

# ST. JOHN'S IDA

1758 Cavan Rd. 10, Cavan, ON 705.944.5350  
stjohnsida@nexicom.net

## Worship

Please join us each Sunday at 9:30am.

First, Third & Fifth Sundays, we celebrate Holy Communion.

Second & Fourth Sundays is Morning Prayer.

A Children's program is offered each Sunday.

Come as you are; everyone is welcome!



Join us on Sunday, December 16th at 4 p.m. at Christ Church, Omeme.

This is a quiet reflective service especially for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or another significant loss, or who are finding this time of year difficult. At the time of year when the nights are longest, we gather together to seek for hope in Christ.



A very wise owl reminded me that Advent is the opposite of my frantic, midweek dash to the mall, to bring on the Christmas season. Black Friday panic, over stuffed wish lists, and supercharged shop-til-you drop marathons are all the antithesis of advent. The complete opposite of Silent Night, O Holy Night.

Advent is literally the waiting period; a time of pause and expectation. It symbolizes something notable, something new. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we light consecutive candles to symbolize hope, love, joy and peace. With a prayerful pace, and light that dispels darkness, we wait and hope for the promised child--the Son of God, the baby born in the manger.

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And He will be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Human wisdom, defined by Alexander Dumas, is summed up in two words: wait and hope. As you make your pilgrimage through this Advent season, do as I say and not as I do. Be wise. Immerse yourself fully, and without apology, in love, joy, peace, and most of all hope. Wait and hope for something notable, for something new.

Gaitree Gillen





# the Gift of advent



It is November 10<sup>th</sup>. The coffee shop is promoting their “holiday” (Christmas?) special beverages, in cups decorated with holly. The advertising posters depict red packages with green and white ribbons. It is November 10<sup>th</sup>.

## My Baby Jesus

How beautiful, how beautiful  
 The manger-child is to me.  
 The light that crowns His tiny head  
 Outshines the Christmas tree.  
 The gifts He brings are sent to us  
 From God, Himself, above.  
 Most treasured presents given us -  
 Peace and Joy and Love.  
 I want to kneel before the babe  
 His Presence to adore  
 And sing His praises to the heavens  
 Here, now, and evermore.  
 I promise God the Father  
 I will love Him 'til the end  
 And thank the heavens for sending me  
 My Master, Saviour, Friend.  
 I pray that you receive Him  
 And love Him as I do.  
 Ask Him to live within your heart  
 And accept these blessings too.

A poem by Dougall

“Beanneacht dé Leat agus do  
 chlann ar na cactanna shone atr  
 ann.”

I remember hearing years ago that we live in an instant society. We have instant coffee, instant pudding and instant rice. Do you remember the television ad featuring the housekeeper of the Brady Bunch holding up her hand and declaring that the rice would be ready in 5 minutes? If we were an “instant society” 40 years ago, I am not sure what we are now. I am quite sure we have not become more patient in recent years. For the most part, we are an impatient lot.

Given our reluctance to wait it is little wonder that Advent gets short shrift. Now I don’t want to give the impression that I am encouraging a kind of “bah humbug” (ala Ebenezer Scrooge) approach to Christmas. As those who are learning to follow Jesus we have every reason to celebrate the nativity. We, of all people, ought to have the most joyous festivities and celebrations. But this is exactly where Advent becomes for us a gift. The Christmas celebrations take on new significance when we can use Advent as a time for quiet reflection and preparation. If you are not in the habit, I encourage you to set aside time each day, even 5 or 10 minutes for quiet reflection, bible reading and prayer. Pray that the eyes of your heart will be open to see Jesus as he comes to meet you in prayer, bible reading, as you gather with his people on Sunday mornings around his Word and Table and as you reach out in humble service to others.

During these days of Advent leading up to December 25<sup>th</sup> “let every heart prepare him room” that we may know the fullness of God’s joy as we sing: “Joy to the World, the Lord is come. Let earth receive her king”.

