

The People's Pulpit

Advent 2023



St Thomas sets its heart toward being a Christian Home which welcomes, encourages, and seeks to inspire people.

St. Thomas Anglican Church
1619 Stittsville Main Street
Tel. (613) 836-5741
StThomasStittsville.ca
StThomasStittsville@gmail.com
Like us on Facebook!

ST THOMAS OFFICE HOLDERS, COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND STAFF

Incumbent	Reverend Lee Lambert
Parish Administrator	Carolyn Cheer
Organist & Choir Director	Bonnie MacDiarmid
Rector's Warden	Diane Clement
People's Warden	John Bottreill
Lay Members at Synod	Sherri Lambert and William Passmore
Synod Alternate	Dave Dallaway
Facilities Rep.	David Hazen
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Ryan Dallaway
Stewardship Officer	Bob Lomas
Outreach Rep	Bonnie McNally
God's Garden	Merilee Clarke
Youth Group Leaders	Rev. Lee Lambert, Merilee Clarke, Mary Attwell
People's Pulpit Editor	Mary Anne Reinhard
Website & Facebook Administrator	Gary Graham
Projection Co-ordinator	Pat McNally
Altar Guild Co-ordinator	Arlene Simonovich
Anglican Church Women President	Diane Clement
Pastoral Care	Roy and Eleanor Baumgart
Cemetery Committee Contact	Jane Walsh
Coffee Hour Co-ordinator	Susan Clark-Dow
Sides persons Co-ordinator	Carolyn Cheer (8:30)
	Diane Clement (10:30)
	Carolyn Cheer (8:30 & 10:30)
Co-ordinator of Liturgical Assistants	Mary Passmore
Cornerstone Leader	Bonnie McNally
Counter Schedule Co-ordinator	Bob Lomas
Envelope Secretary	Committee leader
Fundraising Committee	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Nursery Coordinator	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Long Range Planning	Judy Dallaway
Open Table	Sylvi Dawes
Prayer Chain	Barb Bottriell
PWRDF Contact	<i>Position Vacant</i>
Telephone Team	Judy Dallaway
Funeral Tea Co-ordinator	Bonnie McNally, Judy Dallaway
Autumn Leaves Co-ordinators	Eric Thomas
Auditors & Financial Reviewer	

THE RECTOR'S WARDEN: DIANE CLEMENT



As we move into the season of Advent at St. Thomas, we can feel the energy building with the Christmas preparations and the coming of our Saviour's Birth on Christmas Day. We will light the candles of Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. If we can remember to follow all these feelings within ourselves during Advent, it will make our Christmas Day more meaningful.

It is hard for families to stay focused, while waiting during Advent for the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas Day. The excitement of Christmas parties, Santa Claus in the malls, the Santa Claus parade, Christmas shopping, Christmas baking, friends and family visits. These events are so important as we prepare for our Christmas Day celebrations. I always found that attending church during Advent, certainly helped me focus on the true meaning of Christmas and especially when my boys were young.

Plans are in place to have our float in the Santa Claus Stittsville parade. Small candy bags are ready, to be handed out, with an invitation for our Stittsville friends to join us at Church on Christmas Eve.

The St. Thomas Hot Chocolate Team are ready to hand out hot chocolate to the crowd before, during and after the parade has passed by. I am sure the public will be so happy to have a warm drink of hot chocolate to warm their insides, as they wait for Santa's float to arrive.

Our residents in the roof area of the church "Mr. and Mrs. Raccoon" had to be escorted out at the end of November. Unfortunately, raccoons don't leave willingly, and we had to hire some help to escort them out and block them from returning. Funny thing is that Raccoons once they start living in people's home, think that it is their residence. Free board I suppose!

Our Open Table Dinners have been running very well with good food and good attendance. Our Christmas Dinner will be held on Saturday, December 16th. This is our annual Christmas meal with turkey and all the trimmings. If you can help out sometime during the day, please make sure to sign up, even if it is only for 1 hour. It takes a lot of parish members to put these dinners on and any help you can give, is very much appreciated.

Sunday Coffee Hours continue weekly following the 9:30 a.m. service. Thanks to all the volunteers that make our coffee hours such a success. If you can take a turn with Sunday Coffee Hour, please sign up and if you need help, there are a lot of us that will be happy and willing to give you a hand.

I look back at this past year and am so proud to be a member of St. Thomas, Stittsville. We have wonderful, willing volunteers that assist Rev. Lee in making our services so special and meaningful, each Sunday. Thank you to God for being with us at St. Thomas in our prayers, our comfort, our guidance, and our fellowship.

As we await the birth of the Christ Child during this Advent Season, may we show Hope, Peace, Joy and Love to others and pray, they show the same to us in return.

I would like to wish each and every member of the St. Thomas family, the happiest of the Christmas season and wish you a New Year, 2024 filled with Good Health and Good Cheer.

Blessings.
Diane Clement,
Rector's Warden.



