



*Port Stanley United Church*

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*Minister: Rev. Elizabeth Stewart*

## *January \* February\* March 2025*

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*A Message from Rev. Elizabeth*

*Happy New Year!*

*I hope this edition of "Safe In The Harbour" finds you well.*

*In Methodist churches [around the world], the first worship service of a new year often includes a Wesleyan Covenant Renewal Service. This service reaffirms the Covenant between the Christian worshippers and God, and names the ways how that Covenant affirms and denies that relationship. Wesley's journal for August 11, 1755, describes a practice that is a means of "increasing serious religion." The practice involves joining in a covenant to serve God with all our heart and soul. He developed "a manner of doing it acceptably to God," and from that came the Covenant Prayer.*

*The prayer is a constant reminder of the mutual agreement between God and those who seek earnestly to serve God. It provides a "gut check" and causes us to consider the costs of discipleship along with the joys and delights of serving God. Without explicitly saying it, the prayer reminds us that the one we follow went to the cross, and that the new life and hope we carry is bigger than us and requires more than we can ever fully offer. The prayer asks us, "Do you understand the implications of your baptismal vows, your discipleship and membership vows, ..., and are you still serious about doing this?"*

*The prayer pulls out of us our very best and reminds us that our ministry together is not a part-time job or a side vocation, but a way of life, a pathway toward Christ, a vigorous and difficult and rewarding journey with Christ's people into the world. What we do really matters and doing it faithfully and fruitfully requires a great and joyful willingness to go places we would never go on our own. It's quite a prayer, and not for the weak of heart!*



### **UPCOMING EVENTS 2025**

*JAN. 5 - Food Bank Donations*

*JAN. 16 - Lunch and Learn 10:45 AM*

*JAN. 25 - Trivia and Pie Auction*

*FEB. 23 - Worship and Annual Meeting*

## *John Wesley's Covenant Prayer for Today*

*I was once mine.*

*From this point forward, I am Yours.*

*Make clear my purposes in life.*

*Place me among my loved ones and expand my heart to love all.*

*Help me to think the things You want me to think,*

*say the things You want me to say,*

*and do the things You want me to do,*

*even if it means I am belittled, ignored, or criticized.*

*Give me people to encourage, serve, and love.*

*Give me times of peace and rest so I can love and be loved by You.*

*Let me be a light to a dark world so people can see You working in me.*

*Make me humble and remind me that everything I have is because of You.*

*Thank You for times of happiness and prosperity; they are a gift.*

*Thank You for Your presence and promise in days of sadness and hardship*

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### *Our Annual Congregational Meeting*



*Our Annual Congregational Meeting will take place on Sunday, February 23, immediately following a short Worship Service.*

*Prior to this meeting there will be an Annual Report distributed to the congregation. You are asked to review it and bring it with you to the meeting.*

*At this meeting we will be looking to fill positions on several Committees. If you feel that you would like to be a part of one of these Committees and learn more about how our Church serves here and in the Community please consider joining a Committee. New ideas are always welcome!*

*Some of the Committees are: Trustees*

*Unified Board*

*Worship/ Design Committee*

*Connection Committee*

*Outreach Committee*

*“Fun- Raising” Fellowship*

*Social Media*





## Community Outreach

### *Frankie and the Fairlanes* *November 23, 2024*

*Our Port Stanley United Church was really 'rockin' that night. We had a good turnout of about 90 people. But more than a hundred tickets were sold. We made a good profit of approx. \$1250. Thank you Colleen Rodgers for your help with making this happen! And to Mary Nethercott for helping with refreshments.*



*Members of the band are Michael "Frankie" Lambert, lead guitar and vocals; Gary Lee Robb, Keyboards; Ron Diamond, Drums and Daryn Bee; Bass, Sax and vocals.*



### *Dreams Come True Music Studio Concert* *Oct. 26, 2024*

*What a wonderful group of young people who came to entertain us. They are all a part of the music program led by Allison O'Connor. "Dreams Come True Music Studio is an inclusive music program for people of all ages and abilities. It is an opportunity to experience the world of music in a fun, safe and supportive environment," Thank you to all who came out to enjoy and support these wonderful young people.*

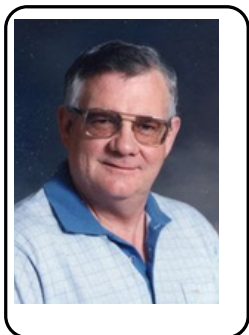




## IN MEMORIAM



*Tom Haskins, a long time member of our Church, as well as the Dexter United Church passed away on Nov. 17th. He along with his wife Margaret, who passed away in the Spring, were faithful members for many years until they moved to St Thomas. Tom, although often soft spoken, had a great sense of humour and always had a sheepish grin on his face. Over the years both Tom and Marg contributed to the work of the Church, whether it was in the kitchen , serving on Committees or helping with programs. Tom and Marg were also long serving members of the Lions and Lioness, serving this community. They will be missed!*



