



News 'n' Views of St. Timothy's



"The Church with a friendly welcome"

THIS IS A LEADING WITH CARE CHURCH

St Timothy's Presbyterian Church
97 Burcher Road, Ajax ON L1S 2R3
Minister: The Rev. Dennis Cook
www.sttimothysajax.com

WELCOME to the Fall/Winter 2014 issue of the St. Timothy's Presbyterian Church Newsletter!

News 'n' Views is published twice a year: Spring and Fall/Winter.

This is *your* newsletter. Please send any suggestions and/or contributions to: Stephanie Randolph at steph_maccormack@yahoo.ca

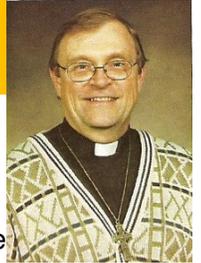
Your News 'n' Views Committee:
Carol Ann Hall, John Hall, Ruth Nelson,
Stephanie Randolph, Anne Stevens,
June Stevenson, Norm Terry



ST TIMOTHY'S MISSION STATEMENT

We of St Timothy's as part of God's Family, gather together in the love of Christ to worship God and to celebrate, with joy, and thanksgiving, our faith in a caring, responsive and loving way. As individuals, we are willing to reach out with our gifts, talents and time to those around us as we share God's love through our actions and our words.

FROM THE MINISTER



Advent, 2014

In a "Peanuts" cartoon strip, good old Charlie Brown says to Linus, "Life is just too much for me. I've been confused from the day I was born. I think the whole trouble is that we're thrown into life too fast. We're not really prepared."

And Linus asks, "What did you want . . . a chance to warm up first?"

I think we have all feel like Charlie Brown sometimes. Life just seems to be going by so fast. We don't have a chance to sit back and reflect. We don't have a chance to warm up for "the show".

The speed of life is never faster than when we approach Christmas. Everything speeds up in the weeks before December 25th. Indeed, our consumer society is trying very hard to get the ball rolling earlier and earlier each year. It's barely past the Canadian Thanksgiving and I've already seen Christmas trees in the mall!

That is why Advent is so special and so important. Advent offers us the opportunity to slow things down---to take a few measured breaths---to warm up for Christmas with some reflective time that we carve out for ourselves. The carving out takes a great deal of effort but it is so very, very important to do.

This Advent I invite us all to prepare for Christmas with thoughts of others. Not just family and friends but those in need. Christmas, in truth, isn't just to be a family time. It's to be a time when we remember the gift and sacrifice of Christ who came/comes to us all because we were/are in such need.

By way of a "reflection tool" I'd like you to read and re-read this poem by the Rev. Thom Shuman. I use Thom's prayers regularly in worship because he has an amazing gift with words and images as he fills them with powerful thoughts and meaning.

I invite you to use the poem on the next page as you warm up for Christmas:

Yours in Christ,

Dennis



advent

when we see you
not only in the twinkle
of a woman's eye
as she lets her grandchildren
lick the icing bowl,
but especially in
a homeless mother
looking at hope's
empty shelves;

when we hear you
not only in the carols
of the children
at evensong,
but especially
in the silent sobs
of the father who
has lost his job;

when we feel you
not just in the embrace
of loved ones
at the airport,
but especially
in the palsied,
paper-thin-skinned hands
of the lonely widow;

when we know you
not just in the assertive platitudes
of those who have never held a
doubt,
but especially
in the shattered heart
of the teenager
whose faith has slipped
through fingers:

then we will know
you have come
just as you
promised.

- Rev. Thom Shuman

Thanksgiving PACK

The recent PACK (Practical Acts of Christian Kindness) was born out of a comment by Pam Koster who has been delivering meals frequently to a youth hostel in Ajax, Joanne's House. PACK took up the challenge and provided a full turkey dinner with all the trimmings for the young people who came for supper on Thanksgiving Sunday. Thanks to God for the many blessings we receive that we can share them with others.

- L. June Stevenson

Advent: easy, fun, and spiritual ways to celebrate

Advent is an exciting but busy season. It would be nice to be able to slow down and devote more time to prayer and traditions. However, most of us are busy people – we have work, school, or children with their own busy schedules. It's hard to find the time to enjoy and celebrate the coming of Jesus. Here are just a few fun and simple ways you can reconnect with your family and faith this holiday season:

1. Make your own Advent calendar or wreath
2. Create a paper chain – one link for each day of the Advent season
3. Make a place for prayer
4. Visit a farm to connect with the reality of the incarnation
5. Have a Family Movie Night - gather your family and watch films that help you enter into the season of Advent
6. Plant a seed and watch it grow throughout the season of Advent
7. Celebrate your parents and parental figures
8. Bake holiday bambino bread

Legend of the Christmas Spider

Long ago, a mother was very busy cleaning for Christmas. The spiders fled to the attic. When the house became quiet the spiders slowly crept downstairs for a peek. Oh what a beautiful tree!



In their excitement they scurried up the trunk and along each branch. By the time they were through climbing, the tree was completely shrouded in their web. When Santa came with the gifts and saw the tree covered with webs, he smiled as he saw how happy the spiders were, so he turned the webs to silver and gold. The tree sparkled and shimmered.

And that's why we have tinsel on our tree! Every tree should have a Christmas spider in its branches!

**Waiting is a period of learning.
The longer we wait, the more we hear about him
for whom we are waiting.**

-Henri Nouwen

The Good in Good-Byes

In the past several months, we have gathered at St. Timothy's to honour the lives of two family members who have recently passed away: Wilson Cairns in July, and Mary Sturgeon in September.

