

The Lamplighter

Weston Presbyterian Church
www.westonpresbyterian.ca

ADVENT 2016



From the Minister's Desk...

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"Tis the season to be jolly," certainly; it is also the season to be holy, to be centred on God and dedicated to doing God's will in the world, to speak words of love, to do deeds of love, to witness to the Christ of love.

Being both jolly—joyfully festive--and holy is best! How can a person be holy—spiritually pure, right with God--if sunk in despair or jolly if doubtful of God's grace? Holiness and joyfulness are alike gifts of God, given through the Spirit to all who know themselves to be children of God through the ministry in the world of Jesus Christ. When we know new life in Christ, our separation from God overcome by means of the cross, we are filled with joy and clothed with the righteousness that befits those who adore Christ.

Joyfulness and holiness are both marks of our new creation in Christ. We may rejoice at all times because sin and death have been rendered null in the resurrection of Jesus. We may pursue holiness since already in Christ we are made pure before God, declared not-guilty and embraced as beloved sons and daughters of the Most High. As proclaimed

by Zechariah, John the Baptist's father, God has remembered his promise to Abraham, "*that we, being rescued from the hands of our enemies, might serve him without fear, in holiness and righteousness before him all our days*" (Luke 1:74-75). God is with us in Jesus, abiding with us until the kingdom of God's Son shines forth in our midst, vanquishing the darkness of sin, the emptiness of death.

We can sing before God; we can see God's glory in the face of the One born in Bethlehem, the One who teaches us to love God and one another, the One who surrendered his life for our sake, that we might be forgiven, the One who rose from the grave that we, too, might rise into life eternal, forever in communion through Christ and the Spirit with God and one another. God is for us! Be joyful and sing! Be holy and blameless before God! Receive the grace of Jesus Christ, the love of God the Father, and the friendship of the Holy Spirit!

This is not to suggest that everything in our lives is goodness and light since we will still have trouble, still know pain and grief, still suffer illness and experience conflict.

Nevertheless, we know the joy of being loved by God and this joy is forever ours, not subject to the vagaries of each day if we remain in close relationship with God. We know the holiness which God gives us in Christ even while we struggle to leave behind the ways of the all-too-familiar world, the all-too-human ways of self-promotion. In Christ we are even now holy in God's eyes although from our perspective we have a long way to go.

God the Father has done in Christ all that is necessary for our salvation. This is the meaning of Jesus' cry on the cross, "*It is finished!*" (John 19:30) His death concluded his sin-bearing ministry; with his resurrection the kingdom was revealed. This is why he was born. "*Glory to God in the highest heaven, and on earth peace among those whom he favours*" (Luke 2:14).

As those "whom he favours" centuries later, we may rejoice even in the midst of sadness (if such is our state). And we may be holy for God has transferred us from darkness into the kingdom of light and there nothing impure can enter. We may sing "*Tis the season*" without missing a beat! **Amen.**

Lance

Upcoming Services and Advent Events

Christmas Memorial Water Project

**November 27th,
December 4th and 11th**

Jean Beckley will be collecting donations for our Christmas Memorial project: provision of fresh water to a community through PWS&D.

Nativity Display & Christmas tree Decoration



Do you have a nativity set which you would be willing to display in the Sanctuary during the Advent and Christmas season? If so, please bring it on **November 27th** for set-up. We will also be decorating our Christmas tree in Lower Creelman Hall after the service.

Mitten Tree

Scarves, mittens, and other items will be collected from **November 27th to December 11th** and then distributed through W.A.E.S.

Annual Bazaar

December 3

Please invite family and friends and attend our annual Bazaar in lower Creelman Hall at 12:00.

The Owaissa Café will delight you with their assortment of sandwiches and desserts after you have made your shopping rounds.

Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday, **December 4th**

White Gift Sunday

Bring a food item(s) wrapped in white for W.A.E.S. on **December 13th**.



Pot-luck Luncheon

Following the service on **December 18th**, a luncheon will be held in Lower Creelman Hall.
Please bring and share your favourite dish.

Christmas Day Service

A communion service will be held on **December 25th** in the Sanctuary.
The offering given that day will go to Evangel Hall.



Lynn's Corner

We will soon be distributing the 2017 Offertory envelopes. If you would like to change your frequency of giving (monthly/weekly), do not have envelopes and wish to receive them, or if you wish to join the PAR plan (Pre-Authorized Remittance), kindly drop a note at the Church office, call or email me at: lynn@westonpresbyterian.ca.

The date in 2017 of the 169th Annual Meeting will be **Sunday, February 19th**. Secretaries and treasurers of the various organizations, please have your financial statements and activity reports into the church secretary by **January 19th**. Copies of the financial statements, cheque books and bank books updated to December 31, 2016 are to be ready for the reviewers at the same time.

