

ST. JOHN'S JOURNEY



INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

| | |
|------------------------|---|
| A Note from Tom | 1 |
| A letter from Becky | 2 |
| Celebrations | 2 |
| Christmas at St John's | 3 |
| Tim's Bench | 3 |
| Our New Shed | 3 |
| And the winner is..... | 3 |
| OTR Hats from Emmaus | 3 |
| Church Bazaar | 4 |
| Coats for Dryden High | 5 |
| Blue Christmas | 5 |
| Ministry Schedule | 6 |



A Note from Tom

“Now is the winter of our discontent.”

The opening line of Shakespeare's *Richard III* suggests that the discontent of England's 'War of the Roses' was over (it wasn't). But for us, the line suggests the end (the 'winter') of a time of unhappiness. We hope and we pray that 2022 ushers in a better year than 2021. We hope and we pray for a release from the grip of the Covid virus. We hope and we pray that the light of Christ will shine brighter than ever.

The birth of Christ brought hope to a weary world. *Through* Christ we were taught how to worship God and love one another. And *in* Christ we learn the formula for ending our discontent. Live as Jesus did; love God and love your neighbors. Love *all* your neighbors.

I cannot remember a time in my life when I so hoped for a better year to come. May 2022 bring an end—once

and for all—to our discontent.

With every blessing...

Tom+

Annual Meeting!

Annual Meeting!

January 16th after Eucharist, we will have our Annual Meeting and you are invited. This is a chance for us to celebrate this past year, plan for the new year and to thank all of the people who have helped St. John's through this year and beyond. Given concerns for our safety, we plan to hold the meeting in the church which provides more space and ventilations. Of course, we will all wear masks. We are working on ways to livestream it for those who prefer to stay home. Either way, we hope you will attend.



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St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for February is January 29th..



Happy Birthday...

Corrine Fry
Rev. Nancy Steele

Senior Warden's Letter



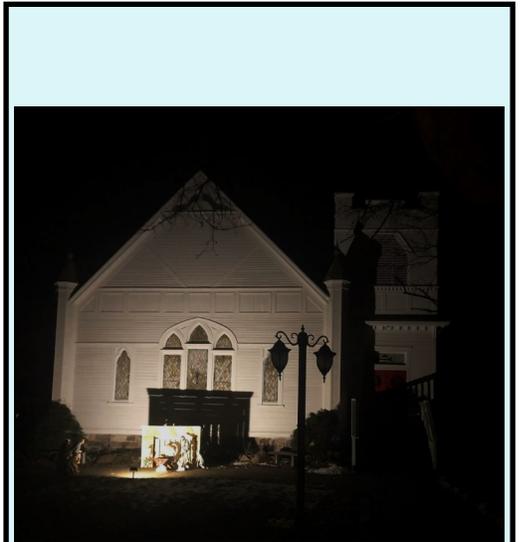
Dear Friends,

I love this time of year. It's a turning time where we can review the past and plan for the future. I love spending Advent and Christmastide with my St. John's family. All of the activity – the Christmas Bazaar, our Taste & See class, Longest Night, Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and Christmas Sunday provided so many chances to work, play and pray together. Christmas Eve was wonderful – among the faces I usually see, there were some special visitors. Al Seivers and his family were there. He sounded good and I hope we can see him again soon. And then I saw Dave & Joyce Moss! They sat two pews behind me and still sing with gusto. It was great to see them. Even though I'm a little tired at the moment, I would not have missed a minute.

As usual, we'll kick-off the New Year with our Annual Meeting on January 16 after service. We will be sure to thank all those folks who have contributed so much to St. John's this past year and longer. And we will discuss steps to take to keep St. John's moving and growing into the future. I realize that Covid concerns are in everyone's mind. We will hold the meeting in the church for optimum safety. And we'll try to do a livestream for those who prefer to stay at home.