Rev. Peter



## Learning to Follow Jesus Together...

Over the past few months the Monday evening women's study and the Tuesday evening study group have both taken a look at, "A Long Obedience In The Same Direction" by Eugene Peterson. This book is a reflection on the Psalms of Ascent, songs of praise sung by pilgrims as they travelled up to Jerusalem for the great festivals at the Temple. Two historical books of the Old Testament, Ezra and Nehemiah; readings from our Sunday services and the topic Angels have been part of our spiritual diet.

At present, the Tuesday group is discussing the book *Bullseye-Aiming to Follow Jesus*. This includes such topics as spiritual practices, worship, community, serving, giving and sharing Christ. The women's study is reading "Miracles" by C.S. Lewis. In addition to the two ongoing groups, a third is now being held once a month at the home of Peter and Trish. The book, "Unwearied Praises", is being used to explore the theology of some of the ancient hymns of the church.

If you are interested in reading and learning from scripture please join us. No experience is necessary. We all learn together as the Holy Spirit prompts us to ask questions and inspires us to share answers.

## Taking Care of God's Creation!

Each year in the spring and fall our congregation cleans up the road side between Ida and Cavan. This year, for the first time, the spring cleanup was undertaken by our youth group. On Friday evening, April 29<sup>th</sup>, about 14 youth and some parents worked in four groups, 3 along the roadside and one in the cemetery to make our surroundings more attractive. 8 bags of recycle and 6 bags of garbage were collected. After about one hour, we were back at the church eating a hotdog and ice cream feast. At the next youth meeting the cleanup was linked to a Bible study on taking care of God's creation.

Our second Adopt-a-Road activity took place on October 14<sup>th</sup> after church. Fourteen people collected 7 bags of recycle and 6 of garbage. Over two dozen water bottles were found scattered along the roadside. We have not encountered this many before. This is somewhat disappointing- but we shall keep on collecting! Please join us in the spring for our next Adopt-a- Road cleanup.



Photos: September Kids Festival (Top); September Sunday school (Bottom)



## In Memory of ... Jim McDonald

A poem written by Jim but never published.

### **Beauty**

**As pretty a sight as can be  
seen  
A wandering brook in forest  
greet.**

**Deep holes hiding ticklish  
trout  
Waiting for May flies to come  
out.**

**What joy it is to walk the bank  
And feel the mosses cool and  
dank.**

**Fiddleheads coiled, trilliums  
wild,  
trout pools roiled.**

**I am spoiled by beauty  
everywhere.  
Thank you, Lord, for bringing  
me here.**

Jim McDonald

*[we can now imagine Jim in this  
place!!]*



## Remembrance Day and the Bell of St. John, Ida

This Remembrance Day, November 11, 2018, marked the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the end of the Great War, World War I. Churches across Canada were asked to ring their bells at 11:02 am, after two minutes of silence, to mark the armistice beginning at the 11<sup>th</sup> hour of the 11<sup>th</sup> day of the 11<sup>th</sup> month a century earlier. We were also asked to ring our bell as an act of remembrance “at the going down of the sun”. For our region this occurred at 4:51 pm. Our congregation responded to both invitations. For all who gathered, as the bell tolled, we could not help but reflect on the sacrifices of the men and women who died or were maimed physically, mentally and emotionally in both WW I and WW II. The world longs for peace- a peace that only the Prince of Peace can bring.

‘O God, it is your will to hold both heaven and earth in a single peace. Let the design of your great Love shine on the waste of our wraths and sorrows, and give Peace to your Church, Peace among nations, Peace in our homes, and Peace in our hearts; through your Son Jesus Christ our Lord.’ (Prayer for Peace, BAS, p 677)

Our bell was brought from Toronto by wagon in 1866 to install in the tower of the new brick church, our present building, in which the first service was held in January of 1867, the same year as Confederation.





## The Bricks and Mortar of St. John's...

A recent Monday morning saw a determined group of men tackle the demolition of a 17 ft long section of sidewalk leading to the front door of our place of worship. An electric jackhammer powered by a 3500 watt generator did the job of fracturing the concrete so that many willing hands could load the chunks of concrete into a tractor loader bucket. From there they were dumped into a trailer for disposal.

