

THE DOVE

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

December 2021



Reflections From Reverend Jeff

Merry (almost) Christmas everyone! December is always a busy time of year – fortunately mostly “good busy!” There are presents to buy and social functions to attend or prepare for. At church, there is the rising anticipation through Advent as we celebrate the blessings of Hope and Peace and Joy and Love. We find joy in small wonders and in the joy of sharing with others. We share with those in need through Stuff, White Gifts and Mission and Service offerings. And we share in the life and work of our St. Bart’s congregation through our Poinsettia Sale, Christmas Concert, Bake Sale, and other financial contributions to counteract the financial stresses of Covid. And then, as we approach the end of the year, we celebrate Christmas Eve and the peacefulness of the Sanctuary as we reflect, pray, and close by singing Silent Night in the candle-lit Sanctuary. It’s wonderful peacefulness in preparation for the busy-ness of Christmas morning and the socially distanced sharing of the good news of Christmas with our families and close friends.

It’s a busy time of year with a lot packed into one month. But it’s an important time of year where we try to reflect on the goodness all around us and the love of God in us and among us. We’re busy because we’re celebrating the revelation of God who came to be among us in human form, arriving just as we all do, a tiny helpless little baby, born in a manger. This is incredible news and it’s worthy of celebrating – big time! And it’s worth being busy as we prepare to celebrate this amazing news!

This year, we will be celebrating our second Christmas of the Covid-19 pandemic.



On the one hand, we’re starting to get used to staying safe and Covid-free; but on the other hand, it’s getting a bit wearisome limiting our social contacts. This year, it’s an even more important time to think of each other and to think of others who may be having a particularly difficult time this Christmas. Please reach out to all the folks you can with a “Merry Christmas” greeting!

Merry Christmas everyone!
Christmas Blessings,
Jeff



CELEBRATIONS

BIRTHDAYS

DECEMBER

12 Jeff Bacon
18 Kerri Schoonhoven
20 Gayle Lordon
21 Janna Pebesma
27 Don Campbell
28 Laura Cranston

JANUARY

3 Don Henley
3 Terry Gabel
4 Betty Ryan
10 Jackie Gandy
11 Charlotte Maggie Hewitt
12 Bert Hannon
29 Brenda Gabel
29 Deirdre Kane

 ST. BARTHOLOMEW'S
UNITED CHURCH



Message from Chair Ken

Hi everyone! It's hard to believe that this year is almost done, and as we head into the Christmas season the last few weeks will surely fly by.

In late November, the boiler that supplies heat to the building had a gas valve fail. Given the age of the system, it was a challenge to both locate a replacement part and to find someone who has experience working on older boilers. While this search was ongoing, we used rented heaters, fans and whatever else was necessary to try and keep enough heat in the building so that pipes didn't freeze. We were successful in doing this and after almost 2 weeks, heat was restored to the Church. A huge thank-you to Bryan Nyhof, who helped find the technician who could get us back running again, and to Nelson, the man on the wrenches. Although we fixed the boiler, it is still more than 60 years old so we're putting together a project team to create a plan for its replacement. While we may not replace it right away, we do need to know what is required for a new system before another major failure.

As noted in Terry's financial report, we've made some significant strides in reducing our forecasted deficit for the year. We're very grateful for your contributions both to our Operations budget and to our charitable endeavours. Once again, St. Bart's rises to the challenge!

At our final Board meeting of the year, we had a guest speaker from the Shining Waters Regional Council. Jeffrey Dale, Minister for Justice and Faith Formation, spoke to us about the ongoing initiative to have naloxone overdose antidote kits placed in every United Church. We will have ours installed sometime in January with several people trained in their use. In closing, I would like to thank all of you for your prayers and support this year. I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

Thanks and stay safe,
Ken Pebesma, Chair



Poinsettia Fundraising

Thank you to all the St Bart's folks who rallied to buy the beautiful poinsettia plants to brighten their homes or brighten someone else's home!

You were not deterred by the frigid December Sanctuary temperatures, or the flash one week turnaround deadline- 33 members bought 72 plants to enjoy or share!

We are happy to report that together we raised over \$500 for St. Bart's operating fund.

Not bad for a one week flash fundraiser with 'furnace' issues!! Wahoo!

Thanks to Deirdre for coordinating all the orders and keeping everything in order. Thank you to Luanne Crilly who designed the brochure and volunteered on delivery day.

Your time and expertise was so appreciated!

Thanks to Ken for helping to kick off this event and Terry for looking after the financial details.

A big thanks to Lorraine for helping to distribute the beautiful plants.

Thanks Team Poinsettia for making this a joyful and fun fundraiser!

Especially, a HUGE THANK YOU to the congregation, for once again supporting our St. Bart's Annual Poinsettia fundraiser.

Wishing you a beautiful Christmas and a joy filled holiday season.

Warm regards,
Deb Bacon

M&P

Seasons Greetings!

