

St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

“KEEPING IN TOUCH – December 2021”

A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR



- Sun Nov 28** (4:30 pm) **Cooking with the Greens:** Tune into Facebook and join Pastor Steve’s family as they prepare “Stovies” to celebrate the Feast of St. Andrew. If you would like the ingredients and recipe ahead of time so you can cook along with them, check the Events page of our St. Tom’s website: <https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/>
Note: If you’re not already a member of the “Cooking with the Greens” Facebook group, email Steve in advance at stevegreene@diohuron.org to be added.
There may be another “Cooking With the Greens” before Christmas. Check our website at the beginning of December for details.
- Thursdays** (1:00-1:45 pm) **“Mid Week Holy Eucharist”:** Starting Dec 2nd there will be a Holy Eucharist on Thursday afternoons at 1:00 pm for people who would prefer a smaller service with fewer people. If you plan to attend, please contact Pastor Steve at (226) 755-0903 ahead of time so he can reserve a seat for you.
- Thur Dec 2** (2:30-3:30 pm) **Advent Bible Study:** Join Pastor Steve and Canon Karen as they begin a 4 week discussion on the themes of Advent: Hope, Peace, Joy and Love along with the Bible prophecies which relate to these. Please note that we gladly welcome anyone who would like to attend. You do not need to be a “bible expert” --> just willing to listen, learn and join in. Location to be announced closer to the date.
- Thur Dec 16** (11am-2pm) **Baking for The Bridges:** Please help us send some baked Christmas treats to our neighbours at The Bridges. Goodies can be dropped off in a sealed container on Thursday Dec 16th between 11am & 2pm.
- Sun Dec 19** (9:00 am) **“Lessons & Carols” Service** (please RSVP to Rick or Sharon Furnival) **
- Fri Dec 24** (4:30 pm) **Christmas Eve Service** (please RSVP to Rick or Sharon Furnival) **
- Sat Dec 25** (10:00 am) **Christmas Day Service** (please RSVP to Rick or Sharon Furnival) **
- ** at ricksharon@icloud.com or 519-620-1272 so we can ensure we have a seat ready for you.
- Sun Dec 26** **no service on Sunday** since we had one on Friday & Saturday

AN ADVENT CALENDAR "CHALLENGE"

+ A CHRISTMAS TREAT (win a \$25 "Ultimate Dining Card")



Instead of a traditional Advent calendar, here's a list of things to do as Advent activities to celebrate the coming of Christ. Every family is different, so there are many to choose from. Try to pick at least 1, in any order, every day in Advent and mark off each one as you finish it. **By the end of December, call Kathy Brown at**

519-624-6451 and tell her how many you completed. There is a \$25 "Ultimate Dining Card" (ie: Swiss Chalet/Kelseys/East Side Marios/Pickle Barrel/etc) for the person/family who completes the most!

HINT: You will already have finished 3 of these if you participate in "Baking for the Bridges", our Food Bank Drive and buying a small gift for one of our local Seniors' Residences.

- ___ Set up your nativity set at home and thank the Lord that you have a home to live in
- ___ Make a hot "comfort drink" (*hot chocolate / tea / ? your choice?*) and thank the Lord for always caring about you and staying by your side
- ___ Make an advent wreath (3 purple candles, 1 pink outside & 1 white in the centre)
- ___ Bake cookies and give some to your neighbours. Tell them it's an Advent gift.
- ___ Put on some Christmas music and sing, dance or just sit back and enjoy it. Be thankful for this Advent season which allows us to prepare in happiness and excitement for the celebration of the arrival of Jesus in our world.
- ___ Make a new Christmas decoration which reminds you of the true meaning of Christmas
- ___ Pray for each person in your family; for their relationship with God and their well being
- ___ Pray for your neighbours; for their relationship with God and their well being
- ___ Pray for our church St. Thomas and for the 4 other Anglican churches in Cambridge (St. James', St. Luke's, St. John's and Trinity) and for each individual member of our congregation
- ___ Watch a Christmas movie & eat popcorn. Thank the Lord for "down time" to rest and regenerate.
- ___ Read about Jesus' birth in the Bible (Luke chapter 2)
- ___ Make a list of all the blessings you have been given and thank the Lord for them!
- ___ Drop off an anonymous gift for someone who needs cheering up, with a note saying it's an Advent gift.
- ___ Drive around just to look at and enjoy Christmas lights and remember Jesus is the light of the world!
- ___ Have a family game night and thank God for your family
- ___ Make paper snowflakes (or other Christmas decorations) to hang on your windows

