



# NORTHMINSTER

## NEWS

Fall/Winter 2020

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## From Kevin's Desk

As we enter the seasons of miracle and mystery that we call Advent and Christmas, we are eager for the Holy Presence we are celebrating more this year than perhaps other years. So far 2020 has been a difficult and concerning year as we continue to deal with the COVID-19 pandemic and all the repercussions from it. To that end I would like to share a couple of selections with you.



The first is a prayer related to masking and COVID. The second is a story of mystery, peace and companionship related to Christmas Eve. My wish is that you find some enjoyment and solace in one or both.

### ***A Prayer as I Put on My Mask***

*Creator,  
As I prepare to go into the world,  
Help me to see the sacrament of wearing this cloth –  
Let it be “an outward sign of inward grace” –  
A tangible and visible way of living love for my neighbours,  
As I love myself.*

*Christ,  
Since my lips will be covered, uncover my heart,  
That people should see my smile in the crinkles around my eyes.  
Since my voice will be muffled, help me to speak clearly,  
Not only with my words, but with my actions.*

*Holy Spirit,  
As the elastic touches my ears, re mind me to listen carefully –  
And full of care – to all those I meet.  
May this simple piece of cloth be shield and banner,  
And each breath that it holds, be filled with your love.*

*Holy One,  
In your Name and in that love, I pray  
May it be so,  
May it be so.*

*Amen.*



## **An Angel's Call**

*The wind whipped around the corner of the old farmhouse. Whistling and rustling as it found its way in every crack and crevice of the faded brick walls. She huddled under her blanket by the fireplace and watched the flames dance and play as Christmas carols played on the radio and she hugged her stuffed angel bear. She kept checking her watch but knew the kids would have to wait out*



*the storm before they headed out from the city. At least she hoped they would wait it out since that's what she told Ellie when she called earlier in the day. It would be the first time in 87 years that Matilda might be alone Christmas Eve. If this keeps up, she won't even make it out to church tonight.*

*It's on nights like this that Matty misses Edgar the most. Awful storms can blow through the county at this time of year and more times than she can count on her fingers, she, Edgar and Ellie would batten down the hatches and ride out a blizzard. After Ellie moved into the city, Matty and Edgar continued to ride out the weather, even though everyone suggested they should move into an apartment instead of the old farmhouse. Then Edgar took sick, and Matty couldn't bring herself to move into town. They loved the farm and it was on a night like this one four years ago that Edgar breathed his last right here by the fire. That was the year he gave her the stuffed teddy bear angel because she had been his angel all through his illness. Matty nestled further under the warm blanket, tucked the angel close and watched the fire dance and play, relishing her memories...*

**"Matty...Tilly...MATILDA ANNE McCALISTER!!!"**

*Matty woke with a start.*

*"Eddie...?"*

*“Were you expectin’ someone else in a blisterin’ blizzard like this, Matty? I could rattle a few chains and moan if you want me to go all Charles Dickens on you. Hahaha!”*

*It was her Eddie alright. Only person she knew with a sense of humour like that and a silly laugh to match.*

*“Edgar McCalister, you scared me half to death.”*

*“Well, I’m halfway farther along than you. HeeHeeHee. Is there room under that blanket for me?”*

*As strange as it was to see him, she was relieved as well. She knew she didn’t have to be scared. All she felt was an overwhelming sense of peace.*

*“Get over here you old fool before you catch your death.”*

*The two of them howled with laughter.*

*“I’ve missed you, Eddie. There isn’t a day I don’t think of you,” Matty said as he sat down next to her under the warm blanket.*

*“I know,” he said. “Thought I’d pop in and see how you’re doin’.”*

*“Better now. I keep busy with the church and Ellie, Adam and the kids. It’s nights like tonight, though, when I can’t deny the loneliness of this old farmhouse, especially Christmas Eve.”*

*“Well, funny you should mention Christmas Eve, I got ya somethin’ Matty McCalister.” Eddie reached under the blanket and pulled out a bright red package.*

*“I’ve got nothing for you Eddie,” she said.*

*“What do you give a ghost? Booberry pie?”*

*She poked him in the shoulder – hard.*

*“That still hurts, you know. Even if I am a ghost!”*



*Matty tore off the bright red paper and opened the box. Inside was another wrapped box and Edgar started to laugh.*