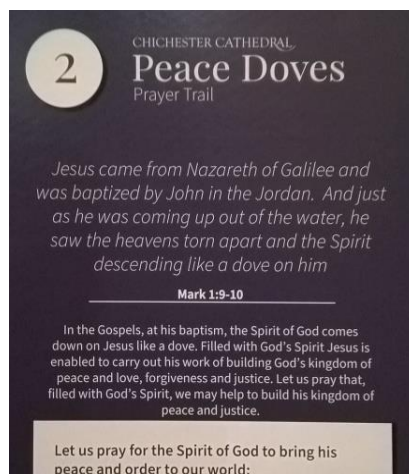
PEOPLE'S WARDEN: JOHN BOTTRIELL



This autumn Barbara and I had the pleasure of reconnecting with my cousins in southern England. After almost a decade where our only connection with them was limited to Christmas card exchanges and the odd phone call and after our 2020 COVID flight cancellation, we were welcomed again as if life hadn't missed a beat. It is amazing when one has a connection how easy it is to rekindle relationship.

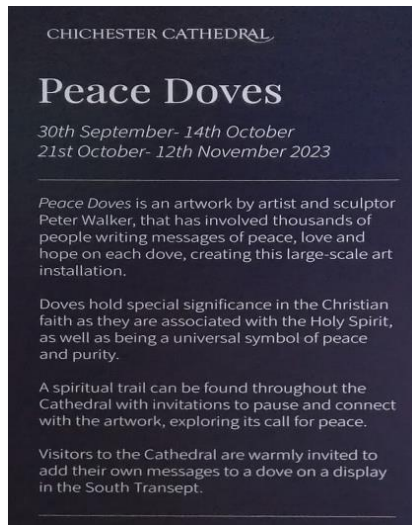
One of the pleasures we partake of whilst on holidays is in visiting other churches and cathedrals and discovering the different ways of expressing our Anglican faith. In October on the way to Gatwick Airport (and Crete) we took the opportunity to spend some time in the lovely city of Chichester, and specifically to visit Chichester Cathedral. This is a very old place of worship with construction of the Cathedral begun in 1075 AD. The Cathedral will be celebrating its 950th anniversary in 2025.

To our delight, and coincident with the marking of International Day of Peace¹ a spectacular art installation called "*Peace Doves*" by artist Peter Walker was on exhibition in the Cathedral's Nave. The art consisted of 1,500 hand-made paper doves suspended from above. Spectacular as the display was, the handwritten messages of peace, love and hope inscribed on the doves written by local community groups, schools and members of the public were a visual testament to their commitment to the cause of peace. Several prayer stations were also set-up around the Cathedral encouraging us to stop and pray for peace.



As visitors to the Cathedral, we were also encouraged to add our message of peace. Several events were scheduled to celebrate the Cathedral's theme this year of *Action for Peace*".

Under the Peace Doves installation the nave was given over to evening viewings set to live music, a silent disco and family drop-in workshops. Unfortunately, we were unable to participate in their month-long celebration, but the images will remain with us as will our collective commitment to peace.



1. The International Day of Peace ("Peace Day") observed around the world on 21 September was established in a United Nations resolution to provide a globally shared date for all humanity to commit to Peace above all differences and to contribute to building a Culture of Peace.

On the local front, our buildings and grounds wouldn't be in such excellent condition were it not for the efforts of a group of parishioners whose dedication certainly merits the accolade of "unsung heroes." They polish the brass, make the windows sparkle, cut the grass and weed the gardens, and do any number of other jobs to keep our church buildings and grounds as beautiful as they are. Theirs is truly a labor of love. The autumn yard clean-

up yielded over 60 bags of leaves for recycling ... a heart-felt thank you to all of you.



Some observant parishioners noticed soffit damage earlier last month. It was tracked down to two intruding raccoons that found their way into the Church attic. A one-way trap was installed which forced them to sleep on the roof overnight. The soffits are now repaired and reinforced. We hope the raccoons have now moved off to a more inviting location.

The gardens are now put to rest awaiting the protective layers of snow for the winter and the winter mats are installed at

the Church entrances. Also, the manger has been installed in anticipation of the coming of the Christ Child.

We have cut back on our snow removal contract by cancelling that part of the service that would have shoveled the walks and steps. If we get a significant snowfall, we are looking for volunteers able to clear snow away from the Main Street, Church and parking lot entrances. We would like to make a roster similar to how we handle the summer lawn. Please let me know at pwarden.stthomasstittsville@gmail.com or if you notice something else needs doing.



As we enter our new year with Advent my hope is that in a world seeming gone mad with conflict that we take some time to reflect on our shared calling of being peacemakers and inspire us to make meaningful actions for a more harmonious world, prayer, and action to nurture lasting peace in our hearts, our families, communities, and all of creation.

Merry Christmas,
John Botttriell
People's Warden

A NOTE FROM THE EDITOR: MARY ANNE REINHARD

Happy New Year!! The first Sunday of Advent signals a new year in the Christian Church Calendar. This sometimes get lost in the hustle and bustle that we seem to become caught up in during the lead up to Christmas.

It has been a busy two months since the last edition of the People's Pulpit. The Autumn Leaves Garage Sale and Bazaar was a huge success, Open Table is a popular meet-up one Saturday evening each month, Yard & gardens are prepped for winter, and plans are underway for God's Garden's Pageant and the Christmas Eve services.

This edition features some submissions about upcoming events at the church, the current state of affairs and finances, upcoming initiatives as well as recipes and food for thought.

The picture on the front cover features the porch decoration that graces the front door of the church created by Arlene Simonovich and Pam Hazen.

Wishing you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year...

Mary Anne



Isaiah 7:14

Therefore the Lord Himself will give you a sign. Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and shall call His name Immanuel.



