



Advent 2017 Newsletter

Rector's Message

Our King and Saviour now draws near: O, come let us adore Him.

Welcome to Advent. This season of four Sundays before the Mass of the Christ Child comes when the daylight hours are shortened and the hours of darkness have lengthened and the pace of life, for many of us, becomes somewhat hectic. For well over 1000 years, this special season has been for all Christians, a time when we *remember with reassurance and look forward with hope*. We remember the God, the high King of heaven who inhabits eternity and whose name is Holy. The one who dwells with those who are contrite and humble in spirit to revive the heart. (Isaiah 57:15).

The story of God's coming among humanity in history is recorded in Scriptures and celebrated in the liturgies of the living community of the Church. The birth of God's only Son, Jesus the Christ, begins the best of all stories. Advent is a time to *prepare* to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

Day by day in many ways, God continues to come among us. The great truth of Advent is that God comes among us in love, yesterday, today and forever. Advent does not come at a convenient time of the year, but here it is. Not only is the Advent season just before Christmas but it comes in the midst of final weeks of the football season, the hunting season and semester examinations. Decorating, shopping, baking and partying are in full swing. All this, as well as, the daily routine of our busy lives.

For many people this is a difficult time of the year. It can be a very lonely time; memories of loved one who have died are especially poignant. The pressures of gift giving, contributing extra to organizations, being part of the hustle and bustle can make some feel sad, lonely, afraid and fearful in the midst of this festive time. It is not easy with all these extra activities to find time for quiet reflection on the presence of God in the world and in our lives.

The Good News of Scripture is that God *does not require us* to be decorated, jolly, or "ready for" Christmas in order to come to us in love. The Advent stories remind us that God comes to us, not because of our virtues, but because He loves us in our weakness, our need and our faults.

The Advent Hymn by Charles Wesley expresses our Advent prayer:

"Come thou long expected Jesus, born to set thy people free;
from our fears and sins release us, let us find our rest in thee"

Note: Not all our Christian Celebrations date back 2000 years.

Wikipedia states; "*the celebration of Advent begins in the fifth century, when the Bishop Perpetuus, in an order, decided that starting with the feast of St. Martin, November 11 until Christmas, one fasts three times per week: this is why Advent is also named Lent of St. Martin.*"

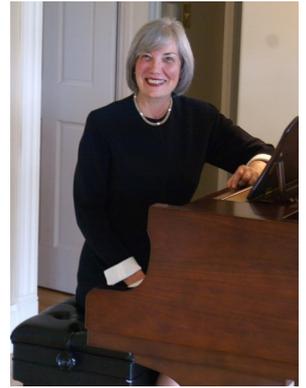
Alvin+



Music At St. John's

A note from Barbara.....

Our popular Music and Meditation begins its 12th season on Dec 6. Each Wednesday throughout Advent the public is cordially invited to attend these half hour musical presentations featuring friends of St. John's music program. Our first guests on December 6 are violinist Bonnie Romkey, cellist Ifan Williams and pianist Sharon Gow Knickle. A violin soloist and chamber musician Bonnie Romkey also has a busy teaching career, reaching violin students from around the world via Skype. Cellist Ifan Williams has led a distinguished career as cellist in major orchestras and ensembles in both England and Canada. Sharon Gow-Knickle maintains a busy private studio in Lunenburg and is one of Nova Scotia's finest pianists. Bridgewater honour student Jade Ley, our featured guest on December 13, has been studying piano with Sharon Gow Knickle for a number of years. She is the recipient of numerous scholarships and awards, and, upon graduation from high school in the coming year, plans to continue her musical studies. Canada's premiere violin and piano ensemble, Duo Concertante, perform in our final Advent 2017 series on December 20 with a selection of Christmas music from their latest CD 'Perfect Light'. Nancy Dahn and Timothy Steeves are partners in music and in life and have a worldwide reputation for the passion and brilliance they bring to their performances.



Our musical presentations continue at 1 pm at Harbour View Haven during these three Wednesdays for 'Julia's Music'.

Our choirs have been actively preparing for special music during the Advent and Christmas season. Singing at the waterfront during the lighting of the tress and participation in the RCCO carol service at All Saints Cathedral are among some of our recent activities. Also there are a number of special concerts that I'm sure you will enjoy. All are noted in the church calendar of events.

Our music committee continues to meet regularly each month. Jane, our chair, and committee members join me in wishing you all a warm and blessed Advent and Christmas season.

