

Merry Christmas

Sharon Hope United Church

December 2014

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Rev. Kathi Phillips

Christmas Issue December 2014

The count has started. Counting the candles I mean. Each Sunday we light an Advent candle to mark the weeks to Christmas. I like Advent. It puts a spiritual lens on Christmas preparations, it encourages us to slow down, to look inward, to think of Jesus.

This festive season can prompt emotional turmoil for many. Separated and divided families find it difficult, sometimes even traumatic, to sort out family times over the holidays. People with limited income find the drive to shop and purchase and give very stressful. Folks that live with emotional turmoil find these days even more challenging. All this seems a painful development from the humble birth of one who came to incarnate God's love.

(continued on the back)

Capital Campaign

The Capital Campaign Committee has applied and obtained a trillium grant. This grant is a matching grant which means that we will receive a grant up to the amount that we raise through the campaign. A month of so ago we had almost \$100,000 pledged in the Capital Campaign. We need to continue to honour our pledges so that we can proceed to make the necessary repairs to the church. The Campaign is considering a new roof (with insulation), a new parking lot, outside lighting, and several other needs of our church.



The Men's Group setting up the Christmas Manger scene. Thanks to the Pottage family for bringing over the tractor to move the manger and to Rob for making the new Star.

Events This Christmas

Sunday December 7 - 10 am - 2nd Sunday of Advent. This is the Sunday of Peace. It is also White Gift Sunday.

Sunday December 14 - 3rd Sunday of Advent - This is the Sunday of JOY. At the church service at 10 am we will be seeing the Christmas Pageant. In the afternoon at 1 pm Noah's Ark will also be performing the Christmas Pageant.

Tuesday December 16th - 7:00 pm - the Church Board meets - we will be discussing regular church business and also longing at a budget for the next year. All are welcome.

Rev. Kathi's message (continued)

Advent helps me keeps focus. Each day of this season reminds me I am preparing for the birth of Jesus not the onslaught of commercialism. Each week reminds me that the day draws near to celebrate the birth of one who changed the world. The long dark nights of December remind me how important it is to notice the light that shines in the darkness. Advent reminds me to keep hoping, to work for peace, to delight in joy and to recognize love.

As we prepare for Christmas and the coming once again of the child, let's celebrate the light in our lives and remember that even in the darkness we are never really alone.

To you and your family from ours, a wish for a hope-filled Advent, a blessed peace-filled Christmas and a joyous New Year.

Rev. Kathi Phillips



Rev. Kathi and Diane taking tickets at the Annual Beef Dinner.

Events this December (Continued)

Sunday December 21 - 10 am - Church Service and the Celebration Choir preforms the Cantata. The Cantata will be conducted by Bob Leonard and be accompanied by Donna Corbett. The soloist is Sarah Patterson.

Monday December 22 - 7 pm - Longest Night Service - Christmas can be a painful time for those who are sad, grieving, or alone. Join us for a special worship service to acknowledge our sadness and to hear hope for the days ahead from the Christmas message.

Wednesday December 24 - 6:30 pm - Family Christmas Service and the Christmas Pageant

Wednesday December 24 - 9 pm - Candlelight Church Service



Karen, Cathy and Dale at the Holly Tea.