

INSIDE



ST. ANDREW'S

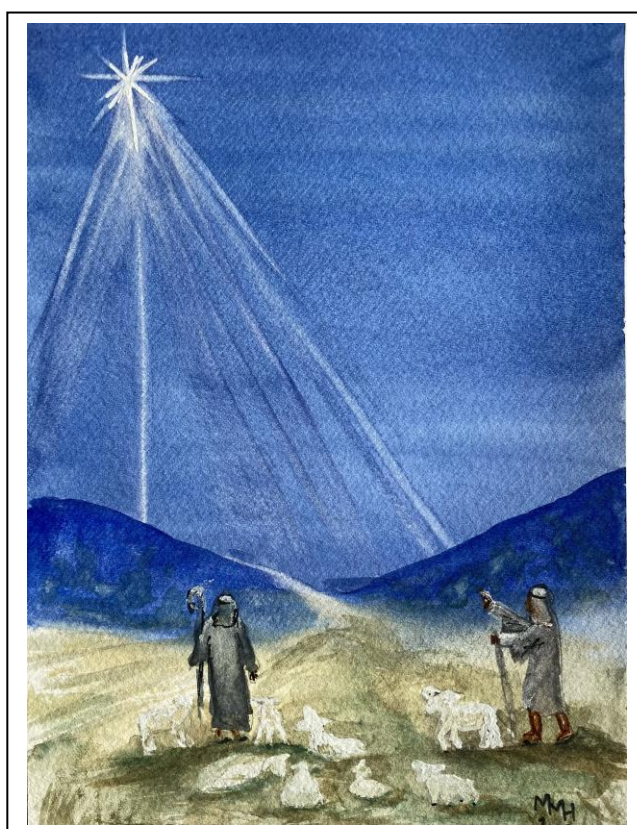
A community loving God by loving our neighbours.

At St. Andrew's, Brampton, we: learn together to know God's love through worship, study, and prayer; put our faith into action by loving and caring for each other; use God's gifts to go forth to bring others to Christ.

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This month...



Artwork by Molly Harvey

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is givenand his name shall be called Wonderful Counsellor, The Mighty God, The Everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace.

(Isaiah 9:6)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church
44 Church St. E, Brampton ON, L6V 1G3
905-451-1723
www.standrewsrampton.ca

BIRTHDAYS

December 2022

- 1 Risfa Massey-Mubushar
- 2 Abigail Dedech, Julie Good
- 3 Samuel Odzenma
- 4 Chiara Batasar, Thomas Dewar, Kim Shepherd
- 5 Jamina Cabral
- 7 Natalie McMahon
- 8 Felicity Alexander, Nicholas Dawson,
Robert Orrom
- 10 Carl Phillips, Karalyn Sannella, Kailyn Wright
- 11 John Prechner
- 12 Heather Alley, Marilyn Hunt, Razia Rehmat
- 14 Maltina Armstrong
- 15 Ashlyn Bennett, Lee Hickey
- 16 Mark Marshall, Florence Martin,
Peter Shepherd
- 17 Isabella Martin, Manoj Moon
- 18 Harvey Kalyan, Harrison Ross,
Oumadai Sooklall
- 19 Sandra Burton, Vishar Jokhoo, Leigh Tomlinson
- 20 Emily Marshall
- 22 Stewart Armstrong, Rookmin Bisnauth,
Sylvia Cohen
- 23 Nancy Harley
- 25 Grace Halm
- 26 Soyini Barrington, Sundes Emanuel,
Robert McKnight
- 27 Amy Decicco, Roshni Manual, Michelle Tedder
- 28 Faiza Bhatti, Adil Iftikhar, David Ridler
- 29 Matthew Cabral, Caleigh Prechner,
MacKenzie Prechner, Rachel Samuel
- 31 Rashmi Raj



January 2023

- 1 Nicholas Jones, Frank Kar, Nabila Sadiq,
Clarence Snieder
- 2 Lenore Armstrong, Richard Duncan
- 3 James McCoy, Lynn Wright
- 4 David Aleong, Brandon Roopchan,
Lyndon Roopchan
- 5 Donald Wilson

THE REASON FOR THE SEASON



The Mission Committee is offering these lawn signs again this year, reminding us all of the true reason for the season.

