



# THE BEACON

Brought to you by St. John's Communication Committee

## AS WE WALK TOGETHER



### A Prayer for 2024

Thank you, God, for a grace-filled year in 2023. You have blessed our church in several significant ways. You have incredibly blessed us with success in

developing our community as a place of spiritual encouragement.

May we continue to respond to your Spirit as it moves us beyond this achievement and into an even deeper, more refined focus on being disciples of Jesus, your son. Bless our new Parish council for 2024 and give them the creative energy to respond to an ever-changing world. May we trust that you are guiding us, even beyond the boundaries we now know.

We ask, Gracious God, that You place in our hearts a kindness and patience that arises from a recognition that no one 'has it all together' and that we all say and do things we later learn weren't quite what You wanted from us. May we not spin critically of ourselves or others and further develop our empathy, charity, and forgiveness skills.

We also ask Merciful God that "we learn to regard people less in the light of what they do or omit to do, and more in the light of what they suffer (Dietrich Bonhoeffer.)" And may we be equally tolerant of ourselves as we wish towards others.

Amen.

- Rev. Jim Innes, Rector

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## **PARISH COUNCIL 2024**

### **St. John's-by-the-Lake Anglican Church Slate of Officers and Council 2024**

Rector's Warden - Dawna King  
People's Warden - Peter Warner  
Deputy Rector's Warden - Peter Timmins  
Deputy People's Warden - Laurie Gibbs  
Treasurer - Bob Earley

#### Members at Large

Ed Cassady  
Brian Gumb  
Rae Jenkins  
Darlene Lefairve  
Paul Petersen  
Nancy Robaczek  
Jennifer Silverthorne  
Elizabeth Stanley  
Lori Taylor  
Margaret Townsend  
Christine Turnbull  
Ronald Wagner



### **MUSIC TO MY EARS**

In the cold, windy days of winter, St. John's-by-the-Lake musicians always find

a way to rejoice. When the weather got too cold and dark, we moved choir practice to the light of the afternoon. When Christmas season got busy with Angel Trees, warm clothing drives, guests, and extra services, we celebrated. When choir members were hospitalized, we regrouped with technology and recorded anthems and hymns for our friends' comfort and joy. We share friendship, we share prayer, we share baked goods, we share love and support, our homes, and our talents with each other. We are a FAMILY. "Music once admitted to the soul, becomes a sort of spirit, and never dies." (Edward Bulver Lutton)

"When the song of the angels is stilled,  
When the star in the sky is gone,  
When the kings and the shepherds have found  
their way home,  
The work of Christmas is begun.  
I am the light of the world,  
You people come and follow me.  
If you follow and love,  
You'll learn the mystery,  
Of what you were meant to do and be"  
(Jim Strathdee)

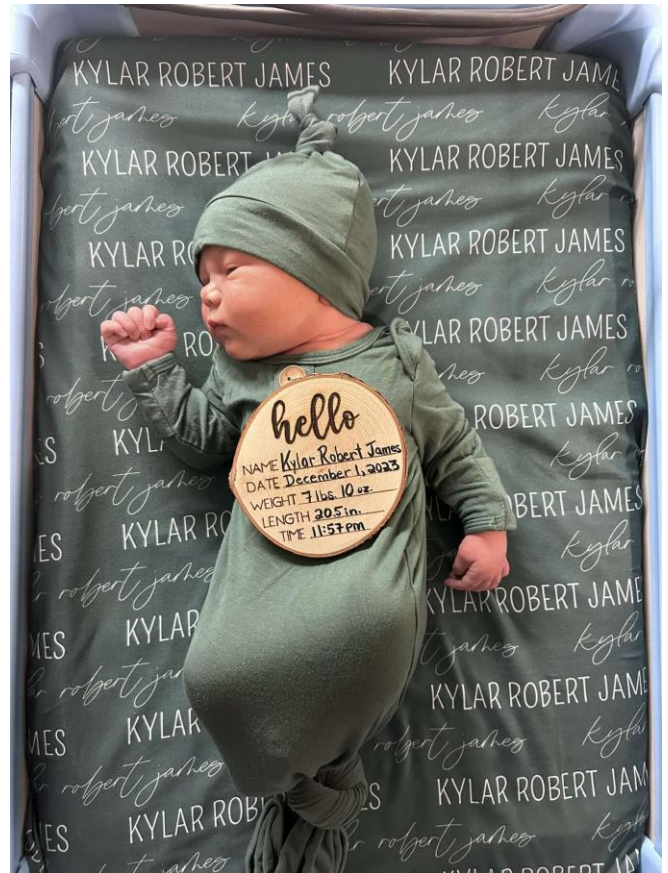
When the sun is bright, or the skies are dark, we will sing.  
When times are golden or days difficult, we will sing.  
When the body is tired, or brimming with energy, we will sing.  
When a baby is born, or a loved one is lost, we will sing.  
When our spirits are high, or our worries deep, we will sing.  
When feelings are hurt, or the soul is strong, we will sing.  
When family is far, but good friends near, we will sing.  
When thoughts are confused or minds are at rest, we will sing.  
When we feel His presence, or searching for His voice, we will sing.  
Until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

