



# St. Peter's On the Rock

Advent 2011  
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The Quarterly Newsletter of St. Peter's United Church, Sudbury, Ontario, Canada

## From the Minister's Disk

*"People look east, the time is near  
of the crowning of the year.  
Make your house fair, as you are able,  
trim the hearth and set the table.  
People look east and sing today: Love the  
guest is on the way."*

Eleanor Farjeon wrote those words in 1928. They are part of my favourite Advent hymn. Advent is the church's season for remembering that it is preparing the way for Christ to reign upon the earth – though not in any way we



how it's done.

Celebrating our growth and having learned from our mistakes, we brush ourselves off in Advent, and set our faces toward a new year of trying again, as we spiral closer to God. For four weeks, we do things that prepare our hearts and our lives for the Reign of Love and we end those four weeks reminded of the One who has shown us the Way, as we celebrate Jesus' birth. In Him, we say that God's Love has been revealed in flesh, and we have seen how to "enflesh" God's Love.

Advent has become a whirlwind of parties and fundraising efforts and places to go and traditions to keep. Fatigue, instead of refreshment has become normal.

Four weeks of Monastic Prayer is not going to replace the whirlwind.

But within the whirlwind, we still have that calling to prepare for Love to reign.

So let's ask ourselves what that looks like for us in our time/place/community. More importantly, let's take time to ask God to guide us in that joyful task.

People, look east and sing today; "Love the Lord is on the way!"

*Dawn*

## November

- Fri. 25 Advent Event – 5:45 pm
- Sat. 26 Scouts' Christmas Tea – 1 pm  
Silver Birch Quartet Concert – 8 pm  
guest: Joseph Petric, accordion.
- Sun. 27 Advent I – Communion

## December

- Sun. 4 Advent II service. UCW Christmas Bazaar & Bake Sale – after service
- Sun. 11 Advent III – White Gifts
- Sun. 18 Advent IV – Christmas Sunday Family Service, Communion
- Sat. 24 Family Christmas Eve Service – 7 pm
- Sun. 25 Christmas Day Joint Service at St. Andrew's – 10:30 am

## January

- Sun. 1 New Year's Day Joint Service at St. Andrew's – 10:30 am
- Sun. 8 Epiphany Family Service, Communion
- Fri. 13 Out of the Cold Dinner – St. Peter's serving
- Sun. 22 Snow Sunday (tentative) – morning service or hike & lunch
- Sat. 28 Silver Birch Concert – John Roney & Silverbirch – 8 pm

## February

- Sat. 4 5 Penny/Silver Birch Concerts – 5 Penny Ensemble – 8 pm
- Sun. 5 Morning worship, Annual Congregational Meeting 12 noon
- Sun. 12 Morning worship – Communion
- Sun/ 19 Transfiguration Sunday
- Tues. 21 Shrove Tuesday Supper & Ashing Service – 5:30 pm
- Fri. 24 Out of the Cold Dinner – St. Peter's serving
- Sun. 28 Lent I service

imagine royalty. We are preparing for Love to reign completely. On the cusp of the "dirty thirties" Eleanor Farjeon gave us a song that reminded us of this. Be the year a bitter one, or a better one, our calling, as a Christian Community is to prepare the world for Love to be the number one guidepost, by showing

*Our Mission....."As followers of Jesus Christ, our mission is, to worship God, to nurture faith, to foster a caring and inclusive church family, to serve our community, to work for peace and justice, to respect the earth."*

## St. Peter's Events

### *Friday on the Rock: Advent Event*

Friday, November 25th  
@ 5:45pm

Pizza dinner provided (free-will donations accepted), followed by crafts and activities for all ages. A short tree-dedication service tops off the evening. This is a great way to kick off the Christmas season. There is a sign-up sheet in the narthex, or you can phone or email the church office to let them know how many slices of pizza to order for your family.



### *Christmas Bazaar/Bake Sale*

Sunday, December 4th – after service

UCW members are busy organizing the **Christmas Bazaar/Bake Sale** which will take place after the service on Sunday, December 4th. Proceeds from this event will be used to purchase needed items for St. Peter's. We are hoping the congregation will once again work together to make this a very successful and enjoyable time. Your donations of baked goods, preserves, knitting, hand-crafted items and Christmas novelties will be greatly appreciated. New items only, please. Crafted items and knitting as well as more costly baked items should be pre-priced, please. This will assist the organizers very much.

A sign-up sheet can be found in the Fellowship Hall if you are able to list your donation(s). For more information please call Mary Faris (522-2018).

