



CHRISTMAS 2021 NEWSLETTER

MERRY CHRISTMAS

Dear Friends;

This is our second Christmas in a pandemic—unbelievable! The twists and turns keep happening and now the omicron variant is increasing the uncertainty of this year's Christmas celebrations.

However, we are people of hope, who do not give up easily. I cannot believe how busy I have been with my



Christmas preparations and putting up Christmas decorations and lights.

I cannot remember how many times Eppy has asked me to re-do our decorations so that they are up to her standard. All this is to say we never get tired of trying to get it right for Christmas, year in year out. In the end we take everything down. Next year at Advent we will untangle the wires and put it all up again, and again experience the mystery and joy of Christmas.

This year I have noticed more people getting back into the Christmas spirit; as I have seen more and more Christmas decorations up and more Christmas postings on Facebook.

I have been following Facebook postings about Christmas decorations and they are interesting.



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Thanks to Cathy Cuthbert who has been explaining the ornaments on her tree. She introduced the tree with the following words: "My tree is up and it has a secret! It is one full of memories of the dozens of people that have given me ornaments, bought with love or made from the heart."

Indeed, Christmas is more than trees and lights. It is about family and the birth of Christ. The Christmas story is not merely a story but a reminder that God loves us so much that he sent his Son to become human and to make us His children.

'Blessed are they who find Christmas in the fragrant greens, the cheerful holly and soft flicker of candles. To them shall come bright memories of love and happiness.'

May your Christmas memories and decorations be blessed in countless ways by our Lord who is worthy of all praise.

I wish you all a Merry Christmas and Blessed 2022.

The Reverend Canon George Kwari.



Merry Christmas! ²

CHRISTMAS BEAUTITUDES

'Blessed are they who find the meaning of family and Christmas in Christmas lights and trees. To them nothing shall separate them from the joy of Christmas.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the age-old story of a babe born in Bethlehem. To them a little child will always mean hope and promise to a troubled world.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the Christmas star. Their lives may ever reflect its beauty and light.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the joy of giving lovingly to others. They shall share the gladness and joy of the shepherds and wise men of old.

Blessed are they who find Christmas in the happy music of Christmas time. They shall have a song of joy ever singing in their hearts.'

Author Unknown





Stephanie McWatt-Postulant

I would like to first thank all of you for your warm welcome over last four months, I have truly felt welcomed by all of you. My time here has brought a lot of learning opportunities for me, some of which were fun and some of which were challenging.

Next steps for me will be a part-time placement while I am awaiting ordination. I am unsure of where the next placement might be, but I am sure that I will have more learning opportunities in store.

I am also working on a second Master's degree. I will be working to complete a thesis that will examine the intersection of our current society and the presentation of the Gospel.

The last two years have been challenging for all congregations in Ottawa and for congregations across Canada. As hopefully, COVID draws to a conclusion shortly, I am confident that once again St. Stephen's will be able to adapt to the new normal for in-person services.





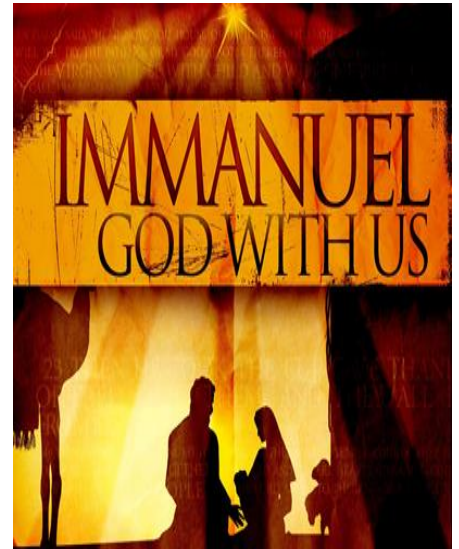
Even as I prepare to move onto another situation in the New Year, know that you will all remain in my prayers.

Thank you for making me feel as though I was one of you, and including me in your lives – both in good times and in tiring times.

