

# CORNERSTONE

December, 2025

20 Young Road  
Kanata, Ontario  
K2L 1W1  
613-836-1001  
[www.stpaulshk.org](http://www.stpaulshk.org)

**St Paul's**  
ANGLICAN CHURCH



*A growing community called to know Jesus Christ and make him known in the world by our presence.*

## Sunday Services

**7:45 a.m.** – Said Service and Eucharist.

**9:00 a.m.** – Traditional/Choral Holy Communion. Nursery available. Children's Ministry meets downstairs for lessons and crafts.

**11:00 a.m.** – Praise Music Holy Communion. Nursery available. Children's Ministry meets downstairs for lessons and crafts.

All services are available online through the church website. The Book of Alternative Services is also available online: <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/BAS.pdf>

## Other Services

**Wednesday 10 a.m. Bible Study** In-person on the first week of each month and via Zoom other weeks. See inside for details.

**Memorial Prayers** First Sunday of September, November, January (11:30am), March and May, following the 11am service.

## Inside this issue:

- **Message from Fr. Stephen**
  - **Christmas Service Schedule**
  - **Christmas Bazaar Update**
  - **From the Envelope Secretary**
  - **Advent Resource**
  - **Breakfast in Bethlehem**
- ...and more!**

January edition deadline:  
**Tuesday, January 6, 2026**

Please send submissions to:  
[cornerstone@stpaulshk.org](mailto:cornerstone@stpaulshk.org)



## A message from Father Stephen

### A Bright Blue Christmas

Christmas is known as the season of joy, and for good reason. During the darkest days of the year, we light up our homes, put up sparkly trees, and throw great parties. Most of our popular Christmas music reflects this joy. From *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree* to *Jingle Bells*, even the secular tunes of the season exude happiness. In some way, even our non-religious culture seems to know that the story of Jesus' birth demands a joyful response.

It's interesting however, that in the midst of such joys we still hold on to a sense of melancholy at Christmas. Think about the mournful lyrics of *I'll Be Home for Christmas*, for example. After singing about the joyful trappings of Christmas, it leaves us with "I'll be home for Christmas, if only in my dreams." These words leave a sting of unfulfilled

longing, and the spectre of a sorrowful Christmas spent alone.

That song, and many others, remind us that Christmas doesn't always seem joyful. For some, the joy of the season only brings a magnification of loss. Whether because of grief at the loss of a loved one, or because of a regretful look back at a disappointing year, or because of the pain of a troublesome family situation, many people find the season burdensome. For them, others' joy at Christmas only highlights their own lack of it.

This isn't a reason to avoid celebrating Christmas of course. It is, after all, a joyful fact that at Christmas God came to dwell among us on earth. Yet, the sorrows many feel in this season should remind us that the birth of Christ isn't just a story for happy people. It's not the story of sorrow being banished from the earth. It is instead the story of joy persisting in the midst of sorrow. This is a joy available to all.

Recall the elements of the Christmas story, and consider how the beautiful and the terrible are found side by side: Jesus the King is born in Bethlehem, yet he is born in a stable with only a manger for a bed. He is adored by shepherds, and serenaded by angels, but ignored by the town and turned away by the innkeeper. He is visited by magi with kingly gifts, but is pursued with murderous intent by the agents of king Herod. Good comes, but so does evil.

These darker elements of the Christmas story are reminders that God's revelation of Himself to us was not an invitation to ignore the harshness of life on earth. Jesus' birth was the earthly beginning of a ministry beset by many hardships. We can't ignore these. But as we hold onto that fact, we also need to see that Jesus' life was pervaded by a joy that hardship couldn't extinguish.

Even in his darkest moments on the cross, when all had abandoned him and darkness covered the land, Jesus shows us that Christian hope perseveres when life brings pain. There, on the cross, Jesus had the

(Continued on page 3)



(Continued from page 2)

honesty to say “my God, my God, why have you forsaken me,” but also the trust to say “into your hands I commit my spirit.” The sorrow was real on the cross, and despair threatened to engulf Jesus’ soul. He acknowledged that in his words of sorrow. However, something deeper than sorrow lay at the centre of Jesus’ being: trust in his heavenly Father. In his sorrow, he trusted, and his trust brought about the joy of the resurrection.

