



# Christmas



St. David's Presbyterian Church, 98 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 1R8, (709) 722-2382, [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com)

# The St. David's Connection

## Happy Christmas!

Once again it is an honour for me to write this Christmas Greeting as the Interim Moderator for St. David's Church. I am pleased to say that we have issued a Call to the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent and at this point await the official response from him and his Presbytery. In the meantime we continue to appreciate the leadership of many in the congregation as we wait for the vacancy to be filled.

Thinking of new ministers, I recently came across the story of a young newly ordained minister who conducted his first Christmas Eve Service in his new place of ministry. It was a packed sanctuary with many new visitors and a festive atmosphere. The minister went to the door to greet people after the service, believing that all was right with the world, when one of the long-time church members came to the door but refused to shake the minister's hand. Scowling, he said, "Thanks for ruining my Christmas — we didn't sing "The First Noel" as the second carol. We've always sung that carol second in the order of worship on Christmas Eve. Without that, it's just not Christmas."

What makes Christmas for you? It's a provocative question. I liked to think I was immune from such sentiments myself, but I am getting older now and tradition seems to bring a certain security as the years go on. Is the tree right where it has been these many years? Is there a missing decoration that will prevent the tree from looking "just right"? Is the turkey ordered yet? Could someone actually eat steak for Christmas dinner?

Perhaps we can be a little "holier" in thinking of the church events which are part of our celebrations. Could there be Christmas if you miss the Church Pageant? Must the choir sing that traditional anthem at least once during the season? Will the mysterious and awe inspiring first chapter of the Gospel of John be part of our readings? Will you get to sing "Silent Night" at the Christmas Eve service?

From that first journey of the Holy Family from Nazareth to the city of Bethlehem, Christmas has been a time of travel and family gathering. I hope that we will all get to see or at least be in touch with our loved ones over the holiday season. And I know that those who can't make the journey this year will be missed as they miss you. What makes Christmas for you?

Stability is good and change is inevitable. In the absence of loved ones or the alternation of carols and readings we need to remember what has not and cannot change about Christmas. We celebrate "Emmanuel" which means God is with us. This cannot change. We celebrate the birth of the Son of God into our humanity. This cannot change. We celebrate the King of Kings who became for us the Prince of Peace. Because of Him we can be confident that our prayers for loved ones are important. And because of Him, those who are absent from us have not moved beyond the reach of his love and care.

At Christmas we stand in awe at this simple truth, "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son so that everyone who believes in him may not perish but have eternal life". There will be old carols and new carols but they all point back to this. Christmas is about Christ. People may change this or that about our celebrations, but the gift of Jesus Christ will always be what Christmas is about.

Wherever Christmas finds you this year, and in whatever company, singing whichever carols, rest assured that you are not alone. "God is with us". May God bless you with the assurance of His love. And in case you wondered, we will be having turkey at our house on Christmas Day! I think,



*D. Sutherland*



Now when Jesus was born in Bethlehem of Judaea in the days of Herod the king, behold, there came wise men from the east to Jerusalem, Saying, Where is he that is born King of the Jews? for we have seen his star in the east, and are come to worship him. Matthew 2:1-2



**NEWS FROM THE PEWS .....**

Congratulations to former members/elders of our congregation, Catherine Picco and Eric Gray, who were inducted on December 3, 2006 as Elders of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, Dartmouth, Nova Scotia.

"Out of the Fog" fans will know that Krysta Rudofsky has now joined CBC television to host a daily afternoon "lifestyles" show in St. John's, starting January 15, 2007, and will be part of the "Here and Now" team. Although she will miss her co-workers at Rogers, she is looking forward to this new and exciting opportunity to further her career in the broadcasting industry. We wish her well!

Whitehead family news. **Stephanie**, who is now a junior engineer with Jacques Whitford Environmental in Calgary, will be spending Christmas with friends in Beaverlodge, northern Alberta. **Iain**, who has recently begun a course in brewing at the Technical University of Munich, will be home for a week with his fiancée, Amanda Hanson. **Alastair** will be home for the holidays after completing his first semester in the music program at Humber College in Toronto.

