



# ST. MARY'S NEWS

## A Word from the Rector

Dear Friends,

The past six months or so have been ones of which I hope you are justifiably proud. Most parishes talk a good fight and some even follow through, it is a rare parish – like St. Mary's – that does what it says it is going to do and more.

Times have been challenging for us financially. Indeed, it is no secret that the challenges we face are common to all but those few affluent parishes in the Diocese. But here we are: we have stepped up and have met our financial commitments; we were among the first ten communities to embrace the GIFT campaign and stepped out totally in faith to answer the call of our greater church and have, I am very proud to tell you, already raised funds above all reasonable expectations. More than that, we have planned and executed a number of high profile community events, built relationships, helped people. Oh, sure, we have our little problems and inter-personal disagreements but the feel of the place when strangers first join us has been consistently good and positive. People feel the Spirit when they are here and they take note of it and they speak of it. Can we take credit for the power of the Spirit? Of course not. But the Spirit lives where the Spirit has been invited to enter. The Spirit has been invited by and through you – your commitment and your actions – to come and be with us.

We have begun a new church year. Make it resonate with the Gospel as you have striven to do this past year and even more will open up

before us. You, the people of St. Mary's, have done good and faithful service. I know the Bishop is pleased and I am very proud to be here with you.

May the Blessings of our Lord Jesus Christ continue to be upon you and yours,

Merry Christmas and a Blessed New Year,

Lee



## Christmas Services

Sunday, December 18

9:00 am      Traditional service  
10:30 am      Children's Christmas Pageant

December 24 4:30 pm and 7:30 pm

December 25 10:00 am

Please Join Us

### Kaleab and the Christian Children's Fund

St. Mary's Anglican Church has been sponsoring Kaleab, a 15-year-old boy from Ethiopia since 1999. This important outreach initiative costs the parish approximately \$40 a month.

Kaleab has traditionally been paid for by kids who attend Sunday School, in an effort to teach our kids from a young age the importance of giving to those less fortunate than us, but we are currently over \$500 overdrawn in paying for Kaleab, so we really need to reach out to all parishioners to remind everyone of this important outreach initiative that our parish supports.

Interesting information about Kaleab

His favorite food is Doro Wet (traditional Ethiopian food made of chicken).

His favorite subjects are Information and Communications.

He walks almost 5 km to school.

His chores at home include cooking meals, making the beds, washing dishes, sweeping, washing his clothes.

His dream is to be a manager some day.

Some facts about the Christian Children's Fund: Christian Children's Fund of Canada is a Canadian-based, registered charity and child-centred international development organization. CCFC is inspired by Christ's example of personal, caring love. CCFC supports children, families and communities of all faiths in developing countries. According to their 2010 financial statements, they took in about \$39 million and spent about \$31 million directly on program services, or initiatives for those sponsored. The remainder was spent on administration and fundraising.

There are "Kaleab" cans in the office and at the

back of the church. If everyone could consider dropping a dollar or two every week in one of the cans, as well as ensuring the kids have a dollar or two every week to contribute, we could go a long way in ensuring that our debt is paid, and that we can meet our monthly commitment.

Tara Davidson

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Thanks to Christopher Carver

12-24-2007

CAN YOU CHECK SANTA'S NICE LIST ... I'M  
PRETTY SURE I'M ON THAT ONE

### ACW Update

- Thanks to all who filled shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child. We delivered 96 shoeboxes.
- Thanks to all who contributed, attended or worked at the bazaar. The bazaar made \$1,765. Thanks for your support.
- Evelyn Presley attended the Ottawa Diocese ACW potluck with Bishop John Chapman at the Cathedral.
- We are looking for new members. Please speak to Evelyn if you have any questions.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year  
from the ACW

## Welcome to St. Mary's newest members!



On July 19, 2011 at 6:56 a.m., we were blessed with the birth of Elizabeth (Beth) Sonja Lynne to Victoria and Todd McCulloch and her loving brother, Logan. She weighed 8lbs 8oz., and measured 20  $\frac{3}{4}$  inches. Beth was baptized at St. Mary's in November.

Jacob Gordon Baden Cobb was born to Marion and Mike. He is a handsome little guy and will be a good companion to big brother Keith. He was born November 20, 2011 at 5:30 a.m. weighing 8 lbs 13.7 oz. and measuring 21 inches. Jacob will soon be baptized at St. Mary's.

## Christmas Flowers

If you would like to make a donation for flowers at the church, please put it in an envelope on the offertory plate, or give it to Judy Tapley, or mail it to the church. On the envelope please indicate flowers, your name, the amount and if it is in memorial for someone, also include the name(s).



## Dates to Note

St. Mary's Christmas Dinner - Sat, Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>

St. Mary's Vestry Meeting - Sun, Feb. 19, 2012

St. Mary's participated in both the Embrun and Russell Santa Claus Parades. The float looked wonderful and even was awarded 3<sup>rd</sup> prize in the Embrun parade. At the two parades, 500 candy canes and Christmas service hours pamphlets were handed out as a form of outreach to the people in these communities. Another 100 copies of our Christmas service hours were handed out to people attending the Air Cadet Christmas Bazaar. Thanks you to all who built, organized and participated in these events.