ADVENT ROCKS

These lovely little Advent Rocks have been hand-painted by Brenda Miller and her daughter, Grace. They will be available in the front entrance to the church through the first three Sundays of Advent. Please help yourself and leave a free-will donation in the jar. All proceeds will go to the Christmas 'Comfort Bags' for the unhoused at The Well and St Luke's Table.



Submitted by Bonnie McNally

ST. THOMAS FINANCIAL UPDATE 2023 AND A LOOK AHEAD

It's the most wonderful time of the year- time to talk about Church Finances. No seriously, it is like the flu shot - quick, painless, and obviously worth doing, but hard to build up to all the same.

So let me start by giving a huge thank you to Bob Lomas, who made a great presentation to the Parish on November 19th, which is the core of this article.

Bob highlighted three fundamental truths about St. Thomas, three truths that I think are really exciting to think about, if you give me a chance.

Fact #1 St. Thomas is active and growing!

This is the sunshine that we use to sugarcoat all our discussions, but let's stop and think about it - our mission is to spread the gospel through our services and activities, and we are delivering on that:

- Sunday attendance is building, and our services are strongly attended, year-round.
- Online viewing remains consistent and allows us to reach a broader community.
- We now regularly minister to four Adult Living and Care facilities and provide home communions too.
- Our God's Garden Sunday School is growing, and has run non-stop through the last five years, an envy of virtually every church in this country.
- Our adult groups and programs have grown, and as witnessed with our Bazaar, volunteer efforts are setting new heights.
- Our support for outreach, locally and abroad is strong and while more can be done, we are doing a lot of things right.

Fact #2 St. Thomas needs to renew its asset base.

The church runs on a day-to-day basis, relying on funds from long-term donations and commitments. These gifts provide a context for forward planning, for emergency funding of infrastructure renewal, and give us a cushion to absorb the complexity of cyclical economic challenges. These funds have been eroded by the challenges of our external world, and by the shift in our parish roster, and while it seems we are now moving forward, the cost of this was to draw down over \$30,000 in assets over the past decade, and we should look to replenish that through thoughtful discussions on planned giving and bequests, which we will have in the new year.

Fact #3 St Thomas needs more revenues on a monthly basis to cover operating costs.

The growth in giving is a great sign, and the call for more is always answered. Let's be clear - we are tremendously generous and should be proud. Nonetheless, we need to continue to grow, and that will come in two forms:

- A) Continued growth in the congregation
- B) Increasing our weekly or monthly donations

While congregational growth is hard to predict, it is clear we are attracting new families due to our strong programs, our commitments to being a welcoming community, and our geographic advantage, calling the rapidly growing community of Stittsville our home. We will look to continue to seize these opportunities to add more families and spread our good news to the wider community.

From an economic point of view, we need to add roughly \$15,000 to our annual incomes, and that amounts to roughly \$5 a week per family in the parish. It's worth noting that some are already giving all they can - and that's okay. We do not want people to be overextending and risking their personal well being, but we would ask families to reflect prayerfully on where their incremental dollars go - in 2023, \$5 is effectively 1 or 2 cups of coffee, or the difference between eating out once a month versus eating at home. We will be reaching out in the new year as part of our stewardship campaign and would ask our envelope and PAR donors to consider increasing by \$5 per week where possible. This is very doable for our community, and we really do need to seize this opportunity to correct this manageable cash flow deficit.

Again, thank you to Bob for his insightful presentation.

Thank you to Rev. Lee, to our wardens, and to the team at parish council for their guidance and leadership.

Thank you to Merilee, to our teams for Outreach, and Altar Guild, and to everyone helping to deliver our programs.

And thank you, sincerely, to each and every one of you - you are St. Thomas, the heart of our community, the hands and feet of our God, and the reasons, each and every one of you, the reasons I know we will succeed.

God bless you all as we move into the Advent season and towards the joys of Christmas.

Ryan Dallaway



Come RENT WITH US

PLAN YOUR NEXT MUSIC RECITAL
OR CONCERT AT:

St. Thomas Anglican Church in Stittsville



Beautiful Baby Grand:

In excellent condition, our bright and spacious sanctuary offers a cozy atmosphere for those special moments. This space is complete with overhead projection visible to audience members for easy participation.



Fantastic Acoustics:

No need to amplify. There is plenty of space to accommodate other instruments or accompanists.



Banquet Facilities:

Our large, spacious hall can accommodate small or large gatherings. Want to serve food to your group? Our kitchen facilities are available to rent.

Book Now

Call for dates and pricing



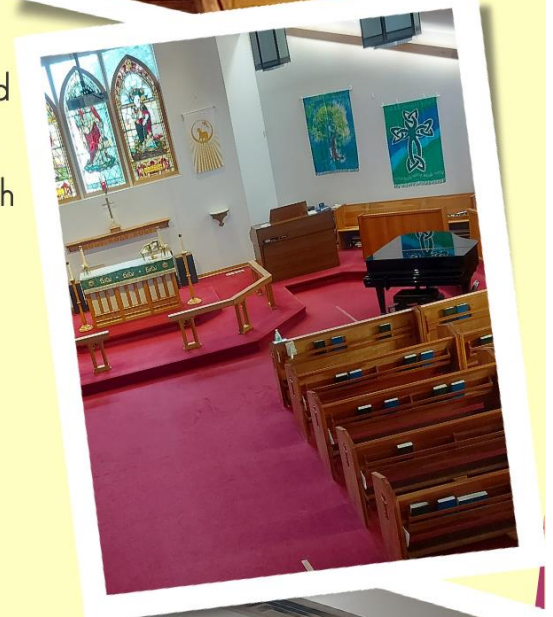
1619 Stittsville Main Street, Stittsville,



1-613-836-5741



www.stthomasstittsville.ca



WHY SHOULD WILLIAM AND DAVE HAVE ALL THE FUN?? (Reflections on Synod 2023)



Synod was full of interesting speakers and topics; from firsthand reports from Israel and Gaza to hearing plans for parish council training, contextual mission leading to new worshipping communities and some good financial news from the Diocesan budget for our parish.