- ___ Read a Christmas book as a family
- ___ Call or Zoom Grandma & Grandpa (or someone else in your family) and sing a Christmas song (“Christmas carolling” by phone)
- ___ Take a nature walk and thank God for the beauty
- ___ Buy a few extra items at the grocery store and donate to the food bank
- ___ Pay for a coffee for the person behind you in a Tim Horton’s lineup or drive-thru. Tell them it’s an Advent gift.
- ___ Buy and donate a toy to the local Christmas toy drive
- ___ Collect old towels, sheets & blankets and donate to the animal shelter
- ___ Make an ice lantern to put on your front porch (*Google “practically functional ice lantern”*) Very pretty & very easy!
- ___ Take extra time with your prayers today and feel God’s love envelop you
- ___ Write a thank you note to someone who is not expecting it
- ___ Write a letter, send an email or make a phone call to someone who needs it
- ___ Make a “hand out” food bag to keep in your car for people standing at the roadside asking for money (instead of money, enclose things like a cereal bar / single serving fruit cup & plastic spoon / crackers & cheese in a packet / juice box) and add a note saying you’re praying for them
- ___ Make Christmas cards for children in hospital? nursing home? women’s shelter? Argus House? Call first to make sure they are able to accept them and find out how many they can use
- ___ Shovel someone else’s sidewalk (*if they catch you, tell them it’s an Advent gift*)
- ___ Carry a neighbour’s empty garbage can & recycling bins to their door for them
- ___ Give a thank you note and small treat to your paper carrier
- ___ Tape change to a laundromat washer or dryer with a note saying it’s an Advent gift
- ___ Feed the birds and thank the Lord for them while you watch them eat

Tis the Season to Clean out those Closets!



Diabetes Canada will be leaving a donation bin in the St. Tom’s driveway for a few weeks, sometime in the near future. Please sort through your closets for any gently used clothing or household items that you no longer need and we’ll let you know when the bin arrives. Thank you!



Pastor's Ponderings

O come, O Wisdom from on high/who orders all things mightily/to us the path of knowledge show/ and teach us in her ways to go/Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel.

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year”, you know those words! Ah, the sweet taste of eggnog, the delicious smell of Christmas cookies in the air and the joyous Carols ringing out as the snow gently falls. It is the most wonderful and the most challenging time of the year. Due to our schedules and culture, we quickly get slammed with what to buy for person X and what to wear when we visit person Y. With the imminent rush for gifts, glitz and gorging on food, a new year calls us to enter the hustle and bustle with expectation! We sing songs of hope, peace, joy and love as we eagerly wait for the King of Kings. Advent enables us to focus on Jesus’ Second Coming. This season strengthens our resolve to deepen our faith and to challenge our perceptions, our misconceptions on the humanity and the deity of Jesus. We are not left alone to search the truths of God on these cold December nights. It is with a holy and humble sense of gratitude and expectancy given by the Holy Spirit, that we are able live out His call and His command.

As we enter Year C, is this a season of penitence and fasting (*as recommended by Bishop Philastrius in Italy and Bishop Perpetuus in France*)? Is this a time of renewal of our Baptismal vows and a welcomed recommitment to Christ’s Spirit in the present (*dictated by the Council of Saragossa*)? Is Advent a period of being mindful of “last things” (end times) and the working for justice in the world in light of Jesus’ mighty coming in glory and power? Yes. Yes. Yes.

Advent is a season all about the coming of the Lord, past, present and future. There is no simple distinction between the three modes; Advent encompasses all the times of Christ’s arrival. He came for our redemption as the babe in Bethlehem. He comes in spirit to our lives and to our world today. He will come in glory and majesty at the end of the age for all to see.

This is the most wonderful time of the year...a time to sing, celebrate and to live in the expectant hope, peace, joy and love of Jesus:

O Come, O Come Emmanuel and ransom captive Israel/that mourns in lonely exile here/until the Son of God appear/ Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to you, O Israel

Steve+

Trivia!!!

