

St. Paul's United Church

December 23, 2012

4th Sunday of Advent - Love

The people of St. Paul's United Church welcome you.
May there be a blessing for you in this house today.



Prelude The Lord is Nigh Price
Go Tell It on the Mountain Curtis

Greeting May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you,
and also with you.

Welcome and Announcements

Lighting of the Advent Candle (please see back of bulletin)
Lockhart Family: Ron, Sara, Benjamin, Morgan, Rowan and Duncan

Introit God's Gift of Light Catherine Stuart 2010
*Love is a light which burns in our presence,
spark of God's justice, candle we tend.
Known through creation, gift of God's goodness,
God's love enfolds us,
love never ends.*

Hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem VU 64

St. Paul's Contact Information:

stpaulsunitedchurch@nb.aibn.com www.stpaulsunited.ca

Telephone: 458-1183, Fax: 458-1944

Keep up to date on upcoming activities
and stay in touch in between Sundays!

<http://www.facebook.com/StPaulsUnitedFredericton>



Minister: Rev. Lori Beth Sheffield-Bowles
Organist & Director of Music: Alexis Ervin
Children & Family Ministry: Julie Heslop
Office Administrator: Cathy Simpson
Sexton: Joe Robicheau

Weekly Activities

Mon., Wed., & Fri. 12–1 p.m. Exercise Group - Gym/Hall
Monday-Friday 11:30–1:00 p.m. AA - Youth Lounge
Tuesday & Saturday 8–9 p.m. AA - Youth Lounge

Tuesday, December 24 Office open until noon
7:00 p.m. Family Christmas Eve Service
11:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Communion Service

Thursday, December 27 Office Open

Friday, December 28 Office Open

Sunday, December 30th
11:00 a.m. Joint Service with Wilmot at Wilmot

Monday, December 31
8 a.m.—12:00 p.m. Office open to receive year end donations

Wednesday, January 2 All programs are on Christmas Break
until next week.

If you are in need of Pastoral Care over the Christmas holidays
please contact Rev. Lori Beth at 454-6752.

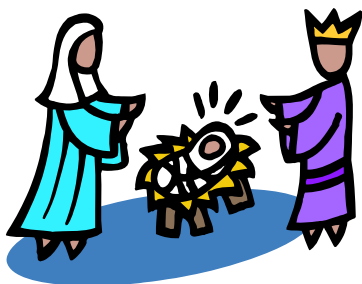
The following support groups will be offered at Grace Memorial in early 2013

DivorceCare is being offered on Tuesday evenings from 6:30 -8:30 PM from January 15 to April 9, 2013 at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Northumberland & Connaught. This is a brand new program with new videos featuring different counsellors and pastors with expertise in helping people with the hurt of separation and divorce. Registration is \$25 per person. For more information or to register, please contact the church office at 458-8527 or gracem@nb.aib.com.

GriefShare will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM from January 21 to April 15, 2013 at Grace Memorial Baptist Church, Northumberland & Connaught. GriefShare coping with the loss of a loved one through death. Registration is \$25. For more information or to register, please contact the church office at 458-8527 or gracem@nb.aibn.com.

Single & Parenting is a brand new support group for single parents. There will be video talks with counsellors and pastors with expertise in helping single parents, followed by group discussion. The class will be held on Monday evenings from 7:00-9:00 PM from January 14 to April 8, 2013. Fee is \$25. Register early as class size is limited. For more information or to register, please contact the church office at 458-8527 or email mmccormick@bellaliant.net.

Merry Christmas



An Advent Prayer (unison)
God of all wisdom

VU 11

*our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love,
and our minds search for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour,
and strengthen us to grow in love,
that at the dawn of his coming
we may rejoice in his presence
and welcome the light of his truth.
This we ask in the name of Jesus Christ. Amen.*

Anthem Under One Shining Star
Time For All Ages God's Gift

Lantz

Prayers of the People

Hymn Angels We Have Heard On High

VU 38

The Presentation of Gifts

Offertory Promises of Isaiah

Angerman & Barrett

Dedication Verse

VU 55 (vs 4)

*What can I give him, poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;
if I were a wise man, I would do my part;
yet what I can I give him—give my heart.*

Offertory Prayer

Scriptures Luke 1: 39-56

Mary Dingee Jacobs

Anthem Bethlehemtown

Clatterbuck

Sermon God's Love and Having Faith

Hymn Unto Us a Boy is Born

VU 54 (vss. 1-3)

Holy Communion (please see insert)

Hymn Unto Us a Boy is Born VU 54 (vs, 4,5)

Commissioning and Benediction

Postlude In Dulci Jubilo Martin

Please join us on Christmas Eve for the following services:

7:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Family Service**

Gather with your family and celebrate Christmas Eve!
Everyone is welcome! Let's truly make this a family affair!