*“Oh no!”*

*“You bet. My favorite trick...” Eddie started to say.*

*“...is boxes inside of boxes,” Matty finished.*

*She painstakingly opened every box – all eight of them wrapped in a different colour – until she held one small gold wrapped box. She gently removed the gold paper and laid it down beside her on top of the other boxes and wrap. As she opened the box, a tiny crystal angel brooch lay on a velvet pillow and glittered in the fire light.*

*“Oh Eddie...”*

*“Shhhh,” he said and drew her close and held her under the blanket.*

*“When you need me or you feel alone, just wear this angel and you’ll know I’m close, Matty. This is the season of miracles, so believe in what we had and trust in your faith knowing you are never alone...”*

*“Mom...Mother...Matty...MATILDA ANNE McCALISTER!”*

*“Can’t a person rest her eyes for a moment...”*

*“You looked very comfortable and contented, Mom,” Ellie said as Adam and the kids brought in their luggage. The fire was a bed of glowing embers and the wind had settled down outside. The stars and moon were bright on the newly fallen snow. Matty looked at her watch and realized it was just a little after midnight. It was Christmas morning.*

*“The storm let up in the city and the crews were out. We already had most of the truck packed so we decided to head out here. We were able to follow a plow most of the way and four-wheel drive did the rest. Bob Jenkins had just finished blowing out the drive when we came around the corner at the end of the side road.*

*Looks like you got a head start on the presents, Mom!" Ellie said with a raised eyebrow as she looked at the boxes and coloured paper on the floor. She picked up a small piece of gold paper and said, "This reminds me of the way Dad would wrap our gifts. What was in them and who're they from?"*

*"Just some odds and ends," she said as she clutched the crystal angel in her hand. "There were a few angels callin' today, it's the season of miracles you know."*

*Matty got up from under the blanket and stoked the fire until it danced and played once again.*

Wishing you all a blessed Advent and Christmas season of full of the miracle, hope, peace, joy, and love of Emmanuel – God-with-us.

Respectfully submitted,  
Kevin



### *Message from the Chair of the Official Board*

The Official Board welcomed three new members at a recent meeting. Ken Nash is the new Vice Chair of the Board, Sheila Godby has taken on the position of Chair of the Mission and Outreach committee and Elgin Northey will be representing the Property committee on the Board.

A big thank you goes out to everyone who has worked so hard to produce our Sunday services, particularly Kevin and Dustin who have put a great deal of time, effort and thought into these worship services. A shout-out to Bev who has been tracking the attendees and organizing our coming-in and going-out each week and to Michele who keeps us on track ensuring that we all have access to bulletins, news and protocols – and anything else we need to be aware of. We are especially indebted to Bill, Ron and Ken for all

the hours of work they put in keeping the church clean so we can continue to gather safely on Sunday mornings. Thank you as well to all the volunteers who have ushered, greeted, been “duty” custodians, run the elevator, the sound system, the recording camera, the on-screen video AND to the faithful choir members who have been singing on our behalf.

Finally, thank you to everyone who has been attending. We are able to hold these services because you have followed the proper procedures. Mask wearing and social distancing are small prices to pay to allow us to gather together on Sunday mornings.

The future remains uncertain so let us be thankful for the opportunity to continue joining together for worship and giving strength and support to each other.

Blessings to you all,  
Bruce Newmaster



### *Congregational Elder*

As I browsed through my Christmas books, I found a poem by  
*Lucille E Teske*.

Once Again, We Pause  
Whatever else we lose throughout the years  
Let us keep Christmas shining and apart  
And cast aside grim worries and fears  
To feel a stir of joy within the heart.

This has been such a difficult year and we grieve so many losses-  
- loss of time with loved ones due to the pandemic, fear for our health and our family, worry about the future, but it is so important that we put aside these fears as we enter the Advent season and feel that stir of joy.

Two lines in the end of the poem remind us what we should always remember ...

