

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, December 11th 2016

Two gentlemen are celebrating their birthdays this week — Des L. turns 32 years old on December 11th, and Noel S. also celebrates his special day on December 11th. Best wishes to both for a wonderful day!

The **CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER** is available today! Please pick one up following this morning's service, from the tables set up in the Narthex. As per usual, the newsletters have been labelled with your name, so please make sure that you pick up the one with your name on it. Also, if you have already received your newsletter by email, you will be picking up the Christmas letter from Pastor Jonathan only. The church office thanks all of those who contributed to the newsletter this year — we had a lot of great submissions!

Please pick up a few **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS** from the Narthex table! Feel welcome to hand these postcards out and invite your friends and/or family to join us at St. Andrew's this Christmas season!

St. Andrew's Men's **HOCKEY NIGHT!** Come join us for fellowship and hockey during the Advent season!

WHEN? Tuesday, December 13th

WHERE? Paul S's house, 44 Winter Crt, Whitby

We will be joyful (if it's not a feeding frenzy), but who knows — maybe the Leafs will give us an early Christmas gift with a big WIN!!! Please drop in for some fun and fellowship — the puck drops at 7:30pm!

OFFERING ENVELOPES for 2017 are now available for pick-up in the Narthex, after the service, if you have not already done so. If you have never used the numbered/dated envelopes and would like more information, please speak with Christine S.

Please see the **POINSETTIA ORDER** FORM included with your bulletin this week! Each year, we decorate our Sanctuary with this seasonal flower, in memory of our loved ones. These 6-inch, red, standard poinsettias are \$10.00 each, and orders should be submitted to the church office **TODAY!**

The **DUTY ELDER for DECEMBER** is Grant T! The Duty Elder is responsible for staying in the Sanctuary following Sunday's worship service to see if there is anyone in need of prayer or assistance. Should you wish to pray or speak with the Duty Elder, please remain in your seat following the service and the Duty Elder will come to you.

The **NEW IPC PHOTO DIRECTORIES are in!!!** If you have not already picked up your new church photo directory, please see Heather in the Church Office. Please keep in mind that **only those** who had their photo taken for the directory are entitled to a free copy. Once all free copies have been distributed, we should have a handful left over for purchase, at a cost of \$12.50; otherwise, printed copies of the church roster are always available through the Church Office.

Please be aware of the **HOT LUNCH PROGRAM** still being conducted at St. Mark's United Church, 201 Centre St S, Whitby! St. Mark's will have a turkey dinner on Christmas Day, at 1:00pm. If you're alone this Christmas, please join St. Mark's to share some good food, fellowship, friendship and holiday spirit! The next hot lunch will be offered on Monday, January 30th, at 12:00noon. Please call their church office, at (905) 668-3091, if you wish to reserve a seat!

PRAYER CALENDARS for the months of November/December are available on the table in the Narthex for you to pick up! Please join our Sunday School kids in praying for each other and for each other's families!

“Retirement with Meaning: Living with the Spirit of Adventure!” *CRIEFF HILLS* Retreat Centre is offering a unique opportunity for those recently retired or looking toward retirement. This two day retreat will provide opportunity to focus on this time of transition, and to explore how your time and talents can be focused, shared and bring meaning to your life, as well as to others. Sunday, February 5th—Tuesday, February 7th. Speaker is Rev. Dr. Andrew Irvine. Cost is \$250.00 per person, or \$450.00 per couple. Call to register, at (519) 824-7898, or through website at www.crieffhills.com .

Please be aware that the **NEW YEAR START-UP DATES** for the various groups in our church will be as follows:

- Liturgical Dance - January 10th , 7:30pm
- Tuesday evening Bible Study - January 10th, 7:30pm
- Wednesday Morning Bible Study - January 11th, 10:00am
- Praise Team - January 12th, 7:00pm
- Delta Kids Club - January 14th, 9:00am

LIVING FAITH

In every generation, the church needs to confess its faith anew. That confession must, at one and the same time, be the ancient faith of the church and yet spoken into the mood and questions of its own time. “LIVING FAITH” endeavors to do that. This *Statement of Christian Belief* was prepared under the direction of the Committee on Church Doctrine of The Presbyterian Church in Canada. It has been received by the General Assembly of the church and commended as an acceptable statement, and as useful in both worship and study.

CHAPTER 5.2-5.3: The Bible

The Bible is to be understood in the light of the revelation of God’s work in Christ. The writing of the Bible was conditioned by the language, thought and setting of its time. The Bible must be read in its historical context. We interpret Scripture as we compare passages, seeing the two Testaments in light of each other, and listening to commentators past and present. Relying on the Holy Spirit, we seek the application of God’s Word for our time.

COMING EVENTS!

Dec 11th	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
	— following service	Little Harmonies practice, in the Sanctuary
	— following service	Jr. Handbell Choir practice, in the Sanctuary
Dec 13th	— 2:00pm	Ladies Afternoon Group, at Swiss Chalet, Whitby
	— 7:30pm	Liturgical Dance practice, in the Sanctuary (<i>last meeting for 2016</i>)
	— 7:30pm	Tues. evening Bible Study, in the Parlour (<i>last meeting for 2016</i>)
Dec 14th	— 10:00am	Wed. morning Bible Study, at Corina’s (<i>last meeting for 2016</i>)
Dec 15th	— 7:00pm	Praise Team practice, in the Sanctuary
Dec 16th	— 12:30pm	CO food bank, in the Hall (<i>Christmas Hamper delivery</i>)
Dec 17th	— 9:00am	Delta Kids Club, in the Hall (last meeting for 2016)
Dec 18th	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary
Dec 20th	— 7:30pm	Liturgical Dance practice, in the Sanctuary
Dec 22nd	— 7:00pm	Praise Team practice, in the Sanctuary (<i>last meeting for 2016</i>)
Dec 24th	— 7:00pm	Christmas Eve service, in the Sanctuary
Dec 25th	— 10:00am	Christmas Day service, in the Sanctuary

LIBRARY

*****ADVENT IS HERE AND SO ARE A FRESH LIST OF BOOKS
FOR YOU TO ENJOY!*****

“Reflections on the Christmas Story” by Janette Oke: The powerful proof of God’s overwhelming love, and the most cataclysmic event in history!

“The Heart of Christmas” by various authors: You have heard the Christmas story all of your life. Perhaps it seems there is nothing fresh or new left to discover? Take another look at the details that reveal God’s love and care in this ancient story of God’s coming to us as a baby.

“Sugar Plum Season” by Mia Ross: (from the “Love Inspired” collection) In the heart of the Blue Ridge Mountains, a family legacy leads to love.

“The Christmas Candle” by Max Lucado: Imagine a Victorian England village in the Cotswolds, where very little out of the ordinary ever happens...except at Christmas-time. What are they afraid of? Afraid their prayers won’t be answered...or afraid that they will?

“A Patchwork Christmas Collection” by several authors: Three women each patch together unexpected love. Each woman must search her heart, change her plans, make a decision, and patch together a tender, unexpected life filled with love.

*****PLEASE FEEL WELCOME TO VISIT THE ST. ANDREW’S
LIBRARY TO PERUSE THE GREAT BOOK SELECTIONS
THAT ARE AVAILABLE TO YOU! *****