

The PARISH NEWSLETTER

ST. JOHN'S CHURCH - WEST TORONTO

FOUNDED 1881

Humberside and Quebec Avenues

November/December 1986

Editor: Lynne Davis

Rector's Message

Dear Friends and Members of St. John's,

During the next six or seven weeks, we are entering into two separate and distinct seasons of the Christian Church Year, Advent and Christmas.

ADVENT: A Period of four weeks (November 30 - December 24) to examine and prepare ourselves for Christmas.

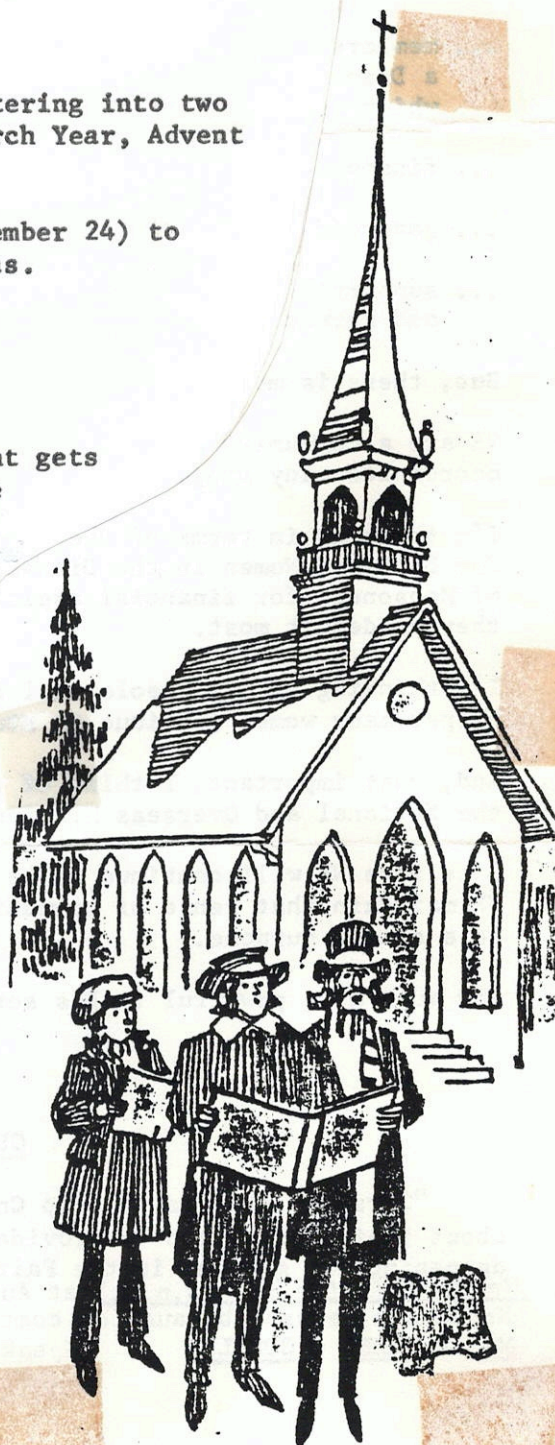
CHRISTMAS: The Nativity of the Birth of Christ
December 25 to January 5
The Twelve Days of Christmas

Unfortunately, due to commercialization, Advent gets swallowed up in parties, shopping and other festive occasions. Christmas becomes a one day occasion, rather than the beginning of twelve days of celebration of the birth of our Saviour into the world.

Every year I try not to get caught up in the commercialization, but how difficult it is! Santa comes earlier every year, Christmas Carols come earlier every year, the pressure to buy more, spend more, etc., etc. seems heavier every year. Most of us cram all the festivities of Christmas into the two or three weeks before, during the Advent Season, and come Boxing Day we are so worn out that we are glad it's all over, when in reality it has only just begun.

I would like to suggest that some of our socializing be held during the twelve days following Christmas, possibly wait until Christmas Eve or the week before to put up our tree and enjoy it after Christmas Day.

It seems to me that as Mary and Joseph had difficulty finding a place for Christ's birth, so the commercial world is continually making it more difficult to find room for the real meaning of Christmas in our lives.