New courage, faith, and hope on Christmas morn  
That unto us the Prince of Peace is born

Praying for a blessed Christmas for you and yours and may you indeed keep Christmas shining and apart

Mary Hess Northey  
Congregational Elder



**Computer Solutions "Plus"**  
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Fax: (705) 944-5423  
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Web: [www.computersolutionsplus.biz](http://www.computersolutionsplus.biz)

The advertisement features a logo with the letters 'CSP' in a stylized, overlapping font. To the right of the logo are images of a laptop and a desktop computer tower. The text is arranged in a clear, professional layout.

*Provider and support to Northminster United Church*



### **Worship Committee**

It's really difficult to let you know what's coming up in the church, as times are so different now and rules keep changing. I do know that "Everyday may not be good, but there is good in every day."

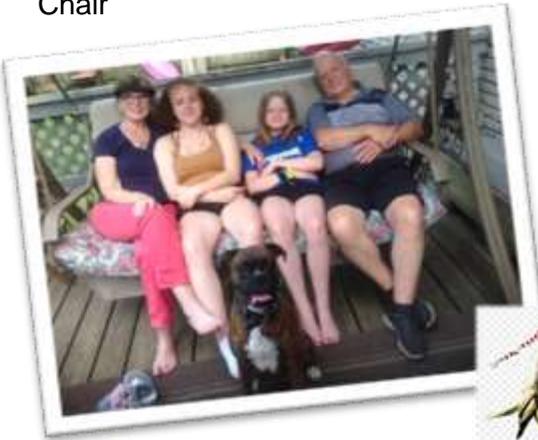
We shall continue as usual until we know otherwise. Advent season will be here before you know it. We have opted to change

our regular candles to ones with liquid wax, which burn brighter and cleaner. The two altar candles on the communion table, the set of advent candles, and the Christ candle, along with the Celebration candle will be replaced.

Many thanks to those who have donated money for this venture.

Please remember to reserve on "Eventbrite" for Christmas Eve, in hopes that we will still be able to remain open. Be kind and keep safe.

Carol Van Tol  
Chair



## Pastoral Care & Membership

Our Committee continues to send cards to members as requested by the office. If you know of someone that is ill, or recently lost a family member please let us know.

At the beginning of the year we set up a special team of visitors who keep in touch with our homebound members as well as those in Senior/Nursing Homes. Although we cannot visit in person, we can do phone visits and/or personal notes.

Bev Sherwin  
Co Chair





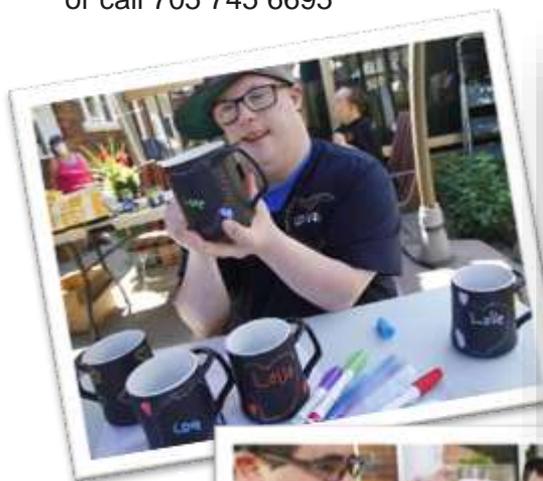
located on Lower Floor at Northminster United Church

## *The Biz Group*

The Biz Group wishes to extend thanks to the church for allowing the group to come and work indoors! The Biz Group is a group of local adults with Down syndrome who create hand painted Love mugs. All money goes back directly to the group. Share the "love" one mug at a time. Makes a great Christmas gift . These mugs are available in black or white. Free local porch drop-off. Shipping available at buyer's cost. To order please use the link found here! Thanks,

<https://formlets.com/forms/9KSjvCOEq9aqO6Fw/>

or call 705 745 6695



## Christmas Cards ....

Down Syndrome of Peterborough is selling handmade Christmas cards as a fundraiser. Each package of cards will come with 8 cards, and envelopes for \$20.00. To order contact 705 745 6695 or email [info@downsyndromepeterborough.ca](mailto:info@downsyndromepeterborough.ca) Here is a sample below.

Thanks for your support!