Aubrey and Eleanor Bonnell will welcome both sons and their families for Christmas. Steve, his wife Denise and their new son, Evan Tai will come from Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Scott and his wife Kaena will arrive from New York City as well. In the new year, Steve and family are to be transferred to Tokyo with his company.

Tonya and Gerhard Bassler are very thankful for the safe arrival of three healthy grandchildren in the past year. Elisabeth Bassler and Karl Hammond of Wellesley, MA, welcomed their daughter Emma Elisabeth in December 2005, Christine and Kris Aubrey-Bassler of Marathon, ON, their daughter Margaret Luise ("Maggie") in August of this year, and Heidi Bassler Newman and Todd Newman of West Newbury, MA, their daughter Anna Tonya this October. These three little girls now join Tonya and Gerhard's flock of three grandsons. Needless to say, Tonya has been a "Super Granny" this year, travelling around helping each family, but by all accounts, she loved every moment of this very special year.

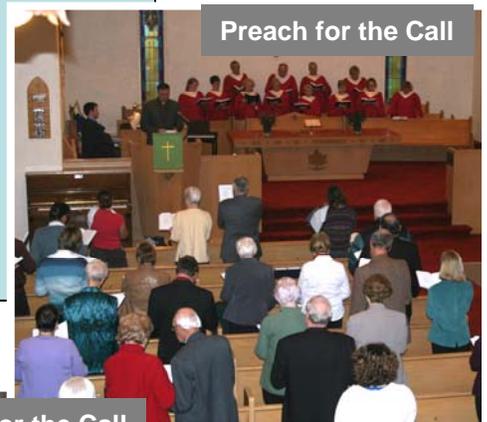
Three of our families moved from St. David's in recent months and we have been able to obtain their new addresses for anyone interested in corresponding with them:

Eileen Jones-Whyte,  
P.O.Box 247, Eganville, ON  
K0J 1T0

Robert and Jane Steneker  
9 Midmar Cr.,  
Kingswells, Aberdeen AB158FD Scotland  
e-mail address: [r.steneker@btinternet.com](mailto:r.steneker@btinternet.com)

Catherine and Mark Williams,  
1614 -18 Avenue, N.W.  
Calgary, AB T2M 0X1

Lillian Crawford, Christine McLean,  
Kathy McKay Telling the Story of  
the First White Gift Sunday



Preach for the Call

Chef for the Call



Be Sure to check our excellent display of archival material assembled and changed regularly by Pam Bruce



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### BAPTISMS

Logan Andrew Starkes, son of Janet (Collins) and Joel Starkes – October 29, 2006

Oliver Brendan Manning, son of Fiona Ellis and Bernie Manning – November 5, 2006



### DEATHS

Frederick George Chancey – November 13, 2006

Catherine Elizabeth Walsh – November 23, 2006

David John Cox – November 28, 2006




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## PEWS NEWS CONTINUES .....

Pat and David Carmichael will be travelling to Quispamsis, NB to spend Christmas with their daughter Joy, their son-in-law Kevin and their newly arrived first child: a baby boy, Owen David, born Friday, December 8, 2006 - 6 lb. 13 oz.

Jackson McLean attended a National Leadership Conference in Fredericton NB this fall along with other high school students from across Canada. Stephen Lewis and Craig Keilburger were among the many special speakers who inspired the youth at this Conference.

David Noseworthy, son of Margo and Larry Noseworthy of Corner Brook and Grandson of Elizabeth and David Thistle of this congregation has been admitted to the Bar in Toronto. He is working with a Law Firm on Bay Street in Toronto.

Valda Morrissey will be spending the Christmas holidays in Calgary with her son, Fred, and daughter-in-law Heather (Steele). She leaves St. John's on December 17th.

Sandra Hamlyn from Toronto will be visiting her Mom, Alma Hamlyn, for Christmas this year. Sylvia and Dave Hudson will be visiting son Kent, daughter-in-law Pamila and grandson Ryan in Nova Scotia for Christmas.

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In addition to your regular church offerings, there are several other ways you can support outreach projects at St. David's:

**Recycling** – St. David's has an account at Evergreen Recycling if you'd like to donate your recyclable beverage containers!