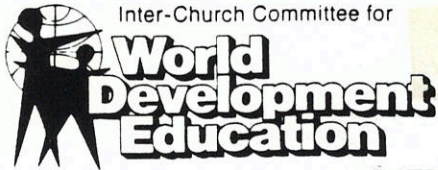


CHRISTMAS IS FAMILY.....CHRISTMAS IS CARING.....CHRISTMAS IS LOVE

Let us during ADVENT prepare a place for HIM in our families, our lives and in His world.

Love...Joy...and Peace

Gordon King



Why are People Hungry?

WEST METRO 10 DAYS (for World Development) MEETING - Saturday, November 22, 1986 9:30 -12 noon

Place: Royal York Rd. United Church
3 blocks south of Bloor St. - east side of Royal York Rd.

This year's West Metro meeting allows for more 'in depth' study of the causes of hunger in the world and provides the opportunity to more fully understand the injustice that causes hunger.

Programme:

- 9:30 a.m. - Bridgehead Coffee
Literature Table
- 9:45 a.m. - Opening - Spiritual Roots for a Social Commitment
- 10:00 a.m. - Review of 1987 10 Days materials and resources
- 10:30 a.m. - Slide presentation by Charlie Lane of recent trip to SIERRE LEONE.
Discussion
(Charlie Lane is Head of the Geography Dept. at Lakeshore College).

For further information, please call: Mary Worth at 233-8864

Pontius' Puddle





HOLLY TEA

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 22, 1986

2:00 p.m. - 4:00 p.m.

PARISH HALL

Knitting, Crafts, Baked Goods

Tickets: \$2.50

Sponsored by St. John's A.C.W.



26th April 1986

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE ANGLICAN CHURCH WOMEN - DIOCESE OF TORONTO

Dear Friends:

I am writing this en route to Canada just about the time I should have been starting my address to your Diocesan Annual.

I regret more than I can say the fact that a mix-up in travel arrangements made it impossible for me to be present. I have always tried not to miss engagements and it has not happened very often. There is, however, a particular reason why I was especially anxious to be present at your Annual Meeting just prior to my retirement. I wanted to be able to use the occasion of your Annual Meeting to say "Thank you" not only to those present, but through them to the A.C.W. members in every part of Canada for the great contribution which they have made and continue to make to the life of the Church.

Again my apologies for my failure to be present, my thanks for your contribution, and my prayers for God's blessing upon your work.

Yours faithfully,

The Most Reverend Edward W. Scott
Primate



Following are a few excerpts from the intended address which is on file at the A.C.W. office.

"My close connection with the tremendous contribution of women in the Church goes back many years; I served as Secretary on the Commission of Women in the Church at a time when, in some dioceses, women were not allowed to serve as

Wardens or to be delegates to Synod! With all these limitations, women played a vital role in the Church in many ways. One of the most important of them was their growing claim to be equal partners with men in the life of the Church. Much progress has been made but there is still much to be done.

The nature of the Church arises from the nature and the love of God. Jesus sought to transform the world - a world in which every human being knows that he or she is loved, is valued, where every human being knows that he or she has a contribution to make, a world in which every human being shares in some of the resources of creation.

Are you and I helping to transform the world so that it becomes that kind of place? Every day you and I touch the lives of others. What kind of an influence do we have on others? Do we seek to help come into being a world in which every human being can share in the gifts of creation - have enough food, clothing, shelter?

This is the mission of the Church - your mission . my mission.

Anglican Church Women, as part of the Church, have helped many people over the years to be involved in this mission - May you continue to do so - a glorious calling!"

Submitted by Irene Munroe

NEWCOMERS WINE AND CHEESE

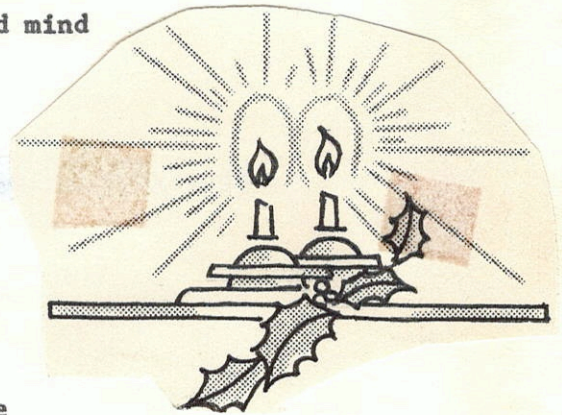
There will be an informal wine and cheese reception in the Parish Room on THURSDAY, November 20, 1986 from 8:00 p.m. - 9:30 p.m. Babysitting will be provided if needed. Please contact Gordon King. This is an enjoyable evening and a great way to get to know other new members of the congregation!