What a year we have had and how grateful we are to have had Rev. Jeff, Dorean and Deirdre giving us Hope, Peace, Joy and Love all through this exceptional year.

We are so thankful and we hope they will enjoy the Christmas gifts of gift cards and candy given by M&P on behalf of St. Bart's.

The M&P committee would like to wish everyone a very Merry Christmas!

Our Prayer list

The beautiful poinsettias in the Sanctuary are from Bev Poersch and family in memory of Bev's parents Alma & Hugh Laidlaw, Bev's brother Ron Laidlaw, and Bev's Granny Wreatha Sterritt; and from Jan Henriksen in memory of her sister Pamela Stevens.

Outreach

Stuff is Overwhelmed...

Stuffy returned to St Barts from Auntie Yvonne's basement this Sunday Dec. 12th to deliver an emotional "inky" thank you for ALL the EXTRA funds donated to his 17th annual campaign.

His **grand total** has now risen to **\$1,385!!!**

He is shown here with two gift bags filled with Walmart and No Frills gift cards to be delivered this week to Peel Children's Aid Holiday Wishes and Knight's Table's Holiday Hampers programs for distribution to families in Peel.



White Gift Sunday...



We are so very grateful to report that a total of \$1,365 has been donated for White Gift Sunday. For more years than we can count, we've given donations to the Salvation Army's Family Resource Centre right here on Main Street, Brampton. They provide temporary shelter for up to 18 Moms & children who have fled domestic violence. What a great donation for such important work.

Peel District School Board's Winter Caring Connection

For the second year running, Outreach has adopted a family through this PDSB program. Our family is a single Mom and two teenage boys who have just moved into Peel Village. It has been a very rough year for them with mental and physical health issues. We are so pleased to be able to give Mom, and each boy, gift cards to provide badly needed help during this season and perhaps the opportunity to purchase something special...

2022 Calendar Drive

Please continue to collect calendars for the guests at Regeneration Outreach Community. We have 36 to date! Last day for donations: January 6th, 2022.



The Outreach final Word for 2021

How can we EVER thank you enough for ALL your support through this crazy covid year? Thank you for the dollar donations, the gently used items... and especially for allowing us to spread the word that there is a mighty little caring church nestled in the depths of Peel Village. Let's shout that fact to the heavens!!

Have a blessed Christmas and an inspired New Year everyone.

Sincerely, Bev and your Outreach Team



St. Bart's Social Media

FACEBOOK <https://www.facebook.com/stbartsUC>

TWITTER <https://www.twitter.com/stbartsUC>

INSTAGRAM <https://www.instagram.com/st.bartsunitedchurch/>

YOUTUBE https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV6iCKTrteznszDkUY_gWAA?

U.C.W. Christmas Treats Fundraiser



Because of your generous support our Christmas Treat Fundraiser has raised \$600 and at our recent UCW meeting we agreed to raise our contribution to counteract the financial stresses of Covid to \$1000. Thank you so much for your support.

Also a big thank you to our baked good contributors.

Yvonne and the Christmas Treat team.



“The Joy of Christmas”
52nd Christmas Concert & Fundraiser
In-person and streamed live online
Go to [youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com) and type [stbartsuc](https://www.youtube.com) in the search window at 7:20 pm

Sunday, December 19, 2021 7:30 p.m.

Director of Music Dorean Boss

Guest soloists: Flautist Carol Clipperton
Soprano Rhonda Shirreff
Tenor Dale Pebesma

Thank you so much for your ongoing support of this annual event that is a staple at Christmas
Dorean



Finance

Financial Update

Elsewhere in this issue of The Dove, you will read about our response to several Outreach projects geared toward the Christmas season. These include Stuffy and our White Gift service, as well as Family Hope Services in Nambia, Africa. St. Bart's has a long tradition of supporting these programs and this year was no exception, even in light of the implications of the Covid pandemic on our congregation.

You will also read about repairs to the heating system, which failed in late November, plunging the building into an early deep freeze. The bills for emergency repairs and a remedial heating hook-up engineered by our Board Chair are expected to amount to about \$5,000. All of this will be paid from the Building Fund, without any call to the congregation for emergency funding.

Our Local Operations Fund, which covers the ongoing costs associated with the day-to-day operation of our ministry, was forecast to have a deficit for the year in excess of \$22,000 at the end of September. An increase in donations during October brought that forecast down to about \$19,000. December is normally a good month for donations, and coupled with several Christmas fundraising projects (outlined in the prior issue of The Dove), we expect to trim that forecast deficit even further.

At the beginning of December, we received an early Christmas gift of a special \$10,000 donation. In December, we have the Poinsettia sales, the UCW Bake Sale, the Christmas Concert fundraiser and I have learned over the years not to underestimate the generosity of the St. Bart's congregation, especially at Christmas time. If you are able, please consider an extra donation before the end of the year. Cheques, cash and e-transfers must be received by December 31, 2021 in order for you to receive credit on your income tax receipt this year.

Terry Gabel, Treasurer (1-905-854-4576)