I've been trying to think of a focus for the new year. With Covid dragging on, it's hard to predict what the future holds for any of us. I find myself weary of the warnings, the uncertainty and the fear. 2021 was actually a pretty good year for us if you take those Covid-colored glasses off for a bit. And I think 2022 has potential as well. But we need to remind ourselves of the good stuff to counter the weight of con-

stant alarming news. So I think the word for 2022 is "Encourage". Let's find encouragement in our faith, our our St. John's family and in our daily discourse. God keeps telling us to "fear not". Let's give it a try.



Christmas at St. John's

Our new manger scene looks lovely at night. This was taken before Christmas – you can tell because the wise-men are back from the manger. They are moved a bit closer every week until they finally arrive at Christmas. On the 3rd Sunday of Advent, we discovered a baby-doll in the crib! Could it be that someone thought we couldn't afford a Baby Jesus? He made is appearance on Christmas

In Memory of Tim Wright



St. John's has the honor of housing this bench for the winter months.

It was purchased by

Tim's family last summer and kept at the riding school for through the fall. Tim's wife, Susan, and his daughter, Rachel, agreed to move it to St. John's for the winter months. The bench located across from the coat racks in an area were Tim would often sit and chat with folks before service. We sure miss him and really appreciate the opportunity to enjoy this lovely memorial.

Basket Raffle Drawing Suspicious?

The winner of the November Basket raffle is Ina Dockham. However, some of us wonder about some of the process. It is customary to ask for a volunteer to draw the winning ticket. Ina loudly encourage Dave Hernden to do the honors. Dave cheerfully complied and drew....Ina Dockham's ticket! It could just be coincidence, right? Ina has created a new basket for the January raffle. We'll have to see if this pattern repeats.



Warm Winter Hats and Scarves from Friends in Phoenix

An Early Christmas Present



If you haven't been to church lately, you might not have seen our newest addition. We have a lovely new shed in the parking lot. It is larger than the old shed, has rafters for storage, a tin roof and a cement pad which will keep our feet dry and clean as we move things in and out of the shed. And these doors lock and stay closed. The old shed still stands – it might be spring before we dismantle it. Many thanks to all those who donated to this effort and to Jack Dodd for making it happen. Merry Christmas, everyone!



Once again, Jim and Corinne Fry's friends at Emmaus Church in Phoenix have provided a collection of lovely and warm hats and scarves for the grade school children at Dryden Elementary School. These are all handmade, high quality and beautiful sets and the children will love them. Unfortunately, school had closed for the holidays before we could deliver them. So these will be a late Christmas present in the New Year. Thanks to Jim and Corinne and to our friends in Phoenix.

Christmas Bazaar Going Strong



Doesn't this look good? They are bird seed feeders! We had to label them to insure people understood what they were getting. These were very popular.



The Christmas "White Elephant" table early in the set-up process. This table was overflowing with Christmas décor much of which went out the door to new homes.

Many thanks to all the people who made this such a success. The team was a large one – Sherry Boyden, Connie Ogg, Ina Dockham, Ida Lynn Dodd (and her trusty side-kick Jack), Yvonne Malinich, Russ Underwood, Rev. Tom and everyone else who donated and helped with set-up, the day itself and the clean-up. We made almost \$1,500 which will be used for Outreach Teen Relief and to repair our bell. Good job, everyone. Looking forward to next year.



Thanks to Ida Lynn and Jack Dodd, we had a new item this year - a gift card raffle! There were gift cards from Country Smoke House, the Coney Island, Vinckiers, Veda's Unique Boutique and others. Total value of \$150. The winning ticket was drawn on December 19th and belonged to Karolyn Smith.



Kathy Wagester and Dianne Bishop at the check-out table. Lots of smiles behind those masks.

