

Life of the Church

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to...Mya Lynn L., turns 10 years old on December 23rd!

Thelma J. wishes to THANK THE CONGREGATION for their cards, kindnesses and prayers over the recent passing of her husband, Art. Your support is greatly appreciated.

ADVENT INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE – We want to thank the members of our ensemble who are providing music and accompaniment through the Advent season: Steve P., David R., Ryan B., Andrew R. on trumpet; Bob B. on trombone; Andrea F. and Jessica M. on flute; and Cindy B. on clarinet.

Please remember to pick-up your CHRISTMAS NEWSLETTER TODAY, from the tables set up in the Narthex. As per usual, the newsletters have been set out in alphabetical order, by surname. Those newsletters that are not picked up today will be mailed out this week. Please save the church the postage costs and make sure you pick-up your newsletter today — thank you!

Our ADVENT SERVICES are well underway, and we have INVITATION POSTCARDS available for you to hand out to your family and friends for the Advent/Christmas season. Please pick some up from the table in the Narthex and spread around the hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus Christ at this special time of year!

Our ADVENT SPIRITUALITY CENTRE is available to the congregation, as set up in the Parlour. This is a place for reflection and meditation, and the centre is open to all throughout Advent, Christmas and Epiphany.

If you are interested in ORDERING A POINSETTIA, in memory of a loved one, to decorate our Sanctuary over the Christmas season, please see the order forms located on the Narthex table. Standard 6-inch poinsettias are available at a cost of \$12.00. TODAY is the last day to submit a poinsettia order to the church office, with payment please!

The **2018 OFFERING ENVELOPES** are ready for pick up in the Narthex following the service today. If you have not previously used your own personnel offering envelopes, please see Christine Smith after the service and she will arrange a set for you.

LET'S JOIN IN PRAYER! Please set aside Tuesday mornings, at 9:30, to join in praying for God's direction in our church. If you can come to join in prayer, in the Sanctuary, on Tuesday mornings, that is good; if not, please join us in prayer wherever you may be. Let's seek God's will, power and grace together and share the guidance He gives. Our next prayer meeting will be on Tuesday, December 19th, then we will break for Christmas, and resume in the new year.

Over the next few years **The PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH IN CANADA** (PCC) will be making a number of decisions related to human sexuality. To assist members, adherents, and friends of the PCC in discerning God's will, various committees of our national church have circulated reports. They can be found on the PCC website at <http://presbyterian.ca/sexuality/>. There is also the opportunity for folks to submit a survey through the website or by mail. Please feel free to speak with your elder or Rev. Tait for more details, or to obtain a hard copy of the survey. Our Session here at St. Andrew's will be hosting a congregation wide workshop after church Sunday January 14th to assist folks in discerning God's will in this matter. Please pray for peace and clarity as we discern the will of God together in grace and in love.

Please be aware that **"ADVENT: A Calendar of Devotions 2017"** is available for pick-up from the table in the Narthex.

The **DUTY ELDER for December is Grant T!** Should you wish to pray or speak with the Duty Elder, please remain in your seat following worship, and the Duty Elder will come to you.

WEEK AT A GLANCE

Dec 17th	— 10:00 am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary—Advent III
Dec 19th	— 9:30 am	Weekly prayer meeting, in the Sanctuary
Dec 21st	— 7:00 pm	Praise Team practice, in the Sanctuary
Dec 22nd	— 1:00 pm	Community Outreach food bank, in the Hall
Dec 24th	— 10:00 am	Sunday morning Worship Service, in the Sanctuary—Advent IV
	— 7:00 pm	Christmas Eve service, in the Sanctuary