While this was happening another crew with shovels was digging out around the posts of our historic sign located over our well. By attaching a sling and chain to the sign we were able, using the tractor, to straighten up a small southward lean to it. This work is being done in preparation for replacing our sign with a new one on aluminum instead of wood. This task also went very well and by noon we were able to wrap things up and go home for lunch.

Two days later we experienced an answer to prayer as we were able to secure a cubic meter of ready-mix concrete from CBM Cement near the east end of Stewart Line. This was placed and levelled by a smaller crew on very short notice. The only task remaining is to cut some expansion grooves into the new concrete, which will be done thanks to the loan of a

concrete saw from a member of our congregation.

Repair work on the front steps of the church was done by a contractor some time ago and now that the flower bed in front of the steps has been trimmed away for the winter, additional masonry work will be done to rebuild the stone wall in front of the landing.

Our well water tests conducted four times a year continue to show that our water is of the purest possible kind and entirely safe for consumption.

We arrange for twice annual pumping out of our septic holding tank, trying, if possible to avoid times when frozen ground causes us to pay extra storage costs.

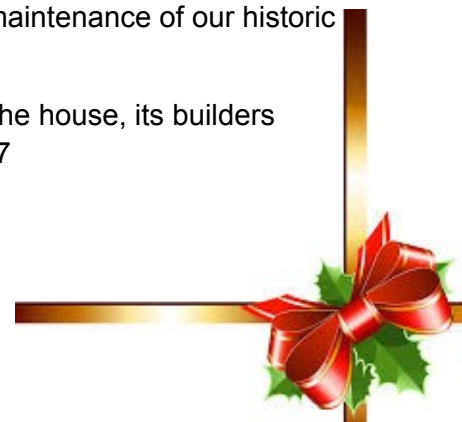
Our garbage and recycling is picked up on the east side of County Rd. 10 every Friday except on holidays. The recycling is usually very early in the morning around 7:30am.

There are too many people to thank who I can call on short notice to help with a variety of tasks, ranging from putting storm window coverings on at this time of year and taking them off in the spring; cleaning flies out of the hanging lights in our nave or worship place, cleaning up cluster flies in windows, heading out into the wilds of Manvers seeking the perfect spruce for our Christmas tree, helping to erect the Nativity scene on the lawn or being part of a work detail such as the sidewalk repair project with which I began this report.

An ongoing debt of gratitude is owed to Ken J. and others who spend time throughout the year keeping our gardens looking beautiful, and to Albert P. who arranges yearly inspections of our furnaces and the changing of filters, and as well plays a lead role in the maintenance of our historic old pipe organ.

“Unless the Lord builds the house, its builders labour in vain” ... Ps. 127

Don W



# OUTREACHOUT

**THANKS** to the efforts of the Cavan Hills Run Committee and volunteers this congregation was able to send financial help to agencies and individuals as close as Millbrook and downtown Peterborough, and as far away as the Arctic, Northern Ontario, Belize, and Iraq.

**It's ADVENT CONSPIRACY time once again.**

It is the call to:

**WORSHIP FULLY** – to remember who and what is at the heart of the approaching Christmas season

**SPEND LESS** – to resist being caught up in the consumerism and stress of the usual way of celebrating the Christmas season

**GIVE MORE** – to purchase at least one less material present, and donate the money to Phase 3 of the project at Pikangikum to install running water and waste systems in homes there

**LOVE ALL** – to proclaim that **JESUS IS WITH US**

It's also time to thank the members of this congregation for their support for the work of the Outreach Committee during the past year.

**HAVE A BLESSED ADVENT AND CHRISTMAS !!**



Enjoying a Tuesday Night Dinner with our Church Family

**Our Youth ARE Involved!**



Our St. John's Youth Group returned in September to its normal Friday night routines of meeting at 6:30 in the hall. Peter and I were pleased to welcome one new member, and our attendance has varied between 8 and 13 on most evenings.

