Christmas Greetings from St. Paul's

It is strange to think that I am writing this already in early November. The reality is this year has gone by very quickly. It has been a year with a lot of different changes, some of them have been well received, while others have been harder to deal with. Friends and family have dealt with health problems including cancer, surgery, worsening mobility, and the struggles of declining ability period. Relationally we know someone who has been struggling at home with each other and with children, even with neighbours. The Municipal Election has come and gone with almost a completely new Council. The leaves have changed colour and mostly fallen to the ground also. Change happens whether we want it to or not.

It is in the changing of our lives and the changing of pace that we come into this busy time of the year. It is a time of remembrance, thanksgiving, it is a new year, a time of waiting that is met with the biggest change that humanity has experienced so far, the birth of Jesus. I find that this year seems to be rushing on at such a pace that it is hard to keep track of all that is happening and that should be done. Lots to do but are we willing to be?

In this time and season of change are we prepared to be present. Present with those who are struggling, those who are wondering, those who are wandering, those who are seeking, those who don't know which way to go.

The Christian Christmas story is one of great change, of rushing, of inconvenience, of being lost in the crowd but of also waiting on the LORD. Mary and Joseph finally find a place to rest their heads. Insignificant shepherds listen to a choir of angels. Wisemen travel from a faraway country to witness this divine life, all the while the busyness of Bethlehem still carries on, unbeknownst to most of them that their world had changed forever.

The birth of Jesus isn't to stop what is going on but to bring us back to God. It isn't to avoid the change that is happening but to be present in the change that God is causing. It isn't to be afraid in the changes, but to find Jesus, and to be still with the holy child of Bethlehem and know we are not alone.

Merry Christmas my friends. May the Peace, Hope, Joy, Love, and Christ be with each of you this season. May you have a chance to be still with family and friends but most of all, with Jesus.

The Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us. We have seen his glory, the glory of the one and only Son, who came from the Father, full of grace and truth.
John 1:14

Pastor Edward Charlton and family

St Paul's Calendar of Events

November 21	Winchester Christmas Market -- St Paul's will be serving Soup and Grilled Cheese Sandwich Lunch in Church Hall $10 10 am to 2 pm
November 22	Communion with Rev Ed Charlton 10 am
November 29	St Andrews Day at Worship and First Sunday of Advent – Hope 10 am Wear your tartan and Special Music by Hugh Metcalfe
December 3	WMS Christmas Lunch and Worship Service 11:30 am Lunch at Louis Restaurant followed by Worship Service at St Andrews Presbyterian Church, Chesterville
December 5	Winchester Parade of Lights 7 pm followed by Fireworks at Behind Arena
December 6	Second Sunday of Advent – Peace 10 am
December 7	St Paul's Ladies Aid Christmas Potluck and Service 6 pm followed by worship with Guest Speaker Janet Livingston and music by Casandra Spruit
December 13	St Paul's Family Christmas Service and Third Sunday of Advent – Joy 10 am Sunday School Play "No Time For Christmas" followed by Finger Food Luncheon and visit from Santa
December 13	Morewood Presbyterian Church, Morewood Carols by Candlelight Service 5 pm Potluck Supper 6:30 pm Service
December 20	Fourth Sunday of Advent – Love 10 am
December 24	St Andrews Presbyterian Christmas Eve Service, Chesterville 5 pm
December 24	St Paul's Christmas Eve Service and Christ Candle 7 pm Hot Apple Cider and Christmas treats following service
December 25	Merry Christmas
December 27	Worship Service St Paul's 10 am
January 1	Happy New Year
January 5	St Paul's Ladies Aid Meeting Country Kitchen 9:30 am for Breakfast and Networking

Looking Forward to New Upgrades

This year we gathered quotes to replace the ramp and steps at the east entrance to improve accessibility and safety for everyone. The estimated cost of the project is $75,000. While we are exploring grant opportunities to help offset the cost, we have also established a **Building Fund** to raise money toward this important project. If you would like to contribute, every donation, big or small, makes a meaningful difference! Donations can be made by placing a special offering envelope marked "Building Fund" in the collection plate, sending an e-transfer, mailing a cheque, or donating online through our CanadaHelps account.

Visit presbyterian-winchester.ca/donate for more details.

Thank you for helping make St. Paul's a safer and more accessible place for all!