

ST. JOHN'S IDA

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Worship

Please join us each Sunday at 9:30am.

First, Third & Fifth Sundays, we celebrate Holy Communion.

Second & Fourth Sundays is Morning Prayer.

A Children's program is offered each Sunday.

Come as you are; everyone is welcome!



Join us on Sunday, December 15th at 3 p.m. at Christ Church, Omeme.

This is a quiet reflective service especially for those who are grieving the loss of a loved one, or another significant loss, or who are finding this time of year difficult. At the time of year when the nights are longest, we gather together to seek for hope in Christ.



A very wise owl reminded me that Advent is the opposite of my frantic, midweek dash to the mall, to bring on the Christmas season. Black Friday panic, over stuffed wish lists, and supercharged shop-til-you drop marathons are all the antithesis of advent. The complete opposite of Silent Night, O Holy Night.

Advent is literally the waiting period; a time of pause and expectation. It symbolizes something notable, something new. In the four weeks leading up to Christmas, we light consecutive candles to symbolize hope, love, joy and peace. With a prayerful pace, and light that dispels darkness, we wait and hope for the promised child--the Son of God, the baby born in the manger.

*For unto us a child is born, to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And He will be called, Wonderful, Counsellor, mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6*

Human wisdom, defined by Alexander Dumas, is summed up in two words: wait and hope. As you make your pilgrimage through this Advent season, do as I say and not as I do. Be wise. Immerse yourself fully, and without apology, in love, joy, peace, and most of all hope. Wait and hope for something notable, for something new.

Gaitree Gillen



ADVENT



The Christmas songs will soon be upon us, on the radio, in the grocery stores and shopping malls. “Have a holly, jolly Christmas, it’s the best time of the year” and “It’s the most wonderful time of the year/There’ll be much mistletoeing/And hearts will be glowing/ When love ones are near/It’s the most wonderful time... of the year.”

There is something beautiful about the weeks leading up to Christmas and yet for many people this time is incredibly stressful because on the one hand there are great expectations about how we are supposed to act and feel and on the other hand there is the reality of life with its hardships, disappointments, conflicts and strife. A TV news item reported that there are no less than 22 countries at this time dealing with ongoing organized political protests (that is not counting the climate change protests). For many people this may not be “the hap-happiest season of all.”

As followers of Jesus and as those who are part of a church that follows the church calendar, we have the season of Advent as a kind of reality check. “Advent” means coming. The four weeks of the Advent season can be understood as a way to prepare for Jesus’ “first coming” as we recall his coming into the world as the baby born in Bethlehem. However, you may be surprised to learn, that the main focus of Advent is not on Jesus’ first coming but on his second coming as Lord and Judge. The prophet Isaiah declares: *“He will judge between the nations”* (2:4).

Jesus comes as Judge. This statement may sound shocking or disturbing and yet it is Good News. How can that be so? Jesus coming as Judge is good news:

- because, deep down, we know that something is tragically wrong with our world and something must be done to address the violence, suffering, sadness, anguish and alienation experienced by many people, perhaps even by us from time to time.
- because Jesus is the perfect and just judge. As Isaiah says, “He will not judge by what he sees with his eyes or decide by what he hears with his ears; but with righteousness he will judge the needy, with justice he will give decisions for the poor of the earth” (11:3-4).
- because the purpose of his judgement is to set things right.

This Advent may we all join in the church’s ancient prayer: “maranatha, come Lord Jesus come.”



200th Anniversary

St. John's, Ida

1819 - 2019

Over the past year we have celebrated the 200th anniversary of Christian ministry here at St. John's, "the church on the hill just north of Cavan". We began to gather as a congregation in 1819, in the cabin of the Rev. Joseph Thompson, a Church of England missionary for the Society of the Gospel in Foreign Parts. Our present church and cemetery stand on part of his original land grant which he described in one of his letters as being situated "in the wastelands of the crown". When our church was founded the Diocese of Toronto did not exist. We were part of the Diocese of Quebec.