Warm regards, *Barbara*

Music Adorns St. John's



Not only is St. John's blessed by all the amazing music that Barbara Butler brings to the church and the community through her work as both St. John's Choir Director and as Artistic Director for Musique Royale, but other local groups are also availing themselves of St. John's as a popular concert venue option.

This fall the Folk Harbour Festival conducted all four events in their fall concert series at St. John's. In September we heard the upbeat country music of Ryan Cook (who just released his second CD). In October, we started with guitarist and singer Claire Lynch and then on to well-known Joel Plaskett performing with his father Bill. The attendance of these concerts continued to build and was rounded out on 8 November by a sell-out crowd for Buffy Sainte Marie. This concert took many of us back a whole bunch of years but Buffy had as much energy and the same activist tones as ever. While in the church, she was incredibly inquisitive of our history and during the performance stated that St. John's was one of the most beautiful churches she had ever performed in.

After the concert Will Moore presented her with a copy of the book of St. John's restoration and she signed our guest registry.

Submitted by: Duncan Crowdis

Advent - Christmas 2017

Schedule of Services and Events

Every Wednesday at 10:00am
Holy Eucharist (BCP)

MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

Every Wednesday in Advent at Noon
(December 6, 13, & 20th) Musical Meditations with Barbara Butler and guests

Saturday November 25th

Lunenburg Santa Claus Parade - 3pm Join our Sunday School Children around the float.

6:30pm. Blessing & Lighting of outdoor Christmas Tree in front of the Church followed by Pilgrimage to the Heritage Bandstand for lighting of the trees at 7pm.

December 3rd

Advent 1: Wait upon the Lord with Hope

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Advent Festival of Readings and Music. Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Sunday School & Nursery. White Gift Sunday - Gifts to be shared through the Salvation Army.



Saturday December 8th - 7pm

Special Concert in Support of the Lunenburg Inter Church Food Bank

December 10th

Advent 2: Wait upon the Lord in Peace

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist in Traditional Wording & Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Sunday School & Nursery. Mission To Seafarers boxes today.



8pm Manning Chapel Choir from Wolfville - Wassail! Medieval, folk, & traditional songs for Christmas.

December 16th

4pm - A Kings Christmas with Paul Halley & King's College Chapel Choir

December 17th

Advent 3: Wait upon the Lord with Joy

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

Sunday School & Nursery



December 20th - 7pm Capella Regalis Men & Boys Choir - To Bethlehem with King's. A fundraiser in support of the Lunenburg & Area Inter Church Food Bank.

December 24th

Advent 4: Wait upon the Lord with Love

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath



December 24th - Christmas Eve (Sunday)

4:00pm - Christmas Family Eucharist will be held inside the church this year. All are welcome.

10:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Sung Eucharist (BAS) with Organ, Choir, Brass Ensemble and St John's Ringers.

December 25th - Christmas Day (Monday)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

Sunday December 31st - New Year's Eve Day

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS)



Vinegar Bibles - 300 Year Celebration, November 5th 2017 - by Peter Mathews

A Little Background - St. John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, Nova Scotia, possesses a copy of a Vinegar Bible which was brought to Lunenburg in 1761 by Rev. Robert Vincent, Second Missionary to the church. Unfortunately he suffered from ill health and he died in Halifax in 1765. Financial difficulties forced his widow to sell the bible to the Honourable Michael Franklin, Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia, from 1768-1772. Franklin's family notes are written in the covers of the bible until 1841. Thereafter the history of the Bible is lost until about 20 years ago when it came into the possession of Dr. Luckett, Pepy's Librarian and Keeper, Magdalene College, Cambridge, U.K. In about 2005, Dr. Luckett decided to sell his Vinegar Bible, but wished to see it return to Nova Scotia. Negotiations took place with the Government of Nova Scotia and finally in 2008 the Bible was returned to St. John's.

In 2016 Mr. Geoffrey Capner, an Englishman who lives in Paris, visited St. John's and was pleased to find that the church owned a copy of the Vinegar Bible. Later that year he also visited Corpus Christi, Tremereichion, St. Asaph, Denbighshire, North Wales and was delighted to advise St. John's that Corpus Christi also has a Vinegar Bible. Peter and Carolyn Matthews of St. John's Parish were able to visit Corpus Christi and attended a church service and established a contact with the Rector and the Church Historian. Arising out of this visit, St. John's Rector, Fr. Michael Mitchell, urged the St. John's Heritage Committee to start a project to do research on the history of the church's Vinegar Bible and to locate owners of other Vinegar Bibles, with the intention of forming a Vinegar Bible Interest Group. So far 30 current owners of Vinegar Bibles have been located and we have now begun to work with Christ Church, Shrewsbury, New Jersey, who also own a Vinegar Bible, to promote the development of the Vinegar Bible Interest Group.

