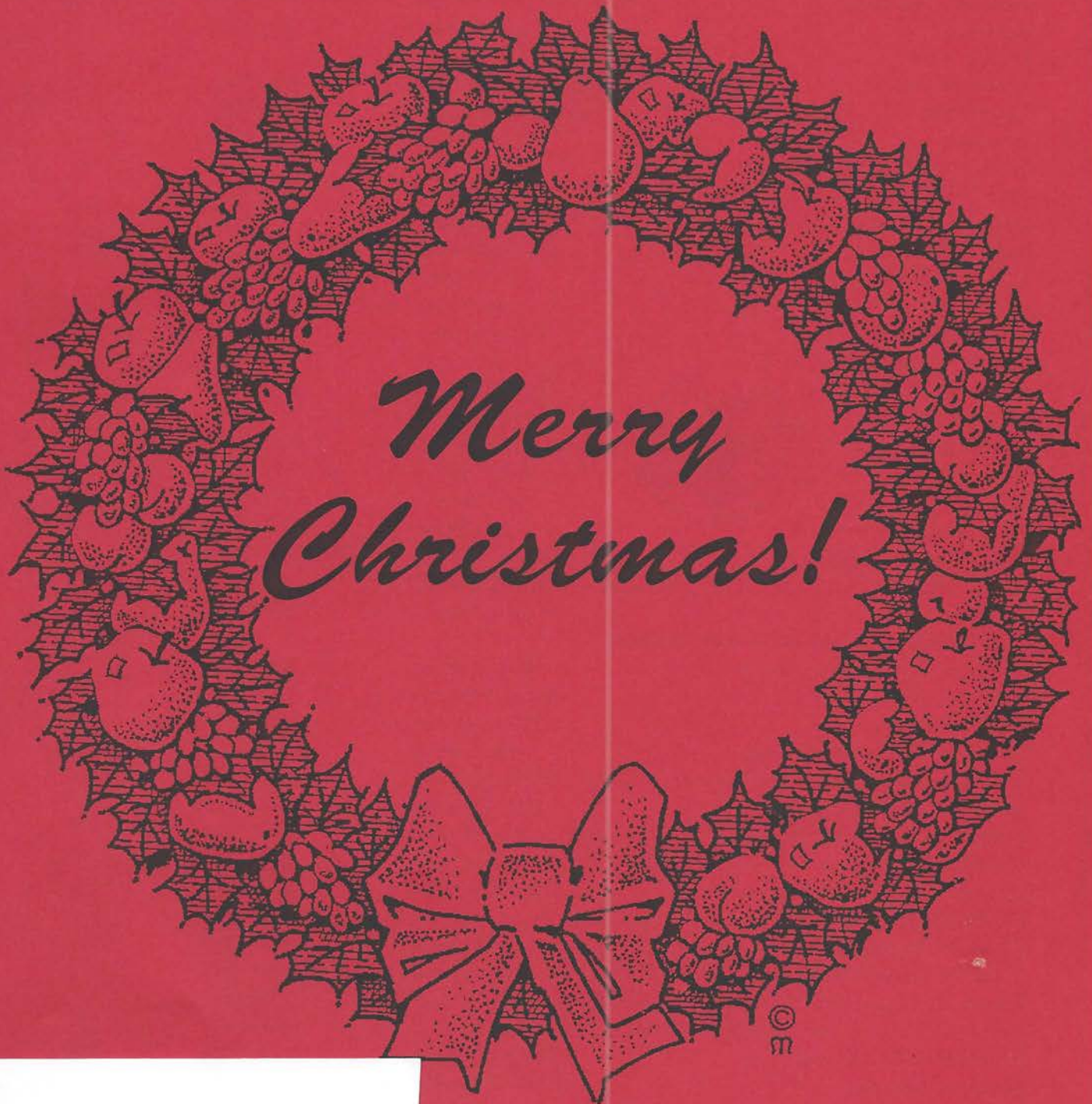


# People's Pulpit

December 2000

St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church, Stittsville,







# The Directory



**St. Thomas the Apostle Anglican Church P.O. Box 1064, 1619 Main St., Stittsville, Ontario K2S 1B2**

<b>Rector</b>	The Rev'd Sally Gadd	<b>836-5741</b> (office)
		836-7272 (home)
Assistant Curate	The Rev'd Andrea Thomas	237-7000 - 489-2876 (home)
Honorary Assistant	The Rev'd Alex Dobson	820-1580
Layreader	Robin Tilgner	831-2709

## Parish Staff

Parish Secretary	Elizabeth Norris-Gervais	836-5741
Caretaking	Brent & Art Read	836-3687
Organist	Don Gillen	836-2229

## Members of Parish Council

Rector's Warden	Ken Kirk	836-5453
People's Warden	Nicky Swann	836-5283
Deputy Warden	Sandra Double	836-6279
Deputy Warden	Bev Coote	836-1924
ACW Link	Doreen Bell	836-1983
Altar Guild Link	Nicky Swann	836-5283
Church School Link	Georgina Purchase	836-4073
Member at Large	Sue Blackhall	831-1646
Member at Large	Anne Brown	836-8352
Members of Synod	Nicky Swann	836-5283
	Roger Stone	836-4152
	Tom Sandor	831-7269
	Roger Stone	836-4152
	Andrea Thomas	237-7000-489-2876
	Tom Denesyk	831-3897
	Anne Brown	836-8352



Outreach Link		
Parish Council Chair		
Synod Alternate		
Treasurer		

## Convenors, Coordinators & Lay Leaders

Anglican Church Men Contact	Roger Stone	836-4152
ACW President	Barbara Swann	836-5283
Card Secretary	Nicky Swann	836-5283
Cemetery Cmtee Chairperson	Bert Smith	838-4085
Cemetery Cmtee Secretary/Treasurer	Gwelda O'Shaughnessy	599-7125
Choir Director - Senior	Peter Torunski	836-5295
Church Facilities Coordinator	Elizabeth Norris-Gervais	836-5741
Church School Music	Don Purchase	836-4073
Church School Super/Treasurer	Georgina Purchase	836-4073
Coffee Hour Convenor	Elizabeth Norris-Gervais	836-4584
Coord of Prayers, Readers & Chalice (10:30)	Denise Torunski	836-5295
Coord of Prayers, Readers & Chalice (8:30)	Ian Swann	836-5283
Coord of Sidespersons/ Greeters	Barbara Swann(8:30 am)	836-5283
Coord of Sidespersons/ Greeters	Gordon Marshall(10:30 am)	836-4644
Cornerstone Co-Ordinator	Mary Passmore	836-2876
Envelope Secretary	Gordon Marshall	836-4644
Memorial Fund Coordinator	Doreen Bell	836-1983
People's Pulpit Editor	Trish Irwin-Kitt	831-7107
Refugee Committee	Gillian Mattock	836-1280





## The Rector Writes

Dear Saint Thomasians

We're at a hinge point in the year. As I write this, it is neither summer nor winter. Fall just seems like a crack between the two. The choice for me is this: to grumble over the approach of winter and go into a kind of hibernation, or to give thanks for my many blessings and get on with my life. Probably what I'll do is get on with my life with a little grumbling mixed in with the thanks.

The Church seems to be in the same sort of hinge point. We are always standing on the edge of a maybe. Maybe if we advertised our presence more purposefully among the many new families in Stittsville we would be more effective in spreading the good news of God's love. Maybe if we changed our way of worship more people would be on fire for Jesus. Maybe if we visited all the folks who are on our list but not coming, they would return to our midst. Maybe.

The hinges always seem a little rusty. They squeak as they stiffly open to new possibilities. We've known for some time that advertising works, but somehow it seems a little... unseemly. We know that people are attracted by lively, well done liturgy; but is that... Anglican? We know beyond a shadow of a doubt that

the most effective way of getting people to come to church is to have a parishioner invite them. But what if they turn me down and laugh at me? None-the-less, we're doing a little of all this and we are planning to do much more.

In the mean time, we are going about our business of being the Church in the world. In the huge darkness of the Southern Sudan, we are trying to light one small candle by gathering the churches in our local deanery to help support an orphanage. The Refugee Committee continues its good work in bringing persecuted people into the freedom and blessings of Canada. "The Spirit of the Lord is upon us, because he has anointed us to bring good news to the poor. He has sent us to proclaim release to the captives . . ." And many individuals in Saint Thomas are daily, quietly, bringing light into the darkness in their neighbour's lives.

