



CONTACT

St James United Church

Christmas/Winter 2018
Newsletter

...the time came for her to give birth. She gave birth to a son, her firstborn. She wrapped him in a blanket and laid him in a manger, because there was no room in the inn.

Luke 2: 6-7

UPCOMING SPECIAL EVENTS

Inside this issue:

Minister's Desk	2
Pastoral Care	3
Women's Potluck	
Volunteer Opportunities	
Outreach Ministry	4
Youth Ministries	5
Finance Update	6
Gifts with Vision	
Senior Luncheon	
Wesley Dinner	7
Card Night	
Messy Church	
Choir Concert	8

Sun Dec 2	3pm	Wesley Center Dinner
Mon Dec 3	6pm	Women's Potluck Dinner & Candlelight Communion Service
Fri Dec 7	7pm	Card Night
Sun Dec 9	7pm	White Gift Sunday Choir Concert in the Sanctuary
Fri Dec 14	6pm	Messy Church—Christmas
Tue Dec 18	11:30am	Seniors Luncheon for all area seniors

CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES

- 5pm Fun, upbeat service in the Hall for families with very young children.
- 7pm All ages service in the Sanctuary with pageant and carols.
- 10pm Communion Service in the Sanctuary



MINISTER'S DESK

An Advent and Christmas Reaffirmation of Faith

I've been asked by a few people to comment on the United Church of Canada's recent action regarding Rev. Gretta Vosper at West Hill United Church in Toronto. Rev. Vosper has made a name for herself recently as an atheist. Yet, bewilderingly, she continues in ministry. Over the past several months she has been the subject of an attempt by members of Toronto Conference to remove her from ministry on the grounds that she no longer believes in God, Jesus, or the Holy Spirit. The action failed and Toronto Conference has recently confirmed that she will remain in ministry. This action was the subject of a scathing review in a recent issue of the Toronto Star.

What does this say about the United Church of Canada? Well, first of all, it's important to note that this was not a decision of the United Church of Canada; it was a decision of Toronto Conference. The United Church of Canada released a response reaffirming its belief in God and stating that it's important that UCC ministers also believe in God. I believe Toronto Conference caved to the threat of a wrongful dismissal lawsuit and made a wrong decision. I believe that Rev. Vosper, if she no longer believes in God, should resign and not continue in ministry in a Christian denomination. She has refused to do so. Therefore, I believe she should be removed from ministry. That, alas, didn't happen.

I believe it's helpful, at this Advent and Christmas time, to reaffirm that we are first and foremost a Christian denomination, and reaffirm what the United Church of Canada has said it believes on the subject. The UCC has stated what it believes in the New Creed which states in part:

"We believe in God: who has created and is creating, who has come in Jesus, the Word made flesh, to reconcile and make new, who works in us and others by the Spirit."

There you have it. We are still Christians. At Christmastime we celebrate the Mass of Christ, the coming into the world of God in human form in the person of Jesus Christ, the babe in the manger. Hallelujah!

Yours in Christ,

Rev. Ryk Brown



PASTORAL CARE

Pastoral Care would like to wish the St James Family a Merry Christmas and remind people to look around and see who is missing and make a point of contacting them.

Your Pastoral Care Committee cannot do it all!!



Stamp Out Leprosy!

Please save your used stamps so the Leprosy Mission can sell them and to treat or cure Leprosy which is still a problem in some countries. There are marked containers in the Narthex (back of the church) as well as upstairs just outside the Hall.

Used Eye Glasses

These are sent to underdeveloped countries where there is a need.

Place them in marked containers in the Narthex (back of the church) as well as upstairs just outside the Hall.

Thank you!

WOMEN'S CHRISTMAS POTLUCK DINNER AND CANDLELIGHT COMMUNION SERVICE

MONDAY DECEMBER 3rd

Appetizers @ 6pm in the Parlour

Dinner @ 6:30pm in the Hall

Come & enjoy! Bring a friend, sister, mother, neighbour. Please bring a salad, main course or dessert to share with others, & your own plate, cup/mug & cutlery for easy clean-up.

