



The Servant

*St. Paul's Anglican Church - Celebrating 131 Years: 1885– 2016
12 Pine Street, Brockville, Ontario*

Rector's Message



For a child has been born for us, a son given to us; authority rests upon his shoulders; and he is named Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. – Isaiah 9:6

As I write this, our Sanctuary has been adorned in blue, the colour of waiting and hope. On our front lawn you will find the stable and the manger – empty and waiting for the coming of the Christ child. Everywhere is anticipation and preparation. We wait for the Prince of Peace.

In the Church, we regularly step in and out of regular time: leaving Chronos, or chronological time, to enter Kairos, which is God's time. When we remember that the child we wait for has already been born, and when we remember that he has already lived and died to share his radical message of peace with us, we then can know what really waits to be born. The Prince of Peace has already been born in the world. Now, he needs to be born in our hearts.



Rev. Lynn Dillabough
Submitted photo

May you be filled with the Peace of God. May the story of Jesus' birth fill you anew this year and inspire you to acts of love in his name. May we, at St Paul's, continue to share God's Love and show God's Peace with those around us. And, may you and your family be blessed.

Reverend Lynn

New Children's Service for Christmas Eve

St. Paul's is introducing an additional service at 4:00 p.m. on Christmas Eve.

This will be an interactive service for very young children, with lots of music and movement. All children who attend can wear a costume and take part in the activities, ending with a child-friendly Eucharist around a low table.





Milestones and Memories at St. Paul's

Since the Thanksgiving Edition of the Servant, St. Paul's welcomed,
Lexi Mary-Jane Liston through Baptism,
to the Anglican Church Family on October 16th 2016.

We mourn the loss and celebrate the life of
James Kenneth MacNeil
who was called home on November 3rd 2016.

ACW Bazaar

On Saturday November, the 5th, the members of the St. Paul's A.C.W. and friends once again hosted a very successful luncheon and sale. Although organizers were not sure if it was a record (since numbers were not kept from previous years), ninety-six meals were served between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. and they actually ran out of sandwiches!

The Bake table, Craft table, and Treasures tables did a steady business and the beautiful centerpieces crafted by Nancy Clarke, were quickly snapped up. A grand total of \$2,525.00 was raised!

The Event Coordinators, Gillian Shaw and Nancy Clarke extend sincere thanks to the army of people from the congregation who pitched in to help, bake, serve, set-up, take-down, and clean-up.

With thanks to Gillian Shaw



Betty Paul views items for sale as some of the 96 people who came for lunch enjoy their meal.

Photo Credit: Linda Eckert





Warden's Message

It does not seem like a whole year has passed since we wrote last years' report for the Christmas Servant. One wonders where the year has gone.

Looking back on the year, we have had some changes in our Church. The Rev. Canon Bob Hales, who was our interim priest for about a year, has now retired. Both John and I would like to thank him for the help and guidance he gave to us as we searched for a new priest.

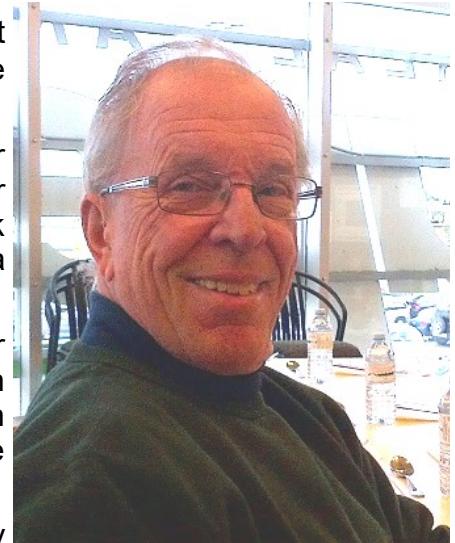
One of the most exciting things to happen to St. Paul's this past year was the appointment of The Rev Lynn Dillabough to our Church. In the short time, she has been with us, the congregation has been very happy with her ministry and we feel that she has found a home with us.

In a Church's life, there is always change. This year we had to say good-bye to some very dear members of our congregation who have gone to be with our Saviour Jesus Christ. We mourn the loss of our brothers and sisters, but we are still a growing Church with young people being baptized and new members joining the congregation.

As we move into 2017 John and I feel that the future of St. Paul's is very bright, and we will continue to be a welcoming and loving Church. We wish you and yours a very Blessed Christmas and a Happy and Peaceful New Year.

