

**St. Paul's United Church  
Georgeville United Church**

**Church Office:** 211 Pine Street, Magog, QC J1X 2H8

**Advent – Christmas 2010**

Dear Members and Friends,

Christmas is a coming! As you receive this letter, the Advent Season is beginning unfold a treasured story. Throughout this season, the scriptures and the music shines a spotlight on human reality. But it is no new reality. The ancient prophets seemed to write with broken hearts as they lamented human tragedy. Injustice, the terror of war, hunger and human suffering moved them to tears. In the intensity of their heartfelt yearning for God's intervention, these ministers of another time came to believe that God would intervene. Isaiah wrote:

``The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light...A child is born to us! A son is given to us! He will be called Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Eternal Father, Prince of Peace``.

The beautiful story of Jesus, born under a clear and starlight night-time sky is the Christian account of the fulfillment of ancient prophetic longing. The world changed dramatically because of the short life of Jesus of Nazareth. People came to see and experience how love brings so much joy to life. Love is so vulnerable – just like the love that surrounded the baby lying in the manger. The story always reminds us that just beyond the jubilation of a singing of a heavenly choir, political intrigue threatened to undo all hope.

God calls us to Christian love. Christmas is not an historic event simply to be celebrated like a birthday party. It is instead a celebration of the living presence of Christ-like love. In a world where there is hopelessness, we are to hold out hope. In a world where there is sadness, we are to live acts of joy. In a world where truth is sorrowfully lacking, we are to live the promise that was spoken long ago – but alive in us. This is what makes Christmas merry.

May we be living signs of God's presence and promise.

Doreen and I join together to wish you

**The Joy of Christmas Promise  
and a Blessed New Year**

**Rev. Deane Moffat**

Please turn over to see the Advent calendar



## Advent - Christmas Services & Events

### AT ST PAUL'S, MAGOG

#### Dec 12 at 11 AM: White Gift Service

The service will be led by the Sunday School. The service will include the Christmas story, as written by Barbara McAuley. This family service is always a highlight of the year. Worshippers are invited to bring offerings of non-perishable food, knitted items for the mitten tree or a gift of money in a white envelope clearly marked with your name or your offering envelope number.

**White Gift Offerings** are used for the Christmas Baskets or to assist the Food Bank. The traditional White Gift Stockings to collect change are also available from the ushers.

This year we intend to fill about sixteen Christmas Baskets. In an effort to help families buy the food they would prefer, we intend to include a grocery store gift certificate with the basket.

**Dec. 14** (Tuesday) 11:30 AM - KING PINS - Christmas Dinner served in McLauchlan Hall

#### Dec 19th at 11AM (4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent) A Service of Lessons and Carols

The Chancel Choir, with the addition of singers from St. Paul's, St. Luke's, Georgeville and St. Jean Bosco, will present a bilingual service of lessons and carols.

Following the service there will be a **Christmas Dinner** served in McLauchlan Hall.

#### Dec 24<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM Christmas Eve Family Service with Holy Communion

**Dec 26<sup>th</sup> 11 AM** (The Sunday after Christmas)  
A Service of favorite carols.

### AT GEORGEVILLE UNITED

#### Dec 12 at 9:30 AM: White Gift Service

An Advent service with readings from the traditional scriptures and hymns of the season. **The White Gift special Offerings** will be directed to the Christmas Basket project.

#### Dec 18 (Sat) 2 PM **Stable Service**

**The Stable Service** is an ecumenical service not to be missed. This year it will take place at the Robert Coallier family farm, on Magoon's Point Road about 3 KM out of Georgeville. (the former Evans farm, first farm on the left after passing the McPherson Cemetery.) There will be sheep, chickens, and others animals. Mr Coallier built this new barn to faithfully preserve the historic architecture of the former barn. We worship in this setting with gratitude to the Coallier family. Children are invited to bring their favorite dolls to put in the manger during the telling and singing of the story. For directions call 819-876-5054. This is a very special time for families. (Grand-children too)

**Dec 19<sup>th</sup> at 4 PM** in **St. George's Anglican Church**, - all are invited to the annual Service of Lessons and Carols with music sung by St. George's Choirs, directed by Sarah Hoblyn.

**December 26<sup>th</sup> 9:30 AM** (The Sunday after Christmas) A service of carols and readings.

There will be no worship service in **Georgeville United** during the months of January, February and March. Worshippers in Georgeville are invited to join ST. Paul's on United Church designated Sundays and to attend St. George's on Anglican Sundays.

**Dec 15** (Wednesday) 9 AM – 11:30 AM – **Christmas Hamper Preparation**. Pick-up after 11:30 AM. People requesting a Christmas Hamper should phone **819-868-4438**.