We have marked this significant year in our history a number of ways. A Homecoming Service in late June gave us the opportunity to reunite with former clergy and parishioners. We shared memories. Historical records, photographs, maps and drawings, provided insight into our origins and the challenges our forebearers faced. With our Community Day in early August we thanked our friends and neighbours throughout the area for their support over the years. A BBQ, ice cream, face painting, bouncy castle and tours of the church and cemetery were provided without cost for all who attended. We celebrated in song with a concert by the quartet "4 Heaven's Sake". We became part of the Cavan-Monaghan Barn Quilt Trail with the erection of a 4 foot by 4 foot "quilt block" bearing the Christian symbols of crosses and fishes. We have marked the occasion too by producing a photo directory of our congregation. Special speakers have been part of our celebration. In April, Bishop Victoria Matthews spoke about "Living as God's Resurrection People". In October, Rev. Alan Hayes gave us historical insight with his presentation, "St. John's and the Anglican Vision for Upper Canada." In typical St. John's fashion, each talk was accompanied by a meal. We have had visits from our Primate, Archbishop Fred Hiltz; our Area Bishop Ryscilla Shaw and our Diocesan Bishop, Andrew Asbil.

With the help of a diocesan grant we have upgraded our sound system in the church and hall, installed a Loop System to aid people with hearing problems and have added a camera to allow for the video recording of services and viewing by an audience in the hall. This funding also allowed us to put a smart board in the Sunday school.

It has been a remarkable year. We have been blessed by God many times over. The final service of our 200th Anniversary year will be a Holy Eucharist on Sunday, Dec. 29th. A soup and sandwich lunch will follow.

As we enter 2020, our 201st year of Christian witness in this community, pray that we will be open to the leading of the Holy Spirit so that we will continue to be a light of Christ's Hope on the hill just north of Cavan – and beyond.

Ready and Waiting



Last night I drove the country roads
Home from a parishioner's house.
Leafless ash and tall dead grass,
Naked chokecherry and stark
sumac,
All waiting, ready and waiting.

I rolled into the little town
Toward our house.
The churches, the storefronts,
The funeral home, the restaurant,
Kemptville Creek and I,
All waiting, ready and waiting.

I thought about the future.
October was nice.
November was fine.
But...would the future be fine?

Last night we slept deep,
But we both dreamed anxiously
About the baby on his or her way,
All waiting, ready and waiting.

I woke this morning and looked out.
Winter was here.
Huge flakes were soaring down.
Heaps of soft whiteness covered
the dead brown ground.
And it had come.

I heard my daughter rustling in her
crib.
She was awake.
"You'll be a big sister soon..."
I lifted her up to the window.
She was silent.

by Matt Kydd



The ACW (Anglican Church Women & Men)

The Anglican Church Women of ST. John's, with the help of so many, both men and women, continue our ministry of service to our church family, and the community around us.

Since our last newsletter, we have prepared and served refreshments at funeral receptions, served up dinners to the Lions at their den. The funds we raise doing these things were used to purchase a new fridge for the pantry and covered the cost of having the hall floor stripped, cleaned and polished.

To join in the celebration of our 200th Anniversary, we chose to put together a cookbook of recipes which included some that reached far into the past and others that are vegetable healthy. Many of our church members contributed family favourites and we thank them for them.

We have chosen to put the money raised from the cookbooks toward a project for indigenous women. Then, an insert in the last "Anglican" presented an opportunity through a new initiative for indigenous youth.

We reached out to Bishop Mark MacDonald and received an encouraging response this week that offered the names of women to contact to get us connected with the project. More next newsletter.

As in the past, we will prepare the main course for our church family Advent/Christmas lunch on Dec. 8th, and also help North Cavan School put their Christmas dinner together.

We do thank God for the opportunity to serve Him through this ministry.





Cavan Hills Cross Country Run

This was our 15th annual hosting of this event. We sponsor it as a Community Outreach and as a fundraiser for our Outreach Budget Income. As Sat, Sept. 28th approached the weather reports for the day were ominous; heavy rain was forecast. On Friday, our setup day, the weather was great and with lots of help we prepared the site up beside the Winslow Quarter Line just North of Stewart Line. Rob McCamus was on hand to organize the parking access road and the parking area on the McCamus lawn.

We prayed for Saturday morning's weather to be such that participants would be safe from electrical storms, high winds and slippery slopes. The rain began in the night and kept up through the early morning. As 9:00 am neared and the 10 Km race walkers began, the rain, which had slowed to a drizzle, stopped just before they left the start line. Before long skies began to clear and the sun would eventually shine; (Praise God). Cars began to arrive and registration lines grew long. Even though some people had obviously decided not to come based on the earlier weather, we still ended up with a significant number for the 10km Run and for the 4.7km Run/Walk. The sunshine made for an enjoyable day and clouds didn't reappear until we were almost cleaned up at the site.