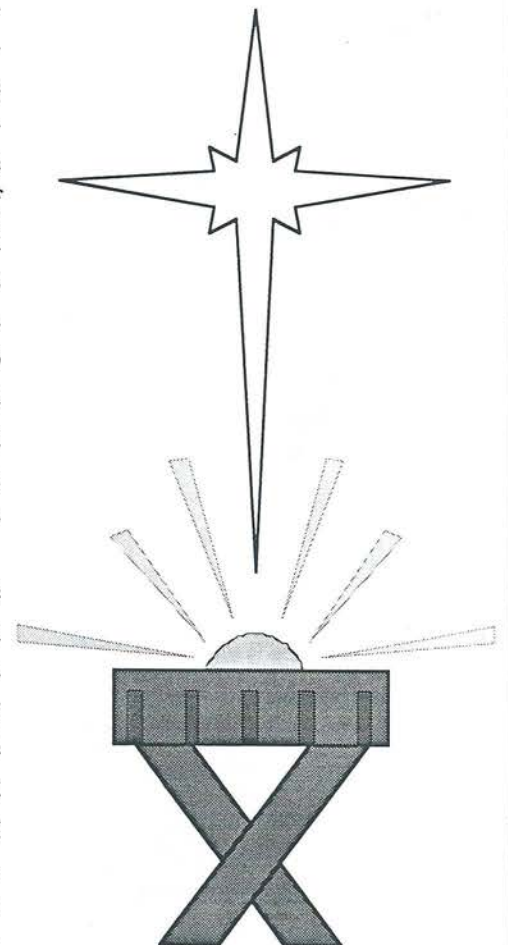
We, too, have a choice. We can grumble about the litigation we face, and the other problems of our era, and sink into lethargy and depression, or we can give thanks for our blessings and get on with the challenge of being the Church. We are, after all, God's Church. And God has chosen to come among us as one


of us. That's what Christmas is all about. Do we really think God doesn't know what God is doing?

Ed and I wish you a blessed Christmas Season. May Jesus Christ be born anew in your hearts and may the light of Christ shine out from you into those places where there is darkness in our world.

God bless,

*Sally*





Share the Joy  
of Christmas Worship  
at St. Thomas

Sunday December 10  
8:30 am Eucharist  
10:30 am Pageant

Sunday, December 17 - Advent 3  
8:30 am Eucharist  
10:30 am Advent Service of  
Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 24  
**Christmas Eve**  
9:30 am Advent 4 service (*no 8:30 or 10:30 am*)  
4:30 pm Children's Service with Eucharist  
7:30 pm Candlelight Service with Eucharist  
10:00 pm Candlelight Service with Eucharist

Sunday, December 25  
**Christmas Day**  
10:00 am Christmas Eucharist

Sunday, December 31  
8:30 & 10:30 am  
Carol Sing and Eucharist



## A Word from Andrea . . .

**W**hat a fall we have had! The hustle and bustle of activity has been incredible. The church has been alive with young and old, new friends and old. We have celebrated our anniversary, held education courses, had a huge bazaar, hosted the Chicken barbeque; the list goes on and on.

Sometimes our schedules are so busy and we are moving so fast that we forget who we are doing the running for or why we are working so hard. I forget to take time to remember that I am part of the family of God, that we are the people of God, when the phone is always ringing. I don't know about the rest of you, but I get so used to moving at a fast pace that when I have to wait, for a phone call, a traffic light, a line up I get fidgety. I'm wasting time. Hurry hurry.

But I am reminded that this is not a season for hurry, hurry, it is instead a time for waiting.

During Advent we wait. Henri Nouwen writes, "Waiting is essential to the spiritual life. We are waiting during Advent for the birth of Jesus. We wait after Easter for the coming of the Spirit, and after the Ascension of Jesus we wait for his coming again in glory. We are always waiting. How do we wait for God? We wait in patience. But patience does not mean passivity. Waiting patiently is not like waiting for a bus to come, or the rain to stop, or the sun to rise. It is an active waiting in which we live the present moment to the full in order to find there the signs of the One we are waiting for. Waiting patiently means always paying attention to what is happening right before our eyes and seeing there the first rays

of God's glorious coming."

I need to remember to slow down and pay attention to what is happening right before my eyes. Do I recognize God in all situations? Am I looking for the light of Christ in others? Am I waiting in expectation for the next 'God moment' or am I hurrying by, and missing those first rays of glory.

How's your schedule? Pretty hectic? Are you living the present moment or pushing hard to the future? Take time this Advent season to spend time with family and friends. Join your church family in worship and wait patiently together for the birth of Jesus. I'm sure you will be surprised at how often the rays of God break through.

May this time of patient waiting be especially blessed for you and your loved ones.

Andrea



### *From the Editor's Desk*

Thank you to all who sent me articles and interesting pieces for this issue. Be sure to take note of our Christmas service schedule (opposite page) and the marathon of Christmas Eve services! Find one that suits you and come join us for worship.

Kevin and our children, Trevor, Meghan and Alison, join me in wishing you all a very happy Christmas,

Trish Irwin-Kitt

*People's Pulpit*  
e-mail address:  
kitt@magi.com

◆  
**Deadline for next issue:**  
**March 18, 2001**

**January 7, 2001**  
**10:30 a.m. service**  
**Bishop Peter will be**  
**here for Confirmation**



# Church Family News



New Address:  
**Al and Non Roffey**  
APT. 1105,  
2800 WARDEN Avenue  
Toronto M1W 3Z6  
email: alroffey@home.com

*An excerpt from a recent letter  
from Al & Non Roffey:*

Dear Friends at St Thomas':

We moved into our new apartment on September 21. (Phone no. unchanged at 416-498-9464) It has taken us almost 2 months to get established here and there is still some construction work to be done.

We are sharing in the services of the professional staff in the existing senior's residence such as nurses, dietitians, social workers and physiotherapists. A new dining room has been built on the first floor of our building to provide meals to the residents of both buildings. The buildings are linked together by an enclosed walkway.

We are completely independent in our apartment with a large kitchen which we had designed and equipped to our specifications and extra cost,

of course. However with Non's problem with balance and reduced mobility and my lack of culinary skills, except eggs and toast, we are making use of the new dining room 2 or 3 nights each week.

We have windows facing three directions, south, west and north so we are getting good light. The views from our 11th floor apartment, (actually the 12th floor as the street level floor is known as the lobby and the 12th floor does not get called the 13th ) are great. From our bedroom the view north on Warden Ave. at night is like looking at a Christmas tree. Then from our west windows can see great sunsets.

An elaborate alarm system has been installed in the building, in addition to the usual smoke and carbon monoxide detectors, so that we can press an alarm button on a small transponder which each of us carries with us. When this alarm is pressed in our apartment, it alerts the 24 hour a day security personnel and tells them the alarm is coming from our apartment. They can communicate with us by an intercom. If no response is made by us they can enter

our apartment and alert any emergency service.

Non's health is staying relatively stable although some days she has more problems than others and has fallen to the floor a few times, so far without damage other than the bad sprain to her right ankle in May. She uses her walker in shopping malls and her wheelchair when the amount of time on her feet might tire her. For example 5 hours in the Bay yesterday doing our Christmas shopping during the Bay's Scratch and Save. Fortunately we were able to find suitable items for our children and grandchildren in that one expedition.

We are worshipping on a regular basis in our old church St. Philip's (we have been connected with it since 1947). It is a very aging and small congregation so its days are numbered.

We miss our friends, adults and children, at St. Thomas and think of you. Your phone calls, letters, cards and e-mail are greatly appreciated. Hope some of you can visit when you are in the Toronto area.

Al

## Caretaker of Dreams - WOW!!

Goulbourn's Millennium pageant was a truly memorable production! Were you there? The quality of music, acting, set design and dancing was a treat to behold - and the fact that every second face was familiar only added to the show's

appeal! What fun to see half the St. Thomas choir singing in the chorus, and other members of the congregation acting or dancing in the production.

Barbara Bottrill, playwright and musical director, deserves ap-

plause for a fabulous job!! I even learned some Goulbourn history in the process. Hats off to all who worked so hard to produce this highly entertaining and well done production!





# BIG GUY

*I didn't know God's name was now The Big Guy.*

Guess I'm wrong. Guess He changed it without me knowing.

Because more and more I'm hearing people referring to Him as The Big Guy, not God. Now, I can't say for *sure* He changed his name from God to The Big Guy, but if He didn't, how come people are afraid to call him God, but have no problem with The Big Guy?

Hey, we're talking God. God has been reduced to nothing more than The Big Guy?

I'm watching a football game on TV, and an Argo player looks up at the sky, and Commentator Chris Walby cracks, "He must be thanking The Big Guy."

The Big Guy?

I always thought God was a lot more than a Big Guy. Big Guys are a dime a dozen, but there's only one God, right? To me The Big Guy was the guy who wanted to beat me up after school. I don't think he came from heaven. Guy Gibson was a Big Guy who wanted to beat me up after school, and he came from a tarpaper shack.

