



St. Paul's Anglican Church

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Christmas Newsletter 2022

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Dear Friends in Christ,

Have you noticed that secular Christmas has taken our focus away from the manger?

We are losing track of the greatest gift: God giving us God's son, to live as one of us.

Jesus is more than a baby in a manger. The man Jesus becomes teaches us to love and care for ourselves; and to love and care for other people.

Though for some of us, this time of year, *or this time, this year*, is not a time of hopefulness or quiet rejoicing. We may be challenged by changes in our health or our circumstances.

We may miss those in our lives who are no longer a kiss or a hug or a phone call away.

It's as if no one is supposed to be sad at Christmastime. For some of us, the expectations to celebrate interfere with our ability to connect with the memories of our loved ones.

No matter where you are at this Christmas, I invite you to spend some time in stillness. Perhaps light a candle.

I encourage you to recognize how you are feeling, without the pressure of having to do or be in a way that isn't comfortable for you. Let yourself be enveloped by Christ's eternal hope, enduring peace, quiet joy and endless love.

And – May the hope of this sacred season settle in your soul.

May the awe and wonder that fills the eyes of children
be awakened in you.

May you give and receive generously.

May the bonds of love for one another be strengthened
as you gather with family and friends.

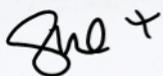
May you care well for your body, mind and spirit.

May you keep your eye on the Star within you
and trust this Luminescent Presence to guide and direct you.

May you go often to the Bethlehem of your heart
and visit the One who offers you peace.

May you bring this peace into our world.

Yours in Christ,



The Reverend Sue Nicolls
Interim Pastor, St Paul's Dunnville



You've got just DAYS to let go of everything that needs to stay in 2022

People, pain, disappointments, defeats, hurts, grudges, failures, mistakes & missed opportunities.

Let it all go.

2023 is going to be a year of fresh starts, new beginnings, new chapters, new chances & brand new opportunities.



Hello everyone,

Last year at this time we thought Covid was behind us. We were back to worshipping in house, the church was decorated and we were looking forward to celebrating Christmas. Then lockdown again! Eventually restrictions were lifted.

Finally got the microphones and sound system working again. It has been challenging for all. We have lost some of our dear friends and we have welcomed a few new and returning people. The spirit of the parishioners of St. Paul's has carried us forward. Our interim priest Reverend Sue Nicolls has provided us with leadership and encouragement to which we are very grateful. Sue's contract has been extended to the end of February and then we will be receiving a new priest appointed by the Diocese. We wish Sue all the best as she returns to her retirement.

Various degrees of restrictions, precautions, personal health and vitality have gravely limited our ability to put on activities and fundraisers. However, we continue to support our foster children Aramatu and Saadatou through muffin sales, at yes....coffee hour which we have started again. Our local ministries, service organizations, Diocesan missions, world wide missions and PWRDF are all recipients of your prayers and donations. We have been able to keep up with our financial obligations thanks to your generous donations, strategic withdrawals from our investments and several bequests. The upcoming year is no less challenging.

The parish is participating in a Mission Action Plan. There were four sessions attended by at least a dozen people. There was active discussion to which we found out a lot about ourselves and what we wanted from the church and what we wanted to give. We came together.! We will be embarking on two initiatives: one as part of Adult Faith Formation and another as part of Reshaping Parish Culture. We are all anxious about the future but together we will move forward.

The wardens wish you and your families a blessed and Merry Christmas

Roy Graves – Rector's Warden
Cathy Powers – Peoples Warden
Larry Drebert – Deputy Warden



Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday—February 19, 2023

**Parish Council members want what is best for the church.
Are you that person?
Please consider joining.**

Merry Christmas



And a Safe
&
Happy New Year!

Christmas Eve—December 24th
Eucharist at 7:00pm

Christmas Day—December 25th
Eucharist at 10:00am

New Years Day—January 1st
Eucharist at 10:00am

OUTREACH & MISSIONS

Along with support to our Foster Children, St. Paul's has been very generous over the last year towards the Youth Impact Centre in Dunnville.

This past summer the congregation outdid themselves in donations for the breakfast brunch program donating boxes of cereal and pancake mix, syrup, and drink boxes. The bags and cartons of donated goods filled an entire back pew! Later in August, when YIC held its campaign for school supplies to fill backpacks for students, St. Paul's again generously contributed. Over 150 local students received backpacks.

The Youth Impact Centre fulfils a pressing need in this community providing not just practical items and meals for local youth and their families, but care for their spiritual needs as well. They are also becoming more active in tutoring children of all grades after school and will be expanding that service to their upstairs offices next year. Thank you to all for backing this important local mission.

Cathy Powers — People's Warden



Aramatu
Children Believe



Saadatou
World Vision



“THERE’S NOTHING STRONGER THAN THE heart OF A volunteer”
- JAMES DOOLITTLE