These signs are small enough for a porch or balcony, too! The cost is just \$6.00 each.

If you would like one, please call Rev. Geoff Ross at (647) 524-1870 or email Eunice Boyd at euniceboyd@rogers.com.

Condolences

To the family of Anne Russell who died on November 6. A Celebration of Life service for both Bill and Anne will be held at a later date.

Also to Rajeev Wijesinghe and family on the death of his 97-year-old grandmother in Sri Lanka.





Church Office

905-451-1723

Ext. 0

Open Tuesdays,
Wednesdays & Thursdays 9:30 am – 5:00 pm
office@standrewsbrampton.ca

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rosemary@standrewsbrampton.ca

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Senior Choir, Leap of Faith Band, Junior Music Makers

Office Administrator Ext. 0
Valerie Barrett

Church Ministries

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wecare@standrewsbrampton.ca

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Gord Warren foodbank@standrewsbrampton.ca

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school@standrewsbrampton.ca

South-East Asian Outreach Ministry
urdu@standrewsbrampton.ca
Pastor Babar Allahditta Cell: 647-779-8281

Rosemary's Reflections



Christmas memories – waking up early on Christmas day and seeing my stocking pinned to the end of the bed, a doll peeping over the top; hearing Christmas carols thanks to the local Methodists braving the early morning cold; a glass of my mother's home-made blackberry wine (adults only, of course!); dinner at my grandmother's home, the table laden with turkey and plum pudding. And then there was the year I discovered that Santa didn't exist! As per custom we would leave a glass of milk and a cookie for Santa and, miracle of miracles, it would be gone by morning. One year I bit the four corners off the cookie before going to bed – and then found the very same cookie next day in the cookie tin. Hmmm!

As I grew older, my memories of Christmas changed and I came to think more in terms of people – the family gathered round the fire or table, my first Christmas in Canada and the kindness of my new in-laws. And then with the arrival of our children and later our grandchildren (and now the great-grandchildren), things have changed again. Now the focus for me is on our simply being together – who'll be home for Christmas? So much depends on schedules and distance and, in some cases, health. But no matter – it's still Christmas, and as family and friends we come together in person or online or by phone, because, as I have come to appreciate more and more over the years, Christmas is not primarily about presents and food. It's about people.

Continued on page 4

Church Contacts

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Past Clerk

Kim Shepherd 905-457-2127

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Rosemary's Reflections continued

This is surely the essence of the Christmas message. Jesus didn't come to live or teach or preach the Gospel of Wealth, though many people think he did. The reward for following him, they say, is material wealth. In fact Jesus says the exact opposite. "Don't stockpile treasures on earth," he says. (Matthew 6:19) "Better to stockpile treasure in heaven. That's where your reward will be." Jesus lived and taught the Gospel of Love for Others. That's not always the message that Christmas sends out today. In fact if you didn't know anything about Jesus, who is the "reason for the season" in the first place, it might be difficult to find him in the midst of all the holiday getting and spending and general hullabaloo. Not that as his followers, we can't or shouldn't celebrate his coming into the world. We do so with joyful hearts. We just need to be vigilant that the real meaning of Christmas doesn't get lost in the commercialism and secularism of our society. The best birthday/Christmas gift we can give Jesus is to live his Gospel of Love every day, everywhere, with everyone we meet.

May you have a blessed and joyful Christmas!

Rosemary

INSIDE ST. ANDREW'S

PUBLISHED MONTHLY (except August) to inform our church community about activities within this congregation and the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and to provide inspiration to our readers.

Submissions can be made by email to newsletter@standrewsbrampton.ca or to felicity.alexander@sympatico.ca

Additional Contributors This Month:

Helen Collins, Anna-Marie Dewar, Molly Harvey, Robyn Kirkpatrick,
Ray Scanlan, Doreen Scott-Dunne, Gord Warren

**Deadline for submissions for the January issue is
December 21, 2022**

This newsletter and St. Andrew's
office printing are done by:

15 Fisherman Drive, Unit 22
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POSTPLUS
BUSINESS CENTRE INC.
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News from the Pews



As we once again enjoy the beauty of our Sanctuary decorated for Christmas, we thank the large group of “church mice” who turned up on November 21 to make this possible.