I thank everyone in advance for meeting the **January 19th** deadline.

Lynn

CHRISTMAS MEMORIAL PROJECT

Our 2016 **Christmas Memorial Project** will be providing Clean water and Sanitation through *Presbyterian World Service & Development*. Anna Muir, a Communications Assistant with *PWS&D*, notes: "In Canada where clean water is easily accessible in abundance it can be difficult to imagine that over 780 million people around the world are without it. Together, we are helping communities across the globe to access a sustainable water supply and proper sanitation facilities. Your gifts to *PWS&D* are helping provide clear drinking water and training in hygiene packages to prevent the spread of water-borne illness and build a healthy future for all."



Donations will be accepted November 27, December 4 and December 11.

If you are interested in donating in memory of someone – please speak to Jean Beckley. With your donation include:

- Your name
- Person(s) to be remembered
- Your collection envelope number

Cheques should be made out to Weston Presbyterian Church and at the bottom of the cheque please note: *Waterfund*.

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"For truly I tell you, whoever gives you a cup of water to drink because you bear the name of Christ will by no means lose the reward."

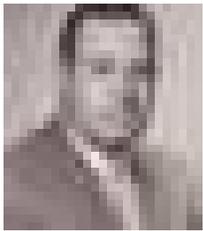
Mark 9:41

IN MEMORIAM

Reuel John (R.J.) Hall – March 25, 1919 – August 14, 2016

R.J. died this summer at the Sunnybrook Veterans Centre. He was married for sixty-six years to Mary (nee Caldwell) who predeceased him five years ago. He was the loving father of Susan (James Campbell) and John (Deborah). Cherished grandfather of Mary Victoria (Ian Cox-Leigh), Andrew and William. John was born in Wolsley, Saskatchewan on March 25, 1919. He was a Colourist for a printer in Quebec before World War II. At the outset of the war, he joined the RCAF, rising to the rank of Flight Lieutenant and teaching bombardiers in both Canada and England. After the war, he attended the University of New Brunswick, obtaining a degree in Forestry Engineering and working for the Department of Lands and Forest of Ontario. After retiring in 1985, he ran his own consulting business in the forestry industry, serving a variety of clients. In his leisure time, he enjoyed curling and was a Mason. In his later years, he became an active watercolour artist and loved taking art classes next to his wife Mary, a talented oil painter. He also took delight in the family's cottage near Parry Sound and spent a great deal of time there.

Sydney Andrew Wilson – January 26, 1927 – October 5, 2016



Predeceased by daughter Kathryn Bennett and beloved husband of the late Anne (Gilmour) Wilson, Syd will be sadly missed by son Craig, son James and daughter-in-law Amy Wilson and son-in-law Steven Bennett. Devoted "Poppa Syd" to Adrian, Sean, Patrick and Daniel Bennett and to Madeleine and Dashiell Wilson and Great-Grandpa to Lamoura Bennett. Former President of Delta Consulting Services Inc. in Toronto. Retired Vice-President and Director of Hubbell Canada Inc. Former Vice-

President of Hubbell Inc. in Bridgeport, CT USA. Past Chairman and member of numerous electrical standards committees with the Canadian Standards Association in Washington, DC. Represented the Standards Council of Canada at annual worldwide meetings of the International Electrotechnical Commission for harmonization of world electrical standards. In 1996, was recipient of the C.S.A. "Award of Merit" for development of electrical standards and leadership of the international harmonization of those standards. Longtime golf and curling member and past Director of the Weston Golf and Country Club. A dedicated member of Rotary for over 53 years. Past President of the Weston Rotary Club and the Toronto Humber Rotary Club and four times designated "A Paul Harris Fellow" of Rotary International. A member of Weston Presbyterian Church and Masonic Lodge No. 634 A.F. & A.M. A Veteran of the Royal Canadian Army Service Corp in WWII.

Jack Gibson – April 19, 1921 – November 8, 2016

A member of Weston Presbyterian Church since November 11th, 1957, the beloved husband of Marie, who predeceased him seven years ago, and the father of Graham and Keith, Jack was a member of the British army and served in the Middle East during the early days of the Palestinian Mandate. He recently moved to Niagara Falls and died in hospital there after a two-week stay for circulatory problems.

LIVING TOGETHER AS CHURCH



The driver's seat

I heard an old man speak once, someone who had been sober for fifty years, a very prominent doctor. He said that he'd finally figured out a few years ago that his profound sense of control, in the world and over his life, is another addiction and a total illusion. He said that when he sees little kids sitting in the back seat of cars, in those car seats that have steering wheels, with grim expressions of concentration on their faces, clearly convinced that their efforts are causing the car to do whatever it is doing, he thinks of himself and his relationship with God: God who drives along silently, gently amused, in the real driver's seat.

