

HONEY & LOCUST



St. John in the Wilderness Anglican Church,
Bright's Grove

Church Services

Advent is here – the start of the church year – Happy New Year!

This Sunday, December 5 we will celebrate the 2nd Sunday of Advent with indoor services at 8:30 am and 10:30 am. Peter Langille will issue an Evite for folk to reserve a spot at the 10:30 am service. Please come join us in worship!

Special Christmas services this season include:

Tuesday, December 21, 7 pm: Longest Night Service. A quiet reflective time of prayers, readings, music, and candle lighting, designed for anyone who may be finding this Advent/Christmas season difficult for any reason. It is also known as a “Blue Christmas” service.

Christmas Eve (December 24): 4 pm, 7pm and 10 pm

Christmas Morning (December 25): 10 am

Sunday December 26 as normal: 8:30 BCP, 10:30 BAS



Above Rev. Amanda blesses prayer shawls made by our church ladies on the First Sunday of Advent. Sandra Fraser to the left gave a lovely and meaningful sermon and assisted during the service. Ken, Brenden, and Joan (sorry Joan, I missed your pic) led the congregation in singing yes, we can sing (masks on, only two verses of a song)....WHAT JOY!



On the previous page Lanna and Evan Iacobelli are each placing a Chrismon on the tree. Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. The Sunday School made ours during Rob Lemon's tenure with us. Reverend Amanda remembers placing Chrismons on a tree when she was a very young girl. The term Chrismon is a combination of "Christ" and "Monogram," and means "symbols of Christ." They are gold and white, representing majesty and purity. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They were first developed by Frances Kipps Spencer at Ascension Lutheran Church in Danville, Virginia, in 1957.

Janice McAlpine pictured adjacent shared some fabulous news:

"I like to receive good news and today I'm able to share some. On Wednesday November 17th, I had a PET scan done to determine if chemo is helping fight my Hodgkin's Lymphoma. On the 19th I had a consult with my oncologist to receive the results of the scan. I am very thankful, humbled and thrilled to share that I was told that I am in COMPLETE REMISSION! I need to complete the course of treatment so I have three more chemos in December to ensure that the disease doesn't return. The final treatment is on December 31st, a very appropriate day to be able to "ring the bell" in the Cancer Clinic.



Thanks very much for your prayers, support and love! ...Janice"

Such Blessings ♥

Christmas Items by December 5

The Christmas season is a season of giving and helping as well as celebrating. Following are programs and deadlines for participating for this year – it is marvelous to be part of the generosity of this parish.

Sponsoring of 2 Christmas Families

This year we will be sponsoring two families for Christmas, one from both Errol Village and Bright's Grove Schools. If you would like to participate in this Christmas outreach please give your donation to Sandra Fraser,

either cheque (made out to the church) or cash. Deadline is Sunday, December 5. For your convenience you may also donate by e-transfer marking it clearly for Christmas families. Thank you for considering generously supporting two families in our community.

FundScrip Christmas Order – Hardcopy

Sunday, December 5 is the deadline for our Christmas group FundScrip. This is a great fundraiser for our church. Paper copies of the order form are at the back of the church. We can also take email orders and e-transfer payments if that's easier for you. Please make any cheques for payment payable to the church. If you would like an email copy of the order form, contact Amanda at amandalongmoore@gmail.com.

Anglican Church of Canada Calendar - 2022

Each year about 20 of us order an Anglican Church of Canada Calendar. If you would like a calendar, please let Heather know in the office: email her at stjohninthewildernesschurch@gmail.com or call her at 519-869-2403. Cost is \$5.00 each (this is not a fund raiser). Please order by Monday, December 6.



WARM & FUZZY Campaign for the Inn of the Good Shepherd

Nancy Mann has set out a box in the church for folks who would like to contribute to the Inn of the Good Shepherd's WARM & FUZZY campaign. The Inn is looking for hats, mitts, even gently used items like hoodies, flannel pants, et cetera.

ACW Christmas – Gifts for the Women's Interval Home

The ACW started December off by celebrating together at our Christmas Party. We sang, thanks Sandra L. for playing, just two verses but we sang..... Joy to the World!