The Synod opened with a talk from Dean Richard Sewell (Diocese of Jerusalem) who told of his sadness of the destruction of the Al Alli hospital which is an Anglican hospital supported by the Diocese of Jerusalem. His wife Julie Ann told us about the Princess Basma Centre which is for children with disabilities. It serves 520 families including 10 from Gaza. There is a great stigma in Arab culture to have a child with disabilities so this an extremely significant ministry. Dean Richard shared some thoughts on the current conflict:

The attack on Israel by Hamas is the worst single atrocity in Israel.
Hamas is a terrorist government.
The way Israel conducts the war matters.
The siege is unacceptable (thankfully some aid is coming to Gaza now).
The International community must be involved.
The Global Christian community must amplify the message “I shall NOT hate”!

The next topic was the development of SHAPE (Shape of Parish Ministry) from last year. Shape's mission was defined as stop being changed by circumstances; decide to lead change; have parishes that thrive not just survive! Strengthening for the future; • Lifelong formation: nurturing parish ministry; Engagement with the world: new worshipping communities and contextual mission. Shape was further developed this year.

Parish Development: There will be new educational and training resources to create a program of modules for parish development. Guide to Stimulate Innovation and Collaboration between parishes. Topics: parish governance, building healthy communities, visioning and priority-setting, effective stewardship, engaging with the wider community. It is planned to have these available in 2024.

Contextual mission how to proclaim. In 2023, in a post-pandemic, multicultural, largely secular culture, the church must find new ways to engage with the people and communities around us. Provide resources and training sessions. These resources will be available in 2024.

The hope is that this will lead to a new worshipping community. Example Skateboarders Church at St James Perth.

Not every effort in contextual mission will lead to an opportunity to create a new worshipping community, but it offers an opportunity to engage, build relationships, and to explore potential.

Example our Open Table Meal

GOAL: One new venture at St Thomas by 2028.

New worshipping communities –Examples:

Jimmy's table at St James Carleton Place: Informal worship, crafts and snacks meeting monthly at a different time when people are available.

Trinity House: community for students and young adults next to church

“Connect” Service at Trinity Church Ottawa South : 4pm Sunday for those who cannot make morning worship.

Here at St Thomas; 2 new services in Retirement residences (+2 restarted!)

Funding: The diocese has rearranged its finances to create a Future fund. The fund (currently about \$1.6 million) will essentially function as an endowment, maintaining its principal while offering about \$62,000 in dividends each year for use as microgrants, with some possibility for draw downs on the principal, which will not fall below \$1 million.

So as a parish and a diocese we are being asked to pray for a “Divine Spark” to lead us to our next step of contextual mission.

Help with Parish finances: Parish Proportional Share (PPS renamed from Parish Fair Share reduced by 22% (or about \$460,000 collectively.)

Synod provided an opportunity to meet others, visit displays about the different Community ministries and to enjoy fellowship. If you have never been a Synod delegate, I encourage you to put your name forward at vestry in February 2024. Why should Dave and I have all the fun!!!!

ENCOUNTER WITH RICHARD

By Barbara Bottriell

Actually, the Richard in question was not just ‘Richard’, he was St. Richard – and we encountered him in his own cathedral.

This past fall when we were in England, we stopped in the lovely little town of Chichester on our way to Gatwick Airport. Chichester is in West Sussex, about 110 kilometres south of London. We had lunch and still had some time to enjoy the town, so we set off for the cathedral.

The first thing I saw in the courtyard was a statue of St. Richard of Chichester, and immediately my eyes opened wide because our choir has an anthem which is called “St. Richard of Chichester”. It had somehow never occurred to me when we decided to go to Chichester that this would be the home of the St. Richard referred to in one of the anthems our choir sings in church. It is in fact one of my very favourite anthems. The melody is beautiful, and the words are so memorable:

It begins with “O holy Jesus - most merciful Redeemer. Friend and Brother, May I know Thee more clearly, Love Thee more dearly and follow Thee more nearly.”

I bought a children’s book in the gift shop because it told very simply the story of St. Richard, who began life as Richard of Wych, born in 1197. Richard became a priest and later a bishop, but he was not the first bishop of the cathedral. It left me wondering why he seemed to be so important in the life of this cathedral. He was only bishop for 8 years – from 1245 – 1253 – and he had a difficult time as bishop. The king at the time, Henry III, wanted someone else to be the Bishop and so, even after Richard was chosen to be bishop by the Archbishop of Canterbury, King Henry wouldn’t let him enter the cathedral for the first two years of his bishopric. Richard had to wander the diocese, relying on other people to give him food and somewhere to live. For two years he travelled around the diocese, getting to know people, and depending on their good will. He approached the King several times to ask permission to enter his cathedral, but each time the King refused. Finally, Pope Innocent IV pressed King Henry to accept Richard as the new Bishop of Chichester, and the King gave in. So, in 1247 Richard entered the Cathedral for the first time and all the people he had to gotten know over the two years travelling around, supported him, and came to be with him on that day.