*Haskins, Thomas Frank of St. Thomas, passed away on Sunday, November 17th, 2024 at the age of 84. Beloved husband of the late Margaret K. (Clark) Haskins and dearly loved father of Clark Haskins (Jeni), Karen Walsh (Mike) and David Haskins (Karen). Cherished grandfather of Calia Solsken, Jeffery Haskins (Ellen) and Sydney Haskins and Taylor Haskins.*



## SUNDAY SCHOOL

*We are so appreciative of our Sunday School Teachers!!!  
Nora Sanders, Don Bell, Colleen Rodgers, Susan Munro and Kelly Vandenbroek.*

*Seen here is Nora Sanders with the children who displayed their pictures at the Thanksgiving Service. Also pictured is our Musical Director, Lindsay Smith*

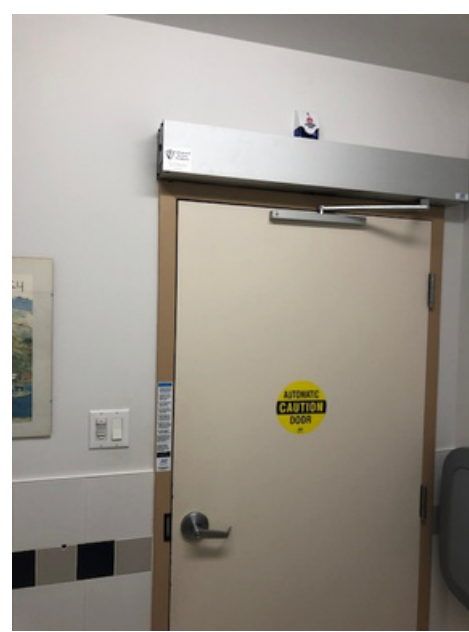




*ON OUR WAY  
TO  
A  
BARRIER FREE  
CHURCH!*



*Work in progress!  
The crew from Tillsonburg Glass  
hard at work.*



*All the doors have signage attached. There are Push Buttons to access the room.  
The Bathroom will have an emergency Call Light as well as an Emergency sound and Call  
Button. There will be an Emergency horn and strobe light inside and outside the the bathroom.*

*Any help you could give towards the cost of these renovations would be greatly appreciated.  
Please note on your e-transfer that it is to go towards the Barrier-Free upgrades.*



### *LUNCH AND LEARN*

*Our First Lunch and Learn for 2025 will be Thursday January 16 at  
10:45 AM . The guest speaker will be Greg Balch speaking about the  
“History of the Fur trade in Canada.”  
Please check the sign-up sheets if you want to volunteer to help out.*





## *ADVENT SEASON AT PORT STANLEY UNITED CHURCH*



*Lighting the Advent  
Wreath;  
Charlotte Pehlke-Smith  
and her  
daughter  
and the Lockhart  
Family  
light the candles and  
Rev. Elizabeth*



*Our Wonderful Choir members::  
Cathy Graham, Marian Jones, Debbie Wiggin  
and Kathy Taylor*



*Our Angels and Kings arrive at the Stable*



*M,J, Lockhart did a wonderful job as our  
Narrator and Shepherd. Johny and Kaitie  
Sanders were Joseph and Mary.  
Thank you to everyone who took part in the  
pageant and especially the Sunday School  
teachers who made it possible.*



# CONGRATULATIONS

**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

*These two young ladies  
are Colleen and Glen  
Rodgers*

*Granddaughters,  
Caroline with her team's  
Silver Stick trophy. She  
also won the goalie  
contest with three shut-  
outs Next photo is Isabel  
Rodgers, a gentle young  
lady who becomes a  
fierce competitor for her  
Panthers hockey team.*



**GAME ON**

## JANUARY

*Ocean Lockhart - January 5th*

*Bob Nemett - January 18th*

## FEBRUARY

*Feb. 22 - Steve Schneider*

*Feb. 28 - Gabriella Smith*

*Feb. 28 - Bruce Smith*

## MARCH

*Mar. 13 - Rosita Morgan*

*Mar. 25 - Mary Nethercott*

*Mar. 30 - John Kruppe*

*Many of our Church Family members will be  
heading to warmer climes in the next three  
months. We wish you all a wonderful time in the  
sun. Susan Munro and Steve Schneider will visit  
the Dominican Republic. Dave and Colleen  
McKee will enjoy the warmth in Florida. And of  
course we are thinking of our friends Bryan and  
Jennifer Rooney who have been spending their  
winter in Arizona.*



*For our Golfers.....*



*We feel your pain Frosty!!!!*

*Dave and Colleen McKee  
look forward  
to welcoming  
their first Grandchild  
in February.  
A Baby Boy!*



**WE**

*Wish you and your family a joyful,  
bright, healthy, prosperous and  
happiest new year ahead. !!*

**Happy New Year!**

*Bob and Sue Nemett*