Rod Slack - People's Warden

John Francis – Rector's Warden



Rod Slack, People's Warden

Photo Credit: Linda Eckert

We are on FACEBOOK!

www.facebook.com/pages/St-Pauls-Anglican-Church-Brockville

Keep up to date with coming events and breaking news by “Liking” US!

Did you ever happen to miss a service and wanted to find out what is going on and coming up at St. Paul's ? Then check the Weekly Bulletin on-line.

Go to the St. Paul's Web Page www.stpaulsbrockville.ca Select: Events – Weekly Bulletin to view the electronic version





A Special Anniversary

The three families sponsored by the people of St. Paul's and the other two churches that united to form Agape Brockville have been in Canada for a full year. During that time, as Julie Case described in her homily on Justice Sunday, the thirteen individuals ranging in age from eight to fifty-six, have made remarkable strides in adjusting to their new home. They are all learning the language, going to school and/or working. They are courageous in their willingness to try new things as they figure out how to support their families.

Although the formal commitment to sponsorship for a year has ended, and each family is trying to manage financial independence, looking forward there will be several extra expenses. Some of these may be medical or dental, but certainly with eight young people involved, support for higher education will also be needed. Agape is hoping to establish a significant fund to help with these educational costs as well as with unexpected emergencies.

Many members of the St. Paul's community are actively assisting in making these newcomers welcome through contributing to the St. Paul's Agape fund, and through donations of time and talent. Gillian Shaw has been tutoring the children to help them to succeed in school; Pat Younger, Julie Case, and Linda Eckert are part of the group of Volunteers who work each week with the adults on conversational English and reading skills at the Library; Jane Guthrie is a friendly visitor and honorary Grandma to the Syrian family; while Father Ted and John Flegg have helped with driving practice and handyman chores as needed. Gord Brown, Neil Matheson and others helped to drive one family to school until they acquired a car.

With their permission, we are pleased to share with the people of St. Paul's, pictures of some of the lovely people whose lives you have changed.

With thanks to Julie Case



Children: Ilaf, Hozafa and Sedra from Syria are enjoying school



Medina and Hewitt
The two brave mothers who brought their five daughters to Canada from Eritrea.
Photos by Linda Eckert



Sisters Sheima, Rayan and Rabab are quickly learning English



Reverse Advent Calendars

This Christmas, St. Paul's is introducing something new.

While most of us are familiar with the many variations of the traditional Advent Calendar where a candy or other gift is received each day during Advent, the "Reverse Advent Calendars" to support the local food bank is a way of giving to others.

Boxes, beautifully decorated by the members of the Comforting Arts Group who meet each Tuesday at the church, were picked up following worship on November 27th to be taken home and filled with one food item per day during Advent. On Christmas Eve, the boxes will be returned to form a "Christmas Tree" in the Sanctuary during the season of Christmas.

The "tree" will be then be taken down and presented to Operation Harvest Sharing after Epiphany, when donations are most desperately needed.

Those that are not able to participate in this special initiative are reminded that the third Sunday of each month is Harvest Sharing Sunday and that the regular donations of non-perishable food items from the generous people at St. Paul's are anticipated and received with gratitude.

With thanks to Rev. Lynn



Photo Credit: Virginia Glover



Rev. Lynn performs her first baptism at St. Paul's and
Lexi Mary-Jane Liston and her parents pose with the cake in the Church Hall after the service





Messy Church - Fun for the Family

The Messy Church Program at St. Paul's has expanded from four times a year to once a month (third Saturday of each month from 11:30 to 12:30). The program is prepared especially for families with children between the ages of three and twelve but **everyone is welcome**. It includes storytelling, crafts and games followed by lunch and a time for parents to relax while the children play.

On Saturday November the 19th Messy Church had a visit from a very special guest - Noah himself! Noah shared his wonderful story about the Ark, the animals, and God's promise symbolized by the rainbow!

Participants made their own arks during craft time and filled them with animal crackers to take home. After a quiet time of worship, the children, parents and guests enjoyed shepherd's pie and apple crisp prepared by the ACW.