There are boxes in the church entrance for:

- **Grocery Tapes** – Dominion or Sobeys' cash register tapes (used for fruit baskets and food hampers at Christmas)!
- **Magazines** – Distributed by volunteers to the library at H. M. Penitentiary
- **Canadian Tire Money** – Used to purchase small maintenance items, such as light bulbs, batteries, etc.
- **Bridges to Hope** – Items (cereal, tea and coffee in 2006) for their Food Bank and toys for their Toy Lending Library!



ST. DAVID'S CHURCH  
FINANCIAL RESULTS  
TO October 31, 2006

St.David's has an operating surplus of \$16,905 so far in 2006 compared to a budgeted surplus of \$1,501 for this period. While it appears that we are doing much better than budget, this difference is mainly due to the fact that we had budgeted to have our new minister in place by September 1st and to have the moving expenses paid by now.

These savings on the expense side are covering up the shortfall in our offering compared to budget. We have significant shortfalls for the year-to-date for both our current offering and Presbyterian Sharing as shown below.

<i>Jan.1 – Oct. 31, 2006</i>	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER)
	\$	\$	\$
Current Offering	78,946	86,460	-7,514
Presbyterian Sharing	12,118	13,858	-1,740
Other Income	<u>36,695</u>	<u>31,102</u>	<u>5,593</u>
Total Income	127,759	131,420	-3,661
Total Expenses	<u>110,854</u>	<u>129,919</u>	<u>-19,065</u>
Surplus (Deficit)	<b><u>16,905</u></b>	<b><u>1,501</u></b>	<b><u>15,404</u></b>

On the Building Fund side, our offering has also fallen short of budget for the year-to-date: (\$8,294 vs. \$10,000). The significant capital project completed in 2006 was the repaving of the parking lot. The cost of this (net of the HST rebate) was \$13,910. We also received a \$5,000 contribution from Johnson Insurance towards the repaving in return for the use of parking spaces during the week.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Purchase, CA, Treasurer

The **Newsletter Committee** has explored the possibility of having the quarterly newsletter – The St. David's Connection – printed in colour but it is extremely expensive to do this. However, thanks to John McLean it is now possible to view our publication in living colour on the St. David's website: [www.stdavids.nf.ca](http://www.stdavids.nf.ca). John has posted several back issues of the newsletter (including the special 9/11 issue from 2001) and will now continue this on a regular basis. Thank you for this great service, John. We encourage you where possible to take a look at the most recent edition to better appreciate the photographs and color.

*He's making a list and checking it twice –*  
Mike Fisher and the St. David's Choir will be conducting the 11:30PM Christmas Eve Service



*want to learn more about conflict resolution and mediation? Contact . . .*



**Community Mediation Services**

Melody & Scott Morton-Ninomiya  
Tel. (709) 722-5040 Fax. (709) 722-5035  
E-mail: [cms@nfld.net](mailto:cms@nfld.net) Website: [www.cmservices.org](http://www.cmservices.org)



## REPORTS

### PRESBYTERY

The Presbytery of Newfoundland met on 16 November 2006 to consider the request of St. David's to call the Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent. A number of members from St. David's attended the meeting out of personal interest or as representatives of various organizations. Rev. David Sutherland, interim moderator of St. David's, presented the main argument for the call, pointing out that 82% of active members and adherents had attached their names to the call document. Members of St. David's present at the meeting also voiced their support of the call. With the congregation's strong commitment to calling Dr. Dent and its willingness to take on the financial obligations coming with it, Presbytery considered the call to be sound and resolved to pass the document onto the Presbytery of Kamloops in British Columbia.

On 14 December 2006, Kamloops Presbytery will invite commissioners from Dr. Dent's congregation to attend a special meeting to voice their opinion on the call. This presbytery will then decide whether or not to place the call from St. David's in the hands of Dr. Dent. If it does, and he accepts the call, St. David's will have a new minister who will be inducted at a mutually suitable time.

This process, while cumbersome and time consuming and not always foolproof, ensures that the process is fair to all parties in this extremely important aspect of church life. Monitoring and approving or disapproving the calling of ministers is one of the important duties that presbyteries perform in the supervision of ministers of the Gospel in The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Andy den Otter



### BOARD OF MANAGERS

Greetings from the Board of managers. Hope everyone is in the holiday spirit with less than a month to Christmas. The main kitchen renovations are underway. Over the next few weeks the cupboards will be refinished and countertops replaced. Much of the work will be done outside of St. David's to minimize the impact of our activities. So if you see some cupboard doors missing, don't worry they will be back soon. Thanks Ann for all your efforts in getting this work underway.