I'm looking at a Donato cartoon in the *Sun* this week on the late cartoonist Ben Wicks talking to St. Peter at heaven's gate. St. Peter refers to God as "The Big Guy." Guess St. Peter, for some strange

reason, felt he'd be a laughing stock if he called God, God.

I'm watching a Democrat on TV, and he's talking about Al Gore, and he says, "The vice-president and The Big Guy upstairs have a good relationship." I wonder why the Democrat had trouble saying, "The vice-president and God have a good relationship." Because God is a bad word, maybe? Everybody would groan if he used the word God, maybe? When and why did God become a word to run away from? When did using the word God become synonymous with - what? - wimpery?

Very odd.

Mind you, I don't hear people having a problem saying "God dammit."

Or, when they're complaining, "God, it's hot, eh?"

Or, when they're mad at somebody, "God, but you're an idiot."

Very odd, this. But, I get back to what I started out saying: Maybe God changed His name, but I'm sure it won't be too long now before it'll be obvious; it's just taking a little time for it all to become official.

Like, when a Brit wins the gold medal at the Olympics and I hear the band playing *The Big Guy save*



*The Queen.*

When an American wins the gold medal at the Olympics and I hear the band playing *The Big Guy Bless America*.

When I hear somebody yell in frustration, "The Big Guy dammit."

And "The Big Guy, it's hot eh?"

And "The Big Guy, but you're an idiot."

And a preacher proclaiming, "For The Big Guy so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish, but have eternal life."

Earl McRae

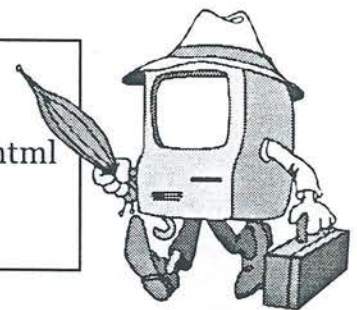
*Used by permission*

*Submitted by Andrea Thomas*

**St. Thomas Web Site:**

[http://www.magma.ca/~mbryan/Saint\\_Thomas/StTHOShome.html](http://www.magma.ca/~mbryan/Saint_Thomas/StTHOShome.html)

*Come for a visit!*





## Sunday School Report

**A**s I sit at my desk writing this, my thoughts are all of winter and Christmas. The slight snow accumulation, the decorations in the malls and our own tentative preparations for the oncoming season make me finally realize that there are only a few weeks left until we celebrate the birth of our Saviour. These have been a busy couple of months for us below stairs!!!

The Veggie Town program is ticking along very nicely. The children have already visited the factory, the animation studio and are now having fun in the pet shop (if you don't know what I'm talking about it's time you came down stairs!). Bob, Larry and the crew continue to teach their wonderful family values, ably assisted by Pam, Leah and Shirley.

Grades 1 through 4 are now into their third unit of The Whole People of God. There are always exciting things going on when I pop into the classrooms, and the crafts the children are producing are quite something! Well done to ALL who guide these four groups of kids.

Our Grade 5 group this year is assessing a new program for us called Bible Quest. Under the guidance of Luc Faucon this small group is having a really close look at some well-known Bible stories. Due to delays in curriculum pro-

duction this program won't really run properly until January when the children will have their own magazine (Spinners) and Luc will have much more material to lead the children through on their Bible Quest!

Alexander's Journey is really going places this year. Bruce and his group are enjoying their inter-faith exploration. They have had their first field trip and enjoyed some lively discussions with the youth group. Anyone who knows anyone of the Buddhist, Hindu or Muslim faith is asked to contact Bruce. He is trying to arrange guest speakers or field trips to help in the exploration of these and other faiths.

All work and no play would certainly make Sunday School dull, so we have thrown in our first Social Event. A great time was had by all that attended our Halloween Party. The costumes were fabulous. It was terrific to see so many of the mums and dads getting dressed up too. We played games, made puppets, bobbed for donuts, bobbed for apples, ate lots of goodies, listened to stories and generally had heaps of fun. Special thanks go out to all the parents who helped out on the night, and especially to Emma and Country Style donuts for providing the donuts free of charge, and Stephanie McKinnon who made a beautiful haunted house cake for our ghoulishly good snack!



Our fundraising efforts have continued with the fall Used Clothing and Toy Sale. As ever our enormous thanks go to Heather and Barb for doing this for us. It was a great success yet again. Start thinking now about booking your table for the spring. It's a terrific way to help us, help you and provide a community service! Trish Irwin-Kitt and Usborne Books helped the early Christmas shoppers purchase great quality books for their friends and family. The Sunday School was then able to get eight beautiful books for our library with the incentives offered by Trish. Thank you for supporting this event and thanks to Trish for running it.

Upper most in all of our minds right now is the Christmas Pageant. This year's performance, The Christmas Journey, will take place at the 10:30 a.m. Service on 10<sup>th</sup> December. All of the Sunday School children will be taking part and many of the teachers. Pageants always hold a myriad of surprises and are always sure to delight everyone, so mark your calendar now!

Don and I would like to take this opportunity to wish everyone all the blessings of this joyous season. We would also like to remind all those who like to make New Year's resolutions that teaching Sunday School would be a great place to start!!!

Merry Christmas,  
Georgina Purchase.



**Christmas Pageant**  
**Sunday, December 10th**  
**10:30 service**





## The St. Thomas Welcome Mat

### **Stephen, Julia and Tyler WILLIAMS**

49 Stonepath Crescent,  
STITTSVILLE K2S 1S4  
836-5508

The youngest member of this family, Tyler (10 months), was christened at St. Thomas during June of this year. He joined us with his parents in April and they usually attend the later service. Stephen works at Catena Networks and is a Winnipeg native; Julia is currently a homemaker and hails from Niagara Falls, Ontario. Stephen advises that as his work is so demanding his hobbies are limited these days. Julia is a quilter and enjoys various crafts.

### **Ian and Mardy FRASER**

40 Innesbrook Street,  
STITTSVILLE K2S 1C7  
836-4884

When I reached Ian and Mardy they had just returned from a most

enjoyable trip in which they visited Prague, Budapest, Hungary and Vienna - music played quite a role for them on this holiday.

They moved to Stittsville in 1989 from Kanata where they had lived since 1966 and attended St. Paul's Hazeldean. Both of them are retired, with Ian having served seventeen years in the navy followed by seventeen years in the public service. Mardy was a registered nurse. Mardy and Ian have an adult daughter and a son, four grandchildren - three boys and one girl - all currently living in the area. They both enjoy golf and Mardy does volunteer work at the Civic Hospital.

This joined us in September and you can meet them at the early service.

*If you are a Newcomer to our parish and have not been included in our Welcome Mat column, please call me at 836-3993.*

Ann K. Piché

**T**he Parish of Saint Thomas wishes to extend a warm welcome to these recent additions to our church family. On the first opportunity available please offer them a special welcome!

### **Rose MULLIGAN**

309 - 1340 Main Street,  
STITTSVILLE K2S 1V4  
836-1100

The early service is where you will be able to meet Rose who joined us during the summer; previously she attended Christ Church on the Third Line of Huntley. Rose is a retired registered nurse and has five adult children who live all across the country.

## Property Committee Update

Since the committee was formed in early September a few major improvements have been made. In the summer we were having problems with water in the basement after heavy rains. Matt Wigney was contacted and working through him we had topsoil and new turf put in to change the gradient so it slopes away from the building. We also had guttering added to stop the water run off from the roof from pooling by the building. While Matt was in he also checked and

winterized the belfry. Water getting into the building is a major concern, so we are glad to have made these improvements before the snow came.

There are a few people I would like to thank for their help this Fall. First Ross Kennedy who watered the new turf and did a fall clean up of the church grounds. Second Nelson Brock who put the cupboard doors back on in the old food bank room - and let me tell you, those doors were heavy. Third Art Read

and Bob Stone for helping change the 'rather hard to get at' light bulbs. I must also thank Bob for all his advice while I was, and still am, struggling with this new challenge.

Taking care of the property is an on-going job. There are always small and large projects that need consideration. If anyone is interested in helping with the upkeep of the building, please give me a call or contact the office.

God be with you,  
Nicky Swann





# People's Warden's Report



As I started to write this report I realized what a busy fall I've had in the church. There have been plenty of meetings and commitments to keep. One of the most rewarding was the fall Synod. It was my first Synod and I found it interesting and fascinating from the opening Thursday night service to the closing on Saturday afternoon. It was held in Perth from October 19-21. Synod opened on the Thursday evening with a service at St. James Church where Bishop Peter Coffin delivered his charge. On Friday we got under way with the presentation of the budget. This year the budget was laid out so that all could follow. It showed where the money would be spent and how much was needed. There was a move from the floor not to accept the budget, if we were sending the diocese money to the national church. It was felt this money would go to pay lawyer fees trying to fight the residential school suits. In the afternoon the motion was soundly defeated. People who had worked on the budget gave sound reasons and assurances that the money we would be sending to the national church would not be used for legal costs. The issue will most likely have to be looked at again next year.