Richard was apparently a very welcoming Bishop, hospitable, and kind to all he met. He said that the clergy should be educated and that they should as far as possible offer hospitality and carry out other works of mercy. He himself lived simply and led by example and was considered a good and holy man, beloved by the people of his diocese. He died at midnight on April 3rd, 1253, while on a preaching mission in southern England which he had taken on at the request of the Pope. He was 56 years old.

Richard’s body was brought back to Chichester, and he was buried near the altar of St. Edmund in the Cathedral. Richard was much loved and very popular, and many pilgrims traveled to his grave site. People wanted him to be made a saint. Since he was said to have performed several miracles and had been a good and holy man, the Pope declared Richard a saint on January 22, 1262. Some time later, at a big service in the cathedral in the presence of King Edward (Henry III’s son), his Queen, the Archbishop of Canterbury and nine other bishops plus a huge congregation, Richard’s remains were moved to a shrine behind the high altar. For many years it was one of the most famous shrines in England and pilgrims would stand in line in order to pray there.

It is still a place of pilgrimage within the Cathedral and there is a magnificent huge tapestry behind the high altar dedicated to St. Richard. It is an abstract design - full of the colours of fire – bright red and yellows and blues and it fills your eyes with its beauty. Many come to light a candle there and say a prayer.

When Richard was dying, he himself said a special prayer and that prayer is the basis of the words that we sing in our choir anthem. His friends saved the words, and this is St. Richard's prayer:

*Thanks be to thee,
My Lord Jesus Christ,
For all the benefits which Thou has given me,
O most merciful Redeemer,
Friend and Brother,
May I know Thee more clearly,
Love Thee more dearly,
And follow Thee more nearly.*

It was a lovely experience to encounter St. Richard in his cathedral, to read his story and to savour the fact that a prayer, said quietly so many centuries before, lives still in a beautiful piece of music that we have the privilege of singing.



The tapestry dedicated to St. Richard. Pictures courtesy of Barbara

HELLO FROM GOD'S GARDEN

Last Sunday we were responsible for putting out the Nativity figures into the stable. We had a great time and were very proud of our accomplishment. Afterwards we went into our room and read the whole script story together.

Next week Dec. 4, we will be trying on costumes and doing our first real run through downstairs.

Dec 10, we hope the families can stay for a dress rehearsal in the church proper for about ½ hour after the service so the children will know exactly where to walk and to stand or sit etc. and to be comfortable with their role.

Dec. 17, we will be performing the Nativity story in church during the service in place of the sermon. We wish all our St. Thomas friends a Joyful Christmas season.

Blessings

Merilee Church School Co-ordinator.



12 Hark The Herald Angels Sing

Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King,
peace on earth, and mercy mild,
God and sinners reconcile.
Joyful, all ye nations, rise,
join the triumph of the skies;
with the angelic host proclaim,
'Christ is born in Bethlehem'
Hark! the herald angels sing,
Glory to the newborn King.

Matthew 1:18-22

This is how Jesus Christ was born. A young woman named Mary was engaged to Joseph from King David's family. But before they were married, she learned she was going to have a baby by God's Holy Spirit. Joseph was a good man and did not want to embarrass Mary in front of everyone. So he decided to quietly call off the wedding. While Joseph was thinking about this, the Lord came to him in a dream. An angel said, "Joseph, the baby that Mary will have is from the Holy Spirit. Go ahead and marry her. Then after the baby is born, name him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins."

Christmas Gift suggestions.

To your enemy - forgiveness
To an opponent - tolerance
To a friend - your heart
To a customer - service
To a child - a good example
To yourself - respect
To All - charity



While Mary was giving birth
to the son of God,
Joseph was having his own problems.

Merry Christmas to all and to all a good night.



Will the Christ Child Come?

Written by Gaye Willis

One Christmas we had an interesting experience that I would like to share. Halfway through December we were doing the regular evening things when there was a knock at the door. We opened it to find a small package with a beautiful ceramic lamb inside. We looked at the calendar and realized that the 12 days of Christmas were beginning! We waited excitedly for the next night's surprise and only then, with the gift of a matching shepherd, did we realize that the lamb was part of a nativity set.

Each night we grew more excited to see what piece we would receive. Each was exquisitely beautiful. The kids kept trying to catch the givers as we slowly built the scene at the manger and began to focus on Christ's birth.

On Christmas Eve, all the pieces were in place, all but the Baby Jesus. My 12-old-son really wanted to catch our benefactors and began to devise all kinds of ways to trap them. He ate dinner in the minivan, watching and waiting but no one came. Finally, we called him in to go through our family's Christmas Eve traditions. But before the kids went to bed, we checked the front step—no Baby Jesus! We began to worry that my son had scared them off. My husband suggested that maybe they dropped the Jesus and there wouldn't be anything coming. Somehow, something was missing that Christmas Eve.

