

Nativity pageant at St. Thomas Anglican Church

Starts with Moses, ends with birth of Jesus in stable in Bethlehem

SPECIAL TO THE NEWS

The Christmas story of the nativity is one of the world's great stories and is one re-told again and again every year at Christmas time.

Among its most memorable retellings are in the form of children's pageants which are a feature in many churches leading up to Christmas Day.

St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville annual presents a children's pageant about the nativity story and this year this pageant was presented at the church's morning service on Sunday, Dec. 17.

Narrated by Rev. Jane McCaig, the pageant told the story not only of that first Christmas in Bethlehem but also went right back to the experience of the Jewish people in Egypt, beginning with the placement of Moses in a basket floating in the Nile River. The story progressed through Moses leading his people out of Egypt and into the Promised Land, after which prophets told of the coming of a Messiah. Music played a role in this pageant, with songs such as "Let My People Go" and "Prepare the Way of the Lord."

The pageant then dealt with the visit by an angel to Mary to tell her that she had been chosen by God to be the Mother of Jesus, after which the story of the birth of Jesus in a stable in Bethlehem was played out by youngsters in costume. There was not only Mary and Joseph but also an angel, shepherds, sheep and wise men, all of the traditional figures associated with this story of the nativity.

As could be expected, the actions of the children presenting this nativity pageant were largely unscripted and spontaneous, giving a most appealing aura to the production which took place at the front of the church.



John Curry/Metroland

The grand finale of the nativity pageant at St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville on Sunday, Dec. 17 had all of those involved from sheep to shepherds to kings to an angel to Mary and Joseph assemble at the front of the church.