

## By the Sunday after Christmas,

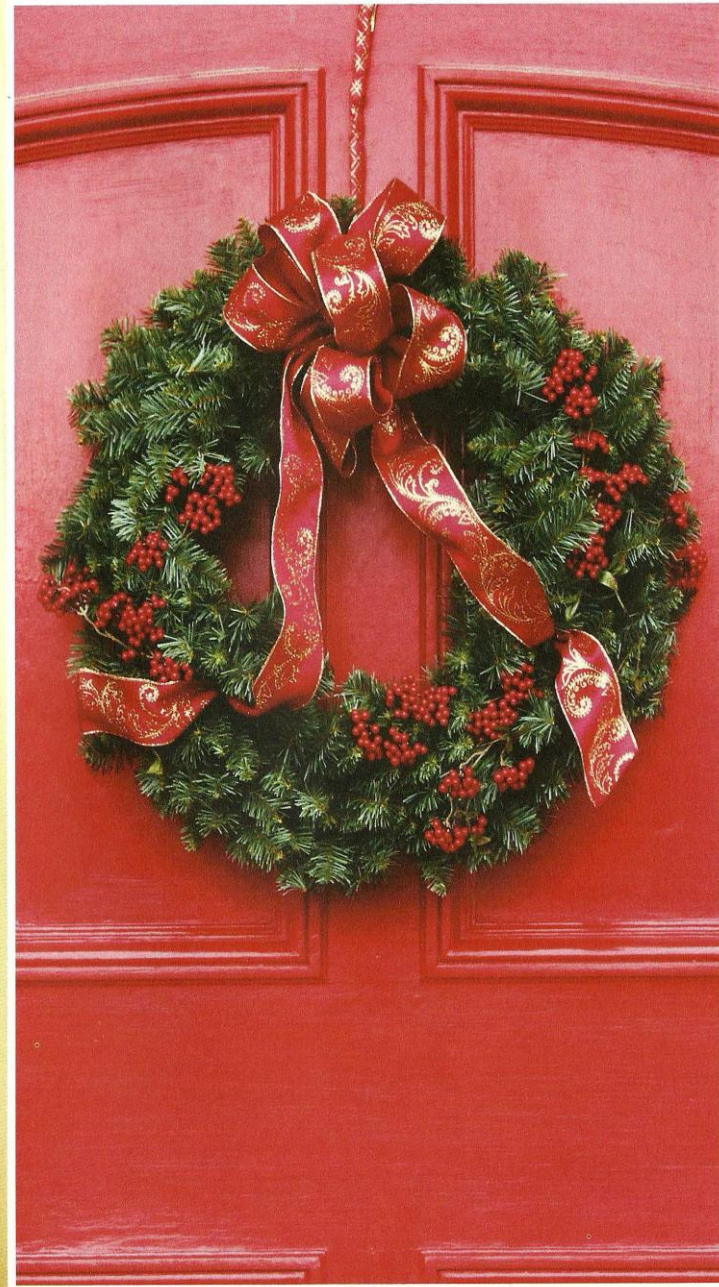
the carols are off the radio, the trees are coming down, and the gifts are opened. If you went to a mall, there would be little evidence of Christmas.

But here in the church, the miracle of Christmas is not swept away. We are here to celebrate God incarnate, God made flesh among us, the child in the manger. This is not a day to put praise away, but to sing it out loudly.

The psalm reminds us of this essential truth. Let everything praise God — animals and snow and kings and sun and moon and men and women together. This is a day to celebrate and rejoice, to remember that our salvation was brought to us in Jesus, the child in the manger.

The Rev. Theresa McDonald-Lee is the Executive Director at  
Camp Kintail in Goderich, ON.

Photo by Marlene Handrahan, Calvin, Toronto, ON



# FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Sunday, December 29, 2013

1st Sunday after Christmas

Please stand at items marked \* if you are able.  
Passages in **Bold Print** are to be spoken in Unison  
Organ Prelude – Hymn and Quiet Reflection

Welcome & Announcements

Rev. Susan Mattinson

Organist - Carol Wehrstedt      Music Director- Kendall House

## WE GATHER IN GOD'S PRESENCE

Introit

\* Entry of the Bible

Call to Worship

\* Hymn: "Angels we have heard on high" #147

Opening Prayer:

O Lord our God, your angels and all the heavenly host praise you. Even the wild animals and flying birds and creeping things praise you. And it is our joy and duty to join our voices with all creation singing your praises. However, we confess that we have not always praised you as we should, or lived as your chosen ones, but have chosen to live lives that reflect our desires and not yours. Forgive our distracted and careless living and let new life be born within our spirits, our communities, and in your church. Amen.