We will move into the Sanctuary for a carol sing & communion service following dinner (approx. 7:45pm) for those who can stay for this meaningful start to the season.

If you are able, please bring a small gift of toiletries/personal care items or a monetary donation for local Women's shelters.

VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES



We are looking for a volunteer or 2 or 3 to lead the Catering Team, beginning January 1, 2019.

Please contact Ruth Harper for more information on this volunteer opportunity, 905-689-4515 or jrharper6@gmail.com

OUTREACH MINISTRY

...as we reach out in His love, impacting Waterdown and beyond.

Wesley Christmas Dinner & Service – Sunday Dec. 2nd

St. James has for many years been preparing a Sunday dinner for almost 150 people at Wesley Centre in Hamilton. This year it will be on Sunday, Dec. 2nd at 3:00 p.m. We prepare a short Advent Service which includes a client lighting the Advent candle and then pray together before dinner. In preparation for the meal, on Saturday, Dec. 1st we will be peeling potatoes at the church at 3:00 p.m. This is an opportunity for you to share in this ministry.

Gift Giving Sunday – Dec. 9th



Our Christmas trees in the Fellowship Hall and the Narthex have been decorated with gift tags for the Wesley Urban Ministries Christmas Store. This year our congregation has been asked to purchase gifts for Teens. Please bring your gifts wrapped in white paper to church on Dec. 9th. Other requested items they are in need of are tea, coffee, dried lentils, dried beans, sugar and flour.

Flamborough Food Bank & “Secret Santa” Program

St. James continues to support the local Flamborough Food Bank every month with donations of various food items. They are taken to the food bank at the beginning of each month. Thank you for your generous donations and support.

Christmas is a special time when we sponsor a family and provide them with gifts, food and grocery cards. In our small way, we can help to provide a Christmas to a family that may not be able to on their own. We thank the Carey family for their constant support over the years.

Benevolent Fund

It's the time of year when donations to our Benevolent Fund help us to provide food & a few gifts for local families who come to us in need throughout the year for grocery cards.

If you would like to make a donation, please write “Benevolent Fund” & amount on your offering envelope or note it in the memo line on your cheque, and place it in the offering plate/basket or leave in the church office. Online donations are also available.

Thank you for your generosity.

“Save The Date” - Crafters & Scrapbooking Day – Feb. 2, 2019

Our annual fundraiser will be held on Saturday Feb. 2nd All are welcome to attend from 9:00 am to 9:00 pm. Cost is \$25.00 and a potluck dish!! Funds raised will go towards sending our youth to camp and other Outreach projects.

YOUTH MINISTRIES COMMITTEE

I am grateful for the extremely active support of this committee's members and others who volunteer regularly at our events, to see that youth offerings flourish at St. James. This listing includes Rev. Ryk Brown, Linda Baksh, Lynda Carey, Jessica Couch, Marilyn Crate, Cindy Ellison, Rick Harper, Patricia Harris, Barb Mierau, David Simpson, Jake Simpson, Pat Simpson, Rebecca Thackeray and Diane Woods. This tremendous team of people have brought fun, fellowship and education to our youth this fall season.

Thursday night youth group started on September 6th with offerings of organized sports, a learn to cook nutritious food segment and a spiritual sharing and discussion time. With the welcome arrival of Jessica Couch as our new Youth Leader we gradually eased off our commitments to this program and Jessica ably took control by the end of October.

Our Youth were a big part of St. James' 190th Anniversary celebration on September 30th. Evan Thackeray, who had hosted several events at St. Thomas School and was valedictorian of his class in June, ably hosted the entertainment segment. Hunter Brown, Johnathan Harper, Kate Harper and Ewan Hunter contributed dramatically and musically and were enjoyed by all attending. Sophia Werden Abrams joyfully led her Community Children's Choir while accompanying them on the piano.