There was a feeling that things weren't complete. The kids went to bed and before I went to bed, I again checked to see if the Jesus had come—no, the doorstep was empty. In our family, the kids can open their stockings when they want to, but they have to wait to open any presents until Dad wakes up. So one by one they woke up very early and I also woke up to watch them. Even before they opened their stockings, each child checked to see if perhaps during the night the Baby Jesus had come.

Missing that piece of the set seemed to have an odd effect. At least it changed my focus. I know there were presents under the tree for me and I was excited to watch the children open their gifts, but first on my mind was the feeling of waiting for the ceramic Christ Child. We had opened just about all of the presents when one of the children found one more for me buried deep beneath the limbs of the tree.

He handed me a small package from my former visiting teaching companion. This sister was somewhat less active in the church. I had been her visiting teacher for a couple of years and then, when she was asked to be a visiting teacher, she requested to go with me. I had learned over time they didn't have much for Christmas, so that their focus was on the children. It sounded like she didn't get many gifts to open, so I had always given her a small package—new dish towels, the next year's Relief Society lesson manual—not much, but something for her to open.

I was touched when at church on the day before Christmas, she had given me this small package, saying it was just a token of her love and appreciation. As I took off the bow, I remembered my friendship with her and was filled with gratitude for knowing her and for her kindness and sacrifice in giving me a gift. But as the paper fell away, I began to tremble and cry. There in the small brown box was the Baby Jesus! **He had come!**

I realized on that Christmas Day, that Christ will come into our lives in ways that we don't expect. The spirit of Christ comes into our hearts as we serve one another. We had waited and watched for Him to come, expecting the dramatic "knock at the door and scurrying of feet" but He came in a small, simple package that represented service, friendship, gratitude, and love.

This experience taught me that the beginning of the true spirit of Christmas comes as we open our hearts and actively focus on the Savior. But we will most likely find Him in the small and single acts of love, friendship, and service that we give to each other. This Christmas I want to feel again the joy of knowing that Christ is in our home. I want to focus on loving and serving. More than that, I want to open my heart to Him all year that I may see Him again.

Submitted by Bonnie MacDiarmid

(The Relief Society is a philanthropic and educational women's organization of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.)



[This Photo](#) by Unknown Author is licensed under [CC BY-SA-NC](#)

ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN (A.C.W.)

The ACW meet each month, on the first Monday at 1:00 p.m. in the Council Room. All ladies of the parish are invited to attend.

As a group, we will be going out to The Mandarin Restaurant, for our Christmas lunch in December, at the Kanata location. You are very welcome to join us at 12:00 noon.

Thank you for continuing to bring in the plastic outside milk bag, that hold the 3 litre bags of milk. We are collecting these bags for The Anglican Church in Greely. They are so happy we collect bags for their project and they said to give a big thankyou to those that faithfully drop off bags to us. This enables them to continue making the beds and the mats for the street people. FYI, it takes 425 bags to make a bed, 75 bags to make a sitting mat. The team in Greely use about 1,000 plastic bags a week making these items.

Our ACW group were happy to purchase the hot chocolate and cups for the team handing out hot drinks at the Santa Claus parade.

We especially enjoy our camaraderie as a group and we wish all our friends at St. Thomas a Very Merry Christmas.

Diane Clement,
ACW President.

CHOIR REPORT

The fall session has been very interesting with Thanksgiving and some baptisms.

We welcomed back our 7 stalwart choir members, Barbara Bottriell, Sylvia Stephens, Linda Noble, Susan Chapman, Jennifer Stipetic, Naomi Watson-Laird and Tanya Drew.

We prepared music for Thanksgiving, a Baptism, we introduced a couple of Benedictions with hopes that the congregation would join in singing them and have music ready for Remembrance Day and two more baptisms.

It has been fun going through the endless music files to pick out some new material that is workable with such a small group.

We would love to have some new members, especially a couple of men - would make a huge difference in our material as well as our performance. We practice on Thursday nights from 7-8:30 when we go over the hymns for Sunday and review our anthem and/or musical selection that we sing during communion and then we learn material for the upcoming Sundays and special occasions.

It is really a fun gathering - we have lots of laughs - and enjoy our time together.

Respectfully submitted.
Bonnie MacDiarmid, Music Director

THE CANDY CANE



J is for Jesus

Cane: Is like the staff used by the shepherds in caring for sheep. Jesus is our Good Shepherd.

Red: Is for God's love that sent Jesus to give his life for us on the cross.

The Stripes: Remind us of Jesus' suffering: His crown of thorns, the wounds in His hands and feet; and the cross on which He died.

♪ The 12 days of Christmas ♪



A partridge in a pear tree represents Jesus Christ.

The 'two turtle doves' are the Old and New Testaments of the Bible.

The 'three French hens' are the Trinity:
God the Father, His Son Jesus and the Holy Spirit.

The 'four calling birds' are the four Gospels in the New Testament.

The 'five golden rings' are the first five books of the Bible also called the Pentateuch, the Books of Moses or the Torah.

The 'six geese a-laying' are the six days of creation

The 'seven swans a-swimming' are the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit



The 'eight maids a milking' are the eight beatitudes

The 'nine ladies dancing' are the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit.

The 'ten lords a-leaping' are the Ten Commandments.

The pipers piping are the eleven faithful disciples of Jesus.

The 'twelve drummers drumming' are the twelve points of doctrine in the Apostles' Creed.