Assurance of Pardon

Exchanging the Peace of Christ

Children's Time

## WE HEAR GOD'S WORD

Hymn of Preparation 165 (v. 4)

O holy child of Bethlehem descend to us, we pray;  
Cast out our sin and enter in; be born in us today.  
We hear the Christmas angels the great glad tidings tell;  
Oh come to us, abide with us, our Lord, Emmanuel.

Bible Readings:

Psalms 148      P. 582 & 583      O.T.

Gloria Patri:

594

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen, amen.

Hymn: #153 "Joy to the World"

Scripture and Reflection

Hymn: "God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen" (see insert)

Scripture and Reflection

Hymn: #159 "O Come All Ye Faithful"

Scripture and Reflection

## WE RESPOND TO GOD

Special Music: "Away in a Manger" piano duet by Emily and Carol Wehrstedt

Tithes and Offerings

\* Offertory Response 145 (v.4)

What can I give him, poor as I am?

If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;

If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;

Yet what I can I give him give my heart.

Prayer of Dedication

Gracious God, your glory is above the earth and the heavens. You have raised up a saviour for us, and you are worthy of all of our adoration. We ask your blessing on our gifts and we thank you for allowing us to play a part in enriching the lives of others. Amen.

Pastoral Prayer & Lord's Prayer (debts ....debtors)

## WE GO OUT TO SERVE

\* Hymn: "See amid the winter's snow" #168

Blessing

Response: 619

The Lord bless you and keep you;

The Lord make his face shine upon you,

And be gracious unto you;

The Lord lift up his countenance upon you

and give you his peace.

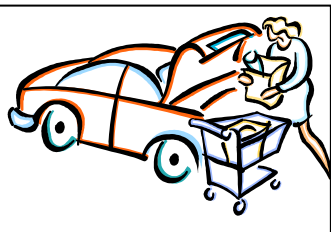
**Prayer Concerns:**

Marie Huffman (Roseview)  
and her granddaughter, Bronwyn  
Douglas Anderson



**SUNDAY SCHOOL REMINDER:**

THERE IS NO SUNDAY SCHOOL TODAY OR ON JANUARY 5TH.  
SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES JANUARY 12TH.



Thank you so much to everyone who donates to the Food Bank.

**FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH MISSION STATEMENT**

Our Mission purpose is to put our faith into action through mission education, community outreach, and personal and financial support both at home and abroad.



**Thank you this week to:**

**Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving  
**Lay Reader:** Janet Racey  
**Fellowship Time:** Leslie Shaw and Ruth George  
**Elevator Operator:** Russ Brown  
**Offering Counting:** Joyce Nystrom, Brenda Seabrook, Janet Taylor  
**Offering Collection:** Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor  
**Phoning:** Margaret Anderson

**Next week's volunteers: Jan. 5th**

**Greeters:** Betty Irwin and Betty Irving  
**Lay Reader:** Leslie Shaw  
**Fellowship Time:** Isobel Telford and Val Calder  
**Elevator Operator:** \_\_\_\_\_  
**Offering Counting:** Mickey Kennedy and Doug & Joleen Brown  
**Offering Collection:** Russ Brown, Don Munn, Joyce Nystrom, Janet Taylor  
**Visiting:** Joan Anderson

**Upcoming Events at First**

<b>TODAY</b>	<b>- Service at Pinewood</b>	<b>- 2 pm</b>
	<b>Court Nursing Home</b>	
Sun., Jan. 5th	Communion Service	
Tues., Jan. 7th	More than Mission Luncheon @ noon	
Sat., Jan. 11th	Church de-decorate	- 11 am



## **“God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen”**

God rest ye merry, gentlemen, let nothing you dismay,  
For Jesus Christ our Saviour was born upon this day,  
To save us all from Satan's power when we were gone  
astray:

*O tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy,  
O tidings of comfort and joy.*

From God our heavenly Father a blessed angel came,  
And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the  
same,  
How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by  
name:

*O tidings ...*

The shepherds at those tidings rejoiced much in mind,  
And left their flocks a-feeding in tempest, storm and  
wind,  
And went to Bethlehem straightway, this blessed Babe  
to find:

*O tidings ...*

But when to Bethlehem they came, whereat this Infant  
lay,  
They found Him in a manger, where oxen feed on hay;  
His mother Mary kneeling, unto the Lord did pray:

*O tidings ...*

Now to the Lord sing praises, all you within this place,  
And with true love and brotherhood each other now  
embrace;

This holy tide of Christmas all other doth deface:

*O tidings ...*