Our bible studies have continued through to Luke 8 including the Beatitudes; however we did use a couple of meetings to talk about Thanksgiving and the wonders of God's creation. We still enjoy our 'check in' times as we try to catch up with the activities of some extremely active young people.

We were happy to welcome Catherine Hazlitt and her two youngest daughters for two of our meetings. We were also happy to have another baking session in the kitchen with Danielle, Susan and Rachelle as we prepared some goodies for outreach to the One Roof Diner and for hospitality.

A definite highlight of the fall was a recent presentation by Jim and Seanagh Murdoch on their safari trip through several countries in Southern Africa. It was extremely informative, interesting and entertaining. We now know gnus and fear hippos.

Thanks to Gary Hochbaum for his continued support of this ministry, to Penny for help with chaperoning, and to all of you for your ongoing assistance, prayers, and encouragements. We look forward to future activities connected with the upcoming Advent and Christmas season.



## A Conversation with Catherine Hazlitt - our student intern

### **Catherine, what can you tell us about your life before faith in Christ took hold?**

I was baptized on the first day after my birth, because I had been born three months premature. I have always felt I belonged to Jesus, and He was my Good Shepherd. Somehow I felt that the strong Christian faith of my Scots and Irish ancestors encouraged me to keep my heart set to follow my Lord Jesus.

### **What stirred you to take Jesus seriously?**

By God's grace, I have always had a love for my Lord. In childhood, I loved the Lord's Prayer, and Christian friends, relatives and teachers modelled for me what a deep and thoughtful faith might look like.

### **Some people have a 'lightening bolt' conversion, while others experience more of a gradual sunrise in their faith. Was there a moment when it all made sense to you, or was it more of a process?**

As I child, I felt close to our Lord especially in singing praise, at the reading of the Gospel and at Holy Communion. When I was 18, I was challenged to live out my faith by serving as a lay leader, and it was at that time I discovered the joy of being part of a small Christian group, studying, praying, serving, and laughing together. It was so much fun being together and growing in our Lord. I wish every follower of Jesus a similar experience of Christian community. And I thank St John's Ida for welcoming me into this warm and vital parish.

### **In what ways has your faith in Christ made a difference in your life?**

I cannot really imagine my life without the presence of my Lord. However, I have found it at times a struggle to understand and practice all the ways our faith flows out into our daily life, whether in the heart, studies, family, daily work, and all of life.

### **If there is one thing you would want the world to know from your experience with God, what would it be?**

Even though Christian faith is no longer as prevalent in our culture as it was, Jesus Christ is, and will always be, just as worthy of our love and worship. Let us pour out the precious perfume of our lives for His sake, as the forgiven woman of the Gospels boldly did.

One of my favourite prayers is this verse from the fifth century Irish St Patrick's Breastplate:

"Christ be with me, Christ within me,  
Christ behind me, Christ before me,  
Christ beside me, Christ to win me,  
Christ to comfort and restore me,  
Christ beneath me, Christ above me,  
Christ in quiet, Christ in danger,  
Christ in hearts of all that love me,  
Christ in mouth of friend and stranger."

And finally, from Second Corinthians chapter 4:

5 For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. 6 For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ.



# December 2018

St. John's  
Ida

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
 9:30 AM Holy Communion 		Tuesday Night Live  Dinner 6PM	**Evening Prayer @ Christ Church, Omeme 4:00 PM		Youth Group @ 6:30 PM	
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
	For God so loved the world he gave His one and only Son that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have eternal life John 3:16	Tuesday Night Live  Dinner 6PM	**Evening Prayer @ Christ Church, Omeme 4:00 PM		Youth Group @ 6:30 PM	
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
"The Story" in Word & Song - 9:30 AM St. John's, Ida  Blue Christmas 4:00 PM - Christ Church, Omeme			**Evening Prayer @ Christ Church, Omeme 4:00 PM			
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
	Christmas Eve 7:00 PM  Family Service St. John's, Ida	Christmas Day 9:30 AM Service				
		**Come to any or all of these beautiful and simple said services, from the Book of Common Prayer, as part of your Advent spiritual practice.	These services are a midweek pause of reflection and listening. They are also a lovely way to gather together in this season.	No experience of Evening Prayer required. Friends and neighbours most welcome.		