Submitted by Maureen Anderson



KANATA STITTSVILLE REFUGEE SUPPORT GROUP

The KSRSG has continued to be very active, with several more sponsorships almost completed.

Each sponsorship includes a mountain of paperwork surrounding the application, fundraising sufficient funds to support the family for a year (rent, furnishings, clothing, monthly expenses, etc) and then waiting usually up to 3 years or more for the family to actually arrive. Once they're here, the members of KSRSG assist with school applications, doctors' appointments, shopping, everything they need throughout their first year in Canada. The sponsorship is not completed until the family has been here a full year.

Now for the exciting part ... our most recent family just arrived November 30th. They have wonderful support from relatives already here and will settle in very quickly.

We're hoping our next family, a mother and her three daughters, joining the son who is already here, will be arriving soon. We are actively looking for a home to rent and, as soon as we are given an arrival date, we will be collecting furniture, purchasing warm clothing, etc.

St Thomas is one of the seven churches from Stittsville and Kanata forming KSRSG. Our commitment is to assist in the sponsorship process as well as to do our best to contribute financially. If you would like to assist by making a donation, you can receive a tax receipt by writing your check to St Thomas but stipulating that it is to go to KSRSG.

Submitted by Bonnie McNally



RECIPES

Snowballs :

- 1 pk chocolate chips
- 1 can of sweetened condensed milk
- 1 1/2 cup graham wafer crumbs
- 1 1/2 cup coconut

Melt the chocolate chips in a saucepan over low heat with a little oil . When chips are melted remove from stove and add your can of condensed milk, graham crumbs, and coconut and stir well . Roll into balls and then into coconut and place in fridge or freezer. They keep well in freezer.



From: Yammy recipes

https://www.facebook.com/story.php?story_fbid=293389987006533&id=100090066006540&post_id=100090066006540_293389987006533

Italian Christmas cookies 🌲🌲

Ingredients

- 4 eggs
- 1 cup sugar
- 1/2 cup butter
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 3 1/2 cup flour
- 4 tsp. baking powder

Icing

- 2 cup sifted confectioner's sugar
- 2 tsp. vanilla
- 6 tsp. water

Instructions

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Add the butter and sugar to the bowl of a stand mixer and beat until fluffy with the paddle attachment. Add in the ricotta cheese and eggs, vanilla and mix until incorporated.

In a medium sized bowl whisk together the flour, baking soda, and powder. Slowly add to the wet ingredients and beat together until combined.

Scoop the dough into teaspoons and roll into a ball. Drop on a parchment lined baking sheet. Bake for 8-10 minutes or until just set. Remove onto a wire rack to let cool.

To make the glaze:

In a small bowl whisk together the powdered sugar, milk and almond extract until you get the desired consistency. I like to dip the top of the cookies in the glaze and let them set on parchment paper. Sprinkle with Christmas sprinkles immediately.

<https://www.facebook.com/EasyRecipesForFamily/posts/pfbid0ggD6iY5QD12mfnttZsn5q9zPPVdFeSp5c56v9YdhqXvtBScAekEYEzgHxeYhPntvI> Submitted by Diane Clement

Potato Leek Soup

By [Jenn Segal](#)

A French classic, this creamy potato leek soup is quick, easy, and comforting.

Servings: 6

Prep Time: 25 Minutes

Cook Time: 40 Minutes

Total Time: 1 Hour 5 Minutes

INGREDIENTS

- 3 tablespoons unsalted butter
- 4 large leeks, white and light green parts only, roughly chopped (about 5 cups)
- 3 cloves garlic, peeled and smashed
- 2 pounds Yukon Gold potatoes, peeled and roughly chopped into ½-inch pieces
- 7 cups chicken or vegetable broth
- 2 bay leaves
- 3 sprigs fresh thyme
- 1 teaspoon salt
- ¼ teaspoon ground black pepper
- 1 cup heavy cream
- Chives, finely chopped, for serving

INSTRUCTIONS

1. Melt the butter over medium heat in a large soup pot. Add the leeks and garlic and cook, stirring regularly, until soft and wilted, about 10 minutes. Adjust the heat as necessary so as not to brown.
2. Add the potatoes, broth, bay leaves, thyme, salt and pepper to pot and bring to a boil. Cover and turn the heat down to low. Simmer for 15 minutes, or until the potatoes are very soft.
3. Fish out the thyme sprig and bay leaves, then purée the soup with a hand-held immersion blender until smooth. (Alternatively, use a standard blender to purée the soup in batches; see note.) Add the heavy cream and bring to a simmer. Taste and adjust seasoning with salt and pepper. If soup is too thin, simmer until thickened. If it's too thick, add water or stock to thin it out. Garnish with fresh herbs if desired.
4. **Note:** If using a standard blender to purée the soup: be sure not to fill the jar more than halfway; leave the hole in the lid open and cover loosely with a dishtowel to allow the heat to escape; and pour blended soup into a clean pot.
5. **Freezer-Friendly Instructions:** The soup can be frozen, without the cream, for up to 3 months. Defrost the soup in the refrigerator for 12 hours and then reheat it on the stovetop over medium heat until hot. Once heated through, add the cream and bring to a simmer before serving.

Found at: <https://www.onceuponachef.com/recipes/potato-leek-soup.html#tabrecipe>

Submitted by: Mary Passmore

Butter Brickle Dessert

2 cups flour
Half cup oatmeal
Half cup brown sugar
2 sticks margarine
1 cup chopped pecans (optional)
1 jar caramel sauce
1 pint vanilla ice cream

Melt margarine. Add flour, oatmeal, brown sugar & pecans. Pat thin on a large cookie sheet & bake 400° for 15 mins.