*~ Catherine Taylor Hayden, Music Director*

## **NEWS FROM THE PEWS**



**Elizabeth Stanley & Ronald Wagner welcome a granddaughter!** Frances Tamara Marie was born November 4, 2023. Parents are David & Bryce.



**Brian & Lisa Gumb welcome another grandson!** Kylar Robert James was born December 1, 2023. Parents are Marshall & Amanda.



**Fred Clarke celebrated his 96th birthday!**

## **COMMUNITY GROUPS**

Yoga has existed for over 3,000 years. Ancient teachings were passed down verbally until Pantanjali wrote the Yoga Sutras in approximately 400 CE.

Yoga originally began as a meditation practice to help balance the mind through calming the nervous system. Asanas, also known as postures, were developed to prepare the body for the inward journey of meditation.

In modern classes we practice the postures using breath work, alignment, and meditation. These techniques help to quiet the mind, reduce stress, and bring physical benefits. The physical benefits of yoga are balance, strength, flexibility, lower blood pressure as well as many others.

The beauty of yoga is that it can be modified by the instructor ensuring it is accessible to all who participate. Props are made available such as straps, bolsters, and blocks. All you need to bring is your mat!!

Why practice yoga?

"The exercise of yoga allows the student to begin a conscious journey to discover; What simply is, who you are and what you can become."

Yoga.org.nz

I have been practising yoga for over fifteen years and have had the privilege of teaching yoga for five years. It is my pleasure to be joining the programs that are being offered at St. John's-by-the-Lake. I hope to see you on your mat Mondays at 5:15pm - Yoga with Julie.

~ Julie Mann-Harrison

## **THANK YOU NOTES**

### Helping Handbags

We are truly humbled by your generosity and thankful for your commitment to our cause. Your support makes a huge impact on our community.

~ Victim Services

### St. John's-by-the-Lake

Having just given out the last Christmas Hamper for this year, we would like to take time out to give a heartfelt thanks to your church. Your donation of turkey rolls helped fill close to 75 hampers. Over the year your food donations help to keep our shelves stocked. You have been helping us for many years and we would like you to know how appreciated you all are!

~ Blessings Food Bank

## **OUR PARISH**

### **Meet Brian & Lisa Gumb**



Lisa Margaret was born the youngest of ten children. She was raised in Port Franks, attended Bosanquet Central Public School and North Lambton Secondary School; followed by Lambton College in Sarnia, enrolled in a Pre-Health Science Program.

Employed for 18 years by Victorian Order of Nurses Elgin-Middlesex and Erie-St. Clair in Palliative and End-of-Life Care, Lisa cared for people whose wish was to die at home. In 2010 and 2011, Lisa valiantly cared for her parents in this same way.

Seeking a change in career, Lisa returned to school to complete Human Resources Management, becoming a Coordinator, first at One Care, then Seaforth Retirement Home, and now at St. John's and St. Anne's where she is doing an excellent job.

On top of her office hours, Lisa is a greeter and serves on Chancel Guild, Communication Committee, Event Committee, Ministry of Laity, and Prayer & Care Fellowship.

Her calling was clear, even from a young age. Lisa was happiest when she was serving others. Her large family was and still is a blessing. It brings her joy and extends warmth and care to everyone around. And, she has the most contagious sense of humour.

From the time she was 18, the call to serve as a volunteer has never wavered. Nonprofit organizations are as follows: Canadian Cancer Society, Crohn's and Colitis Foundation, Canadian Hospice Palliative Care Association, Hospice Palliative Care Ontario, local schools, churches, hockey clubs, and fair boards. As a young Mom, Lisa founded and facilitated The O.K. Group; a safe space for Moms and Tots, which continued for ten years.