Our first Messy Church service was offered on October 12th with the theme of Abraham and Sarah, focussing on the love of families. Our large puppets were utilized in telling this story and all moved around the room to hear the story, reflective of how Abraham and Sarah moved from town to dessert and received God's blessing of a son, in the form of Isaac. Songs crafts and food reflected the theme and the children each created their own little Isaac stuffy to take home. On November 16th our second Messy Church told the story of Joseph and his colourful coat, he being cast into a well and his ultimate forgiveness and love towards his family. This time the children made a small Joseph figure and it all ended in a circle of prayer led by Rev. Ryk. Our next Messy Church will be held on December 14th and the Birth of Christ will be told by a Gingerbread boy. These fun and Christ-centered worship times are open to church and community members of all ages.

Peace & love to you always,

Ruth Nicholson

Youth Ministries Chair



FINANCE UPDATE

The following summarizes the St. James financial situation as of Oct 31st, 2018:

Operating Revenue: \$154,554
 Operating Expenses: \$190,483
 2018 Year to Date **Deficit:** \$ 35,929

To cover this year's accumulated deficit has required the transfer of \$25,000 from the Church's Specified Funds to the Operating Account.

Finance would like to set a goal to reduce this deficit by the end of the year.

To support this goal, special Christmas offering envelopes are available on the table in the back of the Sanctuary, and as you enter the Hall upstairs. Funds donated using the Christmas Offering Envelopes will be directed to the Mission of St. James and will be used to help reduce our deficit. Donations may also be made online through the St. James Web site.

We encourage everyone to give as they are able and pray that God will supply our needs. You can bring the special Christmas offering envelope to any of our services over the next few weeks or simply drop them off at the church Office. Thanks in advance for considering the ministry of our church in this busy Christmas season.

Please note any donations to St. James that you wish to have counted towards your 2018 Giving's must be submitted by 12 pm Dec. 30, 2018.



A GIVING CATALOGUE from The United Church of Canada

Searching for new & meaningful gifts this year?
Give a gift with vision & help change the world!

Christmas is a wonderful time to think about others and to express love for special people in our lives. Now you can do both with a Gift with Vision. In addition, you give gifts for many reasons and occasions through the entire year. A Gift with Vision is perfect for

- Birthdays, Anniversaries, Weddings, Baptisms, Graduations, Confirmations, Thanksgiving, Easter, Mother's Day, Father's Day.
- *Any* gift-giving occasion is the time to share love for family and friends with others throughout the world with a Gift with Vision. Let your gift recipient know that you are both helping to change the world.

Pick up a catalogue on the entrance table at Sunday worship, or online at www.giftswithvision.ca



Seniors Luncheon Tues Dec 18th 11:30am-1pm

\$5.00 per person

A delicious home-made meal and a special Christmas program of entertainment, for all area seniors.

Please reserve your seat by Fri. Dec 14th @ noon. Call 905-689-6223, or email stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca.

We look forward to sharing a meal and time together this Christmas season.

Wesley Christmas Dinner

Sunday Dec 2nd

For many years we have been preparing a Sunday dinner for almost 150 people at Wesley Centre in downtown Hamilton. **Help is needed to peel potatoes for this meal, here in the church kitchen on Sat. Dec. 1st @ 3pm.**

Many hands make light work! Bring a peeler.



CARD NIGHT

First Friday of each month

Next Date:

**FRIDAY DEC 7th
@7PM**

Come & play your favourite card game.

Minimal charge for drinks & refreshment, but the **fun is FREE!**



A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHURCH FOR FAMILIES

Friday December 14

6-7:30pm

Dinner, Story, Singing, Crafts, Games & Activities

For all ages. Children must be accompanied by an adult.

RSVP to the church office, 905-689-6223 or stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca



CHOIR CONCERT

SUN. DEC. 9TH 7PM



Lighting the Road to Bethlehem

Join the St. James, Carlisle, and West Plains United Choir's for an evening of choral music and carol singing on Sunday, December 9th at 7 pm at St. James United Church.

Donations for the Wesley Ministries Christmas and Holiday Store gratefully accepted. Visit wesley.ca/xmas for donation ideas! Monetary donations also welcome.

Fellowship & refreshments to follow the concert.



St James United Church
306 Parkside Drive
P.O. Box 330
Waterdown ON LOR 2H0

905 689 6223
stjames@stjameswaterdown.ca