## 200th Anniversary St. John's, Ida 1819 - 2019

In 2019, the parish of St. John's will celebrate it's 200th Anniversary! We have many exciting events planned throughout the year including special services with our Area Bishops and a visit from the Primate of the Anglican Church of Canada in June!

We are expressing our thankfulness to God for His faithfulness over the past 200 years, and asking Him to lead us into the next century as His church. We are also thanking the community for its past support, and inviting our neighbours to join us in our journey forward, as we continue to learn how to follow Jesus.

Stay tuned for a special "200th Anniversary Edition" of the newsletter to be released in early January. Included will be a calendar of all the special events planned.

In the meantime, we are asking those who are able, to pledge financial support for our 200th celebrations. If you are able, please complete the pledge form on the reverse page and return it to our envelope secretary by Dec. 2nd.

We believe that next year is a tremendous opportunity for sowing seeds of faith as our church interacts with our community in an inviting and exciting way. Please continue to hold the committee, and our entire church family, up in prayer.



Do you ever wonder who that person is sitting on the other side of the church? "I just forget their name.....". An updated church photo directory helps everyone get to know each other.

Do you have a current photo of your family that you could send via email?? We would love to update our church directory - specifically for our 200th anniversary next year!

Please email your photo to [cathyolley@nexicom.net](mailto:cathyolley@nexicom.net). Cathy will upload your photo into our "Instant Church Directory" and we will print updated copies of the directory early in 2019.

If you have any questions, please feel free to ask one of the wardens or Cathy Olley. If you would like someone to take your picture, please also just ask. We would love to capture your smile!!

**St. John's Anglican Church, Ida  
Pledge Sheet  
To be returned to Marilyn Marshall by December 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2018**

**I pledge the following amount as a one-time donation toward anniversary costs.**

\_\_\_\_\_

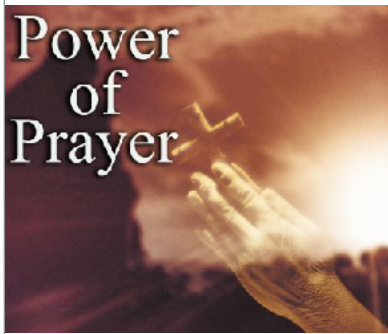
**I pledge the following amount to be paid by monthly instalments, and to be completed by December 2019. \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Please sign here: \_\_\_\_\_.**

**Thank you for your generous support. We can't do this without you. Cheques should be made out to St. John's, Ida and cheques or cash should be given to Marilyn in any envelope marked 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. Please return pledge sheets to Marilyn by December 2<sup>nd</sup>. 2018.**

*Thank  
you!*





A prayer

In your caring for others,  
God cares for you.

As you give your life to others,  
God gives Himself to you.

As you pour out your love,  
God pours his love into you.  
God Bless you and guide you.  
God strengthen and refresh you.  
God give you courage and hope,  
so that His deep loving care  
is revealed through you.

God created order out of chaos.  
God brought light out of darkness.  
God made all things from nothing.  
God breathed life into all things.  
God loves all that he has made.  
God is almighty who loves you.  
God is able to uphold and rescue  
you.

(Unknown)

### Message from the Editor

I would like to take a moment and thank all who contributed. Without your words, pictures and prayers, this newsletter would not be possible. I would also like to thank my brother Bruce for all his help! Wishing you all a Blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas!