Thanks to Ian, Steve and Angus for their work on the folding doors. After a bit of elbow grease and some scavenging of old parts, the folding doors on the stage are back in working condition. There are still a few modifications to be made but we should soon have the partition ready for use. More to come in the new year.

We now have a new Photocopier/printer/scanner. It takes up a bit less room and should save us a bit of money and also improve the quality of copies produced. I am sure by now almost everyone has noticed the new bulletins. Thanks to Angus and Steve Bruneau for their photography skills and Ann, Judy and Steve Andrews for their work formatting the pics and newsletter.

Soon we should have more variety in our bulletin covers to show off all the renovations completed over the last year. Two other projects that will probably be done by the time this newsletter is out are repairs to the outside brickwork, thanks to Ann again for taking the initiative, and replacement of the heating oil tanks to meet the regulations coming into effect in April of 2007.

That is about all for now, have a happy and safe holiday season.

Jamie Merriam



### GOOD COMPANIONS

Senior members of the community are invited to meet other seniors at St. David's Church, Elizabeth Avenue on Thursday afternoons. The Good Companions welcome anyone interested in carpet bowling, bridge and cards for friendship and fellowship. Refreshments are served and transportation can be arranged if living in town for a weekly fee of \$1. For more information contact Kathleen Scott at 753-5925 or cell 341 - 0224.



100th Birthday Celebration

The Greens are all travelling to Carlisle, Pennsylvania to join in the celebration of John's mother, Elinor Green's 100th birthday on December 8, 2006. John is travelling direct to Pennsylvania on his return from 2-1/2 months research work in the Indian Ocean at Rodrigues, Mauritius. Jane from St. John's, Valerie from Kitchener, ON, and Teresa, Petar (6), Aleks (4) and Tim from Vancouver, all travel on December 7. Teresa's husband Juga will stay in Vancouver with his father who has arrived from Yugoslavia (Serbia) to spend the winter. Petar walks to and from school with his grandfather, teaching his Dada English, just as he tries to teach me Serbian. All of Mrs. Green's five children, 16 grandchildren and 26 great grand children will be attending her birthday as well as other relatives and friends.

John's parents had an interesting Newfoundland connection in that they met in Twillingate in 1932. John's father, Joseph Green, was a medical student at Johns Hopkins University. In those days a third year medical student could attend the regular third year classes, or spend 9 months working at Twillingate. Dr. Joseph Green chose the latter. Elinor Cooke (Green) was born in New York state and while in nursing training at St. Luke's Hospital, NYC, she heard Dr. Wilfred Grenfell speak. This inspired her to apply to work at Twillingate Hospital at the same time. They returned to the USA at the end of the year where they were married and Dr. Green completed his medical training. He practised as a rural physician in Carlisle, PA where all his family were born and grew up.

Interestingly, Dr. John Olds who was Chief of Staff at Twillingate Hospital for so many years, was one year ahead of Dr. Joseph Green at Johns Hopkins Medical School (JHMS). He also spent his 3rd year at Twillingate in 1931-32, returned to JHMS to finish his 4th year, then back to Twillingate for the rest of his career. The first time that John's father came back to Newfoundland to visit us (in 1970), we drove up to Twillingate so that he could see Dr. Olds and he spent the day with him in the Operating Room!

Jane A. Green

Welcome to J. M. Olds Collegiate



On Tuesday, November 28th, Leo Massaquoi took the oath of Canadian citizenship at Citizenship Court at City Hall, in the presence of his family and a couple of St. David's friends. Some more St. David's friends gathered for a supper and celebration of Leo's Canadian citizenship on Sunday, December 3rd.

In September, with the help of the St. David's Refugee Ministries Committee and supporters in the congregation, Leo Massaquoi was reunited with his son Kugbe Patrick and his partner Esther Banya after being apart for more than three years. Esther and Kugbe came to Canada under Family Class sponsorship.