MY CHERISHED FRIEND

My friend is one who speaks to me.....and takes the time to write
Who has a thought to spare for me.....whatever day or night
Who comforts me and wants to make my worry his concern
Who does a favour....but expects no favour in return
The one who knows the faults I have, but does not criticize
And who is always at my side to help and sympathize
He is the brother of my soul...forever good and kind
And he is first and foremost in my grateful heart and mind
My friend is one who keeps me in his every memory
And now and then will turn to God...
And say a prayer for me.

THE GOLDEN YEARS

Now that we're retired
With our "Golden Years" ahead
We can arise in early morning
Or we can rest a while in bed.
We can drink our morning coffee
While we listen to the news,
We can rush into our housework
Or dawdle if we choose.
We have outlived all our troubles
We have left behind our cares
We can now see God's great blessings
And we now have time for prayers.
Age is no time for sadness,
Age has no time for tears,
There should only be joy and gladness
When we reach our "Golden Years".



Thank you to Frank Hayward who contributed both of the enjoyable poems above.

The Reverend Richard MacNamara, L.Th. - Rector of St. John's 1917 - 1935

The Reverend Richard MacNamara was the fifth rector of St. John's. He entered upon his ministry in 1917 and for seventeen and a half years, laboured with all diligence and ardour for the parish of which he was spiritual leader. During World War I he served as a Major in the army.

Of dynamic personality and abounding energy, he soon realized that as a result of changing residential tendencies and also the creation of two new parishes- St. Paul's and the Church of the Advent- St. John's Church was no longer in the location best suited to the needs of the parish. Thus he gave all support to the new and daring policy of erecting a church building at the corner of Quebec and Humberside Avenues, the geographical centre of the parish.

This meant the abandonment of the original site of the Church and the removal of its materials to the new site, where already the rectory had been built. <The members of the Rector's family have told some interesting stories about the trials of living in the rectory with a church being built at their back door; not knowing sometimes where the money was coming from to pay the workmen's wages!> However, the subsequent growth of the parish and the flourishing condition of the Church have well justified the action taken.

The corner-stone of the present edifice, seating 600 people, was laid on May 5th, 1923, and the Church was opened for Worship by the Right Rev. J.F. Sweeny, Lord Bishop of Toronto, on November 4th of the same year.

On the following Sunday, Bishop Reeve dedicated the beautiful chancel window, with its inspiring theme of the Ascension, as a memorial to the thirty-nine men and boys who had fallen during the 1st World War. The triple window of the Crucifixion in the East Transept was erected by the members of the Bula Matadi Boys' Bible Class on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Church. A large brass tablet nearby, has since been dedicated to the memory of the Reverend Richard MacNamara. The carillon of ten bells is a distinctive feature of the Church and sends the message of the Gospel, in music, to the whole community.

Apart from the necessary financial undertaking, Mr. MacNamara, aided by his wife, carried forward a great expansion in all parochial organizations and developed the Bible Class department, one of the strongest aspects of the Church life.

In the recently published book, "I Have Chosen You", written by William E. Harrison, the life and ministry of the late Archbishop Walter Foster Barfoot who, for ten years, was primate of all Canada. Archbishop Foster and the Reverend Richard MacNamara were associated with each other in All Saints Church, Collingwood, and Rev. MacNamara "was to have a great influence on Walter in guiding and directing him-paving the way for his preparatory years at Wycliffe College. After his ordination, "Walter was over-joyed to find that he would be at St. John's, West Toronto. His former Rector at Collingwood-Mr. MacNamara-was the incumbent and Walter was assigned as his curate."

At Reverend MacNamara's funeral service in 1940, Archbishop Owen paid tribute to this Rector as "an enthusiastic teacher of the Bible, a pastor who knew and helped his people, especially in times of trouble, a builder, not merely of material structures, but of the Holy Structure in the human heart, one whose memory we revere and by whose example we have been strengthened, 'for he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder is God'."