The next session was on the residential schools. It was presented by Archdeacon Jim Boyles of the General synod and Cannon Grace Delany. Archdeacon Boyles gave a brief history and stressed the goals of the General Synod. They are:

- 1) healing and reconciliation
- 2) survival of the church,
- 3) discussion and arrangements

with the government. The Church has met with Indian Affairs and is involved in talks with Deputy P.M. Herb Gray. Cannon Grace Delany spoke next. She is an indigenous person who in now an Anglican Cannon. She gave a very moving speech stressing reconciliation on both sides. Grace was at one of the residential schools so she felt and saw the pain and its results.

In the afternoon I attended a very good seminar called Nuts and Bolts. It was presented by Cannon Michael Iveson with vice-chancellor and Solicitor Alan Winship in attendance. It was all about managing church finances in the parish. I certainly benefited from this seminar and I bought home a 44-page handbook that will be useful to our church.

On Saturday morning the first session was on Screening in faith. In was presented by Rev. Bill Prentice Director of Program. This is an important issue that churches must face. It stressed: protecting our children and others, who are vulnerable, protect church staff and volunteers from unwarranted lawsuits, limit the legal risk and liability due to any sexual abuse. Mainly we are trying to set up a safe place for us all to enjoy. I did attend the seminar on screening following the presentation. Because of work commitments I can not attend the screening workshop on December 4 so I tried to learn as much as I could while I had the opportunity.

We should also note that our own Andrea Thomas was elected to the executive committee of the diocese of Ottawa. Congratulations Andrea! Two others we should be

proud of are Mary Attwell and Candace Sampson for all the work they did with the youth at Synod. They spent the two nights and days with the youth and from all reports everyone enjoyed themselves. The Bishop spent some of Saturday morning with the youth and he enjoyed himself. He also formally thanked both Candace and Mary during the closing speeches.

The theme of this year's synod was "Moving Forward in Faith, Hope and Love", but I would like to add Healing and Reconciliation. Listening to Grace Delany showed me that before we can move forward we must learn to forgive the wrongs that have gone before. Grace had the strength, courage and wisdom to reach out for reconciliation on both sides I feel this sets a wonderful example for all of us to follow in all walks of our lives

Back home in our own parish there has been a lot going on as usual. We have just completed a very successful bazaar. A lot of people were involved in the planning and work on the day. Special thanks should go to Ken and Heather Kirk for all the work they did in pulling it all together. The men's group and the ACW have been busy again contributing to the church. The men bought the safe for the church and the ladies bought the automatic on/ off kettle. We should also be proud of Barbara Bottriell and all those who participated in "The Caretaker of Dreams". What a great community effort.

One other person I would like to thank for all the work she does



## People's Warden's Report con't . . .

for the church is Elizabeth Gervais. She is our church secretary but she is also a member of the choir, Cornerstone, the prayer team, and when there is a church function she is usually there to help out. Liz is always great at trying to answer my questions and I know she does a lot of work with Anne Brown, our new treasure. She is great for corpora-

tion, Sally, and Andrea. But most important is that great sense of humour that keeps us all going. Thanks Liz - it's great working with you.

As Christmas fast approaches and we all get a little frazzled trying to get everything done, maybe we should put Jesus on our shopping list. It might remind us why we are really celebrating this wonderful

time of year. I have decided that God will love me whether I get the perfect gift, bake the perfect Christmas cake, get all my gifts wrapped perfectly. This might just help me get through the season.

I hope all of you have a very Blessed and Beautiful Christmas  
Nicky Swann

## —• BUDGET —

How each dollar of Parish Share is used  
(based on 2001 budget)

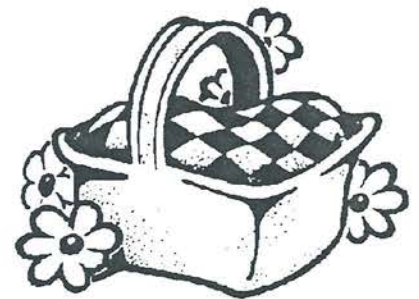
Space allows only a few examples of the kinds of expenditures that come under each category.

- Episcopal (21%): personnel in the Bishop's Office (about half); postulant programs; clergy training, conference costs, depreciation of equipment and furniture. New items: special training in peace making, investigating efficient application of resources, structural organization of the diocese.
- Ministry support (14%): marriage education/enhancement courses, Summer Adventurer program, staff to organize volunteers in Christian Life and Nurture, and other activities. Rental, deprecia-

tion of equipment.

- Diocesan Outreach (14%): Centre 454, Cornerstone/ le Pilier, Ottawa Pastoral Counselling Centre, The Well/ La Source. Eco-Justice Committee.
- Extra-Diocesan (37%): General Synod Apportionment, PWRDF, missions and ministry overseas.
- Administration (11%): payment of personnel, Archives, Central Pay System, accounting
- Communications (3%): public advertising, improving signage at churches.

Roger Stone



## Wicker Baskets Needed

Frequently, when we receive a gift in a wicker basket, we throw the empty basket away. This year, we wish to recycle empty gift wicker baskets for Christmas giving. You see, every year before Christmas, a team of interested parishioners prepares and distributes gift baskets. So if you have an empty basket to recycle, please bring it to Bev Marshall.

## Christmas in other countries . . .



Our persecuted brothers and sisters in Christ: happy Christmas to them.

As we build up towards the joy of Christmas time, let us not forget the millions of Christians in countries where it is very difficult, even illegal, to practice one's Christian faith. Where persecution of Christians, often shockingly violent, is ignored or even sponsored by the government. Where Christians at

worship have to wonder when a violent mob may appear at the doors, or a bomb may be thrown into their church during the service, by someone who believes that his religion condones or even rewards such action. These things happen.

We are so blessed.

Happy Christmas,  
Roger Stone





# Cursillo

... a rare opportunity to devote three uninterrupted days and nights to my spiritual self.

**H**ave you ever wondered what a Cursillo (pronounced kur-SEE-yo) weekend is all about? Well, read on. I recently attended a weekend and I'd like to tell you about it.

Cursillo is a world-wide movement that began in Spain in the 1940's. Basically, the Cursillo weekend presents a method of Christian living and demonstrates how to structure our lives so as to make a difference in the world. It is led by a team of lay persons and clergy who have spent time working together planning and preparing the weekend. The participants are grouped into small table communities with team members included at each table. Team members give a series of talks that cover a whole range of topics on Christian living. After each talk there is an opportunity for discussion in your table community. The weekend also includes worship, prayer,

singing and fellowship. In the Ottawa diocese, there are men's and women's weekends held twice a year in Orleans. The Cursillo weekend runs Thursday evening to Sunday evening. If you'd like to go, somebody who's already been would be happy to sponsor you. There is no cost, although there is an opportunity to make a charitable donation to the movement.

On the website of the Calgary Cursillo Movement ([www.cursillo.ac.ca](http://www.cursillo.ac.ca)), I found the following points on what is expected of participants:

1. To be open and willing to respond to what you experience, share your feelings with others, and to allow others to share their feelings with you.
2. To make a genuine effort to discover where and how you can grow in your Christian life.
3. To feel secure in the knowledge that you are accepted as you

are, and to understand that a specific response is not expected of you.

4. To be curious and thirsty for spiritual exploration and nourishment.

5. To acknowledge a need to commit a weekend of your life to Christ.

Maybe you're thinking of attending a Cursillo weekend. Maybe you think you can't take the time. Maybe you think you won't learn anything new. Maybe you think you're not ready. Maybe you're afraid of the unknown. In my case, the desire for spiritual growth won out over apprehension and fear of the unknown.

The Cursillo weekend gave me a rare opportunity to devote three uninterrupted days and nights to my spiritual self. It was enlightening, rejuvenating and energizing. What's stopping you?

Pam Denesyk

## The Alpha Course

The Alpha course is a ten week practical introduction to the Christian faith. Most of all, it is fun. Although Alpha is a learning course, we do it in friendly, light-hearted manner. Most people say the fellowship and support is the best thing about the course. Each weekly session begins with an informal dinner (we cook - you relax), followed by a video talk, and ends with small group discussions. You are invited to come join the millions throughout the world who have made new friends and have

found some answers to their questions about life and God.