Anne Lamott,
Operating Instructions



The living church

Humankind is tormented and divided. Part of this torment is loneliness, which can be overcome only by experiencing the living church. This church cannot be identified with a specific group or organization, but it does exist; it lives and comes down to humble, seeking people. The fact that the church exists is the most important reality on earth. When God speaks in the innermost chamber of our hearts, our sinful separation and loneliness are overcome.

J. Heinrich Arnold,
Discipleship

The Church, Spotless and Tainted

The Church is holy and sinful, spotless and tainted. The Church is the bride of Christ, who washed her in cleansing water and took her to himself "with no speck or wrinkle or anything like that, but holy and faultless" (Ephesians 5:26-27). The Church too is a group of sinful, confused, anguished people constantly tempted by the powers of lust and greed and always entangled in rivalry and competition.

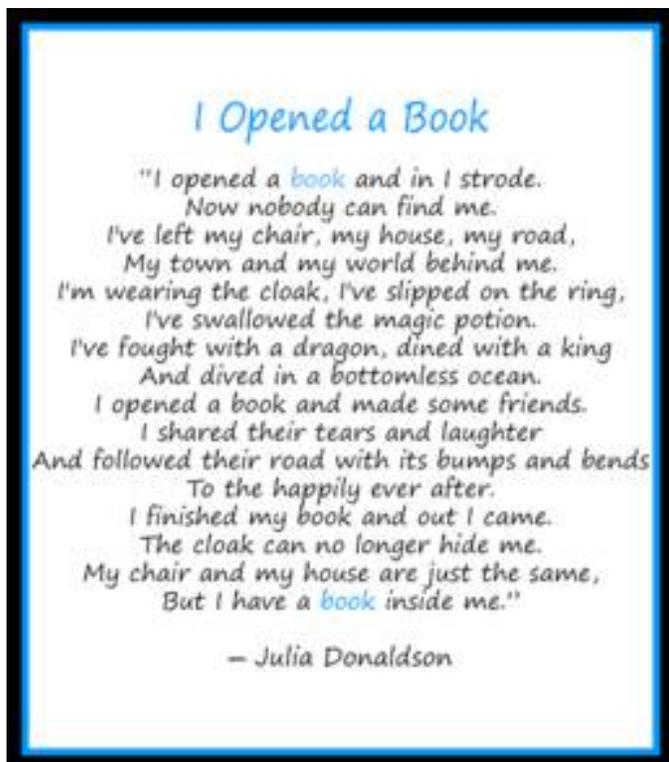
When we say that the Church is a body, we refer not only to the holy and faultless body made Christ-like through baptism and Eucharist but also to the broken bodies of all the people who are its members. Only when we keep both these ways of thinking and speaking together can we live in the Church as true followers of Jesus.

Henri Nouwen

Made for joy

We are made for joy. But this joy can never be fully experienced here on earth. God's joy is ultimately realized in eternity. To be a Christian is to understand that the cross, and the suffering of the cross, has meaning, and that suffering is part of our state on this earth. Don't expect paradise on earth. Don't. But there is meaning, and this meaning is the love of God and gratitude for life on this earth. Whatever your state, whatever your situation, whatever your purpose, always remember that you are made for joy.

Alice von Hildebrand



In the world, in awe

Try walking around with a child who's going, "Wow, wow! Look at that dirty dog! Look at that burned-down house! Look at that red sky!" And the child points and you look, and you see, and you start going, "Wow! Look at that huge crazy hedge! Look at that teeny little baby! Look at the scary dark cloud!" I think this is how we are supposed to be in the world – present and in awe."

Anne Lamott, *Bird by Bird*



October visit to Belleville
L. to R. Margaret Rome, Anne Davis,
Cathy Davidson, & Jean Beckley

We are as others are

Let us go forward quietly, forever making for the light, and lifting up our hearts in the knowledge that we are as others are (and that others are as we are), and that it is right to love one another in the best possible way – believing all things, hoping for all things, and enduring all things....And let us not be too troubled by our weaknesses, for even he who has none, has one weakness, namely that he thinks he has none, and anyone who believes himself to be so perfect or wise would do well to become foolish all over again.

Vincent van Gogh,
The Letters of Vincent van Gogh

95th Birthday!



After the Remembrance Sunday service, we celebrated Jim Boulton's 95th birthday. His birthday is October 29th. He had some help blowing out the candles from young Ethan John. Jim remarked that he hopes to observe his 100th birthday with us. We hope so, too!



90th Birthday!

Verna Feeseey celebrated her 90th with an open house. Family and friends gathered to show their love and appreciation and to wish her all the best in the years to come!



Verna with a picture of her younger self.



With her daughter Linda.



A “thank you” from W.A.E.S.

Diana Stapleton, the Chair and Correspondence Secretary of the W.A.E.S. Steering Committee, sent us a letter at the end of October thanking us for our “wonderful food donation” and our ongoing financial support.