Congratulations to Jennifer and David Aleong who are new grandparents. Their grandson Asher Kurtz was born November 11, 2022, in Seattle, and weighed 6 lbs. 14 ozs. Jennifer reports that daughter Michelle, her husband Jeremy and baby are all doing well.



On November 19 we welcomed Rookmin Bisnauth into membership of St. Andrew's by Profession of Faith.



Stewardship Corner

The Narrative Budget meeting was held via ZOOM and in person in the Church Sanctuary on Sunday, November 20, 2022. Financial statements had been made available to the congregation one week prior to this meeting. There were 42 people (in person and online) who participated in the meeting.

Rev. Geoff Ross opened the meeting with prayer. Jean Bradshaw was appointed to take the Minutes of the meeting. A representative from each committee presented what they hope to achieve with their proposed budget for 2023.

Anna-Marie Dewar, Treasurer, did an amazing job of putting together an easy-to-understand PowerPoint presentation of the Church's financial statements on the sanctuary screens. Anna-Marie described the various sources of revenue for St. Andrew's along with the Church's expenses. She also went over the various ways that you can donate to the Church. Throughout the meeting the congregation had opportunities to ask questions - and they did.

Anna-Marie Dewar moved that the budget be approved as presented, and this was seconded by Molly Harvey. By a show of hands, or vocal agreement from the online congregation, the vote to pass the budget was unanimous.

A special thank you to Anna-Marie for all the time and effort she spent on the information presented. As well, thank you to Peter Shepherd for all of his technology support. Without Peter's support the in-person version and online portion of the meeting would not have been possible.

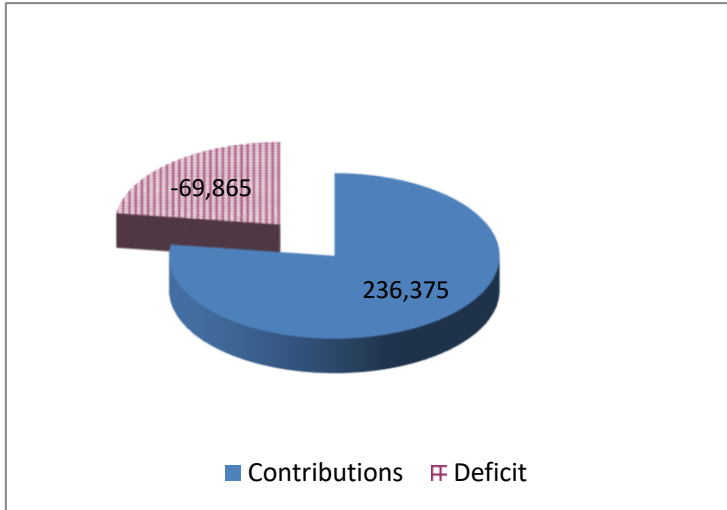
Overall, it was a very successful Narrative Budget meeting. Hopefully 2023 will be a better year financially for St. Andrew's than is predicted for 2022. As Molly Harvey said in the meeting – “we all need to pray and have faith.”

Helen Collins
Chair, Stewardship Committee

Church Finances

Shortfall Pie Chart

Purpose of this chart is to show in a graphic form the shortfall of contributions to expenses as of November 21, 2022



Total contributions from January 1 to November 21 are **down 34%**. This decrease is mainly in our other revenue, the prior year included investments and rental income at about \$107,000 compared to \$11,500 currently. Expenses YTD compared to the prior year are down. Thank you all for your generosity.

You can contribute by credit card through our website, mail a cheque, do an Interac e-Transfer or go on Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR).