Sorrow is a part of life, but these scenes from Jesus’ life – from beginning to end – show us that despair isn’t where sorrow has to lead us. The entire arc of Jesus’ life on earth is a tale of God’s love sustaining those who found hope elusive. Like Jesus, God asks us to trust Him when we feel hopeless too. This means that wherever you are in your spiritual life, Christmas is a celebration meant for you to join. Those rougher elements to the story are a message written for all who “toil along the climbing way with painful steps and slow,” as that great Christmas carol tells us. It is a message that says Christ knows what you are going through, and will help you get through it.

So, if you’re filled with delight and hope this year, looking forward to eggnog, gifts, and rousing songs, you will be blessed! Christmas has all of these things. Join in the festivities with delight, for it is a fitting way to celebrate the birth of our king.

Take note though, that if you’re just hanging on, bent down with sorrow, you too will be blessed by celebrating Christmas. Christmas is for you! Take time this year to “rest beside the weary road, and hear the angels sing.” Join in the worship of our king, even when your heart is heavy. For the same angels who sang into the darkness of Bethlehem will be joining us as we sing this Christmas. Let their angel voices lighten your heart, just as they lightened the dark fields of Judea so long ago.

Have yourself a merry little Christmas, and may our yuletide bring you joy.

Stephen+

## Service Schedule

### Christmas, New Year, Epiphany

**Cookies and Carols:**  
Saturday, Dec. 13 at  
7pm

**Christmas Eve:**

- 4pm Children’s Service with Pageant and Eucharist;
- 7pm Christmas Eucharist
- 9pm Christmas Eucharist



**Christmas Day:** 10am Eucharist and Carols

**Sunday after Christmas (Dec. 28):** One service only at 10am. No children’s ministry.

**New Year’s Day:** 10am Eucharist

**Epiphany Sunday (Jan.4):** Two services only at 7:45am and 10am. Children’s ministry available at the 10am service. Memorial Prayer follows at 11:30am

## Vestry Theme for this year

Therefore, my dear brothers and sisters,

**STAND FIRM.**

Let nothing move you.

Always give yourselves fully to the work of the Lord,  
because you know that your labour in the Lord is not in vain.

1 Corinthians 15:58 NIV



# Church Happenings



On Sunday, November 9, we began our services with the blessing of the Remembrance Day wreath and 2 minutes of silence in honour of those who gave their lives to preserve our freedom. Photo by Matthew Stortz.

On November 28 and 29 we enjoyed our Annual Christmas Bazaar, which began with a blessing offered by Bishop Nicholas. Thank you to everyone who volunteered and everyone who came to eat and shop for making this event a great success! Photos by Alison Stortz.



# Breakfast in Bethlehem

December 13, 8:45am

Everyone is invited to Breakfast in Bethlehem, featuring a hot breakfast, music, drama, and children's activities. Come and meet Biblical characters from the first Christmas. This is an opportunity for the whole family to celebrate the true meaning of Christmas.

Please RSVP by December 11, 2025 by sending an email to [childrensministry@stpaulshk.org](mailto:childrensministry@stpaulshk.org). All children must be accompanied by an adult.



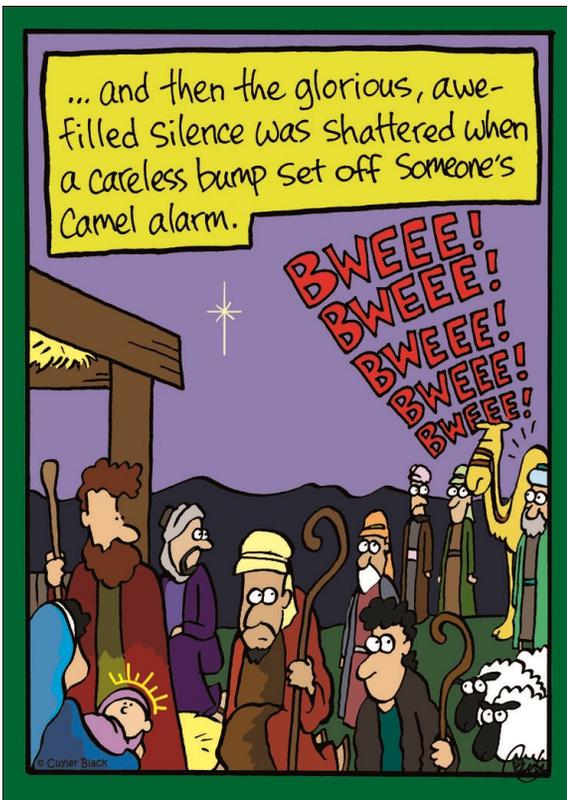
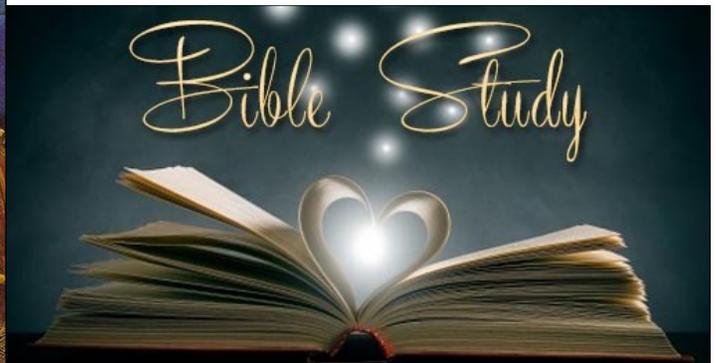
# Wednesday Bible Study