The paper below summarises our current knowledge of The Vinegar Bible. A shorter version was used at the 300th Anniversary Service held at St. John's on November 5th, 2017 to commemorate the printing of the Bible in 1717.

The Vinegar Bible

John Baskett was born in 1664 or 1665 and died in 1742. He was a printer, financier and a maker of high quality paper. In 1713 he successfully petitioned and obtained the prestigious and coveted position as Printer to the King's Most Excellent Majesty, George 1st. to print the King James Bible, appointed to be read in Churches.

Baskett determined to publish a better more illustriously illustrated Bible than had ever been executed before. In this he was successful. His Folio sized Bible published in 1716 and 1717 has large elegant type and numerous beautiful engravings, including some done by James Thornhill, who painted the dome of St. Paul's Cathedral, London and others by Michael van der Guernier, who was Flemish born and the Frenchmen, Louis Cheron and Louis Guernier, all of whom spent most of their lives in London. Baskett did not have a printing press and he used the Clarendon Publishing House in Oxford, which subsequently became the Oxford University Press.

The Bible could have become the highlight of Baskett's publishing career, but there was a problem. The Bible has over 783,000 words and 3,000,000 hand set letters and there were so many typographical errors in it that Baskett's detractors called the Bible, **A Baskett-ful of errors**. The most famous being the misprint at the top of the page heading in St. Luke's Gospel Chapter 20, where the **Parable of the Vineyard** is printed as the **Parable of the Vinegar**. Hence the reason why the bible became known as **The Vinegar Bible**. Some people believe that the expression **Basket Case**, still widely used in English, comes down to us from John Baskett's errors.

John Baskett was not alone though and many other bibles published earlier also contained serious errors. Perhaps the most famous is found in Robert Barker's 1631 edition of the King James Bible, which is known as **The Wicked Bible**, because the word **NOT** was omitted from the Seventh Commandment. So that it read, **Thou shalt commit adultery**. Big mistake! This error led to a wide spread burning of Baker's Bible.

Publication of the 1717 Bible ceased when the Vinegar error was found, but it is not known how many Bibles were actually published. There are some references to only 12 Bibles being published, but this is not correct. 30 current owners of these Bible have been identified in Britain, USA, Canada and Australia. Three others are known to have been stolen from churches in Britain and one Bible was destroyed in a flood. So that makes a total of at least 34 published Bibles. St. John's Heritage Committee and Christ Church, Shrewsbury, New Jersey are now working cooperatively together to build up the history of each Bible and to try to locate others.

The bindings of all the Bibles published vary considerably as it was the purchasers who were responsible for ordering the bindings. The Folio Bible is 20 ½ inches by 13 ½ inches and is very heavy as it was intended to be read in church at the Lectern. Some Bibles were published in two parts, sometimes as The Old and New Testaments, but some were also split at the Song of Solomon, to make each volume of equal weight and thickness.

Often when a Bible had been in constant use for many years, the Bible became deteriorated and was withdrawn from public viewing to protect it. This is the case with the Vinegar Bible at the Capitol, Williamsburg, Virginia. It was read at each session of the House of Burgesses and used when George Washington, James Madison and many of the other Founding Fathers deliberated, before making the Declaration of Independence from Britain. Rochester Cathedral in England and Christ Church, Philadelphia have damaged Vinegar Bibles and are spending significant amounts of money to have them restored, illustrating the importance placed on the Bibles. There is an interesting short video on the internet, which shows the conservation work being done on the Rochester Bible available at: <http://vimeo.com/130068808>.

The **Vinegar Bible** at St. John's is one of the church's most revered and proudest possessions. It was bound in dark green leather in the reign of George III. The cover is embossed with the Royal Coat of Arms and it has a gilt spine and raised bands. It is in remarkably good condition considering its age. It is displayed in the church in a beautiful walnut case made by Peter Allen, St. John's Bell Chimer and a master craftsman. This was donated by the Ostrom family in memory of Ezra Morell, who lived and worked in Lunenburg and died at the early age of 28, in 2008. Ezra spent time working on the restoration of St. John's after the fire in 2001.