Lisa advocates for the vulnerable and lives her desire to help people in unique ways:

When travelling, she carries a bag of "stuff" with her. When she sees a need, she responds. On a trip to Kamloops, she came across a homeless woman who was in a desperate situation. Lisa returned to her hotel room and gathered up her own clothes. As she gave them away, she heard the thankful words, "God sent me an angel."

In 2016, Lisa came up with an idea to help local women's shelters. We all know this endeavor as 'Helping Handbags'. With support from St. John's church family and the community this initiative has been successful in distributing 864 handbags over the years!

For her 50th birthday, in lieu of gifts Lisa requested items for the homeless. She was pleasantly surprised to receive 34 pairs of socks, 18 scarves, 48 hats, and 36 pairs of mitts. These items are now being distributed throughout our rural communities.

In her quiet time, Lisa enjoys reading and writing. She has completed a memoir titled, 'God Answers Prayers', and is working on a book of short stories titled, 'God at the Bedside' which includes experiences from her career in palliative and end-of-life care.

In 2013, Lisa met Brian and the couple were later married on our beautiful beach with their 5 children as witnesses. This blended family quickly multiplied to add sons and daughters-in-law, as well as 6 grandchildren whom they adore.

Brian and Lisa are what we like to call "Cradle Anglicans", both of their parents were married at St. George's-on-the-Wye Anglican Church in Thorndale!

When they find spare time, they love to get away on their boat or motorcycle. For them, there are only 3 seasons; BOATING, MOTORCYCLING, and WINTER!!!

**B**rian Edmund was born in London and raised in Thorndale, accompanied by a brother and sister. He attended Plover-Mills Public School and Medway High School; followed by Fanshawe College in Motive Power, and later York University in Business Management.

With the decision to not take on the family construction business, Brian became a Class A Mechanic/Motive Power Technician and obtained his Red Seal License, recognized throughout Canada. He purchased a service repair shop in London that specialized in the refurbishment and repair of classic import cars.

With advice from a close friend, his career took a turn away from the retail sector and landed him in the field of industrial gearing technical sales. His hands-on mechanical knowledge was a unique attribute in the sales field and opened doors for regional sales positions with International gearing manufacturers. These were followed by National Sales Manager positions with world renown manufacturer's; Philadelphia Gear (USA), Santasalo (Finland), and Hofmann Engineering (AUS). These positions allowed for travel throughout the US, Europe, China and best of all, many regions of Canada.

No two days are the same for this traveler as he could be visiting any one of the following

industries: petrochemical, energy, mining, forestry, steel production, automation, and many others, for review of gearing applications. Recently, he has branched out on his own as an independent sales representative under the name of Industrial Solutions of Value Inc. He represents several companies who offer high value, unique industrial products and services.

Obviously, Brian's travel experience is vast, and he knows many of the travel tricks to save time and get to where he needs to be, including remote areas like the gold mines in Northern Ontario. If you want to see how it's done, watch the George Clooney movie 'Up in the Air'.

In 1969, Brian's dad purchased an investment property in Southcott Pines for \$2300. Brian eventually acquired the property and built a house. He was hardly ever home, but it established his interest in our beach town.

Joining St. John's in 2013, Brian was elected to Parish Council in 2016 to oversee maintenance. He was quickly promoted to Deputy Warden and has now completed his 5th and final year as Rector's Warden. His term started just prior to the COVID 19 pandemic, followed by the dissolution of the Regional Ministry and St. Anne's transitioning to a Worshipping Community, as well as the neighbouring land lease, and staffing changes. It is remarkable how he managed his duties within the church and handled a full-time job as well! Brian will now shift 'gears' at St. John's as his desire is to head up a committee for future planning of the property.

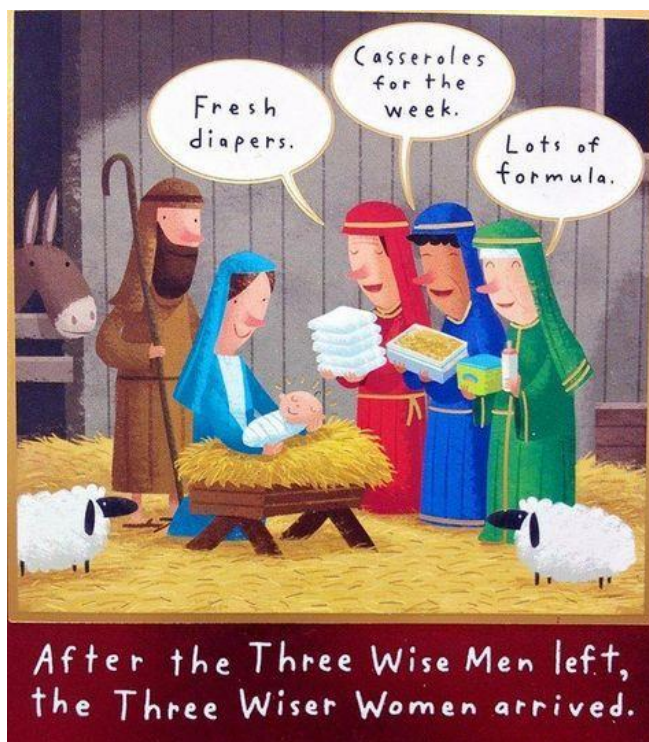
Our church family has been blessed. We thank Brian and Lisa for their continued dedication and service to our unique 'little white church with all the flowers'.

