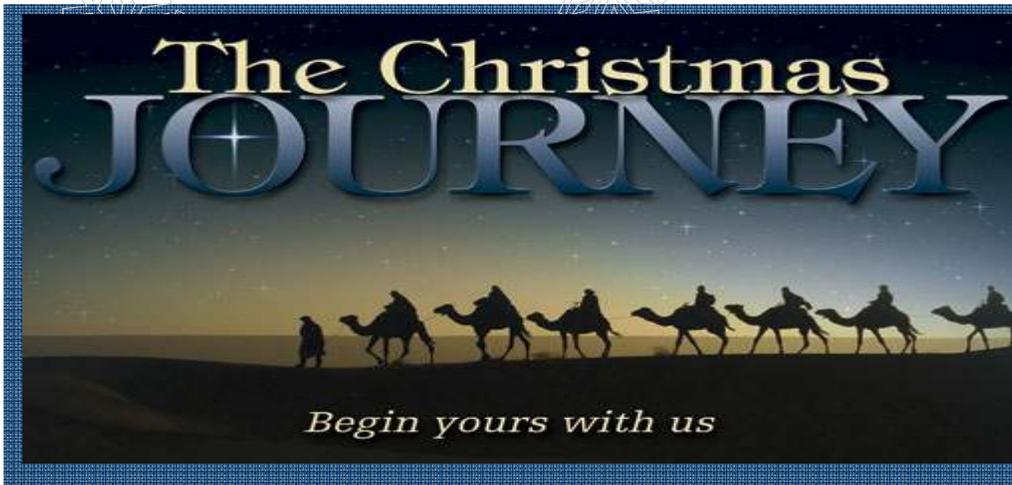


St. John's Anglican Church Newsletter



Christmas Prayer

Once upon a Christmas time, long ago, a man who had a big heart, but little money, dreamt he could give his friends endless riches. When he awoke, the dream kept running through his mind. Finally, he asked himself: "If I could give my friends anything, what would I give?" He smiled as he began to think of all the wondrous things he could buy for them, but then he thought: "I'm a happy man, yet I have none of those things." And he began to think that perhaps real wealth could not be measured in riches. Perhaps there were gifts of greater value than the things money could buy. In the still of the night, he pondered these things and thought of Christmas and what it meant to him. Taking out his quill, he began to write on a parchment scroll: On the **first** day of Christmas I pray for you joy in abundance and laughter, for laughter cures our ills and joy makes our spirits soar. On the **second** day of Christmas, I pray for you a sigh when you need one, for a sigh clears the heart as a cough clears the throat, and with a sigh comes acceptance of what we cannot change. On the **third** day of Christmas, I pray for you tears when you need them, for tears clear the eyes to see the stars and cleanse the soul to let healing begin. On the **fourth** day of Christmas, I pray for you serenity, for fights and wars start in individual hearts and that is where they must end. On the **fifth** day of Christmas, I pray for you wisdom, for our priceless gift is the gift of choice - and we should use it well every day, in word and deed. On the **sixth** day of Christmas, I pray for you patience, for most troubles

pass if we wait them out, and success comes with persistence. On the **seventh** day of Christmas, I pray for you courage, for there may be many pitfalls and dangers ahead and problems can only be solved when they are faced. On the **eighth** day of Christmas, I pray for you compassion, for we cannot help others until we understand them, and we cannot understand them until we walk in their shoes. On the **ninth** day of Christmas, I pray for you a willingness to work, for work turns dreams to reality - whether the dreams are ours or belong to those we can help. On the **tenth** day of Christmas, I pray for you unwavering faith, for faith shapes our morals and our destiny and draws us closer to God. On the **eleventh** day of Christmas, I pray for you a mind full of hope, for hope determines our attitudes, sets our goals and creates our ideals. On the **twelfth** Day of Christmas, I pray for you a heart so full of love that every day you must give some away to those whose paths you cross. And with each prayer, the man realized he was not giving a gift at all, but hoping that his friends would find the gifts they already had within them. Each time he wrote a prayer, a marvelous thing happened. It seemed to him that the prayer although offered for his friends, remained in his heart and produced in him the very thing he prayed for them. The man copied his scroll and sent the Christmas prayer to special friends, and that is where the legend of the Christmas Prayer is lost in the mists of time. The man was never heard of again but, over the years, the Christmas Prayer began to appear all over the world. People in obscure villages and big cities would receive at Christmas time a copy of the scroll from a friend. And so the wonder multiplied, until the story finally reached you. May you, too, feel the warmth and enjoy the riches of the Christmas Prayer.

