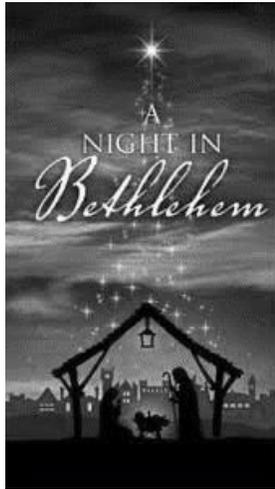


# IROQUOIS-MATILDA PASTORAL CHARGE

December 2016



**We will welcome the Light of the World with singing as we remember God's coming into our lives.**

**We will have costumes ready for the children to enact the story (no skills needed, just your presence).**

**Bring the whole family!**

**DECEMBER 24 AT 7 P.M. AT  
BRINSTON UNITED CHURCH**

**(11052 GILMOUR RD)**

## THE MINISTER'S MESSAGE

Rev. Valerie Vande Wiele

What came into existence was Life,  
and the Life was Light to live by.  
The Life-Light blazed out of the darkness;  
the darkness couldn't put it out.

John 1: 4, 5

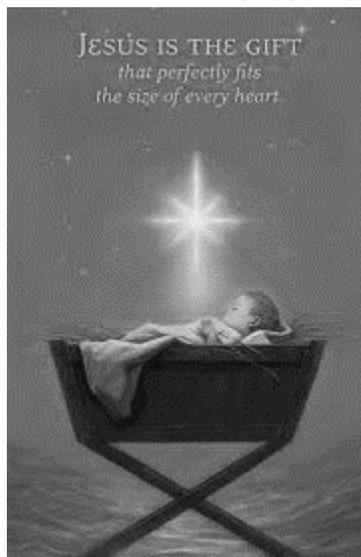
This season we will receive a plethora of gifts, some yummy, some beautiful, some useful, some funny, some puzzling and we will give gifts some delicious and delectable, some amusing, some practical, some stunning. The gifts we give, whether they be flashlights and yellow ties or candleholders and coffee mugs, are important symbols which express our love. But they are small tokens compared to the real generosity of this season because Christmas is ultimately

about a God whose giving included reaching out through an innocent baby to embrace a hurting world.

In this season one gift transcends all other gifts. A gift which shifts the focus from "presents" to "presence". God's gift of the Christ-child is more significant, of more ultimate value than anything we can give. Through the Christ-child, we have life, we know life, and we share life. Because of the

Christ-child, we give with a new spirit and a new love and a new freedom. God has shown us the perfect example of giving. Now, we can give simply for the love and joy of giving, and our gifts are more than sweaters and earrings. Now, we can offer a bit of ourselves as a sign that the Christmas spirit has taken root in our lives. Just as God has chosen to be with us, now we can be with others, and for no other reason than to be together.

Henri Nouwen told the story of a student who, many years after graduation, returned to sit in his old professor's office where so many questions had been answered and so many problems had been solved. When the student entered, he told his professor that he didn't need anything, he came just to visit, to be together. They sat for a while in silence and looked at each other. One broke the silence by telling the other how nice it was to see each other. The other agreed, and then there was silence. Then the student said, "When I look at you it is as if I am in the presence of Christ." The professor remembers that did not startle or surprise him and that he could only respond with, "It is the Christ in you who recognizes the Christ in me." The student replied with the most



healing words Nouwen had heard in many years. "Yes, Christ indeed is in our midst. From now on, wherever you go, or wherever I go, all the ground between us will be holy ground." The wonder of Christmas is that the presence of Christ is with us, within us so that we can genuinely be with each other.

During the Christmas Season, we walk on holy ground and it brings to us the promise that we can be with each other in more meaningful ways. Through the presence of Christ in us, we can recognize the presence of Christ in each other. We can listen and really hear what we are saying to each other. We can share one another's pain and make it our own. We can know of one another's joys and celebrate as if they were our own.

This Season is the fulfilment of God's promise to be with his people and God chooses to be with us so that we might be with one another. May God's love shape our relationships. May God's wisdom guide our decisions. May God's glory touch our ordinary lives. And may God's gift this Season live in us and through us, that what we experience in each other is the very presence of Christ. Amen.

If you have any question or want to contact the minister, please call 613-803-2007 or send an e-mail to [vvandewiele@bell.net](mailto:vvandewiele@bell.net)

## News from Matilda

Another year has almost come to an end with our church family. The renovations that Hulbert-Valley had planned have now been completed with a new roof, windows, front door and the repair of the front step.

Our joint anniversary supper between Brinston and Hulbert-Valley was a sold out

## Darlene Fawcett

crowd. Thank you to all who donated food and/or helped at the hall and especially to those who attended. The profit was \$5025.28.

We believe Hulbert-Valley hit a milestone on Sunday, Nov 27th with a recorded five baptisms. Thank you to the Sunday School for their song during the service. A pot luck

lunch was held after in the church basement with a lot of catching up and visiting between the families. It is a certainty that no one went home hungry.