About a half hour after we left the site it started to rain again. We were indeed blessed to be given a 3-hour window of rain-free weather just long enough in which to hold our Run/Walk. Due to the ominous weather forecast our numbers were reduced but we still give thanks that we had the number we did. Our net income for Outreach was \$4,200 for which we also give thanks to our Lord. A noteworthy winner of the youth 4.7 km run was our own Jack Workman, son of John and Heather and Grandson of Phil and Penny Winslow.



Our thanks to Vicki Barton for her leadership in organizing and promoting our 2019 event and to many other people who were essential to its success.

Thanks also for our many sponsors from the local area who generously provided draw prizes or financial donations. As usual, many delicious treats were enjoyed over at the hospitality tent. May the memory of the tasty food, the beautiful country roads and fields, and the camaraderie bring participants back next year ---and in even greater number.

Don Winslow



After a summer break, we came together again with families to be crafty and creative. In October, our focus was on giving thanks and praising God for all He does and provides for us. In November, we created all kinds of sheep, reminding us that we are the sheep and Jesus, our Shepherd knows us by name.

In December as Advent begins we will focus on preparing for Christmas and the celebration of Jesus, the Word, becoming flesh and living among us.

Messy Church has a wonderful ministry team who prepare and host the first Thursday of the month gathering. We encourage you to consider inviting a family and bringing them to join us as we continue on our journey "to know Christ and make Him known".



Keeping Up Appearances

Our property management committee consists of yours truly and anyone else who is willing to help with a project. I am truly blessed that many of you are so willing. In recent months we can give thanks for Ken and his gardening expertise as the ground around our well and sign was beautified by the addition of plants and shrubs. Of course, we thank Ken also for tending and caring for many other beautiful gardens around our buildings. I also admire his expertise in providing for expansion by dividing previously established plantings and thus being a good steward of our resources.

I also count on Albert for his willingness to lend his talents to a variety of projects. Recently he installed a water tap in the hall which improves the gathering of samples of our drinking water for testing. He has also repaired a faucet for cold water in our handicapped accessible toilet. I want to thank him also for arranging again this year for the inspection of our two furnaces and changing of filters.

Adrian helps me each year with jobs involving step ladders; the putting on and taking off of storm windows for the church, the cleaning out and washing of the globes for the church lights, and this year the installation of our 200th Anniversary banner.

Ben brought over his tractor loader and pulled out our dead shrub in front of the hall. He and a number of other people can be counted on to help in a variety of ways. I also say thanks in advance for the many people who help out with snow removal from our walkways; Peter, Ted, Gary, Craig and others. As for me, there are the usual cyclical duties of water testing, garbage and recycling to put out weekly, and arranging for the twice yearly pumping out of our holding tank. And I just remembered one other job; the moving across the parking lot of our sand box and the replacement of the sand and salt supply for cold winter days ahead. Oh, and there's also the arranging of snow removal and sanding to be done in our parking lots and soon...the annual hunt for a Christmas tree.

With grateful thanks for all helpers and to our God who helps us all, Don W.



A Winslow Wonders?

On a lighter note, I've noticed how very slim and trim someone is looking these days.

By my rough calculation that someone has been riding his bike over Cavan hills and valleys this year to a target of up to 60 Km a ride. My calculations suggest that he may have covered a distance of 3,000 km.

During the cold weather he covers virtual kilometres indoors on a stationary bike. Add in these and he will have covered roughly the distance from here to the west coast this year....impressive!

OUTREACHOUT

CATCHING UP – As a result of the hard work and efforts of the Cavan Hills Run Committee and its army of volunteers, \$4450.00 was raised for distribution to Outreach Projects and agencies. A big thank you to everyone who helped!!

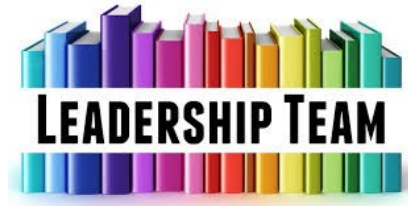
IN THE NOW - Money from the Cavan Hills Run has been distributed, with half going to its designated recipients – Millbrook District Foodshare, Peterborough Habitat for Humanity, and One Roof Community Diner. The rest of the funds have been given to agencies from the Arctic to Constance Lake to the Middle East (FRRME) (the Vicar of Baghdad's foundation). Ask Outreach Committee members what the letters stand for.