To process an Interac e-Transfer: Go to your banking website, select Interac e-Transfer, enter the amount you wish to donate and in the message area indicate your name, envelope number and how you want the donation distributed i.e. amount for general funds, Presbyterians' Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank. If you do not indicate a split your entire donation will go to the general operating fund, **this cannot be changed later. It is vital that you use the email treasurer@standrewsbrampton.ca**

"Christmas means giving. The Father gave his Son, and the Son gave His life. Without giving there is no true Christmas, and without sacrifice there is not true worship." Gordon B. Hinkley

Contributions & Expenses Comparative

	1 Jan - 21 Nov 22	1 Jan - 21 Nov 21
Contributions		
Offerings	210,176.40	210,184.04
Other Revenue	26,198.71	145,726.54
Total Contributions	236,375.11	355,910.58
Expense		
Education	1,198.46	1,956.13
Mission	14,545.89	13,221.93
Property	76,345.17	161,915.80
Stewardship	199,651.67	170,393.95
Worship	12,499.16	4,758.27
Donation - Ukraine Relief	2,000.00	1,335.09
Total Expense	306,240.35	353,581.17
Net General Surplus (Deficit)	(69,865.24)	2,329.41
Presbyterian Sharing donations*	18,705.26	18,663.26
PWS&D donations*	7,190.76	5,943.26
Food Bank donations*	35,604.04	51,489.40

* NOTES: 1) Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D and Food Bank donations are not included in the Offerings numbers above.

2) PWSD donations includes amounts for Ukraine relief over and above the \$2,000 donation made by Session

St Andrew's Presbyterian Church
2023 BUDGET SUMMARY
with previous years comparisions

	2019		2020		2021		2022		2022		2023	
	Audited		Audited		Audited		Budget		Jan 1 - Oct 31		Budget	
	pre pandemic		pandemic		pandemic		post pandemic		Actual		post pandemic?	
General Fund Income/Expense												
Income												
Total Offerings	302,667.11	84%	257,130.28	93%	245,692.37	49%	250,950.00	57%	198,997.32	65%	257,950.00	56%
Enduring Gifts and Investment Inc	182,324.25		212,591.95		193,197.31		40,000.00		4,944.36		40,000.00	
Rent and Weddings	33,410.00		16,060.00		57,336.93		26,000.00		8,950.00		20,000.00	
4209 · PCC Grants	0.00		11,088.01		20,000.00		20,000.00		0.00		30,000.00	
Other	28,910.64		17,039.20		20,789.28		3,000.00		11,029.35		3,000.00	
Total Other Revenue	244,644.89		256,779.16		291,323.52		89,000.00		24,923.71		93,000.00	
Total Income ex.Mission and Service	547,312.00		513,909.44		537,015.89		339,950.00		223,921.03		350,950.00	
Expense												
Total Congregational Care	0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00		0.00	
Total Education Committee	3,912.31		3,362.96		2,691.99		5,100.00		1,394.90		4,250.00	
Total Mission Committee	14,407.36		8,559.66		16,180.80		39,650.00		13,269.87		49,500.00	
Total Property Committee	59,721.30		70,364.74		166,537.28		93,804.00		84,581.97		148,100.00	
Total Stewardship Committee	265,021.70		180,761.81		299,949.82		272,795.00		184,835.48		235,650.00	
Total Worship Committee	14,922.69		6,149.96		15,027.58		27,225.00		18,263.41		24,725.00	
Total Session	1,794.91		8,634.29		2,018.24		1,000.00		2,000.00		1,000.00	
Total Expense	359,780.27		277,833.42		502,405.71		439,574.00		304,345.63		463,225.00	
Net Ordinary Income ex. Mission and Service	187,531.73		236,076.02		34,610.18		(99,624.00)		(80,424.60)		(112,275.00)	
Transfers from Restricted Funds												
Mission fund re SEAOM											3,000.00	
Building fund re 175th 2022 offering for Fire Panel upgrade											12,000.00	
Building fund re Xmas 2022 offering for front stair repairs											10,000.00	
	187,531.73		236,076.02		34,610.18		(99,624.00)		(80,424.60)		(87,275.00)	

Project Cozy 2022

by Robyn Kirkpatrick



The Mission Committee would like to thank the congregation for their generous donations of hats, mittens, scarves and socks to our Project Cozy drive. We have collected 20 packages of warm and cozy items that will be donated to Ellen House. The surplus hats, mittens and scarves will be donated to our neighbours in need who live in downtown Brampton.