1. What does Advent mean?
2. How many days is the season of Advent (this year)?
3. What Saint is celebrated in early December? Hint: Ho! Ho! Ho!
4. What is the liturgical colour for Advent? Why?
5. What is the liturgical colour for the Third Sunday of Advent? Why?
6. Who established Advent?





Christmas Outreach to our Neighbourhood Seniors

Let's make Christmas shine a little brighter for the seniors at **Fairview Seniors Community, St. Andrew's Terrace** and **Riverbend Place** by providing small gifts for their residents. We invite you to pick up one or two of the following needed items and bring them to the church no later than Sunday, December 12th. We will distribute them, as needed, to the 3 seniors' communities.

treats / diabetic treats / tea / hats / scarves / gloves / lotion / body wash / socks / slippers / adult colouring books / simple puzzles / fuzzy blankets / wrapping paper & bags

Cambridge Self Help Food Bank

As Christmas approaches, we are very aware that our local food bank needs all of the help it can get. We will have a donation bin at the church in December for non-perishable food. These are some of the currently most needed items:



canned meat or fish / canned fruit / sandwich spreads / cereal & individual oatmeal packages

Also, please note that on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day, all donation envelopes put in the collection plate will be directed to the Food Bank.



All loose donations (not in envelopes) on those two days are being giving to Pastor Steve and his family as our Christmas gift to them.

RECIPE OF THE MONTH → Quiche Lorraine *(submitted by The Furnivals)*

A great breakfast to serve Christmas morning with orange juice and champagne!

Ingredients

- | | | |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 3 tbsp diced onion | 1 cup bacon bits | ¼ cup Gruyere or Swiss cheese |
| ¼ cup Emmental cheese | 3 eggs | 1 cup 10% cream |
| ½ tsp nutmeg | salt & pepper, to taste | 9 inch pie crust |

Directions

Line 9" pastry plate with pastry and prick several times. Bake at 425°F approximately 8 minutes or until golden brown. Sauté onions in butter until soft. Put onions and bacon bits on top of pastry shell. Beat eggs until light then blend in cream and add salt & pepper to taste. Pour egg mixture over pastry. Top with grated cheese and nutmeg. Cook in preheated oven at 375°F for 40 minutes, until filling is fluffy and golden. Test by inserting a silver knife or toothpick. It should come out clean.

Answers to Pastor Steve's Trivia Questions



1. **Advent** comes from the Latin word *adventus* meaning “coming”, which is a translation of the Greek word *Parousia*.
2. This year, we can celebrate **27 days** of Advent. Next year (for example), we will be able to celebrate 28 days because the First Sunday of Advent will be on Nov 27.
3. **Saint Nicholas** (he died on December 6, 343 AD in Myra, Turkey)
4. **Violet (Purple)** and to some **Blue**. The reason for the Violet/Purple is that this colour symbolizes penance, preparation and sacrifice. Themes that parallel the season of Lent.
5. **Rose**. The theme for this Sunday is Joy. The official title for the day is *Gaudete* Sunday. The colour reminds us that we have reached the mid-point of the season and the hopeful expectation of the King! An incredible joy, indeed!!!
6. It is believed that this season was first presented in the Fourth Canon of the Council of Saragossa in 380 AD. In 567 AD, the Synod of Tours established a December fast and in 581, the Council of Macon ordered an advent fast for the laity from the Feast of St. Martin (November 11) to Christmas. This took the name of St. Martin's Lent.



A Chat with ... SUSAN PARTRIDGE GRENVILLE

Several parishioners have asked me if I would do my own 'biographical sketch', so here it is. I was born in Toronto on December 23, 1945. My Dad, Ernest, was a purchasing agent for Colgate-Palmolive-Peet, and my Mum, Ruth, a stay-at-home mom. In 1951, Dad was transferred to Colgate International in New York City. One of my earliest recollections is our journey by train from Toronto to New York on a freezing night in March. Dad had gone ahead in January, and Mum, my aunt, my 13-year old sister, my 6-month old brother, and I were ensconced in a tiny compartment overnight. The most memorable thing to my 5-year old self is that one of the berths folded down over the toilet!