Thank you to Irene Munroe who compiled this very interesting profile of Rev. MacNamara.

GREETINGS FROM DONNA AND DENNIS

Following is a letter written to the parish care of Father Gord bringing greetings from our good friends Donna Quance and Dennis Drainville:

Dear Gord,

Well, we are getting settled in Montreal; The job is interesting, the work with students at McGill very stimulating and Dennis is still involved in social justice issues; We want to thank our St. John's family and you, Gord and Daisy, for the love and support that you gave Dennis and me over the last two years. It nourished us both. And your love was also very concrete in that you chose to support with your Outreach Stop 103 which was and remains very close to our hearts;

Dennis has been using The Book of Common Prayer (en francais) at the Cathedral for the French Eucharist; We have both been enjoying the book of poetry. We took it with us on our holidays and read it often. The St. John's spoon has joined our collection.

You will continue in our prayers and in our hearts.

God's Blessing;

Love,

Donna Quance and Dennis Drainville

HARD EARNED WAGES

The following humorous article was contributed by Marilyn Shortt - thank you Marilyn.

An old Church in Toronto decided to repair its properties a few years ago, and employed an artist to touch up its paintin. Upon presenting his bill, the committee in charge refused payment unless the details were specified, whereupon he listed the items as follows:

For correcting the Ten Commandments	\$15.12
Embellishing Pontius Pilate and putting a new ribbon in his bonnet	\$23.21
Putting a new tail on the rooster of St. Peter and mending his comb	\$ 2.20
Re-pluming and reguilding left wing of guardian angel.....	\$15.18
Washing servant of high priest and putting carmine on his cheeks.....	\$ 5.02
Renewing Heaven, adjusting the stars and cleaning the moon.....	\$37.14
Touching up purgatory, restoring lost souls.....	\$45.06
Rebordering the robes of Herod and adjusting his wig.....	\$ 4.00
Brightening up the flames of Hell, and putting a new tail on the devil, mending his left hoof	\$57.19
Taking the spots off the son of Tobias.....	\$11.00
Putting ear rings in Sarah's ears	\$25.25
Putting a new stone in David's sling, enlarging the head of Goliath, and extending Saul's legs.....	\$46.13
Decorating Noah's Ark and putting a head on Shem.....	\$84.21
Mending the shirt of the Prodigal son and cleaning his ear, cleaning Balaam's ass and putting a new shoe on him.....	\$ 3.39
TOTAL	\$374.01

Details with a vengeance!

MISSIONS TO SEAMEN

Until a note about the Missions to Seamen appeared in our Sunday Bulletin, I was unaware of its existence and became curious about what it was, where it was etc. Feeling that perhaps other parishioners were interested in learning more, I approached Edna Thompson who has supported this organization for several years. Edna very kindly gave me sme newsletters with information about the organization which I hope you will find as interesting as I did.

The Missions to Seamen have been in the port of Toronto for 29 years. There is a Mission in almost every port in the world. The purpose of the organization is to provide support for the people who come into the city on ships - men and women who are far from home and those they love, arriving in what is so often a strange and seemingly cold land.

Father David Mulholland is the chaplain of the Seamen's Mission and following are some excerpts from an article written for the Seamen's Newsletter:



"On every ship there are those who are quiet and a little apart from the rest when they come into the club. They call home and for them that call is sacramental. Speaking with their wife or girlfriend - hearing their children's voices - recharges the batteries. This is often the seafarer who has come to terms with his loneliness. Often a strong religious faith is the strength of such a man. But the seafaring life is not an unrelieved tragic one by any means. For us in the Missions to Seamen, seafaring and seafarers are not just our business - it is our vocation as well. If we share the loneliness together, then in our clubs we share the bright and happy reunions with old and new friends. We try, in our small way, to be a home from home, for a few minutes, for a few hours, to those men and women who, down through the ages have gone down to the sea in ships. A place where there are people they can trust in an uncertain world and where there are no hidden agendas."

