

# Advent 2008

November 23, 2008



ZION & ST. ANDREW'S UNITED CHURCHES

# Pastoral Charge Newsletter

## Season's Greetings

As the days grow shorter, and the temperature drops, we know without a doubt that the season is changing. As much as we might like to say "it is too soon" or reflect that "it is not possible", the reality is that our Advent Season is just around the corner!

In the hectic pace of our lives Advent is a season that calls us to take time out to prepare. It is a time that we remember why it is we do what we do, and it is a time that we perhaps reset our priorities. The Advent Season invites us to welcome hope, peace, joy, and love. These are attributes that are already present within our Pas-

toral Charge. Advent gives us time to gaze once more upon these gifts and allow them to transform us.

I pray that on our walk toward the stable this year, we will pause to hear the music of the angels that surround us, that we will listen to the voices of the shepherds, the outcasts in our midst, and that we will never take our eyes off the brilliant star, the one that gives light to our world. I pray that all will find room at the inn.

In this Season of Advent we are invited to open our doors, and to share in the celebration

that began with the homeless, the illiterate and the unmarried. We are invited to take our place in the stable and to prepare for the birth of the Christ Child.

I wish for each of you a Season of Blessings.

*Peace Be With You All*



*Debbie*

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## There's Lots Going On!

*Camaraderie, community, outreach and friendship are all important parts of our church life. Our pastoral charge in particular has many activities and events that can help you meet people, make friends, and do worthwhile things. Here are a few that you might like to consider.*

### Searching for Meaning in Lectionary Readings

You are invited to come and spend time with Debbie on Tuesday mornings as she searches for meaning in the lectionary readings that are relevant to us today. The discussions of the Study

Group that ensue each week are surprising and lively. Please feel free to drop by the office any Tuesday morning at 10:30 a.m. to join in a discussion that will help to shape our worship together.

### Brighten Someone's Day

The Pastoral Care Committee reflects the light of Christ in our community. They are committed to ensuring that each church member is remembered at times of challenge. Cards are sent and phone calls are made. Every effort is made to ensure no one is forgotten.

Also, every third Wednesday of the month they visit Country View Manor. This event starts with an hour of entertainment and music arranged by Fred Miller of Country View and is followed



by goodies brought by our committee. The residents love this event and look forward to seeing the familiar, kind faces of our church family. If you would like to help with this committee please call Debbie.

## United for Peace

The Mission and Outreach Committee of our Pastoral Charge invites you to participate in the *United for Peace Campaign* as one expression of our commitment to pursuing just peace with dignity for all God's people. The specific objective of this campaign is to raise two million dollars over two years that will be directed to peace initiatives around the world but focused especially on the conflict in the Holy Land.



*United for Peace Pin*

In the Holy Land olive trees can live for 2,000 years and are considered sacred and a part of the families of

Palestine. Today an eight meter wall cuts Bethlehem off from Palestinian villages and olive groves are being destroyed to make room for Israeli settlements. The skilled artisans who once sold their products to pilgrims in Bethlehem have lost their incomes because of the conflict.

Palestinian and Israeli artisans have created United for Peace pins as a symbol of Arabs and Jews working together for peace. The pins are made by Palestinians from the olive-wood of the destroyed olive groves and Israelis make the fasteners.

Our Mission and Outreach Committee is making two items available to help raise funds for this campaign which runs from November 4, 2007, until December 31, 2009. The first is the pin which sells for \$20 (a portion is eligible as a charitable donation) and the second is a dove shaped cookie cutter which can be used to bake cookies for sale or be sold as tree ornaments.

As we begin our work on this campaign we welcome all support and ideas for raising funds for this important cause.

Contact Marilyn Snedden at 613 256-3130 if you have ideas for raising funds, would like to buy a pin, bake cookies or serve on this committee.

## Preaching to the Choirs

The Senior and What's New Choirs are busy getting ready for the Advent Season at St. Andrew's. Barb Armstrong and Laurie Boon, our ever-energetic choir directors, have selected some beautiful music to illuminate our walk to the stable this year.

Our choirs will share this special music with the congregation each Sunday in Advent, on Christmas Eve and at our community Carols for Christmas.