Now the family is well settled in under one roof on Gambier Street; Leo continues his studies at the MUN Faculty of Education, Esther is doing part-time home care work, and Kugbe is rapidly acquiring English and social skills in his day care. Kugbe and Esther will be travelling to Winnipeg over the Christmas holidays to meet Kugbe's grandmother, aunts, uncle, and cousins living there now.

Leo's last semester beginning in January at MUN is an internship in counselling, which he will complete with students at Booth Memorial High School.

Leo, Kugbe, and Esther pose with RCMP and RNC officers present at Citizenship Court.

Leo and Esther cut the cake celebrating Leo's Canadian citizenship. With them are Kathy and Kirsten McKay, John Whitehead, Stewart Gillies, Jackson McLean, Catherine Whitehead, Christine and John McLean.



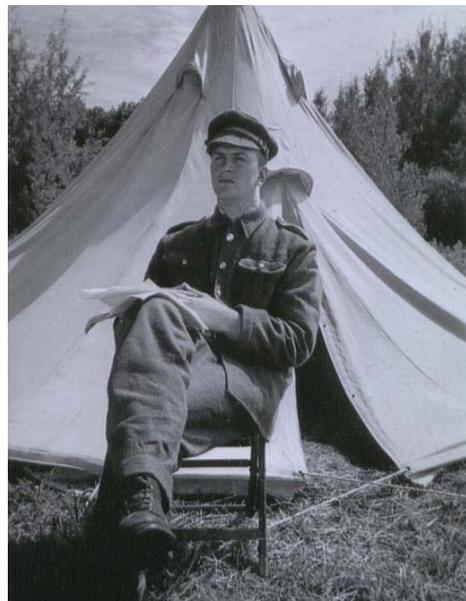


**Congratulations to David Mullowney, son of Jean (Carmichael) and Bob Mullowney who was chosen to take part in the CBC/Gala Films Inc. "The Great War".**

In August, 2005 CBC put out a call looking for descendants of the First World War who would be interested in participating in the filmmaking to take place in Quebec during the summer of 2006. David is the grandson of the late Thomas C. Carmichael, RNR Blue Puttee, First Five Hundred, #126 and so decided to research his Grand Dad's journeys through the war years and apply with the hope of being amongst those chosen.

The response to CBC was overwhelming with 6,500 applications. CBC and company then had the difficult task of going through and narrowing down the number to several hundred. David was one of the hundreds and had to follow-up with even more information. This time he had to submit a profile of all the information and artefacts he had as well as a video of himself talking about his Grand Dad. The experience doing this research on his Grand Dad, whom David had not known, was in itself overwhelming and just being given the opportunity to do this was reward enough. However, the end result was that David was one of the final 150 chosen, only 8 of whom had connections to Newfoundland. So off to Quebec he went in July, 2006 to join the others and partake in the film, playing the role of his Grand Dad, and to experience the thrill of a lifetime. Actually, David was the only direct descendant of a First World War Veteran who had survived Beaumont Hamel. The film of this battle would be the highlight for the Newfoundland participants.

The opportunity to be part of this film was in David's words, "Just awesome". The document and film will be aired by CBC in the Spring of 2007.



David Mullowney, portraying his Grandfather Thomas C. Charmichael

**Spring forward! Fall back!**

The twice-yearly changes between Standard and Daylight Time always happen on Sundays, and some people's confusion gets reflected in when they show up for church.

For example, in the fall, people who forget all about the time change show up for church at what they think is 11 a.m., but it now 10 a.m., in good time to join in on the choir practice. The somewhat klutzy people who remember, but were sure the slogan was "fall forwards", come even earlier, at 9 a.m.

From households where two spouses are equally diligent about changing the clocks, but not about communicating with one another, and as a result of their combined efforts move all the clocks in the house by two hours, people arrive during the final hymn, at 12 noon.

In the spring, it is the people who forget altogether about the change who arrive at noon. The avoidant personality types who thought the slogan was "spring back" arrive at 1 p.m. And the two diligent clock-changers who don't talk to each other about what they are doing, get to church in good time to make good on a New Year's Resolution to join the choir, at 10 a.m. Congratulations to everyone who gets it right!!



