

Newsletter December 14, 2009

Good Monday morning friends.

Two things before we get down to business: I do want to thank the anonymous sender of Christmas carnations. They are lovely. Also, so many of you have invited me to spend Christmas with you I am overwhelmed! Thank you for your gentle kindness in this way. I do have Christmas plans, and all will be well. Thank you so very much for your open arms and hearts.

Well! Today is the day after our choirs' Christmas cantata and it was a truly inspiring worship service, thanks to the hard work of Derek and Barry and the senior and junior choirs. Thank you to everyone who helped with that.

For this week there are some things to celebrate, and some other things to take note of.

Celebrations first:

- 1) Again, the cantata. For many of us, the fullness of the wonder of Christmas is in the music, and the choirs certainly helped us feel and hear that yesterday.
- 2) Harris taped the cantata (cassette) and is making copies. If anyone would like a copy, contact him please. REQUEST: does anyone have the equipment to make a CD from a cassette?
- 3) We have learned this week that Jennifer Moorlag is to be a recipient of the Governor General's Caring Canadian Award! It will be presented at the Commissioner's Levee Jan 1st – We're proud of you Jennifer!
- 4) Share the Spirit. This is a community effort to make sure that families who are struggling financially get some help at Christmas time. When Norma our coordinator made the announcement at the beginning of the service yesterday, there were 19 children left on our list, to be "taken". By the time Norma left yesterday they had all been spoken for. She would like to tell you all how touched she has been by the way you share your spirit. This congregation is wonderful in so many ways, and your generosity and compassion are just part of that. Thank you to everyone. A note about wrapping and delivering: Wrapping will happen at the church Friday night at 6 pm. Delivery will happen on Saturday.
- 5) The Sunday school made Christmas decorations and sold them after church to help with Share the Spirit. They raised \$100 for the cause, and added to the 300 they raised for Mission and Service a couple of weeks ago, I'd say they really have the Christmas spirit, wouldn't you? Special thanks are due to Wendy Kitchen for helping
- 6) Jack Cable's Christmas Tree project raised over \$2200! The day was just perfect, and thank you so much to Jack and to all the helpers who provided food and drink for those who went for their trees. The proceeds go to Camp Braeburn – what an inspiring project!

Now some announcements:

- 1) Pageant practice: Sunday as usual after church and then a final dress rehearsal Wednesday the 23rd at 2:30.
- 2) SOUP NEEDED – we are in need of soup for the soup kitchen. There are buckets at the church for you to use – please pick up a bucket (or two) and fill it up. Thanks so much.
- 3) Advent noon hour services continue at the church on Wednesdays from 12:15 – 12:45. A time of music, silence, readings, and prayer
- 4) Christmas Eve services: 7 pm Pageant, 9 pm lessons and carols
- 5) Dec 26th at 10 am – clean up after Christmas Eve to get ready for service on Sunday. Costumes will be put away at this time as well; come if you can to help.
- 6) Advance notice: our congregational retreat will be Jan 16th at Sundog. From 10-4pm. Child care provided. The cost is \$30.00 which covers lunch as well. More details to come.
- 7) Men's Breakfast Wednesday Jan 6th at 7 am at the CYO Hall, at the downtown Roman Catholic church
- 8) Due to the lack of snow, the snow sculpting project planned for the youth group will have to be postponed. The youth group will meet on Friday night here at the church at 6 pm to help wrap the Share the Spirit gifts, and then to share some Christmas spirit of their own.
- 9) The church offices will be closed starting Dec 25th and open again on Jan 4th. Services will still be held. Bev will be working at home and you may reach her there any time at 633-3777.