...Your food drive helped us to fill our shelves with healthy food to share with those in our community that need our support.

This year (to September) we have had over 7,100 client visits to W.A.E.S. Each person has a story, and most just want to be able to feed their families and pay their rent. Over 50% of the people that come to us have a disability, and nearly 60% are families with children. These children attend school each day, with 30% going hungry at least once per week.

Across the country, more and more people turn to food banks to help them get through the month with enough to eat. Please uphold these organizations and their volunteers in prayer.

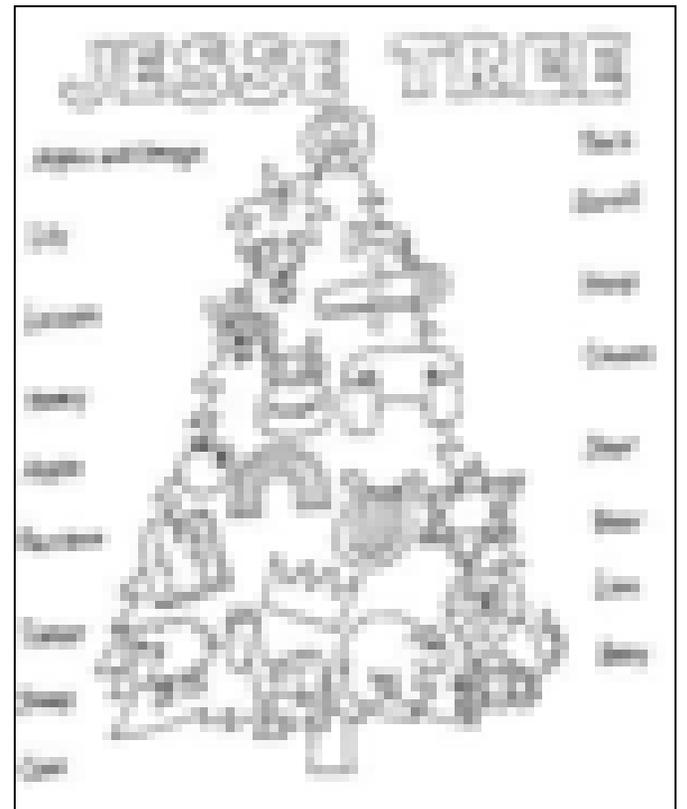
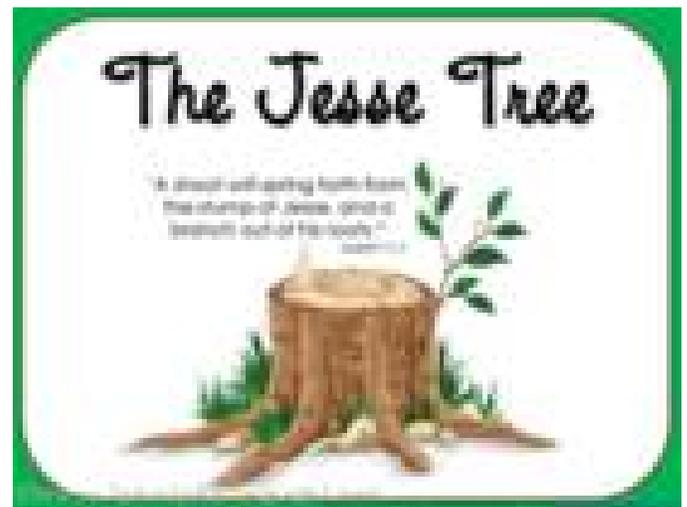


“...if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday” (Isaiah 58:10).

Welcome!

Welcoming is not just something that happens as people cross the threshold. It is an attitude; it is the constant openness of the heart; it is saying to people every morning and at every moment, “come in”; it is giving them space; it is listening to them attentively. To welcome means listening a great deal to people and then discerning the truth with them.

Jean Vanier, *Called to Community*



Escaping the status quo

The needs of the world are too great, the suffering and pain too extensive, the lures of the world too seductive for us to begin to change the world unless we are changed, unless conversion of life and morals becomes our pattern. The status quo is too alluring. It is the air we breathe, the food we eat, the six-thirty news, our institutions, theologies, and politics. The only way we shall break its hold on us is to be transferred to another dominion, to be cut loose from our old certainties, to be thrust under the flood and then pulled forth fresh and newborn. Baptism takes us there.

William Willimon,
Bread and Wine



In the midst of the wrestling

God will help us, even if it's in an unexpected and shocking way, by swooping down on us to wrestle with us. And in the midst of the wrestling we, too, will be able to cry out, "Bless me!" I am certain that God will bless me, but I don't need to know how. When we think we know exactly how the one who made us is going to take care of us, we're apt to ignore the angel messengers sent us along the way.