Special thanks to our friends at St. Paul's Presbyterian Church, Bramalea, whose knitters donated over 100 items to our Project Cozy drive.

Food... for Thought

by Gord Warren



Changes

Nothing stays the same, because if you don't do anything then you are actually falling backward. This was explained many times during my working career.

Your Food Bank is undergoing changes. The expectation of colder weather and the increase in client attendance has necessitated the ongoing changes. We have started using the Great Hall for the clients to wait their turn to obtain food. It's becoming too cold for them to wait outside. They still keep distance while they are waiting, everyone has to be vaccinated and wear a face mask. This is to protect both them and the volunteers. We are actively exploring the most efficient way of using the extra rooms in the Education Wing.

This year we will not be hosting a Christmas lunch for the clients. We don't feel that it would be safe for the clients and volunteers, as we would have a very difficult time enforcing appropriate spacing. Instead, we are going to use the money saved to purchase backpacks for adults. We plan on filling the backpacks with Christmas treats of cookies and cakes, canned ham or corned beef along with hats, scarves, mitts, warm socks and Tim Horton's gift cards.

If you would like to help fill the backpacks, please donate to the Food Bank and put a note on the donation "Christmas treats." If you would like to assist in the filling of the backpacks, please contact any Food Bank volunteer for more information.

The Food Bank committee and volunteers wish to thank all the members for their support throughout the years, and wish everyone a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year. God Bless.

**Merry
Christmas**



The L6X/L6Y GRACE Group met again in person on Tuesday, November 8 at the home of Doreen and Ray.



We caught up on each other's news, welcomed back travellers and completed the first chapter of a study on "Love Like Jesus" by Dr. Les Parrot. The focus was on "Being Mindful" of others. We hope to meet again for a Christmas luncheon and time of fellowship on December 13, if we all manage to stay healthy in flu season.



At the November meeting of the L6T/L6P GRACE Group we were excited to meet Lee Crawford's 3-day old granddaughter, Winona Lee. We joked that her presence greatly reduced the average age of our membership!

Most of our meeting was taken up with planning our participation in providing food for the DISMAS Christmas dinner. Each of our members volunteered to provide a dish for the event. With the assistance of the WMS we should be able to provide the dinner using only warming ovens and crock pots. We also reviewed the upcoming events at the church during Advent.

CALL TO PRAYER



by Ray Scanlan

For nine months we have been praying for an end to the war in Ukraine after Russia made an unprovoked invasion of this European country by sending in 500,000 troops and tanks, causing massive death and destruction. This invasion and the thousands of missiles and bombing by drones has totally destroyed many villages, towns and cities, causing Russia to now focus on destroying the country's infrastructure and civilian population to the extent that much of the population is now without food, water, hydro, heat and shelter (the basic necessities of life).

As winter is closing in this is a real disaster!

We have been praying for an end to the destruction of residential buildings, hospitals, infrastructure, schools and other atrocities in a clear attack on the people. Hundreds of thousands have left the country or have been wounded, murdered, executed, tortured, starved or worse. There are now millions of refugees!

You are invited to pray with us from your home at 3 pm on the third Friday of each month for the people of Ukraine.

Christmas Hope, Peace and Joy



Father, we pray that you will turn our hearts toward you as Christmas approaches. Let us not get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season this year and miss the chance to celebrate the gifts of hope, peace, joy, love, that you sent to us on that first Christmas. That first Christmas, you gave us the gift of hope wrapped in swaddling clothes and laid in a manger. Thank you, Father, for your immeasurable gift. In Jesus' precious name, we pray. Amen

Baptism

What a delight it was to have lots of families with children in the Sanctuary prior to the four baptisms on November 13.