We look forward to an exciting future!

~Carole Mathers

## HOLY HUMOUR

1. What time of day was Adam created?  
Just a little before Eve.
2. Who was the fastest runner in the race?  
Adam. He was first in the human race.
3. Why are atoms Catholic?  
Because they have mass.
4. Why didn't they play cards on the Ark?  
Because Noah was always standing on the deck
5. Why didn't Noah ever go fishing?  
He only had two worms.
6. Did Eve ever have a date with Adam?  
Nope – just an apple.
7. Why did the unemployed man get excited while reading his Bible?  
He thought he saw a job.
8. Does God love everyone?  
Yes, but He prefers "fruits of the spirit" to "religious nuts!"
9. If Mary had Jesus, and Jesus was a little lamb...  
Does that mean Mary had a little lamb?



## Church Ladies with Typewriters!

Thank God for the church ladies with typewriters.  
(These sentences appeared in church bulletins)  
To be read with suitable reverence:

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The Fasting & Prayer Conference includes meals.  
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Scouts are saving aluminum cans, bottles and  
other items to be recycled. Proceeds will be used  
to cripple children.

-----  
A bean supper will be held on Tuesday evening in  
the church hall. Music will follow.  
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Pot-luck supper Sunday at 5:00 PM - prayer and  
medication to follow.

*~ Lightheartedly submitted by Church Ladies*

## STORIES AND POEMS

### THE FORGIVENESS BEAR

Three sisters, Doris, Martha and Lillian, went to  
play on the roof of our barn. The barn had a pile of  
hay on the roof, and that is where they wanted to  
play. This barn was never completed; its hip roof  
had not yet been built.

Up we went and began to play. I, Martha, decided  
to go to the highest spot and declared,  
"This is my spot to roll!" And, roll I did and landed  
Ker plunk on the ground. It would have been a 10  
foot fall. Now I don't remember falling but I do  
remember being transferred from my older  
brother's arms to my older sister's arms as she  
carried me to the house.

The next memory I have, is waking up in a large  
baby crib with mother bathing my forehead. Doris  
was crying and Dad consoled her. My wrists ached  
and ached and ached.

Our parents went to town during my  
convalescence and returned with 2 presents for  
Me. One present was a teddy bear, the other a  
puzzle. I looked at Lillian and knew she wanted

one of the gifts. The devil and I argued, the devil  
won, I kept both gifts.

One day about 25 years later, I was scrubbing the  
porch when I relived the argument with the devil  
and decided to do the right thing. I did. I made a  
teddy bear from flannelette and put a pretty ribbon  
around its neck. It was made exactly like the  
original except for the colour of the flannelette.  
I mailed it to Lillian with a letter asking for  
forgiveness. She phoned me when she got the  
parcel and told me she cried when she saw the  
teddy bear and read the letter. She granted me  
forgiveness. Forgiveness is a blessing from God.

The pattern has been used over 30 times for many  
occasions, so you see the "Forgiving Bear", still  
brings Happiness.

Martha Waldner

Martha is one of my sisters. This letter was written  
many years ago, both Martha and Lillian are now  
playing together in another place.

We are still looking for the original pattern and the  
original bear. Hopefully, someday they will be  
found.

*~ Carole Mathers*

### THE KNITTER

Knit one, purl one,  
Then you knit another one.  
Knit two, purl two,  
Then you knit another few.

Miss a stitch, bait and switch,  
That is how to scratch your itch.  
Is it a skein or a ball?  
That is really not my call.

Try it on, does it fit?  
Every time she knits a mitt.  
Sew it up, add a thumb,  
Then she knits the other one.

Need a toque, for your dome?  
This is what she does at home.  
I can't speak or make a sound,  
Especially when she's trying to count.