The Bible was given to Rev. Robert Vincent by the Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign parts. He was the Second Missionary to St. John's from 1761-65 and it was used in the church during his time. Unfortunately Robert Vincent suffered from ill health and he died in Halifax in 1765, while waiting passage to take him back to Britain. Financial difficulties led his widow to sell the Bible to the Hon. Michael Francklin, Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia from 1768-72 and former member of the Legislature for Lunenburg.

Michael Francklin was born at Poole, Dorset, England in 1733. He came to Halifax in 1752 and rose to become one of the city's leading merchants, with business dealings not only in Nova Scotia, but also in Britain and New England. To some people he was a controversial figure both while in business and during his time as Lt. Governor, but he was a remarkable man and achieved many things. In 1754 he was captured by a band of Mi'kmaq and during his 3 month captivity he learned their language and gained a respect for their culture. This ultimately helped him to keep the Mi'kmaq and Malecites loyal, or at least neutral, to the British cause during the Seven Year War. He also spoke French and was influential with the Acadians. As Lt. Governor he allowed those Acadians who had returned to Nova Scotia after their expulsion to remain, to practice the Catholic Religion and guaranteed that there would be no second expulsion. In 1762 Franklin married Susannah Boutineau in Boston. Susannah was the granddaughter of Peter Faneuil, a leading Boston Merchant, who donated Faneuil Hall Marketplace to that city. In 1753, the year that Lunenburg was settled, Faneuil was Treasurer of King's Chapel, Boston. At that time a new stone Chapel was being built around the old wooden Chapel, which dated from 1688. There is a strong oral tradition both in Boston and in Lunenburg, that as the new chapel was being completed the old chapel was disassembled and the timbers passed out through the windows of the new chapel. They were then put on board a British warship and delivered to Lunenburg and used in the construction of St. John's Church. It is therefore possible that Peter Faneuil was involved in the decision to send the timbers to construct St. John's. This is speculation, but there could be something in it. It is another mystery for the Heritage Committee to try to solve. The St. John's archives have copies of two engravings of the Old King's Chapel in place in Boston.

Lt. Governor Franklin used the Bible at the Legislature in Halifax, where it was read to start each session. The end papers of the Bible are of significance as they contain Michael Franklin's hand written account of his ancestry in Devon and Dorset, his marriage to Susannah and the birth of their children. His death in 1782 and burial in St. Paul's Church, Halifax, is also recorded. Family records continue until 1841, after which the whereabouts of the Bible becomes lost until about 20 years ago, when it became the property of Dr. Richard Luckett, Pepys Librarian and Keeper, Magdalene College, Cambridge.

Dr. Luckett possessed a collection of rare books of his own. Unfortunately a water pipe burst and damaged some of his books, which included a copy of The Vinegar Bible. The damaged books were sent away to be restored, but he was advised that his Bible could not be saved. Maggs Rare Books Ltd, a very well know antiquarian book seller in London, had another copy of The Vinegar Bible. Dr. Luckett was offered this as a replacement, which he accepted, noting the replacement bible's connection to Nova Scotia and St. John's through Francklin's hand written family notes and a note saying that he purchased the Bible from Robert Vincent's widow. He enquired about its later history, but Maggs could only advise that they thought they had acquired it at an auction many years before. So we do not know how the Bible ended up back in England.

Dr. Luckett heard about the St. John's fire in 2001 he recalled the Bible's connection to St. John's. Later his cousin who lives in Halifax, Dr. Hugh Kindred, Professor of Law at Dalhousie University and his wife Sheila were visiting him in Cambridge and they learned that he was thinking about selling his Bible. Professor and Mrs. Kindred have a great passion for Nova Scotia history and culture and upon their return to Nova Scotia, Mrs. Kindred immediately urged her friend, the late Dr. Marie Elwood, who was Curator of the Nova Scotia Museum, to use her influence to ensure that the bible was acquired by the Province of Nova Scotia. This Dr. Elwood did with enthusiasm. Finally the bible was purchased for \$5000, considerably below its market value, because Dr. Luckett wanted to see it returned to Nova Scotia. On June 8, 2008, the Bible was repatriated to St. John's in time for the church's 255th Anniversary celebrations, after being absent from the church for 243 years.

Several people helped to make the return of the Bible to the church possible, including Her Honour Mayann Francis, who was Lt. Governor of Nova Scotia at that time, the Bishop of Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, The Rt. Rev'd Susan Moxley, and the late Honourable Michael Baker, MLA for Lunenburg. However, it can be said with great certainty that if Professor and Mrs. Sheila Kindred not initially realized the opportunity to acquire the Bible for Nova Scotia and if Mrs. Kindred had not been friends with Dr. Elwood, who shared her vision, then it is very possible that we would not all be gathered here today to celebrate the 300th Anniversary of the Vinegar Bible.