The choirs are working hard to do justice to these beautiful pieces of music and hope they will help to open your heart to the wonders of the season.

***"We hope you can join us for the  
Carols for Christmas Concert  
on Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. "***



We look forward to seeing you during Advent, on Christmas Eve and for the *Carols for Christmas Concert* this year on Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. Admission, as always, is a good will donation to the Lanark Food Bank.

# Jesus Loves the Little Children

*“Let the little children come to Me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of Heaven belongs to such as these.”*  
Matthew 19:14

Our children are a wonderful gift to our church family. They provide the joyful noise in our midst, and are a most wel-

come presence on Sunday mornings. Our Sunday School classes are filled with lessons, crafts, snacks and music. The children worked hard again this year raising funds for CHEO and the Canadian Food Grains Bank. Our children are preparing for the

Santa Claus parade and the White Gift Service. We hope you will support them by coming out to show your appreciation for their efforts. Heartfelt thanks to all of our dedicated, nurturing Teachers.

## You're Invited!

### Ladies' Night

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> the ladies of the Pastoral Charge are invited to attend “*An evening with Mary and Elizabeth*”. The night begins with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m.

### Santa Claus is Coming to Town

On December 6<sup>th</sup> the children will once again enter a float in the Santa Claus parade. We hope the children of St. Andrew's will be able to come into the church after the parade for a rehearsal of the next day's service.

### White Gift Service

The children at both churches are get-

ting ready for their annual White Gift Service to be held on December 7<sup>th</sup>. Throughout the season the children and their teachers will continue to provide opportunities to donate to the children's outreach projects with donations to CHEO and The Canadian Foodgrains Bank.

### Christmas Candle Light Service

The UCW of Zion United welcome one and all to worship led by Reverend Debbie Roi on Tuesday, December 9, 2008. This special service will be followed by a social hour hosted by the ladies of Zion.

### Carols for Christmas

On Sunday, December 14 at 7:30 p.m. St. Andrew's again opens its doors for an evening of fun and music. Admission is a good will donation to the Lanark Food Bank.



### Christmas Eve

Christmas eve is a special time for our Pastoral Charge. It is our Advent destination—the stable and the Christ Child. We hope you will come and celebrate with us at either 4:30 p.m. or 7:30 p.m. All are most welcome.

## Everything AND the Kitchen Sink

The Renovation Committee has spent the summer working with an architect and meeting with contractors for flooring, plumbing, heating and kitchen design. We have worked through revised quotes and ordered new appliances. With some changes to the blue prints we hope to be ready soon to acquire a renovation permit.

*Special thanks to Fred Myers for countless hours spent with the architects and to David Wilson who keeps us motivated and pushing ahead.*

Scheduling is a key issue and it looks like our contractors will be available to start demolition in January or February.

**“Remember that this is a No Debt Project so we will only undertake the parts of the project that are fully funded.”**

### Phase One

Upgrades to water and electrical services, plumbing as well as insulation and flooring for washrooms and tower room are needed for safety, to help with energy efficiency and to guarantee potable water.

Renovations to the kitchen include an industrial dish washer, new plumbing, ovens and cupboards. These renovations will ensure that we meet Ministry of Health standards.

### Phase Two

Phase Two is about increasing efficiency and reducing operating costs. New energy efficient furnaces and hot water heater will translate into more dollars on hand every month.

### Phase Three

Undertaking a “No Debt” project means that most of the items in Phase Three must be put on hold. For exam-

ple, the wheel chair lift will be much more expensive than estimated. Feel free to ask members of the Renovation Committee any questions you have about the project.



- Barb Armstrong
- Dan Baron
- Laurie Boon
- Joan Gillan
- Fred Myers
- Rhonda Tees
- Dave Wilson, *Chairman*

## Our Walk Toward the Stable in 2008

These days there is a lot of talk about spirituality and what it means. One definition to ponder is this: 'finding the holy in the ordinary.' It seems ironical that people are searching for God while images and promises of God are all around us.

God has been described as a lioness and a mother hen, faith as a mustard seed, and eternal life as a flower. The Holy Spirit has been called Wind from ancient times, and our First Nations people recognize God's Spirit in every living being. When we look for God, even in the midst of the dark days of December it may be helpful to look to nature.

