# St. Thomas The Apostle Anglican Church

110 Francis Street, Cambridge ON, N1S 2A1

## "KEEPING IN TOUCH - January 2024"

https://www.stthomascambridge.ca/ Website:

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/St.Thomas.the.Apostle.Cambridge

#### A FEW DATES TO MARK ON YOUR CALENDAR

Wednesdays (1pm) Bible Study: Please NOTE our joint "St. Luke's / St.

> Thomas" Bible Study is changing from Tuesday to Wednesday effective January 2024. We'd love to have you to join us as we read and discuss the

upcoming week's readings. January meetings will be at St. Thomas.

**Thursdays** (1pm) Midweek Holy Communion Service: Pastor Craig invites you to

join him every Thursday afternoon for a smaller, quieter gathering

for worship followed by a time of discussion and learning.

(Note: there will be no service on Thurs Jan 18th)

Thur Jan 11 (1-3pm) **Baking for The Bridges:** If you are able to bake up

some goodies for our neighbours at the Bridges,

please bring them to the church between 1 & 3pm, to

be delivered later that afternoon.

Thur Jan 18 (12pm) **St. Luke's Luncheon:** St. Luke's are inviting us to join them for soup,

sandwich and a dessert for \$15.

**Sun Jan 28 (after church) Annual Vestry Meeting:** Please plan to stay after church on the 28<sup>th</sup> for

this very important meeting where we review the finances and events of the past year, make plans for the upcoming year and elect new council members & other positions to take care of business for 2024. If you are interested in joining our Congregational Council, please speak to Kathy Brown or Rick Furnival. No experience necessary and everyone is

welcome!

Congregational

Barbara Smith's 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration: Sun Jan 28 (1–4pm)

> Everyone is invited to the Ayr Curling Club (210 Northumberland St) for a birthday party and snacks.

#### **PASTOR'S PONDERINGS**

To my dear brothers & sisters of St. Tom's -

Christmas is not just a feast day – or rather, it is a feast that lasts for twelve days. So, as another Christmastide is winding down, may you continue to celebrate Christmas, living in the light of Jesus' holy birth, when "the Word was made flesh, & dwelled among us, full of grace & truth" (John 1:14) – God incarnate, the infant Christ.



After the Twelve Days of Christmastide, on January 6th, we will enter into the season of Epiphany, which extends until Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Epiphany means "showing forth," & the season is associated with mission & growth. Just as the readings through Epiphany will show how the baby Jesus grows & matures, we are called to be witnesses of God's love in Christ, that it comes to be known to those who do not yet know God's Light. But also, in Epiphany we look back on the Incarnation to meditate upon how God is revealed to us in & through Christ. In other words, it is a time for us to grow deeper in faith. This may involve graduating from drinking the "milk" of faith, moving on to "solid foods"; or it may involve enjoying a wider array of God's banquet – the greater & more exquisite foods of the Spirit. Whatever it is for you, may you enjoy much "feasting" ahead, that your faith may increase, to better "show forth" Emmanuel, "God with us." May God move you to behold the Lord in new & surprising ways, & open the hearts of non-believers to see the glory of Christ, God's only naturally-born Son.

On a separate note, Melanie & I were very happy to receive so many Christmas cards, a few annual circular letters, baked goods, chocolates, wine, & money. Thank you for your kindness & generosity. Above all, looking back on the past year with you, we're most grateful for all the love you've shown & continue to show.

Pastor Craig+

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#### REMEMBERING A FEW OF OUR ACW EVENTS FROM LAST FALL

An informative afternoon touring the Ontario Christian Gleaners





Exploring the Idea Exchange's new "digital library"



A very interesting visit from Wayne Paddick - Executive Director of The Bridges

# New Years Word Search

**Instructions**: Try to find all of the hidden New Years words in the word search puzzle below. (Words can be spelled forwards, backwards, diagonally, up, or down.)

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BAWOLYZUDMDTOAFQOAMMCTP
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#### **EPIPHANY CHALKING OF THE DOORS**

written by thehomelyhours

A few of us noticed the chalk marks over the Sacristy door recently but couldn't remember exactly what they stood for. Here's a reminder...



Fr. Wayne McNamara, priest of <u>Christ the King Anglican Church</u>, wrote the following introduction to the "Chalking of the Doors" tradition. A booklet along with blessed chalk is handed out to the members of his congregation every year before Epiphany.

The chalking of the Door is typically done on January 6th on the Feast of the Epiphany and celebrates the revealing of Christ to the world in three events: The visit of the Magi when Jesus is revealed to the Gentiles, the baptism of Christ by John, and the changing of water to wine at the Cana wedding. God revealed Himself to us and dwells with us and we desire the life in our homes to reveal Christ to others. This short liturgy is a way of yearly marking our homes, usually at the front or main entrance, with sacred signs and symbols to intentionally set our homes apart as places of Christian hospitality, as safe and peaceful outposts of the Kingdom of God in the world, as habitations of healing and rest. We again invite God's presence into our homes and ask His blessing upon all those who live, work, or visit throughout the coming year.

Chalk is used in this service as an ordinary substance of the earth, dust put to holy use. It reminds us that we are of the dust of the ground, the most ordinary of substances, and yet are fashioned as holy beings for most holy purposes. Chalk will not permanently mark the dwelling. Weather will likely cause the marking to fade over time, but each time we view it upon entering our homes we will remember the reason for it and rededicate ourselves to that purpose. Typically, the markings are



intended to remain at least until the Feast of Pentecost but need not be removed at all. Another year passes and a new Epiphany arrives, and will again dedicate ourselves to be Lights of the World.

#### The Inscription

Each year, the inscription is the new year separated by C+M+B. For instance, in 2016, the inscription will be **20+C+M+B+16**.

Church tradition names three of the Magi— Caspar, Melchior, and Balthasar— and on Epiphany we celebrate these three saints and their gift-bringing. The numbers of the year are the bookends of the inscription.

"C M B" above the door, also stands for *Christus Mansionem Benedicat*, Latin for "Christ, this house Bless."

### And speaking of doors...

When one door of happiness closes, another opens but often we look so long at the closed door that we do not see the one which has been opened for us.



#### A "CLEAN SWEEP" FOR THE NEW YEAR

After a trial run with the cleaner which we hired in October, it became quite apparent that our cleaning needs were unfortunately not being met, so we started a new search for the right person to fill the position. Fortunately, we were introduced to **Chrissy Blair** of **Bryll Family Cleaning Services**, and after a month of Chrissy's careful attention to the church, we feel we've found the perfect person. If you happen to run into Chrissy while you're in the church during the week, please say hello and make her feel welcome!



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#### WORD SEARCH ANSWERS

As the year comes to an end I urge you to take care of yourself and avoid accidents, because spare parts for old models like you and I are no longer in stock. Forward to other old models you care about.

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#### THE MOST WORTHWHILE NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION OF ALL

When you think of a New Year's Resolution, do you only think about physical goals? Physical health is definitely important, but Spiritual health is just as necessary. If you're looking for something new to guide your daily walk with God, try one of these two great Christian prayer / study guides:

- 1) "The Bible with Nicky & Pippa Gumbel": <a href="https://bible.alpha.org/en/">https://bible.alpha.org/en/</a>
  This has both a "classic" version and an "express" version, which only takes 15 minutes per day! ... or
- 2) "YouVersion" Bible App: <a href="https://www.youversion.com/">https://www.youversion.com/</a>
  This study app even lets you choose which Bible version you prefer to read from.