An update about the work of FRRME - its recent, expanded work among refugees in Iraq and Jordan include the repairing of a soccer field in a refugee camp and the opening of a trauma counselling centre for those still unable to return to their homes. A new focus is to provide employment opportunities for those returning to ISIS-ruined villages. Greenhouses to grow vegetables and bakeries to provide bread are the first examples. Unfortunately, services and ministries at St. George's, Baghdad have been cancelled for the last few weeks because of anti-government violence and protests. It is a dangerous time for Christians there. Pray for the witness and safety of the clergy, people and ministries at St. George's.

LOOKING FORWARD – it's Advent Conspiracy time again – watch for videos and bulletin inserts explaining what it's all about.

Here's an advance peak at the motion from the Diocesan Social Justice Committee to be presented at our Vestry in February. It asks the parish to acknowledge that there is a global climate emergency, to call on the Canadian government to action against this emergency, and to recognize our Christian obligation to set our own parish goal(s) and action(s). So put your thinking caps on to help set our parish goal(s) and actions.

PEACE, HOPE JOY, AND LOVE TO ALL THIS ADVENT SEASON



Advent is a season for reflection both personally and as a congregation. We look back to the first coming of Jesus, our Redeemer and recall John the Baptist's exhortation, "Repent for the Kingdom of God is near." (Mt 3:2). We look ahead to Jesus' second coming and ponder His words to His followers at His ascension "to baptize and teach and make disciples." (See Mt 28: 19-20)

Throughout 2019 we have looked back. We have celebrated our 200th anniversary as a congregation. We trace our roots to the ministry of the Rev. Joseph Thompson who arrived in July of 1819 to take up his land grant in "the waste lands of the crown". The present church and cemetery sit on part of this original land grant.

We have marked our 200th year with special services, historical displays, speakers, community events, concerts and visits from our Primate, diocesan and area bishops. We were able to reconnect with former clergy and parishioners at our Homecoming Service in June. While all these events were occurring, our regular activities carried on:

the Irish Supper, May Market, Cemetery Decoration Service, Yard Sale, Kids' Celebration, Messy Church, Rural Connections, Cavan Hills Cross Country Run, Talent and Services Auction, Tuesday Night Live and Friday Youth Group.

In addition to all of these activities, though a grant from the diocese, we have been able to upgrade our audio system, install a loop system for the hearing impaired, equip the hall for both audio and video presentation of the church services and install a smart board in the Sunday school. God has blessed us abundantly in 2019.

As gratifying as it was to look back on our 200 years of Christian ministry in Cavan township and to make significant improvements within our church building and hall, we must now look ahead to Christmas, 2019 to 2020 and beyond. As we have prayed these past few months in our 200TH Anniversary Prayer "...we look forward with eager eyes to the future. Make this church a blessing to those around us, and strengthen us to move forward according to your will."

How do we do this? As individuals, each of us can pray to grow in Christ and for the opportunity to share Him with others. This sharing can be done in simple ways. Consider inviting family or friends to our Carol Service or one of our services on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day or one in the new year. Pray too, that the Holy Spirit will empower us as a congregation to present Jesus and His Gospel in compelling ways that those who come will grow to become His disciples.

Thank you for your commitment to follow Jesus. Thank you for being part of the body of Christ here in Ida. Thank you for your prayers for your church. This Advent may you and each member of your family come to know more fully the meaning of these words-

"May God Himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ. The One who calls you is faithful and He will do it." (1 Thess. 5:23-24)

Grace and peace,

Your Wardens
Donna, Kim, Adrian, Ted



Update from The Can Man

Thank you to St. John's Anglican Church, Ida congregation on behalf of the world's children who sleep as they put the day in, on the street.

The cans you donate are converted into dollars which are given to SCAW who purchase the bed kit supplies in the host country. The kits are distributed with the assistance of Canadians who volunteer their time and money to travel to the host country.

The money donated to SCAW is used 100% towards the kit portion of the project, as all the office activities, printing, etc. are donated by volunteers or businesses like Loblaws.