In the past two months, Mark Stephens, Cherished Choirmaster, and Dennis Cook, Dear Reverend Reverend, gave notice that they would be leaving St. Timothy's in a year.

Shock, fear, sadness are first responses. And then... quietly, surely, the underlying Principle of Life is felt. Endings lead to new life. For the leavers and the left. Wilson and Mary are experiencing new vistas. Mark and Dennis are letting go of the familiar (in spite of our dearness!) to embrace new adventures. By giving us notice they are inviting us to join them on a transition lap for all of us; to stride together towards our new futures.

There arises a new sweetness in family gatherings, worship services and choir practices. We are present for and with each other in new ways. We look upon each other with fresh appreciation and delight.

The best news is we don't go it alone. In the days, weeks, months, years after the good-bye, we find the company of the one we thought we said good-bye to, stays with us and grows with us! We find the everlasting arms really are everlasting.

With wonder, gratitude and hope,

- Ruth Nelson



David Wilson Cairns

David Wilson Cairns, husband of Jean Cairns, died on July 2, 2014 following a lengthy battle with cancer. The strength he showed to the end was typical of this man who served as a pilot in the RAF in World War 2, flying Spitfires and Hurricanes. Don Stephens had arranged to tape a flypast in honour of Wilson which was played during the service held on Saturday, July 26. Wilson's second son David spoke movingly of what his father's life had taught him. His first grandson Andrew Cairns, on behalf of the eight grandchildren, shared what his grandfather meant to them. Grandson Alex Rudan read a poem. Daughter Melissa supported son Tom at the podium who remembered happy moments with his dad.



Mary Logan Parrott Sturgeon

Mary Logan Parrott Sturgeon died on Labour Day September 6, 2014. She was the loving wife of Robert (Bert) Sturgeon for 51 years. Mary and Bert had one child Catherine Delimos. Mary loved working with her hands, whether it was arranging flowers at Reed Florists, Ajax, where she worked full time or doing many kinds of needlework. She was well known for the articles she made and mostly gave away. Mary and Bert came to Ajax in 1969 where Bert worked Ontario Hydro in electronics and instrumentation, eventually teaching these skills to others. In his talk at the service at St. Timothy's, Bert referred to his wife as "a pearl of great value." He closed his remarks with a poem by Benjamin Franklin: "In pleasure's dream/ Or sorrow's hour/ In crowded hall/ Or lonely bower/ The business of my soul shall be/ Forever to remember thee." He chose the accompanying photo of Mary taken in better times.

Summer Weddings at St. Timothy's



Lisa Rector and Ryley Dutton
July 19, 2014



Frances Stecyk and Alexander Townend
August 16, 2014

Reflections on Christmastime 2013...

The power went out around 4 a.m. on Saturday December 21 and stayed off for 28 hours. We were more fortunate than some families who had no power for a couple of weeks. We were somewhat prepared, not really needing anything. All day Saturday I sat at home busying myself with last minute Christmas preparations such as finishing family cards, wrapping and working on a scrapbook for my granddaughter. The icy rain fell steadily, silently, coating the lawns, streets and trees with icy casings.

The next morning when we awoke still without power and heat, it took a while to get our heads around the fact that we were almost helpless as far as everyday events. First there was no coffee, and of course, no hot breakfast. No matter what I turned to do it needed electricity. The sump pump wasn't working and water started to spread across the basement. Priority One.

The phone was on but all the added applications had lost their flashing lights and ordinary signals. What struck me most was the stillness. Occasionally in the distance a siren blared; and a tree branch cracked as it fell. I was alone with my thoughts. Quiet is good sometimes, but after a while I wondered where the rest of the world was. Perhaps they had all *left the building* and not confided in me.

When dusk began to fall – it had after all, been grey all day – there was no sunset – we placed lit candles in strategic places. My husband, who has the uncanny ability to solve most problems, brought in a kerosene heater, from some previous life. We sat in the kitchen and watched as it began to glow and warm the room.

Some people had left their homes and gone to family. We have four budgie birds and one middle-aged cat with the thickest fur coat in the neighbourhood. So we sat in the cozy glow of candles as the ice chandeliers outside gradually darkened and the kitchen brightened.

Terry put a pot of water on the kerosene heater and I watched as the bubbles rose and danced ever so slowly. Then he emptied a can of brown beans into another pot and before long we were eating warm beans with buttered bread followed by a drink of hot ginger tea. Ah, luxury.

I brought my Kobo e-reader to the table. Somehow I didn't feel like reading. I sat, warming in the glow, and then the penny dropped. *STOP*, I thought. You don't need to be *DO*-ing, just *BE!* *BE?* Suddenly my body collapsed as if someone had pulled the plug and deflated me like a beach ball. Ahhh... permission to *be*. Okay, God, I thought, if you are trying to tell me something, I just got the message. *Be*. I don't always have to be rushing around, doing things. Sometimes I can just let go and *be*. In the stillness, who knows what I might hear or what I might discern. And if there is nothing, then I have learned a valuable lesson. Something to think about as a new year approaches.

Be still and know that I am God.

- L. June Stevenson

THIS SEASON AT ST. TIMOTHY'S!

NOVEMBER 22 - St. Timothy's Annual Christmas Bazaar, Bake Sale & Mini Silent Auction

Holiday treats, crafts and silent auction items were up for grabs – it was the perfect opportunity to cross some people off of your holiday shopping list. This year's bazaar raised **\$2,790**.

NOVEMBER 30 – Communion and First Sunday in Advent

DECEMBER 7 - St. Timothy's Christmas Pageant

DECEMBER 7 – St. Timothy's Family Christmas Dinner – tickets now on sale!

DECEMBER 24 – Christmas Eve Family Service

