



The Kronicles

of Kortright Presbyterian Church, Guelph, Ontario



CELEBRATING DOMINIC'S 83RD BIRTHDAY AT THE MANDARIN

*SALLY, CHERYL, DOMINIC, JOAN, BILL, BONNIE (IN FRONT)
TOM, DAVE, CARMINE, BETTY, FRED, VAL, JOHN, LIZ, PHIL (BACK)*

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STAR WITH ROYAL BEAUTY BRIGHT....

Lately, I've been thinking about the star.

I know it's early in December. Christmas is still a ways off and the magi don't appear in the story until after the birth of Jesus. But I think the star is an everyday reality for all of us who want to follow Christ and live according to his will. The star is also important to the whole church.

Those wise men must have occasionally disagreed. Should we take the camel or the dromedary? [Also, did you know the Bible never says how many wise men there were? It could have been three, but the eastern Christian churches say that there were twelve magi.] The point is they were a diverse group of individuals, but they held together in their commitment to follow the star.

As 2018 draws to a close, we hold together at Kortright in our commitment to God's call to be the body of Christ meeting at 55 Devere Dr. and sent out to Guelph and beyond in the power of the Spirit.

On Nov. 28th, I reported on our 2017-2018 congregational goal. We resolved "by October 2018, to have 80% of our congregation growing in a deeper relationship with Christ through a regular involvement in Bible study and prayer in small groups." As we've reviewed the results of that focus, we were delighted to discover that the percentage of our congregation participating in bible study groups over the past 18 months rose from 50% to 78%. Praise the Lord!

But the journey continues. Jesus sends us out to make disciples and to reach the world with the Gospel. Where will His star lead us next? That's the question Session and staff have been asking. We asked it during our recent Session retreat and then I asked us to pray for God's vision for 2019. We believe that the Spirit is leading us to more intently pursue the core Christian discipline of hospitality, but we're waiting for a more specific vision related to our plans for next year.

At this time of year, we enjoy the festive spirit and get together with family, friends or co-workers. As we gather over the coming weeks to praise God for the gift of Christ, consider the star. Where is God leading you in the coming year? What risks might you take to respond to his invitation?

Let's remember that the Spirit only gathers us around the miracle of Emmanuel, God-with-us, in order to send us out on a journey to share the grace and truth of Jesus Christ.

Happy Christmas to you all!



Alex MacLeod
Pastor

UPCOMING EVENTS

Services

Dec 16	9am and 11am Service (Advent 3)
Dec 23	9am and 11am Service (Advent 4)
Dec 24	7pm Single Service, Christmas Eve
Dec 30	10am Single Service
Jan 6	10am Single Service Healing and Communion
Feb 24	10am Single Service—AGM and Communion

Upcoming Events

Dec 15	To Hope Again
Dec 16	Jacob Moon Worship
Jan 8	JOY Group Meeting
Jan 12	Family Event
Jan 13	Sr High Boys Lunch
Jan 20	Family Event

WE REMEMBER

Pam Bartozzi	Oct 2018
Betty Hazlett	Nov 2018



Kortright Presbyterian Church
55 Devere Dr,
Guelph, ON N1G 2T3

Pastor:	Alex MacLeod
Director of Discipleship:	Allison Pinches
Director of Family Ministries:	Rowena Ridder
Administrator:	Dale Klein

The Kortright Kronicles is published four times per year. It is created to tell the stories of Kortright Presbyterian Church.

*For the next issue, please submit articles to Dale Klein in the office (office@kortrightchurch.org) by **February 1st**. Articles may be edited for length in order to accommodate space requirements (aim for 250 to 300 words) and may be edited for content. Photos are encouraged to be included with articles. A photo of the author should also be submitted.*

FAITH FORMATION

The children's branch of the discipleship cluster has been praying for ways to connect better with families and most importantly develop practical ways encourage them and partner with them as we recognize the home as the primary place where children grow in their faith.

