## Life and Work - December 8, 2024

## We accept the following donation to the General Fund:

\* In Loving Memory of Parents, Gilbert and Ruby Hiscock, Sister Lorna and Brother Gilbert from Patsy.

Christmas Office Closure: The church office will be closed starting on December 21 until the morning of January 2nd. If anyone has any donations to go in the Christmas bulletins, please have them into the office by Sunday, December 15th at the latest.

The Christmas Visitor is here! This edition of the Visitor is completely online, so please visit the church website at <a href="www.stjamesuc.org">www.stjamesuc.org</a> to download your edition. If you would like a paper copy, please contact the office. Thank you to all who contributed.

**2025 Church Envelopes:** Your 2025 church envelopes are available to be picked up at the church during office hours or Sunday morning during service.

**Looking For:** Our IT team is looking for a 32" TV and mount to help with our ongoing upgrades. If you have a newer model TV available, in excellent working condition, for donation please reach out to Susan Pike. <a href="mailto:susanpike@warp.nfld.net">susanpike@warp.nfld.net</a> or 709-685-5613

Looking for Volunteers to assist Rev. James with Worship: Beginning in the new year, we are looking to have people to assist Rev. James in leading parts of the worship service like the welcome, announcements, some prayers. These portions are prepared ahead of time by Rev. James. Training will be provided for those who are interested in helping in this way. For more information or to volunteer, email Rev. James at <a href="mailto:james@stjamesuc.org">james@stjamesuc.org</a>.

Advent Perspectives: Do you want to spiritually prepare yourself for Christmas this year? Why not gather in small groups and prayerfully reflect together on the readings for each Sunday of Advent? At the beginning of each week, we will send out an email with readings and questions to prompt your reflection and discussion. Reach out to some friends and together make room for Christ to be born in your hearts.

Silent Vigils for Peace, December 11 from 5:30 to 6:30 pm: Beginning on December 11, St. James will be hosting a monthly silent vigil for peace. Given the many conflicts in our world, especially as we enter the second year of the war between Israel and Hamas, we all need a place to just sit together in prayer. This is to be a no-taking-sides event, and so we ask people not to bring signs, or wear clothes with slogans, or to engage in conversation about one issue or another. This is a place of silent solidarity with all the people who are suffering because of our addiction to aggression and violence, seen especially in the bloodshed and

destruction in Gaza, in the ongoing captivity of hostages from Israel, in war and violence in other places in our world. Let's come together and prayerfully hold the world in love and a desire for peace.

**Blue Christmas Service:** December 17 at 7 pm. A reflective service for all who feel blue during the holidays, especially because of a recent death, illness, break up or any other loss.

Baking Spirits Bright Bake Sale: Don't have time to bake your Christmas cookies, cakes or treats? Let us help you out! On Sunday, December 15<sup>th</sup> directly after the worship service we will be hosting a Christmas Bake sale, including breads, cookies, homemade fudge and more. Lunch we will be serving, baked beans, soup, hot dogs and sweets for a free-will offering. We are asking for donations of soup, chile, rolls and sweets. Please contact Jean at treasurer@stjamesuc.org, speak with one of the ushers on Sunday or email/call the church office at info@stjamesuc.org or 709-722-1881 ext 200. We hope to see you all there. We are accepting donations for the bake sale on Saturday evening Dec 14<sup>th</sup> from 4 - 6 pm. All donations are welcome.

Also, if you or someone you know has a prepared food business, we invite you to rent your own table at the sale for \$25 (per table) to sell your own goodies. (for example, selling bread, preserves, sauces or make your own cookies kits, etc.)

**St. James Calendar:** 2025 Calendars are available to purchase. If you wish to buy one, please contact the office during regular business hours. The cost is \$20.

Christmas Envelopes Reminder: With the Canada Post strike, we are not able to mail out the Christmas Envelopes. Please put your contribution in an envelope and mark Christmas on it. You can either drop it of to the church any time and place in our secure lock box, bring it to church on Sunday morning, e-transfer to <a href="mailto:treasurer@stjamesuc.org">treasurer@stjamesuc.org</a>, use the donate button on the church's website or please call the church office 709-722-1881 and leave your name and address and we will get someone to drop by and pick it up.

English-as-a-Second (or Another) Language Conversation Café: Are you a newcomer -- or do you know a newcomer -- whose first language is not English and who needs help learning and improving their knowledge of it to speak it? The Social Action group, in partnership with Teachers on Wheels, will start a weekly caféstyle conversation session to give immigrants an opportunity to learn and to practice. We are looking for participants to start in early January. Dates & times are yet to be determined. If interested, please e-mail:

<u>robinbartlett1224@gmail.com</u>, or leave a message with the church office: 722-1881 ext. 200. Thank you!

**Bridges to Hope:** Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled.

The suggested item(s) for December 2024, especially useful for Bridges to Hope - Canned Meat. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

Thank you for your support!

## St. James Christmas Worship Services:

Silent Vigils for Peace Service - December 11 @ 5:30PM
Tapestry Service - December 14 @ 5:30PM
3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of Advent Service - December 15 @ 11AM
Blue Christmas Service - December 17 @ 7PM
Winter Solstice - December 21 @ 7PM at the Sheppard's
(contact office for address)
4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent Service - December 22 @ 11AM
Christmas Eve Family Service - December 24 at 4:30PM
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service - December 24 at 7:00PM
1<sup>st</sup> Sunday of Christmas Service - December 29 @ 11AM