Committee members whose term is expiring Dec 31st have been filled for another three years. Thank you to those who have committed their time to these positions.

Matilda will be providing the Christmas meal and gifts for five families through the House of Lazarus and will be delivered the week of Dec 12th.

## Iroquois Social Committee

Greetings from your Social Committee! I am pleased to report that we've had a very busy and successful fall. Through our efforts, we have been able to decrease significantly the church's financial deficit. We made some changes to our Snowflake Bazaar this year and the increase in proceeds would suggest these changes were received favourably. Your Social Committee will be evaluating each aspect of the event to find improvements that will make next year's Snowflake Bazaar even better!

There are more new and exciting events planned for the New Year: an art show/coffee house (Terrie Chedore) in March, and a dinner theatre (Margaret Swerdfeger) in April. I hope all of you will share our enthusiasm for these projects and show your support. If you are interested in being involved with the planning and presentation of either of these events, please contact the event leaders indicated in brackets. If you have an idea for an event you would like to see included in our calendar, then please contact any of the

As always, we struggle to keep adequate funds in the account. The Property and Finance committee made the decision to combine the two bank accounts held under Hulbert-Valley's name. To date, there is \$28,829.37 in the account and a \$7944.46 GIC investment.

Hulbert-Valley and Brinston wish everyone a Merry Christmas and we look forward to the Joint Christmas service on Dec 24th.

## Lindsay Wilson

Social Committee members. Contact information is posted on the bulletin board in the church foyer.

And finally, a few words about social event leadership: When we ask for event leaders to step forward, often we hear these words: 'I don't mind helping but I don't want to lead.' People avoid event leadership because they don't know who to call for the help they need and they fear angry rejection from those they may ask. Your Social Committee has worked hard to eliminate those risks by surveying the congregation and documenting the ways each person enjoys contributing to church life. Lists of willing volunteers for every imaginable task have been created for the convenience of those who take on responsibility for leadership. An event-planning guideline, that we hope will be a valuable reference for event leaders, is also nearing completion. So if you have ever thought of volunteering to lead an event, I encourage you to do so with confidence.

**Thank you for your generous support**

**Monthly Financial Statement Iroquois United Church**

**YTD November 2016**

<b><u>Opening Balance</u></b>		<b>\$20,311.68</b>
<b><u>Income</u></b>	Offering	\$49,581.34
-	BNS Dividend	\$576.00
-	Anniversary	\$2,177.11
-	HST Rebate	\$3,956.68
	M&S	\$4,324.16
	Spring Bazaar	\$1,054.85
	Snowflake Bazaar	\$2,052.70
	Rent	\$211.75
	Catering	\$5,007.00
	Men's Breakfast	\$103.00
	Misc	\$300.00
	Housing	\$5,500.00
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$74,844.59</b>
<b><u>Expenses</u></b>	IMPC	\$31,686.89
	Salaries	\$11,286.21
	Church Maintenance	\$8,686.32
	Fuel	\$10,218.75
	Hydro	\$5,815.12
	Insurance	\$2,683.80
	M&S	\$3,264.00
	Misc	\$2,127.16
	<b>Total</b>	<b>\$75,768.25</b>
<b><u>Closing Balance</u></b>		<b>\$19,388.02</b>

Notes:

Trustees contributed \$526.34

M&S owing to UCC \$1,060.16

Men's Breakfast account is \$525.53

Deficit \$2,509.35

A significant reduction in our deficit was made possible this fall, as our regular offering was supplemented by Anniversary donations and proceeds from the Snowflake Bazaar and catering efforts. Despite this achievement, we are still short of break even by \$2,509.35.

It would be amazing to finish the year in a positive position. We still have a month to go and working together it is possible.

## **What Christmas Means To Me**

Christmas is upon us,  
Friends and Family gather near.  
To share the love of Jesus,  
The Child we hold so dear.

We celebrate with presents,  
As the Wisemen of yesteryear.  
With gifts of love and joy that brings,  
Christmas meaning made crystal clear.

Santa Claus is now synonymous,  
With Christmas of today.  
He's full of fun and fanciful,  
From the North Pole far away.

In many ways Old Santa,  
Has a message for us all  
To give, be kind and share our gifts,  
Like the Wisemen in stable Stall.

But what does Christmas mean to me,  
The birth of God's own Son?  
Born to save us all from sin,  
He is the chosen One!

Yes Jesus birth has brought us,  
Hope, peace and joy and love.  
To all those who believe in him,  
Comes God's guidance from above.

Jem/Dec/2016

If you want to mail your donation, our mailing address is:

Iroquois United Church  
P.O. Box 328  
Iroquois, ON K0E 1K0

Brinston United Church  
PO Box 72  
Brinston, ON K0E 1C0

Hulbert-Valley United Church  
10935 Irish Headline Rd  
South Mountain, ON K0E 1W0



May the Christ Child be born in your lives and  
brings hope in your hearts,  
peace in your life,  
joy in your soul  
and love in your relationships.