10am, In-person or Zoom

Each week we discuss the Bible passages for the coming Sunday and consider how they apply to our lives. Everyone is welcome!

On the first Wednesday of each month, the study will be held in person only in the church and will be combined with the Eucharist. On the other Wednesdays, it will be held only on Zoom.

Link to join our Zoom study: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/83161909398wd=1JHZuIAUvWKbvyHJYvoE2vPPYwjUwN.1>  
 Meeting ID: 831 6190 9398  
 Passcode: 281739



## Just for Fun



## Christmas Bazaar Update

### Thank you!

Well! An amazing total of \$15,700 was raised at this year's Bazaar – the best yet!

There are so many people involved in making this event a success that it is impossible to mention all of you: item donors, ticket sellers, chili makers, bakers, sandwich makers, knitters, sewers, table setters and cleaners, table hosts, money counters, sorters, jam and jelly makers, soup makers, raffle staff - the list is endless!

Each and every one of you know what your part was in this event and I thank you most sincerely for the many hours you have donated to the cause. Your generous donations in all areas and financial support are invaluable.

Our Chili Supper and Luncheon were a great success and one only had to look around to note that people were enjoying the fellowship made possible by these events.

We are indeed blessed to have such a supportive congregation and community. Thank you!

*Moira Green*



## A Christmas Carol

by Christina Rossetti

*This poem first appeared in the January 1872 issue of Scribner's Monthly. It was first set to music in 1906, to a tune written by the composer Gustav Holst. This musical setting is how most know the poem today.*

In the bleak midwinter, frosty wind made moan,  
Earth stood hard as iron, water like a stone;  
Snow had fallen, snow on snow, snow on snow,  
In the bleak midwinter, long ago.

Our God, Heaven cannot hold Him, nor earth sustain;  
Heaven and earth shall flee away when He comes to reign.

In the bleak midwinter a stable place sufficed  
The Lord God Almighty, Jesus Christ.

Enough for Him, whom cherubim, worship night and day,  
Breastful of milk, and a mangerful of hay;  
Enough for Him, whom angels fall before,  
The ox and ass and camel which adore.

Angels and archangels may have gathered there,  
Cherubim and seraphim thronged the air;  
But His mother only, in her maiden bliss,  
Worshipped the beloved with a kiss.

What can I give Him, poor as I am?  
If I were a shepherd, I would bring a lamb;  
If I were a Wise Man, I would do my part;  
Yet what I can I give Him: give my heart.

## Calling all Knitters!

### For the Kanata Food Cupboard

We are looking for people to knit or crochet hats and mittens to be distributed by the Kanata Food Cupboard. Yarn will be provided. If you are able to help, please contact Ann Piche at [pkatolson@hotmail.com](mailto:pkatolson@hotmail.com).



# A Note from your Envelope Secretary

## 2025 tax receipts and 2026 envelopes

It's that time of year again – time to do a little financial housekeeping.

### 2026 Pre-printed Donation Envelopes:

For users of pre-printed envelopes, the 2026 boxed sets will be available in the narthex on **Sunday, December 14** for you to pick up. For those who donate regularly via the offering plate, pre-printed envelopes are a convenient and effortless way to support St. Paul's. Should you wish to take advantage of the convenience of this method of donating, either as a new user or restarting, please contact me for further details.

### Previous Year's Envelopes:

Envelope numbers do occasionally get reassigned from year to year for administrative reasons. Should this occur, you will be advised when you pick up your new envelopes.

### Year-End Tax Planning:

Please note that to be eligible for 2025 income tax treatment, all donations to St. Paul's must be received, and in hand, by either the treasurer (for electronic donations), or by the envelope secretary (for cash or cheque donations) **no later than Wednesday, December 31, 2025**. 2025 Income Tax receipts will



be available near the end of January 2026.