I grew up in Little Falls, New Jersey, a bedroom community of Manhattan. Dutch immigrants had settled there after 1660, and Italians after 1890. We Episcopalians were not a large percentage of the population, but my generation of classmates didn't see any difference. Dad was a church warden and/or treasurer for decades, and I was always involved with serving at the Ladies Guild suppers and with our youth group. [PS: the Italian boys were better looking, and the Catholic youth group dances were a lot more fun.] Mum was the favourite of my friends, and when I was a teenager, they would visit her whether or not I was at home. We had a big wrap-around porch close to the middle of town, so kids were always congregated there. With a surname of Partridge and a Christmastime birthday, I endured all possible “in-a-pear-tree” references. The day I liked best in the year was my 'birthday trip' to Manhattan to see the Christmas decorations. This year, I will take my granddaughter, Sarah, to New York to see my favourite sights: Rockefeller Centre with the skaters and Christmas tree, St. Patrick's Cathedral, 5th Avenue store windows, lobby of the Waldorf-Astoria, Times Square.... I always thought *my* birthday celebration was much better than a party!

I loved school, and it wasn't until my first set of mid-term exams in university that I realized I needed to study to get good grades. The only two things I truly hated in school were art class (drawing) and

playing softball in gym. [I was always chosen last for a team and then relegated to back-up for the right fielder.] When I was 5, I announced that I would become a nurse, and at age 17, I entered the University of Massachusetts School of Nursing. I loved western Massachusetts, and stayed after graduation. Shelagh was born there in 1969, and when her Dad, Fred, graduated with a specialty in public health microbiology, we moved to Ontario. Matthew was born in 1975, and Fred was promoted to director of the Timmins Public Health Lab. From NYC to Timmins:YIKES! My children grew up in Timmins, with an abundance of snow and wonderful people, but a dearth of warm weather. I was there for 26 years, before I retired 'the first time' to follow Shelagh and her family to Cambridge.

Shelagh is a speech language pathologist at Kids Ability in Cambridge. Her children, Justin and Sarah, are both in university. Matthew lives in a beach community of Los Angeles, where he is executive producer for several of Chef Gordon Ramsay's TV shows. His children are Beckett, 7 and Sadie, 3.

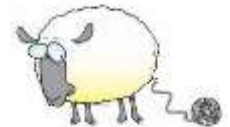
I was a nurse for 48 years, when jobs were plentiful. I worked in paediatrics, as a head nurse, in public health, taught nursing at 2 universities and a college, and even did home nursing for the wife of a world-famous artist. I stumbled into occupational health nursing in the mining industry in Timmins. Miners generally hadn't the time or the inclination to go to a doctor, but they would come to see 'their' occupational health nurse. I was fortunate to learn about occupational health hazards that are less known in southern Ontario, and when I 'retired' at age 57, I became an occupational health nurse consultant in Guelph. I retired again at age 70, and am now horrified and saddened by the burden on today's nurses during the Covid crisis.

My passion for volunteering comes from my Dad. In Timmins, I taught Sunday School, was on the executive and refereed with the competitive swim club, and helped open the rape crisis centre. I have volunteered at the Dunfield Theatre since the week it opened 8 years ago, which helps satisfy my passion for live theatre. I joined St. Tom's when I first came to Cambridge in 2003, and taught the wee ones' Sunday School class. For 8 years, I served as our parish rep on the Deanery Refugee Committee. When I was fairly new to the parish, Mike Dooley asked if I would consider joining parish council. I said I thought I was too liberal for the council, and Mike said that was what they needed. The rest is history.

The best lesson I learned in life: Use the talents God gave you to **give back to the community** in whatever capacity you can. You could cut lawns for seniors, make phone calls for a volunteer group, walk a dog, listen to a child read, bake for The Bridges, serve on a committee. Just use *your* talents to give back.

A BIG Thank You from the women at the Grand Valley Institution

As usual, our St. Tom's parishioners were more generous than we could have imagined! Eight large bags full of wool have been collected and taken to the women's prison in Kitchener for the chaplaincy program at the minimum security building to use in their knitting programs.



NOTE: Pastor Steve will be taking the following well earned vacation time:

Sun Dec 26 / Mon Jan 10 -> Sat Jan 15

In his absence, please call Canon Karen at (519) 623-3587 with any pastoral needs.