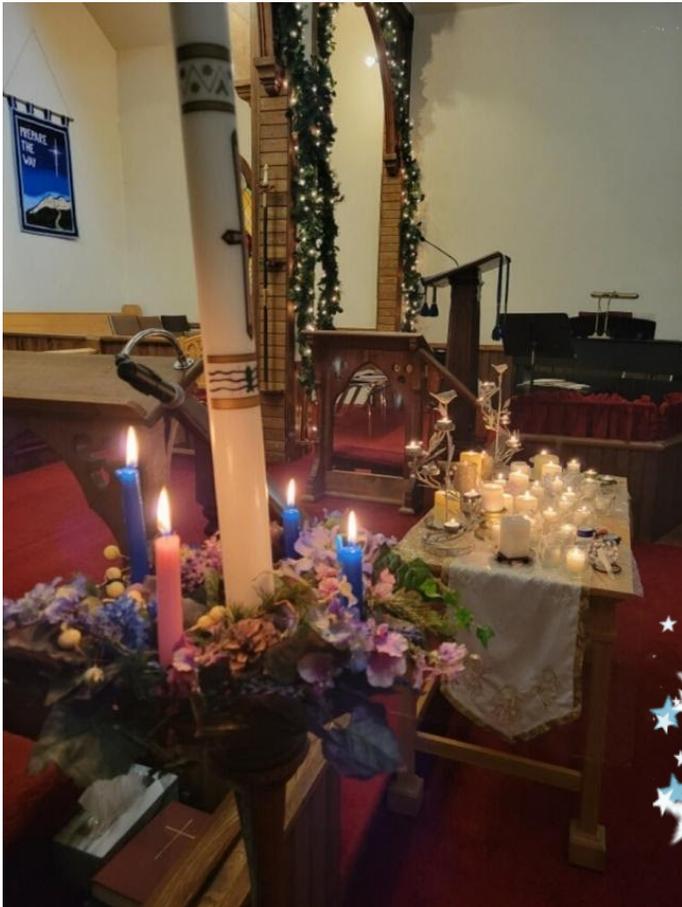
Outreach Teen Relief Coat Drive Making the Winter Warm for Teens



Dryden High School counselor and teacher, Kim Fleming, with Russ Underwood and Rev. Tom Manney with some of the coats on the way to Dryden High School.

In late November, Russ Underwood and Rev. Tom met with Kim Fleming to transfer a large number of coats (20?) to Dryden High School. Ms. Fleming was very appreciative of our efforts. We asked her if there were other ways we could help and she suggested a mid-year school supply drive. "There a lots of ragged notebooks out there," she said," and I think they must be eating pencils – they are always asking for pencils". We are investigating ways to expand our support of local students. With the tragedy in Oxford still fresh, it is clear that there is much to do.

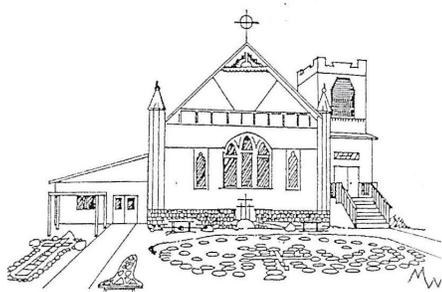
Longest Night – Every candle has a name



Ministry & Counting Schedule

| <u>Date</u> | <u>Lector</u> | <u>Eucharistic Minister</u> | <u>Worship Leader</u> | <u>Videographer</u> | <u>Counting Member 1</u> | <u>Counting Member 2</u> |
|--------------|---------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| Jan 2, 2022 | Wes | Corinne | Rev Manney | Ina Dockham | Ina | Neil |
| Jan 9, 2022 | Jim | Mary | Rev Cavin | Wes Wagester | Becky | Wes |
| Jan 16, 2022 | Mary Neil | Neil | Rev Manney | Becky Foster | Neil | Jack |
| Jan 23, 2022 | | | Becky | Ida Lynn Dodd | Wes | Ina |
| Jan 30, 2022 | Ina | | Kitty | Mary Cameron | Jack | Becky |
| Feb 6, 2022 | Margaret | Tammy | Rev Manney | Becky Foster | Ina | Neil |
| Feb 13, 2022 | Tammy | | Neil | Sherry Wagner | Becky | Wes |
| Feb 20, 2022 | Darlene | Corinne | Rev Manney | Ina Dockham | Neil | Jack |
| Feb 27, 2022 | Kathy | | Becky | Wes Wagester | Wes | Ina |





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