank to be sorted.

During the week of 13–19 November, several of our volunteers helped with the Tim Hortons Holiday Smile Cookie campaign. It was wonderful to have helping hands to decorate THOUSANDS of cookies each day across Peterborough and County. Through sales of the Holiday Smile Cookie, Tim Hortons raised funds for Kawartha Food Share.

We received a huge amount of food and over \$1,700 in monetary donations from the Santa Claus Parade in Lakefield on November 20th.

Thank you to the residents of Winfield Shores! Marg Harding, Gord MacLeish, and Bill & Rose Stewart organized another neighbourhood collection in Winfield Shores. They brought 2 carloads of food and several monetary donations to our food bank!



Celebrating Fall & Preparing for Christmas at Lakefield Community Food Bank cont.

And thank you, David Hickey, for offering three works of art as a fundraiser for Lakefield Food Bank. You can bid on these beautiful paintings by sending a note to davidhickeyartist@gmail.com. Bidding closes on December 3rd.



#1.

20x20 reg.\$450



#2.

20x20 reg.\$480



#3

24x24. Reg.\$675

We are busy making plans for our Christmas offering of food. We are estimating that between 130 and 140 households will come on December 19th for this special distribution.

We are closed between Christmas and New Years, opening on January 8, 2024.

It is a privilege to be part of this ministry to serve God's people. We thank St. John's for supporting this outreach! You are invited to visit us on our "[Lakefield Community Food Bank](#)" Facebook page.

We wish everyone a very Merry Christmas and a joyful New Year!

Respectfully submitted by Sandy Peacock



CHRIST CHURCH UPDATE

Matrimony, Music and Merriment at Christ Church

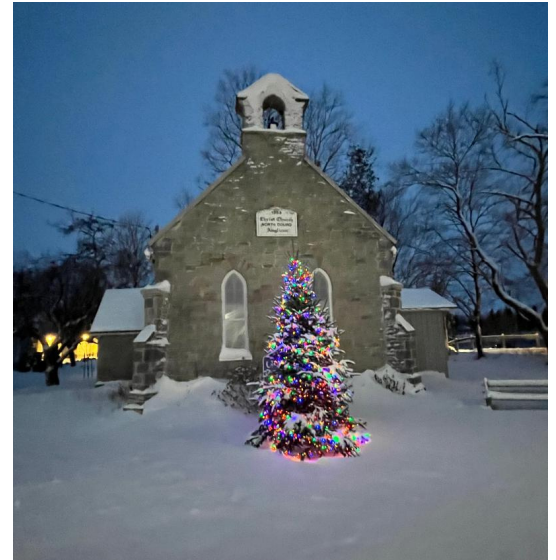


Christ Church may be closed for the season but the committee's as active as ever with new dates on the calendar and a recent wedding.

In early October, we hosted a beautiful Fall wedding at the church. It was a lovely day with the decorated chapel providing the perfect backdrop to the happy newlyweds.

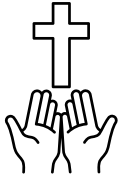
Next up on our agenda is the Christ Church Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing, which takes place Friday, December 8th, at 7 p.m.

Kick off the holiday season with a special family tradition as we light up the community Christmas tree, sings carols by candle light and enjoy festive music with Bob Trennum. Light refreshments will be served and a collection for the masonry restoration of the 1853 bell tower will be taken.



Looking ahead to 2024, we're excited to welcome back local musician, Irish Millie, for another fabulous fundraiser on Friday, May 3rd, 2023 at 7 p.m. Tickets will go on sale in the new year from Happenstance Books & Yarns.

Patti McAllister
Chair, CCCM
705-868-6493



ACW UPDATE

ACW Raises \$1,000 at Fall Fundraiser

The ACW had a very successful Pumpkin Festival in October. People seemed to enjoy looking at all the tables at their own pace, and then having a snack with their friends. Several children came and decorated their pumpkins. The baked goods table was an especially good seller.

We raised \$1,000 and will be disbursing funds in December. Thank you to everyone involved for all their hard work in making it a fun day.



We have not yet made plans for next year yet so stay tuned! May your Christmas be a celebration of the Savior,

Prim Lowry for all the ladies in the ACW.



BITS & PIECES

For Bible Resources Online, Check Out Right Now Media

RightNow Media is an extensive library of video bible study resources. The mission of RightNow Media is “to work with the global church to inspire people to love others before self and Christ above all”. Examples of available series include:

- The Prodigal God by Tim Keller
- Anxious for Nothing by Max Lucado
- The Prayer Course by Pete Greig
- The Case for Christ by Lee Strobel

There are also special series for the Advent and Christmas seasons, including God Came Near by Max Lucado.

These videos can be used for individual study or group study and many include free discussion guides and handouts. RightNow Media is a tool that can help you grow and live out your faith. In addition books of the bible, there are videos on a variety of topics such as apologetics, Christian living, mental health, and bible history to name a few, and videos for children and youth.

All of you can have free access to this resource. Simply copy the link <https://app.rightnowmedia.org/join/stjohnslakefield> into the search bar of your browser, create an account, and start browsing!

You can watch through their webpage or download the RightNow Media app to your tablet or phone. Any questions? Contact me at **rene.jackman@gmail.com**. I'd be happy to help.

- Rene



BITS & PIECES

Sharing Blessings with FaithWorks

Sunday 26th November was FaithWorks Sunday and if you attended church that morning, you'll have heard about the positive contributions this impactful organization has had - and continues to have - on our community and worldwide.

An initiative of the Anglican Diocese of Toronto, FaithWorks funds ministries that cater to marginalized members of our communities - the Indigenous, the homeless, the hungry, at-risk women/children/youth, immigrants, refugees, and those struggling with HIV/AIDS.

Over the past year, more than 27,000 people were fed, sheltered, nurtured, supported and befriended with support from FaithWorks. With demand for these services rapidly growing, the program is calling on parishes to do even better this year, sparing what they can to live out Christ's words in Matthew 25: 34-36:

For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in, I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was sick and you looked after me, I was in prison and you came to visit me.'

Donations can be made online at faithworks.ca or via specially prepared envelopes available at the church.



BITS & PIECES

A Hidden Chapel with a Unique History

Hidden Chapel Winery in B.C is a very special place. The vineyard isn't just known for its wines, it's also the site of a tiny wooden church that was painstakingly shipped from Europe and reconstructed on the vineyard property.

The winery's eponymous chapel was brought over in the early 90s as a gift to the previous owner who was apparently very devout but too frail to attend church. Her son-in-law arranged for the building to be transported and tucked away at the back of the property for her private use.

The church seats about six people and is now occasionally used for weddings. It also provides inspiration for the current owners whose wines include 'Nuns on the Run' and 'Blushing Bride'.



If you're ever near Oliver B.C, the Hidden Chapel Winery is well-worth a visit, the little church stole our hearts (and the wine wasn't bad either!).

- Mike and Connie Dry

“The whole story of Advent is the story of how God can’t be kept out. God is present. God is with us. God shows up - not with a parade but with the whimper of a baby, not among the powerful but among the marginalized, not to the demanding but to the humble.”

- Rachel Held Evans

Merry
Christmas

&

Happy New
Year