This year, we have again collected cans and converted them to the value of \$210.00 for 6 bed kits, bringing our total over the years to 84 bed kits or \$2,940.00.

We are very pleased to accept your aluminum cans. They can be delivered to our white Mitsubishi vehicle which is usually parked in the handicap spot at the front of the church. Please use clear bags for the cans so they are readily visible to us as we enter our car. Putting the bag by the driver's door is also a good idea.

Thank you for all your help.

Christian Education

Advent, the season of preparation for the coming of our Lord, Jesus Christ, calls us to prayerfully examine all aspects of our lives; our relationships with family members and neighbours and colleagues at work, with ourselves, with the natural world around us and, fundamental to all of these, our relationship with God. This kind of reflection, guided by the Holy Spirit, sits at the centre of the Advent experience preparing our hearts for the coming of Christ.

But it is not just during Advent that we should exercise this discipline of prayerful reflection. Followers of Jesus of every age have recognized the need to practise this on a daily basis.

"Despite much talk to the contrary, there are no secrets to living the Christian life. No prerequisite attitudes. No conditions more or less favourable to pursuing the Way. Anyone can do this, from any place, starting at any time. But it is only possible through prayer. We can only pray our way into the way of following Jesus."

These are the words of Eugene Peterson in his book, "A Year with Jesus: Daily Reading and Meditations." In this book, Peterson takes short passages from the Gospels of Matthew and John, one for each day of the year, makes an insightful comment and gives us a question to answer. He finishes each entry with a prayer. He expresses his intent for the book,

"We pray with Jesus; Jesus prays with us. Day-by day, week-by-week, month-by-month, Jesus- God with us – is prayed into the details of our lives, and God's salvation is formed in us."

If you are looking for a book to use in your own devotional life or are trying to find one to give as a gift, this one is highly recommended.

[A Year With Jesus by Eugene Peterson](#)





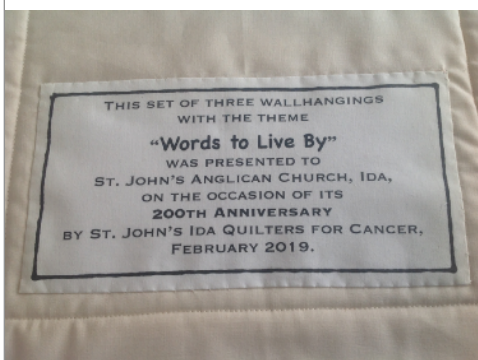
St. John's Quilts for Cancer

"Be strong and of good courage, do not be afraid, nor dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."

- Joshua 1:9

The ladies of St. John's Ida Quilters for Cancer have been busy once again this Fall enjoying fellowship while making quilts to be distributed to cancer patients in the area. Unfortunately, the need is still great as 29 quilts were distributed in the month of October.

We were pleased to be invited to help Celebrate the 200th anniversary of St. John's and took some time late last year to make the set of three wall hangings with the theme "Words to Live By" which are now hanging in the church. Our thanks go out to Ab Parsons, Adrian Olley and Don Winslow who hung them. We would also like to thank Bruce McIlquham for printing the label which is on the back. It is our hope that these wall hangings are a



St. John's, Ida Church Choir

This fall our choir members have been extremely busy learning and introducing new hymns for Worship Services as well as mastering new anthems for our Thanksgiving and Christmas Services.

The lyrics to this year's Thanksgiving anthem entitled "The Joyful Spirit in My Song", written by Don Besig and Nancy Price are derived from Psalm 143:10, Psalm 27:11 and Luke 1:79. The anthem bubbles over with jubilant praise thanking God for the beauty of His creation. It is written in southern Gospel Swing style which proved to be a completely new fun-filled adventure for our choir! We are deeply grateful to each one of you who told us after our Thanksgiving Service how much our anthem enhanced your worship experience.

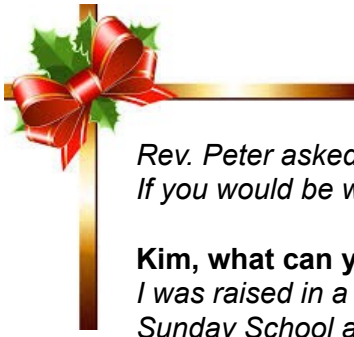
As I write this, our choir has been diligently striving to perfect two challenging Christmas Anthems. "How Quietly", is an original composition by Joel Raney which is beautifully paired with a Christmas favourite, "Away in a Manger". Many thanks to our soloist, Danielle Rodosky, for graciously agreeing to share her special talent with all of us as she sings the lead in this lovely anthem.