Although nature can seem harsh and cruel particularly in the winter season, it also offers images of hope. There are certain pine cones that will only open under the intense heat of a fire, and so what brings an end to the tree, brings

new life to the seed.

New birth in spring is followed by the growing season of summer. Autumn brings maturity and winter can appear to be desolate and without hope. And yet, beneath the blanket of snow, there is another spring waiting to be. And if you are open to its images, there is even hope in winter.

Every year birds and animals cope with winter as best they can. Some are lost, but most make it through. The wise ones accept help where it is offered and we delight in the sight of birds at our feeders. When the longest night of the year consumes us in December's darkness, we have only to wait another day to see the sunlight grow stronger and the days grow longer- hope in winter for a new spring to come. And while most of the trees have lost their leaves, the evergreen still has its colour under the blanket of snow. That's why the



evergreen has become a symbol of everlasting life.

So this winter let's look to creation for images of hope and signs of life. Let the lights of the advent candles, and even the tackiest of decorations remind us of the sun that will come again to warm the earth and encourage things to grow. Let the evergreen branches of our Christmas trees be a symbol of everlasting life. And let our gathering of family and friends remind us that Christ's love is at work bringing hope to our world.

## Jingle All The Way

The *Jingle Bell Tour* was a big hit in Pakenham on November 15th and 16th. Local businesses opened their doors to help one and all experience an old fashioned Christmas. Carollers serenaded visitors, a horse drawn sleigh provided rides through town and Santa was on hand to collect lists from good girls and boys. There were special refreshments and prizes, holiday baking and local

maple products. It was also the weekend of the local book fair and craft show.

After enjoying the special fun and charm of Christmas in our village, families enjoyed supper at St. Andrew's. The ladies of the St. Andrew's and Zion United Churches served a hearty country stew, coleslaw and yummy apple caramel cake with warm caramel sauce. Many people stopped on their way out to tell us that the stew

and the cake were both delicious!

Thanks as always to those who set up and decorated the dining hall, made stew, coleslaw, cake, caramel sauce and then served and cleaned up after two nights of dinners.

We served 77 people on Saturday and 102 people on Sunday.

All in all, another very successful event for Zion and St. Andrew's!



# The Jingle Bell Tour Recipes

Many of you asked for the stew and cake recipes.  
Here they are with our compliments.

## Jingle Bell Stew



### Ingredients

- 4 lbs..... Stewing beef cut into 1" cubes
- 5 stalks ..... Celery
- 12..... Carrots, halved lengthwise
- 4..... Onions
- 6..... Potatoes
- 2 – 10 oz cans..... Tomato soup
- 1 soup can..... Water or beef bouillon
- 2 tsp ..... Salt
- 1 tsp ..... Paprika
- 1 tsp ..... Pepper
- 1 tsp ..... Basil

### Method

- Preheat oven to 275°
- Place all ingredients in a large roast pan.
- Stir ingredients until well mixed.
- Bake for 3 to 4 hours.

### Notes

Thicken with flour or tapioca if needed.



## Moist Caramel Apple Cake

### Ingredients

- 1 Pkge ..... 2-Layer no-name cake mix
- 1 Pkge (4 serving size).... Vanilla Instant Pudding
- 1 cup..... Water
- 4 ..... Large eggs
- 1/3 cup ..... Crisco oil
- 3 or 4..... Spartan apples, peeled, coarsely chopped

### Method

- Preheat oven to 350°
- Spray large Bundt or angel cake pan with Pam.
- Beat cake mix, dry pudding mix, water, eggs and oil in large bowl with electric mixer on low until blended.
- Beat on high 2 more minutes.
- Gently stir in apples to completely blend.
- Pour into prepared pan.
- Bake 50-60 minutes or until a toothpick inserted in the centre comes out clean.
- Cool 20 minutes.
- Remove from pan and cool completely on a dinner plate on a wire rack.

### Notes

- Cake can be wrapped and frozen until needed.
- Serve at room temperature with warm caramel sauce.
- Serves about 14 depending on serving size.