Madeleine L'Engle,
A Stone for a Pillow

Crash helmets instead of bonnets

On the whole, I do not find Christians, outside of the catacombs, sufficiently sensible of conditions. Does anyone have the foggiest idea what sort of power we so blithely invoke? Or, as I suspect, does no one believe a word of it? The churches are children playing on the floor with their chemistry sets, mixing up a batch of TNT to kill a Sunday morning. It is madness to wear straw hats and velvet to church; we should all be wearing crash helmets. Ushers should issue life preservers and signal flares; they should lash us to our pews. For the sleeping God may wake someday and take offense, or the waking God may draw us out to where we can never return.

Annie Dillard,
Teaching a Stone to Talk



An Advent prayer

"I am the Alpha and the Omega," says the Lord God, "who is, and who was, and who is to come, the Almighty."

Revelation 1:8, NIV

Lord our God, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, who was and is and is to come, the Almighty, we thank you for this wonderful message, which is meant for us too, even though our lives often seem empty and sad. But behold, you make all things new for each one of us. Even though we have long tormented ourselves, the light of life will dawn at last and we will be able to rejoice. Continue to protect us and our community. Wake us to new life, for you have called us to believe and to endure to the end. Whatever sorrows and hardships may come, we will remain faithful, O Lord our God. This is our promise to you. We will persevere and say joyfully, "Jesus Christ is coming to make all things new." **Amen.**



Remembrance Sunday



We were pleased once again to have Graham Creelman, with his son Ian and wife Lois, in attendance at our service. Graham is the son of the Rev. Currie Creelman who began his ministry at Weston in 1938. Rev. Creelman served as a chaplain during the Second World War, continuing his ministry here from 1946 to 1954. The Creelmans then moved to Ottawa. The family, with our Clerk, is pictured with the flowers which they placed to the glory of God and in remembrance of Graham's parents.

God means everything

Blessed are those who have realized their own utter helplessness, and who have put their whole trust in God. If people have realized their own utter helplessness, and have put their whole trust in God, there will enter into their lives two things....They will become completely detached from material things, for they will know that things do not have the power to bring happiness or security; and they will become completely attached to God, for they will know that God alone can bring them help, hope, and strength. Those who are poor in spirit are men and women who have realized that things mean nothing, and that God means everything.

William Barclay,
The Gospel of Matthew

The Importance of Striving

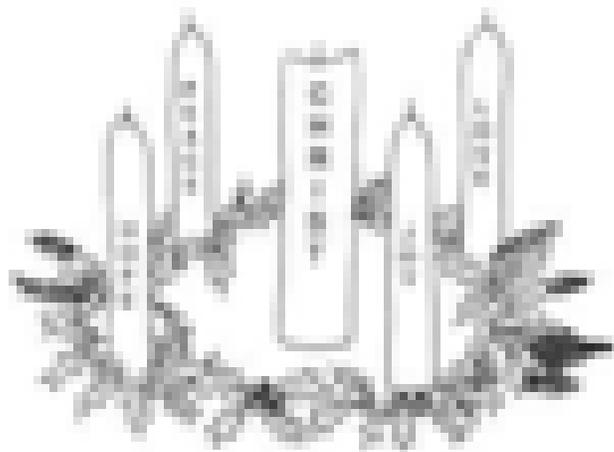
It is not the critic who counts, not the one who points out how the strong man tumbled, or where the doer of deeds could have done them better. The credit belongs to the one who is actually in the arena; whose face is marred by dust, sweat, and blood; who strives valiantly; who errs and comes short again and again; who knows the great enthusiasms, the great devotions and spends himself in a worthy cause; who at the best knows in the end the triumph of high achievement, and who at the worst, if he fails, at least fails while daring greatly, so that his place shall never be with those cold and timid souls who know neither victory nor defeat.

Theodore Roosevelt,
"Citizenship in a Republic," April 23, 1910

Live in expectation of the Lord!

Live intensively in the expectation of the Lord! He who does not wait for the Lord in every aspect of his life does not wait at all. I ask myself every evening, have I really loved enough, hoped enough, fought enough, worked enough? The expectation of the kingdom must lead to deeds.

Heinrich Arnold, *Discipleship*





The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Vision

*Who are we?
Disciples of Christ
Empowered by the Spirit
Glorifying God and
Rejoicing in Service!*

Mission

What do we do?
Relying on the power of the Holy Spirit,
we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions.
As a Reformed church,
we rely on the truth and inspiration of Scriptures for God's guidance into the future
– a future that we approach with wonder and anticipation, knowing God is with us.
As worshipping communities joyfully celebrating the sacraments, we are supported, strengthened and
equipped to share the love of God revealed in Jesus Christ.