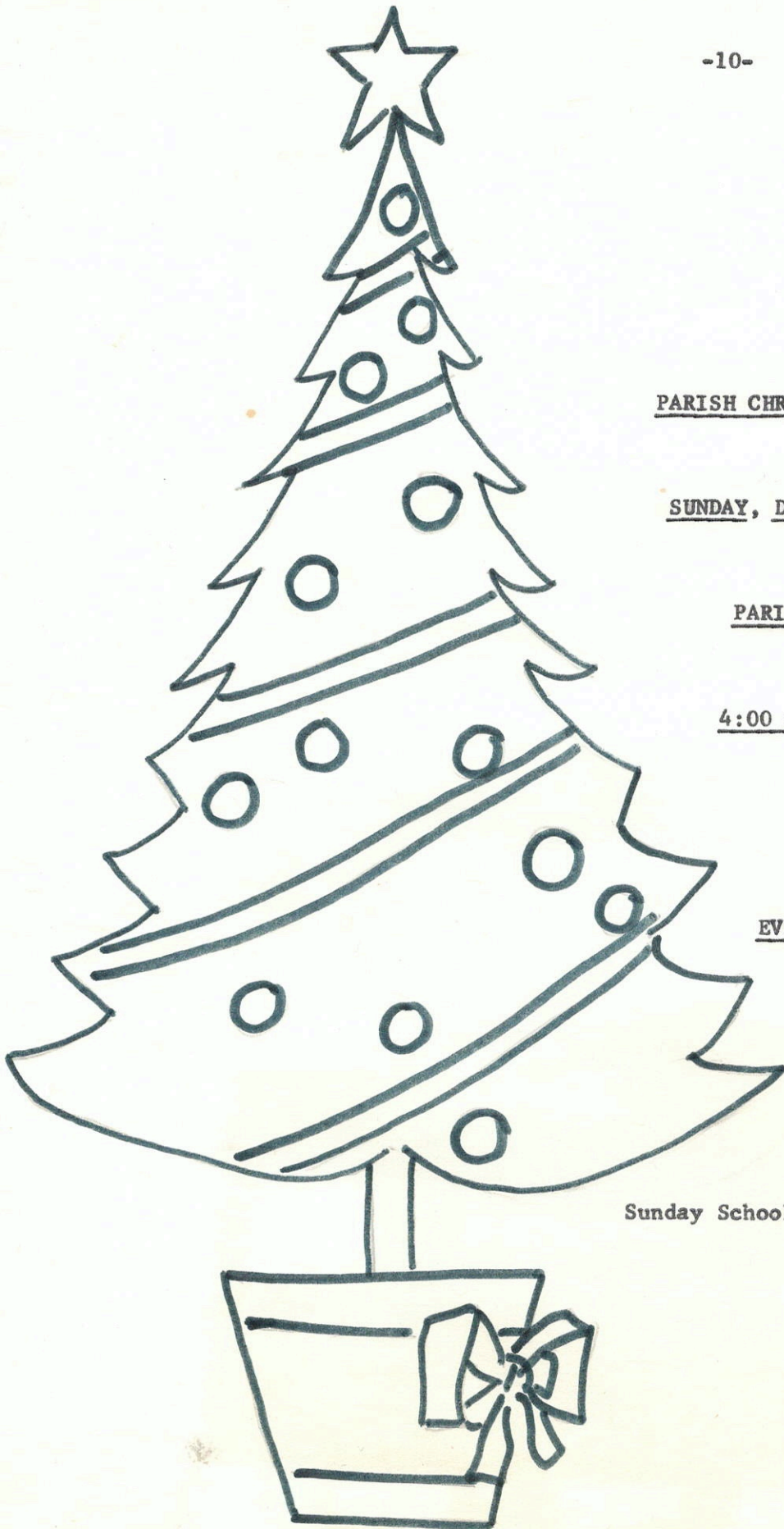
In 1985, the Toronto Missions to Seamen put through \$12,000. worth of overseas calls for seafarers!

At the Mission Open House on September 28, an addition to the Seafarer's Club was dedicated to the memory of Bishop Basil Tonks. Bishop Tonks had been a sailor as a young man and it was one of the chaplains of the Missions to Seamen who inspired him to join the priesthood. One of Bishop Tonk's first posts was as Mission to Seamen Chaplain in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Anyone interested in supporting this worthwhile cause should contact:

**The Reverend David Mulholland, Missions to Seamen, Pier 51, 8 Unwin Avenue
Toronto, Ontario M5A 1A1**

Donations of coffee, tea, cookies, paper towels, toiletries, writing materials, clean clothing, money are all needed, gratefully acknowledged and tax deductible!