Child: Evelyn Heather Elizabeth Stratton
Date of Birth: 31 May 2022
Parents: William Stratton & Jessica Ball



Child: Kailer James Lawrencescott
Date of Birth: 08 April 2020
Parents: Shawn Lawrence & Morna Scott-Dunne



Child: Eliana Lily Seepersad
Date of Birth: 24 February 2022
Parents: Narin Seepersad & Khadine Chatoor



Child: Nicole Margaret Martin
Date of Birth: 15 August 2021
Parents: Gavin & Sarah Martin

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE



by Molly Harvey

Our Remembrance Day service on November 6 began with a resounding prelude with organ and trumpet. A watercolour painting of poppies by Molly Harvey on the cover of the Order of Service signalled the theme the day. A reading by Rev. Rosemary Doran of the John McCrae poem, *In Flanders Fields* provided a meaningful introduction.



June and Colin Young participated in the Act of Remembrance and Molly Harvey laid the wreath while Lino Varano played the Last Post and Lament.



During his message Rev. Geoff Ross discussed McRae's training as a doctor at McGill University and his Great War service that inspired the writing of the now famous poem. Geoff reminisced about his grandfather, who was Rev. Dr. G. Deane Johnston, a chaplain during World War II and who, in 1967, was Moderator the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Geoff then shared family photos of his grandfather's war time service while he acknowledged the service of chaplains and so many others who stood firm in their faith throughout the war. They held a faith based on the experience of hope.



Lily Rhind's reading of two verses of John Mitchell's reply to "*In Flanders Fields*" concluded the morning worship as we are all "Standing Firm" as poppies grow.

THANKS TO RETIRING ENVELOPE SECRETARIES



Before the close of the Budget meeting on November 20, Stewardship Committee Chair Helen Collins presented a gift and flowers to Bea Embling who is retiring after 20 years of service as the senior Envelope Secretary. Valerie Warren is also retiring, and she too received a gift for her 14 years of service.

Bea and Val will officially retire the end of December 2022.

Bruce the “cookie man” is back!



Shortbread – \$8
Cookies – \$10
Christmas Cake – \$13

This year’s deal - buy one of each, pay \$30, save \$1.

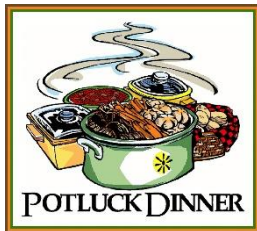
Sales are online only. No phone calls **please**.

Orders will be taken by email. Please send your order to Bruce at brewsterwlu@hotmail.com and he will personally deliver the goodies to your home.

Proceeds go to support the needs of our Food Bank.



Our December meeting will be on **Tuesday, December 6, 2022 at 6:00 pm.** It will be a potluck supper. We will not be using the kitchen, so we ask that dishes be heated ahead of time, using crockpots, as we will have access to the electrical outlets in the Great Hall!



Our Christmas Service will follow the dinner.

The SALSA Group

The St. Andrew’s Ladies Social and Action group (SALSA) will be gathering for a Christmas Social on Monday, December 12, at 7:00 pm at the home of Colleen Peyer - 6 Lancefield Crescent, Brampton.

Please confirm your attendance by email to Pam Loree at loreel1967@gmail.com.

SPECIAL CHRISTMAS SERVICES



Blue Christmas Service
Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 pm

In our Annual Blue Christmas service we take the time to remember that for many, this time of year can be difficult. This could be because there has been a loss in your life or because your circumstances have changed. It could also be because you are alone or just find the hustle and bustle of the season to be more than you can bear. Regardless of the reason, the Blue Christmas service – to be held on Wednesday, December 14 at 7:30 pm in the sanctuary – is meant to offer you some comfort, hope, peace, and a reminder that, through the promises of a loving God, you are not alone. This year’s message will be focused on preparing ourselves for God’s hope.

If you are not comfortable with – or are unable to – join us in-person; as we did last Christmas, we will also be broadcasting the service live on our Facebook page. You will find more information about this as we get closer to the 14th.

Whichever way you choose, I invite you to join us for this quiet and meaningful service. Come, add your voice and prayers with others. Take a moment in this busy season to pause, light a candle, and say a prayer for those on your heart. I truly hope to see you over the season of Advent and for Christmas Eve.

Geoff



Saturday, December 24: Christmas Eve

4:00 pm – Family Christmas Eve Service
(to be confirmed)

7:30 pm - Service of Lessons and Carols

10:00 pm - Candlelight Communion Service