John Duff

**Atlantic Mission Society  
Men's Project  
2006-2007**

**Ghana: Help people with disabilities  
learn a trade!**

Life in Ghana can be difficult for anyone, but for persons with disabilities, the challenges of day-to-day survival are compounded. Training in agriculture, weaving, shoe making and tailoring gives the disabled a skill to earn an income. Community education dispels myths about those who are disabled, and helps communities learn how to support them in fulfilling their dreams.

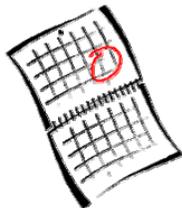
**What can you do?**

Your Contribution of:

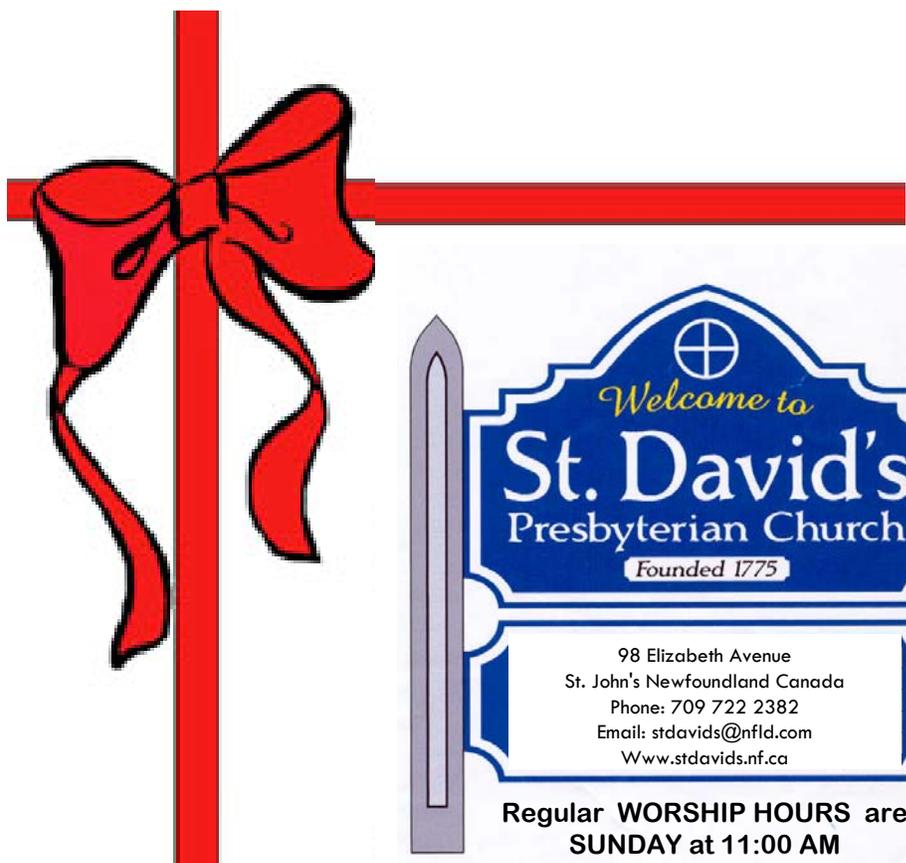
- \$20** provides a shoe repair kit for a Garu student
- \$50** provides maize and groundnut seed for Garu agricultural trainees
- \$70** provides a weaving loom
- \$225** provides curriculum materials for vocational skills for one year
- \$230** sponsors a community seminar on acceptance of disabled people.

For further information, please contact an AMS member in your congregation. More details on this project and many others can be found in the Something Extra Booklet or at: [www.presbyterian.ca/mission/somethingextra](http://www.presbyterian.ca/mission/somethingextra)

### Christmas Schedule



Sunday, December 17, 2006 – Holy Communion – 9 A.M. & 11 A. M.  
Friday, December 22, 2006 – Preparation and Delivery of Christmas Hampers  
Sunday, December 24, 2006 – Morning Worship – 11 A. M.  
Family Service – 6: 30 P. M.  
Candlelight Service – 11:30 P.M.



The editorial committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items to this edition of our St. David's Connection newsletter. Please feel free to drop items or notes off any time to members of the newsletter committee listed, or, leave them in the church mailbox.

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