PARISH CHRISTMAS PARTY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1986

PARISH HALL

4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

POT LUCK SUPPER

EVERYBODY WELCOME!

Sunday School Pageant - Christmas Entertainment

Warden's Report

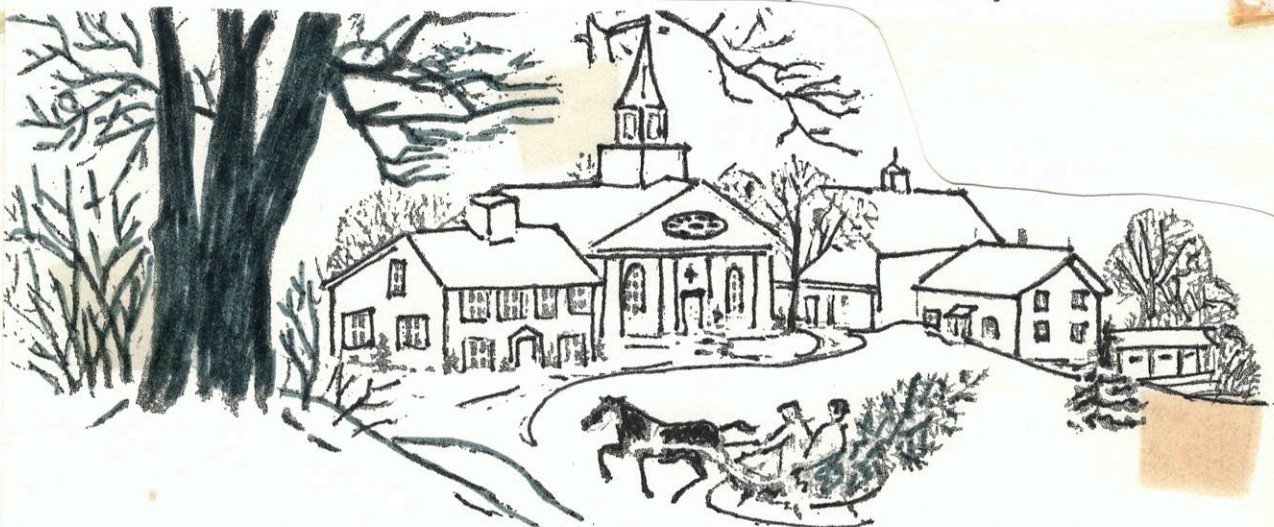
As the first snow begins to fly, everyone at St. John's is getting ready for our busy Advent and Christmas season. This is a happy, busy time as we prepare for and celebrate our Lord's birth. Much will again be happening at St. John's, as one can read elsewhere in the newsletter.

Amidst all the bustle and preparation for Christmas, let us all find time for both the spiritual and temporal concerns of Christmas. Spiritually, of course, it is our celebration of the Incarnation, the birth of our Lord. How easy it is for this aspect of the season to become lost in the "commercialized", secular Christmas.

In terms of the temporal function of the church, our financial year end also approaches. Our financial state this year is much the same as other years; in other words, please review your monetary commitment to St. John's and try and help us make our year end budget. Our excellent and expanding programmes require your continued support!

Jim Crumney

Anthony Ruta



The following poem seemed an appropriate one to include at this time when we all get so 'busy'....

TAKE TIME...

Take Time to Think - It is the source of power.
Take Time to Play - It is the secret of perpetual youth.
Take Time to Read - It is the fountain of wisdom.
Take Time to Pray - It is the greatest power on earth.
Take Time to Love and Be Loved - It is a God-given privilege.
Take Time to Be Friendly - It is the road to happiness.
Take Time to Laugh - It is the music of the soul.
Take Time to Give - It is too short a day to be selfish.
Take Time to Work - It is the price of success.



First Sunday of Advent

NOV. 30th.

"MOVING FROM DARKNESS INTO LIGHT"

Second Sunday of Advent

DEC. 7th.

"THE 'ROOTS' OF CHRIST"

Third Sunday of Advent

DEC. 14th.

"GO.....AND TELL"

Fourth Sunday of Advent

DEC. 21st.

"ANGELS----DREAMS----REALITY"