Who is Alpha for? Alpha is for new Christians or for those who feel they never really got going as a Christian. Those who want to brush up on the basics are also welcome. There is no commitment required. If you are curious but unsure, come out to the first session and see. Come back if you like it. Talk to Sally Gadd or Eric Thomas or anyone who has been on Alpha if you would like more info. If you have already been on the Alpha course,

then share the fun. Tell a friend, relative, and/or neighbour about Alpha.

Alpha runs on Monday evenings starting on January 8<sup>th</sup> (6:30-9:30pm). Session sizes are limited. If you are interested, please call the Parish office at 836-5741 and leave your name so that we can plan for numb



Eric Thomas





## HUGS

It's wondrous what a hug can do.  
A hug can cheer you when you're blue.  
A hug can say, "I love you so,"  
or, "Gee! I hate to see you go."

A hug is, "Welcome back again!"  
And, "Great to see you! Or  
"Where've you been?"  
A hug can soothe a small child's pain  
And bring a rainbow after rain.

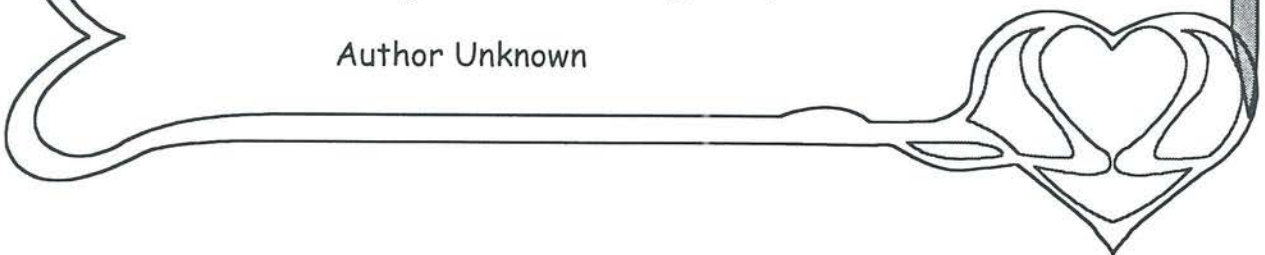
The hug! There's just no doubt about it.  
We scarcely could survive without it.  
A hug delights and warms and charms,  
It must be why God gave us arms.

Hugs are great for fathers and mothers,  
Sweet for sisters, swell for brothers,  
And chances are some favourite aunts  
love them more than potted plants.

Kittens crave them. Puppies love them.  
Heads of state are not above them.  
A hug can break the language barrier,  
And make the dullest day seem merrier.

No need to fret about the store of em.  
The more you give, the more there  
are of em.  
So stretch those arms without delay  
and give someone a hug today.

Author Unknown





## Education for Ministry (EFM)

Most of us have read the first book of the Bible, Genesis, at least once. Did you ever notice that there are two creation stories there? Did you ever wonder where the wives came from for Adam and Eve's offspring? Or why Cain killed Abel? Or did you ever wonder what on earth any of this has to do with twenty-first century post-post-modern people?

Sixteen people, fourteen from Saint Thomas, are interested enough in this sort of wide-ranging discussion to meet at our house every Monday for two and a half hours. What an amazingly gifted bunch of people! The two groups of eight have Ed and me as mentors.

Having done our two or three hours of study beforehand, we all discuss the scholarly material we have read, break for refreshments, and then launch into a theological reflection based on personal experience in life. We look at the core of that experience and the effects on it of our beliefs, our tradition and what the world has to say about it all. It's hard work! We then take what we have studied and use it as a basis for our worship - or at least we will when we've got the hang of it.

The purpose of all this is to equip ourselves for the ministry we are all called to by our baptism. This year we are studying the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament),



next year it's the New Testament, the third year is Church History and the fourth year is theology. In all of this we relate our studies to our lives and reflect upon what God is both offering us and demanding of us. Even with degrees in religious studies and in theology I find mentoring and participating in this course very challenging. I'm sure Ed does too. The challenge, however, is made delightful by the pleasure of journeying with fellow-explorers.

Sally Gadd

## Winter Message from the Altar Guild

Advent is once again upon us, and I hope everyone will notice the beautiful new blue altar hangings. We have Joan Thorneycroft to thank for these. Joan arranged to have them made and did a great job fund raising to pay for them. Many thanks Joan for a job well done.

Every Sunday during Advent we light a candle in the Advent wreath until Christmas when we finally light the Christ Candle. This Advent wreath is not bought or left over from last year; it is made for the church by Doreen Bell. Her talent is obvious and is greatly appreciated.

I would like to remind everyone who is interested in having

flowers in the church at Christmas time to please have your request in by December 17. Please sign the flower calendar located in the Carleton street entrance, and fill out one of the altar guild envelopes located next to the calendar. If you sign the calendar it is a safeguard for you, because if your envelope is mislaid or you forget to fill one out, I can call you to make sure you are not left out. If you have any questions about this, please see me in church on Sundays or give me a call at 836-5283.

Over the last year the Altar Guild lost three members due to moves. I would like to thank Peggy Beckett, Bev Marshall and Jeanette Findlay for all their work on the



team. I am pleased to say that we have two new members who will be joining the team, Sandra Double and Gertrude Brown. Welcome aboard and we are glad to have you!

I enjoy working on the Altar Guild at Christmas time. I know it's busy, but it somehow brings me closer to the wonder, beauty and true meaning of Christmas. On behalf of the Altar Guild I wish you all the best through the holiday season.

Nicky Swann





“What a great Christmas present this will make,” “I got so many things I need for my new apartment,” “That will look perfect in my front room,” “Look at all that baking, and Christmas Puddings too,” “That lunch was delicious.” If these plus the many, many more positive comments received on the variety and quality of merchandise offered at our Snowflake Bazaar and Craft Fair are an indication of success, the event was a great success! Just over five thousand dollars before expenses is not bad either.

Heartfelt thanks to all. The Conveners who worked so hard to get ready for and run the event. The helpers of all sorts. Those who made and/or donated items for the sale, including all of the delicious soup, biscuits and cookies/squares for the luncheon. Those who gave their time for set-up and clean-up. Those who helped the Conveners

## St. Thomas Snowflake Bazaar and Craft Fair

at the tables during the sale and the young people who displayed their artistic skill on the faces of children. The “luncheon team” and the Youth who did such a great job preparing and serving the lunch. Our greeters, sign makers, decorators and our advertising and money handlers. Last but not least, all of you, your friends and others who purchased the items and helped make the event a great success. If we missed anyone - you would know who you are - many, many thanks for your participation also.

A meeting is being held in the Council Room on November 29<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 PM, to which all are invited, to conduct a complete review of all aspects of the event. We want to find out “what went well” and “what could be better” in order to conduct an even more successful event next year. We will be especially looking at the physical set-up, how it worked and what needs to be changed for next year. Our biggest challenge is the space within the church and how we can best allocate it for the various types of items

that are sold. If you have any ideas/comments on any aspect of the event please pass them on to any of the Conveners, or, if you can, please come to the meeting on the 29<sup>th</sup>.

Come January we will start the planning and preparation for November 2001. So don't put away your crafts, start putting aside those items for the white elephant tables, try out those great recipes for the bake table, finish reading all of those books you want to donate and join with us for more fellowship and fun as the year progresses. We will put notices in the Sunday Bulletin as activities start-up. Thank you again and may the Lord's blessings be with you always.

Yours in Christ  
Heather and Ken Kirk



### BBQ a Great Success (again!!)

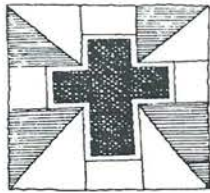
**W**ell done to all of you who supported the fall BBQ. We had another excellent turnout in helpers and customers thanks to the good weather, lots of yummy apple pies and cole slaw which parishioners donated,

great help over the fire and in the basement, and 440 happy, satisfied customers (a sell-out)!

Sincere thanks to all of you who came out, ate and helped.

Pete Torunski





## Synod Report

October 2000

**B**udget method was adopted in 1995, based upon input and priority. Objective is to focus on the next three years of budgeting for the Diocese. Budget process was done through the good work of volunteers, lead by Canon Iverson.

Priority items, which were submitted in the summer, the views of St. Thomas and other parishes, were reflected and related to existing items with comments to the Budget team. This appears to be working well. We all need to thank all of those who spent literally hundreds of hours of investment.

Priorities are reconciled with proposed spending and gifting of the Diocese, with a focus towards 2001.

The break out of the budget includes the major areas of Episcopal, Ministry Support, Diocesan Outreach, Extra Diocesan, Communications, and Administrations.

Outreach is truly "mission ministry." The collaborative board works closely with regards to federal and provincial grants. There are donations and gifts from individuals and the Parishes, with provincial government grants rounding out the revenue stream.

