

ANNOUNCEMENTS – Sunday, December 18th 2016

Christmas is a busy time of the year and, as such, we would like to wish a **HAPPY BIRTHDAY** to those who are celebrating their special day over the holidays, as follows:

- ◇ Mya Lynn L., 9 years old on December 20th
- ◇ Steve P., 61 years young on December 26th
- ◇ Jackie N., December 27th
- ◇ Everitt R., December 31st

Best wishes to all for a wonderful and celebratory day!

We also wish to congratulate those who celebrate their **WEDDING ANNIVERSARIES** over the holidays, as follows:

- ◇ Reg & Pat T., 61 years on December 28th
- ◇ Chuck & Carole L., 45 years on December 29th
- ◇ Cliff & Jean M., 55 years on December 30th

It seems that getting married at Christmas-time bodes well for marital longevity! Best wishes to all three couples on their special occasion!

Please pick up some **ADVENT/CHRISTMAS POSTCARDS** from the Narthex table! Feel welcome to hand these postcards out, and invite your friends and family to join us at St. Andrew's on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day!

We thank the following members of our congregation for purchasing the beautiful **POINSETTIAS** that decorate our Sanctuary today, in memory of their departed loved ones, as follows:

- ◇ Harriet A. & family, in memory of Harold Andrus
- ◇ Bill & Mary A., in memory of Hugh Madden
- ◇ Don & June B., in memory of Rose B. and Stuart & Marion White
- ◇ Valerie B., in memory of Joe B. and Earl & Jean Gray
- ◇ Jack & Nonie H., in memory of Norma & Orval H.
- ◇ Wendy L., in memory of Fay & Ed L.
- ◇ John & Jane M., in memory of Andy & Beth McIntosh and Maurice & Gladys M.
- ◇ David M., in memory of Doris M.
- ◇ The Miller/McIntyre family, in memory of Robin & Frank M.
- ◇ Jackie N., in memory of Isabel MacDonald
- ◇ Cathy R. & family, in memory of Don R.
- ◇ Susan S., in memory of Hazel S.
- ◇ Theo T-S, in memory of Vernon S.

A FRIENDLY REMINDER! At this time of year, we sometimes have difficulties regulating the temperature in various areas of the church building. If you have to open any windows, due to excessive heat, please remember to close and lock the windows when you leave. This is imperative for security reasons, and we don't want any bad weather coming inside! *Thank you, from the Board of Managers*

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.

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!

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

There are still some **2017 OFFERING ENVELOPES** ready for pick-up on the Narthex table! If you haven't picked yours up yet, please make sure to do so! If you have any questions about using the numbered envelopes, please speak with Christine Smith.

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.

"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, (519) 824-7898, or through website at www.crieffhills.com .

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 6.1.1—6.1.3: Faith

Faith is a gift of God, constantly renewed in Word and Sacrament, and in the shared life of God's people. It is trust in God, involves personal repentance of sin, acceptance of Jesus Christ as Saviour, and commitment to Him as Lord. It includes assent to the truth of the Gospel. By faith, we receive the very life of God into our lives, and joyfully discover that God knows, loves and pardons us..

God brings us to faith in many ways. We may have trusted in God from childhood; or our faith may have come later in life. Faith may come suddenly, or only after a struggle to believe. Whatever the spiritual journey we have travelled, God honours our faith, great or small. Faith is a response to God's presence in the midst of life. It says "yes" to the God Who is here.

COMING EVENTS!

Dec 18th	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship Service, 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
Jan 1st	— 10:00am	Sunday morning Worship 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! *****