A lot of work has been done to the St. Mary's building in past months. The deck has been re-stained, the chimney has been removed, eavestroughing has been replaced, new railings have been installed, the basement has been cleaned, and repairs have been made to the drainage around the foundation.

Thank you to ALL who have worked on these and the many other projects that makes St. Mary's a great church community!



DONATE

Truly, what a 'GIFT' it has been to be a member of the St. Mary's Church family as we undertake this incredible journey to help our church, and our Diocese, in such a time of need. And it is an incredible time of need – for St. Mary's ministries and our church, which is in desperate need of repair – for our Diocese, which is in need of funding to maintain and/or develop critical ministries – for ourselves, when the economy has been volatile and has brought many of us into harder times both financially and emotionally. Despite these hurdles, we are so proud to say that parishioners have reached out in a way that many of us thought was maybe not possible, and we are making a difference. Thank you to all who have contributed in any and all ways to this campaign.

This has been an awesome experience for those working on the GIFT campaign. We have been welcomed into your homes and have heard from you that this endeavour is a good one. Thanks to all for your hospitality and faith. Our next steps will involve researching and applying for grants, fundraising, as well as, reaching out to our surrounding community to see if they can help us to reach our goal. Our work has just begun and will continue throughout this five-year process!

#### The GIFT Committee

Our total at this time has reached over \$85,000! We have reached 61% of our goal! At this time we would ask that all of those who have not returned their pledge card to please do so. Thanks so much to everyone for giving and *growing in faith together!*



## St. Mary's Christmas Home Tour and Quilt Show

On Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 St. Mary's offered its first Christmas Homes Tour featuring eight locations in the Russell and Embrun area. Over 80 people enjoyed touring open houses from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. At midday participants came to the "beary" beautifully decorated hall at either 11:30 am or 1:00 pm for a lunch of potato bacon soup, mixed sandwiches, a selection of desserts and tea and coffee served by friendly polite youth members of the church (Thomas, Curtis, Sarah, Danielle, Bryanna and their two friends). A beautiful display of vintage and modern quilts was setup in the sanctuary. At this time it looks as though we have earned just over \$2300, thanks to the inspiration and hard work of Brenda Maahs and her dedicated committee of Karen & Erik Talgoy, Shirley McInnis, Charlotte Patton and Judie Matthewson. Thank you also to Anne Mains, Ian Matthewson and Danita Ostlund for their help. We give grateful thanks to the homeowners from St. Mary's: Karen & Erik and Christine & Sean as well as our good neighbours with the true spirit of Christmas giving who supported our venture: Peter and Elaine Marr, John and Jocelyn St. Pierre, Connie & Jerry Johnston, Marie Claire and Eugene Ivansky, Joanne and Chris Clemens and Eric Chartrand of Russell Meadows Retirement Community. The success of our first homes tour was also because of donations from many local sponsors.

Judie Matthewson



Betty and  
Melanie at  
the lunch  
during the  
home tour

## Who Came Up With Advent Calendars?



Advent is the four-week period beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast day of St. Andrew the Apostle (November 30) through the following three Sundays. Historians estimate that Advent, which derives from the Latin word for coming, has been celebrated since the fourth century. The period originally began as a time for converts to Christianity to prepare for baptism, but is now more commonly associated with the anticipation of the anniversary of Christ's birth on December 25. Modern Advent calendars usually begin on December 1 and mark the 24 days before Christmas.

Gerhard Lang is widely considered the producer of the first printed Advent calendar in the early 1900s. Around the same time, a German newspaper included an Advent calendar insert as a gift to its readers. Lang's calendar was inspired by one that his mother had made for him and featured 24 colored pictures that attached to a piece of cardboard. Lang modified his calendars to include the little doors that are a staple of most Advent calendars today and they became a commercial success in Germany. Production stopped due to a cardboard shortage during

World War II, but resumed soon after, with Richard Sellmer emerging as the leading producer of commercial Advent calendars.

Dwight D. Eisenhower is often credited for the proliferation of the Advent calendar tradition in the United States. During his presidency, Eisenhower was photographed opening an Advent calendar with his grandchildren and the photo ran in several national newspapers.

source: 2011 Mental Floss Inc.

## St. Mary's Christmas Showcase and Shopping Extravaganza



Reeann Slater at her Epicure table

St. Mary's 2<sup>nd</sup> Wrap It Up Early Event was held at the end of October. It was well attended and the vendors were very happy. This event earned almost \$900 for St. Mary's. Thanks to Reeann Slater, Anne Mains and Karen & Erik Talgoy for organizing this event and to all who attended, who worked that day and/or donated to our sales table and canteen.



Kirsten Talgoy sold her Clay Creations at this event with all sales going to St. Mary's