Wardens Reflections

As wardens and parishioners of St. John's, the period of Advent is always a great opportunity to reflect on our parish lives over the past year and start to look to the future.

In looking at 2017, we can't help but to reflect back to the shocking news in May that Father Michael was diagnosed with a brain tumor. Father Michael was not only our spiritual leader, but to us and the many people he touched while rector at St. John's, he and Holly are our friends. We followed them through his operation and the chemo and radiation treatment in Halifax through June and continue to pray for both of them as Michael remains in the Fishermen's Memorial.

As tough as this situation has been, what Michael would want is for us to turn our focus to what are clearly our blessings. Through this difficult period, we have seen the best of human kind come to the surface. As we came together as a Parish in this time of need, our abundant blessings have become even more apparent: Here are just a few examples:

- After Michael's diagnosis, close to 50 parish leaders – formal and informal, past and present – congregated and with positive conviction, identified what each can do to help keep the Parish moving forward in Michael's absence. The discussion was selfless, uplifting and effective – what a blessing. It is what Michael would have wanted and expected of us.
- We were blessed to have Father Alvin come forward and volunteer to take over the spiritual leadership in Father Michael's absence, which he has done selflessly and in a quiet and non-assuming manner. It is hard to imagine where we would be right now if not for Father Alvin – the blessing of all blessings!!
- We were blessed with the work of our Congregational Development Committee and Alvin in putting together a strong supporting guest list through the last 3 months with Kathy Lucking, Allie Colp, Lisa Vaughan and Archbishops Fred and Ron.
- Without Michael acting as our communication hub to help keep all the "pieces together", our Parish leaders committed to expand the scope of their communications to help keep each other informed with what was going on. We also agreed to have patience with each other as there were likely to be a few "oops" along the way – this was a proud moment!
- It's been a blessing to witness the level of caring come from our Parish in the form of many parishioners visiting Michael in the hospital. While he does tire easily, he still so loves the social interaction with those he has served for so many years



Father Michael Mitchell

While these are just a few examples, we encourage you to reflect on, focus on and nurture the many blessings that God brings to us, perhaps particularly during times of stress and grief.

Looking into 2018 and Beyond

As we look to the future, it's been about 10 years since the Parish created a Vision and put it into a working document. The demographics of the Parish and the dynamics surrounding churches in general have changed significantly since that time and our challenges will likely need to be addressed differently than in the past. It is now an opportune time to refresh our vision. Starting in January, we will initiate a discernment process to create a "Shared Vision" for the Parish of St. John's. The resulting Vision document will form the basis of the action of all ministries and committees in the years to come and will provide guidance for all decisions by our Parish as we move forward into the future. We will not rush this process and will employ a method that focuses in inclusivity to foster discussion and gather input from the most extensive cross-section of our Parish as possible. We will announce details of when and how this process will unfold before the end of the year – stay tuned.

Respectfully Submitted; Wardens Robert, Blake and Duncan

Tour Guide Program 2017

2017 has been a “boom” year for visitors at St. John’s! We officially opened our doors on the Victoria Day Weekend and welcomed 415 visitors ... a sign of things to come! Over the next five months our total number of counted visitors was 31,474 up from 2016 by 8,000. Lunenburg had an amazing tourist season, especially with the Tall Ships event in early August and other community activities as we celebrated Canada’s 150th Birthday.



The success of our Tour Guide Program depends on many individuals and it begins with applying for grants to both provincial and federal governments. Our deep appreciation goes to Megan Williams who spent many hours fine-tuning our applications which were approved and resulted in us receiving monies toward the employment of our three student guides ... Jordan Stuart, Clara Steves and Jade Ley. Our sincere thanks goes to these young “ambassadors” who welcomed and gave informative tours to thousands of visitors during the summer months.

During September and October we had 25 parishioners who volunteered their time so that the tour program could continue. They welcomed 7500 visitors in just those two months! Also, our thanks go to Peter Allen, our Chimer and Nona White who faithfully play our bells for everyone to enjoy. It is a wonderful asset to hear the chimes ring out over the rooftops of Lunenburg!

If you are interested in volunteering for the Tour Guide Program next season please get in touch with the Parish Office ... we’d love to have you on our welcoming team!