The Presbyterian Church In Canada – Strategic Plan

Goals

As worshipping communities of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, relying on the power of the Holy Spirit, we proclaim the love and good news of Jesus Christ through our words and actions by working together as a national church to provide:

*Visionary leadership
Empowering resources that are relevant, contextual and missional
Relational connections that incarnate Christ's mission at the local and international level*

Objectives

With God's help, we will accomplish these goals by prayerfully continuing, creating and improving ways to equip congregations, specialized ministries, church courts and the church as a whole to:

- Engage in biblical and theological reflection and education that deepens understanding of and commitment to God, the church, and its place in Christ's ministry and mission
- Pursue spiritual renewal and faith formation as the basis for transformation within our congregations
- Engage in evangelism, outreach and discipleship
- Embrace a missional culture that nurtures initiative and risk taking at local, national and international levels

- Discern through grassroots consultation and research the challenges ministers and congregations face and connect them to tools to overcome them
- Articulate and live out the rich traditions of Reformed theology
- Discern, prepare and support leaders – lay, youth and young adults and clergy – for faithful and vibrant ministry
- Create, encourage and support new communities of faith
- Explore buildings as tools that set congregations and presbyteries free to pursue faithful ministry
- Live out the justice imperatives of the gospel and sow seeds of hope through our words and actions in the public sphere
- Engage in healing and reconciliation between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples
- Nurture ecumenical relationships and collaborate with ecumenical partners to achieve common goals
- Fulfil leadership mandates with the help of caring, competent and, when necessary, confidential support
- Celebrate, support and encourage cultural and linguistic diversity in the Presbyterian Church in Canada

Methods

We will utilize the following as tools to accomplish the above goals and objectives as we:

- Provide congregations with resource people and tools to encourage/enhance ministry
- Use technologies to facilitate achievement of goals and objectives
- Use coaching and mentoring networks that can share best practices to equip congregations and leaders in renewal
- Create, seek and make easily available print, video, electronic resources to equip congregations and individuals for ministry
- Encourage one innovative worshipping community in each presbytery to foster evangelism, hope and spiritual renewal
- Have denominational structures and programs that are accessible, mobile and responsive to regional needs
- Work with mission partners who enable congregations to participate in mission beyond the congregation
- Provide equipping conferences for leaders from congregations, presbytery, synods
- Provide PCC committees, congregations, specialized ministries, presbyteries and synods with website support and inspire and equip them in innovative communication techniques
- Provide grants strategically to further accomplish the goals and objectives of the strategic plan
- Collaborate with PCC theological colleges on common goals and objectives
- Conduct research, develop policy and study guides to equip the church for future ministry
- Provide opportunities for building relationships between Indigenous and Non-Indigenous peoples

Symbols Associated with Christmas



- Presents: comes from the stories of the 3 wise men (Magi) who gave presents to the infant Jesus. Presents are a symbol of love and caring.



- Holly, Mistletoe and Ivy: Evergreen foliage used to decorate the home, taken from the pagan midwinter festival welcoming and encouraging the return of the sun.



- Decorations: The addition of an angle or star to the Christmas tree is a Christian symbol.



- Christmas Cards: started in 1843 by John Horsley, these are often have a range of designs from nativity scenes to those of father Christmas.



- Christmas Pudding: various recipes have been around since the middle ages, the modern version was introduced in the Victorian times.



Why do we light five Advent candles?

“We light the first candle of Advent, the Candle of Hope, to remind us of the hope that the people of Israel had for the coming of the Messiah.”

“We light the second candle of Advent, the candle of Peace, to remind us of the peace that enters our lives when we experience the presence of Jesus Christ.”

“We light the third candle of Advent, the candle of Joy, to remind us of the joy the angels proclaimed when Jesus was born.”

“We light the fourth candle of Advent, the candle of Love, to remind us of the love that God shares with the world through the birth of God’s Son.

“We light the fifth candle, the Christ Candle because Jesus Christ, the true light of the world has come. Jesus said, “I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life!” (John 8:12)



Newfoundland Adventure – September 2016

Travelling Newfoundland has always been a “bucket list” item and this year John & I were fortunate to have our 2 ½ week Newfoundland Adventure. While organizing and planning our trip, many folks told us that the province is much larger than it appears on the map. It was suggested that we either do the west and north coasts or St. John’s and south into the Avalon Peninsula. Because L’Anse Aux Meadows (the Viking settlement) and Gros Morne National Park were the top two places we wanted to visit, we chose to go west. In comparing notes with other travellers, we decided to drop Labrador from our itinerary. In hindsight this was a wise decision as travelling up the west coast into St. Anthony was quite a trip in itself without adding the extra days to take the ferry over to tour Labrador.

We left right after Labour Day and flew into Deer Lake, Nfld. We rented a SUV instead of a car because we were told there had been many moose accidents on the road this past year; a larger vehicle was a wiser choice. Apparently moose are most active at dusk and dawn and we were advised to try to avoid driving at that time. That is somewhat hard to accomplish as we usually would head out for dinner around 6ish, so driving back from the restaurants was an exercise in keeping alert and watchful.