Sharon Crane  
Executive Director  
Down Syndrome Association of Peterborough  
300 Sunset Blvd., Lower Level  
Peterborough, ON K9H 5L3

[info@downsyndromepeterborough.ca](mailto:info@downsyndromepeterborough.ca)

Office-705 749 6695

Cell-705 931 1699

# Christian Education Committee

White Gift Sunday, November 29<sup>th</sup>

Well, this year things will look a little different! We will not be collecting White Gifts. We would ask you to donate cash in an envelope marked "White Gift". That money will go to the Salvation Army and Peterborough Foodbank. Please place the envelope on the offering plate. All donations raised will remain in our local community this year. That being said, our young people will not be able to make and sell crafts to raise some extra money for a Christmas donation.

We are going to sell gift cards, as we have done before. We will make use of emails to reach most of you. We will also have copies available at the church as well, please consider purchasing your gift cards from our Sunday School fund raiser. These funds will also be donated locally.

Christmas Blessings,

Maggie Crawford  
Chair Christian Education Committee  
705-749-3206  
mcmaggie1@gmail.com



# New Short Story Collection

## By Janet Stobie

Book Launch “**zooming**” to you soon.

Janet Stobie presents:

### **Breakthrough Moments**

Special Guest: Linnea Good

Singer/Songwriter, Biblical Storyteller

November 28, 2020 at 7 p.m.

**Breakthrough Moments** - Make new connections between the Bible’s wisdom and current issues in your life such as acceptance, forgiveness, healing and much more. These celebration stories are told by people who were present or could have been present in the Bible story.

### **Breakthrough Moments**

Scripture Text, Reflection Story, Prayer, Discussion Questions. Use for personal devotions, study groups, and Sunday morning worship.

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What do these two ladies have in common?!

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SHERRY WITHERS- RPN

cell: 705-760-6877  
home: 705-741-4319

**NURSING FOOTCARE SERVICES** for advanced and diabetic footcare provided by professional RPN. Clinic located at Northminster United Church.  
For Appointment please call Sherry  
705-741-4319 or 705-760-6877

## Advent Library Report

I hope everyone is keeping well during this COVID-19 pandemic and that everyone is looking out for their neighbour. We will eventually get through this, but in the meantime, we have more time to pass in our homes. What better way to do that than to curl up with a good book!



The church library is currently closed unfortunately. However, I am considering a way for you to come one at a time and choose a book. It certainly will be with usual church restrictions (mask, hand sanitizing, no COVID symptoms, etc.) and by appointment only. I will let you know through the announcements when we get this arranged.

We do have some new and donated books catalogued into the library recently, as well as our large selection of fiction, biographies, religious & inspirational, holiday books, so there are lots of choices for you. Some of our latest additions are: **The Underground Railroad (Colson Whitehead)**, **Our Witness (Brandon Robertson)**, **Jazz Mergirl (Bruce Edlen)**, **The First Christmas (Marcus Borg & John Dominic Crossan)**, and **The Doll Funeral (Kate Hamer)**.

We also have DVD's and don't forget our Guideposts magazines. There are some very interesting articles in the Guideposts.

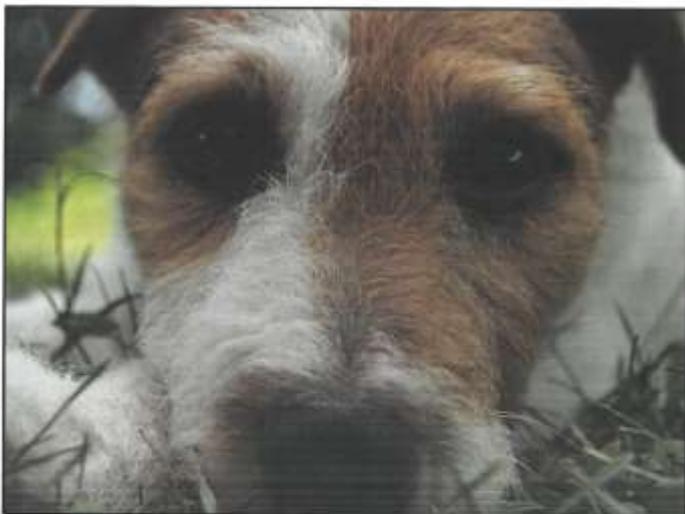
Please stay well. We will get through this together! Keep reading!! All the best in 2021.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS AND a HAPPY New Year**

Debbie Kervin  
Librarian



## Can You Help Me Find a Home?



Every year, **The Jack Russell Terrier Rescue of Ontario** helps more than a hundred dogs just like me, who have been rescued from euthanasia, abusive situations, or just from people that can't keep us any more. We all have a lot more to give, so if you are looking for a dog, won't you please consider adopting one of us?