As always, we collect gifts. This year thank you to Karen Wilson (who knows she's a ACW member because she is a parishioner at St. JOHN'S and is a Woman) who came up with the suggestion of the Woman's Interval Home. Lots of children's gifts and personal care items for women will be dropped off, women supporting women wonderful.

We also played "reindeer games" (see photos), Sandra F. had a craft for everyone to do and there was a treat takeaway box. It feels so wonderful to be able to get together; we kept our time short following COVID protocols and just enjoyed our friendships!

Thanks, Ladies, for being your wonderful selves!



Pictured above and adjacent are Brenda Clingersmith, Maggie Brownridge, Sandra Fraser, Nancy Mann, and Pat Poland having a good reindeer time!

.....Leslie Grieve



Advent Blessings

Share Your Joy/Story/Comments in the Honey & Locust

If you have a paragraph or two you would like to publish in Honey & Locust, perhaps a hello/profile of a parish member, an update for a church/community group you are part of, a favourite project or memory or prayer you would like to share, a family update ...whatever is on your mind that might be meaningful/ joyous for your congregation to hear...please craft the words and send them to debwalker@cogeco.ca

Afghans & Toques for The Inn & Women's Interval Home

The picture of Norma below shows some of the 20 afghans and several toques she donated to the Inn of the Good Shepherd. Myles Vani said these would be



distributed between The Good Shepherd's Lodge and The Haven.

Norma also donated 15 afghans and baby sweaters to The Women's Interval Home.

.... Dave Hains

P.S. from Deb: Thank you, Norma for bringing warmth and joy with your dedicated efforts! (And sorry for confusing the story last issue!)

Young Beekeepers VBS will be Buzzing this Summer

So exciting I hope you're all feeling the "buzz"!

This winter we are going to develop a program centred around our bees. Rather than a week-long large group we will host smaller groups for a morning together learning about how the bees help our planet and how God loves us and has provided a working creation. We'll plant a pollinator flower to take home and care for, hear a bible story, play games, and tour a beehive.



Photography by Jayne Primeau

What a great experience!

Sunday School Kids get ready to suit up when the warm weather comes!

The November 5 issue of Honey and Locust describes our application for an AFC Grant led by Haley & Deb Walker and me. The AFC were thrilled to receive over 80 grant

applications for \$500,000+. They approached donors and were able to fund 90% of grants for their Say Yes! To Kids campaign. Thanks to the AFC for their thoughtful challenge to parishes, and for the grant monies that will enable us to reach out to kids in such a meaningful way!



... Leslie Grieve

Inn of the Good Shepherd - Thanks!

On November 6, you helped to feed 50+ people at The Inn – Thank you! Pictured on this page are some of you who cooked and served.

Thanks also...we have all the volunteers needed for our December 4 meal at The Inn!



Adjacent: Bob Clingersmith, Denise Hillary, Dianne Funnell. Above: Doug Winch & Charlene Adams, Sandra Fraser, Maggie Brownridge, Sandra Lamoureux, and Tara Fraser's serving crew of Phil Fraser, Tyler Gray, Katie & Jimmy Curran, Sean Rapaich & Janine Ross.

THANK YOU!

Feeding some of Sarnia's hungry on the first Saturday evening of each month is one of our primary outreach programs. Our parish people are an integral part in The Inn's mission to provide services with dignity to local people who need food, shelter, and other essentials.

.... Deb

Lay Reader Janice Reflects



"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

~ Matthew 18:20
New Revised
Standard Version

Through this pandemic we have felt in our hearts, our souls, our bodies just how much we miss gathering with other people. Things are opening up a bit but we're worried about new variants and what that might mean for how we gather together.

Today's verse reminds us that when we do gather in Jesus' name, Christ is there among us. Years ago, I heard someone say that when we refer to this verse, we seem to be saying that even when there are only two or three gathered, that God is there with them. But maybe what Jesus really means is that it is primarily when two or three are gathered that God is with us. It isn't so much that God is or isn't there when we're

in a huge gathering but rather that God is truly present, perhaps more intimately present when we're one-on-one with someone just being together.