11:00 p.m. **Christmas Eve Communion Service**

11:00 a.m. **Joint Service at Wilmot United on December 30th**

Flowers in the sanctuary are in loving memory of Ralph Dingee, placed by his daughter, Mary, and his grandchildren, Melinda and Michael.

A donation has been made to the Music Fund in loving memory of James Cameron by wife Edith and in loving memory of Janice Cameron Gionet by mom.

A donation has been made to the UCW by Mary Dingee.

A donation has been made to the Restoration Fund in memory of Ralph Dingee and Betty Stafford by Kaye Dingee.

Christmas Office Hours

The office will be open on December 24th until noon, reopening on Thursday, December 27 and open for December 28 and on Monday, December 31 until noon.

Charitable contributions: Please ensure that your donations reach the church office by **noon** on December 31 to be included in your 2012 income tax receipt.

Annual Reports—please have your Annual Reports to Cathy in the office by January 15 for inclusion in the 2012 Report.

Marking the Days

Calendars for Inmates at the Springhill Institution: A box will be available in the Hall for your gift of a calendar.

Your **2013 Offering Envelopes** are available in the Hall this morning, if you are new to the congregation and would like to have your donations recorded for tax purposes please call Cathy in the office at 458-1183 to set this up.

The office is now equipped to receive your donations by **Visa or MasterCard** (in person or over the phone), and we are still offering the Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) program.

Photo Directory

Thank you to all who came out to be included in our newest photo directory. Please advise the office if you **DO NOT** wish to have your address and telephone number published in the back of the directory by calling Cathy in the office at 458-1183 or emailing her to let her know.

United Church Observer

25 families of St Paul's receive this National Church magazine monthly!! It contains great articles about our National church, the Moderator, Regional/Local United Church items etc. We feel it is important to read as a member of our United Church! If YOU wish to also be a SUBSCRIBER contact Cathy at 458-1183 or by e-mail! COST is \$20.00 a year!!

Thank you for supporting the Children's Wish Tree and for your donations on White Gift Sunday; \$2300 was raised to help children and families in need.

Holy Communion

Call to Give Thanks

Glory to God in the highest!

And on earth, peace to all!

Lift up your hearts.

We lift them up to God.

Let us give thanks to God.

It is good to give thanks and praise.

Thanksgiving

Blessed are you, gracious God,

Creator of light, Giver of all life, Source of love.

At your word creation dawns.

Under your rainbow the floods recede.

With a burning bush you hallow the earth.

By a pillar of fire you guide your people.

We praise you that you do not abandon us.

You place a child in Mary's womb

and a star in the eastern sky.

You send Jesus to be a light to all the nations.

He brings sight to the blind and healing to the sick,

hope to the despairing and justice to the oppressed.

And yet we reject him, betray him, crucify him.

But you, O God, bring forth light

raising him from the grave,

the first born of your new creation.

Therefore we join with all creation,

and all the heavenly hosts

who dwell in light inaccessible, to sing

Holy, holy, holy Lord,

God of power and might,

Heaven and earth are full of your glory.

Hosanna in the highest.

Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord.

Hosanna in the highest.

Remembering Jesus at the Table

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.

He was in the beginning with God.

All things were made through Him, and without Him nothing was
made that was made.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

And the light shines in the darkness, and the darkness did not
understand it.

There was a man sent from God, whose name was John.

This man came for a witness, to bear witness of the Light, that
all through him might believe.

***He was not that Light, but was sent to bear witness of that
Light.***

That was the true Light which gives light to every man coming
into the world.

***He was in the world, and the world was made through Him,
and the world did not know Him.***

He came to His own, and His own did not receive Him.

***But as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to
become children of God, to those who believe in His
name:***

who were born, not of blood, nor of the will of the flesh, nor of
the will of man, but of God.

***And the Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we
beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the
Father, full of grace and truth.***

We do what Jesus did the night before he died.

He took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread,

and gave it to his friends, and said,

“Take, eat; remember me.”

Then he took the cup, and said,

“Take, drink; remember.”

SHARING THE BREAD AND THE CUP

PRAYER AND LORD'S PRAYER