**Jack Russell Terriers** like me are loving and loyal, but we are independent thinkers, so we don't do well in shelters. Thanks to the kind people at **The Jack Russell Terrier Rescue of Ontario**, a lot of us get to live in temporary foster homes while we are waiting for our forever homes. These wonderful people look after our medical and nutritional needs, and sometimes help us brush up on our manners, so we will fit right in to our forever homes. If you aren't quite ready for a permanent companion, or just aren't sure about which dog you want, this is a wonderful opportunity to help. You never know, one of us might just be the right dog for you.

For more information about Jack Russell Terriers, adoption, fostering, and application forms, go to:

[www.russellrescue.org](http://www.russellrescue.org)



**Michele adopted Jillian [aka Jilly] from  
JRTRO on January 5, 2019**

**Please consider giving a rescue dog  
his/her "forever" home!**

**Registering in advance for Sunday Worship Services** is highly recommended. Please click on the “Eventbrite” tab, located on the website [www.northminsteruc.ca](http://www.northminsteruc.ca)

Please follow the instructions. Registering in advance is necessary to ensure a seat. If you are having difficulties registering, please call the office and we can help you.

### **Advent Services at 10 a.m.**

1 <sup>ST</sup> Sunday in Advent	November 28 <sup>th</sup> <i>Sunday School Presentation, White Gift, Communion</i>
2 <sup>nd</sup> Sunday in Advent	December 6 <sup>th</sup>
3 <sup>rd</sup> Sunday in Advent	December 13 <sup>th</sup>
4 <sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent	December 20 <sup>th</sup>

### **Christmas Eve Service at 7:30 p.m.**

We are encouraging everyone to register on Eventbrite well in advance for our December 24<sup>th</sup> service at 7:30 pm. We will have a maximum capacity of 80 people.

1 <sup>st</sup> Sunday after Christmas at 10 a.m.	December 27 <sup>th</sup>
VIRTUAL ONLY	

### **FRIENDLY REMINDER**

We all need to be very diligent in making sure everyone uses hand sanitizer upon entering the building and keeping a social distance of 6'. There is to be no physical contact. MASKS MUST BE WORN PROPERLY at all times, covering the nose, mouth and chin. Visors are not acceptable and scarves “do not count”. Stay home if you are feeling sick. If you see anyone not complying to the COVID-19 protocols would you kindly remind them. *We need to keep everyone safe!*

'Tis the season for the  
**Mitten Tree**

Place new or handmade mittens, gloves,  
hats and scarves under the tree.



Please donate to our

“MITTEN TREE”

The Mitten tree is now set up in the Narthex. We are collecting mittens, hats, scarves, socks etc. for children/young adults less fortunate. The items will be delivered to local schools and agencies that have the most need. Because of COVID 19 we will be doing things a bit different. The Sunday School will be placing paper mittens on the tree... a bin will be provided to place the items in so handling is kept at a minimum.

Thank you in advance to everyone that contributed!



## OUR NORTHMINSTER STAFF

Ministers	Northminster Church Family
Minister	Rev. Kevin Derry
Chair of the Official Board	Bruce Newmaster
Church Administrator	Michele Fowler
Director of Music	Dustin Bowers
Custodians	Bill VanTol, Ron Kervin, Ken Seim
Youth Ministry	Hunter Masters

### OFFICE HOURS

Monday to Friday

9 am to 1 pm

Tel. #705-748-4881

Email: [northminster@cogeco.net](mailto:northminster@cogeco.net)

Lay Visitor: \_\_\_\_\_ Tel#: \_\_\_\_\_

*If I can be of any assistance please contact me*