## LADIES NIGHT - EVERY MONDAY

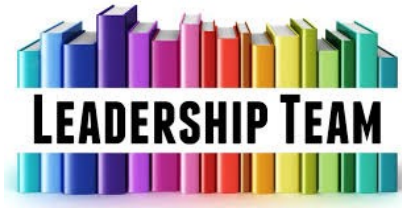
The Monday evening Ladies Bible study meets every Monday evening at the home of Moyra Seabright, 941 Alexander Avenue, Cavan. All ladies are welcome and sometimes we have fifteen people and other times we have fewer. During this past year we have begun to study the New Testament Book of Revelation, 'Thank God It's Friday' – a Lenten reflection on Jesus' last words from the Cross' by Willimon, 'Angels' and 'A Long Obedience in the Right Direction' by Eugene Peterson. In a week we will undertake 'God With Us', Devotions for Advent by David Boyd.

We open and close with prayer; we pray for others as well as ourselves and we are ever grateful to God for the opportunity to study God's word. We take turns in leading the study.

Our contribution to the 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary of St. John's, Ida is a Quiet Day on March 30<sup>th</sup>, 2019, held at St. John's Church Ida to which all men and women from our congregation and from the surrounding community are invited.



Jerryline Teh & Emmanuel Kaye High School Graduation



On behalf of Donna, Kim, Ted and Phil we wish you all the best for the upcoming Advent and Christmas season. Our prayer is that the peace and joy of our Lord Jesus Christ might richly bless you all as we celebrate His birth once more. As your leadership team we are once again so grateful for your willingness to serve Him in the wonderful ministries here at St. John's, to generously support our church budget and outreach efforts, and to offer your diverse gifts in so many ways.

We are so thankful that St. John's continues to be a church where the gospel is faithfully preached, where Christian teaching and learning are priorities, where our church family experiences hospitality and fellowship, where prayer is central and strongly encouraged, where children and young people are nurtured, and where our outreach is a powerful witness to surrounding communities. We are also thankful for a wonderful music team which continues to inspire and lift our spirits. In keeping with this, we thank God that our 100 year old organ was able to be repaired and readied for another century of service.

We have been happy to welcome Catherine Hazlitt as Peter's student minister. She and her daughters have been welcome additions to the worship and daily life of the church. We look forward to her increasing involvement in these areas. We

are also so thankful for the steady leadership of Peter and Bill, for their wonderful families, and for their faithful stewardship in our church and parish.

We are excited about 2019 as our 200<sup>th</sup> anniversary year, and have been overwhelmed by your strong support to our request for pledges to cover all related costs. We also appreciate the many efforts of our Cemetery Board and Property crew to 'spruce up' the church. We have seen the repair of many cemetery markers, repairs to the front steps and walkway, and replacement of the old sign in the yard, to name a few. We will be able to rejoice together as we have a nostalgic and thankful look back at the thousands of pioneer saints who built and maintained this church community.

We will express our continuing thanksgiving to God for His gracious mercies and faithfulness in guiding us over these past 200 years. But also we are excited to see what God has in store for the future. We see great opportunities to invite and welcome others to join us in our journey with Jesus. We anticipate, in biblical terms, some dreaming of dreams and seeing visions as God shows us a path forward for this old church on the hill.

Some of us would admit to fears about our future. We often seem to be a group of weary (but willing) people waiting for a shift change. We continue to

face financial challenges in meeting our budget goals. But God has promised us. We have seen how He has raised us up to meet past challenges. The gift of prayer is the answer to our fears. Let us join together to lift our voices in praise and prayer to a God who hears.

As we sit around the hall table, together with Peter and with Jim, our great treasurer, we are busy planning our budget and preparing for our Vestry meeting next year. As this is written we are in need of a new treasurer and a new rector's warden. We are encouraged by a Diocesan grant of \$15,500 through the 'Our Faith, Our Hope' committee. This will be used for technological upgrades to better serve our own people, and to reach out to a much wider and growing community. This is a strong investment in our future and reflects a Diocesan recognition of what we have been doing here at St. John's as well as a confidence that we will continue to go forward. This recognition and confidence comes from all of your efforts.

Please continue to hold us all up in prayer.





## Update from The Can Man

I wish to report on this past year for our crushed cans for Sleeping Children Around the World (<http://www.scaw.org>).