Special events in our Church life

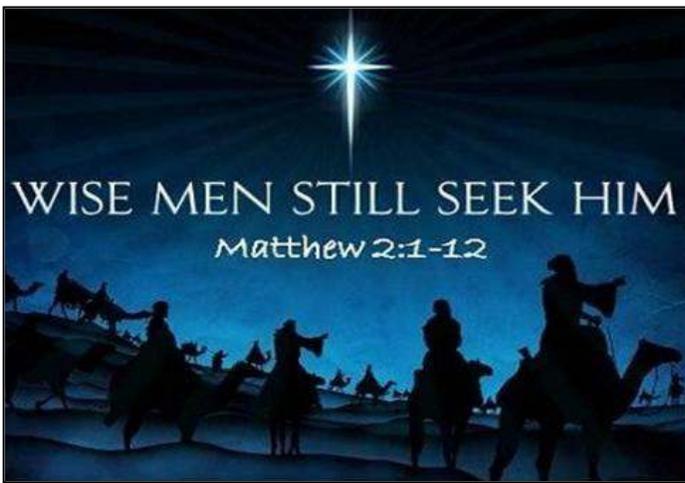
- Dec 10: 7 Lessons and Carol Service
- Dec 17: Morning Prayer Service and Sunday School presentation
- Dec 24: Christmas Eve Service
- Jan 21: Annual Vestry



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This January, why not start the year with an empty jar and fill it with notes about good things that happen. Then, on New Years Eve, empty it and see what awesome stuff happened that year.



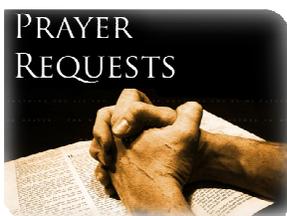


Christmas Eve Service at 7 PM on Dec 24th

Canadian Council of Churches: Week of Prayer for Christian Unity.



The WPCU runs **January 18-25**, with a theme for 2018 of **“Your right hand, O LORD, glorious in power.”** The resources for this year have been produced by the churches of the Caribbean region, and have a focus on the role of Christians in post-colonialism and anti-slavery. For your information, you can download these resources for use in parishes and various settings at the following link: <https://www.weekofprayer.ca/resources>.



We pray for the sick and those who are suffering, those in any special need Michel, Jane, Ken, Doreen, Gladys, Dorothy, Jim, Gail, Tyler, Jamie, Cheryl, Cora, Jacob, Angelo. All those are in our hearts alone.

Events that are occurring In the church:



First Thursday morning of each month: call Barb at 519-688-0961



New: First Nations Circle will be meeting in the Fellowship Hall starting in January. This circle is led by Shirley Waldeck a Cree woman. Sunday January 28th at 6 pm in the Fellowship Hall. All are welcome.



World of Gifts from the PWRDF



The current issue of the Anglican Journal contains a list of gift ideas (goats and water wells for example) that might be useful. It also has an item that appeals to me (Kirsty): “Prevent Suicide in Teens. Suicide rates among First Nations youth in Canada are five to seven times the national average. Your gift to the Anglican Church of Canada’s Indigenous Ministries will help create community based suicide prevention strategies. Your gift of \$125 will support indigenous youth mental health initiatives.” For more information on this speak to Kirsty Moorcroft