Extra Diocesan Budget, General Synod Apportionment is the largest portion of expenditures in this section. The apportionment of present payments is being used to fund Christian activities, not litigious activities of the National Church.

The Ottawa Diocese contributes over \$239k to areas like: Councils of the North, Partners in Mission, Eco-Justice, Anglican Church of Indigenous People, Information Resources, Anglican Journal, Financial Management & Development, Faith Worship & Ministry, Primate, Gen-

eral Secretary, and the House of Bishops.

"Parish share" was identified to enable a better understanding of each dollar spent at a parish level.

Vice Counsel for the Ottawa Diocese reacted to two specific questions that were around the litigation and the Federal Government's aggressive stance against the National Church, as well as the potential of changing the Outreach priorities (for example the additional support that could be given to aid persecuted Christians in the Sudan), the executive committee fulfils the office of synod between synod, executive committee does not have to send moneys to the General Synod. There is a movement to create another "body" in case of litigation against General Synod. Contributions to General Synod are voluntary. "At the first sign of trouble, the Ottawa Diocese can stop payment into General Synod".

**Residential School Issue:** past history twenty-six schools where the Anglican Church participated in the running of those schools. Federal grants were used, and as we continue to see, the Federal government would approve 3-5% budget increases, not the 15% requested. In 1969, the Anglican Church pulled out of the residential school program. Since 1969, General Synod has shifted to become a partner with aboriginal in their search for identity and justice. There are approx. 1600 claimants, and the General Synod is defending a minor role, as the Federal Government funded, ran and inspected the schools. General Synod feels that it should be responsible for only 25% of the problem, but the Federal Government is currently treating the action as 50-50

basis. The BC Diocese is appealing a ruling where it was responsible for 65% of the claimant; this is currently being appealed.

General Synod has "survival" as a goal, as it continues to work through the presence and partnerships, healing and reconciliation with indigenous people throughout Canada. The Ministry of Indian Affairs has seen that 2001 could bankrupt the General Synod's financial standing. The Deputy Prime Minister has now been appointed, but hopefully the meetings will continue through the election period. The future is focused on healing and reconciliation, for Anglicans and all Canadians. The next decade can be a healthy one, if we can interact with each other. We heard from a lady who was involved in the residential school issue and is involved with the National Church find a resolution around this program. Her concern is the legacy that continues to be carried into the future. She is looking for "peace for her children and grandchildren". She encouraged all at Synod to freely express our feelings around this issue and the effects of the residential school issue. As a student, they did not have voice or opinion. She felt that she was unable to express her feelings at the school. The abuse has driven friends and family into extending abusive situations, another friend now in prison. She spoke of a truly tortured vision she had; very disturbing images that I am sure shocked many of the delegates. Her view is that the repression she felt and experienced is still prevalent in today's world. Her faith carries her through her dream of all peoples walking hand in hand. She continues to feel the pain, both physically and mentally when the stories of the abuse continue to come forward. She is looking for compassion and understanding and our prayers.

The budget vote approval was held by a motion from the floor to

continued . . .



allow the Ottawa Synod to hear more information, as the moneys going to General Synod has the opportunity to be in jeopardy. This motion was defeated.

In the break out-group on 'Residential Schools' there were discussions and a recommendation that all Parishes review the video available on this issue, through the Diocese resource centre. We were asked how we can participate in the healing and reconciliation. As well, we could ask to have a member of that community come and address our Parish to give a personal feeling to this challenge. Is there a way we can help either the Diocese or within the National Synod with our own gifts of knowledge, acumen, experience? Could we establish something as simple as a "pen pal" for our children to be paired with an Inuit child to assist in the knowledge of each other's background, culture and language? There were comments regarding a community centre program to assist those Inuit' who have come down to Ottawa for jobs, health, and education.

#### **Screening in Faith within the Diocese of Ottawa**

(Resource kit is available and continues to be worked on)

Why is it important for us to engage in this process? "They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; For the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the Lord" Isaiah 11.9.

A vision that sees that all are safe who visit our community. We must ensure that children, the weak and feeble are kept safe when they come to us for help. If we are not safe in church, where are we safe?

Screening is nothing new and has been done, normally instinctively to ensure that those who we entrust the care of those mentioned are trusted, caring and are the "right" people to care for the ministry in which they entrusted.

We all have a "duty of care" for both care receivers and care givers.

We must take all reasonable measure to care for and protect all with which we come into contact. We have a collective risk if this is not done.

We often see as vulnerable: children, senior, you, the frail, and elderly, vulnerable adults. Also we must recognise within the Christian community, all of us at one time or another are vulnerable. Age, disability, handicap, emotional distress, disproportion of power, uncertainty, unsafe location, uncertain or bad processes, other circumstances can be construed to be/ enable vulnerable situations. Based on this, the Diocese must be more "intentional" when working with volunteers. The partners include the Provincial Synod of Ontario, our sister Diocese in Ontario, The Roman Catholic Diocese in Ontario, Several conferences of the United Church of Canada, the Unitarian Universalist Church. It is important that other Community groups are involved in Screening including Scouts Canada, Canada Parks, Sports teams, etc.

Screening is a process designed to create and maintain a safe environment by matching the right volunteer to the right ministry. Basically to create a safe environment is a "no brainer". We need to match the right volunteer with the right ministry; this is the challenge and the opportunity. We need to take volunteers seriously to match their gifts to the challenge, ask for their ideas and commitment to the match and the opportunity. We should respect the volunteers in the same manner in which we respect those involved in paid ministry.

Screening is an ongoing ten-step process designed to identify any person who might harm children or vulnerable adults. It is an ongoing ten-step process that helps us to work more effectively with volunteers in our parishes and ministries.

Screening will help us create and maintain a safe environment that God

envisioned for all us. One predator although rare, can negatively effect many, many lives. It is also a way to keep our Priests and Ministers safe. Our Bishop gives screening the highest priority and Bishop Peter asks for the support of each Parish in this important activity.

We have a responsibility to appropriately screen those entrusted to the care for our most vulnerable. Legally we must ensure we are doing everything we can on a recurring process to ensure that not only do we have a safe place for all, but also to maximise on the abilities of our volunteers.

Our "physical" plant must also be safe, or even safe from the potential of allegations that we must think about the situations our physical plant enables (closed-door meetings, after hour's meetings, etc.). Are there two adults taking a young child to the bathroom? Are doors left open when one leader leaves to help another child? How do we protect Sally or Andrea if they need to assist a "distressed" person outside of the Church, or in a late night "emergency" meeting in their offices, which are both without windows?

We have an obligation as a Parish, and as a Diocese to keep all safe within our immediate Christian environment.

We need to stop thinking that only the very young and the frail are vulnerable, but need to conduct our care of all individuals with this in mind.

How do we do screening: 3 activities identify the risks/tasks and establish a formal recruiting process (all done before speaking to any potential candidates), recruiting and checking, orientation and training/supervision/evaluation/programme evaluation.

We need to use a formal application form, conduct interviews, and follow up on references, when appropriate request a police records

continued . . .



check.

We need to formalise orientation and training sessions for our volunteers. We need to supervise and evaluate our volunteers on an ongoing basis. Finally we need to have program evaluation to ensure that the program was handled in a safe and trusted manner.

In summary, I felt that the budgeting process that we went through in the spring greatly assisted the Diocese in putting together a more meaningful budget for the up-coming period. However, as a Diocese we continue to greatly ignore the two biggest challenges in front of us today:

First is the issue of Christians continuing to be persecuted around the world and we are not addressing the problem directly. Instead we are having others do the "work". Our Diocese Outreach funds are in worthwhile programs, but in none of those programs are men dying, women and children being beaten, raped and then killed. Because it is unpleasant, I believe our Diocese continues to sweep the problem under the rug hoping someone will fix it.

Second is the issue of residential schools and the blind faith that the Government of Canada is suddenly going to change their stated direction 180 degrees and not bankrupt the parishes, diocese and national Church. My dealing with government and business enables the "doubting Thomas" to come up to the forefront of this issue. We should now be moving to mitigate our losses, enable true change management within the Church by laying aside the current shackles of old buildings, debt and trappings. We have the opportunity to turn onto a new highway and rebuild a Church that can be a true beacon of healing, hope and reconciliation to all who turn to it.

Tom Sandor



The members of the ACW again organized a very successful bake table at the Bazaar. However, the amount of baked goods for sale was down this year. For the last month we have been busy stuffing 45 Christmas gift bags for the Women's shelter. The bags are so full we have an overflow of gifts to go separately. Besides the toiletries, candy and pens and note pads we purchased 45 pairs of underwear and 45 pairs of socks for the women. We will also be sending several afghans and two TV's.

On request from Corporation we have purchased an automatic shut off kettle for the Parish Council Room.

