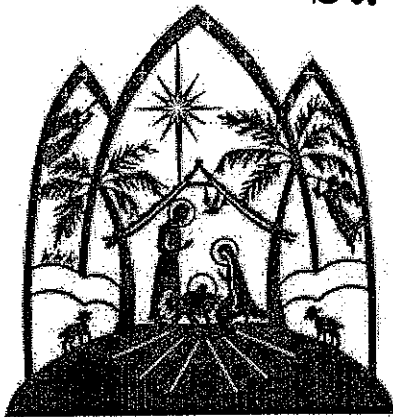


St. Mary Magdalene Anglican Church Newsletter



5520 53rd Street, Fort Nelson, B.C. V0C 1R0
Phone: 250 774 – 6427 *** Rev. Deacon Don Thompson
Lay Ministers Jeanie Arva, Glen Gough, Mark Tudor
Eucharist at 11:30 (Book of Alternate Services)
Held at Hillcrest United Church (next to GW Carlson School)
Anglican Church of Canada *** Diocese of the Yukon
Christmas 2010

The four weeks leading up to Christmas, are the season of Advent in the Church year. It is a time of preparation and anticipation. Many are busy with preparations for Christmas; the anticipation of giving gifts, and partying with friends and family. The days are getting shorter and the darkness longer. Some people find this a difficult time of year for many reasons.

One of our traditions at St. Mary Magdalene's is lighting the Advent Wreath. Each week as we approach Christmas another candle is lit, until Christmas Day when the Christ candle is lit. Lighting progressively more candles as the days get shorter and darker reminds us that even when the darkness is crowding around us there is light and as we move closer to the incarnation, the birth of Christ, God breaking into the world, the light of Christ is getting brighter.

Some church communities associate different themes with the Sundays of Advent. Hope, peace, joy and love are used in many places. As Christians we have hope because we know that Christ was, and is and will be; we can enjoy peace because God has promised to live in us and give us his peace; we can experience joy which can be found all around us if we choose to experience it; and we can love others because God loves us.

In the church we focus on the fact that "God so loved the world that he sent his only begotten son..." It is a time when we prepare to celebrate what happened in Bethlehem 2,000 years ago. It is also a time when we remember that Christ is with us now and look for Christ's coming again in glory.

God loves us so much he wants us to be in relationship with him, he wants us to be a part of his family. He wants each one of us to be a child of God. Bringing us into this loving relationship was the purpose of the events in Bethlehem. Like any relationship it is not one sided. God wants us to respond to his love; by loving him, loving those around us and by loving and respecting his creation. Living up to what God wants us to be is a challenge. We all live in this world. It is easy to get consumed by materialism, "busy-ness", hurts and painful memories. In this Advent season we all need to take time to remember what happened in Bethlehem; what God has promised to do in the future; and what we are called to do now.

I hope you are moved to join us as we celebrate and worship. The schedule of events is listed in this newsletter. If you need to have a quiet time together, please contact me or another person in the congregation you are comfortable with. As a family we are here if you need us, to celebrate and to support.

I pray that each one of you have a blessed Advent and Christmas seasons. I pray that you experience the love of God at this time and throughout the year.

Sincerely, Deacon Don Thompson



Mavis
McMurray

Cinnamon Coffee Cake, Mavis McMurray

2 cups flour	½ tsp cinnamon
1 ¼ cups white sugar	¾ c margarine or butter
½ tsp baking powder	1 cup sour cream
½ tsp baking soda	¼ cup milk
¼ tsp salt	1 tsp vanilla
2 eggs	
Topping – 1 ½ cups chopped pecans, ¼ cup white sugar, ½ tsp cinnamon	

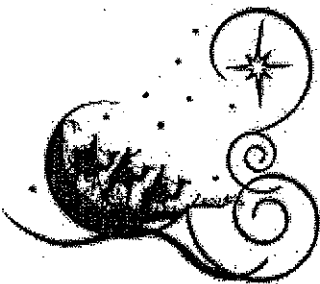


Directions: Preheat oven to 350degrees. Spray a 13"x9"x2" pan with Pam. Combine all dry ingredients in a large bowl. Blend margarine into dry mixture until is resembles coarse crumbs.

Add: sour cream, milk, eggs and vanilla to dry mixture. Beat with electric mixer until light and fluffy. Put ½ of the mixture into baking pan. **Mix** together nuts, brown sugar and cinnamon. Sprinkle half of this over batter. Put remaining batter on top. Sprinkle remaining topping mixture on top.

Bake for 35 – 40 minutes. *Enjoy with family and friends over the holiday season!*

“For to us a child is born
to us a son is given,
and the government will be on his shoulders.
And he will be called
Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God,
Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.”
Isaiah 9:6



YOU ARE INVITED!
Christmas Events and Services

Saturday, December 4 – 6:00 p.m. – United Church
Congregational Christmas Dinner

December 20 – 7 p.m. – United Church
"Blue Christmas" Service

(This is a special service to minister to and to encourage those having a hard time getting into the joy of the season. This is a ministerial event)

Thursday December 24 – 7 p.m. - Town Hall
Christmas Eve Service of Carols and Readings

Thursday December 24, - 11:30 p.m. – United Church
Christmas Eve Candlelight Service