Crumble while hot. Spread half on bottom of 9" x 13" pan. Drizzle half jar of caramel topping over crumbs. Spread the ice cream over top, then put remaining crumbs on the ice cream. Drizzle rest of caramel sauce on top. Freeze. Enjoy .. feeds a large group.

A favourite Passmore family dessert.

Could substitute the caramel sauce for chocolate. Comes from Best of Bridge cookbook.

Cranberry Relish

Cranberries, fresh or frozen	2 cups	500ml
Sultana raisins	1 cup	250 ml
Apple, peeled, cored diced	1	1
Orange, peeled and diced	1	1
Prepared orange juice	¼ cup	60 ml
Granulated sugar	1 cup	250 ml
Cinnamon stick 4 inches (10 cm)	1	1
Whole Cloves	6	6
Whole allspice	6	6
Rum Flavouring	1 tsp.	5 ml

Measure first 6 ingredients into large saucepan.

Tie cinnamon stick, cloves, and allspice in a double layer of Cheesecloth and add to saucepan. Bring to a boil, stirring often. Boil slowly for about 15 minutes until thickened. Discard the spice bag.

Stir in rum flavouring (I use actual Rum). Pour into hot sterilized pint or half pint jars to within ½ inch of top. Place sterilized metal lids on the jars and screw metal bands on securely. To ensure against spoilage you may process it in a boiling water bath for 10 minutes. May also be frozen. Makes 1 pint of relish.

From the Company's Coming for Christmas cookbook by Jean Paré. Company's Coming Publishing Ltd. Edmonton; 1996

Submitted by Mary Anne Reinhard

THE LAST WORD

As I put together this issue of the People's Pulpit I once again feel blessed with the submissions people send in. The glimpse of travels, the reports of the work being done throughout the Parish and beyond, and the stories and poems that reach out to touch the heart.

This season always seems to me to be one of mixed emotions... joy shared with family and friends during this celebration but also a keen awareness that not all can expect a happy time. More so this year with the rise in foodbank requests, war, and anger in so many parts of the world, and so much more. I thought rather than a hymn or Carol that this might be more appropriate:

In a world where worry, not peace, prevails, stir up that good news again. This Christmas, make it real in our hearts. Never have we needed Your joy and peace more than now. Thank You for the gift of Jesus, our Immanuel, the Word made flesh. Forgive us for forgetting—that Your love never changes, never fades, and that You never abandon the purpose for which You came: to save us from our sinful condition, and to give us life eternal, the joy of relationship with a holy God. Your birth—and Your death—sealed Your promise to us forever.

—Rebecca Barlow Jordan

Found here: [Christmas Prayers and Blessings to Share With the Whole Family \(southernliving.com\)](http://southernliving.com)

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year.

Mary Anne



THE PEOPLE'S DIRECTORY

	Role	Phone	Email
Attwell, Mary	Member at Large	613-836-3133	maryattwell@yahoo.ca
Baumgart, Eleanor & Roy	Pastoral Care Team	613-831-4564	rebaumgart@sympatico.ca
Bottriell, John	People's Warden	613-836-2305	p.warden.stthomasstittsville@gmail.com
Cheer, Carolyn	Parish Administrator Tues, Wed and Thurs 9-1pm	613-836-5741	StThomasStittsville@gmail.com
Clarke, Merilee	Church School/God's Garden	613-591-9351	godsgardenstt@gmail.com
Clement, Diane	ACW President Rector's Warden	613-825-6223	r.warden.stthomasstittsville@gmail.com
Cordukes, Barbara	Member at Large	613-836-4178	
Dallaway, Judith	Open Table Chair	613-323-1971	mapilgrim1946@gmail.com
Dallaway, Ryan	Bookkeeper & Fundraising Committee Rep.	613-298-6670	rjdallawa@live.com
Dawes, Sylvi	Prayer Team	613-492-0218	sylvidawes@gmail.com
Graham, Gary	Website Manager	613-963-9661	garyngraham@gmail.com
Hazen, David	Facilities Rep.	613-831-3093	dave.hazen@ieee.org
Hazen, Pam	Member at Large	613-831-3093	
Lambert, Sherri	Synod Rep.& Council Secretary		slchavez19@msn.com
Lomas, Bob	Envelope Secretary. Stewardship	613-836-5229	bobhlomas@gmail.com
McNally, Bonnie	Cursillo Contact and Counter Co-ordinator	613-831-0968	pbmcnally@bell.net
McNally, Pat	Member at Large	613-831-0968	pbmcnally@bell.net
MacDiarmid, Bonnie	Organist & Choir Director	613-271-8474	rorbon@hotmail.com
Passmore, Mary	Cornerstone	613-836-2876	cpassmore@sympatico.ca
Passmore, William	Synod Rep.	613-836-2876	cpassmore@sympatico.ca
Reinhard, Mary Anne	Editor, People's Pulpit	613- 838-5781	mareinhard1@outlook.com
Simonovich, Arlene	Altar Guild	613-836-2753	asimonovich@rogers.com
Walsh, Jane	Cemetery Committee	613 866-1360	jpwalsh@rogers.com