Our next meeting on Dec. 4th will be a luncheon at Amberwood Golf Club. We will be discussing plans for the Bishop's lunch on Sunday Jan. 7th.

From all the members of the ACW I wish everyone a very Happy Christmas.

Barbara J Swann

## New Hymn Books have Arrived

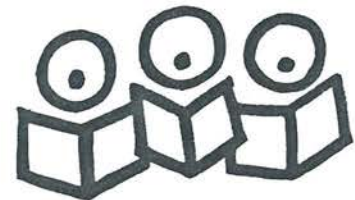


Common Praise, the new blue hymn books, will be used for the first time on 1st Advent Sunday, 3 December. We now have sponsors for all of the music edition books, but it is still not too late to sponsor one or more words-only hymn books. If you would like to sponsor a new hymn book either in your own name or in memory of a loved one, please fill out a sponsor form located at the back of the church and put the sheet (and a cheque for \$20 per book sponsored) in the collection plate, or give them to Elizabeth Norris-Gervais or to Pete Torunski.

Acknowledgement labels will be typed and affixed to the hymn book inside covers.

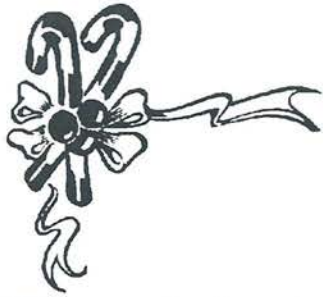
If you have already requested sponsorship and have not yet paid, then please send in your cheques (payable to St. Thomas' Church with a note on the cheque at the bottom indicating that it is for hymn books.

Pete Torunski



There is no sense in going through life  
being pessimistic. It probably  
wouldn't work anyway.





## Nika's Visit to Canada

**I**t was my fourth year in Canada. The more I visit this country the more I am amazed at how beautiful this country is. It's not only beautiful for its lakes, rivers, nice trees and warm, beautiful houses. It is also beautiful for the people who live in this country. People here are very friendly and warm. People in Belarus are different then people in Canada and I think I know why, because every day these hard working, tolerant people go to work and hope that after work they will bring home some money, they can buy one banana or one orange for their children. This is very sad for me, because in our country no matter what their profession, they earn the same money. Even doctors in our country are very poor. This is so hard to understand because they save people, they take care of them, it is a very difficult job I think. Then after

all that work, they can't even feed their children. That is why I said that I'm always amazed at Canada, because this country cares about her people.

I love the language which people speak in this country. Maybe that's why I want to become an English language teacher in the future. For these four visits to Canada I have learned a lot of English, it helped me a lot. Also it was an excellent chance to see how people live in Canada.

This year it was a great opportunity for me to stay here for one year. I want to thank you all very much for saving money for me. It touched my heart, but I think I am not staying here for a year. I think I am not ready for a year without my family. I realized that I would miss my family very much and my Canadian family would be upset. I don't really want them to be upset. It was a very big decision for me. You know sometimes in life you

have to make big decisions and you have to think about those very much not to make a mistake.

I want to thank you very much again for this money you saved for me and for everything you have done for me for those four years! Thank you very much. I love you all!

Nika Dramika

### *Note from Chris Ritchie:*

It took a lot of soul searching, tears from Nika, talks with Vanda (Nika's Mom) but in the end we decided to help Nika make the decision and told her we realized she should go home with her Mom. If there was even the smallest doubt, we did not want her to be uncomfortable. We wish Nika the best in her life and we will always have a special place in our hearts for her. Nika's Mom and family are loving people and will make sure she gets what she needs.

## So What's Been Done?

**H**ere's a run-down of what has been accomplished from the wish list approved at last Vestry.

- The ACW and ACM purchased and installed a dishwasher in the kitchen. Its usefulness was really appreciated during the Auction and Bazaar.
- A setback thermostat is being procured for the church hall, to save money by lowering temperature in off hours.
- The parish will soon have E-

mail capability to quickly and effectively communicate with others. A web site is already up and running, thanks to Mike Bryan.

- Bob Stone has installed timed lights at the two parking lot entrances to go on and off automatically.
- New hymn books have been bought to replace the red ones, and will be in use on 3 December.
- New banners have been put up in the worship area.

Pete Torunski



At Sunday School they were teaching how God created everything, including human beings. Little Johnny seemed especially intent when they told him how Eve was created out of one of Adam's ribs. Later in the week his mother noticed him lying down as though he were ill, and said, "Johnny what is the matter?" Little Johnny responded, "I have a pain in my side. I think I'm going to have a wife."



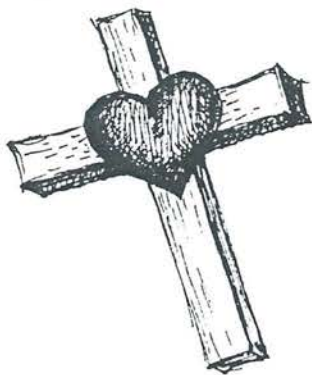
## The Unbridled Will

We rest our hopes too much upon constitutions, upon laws, and upon courts. These are false hopes; believe me these are false hopes. Liberty lies in the hearts of men and women; when it dies there, no constitution, no law, no court can save it; no constitution, no law, no court can even do much to help it.

And what is this liberty that must lie in the hearts of men and women? It is not the ruthless, the unbridled, will; it is not the freedom to do as one likes. That is a denial of liberty, and leads straight to its overthrow.

A society in which men recognize no check upon their freedom soon becomes a society in which freedom is the possession of a savage few. The spirit of liberty is the spirit of him who, near 2,000 years ago, taught mankind a lesson that it has never learned, but has never quite forgotten - that there may be a kingdom where the least shall be heard and considered side by side with the greatest.

Judge Learned Hand  
(US Supreme Court)



## The Perfect Tree

### Goulbourn Jubilee Singers Christmas Concert



Tickets are now on sale for the Goulbourn Jubilee Singers annual Christmas concert. Entitled "The Perfect Tree", it is to be performed at the new Theatre for the Performing Arts in Sacred Heart High School, Abbott St., Stittsville on **Saturday, December 9th**. There will be an afternoon matinee and an evening performance, so that all age groups may attend. The matinee performance will be geared to families with young children and to seniors. There is a special admission price of \$5.00 for children and seniors (65 and over), with a \$10.00 charge for all others. This concert only, will include a visit from Santa and a sing-along. Guests at both concerts will include the new, as yet unnamed, junior branch of the Goulbourn Jubilee Singers. Christmas goodies will be served after both concerts.

The evening concert will also include a visit from the "Northern Stars", an a capella barbershop group from Nepean, also under the direction of the GJS' very talented Artistic Director, Tony Bove-Dallas. Tickets for this performance will be \$12.00 each or \$20.00 a couple, with the children's price remaining at \$5.00.

The first half of the concert will be to reinforce the message of Love that the Christ Child was born to bring to us. Hymns for this section will include the very beautiful "On Eagles Wings", "Love One Another" and "Make Us One". These are not Christmas Carols per se, but they vocalize God's gift of love to all of us. The second half of the performance will include the rousing cantata, "The Perfect Tree." Created and arranged by Dale Matthews and Michael Frazier, it is billed as a Christmas musical for the church that enjoys exuberant praise. It includes such well-known carols as "Oh Come, All Ye Faithful", "What Child Is This?" and "Go, Tell It On The Mountain" sung to a rich spiritual-style beat. The cover of the musical score reads "...and like the angels who appeared in the night sky, your audience will leave feeling commissioned to proclaim, 'The Saviour has come!'"

General admission tickets for both concerts will be available at Bradley's Your Independent Grocer, or at the door. For information, please call Joan Palmer at 836-4126.

Old age occurs the moment you realize there isn't something wonderful about to happen just around the corner. In some people this occurs very early; in others, not at all.



# Who will Pass it on?

There once was a man named George Thomas, a pastor in a small New England town. One Easter Sunday morning he came to the Church carrying a rusty, bent, old bird cage, and set it by the pulpit. Several eyebrows were raised and, as if in response, Pastor Thomas began to speak. "I was walking through town yesterday when I saw a young boy coming toward me swinging this bird cage.

On the bottom of the cage were three little wild birds, shivering with cold and fright. I stopped the lad and asked, "What you got there son?" "Just some old birds," came the reply. "What are you gonna do with them?" I asked. "Take 'em home and have fun with 'em," he answered. I'm gonna tease 'em and pull out their feathers to make 'em fight. I'm gonna have a real good time." "But you'll get tired of those birds sooner or later. What will you do then?" "Oh, I got some cats," said the little boy. "They like birds. I'll take 'em to them."

