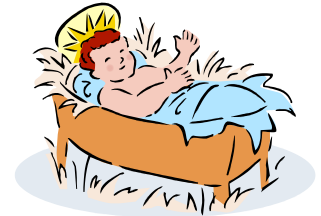


NEWS



Rev. Kent Chown
Secretary: Mrs. Jean Jackson
Children's Coordinator:
Catharine Calderone-Collard

Valois United Church
Families Connecting

Welcome Christmas

Come join the celebrations this Christmas Season.

Dec 16 10 a.m.
Pageant/White Gift
By the Sunday School
donations of food, toys
mitts, hats welcome.

Dec 23 10 a.m.
Advent Service
We light the candle
of Love.

Dec 24
Christmas Eve
Services
7 pm Family Service
9 pm Communion

Dec 30 11 a.m.
West Island
Service
St. John's United Church
98 Aurora Pointe-Claire

The Best Gift of All

Wow! Yesterday I arrived at Valois United. Now it is Advent, and in a few days, Christmas. Already the congregation has given me gifts: a fine welcome, cooperation and enthusiasm. Gifts of care and nurture. Gifts of smiling faces and singing voices. I celebrate these gifts.

But lets keep track of the Gift that we're celebrating at this time. We're heading toward Christmas. Christ's Mass. We heading toward the celebration of the gift of the child in the manger.

There are lots of other things that happen. Family events, meals, gifts.... These are the extras, the bonus features, the gravy. Let them be extras, and they can be good. Let them be distractions – and they try to be distractions – and it is easy to lose sight of the stable.

So, no matter where you find yourself, attend a worship service. Join the celebration. Visit the stable and bow at the manger. For the Gift has been given. †

- Kent Chown (Rev), Intentional Interim Minister

Sunday School News

The Spirit of Christmas Lives!



KIDS are singing, acting and having lots of fun preparing for the **Pageant & White Gift service**. Join us on **December 16 at 10:00 a.m.**

Advent Project:

Children have made snowmen "banks" to collect coins for all their good deeds, and the intermediate and senior kids have made **STAR DECORATIONS**, which can be purchased with your donation at coffee time. Money will be collected as part of the Sunday School advent project, supporting *Music for Life & The African Children's choir*, part of a project bringing education and schools to children throughout Africa. A special thanks goes to Gail Saloranta & Sandra Wainwright for all their help.

We are also collecting used **BEANIE BABIES** to be sent with Canadian soldiers in Afghanistan for distribution to the children there. This project continues for 8 months.

Corrections, news or questions regarding this newsletter are welcome. If you no longer wish to receive this newsletter, or know someone who would like to receive it, please contact deborahdixon@mac.com