We are delighted to report that our Donation Box plus Tour Bus/Walking Tours brought in contributions of **over \$25,000.00!!!!**

Lunenburg, a UNESCO designated World Heritage Town has been growing as a popular tourist destination. St. John’s Church, along with our other two National Historic Sites, the Lunenburg Academy and the Knaut Rhuland House play a major role in attracting visitors from all over the world. St. John’s continues to play a vital role as we reach out to the wider community and welcome everyone through our doors!

Submitted by: Jane A. Ritcey, Tour Guide Committee

Property Committee

The 2017 plan of Property Committee included a number of larger projects as well as numerous smaller projects and tasks. With the year drawing to a close the following is a summary of where we are in the largest of our key projects.

One of the most critical ones was the replacement of a large 10”x10”x10’ beam in the church’s bell tower that supports several of the largest bells. This project was completed in late spring.

Repair, scrape and paint the bell tower. The most difficult and critical part of this project was the work around the pinnacles due to the height. This was completed in September. However the work on the lower section of the tower, down to base of the open arches, is still outstanding and will be completed in the spring next year.

The largest of our projects was the replacement of the shingles on the high section of the Parish Hall roof and is being completed as I write this article. Any bad wood on the roof is being replaced as we go. After working for several days, while not extensive, the need to replace some wood sheathing is a strong confirmation that we are doing this project at the right time.

Over the next month we will also be replacing the Duke Street door of the church (Interpretive Centre) before the winter sets in. We had planned to replace the Cumberland Street entrance door to the Parish Hall as well, but this project will be pushed out into 2018 as it is less critical and we are struggling to find the appropriate resources that can work on this type of door.

As a reminder, we have applied for and received a grant this year for a total of \$6,000 from the Provincial Department of Communities, Culture & Heritage to help support these projects.

Submitted by: Duncan Crowdis

News From Our Sunday School

The Nursery continues to have good growth. We are covering the needs of both the very young toddlers and the older two and three year old children to keep them safe and happy at all times. Lesson plans and activities prepared for the older nursery students are taught in a separate room from the toddlers, to give them a quiet and structured environment. Adult supervision is provided for both younger and older nursery students during this time. There will always be one of our older assistants to give support, and when available, an additional student from the upper class. This insures that everyone has the attention they require and is safe at all times. Parents are always welcome to stay until their little one feels comfortable and thereafter they can leave us their cell phone number for contact if needed. Grades I and II are a very solid group with a combined good attendance. They have the same lesson plan and the leaders are practising a great team spirit with flexibility.

Our older youth are working on two Christmas Outreach Projects. We will make a "Family Ornament" from a photo that you can either submit to us or we can provide one for you. Ask any of the Sunday School teachers for assistance. This can also be in memory of a loved one. These will be used to decorate our "Family Christmas Tree" in the church during Advent. Please see the example at the back of the church for size example. Photos can be deposited in the basket with the family names listed. For the second project we are looking for donations of items for our Blessing Bag Campaign. A wish list is provided at the back of the church. Alternatively, a small monetary donation would be appreciated to cover the costs of any items that we do not receive.

On the evening of November 10th Sunday School families came together to decorate our float in preparation for the Santa Clause Parade. Fellowship followed with snacks and board games. Thanks to Howard Keeping and Jim Green for assisting in the preparation for the evening by making sure that the dory and lighting source were in place.

The children and leaders took a break from usual curriculum studies on November 19th for a special activity day planned by Emmi and her upper class, and was supported by the rest of the leaders. A pancake breakfast was followed by group activities associated with our outreach projects, and cards that will be handed out during the Parade. The finale was to go to the bandstand and decorate the St. John's Christmas tree. Thanks to the Green Family...Jim, Viola and Lidia for placing the lights on the tree earlier during the week.

There was a welcoming evening for all newcomers to the town attended by Lori Nickerson. Welcome letters and Sunday School registration forms were placed in each of the welcoming baskets.

This month, a special thanks to the Francis family who shared in the readings and service duties on the fourth Sunday of the month. There was a second Altar Service Training that day as well, and we appreciate the young people who are participating with the support of their families.

Our next Leadership Meeting will be on December 3rd at 9:30am.

Submitted on behalf of St. John's Sunday School..Rena Demone

Editors Note Regarding The Vinegar Bible Text Size

The article as submitted ran to three full pages using our regular font Times Roman 12, so in order to maintain the integrity of the document I reduced the font to Times Roman 10, which allowed for the whole article to be printed at the same time. Should anyone like to have a copy in larger print please contact me and I will arrange for you to get a copy.

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