The pastor was silent for a moment. "How much do you want for those birds, son?" "Huh????!! Why, you don't want them birds, mister. They're just plain old field birds. They don't sing - they ain't even pretty!" "How much?" the pastor asked again. The boy sized up the pastor as if he were crazy and said, "\$10?" The pastor reached in his pocket and took out a ten dollar bill. He placed it in the boy's hand. In a flash, the boy was gone.

The pastor picked up the cage and

gently carried it to the end of the alley where there was a tree and a grassy spot. Setting the cage down, he opened the door, and by softly tapping the bars persuaded the birds out, setting them free. Well, that explained the empty bird cage on the pulpit, and then the pastor began to tell this story.

One day Satan and Jesus were having a conversation. Satan was gloating and boasting. "Yes, sir, I just caught the world full of people down there. Set me a trap, used bait I knew they couldn't resist. Got 'em all!" "What are you going to do with them?" Jesus asked. Satan replied, "Oh, I'm gonna have fun! I'm gonna teach them how to marry and divorce each other, how to hate and abuse each other, how to drink and smoke and curse. I'm gonna teach them how to invent guns and bombs and kill each other. I'm really gonna have fun!" "And what will you do when you get done with them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, I'll kill 'em," Satan glared proudly.

"How much do you want for them?" Jesus asked. "Oh, you don't want those people. They ain't no good. Why, you'll take them and they'll just hate you. They'll spit on you, curse you and kill you!! You don't want those people!!" "How much?" He asked again. Satan looked at Jesus and sneered, "All your tears, and all your blood." Jesus said, "DONE!" Then he paid the price.

The pastor picked up the cage, he opened the door and he walked from



the pulpit. Isn't it funny how simple it is for people to trash God and then wonder why the world's going to hell. Isn't it funny how we believe what the newspapers say, but question what the Bible says. Isn't it funny how everyone wants to go to heaven provided they do not have to believe, think, say, or do anything the Bible says.

Or is it scary? Isn't it funny how someone can't say "I believe in God" but still follow Satan (who, by the way, also "believes" in God). Isn't it funny how you can send a thousand jokes through e-mail and they spread like wildfire, but when you start sending messages regarding the Lord, people think twice about sharing. Isn't it funny how the lewd, crude, vulgar and obscene pass freely through cyberspace, but the public discussion of Jesus is suppressed in the school and workplace. Isn't it funny how someone can be so fired up for Christ on Sunday, but be an invisible Christian the rest of the week. Are you laughing? Isn't it funny how when you go to forward this message, you will not send it to many on your address list because you're not sure what they believe, or what they will think of you for sending it to them. Isn't it funny how I can be more worried about what other people think of me than what God thinks of me. Who will pass this on?

submitted by Bob Stone



## Baptisms

Jessica Ray Bell  
Melissa Margaret Bretzloff  
Sarah Jean Coogan  
Samuel Thomas Coogan  
Zachary Rhéal Girouard  
November 12, 2000

## Burials

Gladys Muriel Young  
Died September 12, 2000  
Buried September 16, 2000



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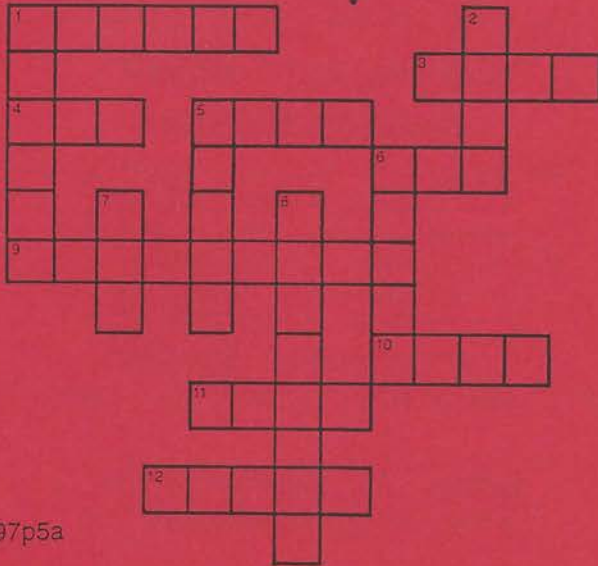
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# kids' page

## Crossword puzzle



Read Luke 2:8-20. The answers to this crossword puzzle are in this story.

### Across

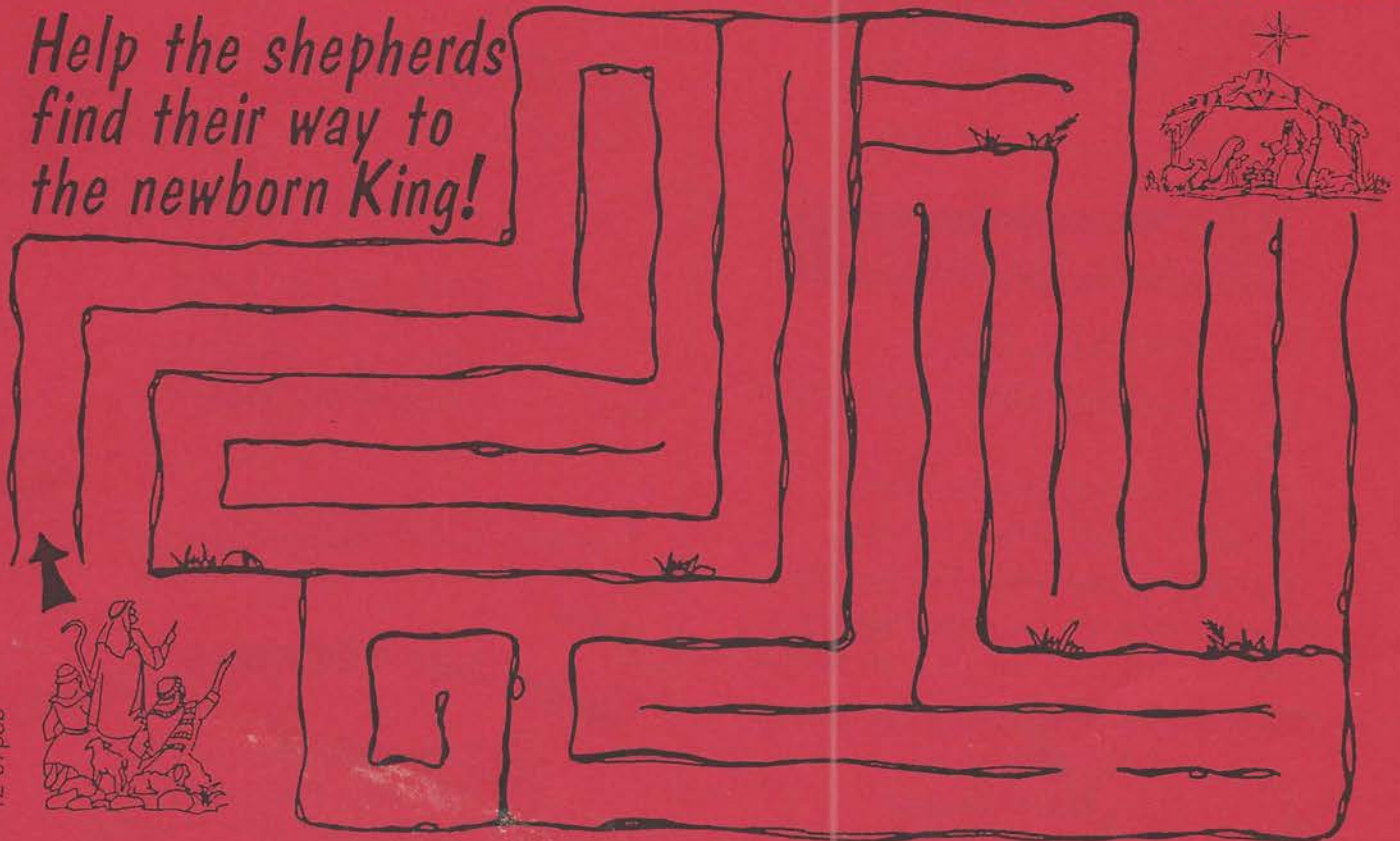
1. Fearful
3. Mother of Jesus
4. "Glory to \_\_\_\_\_ in the highest"
5. "I am bringing you good \_\_\_\_\_"
6. Happiness
9. Those who care for sheep
10. An omen
11. "A multitude of the heavenly \_\_\_\_\_"
12. "And the glory of the Lord \_\_\_\_\_"

### Down

1. God's messengers
2. Infant
5. Opposite of day
6. \_\_\_\_\_ was the newborn savior
7. To look, rhymes with "bee"
8. "Glorifying and \_\_\_\_\_ God"

12-97p5a

Help the shepherds  
find their way to  
the newborn King!



12-97p5b