## Warm Caramel Sauce

### Ingredients

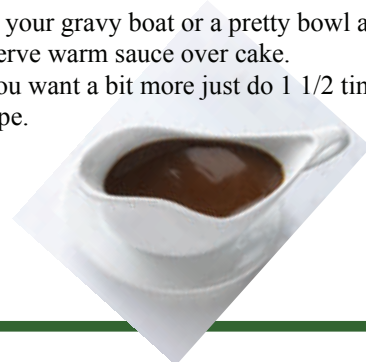
- 1 cup ..... **Dark** brown sugar
- 4 Tbsp..... Flour
- 2 cups ..... Water
- 1/2 cup ..... Butter
- 1 1/2 tsp ..... Vanilla

### Method

- In large saucepan, combine sugar and flour.
- Mix well.
- Slowly add water, whisking well to avoid lumps.
- Heat over medium-high heat, stirring constantly, until mixture comes to a boil and is thickened.
- Add butter and vanilla.
- Stir until butter is melted.

### Notes

- Use your gravy boat or a pretty bowl and ladle to serve warm sauce over cake.
- If you want a bit more just do 1 1/2 times the recipe.





**Zion United Church**  
Services at 9:30 am

**Contacting Our Church Family**  
Reverend Debbie Roi and Michelle Gervais,  
Office Administrator can be reached at 613 624-5400.  
For Pastoral Care emergencies Debbie can also be reached  
at home at 613-256-7249.



**St. Andrew's United Church**  
Services at 11 am

**Maybe you'd like to join a Committee?**  
To get involved please contact any of the folks listed below.



**Ministry and Personnel:** Richard Fitzgibbon  
**Manse Committee:** Gerry Boon  
**Pastoral Care Committee:** Debbie Roi  
**Christian Development Committee:** Mary Ellen Boon  
**Special Projects Committee:** Fred Myers



## Church Chuckles: *From the Mouths of Babes*

The Minister's 5 year-old daughter noticed that her father always paused and bowed his head, for a moment, before starting his sermon. One day, she asked him why.  
"Well, Honey," he began, proud that his daughter was so observant of his messages, "I'm asking the Lord to help me preach a good sermon."  
"Why doesn't He do it?" she asked.

\*\*\*\*\*  
Concerned with the increasingly bad behavior of two brothers ages six and eight, the Sunday School Superintendent brought the boys to the minister's office. The minister decided it would be best to meet with the boys individually. He chose to meet with the youngest one first. When the child sat down the minister asked him "Where is God?" No response, so the minister repeated the ques-

tion in a louder voice. "Where is God?!" Still no response. Becoming exacerbated the minister used his loudest voice and asked "Where is God?!!!"  
With this the child bolted from the room and the older brother raced after him. When the two boys met up, the older brother asked: "What's wrong?"  
"God is missing, and they think we have something to do with it!"



## Frequently Asked Questions

### Can I Get a Copy of the Sermon?

Copies of the sermon are available each week, following the service. Please speak to Debbie if you would like a copy for yourself, or if you would like to take a copy to someone who was unable to attend worship.

### What is the Deadline for Getting Announcements and Other Information in the Weekly Bulletins?

Michelle works on the bulletins on Thursday so needs all of the input by the end of the day Wednesday.

### I've been here a while, but I don't know if I am a member?

As a pastoral charge within the body of the United Church of Canada, we welcome all who come to worship with us.

We acknowledge that congregations are made up of both adherents and members. You are most certainly a part of our family, and we think of you as such. Each of us have gifts to share. Sometimes it is the simple gift of presence. We often underestimate the impact our presence and our ordinary offering of a greeting can make to another person.



Membership within the church is formally acknowledged through Confirmation, a Transfer of Membership, or an Affirmation of Faith. If you have not yet had the opportunity for such a celebration then you are not a member, but you are still considered an important part of our congregation as an adherent. If you are interested in formally becoming a member of the

congregation please make an appointment to speak with Debbie. New membership is always a good reason for a celebration.

Please remember that whether you are a member, adherent, frequent visitor, or new comer, you are an important part of our church family, and we are glad to have you with us.

### When do confirmation classes begin?

We are hoping to begin confirmation classes in the New Year; however we are waiting to hear if there is an interest. Please contact the church office to let Debbie know if you are interested.

### What time is the Christmas Eve Service?

Christmas Eve services are at 4:30 p.m. and 7:30 p.m.