We have had a rough year with the price of scrap aluminum in that the value of crushed cans dropped to \$0.05 per pound. I saved nearly 30 bags of crushed cans waiting for the price to rise but I found out the scrap dealer was paying up to \$0.20 per pound for uncrushed cans. I was told that the crushing equipment spilled crushed cans as they tried to make bales while the uncrushed cans stayed in place.

We are now collecting uncrushed aluminum cans and avoiding the labour of crushing them. With a bit of a struggle we were able to purchase 5 bed kits @ \$35.00 each, to bring our ongoing total up to 78. Each kit includes a mat or mattress, pillow, sheet, blanket, mosquito net (if applicable), clothes outfit, towel and school supplies.

Keep those pop cans coming. Just drop them around the Mitsubishi on Sunday morning.

Thank you on behalf of the children!

Fred Marshall



## Baking pies, serving meals....

### AKA - The ACW (Anglican Church Women & Men)

Women in ministry, serving through hosting meals, providing funeral receptions, baking pies and maintaining a functional kitchen. With the help of so many, we have had a busy Fall. When women in the church receive a call to help with food prep, baking or cleaning, they are most gracious in their response. We give thanks for them.

The funds we raise from our activities keep the kitchen supplied with needed equipment; we fund a number of outreach projects including the sponsorship of a foster child and helping women in the third world start or continue in businesses that support their families.

For our church's 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, we are hoping you are searching out those favourite recipes to go in a cookbook we will publish next year. Please place them in Seanagh Murdoch's church mail folder as soon as possible. If you have questions, feel free to speak with Seanagh Murdoch or Nancy





## Cavan Hills Cross Country Run

### September 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2018 - RACE DAY!!

It was Friday morning, the day before our Run/walk and the weather for the evening was forecasted to be very windy. Would we put up our tent/canopies as usual before the big day or not? We were led to do as much preparation as we could and to leave the erection of the tents to very early Sat. morning. The numerous volunteers (for which we are very thankful) headed home and I headed for Omeme to pick up a trailer which had been loaned to us to replace the usual one, lost in an early morning July barn fire.

Sat. morning early before sunrise our helpers arrived to put everything into place. We had new tables thanks to a generous donation from the McCamus'. As the day dawned, we began to sense that the weather would be perfect for running or walking. Though our pre-race registrations had been lower than expected, more people registered on race day than ever before, bringing our number of competitors to 132 including 43 children and youth.

Our prayers were answered as the morning went by with many smiling faces even when some of them were struggling for breath. Our large contingent of helpers were there on the job all around the courses and on the site at the McCamus farm. The Hospitality tent was, as usual, a popular spot as everyone sampled the delicious treats being offered.

Weeks have gone by since that day and we have learned, thanks to Jim our treasurer, that we were also greatly blessed financially! St. John's has been able to distribute \$6500 in Outreach funds to many worthy recipients. Thanks be to God and to Vicki and our committee, and all who volunteered and helped out.

We have decided, in a post Run meeting, to plan for another Cavan Hills Cross Country run/walk next year; with God's guidance and blessing it will be the 15th anniversary of the event! Mark your calendars now!

On behalf of the committee,

Don Winslow





**Did you say “MESSY CHURCH”??**

The joyful sounds of children and their families fill the air in the Hall on the first Thursday of the month. This Fall we are learning to walk with Jesus by looking at some parables.

One of the ways Jesus taught his disciples to live the Gospel was through the use of parables – stories that explained a truth for living.

In October, we discovered how deeply Jesus loves us through the story of ‘the lost sheep’. Then in November, we gained greater understanding of who our neighbours are and our need to love them through the parable of ‘the good Samaritan’.

We would warmly welcome you to bring your family to join us as we continue with the parables on the first Thursday of the month from 5-7pm



In October 2006 Jean Lush saw an opportunity to help seniors in the community. She was part of Seniors Retirement Homes and Community Care doing things to help promote community care for seniors. She then set up the Seniors Ministry at St. John’s, Ida. Jean and her friend Evelyn set up a time and space for screening blood pressure for anyone who would like to come. At the first session they waited patiently for someone to arrive and have their blood pressure checked. Finally they had a lineup of four (4) people, Joy McCamus, Marjory McKellar, Nancy Hodgkinson and Jean’s mother. They were somewhat discouraged with the low number but they decided to have lunch together.