We decided we’d stay in Bed & Breakfasts for the entire trip. We’d done this last year on our trip to PEI and were delighted with the B&B experience. Hosts in Nfld. were wonderful and welcoming. Other guests shared their Nfld. experiences and the hosts also added insight into the various places to visit. We tried to stay at least 2 nights in each location so that we were not packing up every morning. Using the B&B’s as our base, we were able to be tourists who were not totally rushing around going to a different place each day. This turned out to be a very relaxing approach to our trip.



We spent several days in the Gros Morne National Park area. The scenery is just amazing. Above is a picture in Gros Morne viewed from the Parks Canada Red Chairs. The Red Chairs Program is

intended to provide opportunities to connect with nature and experience the most unique and treasured places within Canada. These have worked out so well in Nfld. that they are located all over the province. Wherever there is a great view, you will see the chairs. How charming.

We wanted to see as many lighthouses as we could during our trip. We mapped our itinerary based on lighthouse locations on the west coast so that we could stop and admire the view from those locations. Most are located on high cliff sites, so the view up the Gulf of St Lawrence is quite spectacular. We also wanted to do a few boat trips into the Gulf and they were just wonderful.

L'Anse Aux Meadows (the Viking location) is what spurred us to drive up the west coast. This is the location shown in all the Newfoundland and Labrador TV commercials we saw last winter. It was a memorable part of our trip. There were many stops along the way that were definitely "Kodak moments" too.

In looking back at our trip, there are a couple of moments that really stand out; seeing moose in Port Aux Choix and L'Anse Aux Meadows, viewing whales in the harbour in St. Anthony, sitting on the deck of our quaint B&B in Portland Creek in late afternoon with a glass of wine and the sun shining on our faces, walking the hospital trail in Twillingate and of course, the amazing scenery at every turn of the road.

What we discovered and would recommend to others is that it would be better to travel Newfoundland in the months June through August rather than September. The icebergs are only around in the spring and early summer not September. Also the whales migrate south in August so most boat trips for whale watching are only available in spring & summer (our sighting in St. Anthony was a lucky happenstance). And, many of the attractions are staffed by university students who go back to school after Labour Day, so some of the attractions are closed. But, September is a fine month if you don't like crowds, want to easily get B&B reservations, enjoy a cooler time of year to travel and want to see the autumn colours. Yes, the leaves were turning while we were there! We will likely make the Newfoundland east coast trip within the next couple of years so that we can enjoy this wonderful province again. *Happy Travelling!*

Marylou Hayes





JESUS CHRIST
IS BORN!

PRESBYTERIAN YOUNG PEOPLE'S SOCIETY

Of the Synod of Central, Northeastern Ontario and Bermuda

The CNOB PYPS group is holding its Winter Weekend on the weekend of February 3 – 5, 2017 at Knox Presbyterian Church, Waterloo. Through the facilitation of Rev. Emily Bisset, we will engage in open conversation about Human Sexuality, honouring a diversity of experiences and viewpoints. All young people (ages 14 – 25) are invited to attend. PYPS events are organized by youth, for youth, and seek to deepen our faith and understanding of God as well as build our sense of community. For more details and the registration form, visit cnobpyps.com.

The *Body, Mind, and Soul Study Guide on Human Sexuality* may be found at
<http://presbyterian.ca/sexuality/>



Like dew

Faith steals upon you like dew: some days you wake and it is there. And like dew, it gets burned off in the rising sun of anxieties, ambitions, distractions.

Christian Wiman, *My Bright Abyss*

“When they saw the star, they rejoiced exceedingly with great joy” (Matthew 2:10).

Present among the figurines in the nativity crèches found everywhere at Christmastime are usually three regal men bearing gifts. As we know, these kings are supposed to represent the wise men.

Unfortunately, this depiction of the wise men takes liberties with the text. Matthew never tells us how many wise men come to see the Messiah. The tradition of three wise men probably comes from the three different gifts mentioned in Matthew 2:11. Moreover, the first gospel does not say the magi are kings. This idea goes back to the church father Tertullian (around 200 a.d.) and is likely due to his reading of passages like Psalm 68:31 and Isaiah 49:7.

Who, then, are the wise men? Precise identification is difficult, but we do know they are “from the east” of Judea (Matt. 2:1). Persia, Babylon, and Arabia are all possible countries of origin, with Babylon the likeliest option since contact with its large Jewish community would have prompted the magi to come looking for a king in Jerusalem. The Greek term for “magi” (magoi) refers to a group interested in predicting the future via dream interpretation, magic, and other methods, such as astrology, which explains their interest in the star.

