

St. James United Church Life and Work, November 26, 2017

Ushering this week is provided by Usher in Charge: Barry Cutler

Ushers: Sandra Thistle, Linda Babstock, Oliver Wellon, Bill & Cindy Pike

We gratefully acknowledge the following donations:

*to the Cemetery Fund in loving memory of Cecil G. Cole from wife Muriel and family; *to St. James United Church from Anonymous.

We offer our appreciation to the St. James Guitar Group for providing the music during our Worship Service today. Thank you!

Our Friday, December 1 Dessert Party and Concert have been postponed to Friday, February 9. Please watch for announcements early in the New Year about our Valentines Celebration.

2018 Envelopes are now ready to be picked up. You will find them next to the side aisle windows of the Sanctuary, in alphabetical order of your last name.

Today at St. James: *Book Launch at 2pm in the Sanctuary: *Joe Loose And Other Bouts*, a collection of short fiction by John Carrick Greene, historian and former leader of the NDP, featuring an exploration of various forms of intolerance and discrimination in Newfoundland society; ***St. John's Choir presents Noël, Noël** in St. James Sanctuary at 7:30pm. \$20 tickets at the door.

Tomorrow, Monday, November 27 at 11am: Active Aging at St. James: NIA (No Impact Aerobics); the second of 4 one hour drop-in sessions. Nia encourages stability, mobility, strength and flexibility. Cost is \$10 per class.

We are decorating the Sanctuary next Saturday, December 2, 9:30am-5pm: Any and all assistance is very welcome; this is a family event for those interested and willing to help for as long as you choose. Lunch and refreshments provided.

The Covenanting Service for Rev. Brian Colbourne will be held next Sunday, December 3 at 2pm in St. James United Church. All are welcome.

Stella's Circle Annual Christmas Alternative Service is on Wednesday, December 14 at Gower Street UC. There will be a turkey dinner and gift card draws after Worship which is always much appreciated by the 250 participants who attend this important event. The Alternative Service Committee is looking for donations of \$5 and \$10 dollar gift cards from Tim Hortons and Subway as part of the gifts for participants. If you would like to contribute, you are invited to buy a gift card(s) and place it in an envelope with your name and address. All gift cards can be given to Rev. Pamela, Spiritual Co-ordinator, Stella's Circle.

Our White Gift service will be on Sunday, December 17. We are collecting 'new' household articles for Stella Burry Corporation and toiletries, hats, mitts and scarves for Street Reach and Stella Burry. Your White Gifts may be placed in the wagon at the church entrance, or brought to the church office during the week.

Project Grace is running its third annual *Stuff Our Stocking* campaign to collect small items which are needed by the children to keep playing their instruments all year long. These items include pencils, reeds, rosin, strings and other things! Please watch for our posters for more ideas. Gillian at projectgracenl@gmail.

Please see the notice boards for: *Full details of the call for five youth between the ages of 15 and 18 who would be interested in attending a National Youth Forum in Ontario from February 16-19, 2018. The deadline has been extended to November 30; *full details of the Explorer Program 2018: an initiative to encourage young adult United Church members to consider ministry as a vocation. * Annual Christmas letter and wish list from Stella's Circle.

Rohingya Crisis: The Canadian government will match eligible donations made by the UCC until Tuesday, November 28. Donations may be made:

*online at www.united-church.ca/social-action/act-now/rohingya-crisis

*phone with credit card to 1-800-268-3781, ext. 2738;

*cheque or money order to The United Church of Canada, Philanthropy Unit-Emergency Response, 3250 Bloor Street West, Suite 200, Toronto, ON, M8X 2Y4.

Minute for Mission: Our gifts to M&S support the UCW Child Well-Being Initiative. Recently, the PEI UCW Presbyterial Child Poverty Initiative presented colourful cloth dolls to the members of the PEI Legislative Assembly with a message reminding them that all PEI children deserve to have their basic needs met. The members were very interested in the dolls, and commented on the uniqueness of each one. The UCW committee was assured that politicians understood the intent of the dolls – a concrete reminder that over 22% of children the island live with poverty every day, and that the responsibility of government is to do all it can to eradicate poverty. This is but the beginning as the UCW works continually to monitor progress in this area until child poverty is eradicated in PEI. This initiative is part of a nation-wide UCW strategy to address child poverty. Across Canada, the UCW continue to be huge supporters of M&S. We sing thanksgiving for UCW's work to end child poverty.

Rev Bill Mercer with the Wesley Male choir at today's evening service, beginning with a sing-along at 6:50; all are welcome.

Christmas Dinner sponsored by Spiritual Inner Healing Ministry: Friday, December 8 at 7pm, Wesley UC Auditorium. For \$20 tickets, call Yvonne, 368-9313, Jackie after 5:30 p.m. at 747-0698. Deadline for tickets is next Friday, December 1.