### Donation Enquiries?:

We deeply appreciate and value your generosity in supporting the work of our Church. No matter what method of donating you use, we will work with you and adjust to your preferences as required. If you have any questions or concerns at any time regarding your donations, please contact me to discuss.

*Francis Christensen*

Envelope Secretary

[Envelopes@stpaulshk.org](mailto:Envelopes@stpaulshk.org)

613-519-4848

## Alongside Hope Advent Resource

Truth, healing, reconciliation, right relationships. These are words we have heard a lot of in the 10 years since Canada's Truth and Reconciliation Commission, headed by Chief Justice Murray Sinclair, issued its final report containing 94 Calls to Action. But what do they mean for us individually, as communities of faith, and as a society? And what, specifically, does it mean to heal?

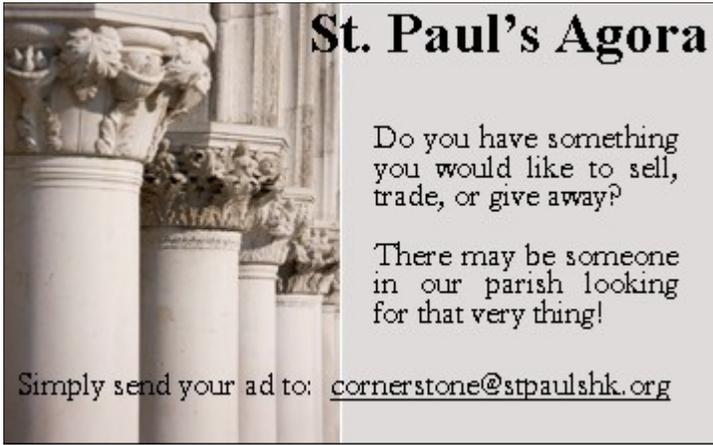
In this year's Alongside Hope Advent resource, the Rev. Dr. Ray Aldred (Cree, Swan River Band, Treaty 8), invites you to consider what it means to heal yourself, to heal others, and to heal God's creation so we might live into right relationships. Through powerful and personal storytelling and theological reflection, he offers both challenge and hope for our Ad-

vent journey. And while "truth, healing, reconciliation, right relationships" can often seem like words and concepts too big to handle, Ray invites us to think about them in the everyday of our lives.

Throughout Advent, you can receive a daily message in your inbox with a scripture reading, a reflection from Dr. Aldred, a prayer and an Alongside Hope story. Sign up or download a PDF copy here: <https://alongsidehope.org/advent2025/>



**Alongside Hope**



## St. Paul's Agora

Do you have something you would like to sell, trade, or give away?

There may be someone in our parish looking for that very thing!

Simply send your ad to: [cornerstone@stpaulshk.org](mailto:cornerstone@stpaulshk.org)



**Paul K. Bradley**  
B.F.A., M.F.A., J.D.

Business Law  
Wills and Estates  
Real Estate

Phone: 613 825 4585  
Fax: 613 825 5101  
1581 Greenbank Road  
Ottawa, Ontario K2J 4Y6

[pbradley@bhmlaw.ca](mailto:pbradley@bhmlaw.ca)  
[www.bhmlaw.ca](http://www.bhmlaw.ca)

### 'Quilts for Kids'

The Tuesday morning Quilters have beautiful hand-quilted items for sale. Prices range from as low as \$20 up to \$55. This is a fundraiser for the church. Please support us. If you wish to purchase a quilt, please contact Joan Ferrier at 613-270-1104.




*Darlene Glason*  
ORGANIC GARLIC

613-769-9044  
[dglason@disroot.org](mailto:dglason@disroot.org)  
Dunrobin ON

### FREE Desk

Three piece corner unit desk (34" x 24") with two side extensions (24" x 36" each). Excellent condition. Please contact Susan Harrington at [sm.harrington@sympatico.ca](mailto:sm.harrington@sympatico.ca).



## Anthony Bucciarelli

613-796-9858



[airugohvac@gmail.com](mailto:airugohvac@gmail.com)

[in](#) [t](#) [v](#) [f](#) [s](#)

---

FURNACES · AIR CONDITIONERS · GAS LINES · TANKLESS HWT  
HUMIDIFIERS · GAS APPLIANCES · BOILERS  
FUEL CONVERSIONS · DUCT WORK