I enjoyed all of the lunches with the ladies after services and all of the short conversations had through out the weeks.

May God continue to bless your ministry and community; I pray that your ministry will continue to grow.

Your servant in Christ,
Stephanie McWatt



ST. STEPHEN'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY PREPARATION

On Sunday May 15, 2022 Bishop Shane will join us to celebrate 60 years of the current church building. The 60 years we are celebrating is the age of the upper level since our church is older than 60 years. To mark that celebration the Communications Committee led by Leslie is planning to produce a picture/story book that would be published in May of next year.

The Committee is collecting pictures of church social events and worship services including baptisms, weddings and confirmations and they can be emailed to Leslie Worden at--- lesworden.on@gmail.com.

If you are unable to scan photos, Leslie will be happy to make arrangements with you. There are good pictures and stories out there that can enhance our celebrations.





Olivia Adams

Hello, St. Stephen's parish family.

I am the new music director at St. Stephen's. I began in May, during a lockdown, which is quite an interesting time to start a job! This year has been hectic, as I finished my Masters in Music & Feminist and Gender Studies in early May, started my job with St. Stephen's the same month, was married in September, adopted a sweet puppy named Nori, published a book in October, and here we are arriving at the end of 2021. What a year!

Previous to St. Stephen's I attended St. Alban's Anglican Church, where my husband now works.

Over the last few months, I have thoroughly enjoyed getting to know the St. Stephen's congregation and have very much appreciated the warm welcome you have shown to me. It has been interesting experience transitioning to in-person worship and I enjoy getting to know the choir members and making live music again.

While we are small in number, we are mighty in sound (but we always welcome new voices if the choir is of interest to you)!



This December you can look forward to some beautiful advent and Christmas tunes and a Christmas pageant that will air on Christmas Eve at our evening zoom service.

I have loved working with the kids of St. Stephen's. This is a lively and creative bunch and I think you will enjoy our production of "The Legend of the Candy Cane." I hope to continue making music with these young choristers.

Perhaps you have heard or seen our new instrument – a lovely new-to-us Yamaha piano donated by someone who wanted her piano to go to use at an organization. The choir and I are enjoying making music with it.

It is my hope to start a concert series in the Spring where we welcome secondary and college-aged talent into our beautiful acoustic space to host concerts and recitals.

As I get to know the parish of St. Stephen's, I look forward to hearing from you about favourite hymns, the music you might like to hear, and perhaps I will introduce you to some new tunes as well I look forward to lots of music-making with you both online and in person.

May you experience a season of renewed joy and peace this Advent as we celebrate the birth of the one who brought us new life.

Sincerely ,

Olivia Adams.
Music Director



Merry Christmas!⁷

ADVENT, CHRISTMAS AND SPECIAL SERVICES 2021-22

Sunday December 19 at 10:00 a.m.

The Service of Lessons and Christmas Carols. (Live-streamed only)

Sunday December 19 at 7:00 p.m.

Quite Contemplative Eucharist Christmas Service (in person and Live-streamed)

Christmas Eve Services

Friday December 24 at 4:00 p.m. (Livestreamed only)

Family Service with (The Legend of Candy Cane pre-recorded.)

Friday December 24 at 7:30 p.m. (Live-streamed Only)

Christmas Eve Service

Morning Prayer

Sunday December 26 at 10:00 a.m. (Live-streamed only)

Farewell service for Stephanie McWatt.

SAVE THE FOLLOWING DATES

Sunday February 27 , 2022

St. Stephen's Annual Vestry Meeting immediately following the **10:00 a.m. service.**

Friday May 13 2022 :7:00 p.m.

60th Anniversary Dinner and Launch of the St Stephen's Book of Memories.

Sunday May 15 2022

St. Stephen's 60th Anniversary (Celebrant and Homilist- Bishop Shane Parker)

PARISH CONTACT INFORMATION

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WE WISH YOU A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A BLESSED 2022!⁸