"Advent Prayer", our second anthem, is an Advent Classic! Two immortal tunes, "Lo, How a Rose E'er Blooming" and Cesar Franck's "Panis Angelicus" (one of my favourites), are intertwined with a new Advent text from the masterful pen of Patrick Liebergen resulting in an absolutely glorious anthem! We sincerely hope that our church family will derive as much joy and fulfillment upon hearing these anthems as we have experienced in learning them.

On behalf of our congregation and choir, I wish to extend our heartfelt thanks to Jason Conrad for enhancing so many of our Worship Services with his skillful guitar and cajon playing. Thank you, Jason!! Special thanks also to Ben Conrad for his excellent tambourine playing during our Thanksgiving Service! You have a superb sense of rhythm, Ben!!

In closing, there are simply not enough words of praise and thanks available with which to express my gratitude to our choir family, "the world's best choir"! As we come to the end of what has been an extremely busy year for us, I thank each one of you for all of your extra hard work, encouragement and support. You have done a remarkable job this year and you are truly a blessing to all of us at St. John's.

Wishing you God's Grace and Peace,
Linda Parsons



Rev. Peter asked Kim Bagg if she would be willing to share her story of coming to faith in Jesus. If you would be willing to share your story in this way, please speak to Peter.

Kim, what can you tell us about your life before faith in Christ took hold?

I was raised in a Christian home, attended church with my family every Sunday – even got a Sunday School award for attendance. I was confirmed as a teenager (about 14 years old) because that was what you did. And yet – I will tell you truly, that with all this background, I wasn't changed.

What stirred you to take Jesus seriously?

In my life, there have been ups and downs through my walk, I took Jesus seriously during my job at a summer camp, Camp IAWAH, it was a Christian camp, and I thought I was a Christian when I went, but I knew Christ because of my time that summer.

After my summer at IAWAH, I attended University and was involved with the on-campus Navigators group, but felt less inspiration. Perhaps because university was busy and time was crunched, and I would say that while I took Jesus seriously, I "backseated" my faith.

On to my career, post university – policing can either charge up or ruin a Christian spirit, and I have had both. The unanswered questions and prayers, the devastation and sadness, the joy and hardship challenged me.

Was there a moment of awakening, realization for me? I suppose yes and no, but many moments of joyful tears of thankfulness for the fact that while I put Jesus on the back burner he never put me there.

Some people have a 'lightening bolt' conversion, while others experience more of a gradual sunrise in their faith. Was there a moment when it all made sense to you, or was it more of a process?

No lightening bolt for me, just ever thankful to continue the journey of "all of this making sense to me".

I am thankful for daily prayers or sometimes "rants" in the car, as I make my way to work. My hour-long drive goes quickly in prayer and silence both appreciation and petition, as I contemplate each day. I am thankful that he reminds me some days with a subtle or not so subtle reminder to pray.

In what ways has your faith in Christ made a difference in your life?

Faith has helped me accept "not now" and "there is a time for everything", Faith has taught me about expectations, and understanding the world around me. Faith has taught me its ok to challenge and question, and Faith has taught me patience.

Over my years of ups and downs, cross roads and challenges, I feel the difference in my heart when I am in step with Christ.

If there is one thing you would want the world to know from your experience with God, what would it be?

God does not forget who you are. No matter how hard I tried at times to get him to forget me ... I am ever thankful that he never did.





ST. JOHN'S, IDA

(A Community Church in the Anglican Tradition)

INVITES YOU TO OUR

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS SERVICES

Sunday, Dec. 1st, 10am – 200th Anniversary

Service with Diocesan Bishop Andrew Asbil

Sunday Dec. 8th. 9:30am- Morning Prayer

Sunday, Dec. 15th, 9:30am- Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec. 22nd, 9:30am- The Christmas Story

Tuesday, Dec. 24th, 7:00pm- Christmas Eve

Family Communion Service

Wednesday, Dec. 25th, 9:30am - CHRISTMAS DAY

Family Communion

Sunday, Dec. 29th, 9:30am- Final Communion

Celebration for our 200th Anniversary Year