Jean knew there was a need for seniors in the rural communities, so after some discussion someone suggested having the blood pressure screening followed by lunch. Hence Rural Connections came to life. Nancy Hodgkinson came up with the name and now going into the 13<sup>th</sup> year it is thriving, serving up to fifty (50) people both men and women for lunch. The first Wednesday of each month a very proficient team of ladies prepare a sumptuous meal. This is followed by a guest speaking on subjects such as bee keeping, Belize mission, senior’s safety. Jean and Evelyn do a wonderful job finding people to do presentations after lunch.

God knew what he was doing when he called on Jean to start this ministry. Our rural community is very blessed to have Jean and Evelyn and their very committed team of volunteers.

Thanks be to God.



Having fun in a Messy Church!



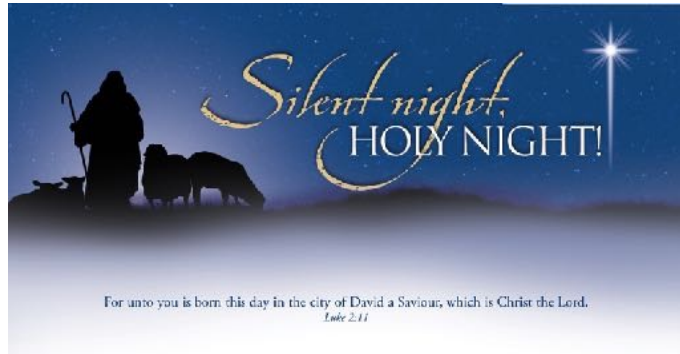


## St. John's Quilts for Cancer

A faithful group of ladies continue to meet on the second and fourth Wednesday of each month to make quilts for people who are battling cancer.

On Wednesday, October 24th at our regular meeting, Rev Peter blessed fifteen quilts which have now been delivered to Quilts for Cancer Peterborough County for distribution to patients in the area.

The ladies in our group are very grateful to the wardens and people of St. John's for the use of the hall, without which we couldn't continue this ministry. If you are aware of anyone who would benefit from one of these quilts you can make a request at [cancerquiltsptbo@gmail.com](mailto:cancerquiltsptbo@gmail.com).



### SING FOR JOY!

(AKA Our Choir...)

Our choir members have been faithfully attending practices since September and avidly working on several new anthems. They are to be highly commended for their glorious singing of our Thanksgiving anthem, "With a Grateful Heart and a Joyful Song", after learning it in only four practices!! That was an amazing feat!! Thank you, choir!! You are incredible!!

Special thanks also to you, our congregation members, who often express how much our choir's music enhances your worship service. Your comments are treasured by us and help us to know that we are accomplishing our mission!

Once again on behalf of us all, many thanks are extended to Jason Conrad who graciously accompanies us periodically and enriches our services with his masterful guitar playing. Thank you, Jason!!

Since Thanksgiving, we have been learning new music in preparation for our special services which will be held during our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary year. As well as continuing to master the chants for the upcoming Evensong Service, our choir members have been learning three anthems, two of which will be sung during our Christmas Services. The third, which is entitled "Sing For Joy" was originally written by George F. Handel in two part harmony. Linda Spevacek has composed an SATB (four part) arrangement of Handel's magnificent creation. Needless to say, we have all erupted in laughter at times as we strive to master this joyful, contrapuntal (interweaving of parts) masterpiece!! This anthem will be sung on January 20<sup>th</sup> as we celebrate our 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary with Bishop Ryscilla Shaw leading our service.

In closing, my heartfelt thanks are extended to my "heaven sent" choir, for all that you are and all that you do! It is such a joy working with you and you are truly a blessing to everyone at St. John's Ida!!

Wishing you God's Grace and Peace,

Linda Parsons