Now we have some colder weather,  
Maybe you could use a sweater.  
Pick your colour, then just wait,  
You'll have it soon, not too late.

Baby blanket? Nice warm shawl?  
Not a problem, she can do it all.  
In the time it takes to set your clocks,  
She'll knit you a pair of socks.

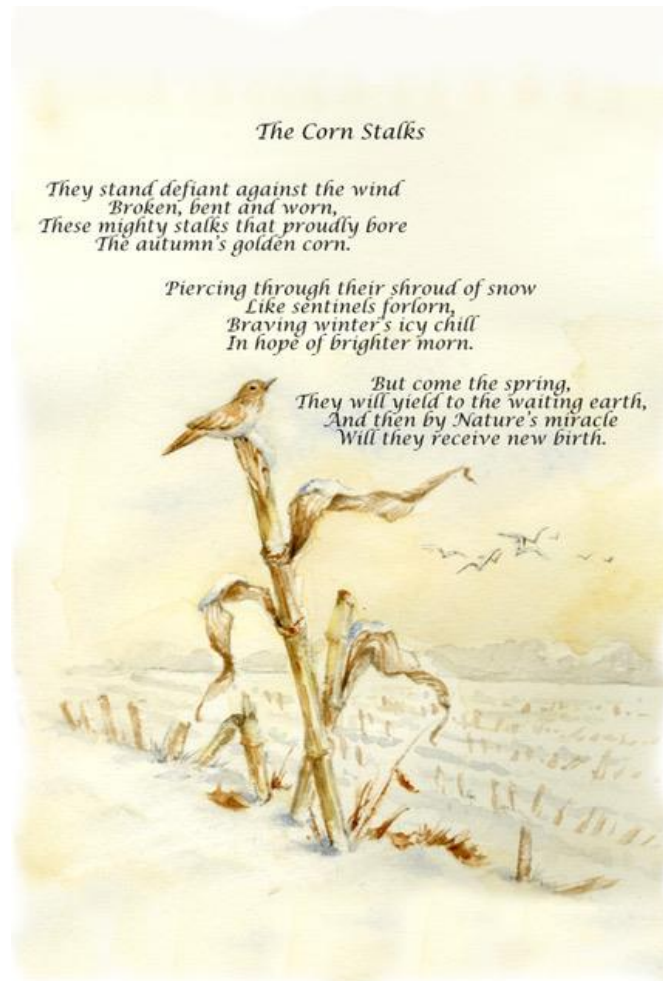
All the above, a labour of love,  
Sometimes I don't have enough.  
She knits me up another pair,  
Someday, maybe underwear.

To handle those Alberta Clippers,  
She'll make a pair of knitted slippers.  
This is why I'm never bitter,  
I'm married to an avid knitter.

~ Anonymous



~ Adrienne Smith-Windsor



~ Adrienne Smith-Windsor

## RISEN

The soldiers gather their confiscated lot drawn spoils- the garments taken from the crucified victims. They leave, bragging of their accomplished deeds. The segregated onlookers slowly begin to disperse, chatting questionably among themselves about the man on the middle structure and his final hour.

From my resting perch on the rounded protruding stone, I see the family and friends slowly retrieve the lifeless form from the lowered cruciform. The mother weeps in the arms of those near as the ashen form is wrapped in clean burial linens. She then softly strokes her trembling fingers through the bloodied, once full flowing, locks of her only son. She questions not the happenings foregone as she must fully understand the reasoning predestined.



I leave my position and approach the small party preparing to lift the covered form for transfer to the place of burial. As I near, I request of the mother, "Dear lady, may I partake in your duties? I beg of you to allow me to assist as I am a follower of this man. Although, I only saw him thrice I know he is not of character for which he was accused and put to death. I saw him feed the hungry, play with the children, console the elderly, and offer his garment to warm the poor cripple"! I could feel all those doubting eyes gaping upon this unknown stranger. In a feeble tone the grieving mother replies, "As you wish. Your concern is humbly accepted".

Moving forward, I place my outstretched arms under the corpse and share carrying the body to the tomb assigned. A form of bed had been previously arranged with the placement of Olive tree boughs and sweet grasses placed on top of the relined stone slab.

After final placement of the body and quiet solitude of time, the mother emerges from the sepulchral cavern. Someone says aloud, "all together Brethren help shift the sealing stone". A chilling feeling came over me as if something unexplainable was to be witnessed by myself in time to come. Something in direct relation to the man whom I had crossed paths three times before. The tomb is now sealed!