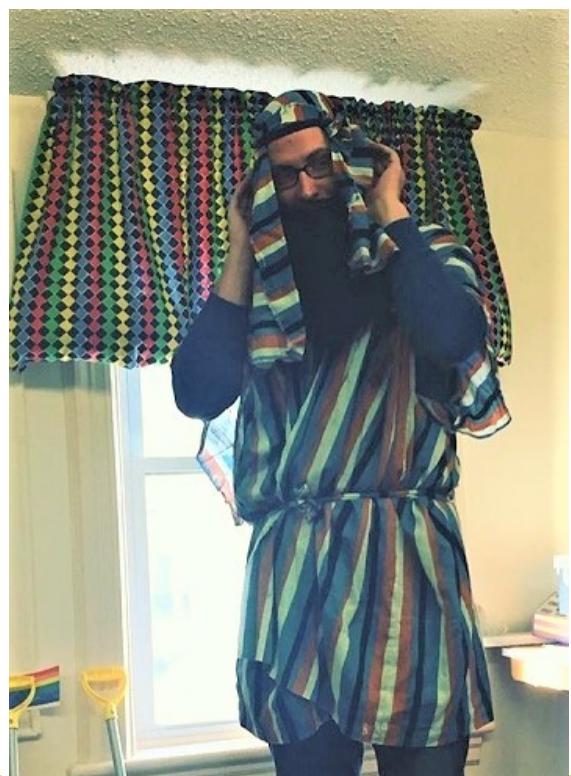
The next Messy Church is Saturday December 17th. Please let the Coordinators – Patricia Alexander or Reverend Lynn know if you plan to attend. Check out the Messy Church – St. Paul's Anglican Facebook page for information and photos.

With thanks to Patricia Alexander



Participants: Children work on creating arks above and Noah below

Submitted photos



Special Offering Envelopes for P.A.G Users

A concern that has been voiced by those individuals who have chosen to enroll in the Pre Authorized Giving (P.A.G.) Program is that, unlike those parishioners who prefer to use weekly offering envelopes, they do not receive the three Special Offering Envelopes for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas that are included in each box of envelopes when they are distributed.

To address this concern, there will be sets of Special Offering Envelopes available for P.A.G. Users at the back of the church when envelope boxes are issued.



St. Paul's Reads

On Friday November 25th, St. Paul's held it's first ever, "Survivor inspired" elimination challenge to select a Lenten Study Book for 2017. Four books were selected by Reverend Lynn and assigned to each of four contestants to read and then to attempt to convince the audience that their book was the one that should be selected. At the end of each of the three rounds, one of the contestants was "Voted Off".

The four books were:" **Between the Dark and the Daylight**" by Joan Chittister; "**Help, Thanks, Wow**" by Anne Lamott; "**Theology: The Basics**" by Alister E. McGrath and "**Falling Upward**" by Richard Rohr. The books were defended respectively by John Flegg, Julie Case, Jean Macintosh and John Francis. Reverend Lynn, who was acting as the Moderator, had a hard time keeping the contestants in line as sarcastic retorts, cat-calls, and even bribes were offered during the evening.

The evening was enlivened by the presentation of an original song, sung to the tune of the theme song from the Beverly Hillbillies by Janice Twaddle. Musical interludes while the votes were counted were provided by Carean Nash accompanied by Levi and Hunter, a duet by Donna and Neil Matheson, and a solo by Natalie Edwards. A feast of sweet treats and coffee coordinated by Sandra Borque ended the evening.

The book "**Between the dark and the Daylight**" was chosen by a slim margin to be our 2017 Lenten Study book. More details to follow in the New Year.

Linda L Eckert



Erin Preston, Father Ted and Jane Guthrie try to resist Jean Macintosh's bribes



The Panel (The Four J's) receive instructions from Rev. Lynn before the presentations begin

Photos by Linda Eckert



Upcoming Special Services and Events

December 7 (11:00 am) Seniors Service and Luncheon

December 15 (noon) A.C.W. Christmas Party)

December 16 (7:00 to 9:00 pm) Youth Group

December 17 (11:00 am to 12:30 pm) Messy Church

December 24 (4:00 pm) Children's Christmas Eve Service

(7:00 pm) Christmas Eve Eucharist (with choir)

(11:00 pm) Christmas Eve Eucharist (with carol singing & musical guests)

December 25 (10:00 am) Christmas Day Eucharist

Regular Services are held on Sundays from September to July

8:30 a.m. Non-Choral Communion

10:00 a.m. Church Family Communion Service with Music.

A Service of Healing Prayer and Communion held at 12:00 noon each week.

A Contemplative Service is held every Tuesday Evening at 7:00 p.m.

Taize on the Second Tuesday of each month and

Lectio Divina Services on all other Tuesdays

St. Paul's welcomes everyone to join us



Walter Osborne came to St. Paul's to see the plaque on the Communion Rail that was given to the church by his grandfather, William Henry Osborne, in 1933. The gift was a memorial to his wife.