Apparently the star at first directs them only to Palestine, and they go to Jerusalem to find the child because the capital city is a logical first place to start searching for a newborn king. Herod calls the wise men to his court in today’s passage and then sends them out to find the baby. We know that his desire to worship the Christ is a lie (vv. 7–8, 16), but the magi are ignorant of Herod’s machinations, and they go forth in search of the child. After seeing Herod, the star leads them to where the child is living (v. 9). This prompts exceedingly great rejoicing (v. 10); seeing the star has confirmed their mission.

The wise men and their mission are highly significant. God promised Israel that their restoration and redemption after exile would be accompanied by an influx of Gentile nations into the covenant community (Isa. 11:10). Though motivated partly by superstition, the wise men are the first Gentiles to seek out Jesus, and they serve to demonstrate that God fulfills all His promises.



KIDS' KORNER

Maurice Mawhinney

Read the Bible passage below from Luke ch. 2 verses 1 to 20, and then find the words in the bold letters in the puzzle below. Words may be diagonally, backwards or forwards. With the six unused letters, answer the question below.

M	H	P	D	E	I	R	R	A	M	G
A	S	W	E	N	N	R	O	M	A	N
N	G	I	S	I	M	O	E	S	I	I
G	A	L	I	L	E	E	H	G	T	Y
E	T	R	A	E	H	O	H	S	R	F
R	H	O	U	S	E	T	I	A	J	I
A	L	O	R	D	L	R	M	O	O	R
S	S	D	R	E	H	P	E	H	S	O
E	E	M	A	C	T	H	R	A	E	L
A	E	E	X	P	E	C	T	I	N	G
C	N	N	R	O	B	T	S	R	I	F

In those days **Caesar** Augustus issued a decree that a census should be taken of the entire **Roman** world. (This was the **first** census that took place while Quirinius was governor of Syria.) And everyone went to his own town to register. So Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in **Galilee** to Judea, to Bethlehem the town of David, because he belonged to the **house** and **line** of David. He went there to register with Mary, who was pledged to be **married** to him and was **expecting** a child. While they were there, the time **came** for the baby to be **born**, and she gave birth to her **firstborn**, a son. She wrapped him in cloths and placed him in a manger, because there was no **room** for them in the inn. And there were shepherds living out in the fields nearby, keeping watch over their flocks at **night**. An angel of the Lord appeared to them, and the glory of the Lord **shone** around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, "Do not be afraid. I bring you good **news** of great joy that will be for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is **Christ** the **Lord**. This will be a **sign** to you: You will find a baby wrapped in cloths and lying in a manger." Suddenly a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, "Glory to God in the highest, and on **earth** peace to men on whom his favor rests." When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, "Let's go to **Bethlehem** and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about." So they hurried off and found **Mary** and Joseph, and the baby, who was lying in the **manger**. When they had **seen** him, they spread the word concerning what had been told them about this child, and all who heard it were amazed at what the **shepherds** said to them. But Mary treasured up all these things and pondered them in her **heart**. The shepherds returned, **glorifying** and praising God for all the things they had heard and seen, which were just as they had been told.

Name of the man who brought Mary to Bethlehem: _____

**WESTON HISTORICAL SOCIETY'S
OLD FASHIONED CHRISTMAS CAROL**



AND HYMN SING

Wednesday, December 7th
7:30 p.m.

Weston Presbyterian Church

All Ages | Free

This event includes traditional carols and stories of Christmas past, a reading of the Christmas Story, found in the scriptures, and when the music is done, Christmas-style refreshments will be served.

WEST TORONTO PRESBYTERIAL WMS

CHRISTMAS GATHERING & DINNER

Monday, December 5th – 6:00 p.m.
Runnymede Presbyterian Church
680 Annette Street

Enjoy a delicious supply for \$15.00 per person,
followed by a program and fellowship.



Open to all – come join us!

RSVP to Brenda Adamson – (416) 621-6474
or bandbadamson@gmail.com
as soon as possible.



ANNUAL BAZAAR

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3

12:00 NOON

Treasure and White Elephant tables

Crafts (knitting and sewing)

Owaissa Café Luncheon

Bake Sale

Raffle

Set-up and donation drop-off of small items will
begin on Friday, December 2nd at 9:00 a.m.

**CRIEFF HILLS
REST, RENEW, RELAX!**

A Retreat for Young Moms

January 14th-15th with speaker Rev. Kristine O'Brien (mother of four) at Crieff Hills Retreat and Conference Centre. Kristine will share how we need to give ourselves permission to stop and breathe, to observe Sabbath, and to do less, while still being loving and faithful.

Moms of young children are invited to come away for a night at Crieff. **This would make a great Christmas gift for mom!**

Cost for the weekend:
\$110.00 / person Double Accommodation
\$140.00 / person Single Accommodation
\$70.00 / person Commuter

www.crieffhills.com