The delivery date for donations is Saturday, Dec. 3rd between 1 & 3 o'clock in the Fellowship Hall. Baked items can be brought in on Sunday before church, starting at 9 o'clock.



## Flowers for Christmas

The worship and music committee invites you to consider donating a poinsettia plant for the Advent IV and Christmas Eve services. These can be given in memory of family members or friends. Please indicate your participation, giving memorial information, on the sign up sheet in the Fellowship Hall, or phone the church office. Please drop the flowers off at the church on mornings during the week of Dec. 5. Alternatively, the committee would be happy to purchase flowers on your behalf. Contact the convenor, Hazel Smith (675-6693) for more information.



*Auctioneer Russ Boyles working hard to up the bid on a painting being held aloft by Bev Webb at the Growing on the Rock Dessert Auction, held November 5th*

## Council Notes

Some houses have their Christmas lights on. There are Christmas trees up and carols are being played in the stores. I have seen Santa Clause in the mall. My favorite Minister has described the phenomenon of "Madvent". We have received our first Christmas card. There is no hiding from it... Christmas is upon us! On behalf of Council, I wish you and your families a joyous and fun-filled Holiday Season.

As you gear up to the Holidays I hope that you will take a few moments to consider a request from me. I understand that our JNAC Report is proceeding through Presbytery and, once again, St. Peter's is recognized as being on the cutting edge. There is a very clear message from the results of the JNAC: Change is necessary. My request of you is to think of how you would like to see St. Peter's evolve. For example, if you are not actively involved in governance or outreach, what needs to change so that you could contribute? If you are active, what do you think needs to happen so that you don't "burn out"? Can you suggest changes to our organizational chart that would make better use of our

volunteers' valuable time? If you have ideas or suggestions, I encourage you to make them known to me or any other member of Council. It is the responsibility of Council to now act on the JNAC report recommendations. Your contributions to our deliberations will be extremely valuable. Suggestions for minor procedural changes through to major grandiose reimagining are encouraged. Please let Council know what you think.

I believe that 2012 is going to be an exciting year for St. Peter's. New ideas will be offered and planning for our future will continue. If you wish to take an active role in this evolution, the Nominating Committee would like to hear from you. As always, St. Peter's will rely on thoughtful and caring members of the congregation to advance our Mission. New voices, ideas, enthusiasm, and creativity are welcome.

Merry Christmas and Happy New Year,

*Glenn Legault*



*Steve celebrates his 40th birthday and 1-year anniversary at St. Peter's*

## The Back Pew

### THE ATHEIST ON VACATION

An atheist was spending a quiet day fishing in Scotland when suddenly his boat was attacked by the Loch Ness monster. In one easy flip, the beast tossed him and his boat high into the air. Then it opened its mouth to swallow both.

As the man sailed head over heels, he cried out, "Oh, my God! Help me!"

At once, the ferocious attack scene froze in place, and as the atheist hung in mid-air, a booming voice came down from the clouds, "I thought you didn't believe in Me!"

"Come on God, give me a break!!" the man pleaded. "Two minutes ago I didn't believe in the Loch Ness monster either!"



# Christmas Scroll

**... spreading the Spirit of Christmas  
at St. Peter's United Church  
and within the Sudbury community**

Write a Christmas wish to an individual or family at St. Peter's and add a free-will donation to the Christmas Scroll gift box.

All proceeds support the Corner Clinic, a program providing primary health care services to individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and to individuals who are low income .

**Merry Christmas from St. Peter's M&S Committee!**

## Corner Clinic

- a program of Le Centre de Santé Communautaire du Grand Sudbury focusing on health promotion, education and illness prevention
- primary health care services to individuals who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless, and to low income individuals
- partnerships with local agencies forming a multidisciplinary team to offer services and referrals to community resources (e.g. assistance in finding affordable housing)
- drop in centre for coffee, socializing and distribution of personal hygiene care packages



Look for us on our Facebook home – the best way of keeping up-to-date with all the latest events at St. Peter's United Church!

Just type '**st. peter's united church**' in the search box and there we are (or if you are viewing this by PDF, click on the name above).

## St. Peter's On the Rock

St. Peter's United Church  
203 York Street, Sudbury ON P3E 2A2

tel: 705-675-2171

email: [info@stpetersunited.ca](mailto:info@stpetersunited.ca)

web: [www.stpetersunited.ca](http://www.stpetersunited.ca)

The Rev. Dawn Vaneyk, Minister