My nomadic journey failed to resume. I was drawn to remain in this region for an unknown period of time and reason. On Sunday morning, I wandered to the place where the body of the man crucified was entombed. As I near the tomb, I fall to my knees and gaze in astonishment. That impregnable stone slab was far removed and the grave is empty!

Those members in attendance shout praise in unison, "HE IS RISEN, JESUS IS RISEN TODAY". Tears of joy stream down their weary faces. Many arriving townspeople join in joyously repeated ovations of, "HE IS RISEN, HE IS RISEN".

As my journey continues, wherever I see the beauty of the lands and heavens, my thoughts carry me to the man who died on the cross that dreadful day and His glorious ascent to His heavenly dwelling. Bearing witness to those happenings it is my belief that the writings noted and the tales to be reiterated over and over through generations to come the man known as

JESUS will be on the lips of mankind until the end of time.

~ Eldon King



## **UPCOMING SERVICES**

Wednesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> - Ash Wednesday  
Wednesday, March 27<sup>th</sup> - Holy Week Service  
Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> - Good Friday  
Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> - Easter Sunday

## **A TASTY TREAT**

### **BITS AND BITES**

Use 2 large roasters for this gigantic recipe.

Divide the following ingredients between 2 large roasters and mix well.

- 1 large box of Shreddies or Chex
- 1 large box of Cheerios
- 2 large boxes of Captain Crunch
- 1 large bag of pretzels
- 2 cans mixed nuts
- 1 large jar of dry roasted seasoned peanuts
- 2 bags of Ringo or corn chips

Dribble 1 ½ cups of corn oil to each roaster and stir. Then sprinkle 2 packs of dried onion soup mix, one package in each roaster. Mix well. Add 2 teaspoons of Garlic powder if you like garlic. Mix well. Add Worcestershire sauce to taste (optional). Roast at 200 degrees Fahrenheit for 3 hours. Stir every hour. In the last half hour, add:

2 bags of shoestring potatoes, hickory flavoured

Allow to cool and bag.

~ Joyce Hodgins

# 'Quilting' Word Puzzle – by Winfred Partin Feb 1985

T	E	L	R	E	V	O	C	R	I	B	R	I	N	G
R	H	T	I	N	K	Y	R	O	M	E	M	E	N	N
I	C	R	T	O	V	F	A	N	L	X	D	I	R	I
M	L	G	E	Y	R	H	F	T	D	G	T	C	A	K
K	I	P	R	A	W	C	T	E	I	T	N	L	Y	C
R	C	A	M	R	D	T	S	N	A	P	E	O	G	A
O	N	E	E	U	Q	I	G	B	M	U	L	T	I	B
W	E	L	S	S	G	T	U	T	O	I	D	H	F	G
H	T	F	Q	N	R	S	E	H	N	T	E	E	T	M
C	S	F	U	Y	T	G	N	I	D	D	E	W	S	E
T	G	U	A	A	D	F	N	M	R	B	N	E	N	A
A	O	R	R	Q	L	G	P	B	N	P	A	G	I	S
P	T	C	E	J	O	R	P	L	V	M	O	S	P	U
X	E	T	S	A	F	G	R	E	S	N	D	O	T	R
R	E	D	I	O	R	B	M	E	C	E	I	P	H	E

Backing

Baste

Batting

Bee

Cloth

Coverlet

Craft

Crib

Design

Diamond

Edging

Embroider

Fan

Fold

Frame

Gift

Multi

Needle

Patchwork

Piece

Pins

Project

Queen

Ruffle

Seams

Square

Stars

Stencil

Stitch

Thimble

Thread

Trim

Warp

Wedding

~ Submitted by Jeanette Hodgins

## PHOTO GALLERY



On Blue Sunday December 10th, Rev. Jim lead us in a touching service, accompanied by Catherine Taylor Hayden playing beautiful piano music.

Thanks to the chancel guild et al for adorning the sanctuary for the Advent and Christmas seasons. As they say, "It's the most wonderful time of the year!"



## PHOTO GALLERY



A beautiful Christmas gift from the choir members to music director, Catherine Taylor Hayden.

The quilt was one of the six quilts handcrafted by Elaine Wardle and donated to sell at St. John's Christmas Bazaar. Our 2023 Christmas Outreach was one of the best!



Please submit contributions for the Spring 2024 newsletter by April 3, 2024 to **Carole Mathers** at [dncmathers@hay.net](mailto:dncmathers@hay.net) and copy the office.

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