I've always kind of liked that idea. Maybe it is in our smaller groups, our more intimate connections, that God is most deeply present, that Christ is there among us.

Oh, we long for the large gatherings where we will do feel God with us but, carry this thought with you today, God is very much with you, maybe even more so, when you gather in a small, intimate group. Even just two or three.

Let us pray:

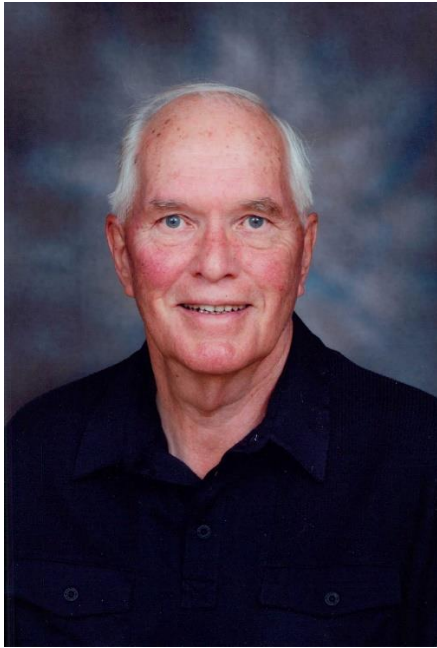
I have often sensed you, God, in some of the larger gatherings that I'm part of, but I am thankful for today's reminder that I will find you, feel you, know you when I gather in those intimate, personal, moments with one or two others, in those small groups. Those moments can be so profound. Open my heart to the wonder of finding you present at those moments, especially during these pandemic times. Amen.

"It's going to take all of us, gathering our voices and acting together. Saying, "Not on our watch" to create a future for humans, animals and the environment."

~ Eileen Anglin (Life Coach)

.... Janice

Farewell Ed Braithwaite



Ed Braithwaite, beloved husband of Edna for 59 years, died peacefully in his home the morning of November 17, 2021. Ed was 85 years old. Edna is grateful for everyone's kindness. Ed had mowed the lawn the day before; his death was unexpected. He enjoyed cooking, playing cards, reading, and lawn bowling. Edna was treasurer of the Sarnia Lawn Bowling Club for 30+ years. Edna says Ed always made their pasta and chilli dishes and one of his favourite snacks was a zucchini loaf he made. I will remember Ed as the gentle giant who occasionally accompanied Edna to church.

Here is a link to Ed's [obituary](#) .

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God bless.

.... Deb

Farewell Lillian Morris



Lillian Jessippina Giovanna Mary Calouri Morris, my mother, died peacefully at Bluewater Health palliative care in Sarnia. She was 92 years old.

Mum was born in Montreal and followed the water ways up-stream to Toronto and finally Sarnia in her last few years. She loved Sarnia and Landmark Village ... the kindness and beauty of the whole community.

She was an artist and teacher. She was a fabulous cook and presentation of the meal was as important to her as the taste and nutrition of it. The Bluewater Triathlon spaghetti and meatball recipe is a recipe she inherited from her mother.

I was blessed and privileged to be with mum when she died.

Here is a link to Gran'mum Lil's [obituary](#) .

Kiss on top of your head, mum. God bless.

.... Deb

St. John in the Wilderness Mission and Vision

Our Mission

To Love God and to share His love with others.

Our Vision

To show a welcoming, visible sign of Christ in a growing community, and strive to meet the spiritual needs of everyone in a facility which is accessible, safe, environmentally friendly, and addresses the space requirements of all.

Yours in Faith,

Deb Walker, Peter Langille, Janice McAlpine,
and The Reverend Amanda Longmoore+
Wardens, Lay Reader, and Rector

*"You will never look into the eyes of
someone God does not love."*

Postscript:

Benjamin, Lucas, and Grant Eddie:

It turns out that if you are a kid living in mid-town Toronto (near Young and Davisville) when it snows the best trike to have is a big-tire hand-me-down farm-trike Grandson Francis Macht once again says "Thank you big boys for your trike"!