Our questions are how can we connect families so they feel a sense of belonging and support?

How can we effectively equip parents to pass on their faith? How can we encourage them in teaching their children how to read the bible? how to theologially reflect? how to pray?

How can we disciple parents to a deeper faith life?

We also recognize that the shape families have become more diverse over the last couple decades and engaged in the in a way that sometimes looks different then it did previously. That is why it is important for us to take a step back and look at these questions/changes in a meaningful way and understand how we can best support them.

We have joined a Family Faith Formation Cohort that is comprised of a dozen or so other churches that will together and with their own individual teams spend the next year:

gain an increased awareness of what shapes their congregation's existing faith formation culture

come to better understand what a healthy grace-shaped culture looks like.

implement two or three significant, ongoing steps forward in cultivating practices that promise to form a stronger faith formation culture.

develop a vision and strategy for continuing this trajectory over the next five years.

And explore creative ways to:

equip families to grow in faith at home

build on existing family patterns and strengths

meaningfully connect home and church.

Our team is very excited to participate in this initiative. We have already had one great meeting and are currently reading a book together called "Families at the Center of Faith Formation."



Rowena Ridder
Director of Family Ministries

THANK YOU FROM DOUG

HAPPY BIRTHDAY DOMINIC!



"Sunday November 18, 2018

This was an amazing day ! A party was held to welcome my 16 month- old great nephew , Billy, into our family. We were showered with gifts and love from the people of KPC ! I was shocked and could only think WOW ! My daughter Tabitha found the church members so warm and friendly.

I want to thank- you so much for organizing the party, the generous gifts, the love, the prayers and for making me feel like a part of the KPC family. That means so much to me .

Sincerely
Doug Martin, Tabitha and Billy



LADIES BREAKFAST

Kortright Women's Breakfast-Oct. 27, 2018

What a wonderful time we had! The smell of bacon, the comfortable feeling of being with other Christian women, providing support to one another and hearing about spiritual gifts from our guest speaker, Barb Ferrier. What a gift from God.

This was our second Breakfast. During our first Breakfast, on May 26th, we had a panel of four women who spoke about where to find help when it is most wanted. We also spoke about small groups and had a discussion about the future of women's ministry at Kortright. This recent meeting was focused on spiritual gifts and praising God for who we are and how wonderfully He made us. We had about 55 women attend each event.

Sadly, our recent event also included grieving the loss of one of our woman, Pam Bartozzi. She passed away during the night before our breakfast. Our Lord provided us with time to remember our sister and mourn her loss. We are very grateful that we had this time together.

Our goal is to inspire, encourage and provide support to other women. We will continue to do so at our next Women's Breakfast on May 4th, 2019.



Louise Sharpe-Berges
Women's Committee



THE BLANKET PROJECT



In 2016 I knew my mission trips to Nicaragua were coming to an end. God had called me to do these trips for sixteen years and I knew because of health issues and age (the big 70 was looming) that my time was done. The Lord gave me a peace about this decision and I must say that although I miss the Nicaraguan women at no time have I felt a pull to return.

During the decision making time I prayed for the Lord to show me what I was supposed to be doing with my free time. Two things came to light.

One was a card ministry and teaching the ladies of the Kortright how to make these cards and the second was to support the youth who were graduating secondary school. This could be college, co-op,

university, work force, apprenticeship or any kind of post-secondary training. I approached the Joy Group as well as talked to Rowena with the idea of a quilt ministry. I knew that as the quilts were being made that I wanted as many Kortrightian hands to touch this quilt as possible. Around this time Louise Sharp got in touch with me and offered to do afghans as well.

Rowena asked "why are you doing this" my answer was I wanted the students to feel that even though they are moving on to the next phase of their lives that they still 'BELONG'. They belong to Jesus, their parents and KPC. If at any time they get to feeling low they can wrap themselves in their quilt/afghan and feel their church family around them.

The first distribution of the now 'Blanket Project' has been met with great success.



I heard Nancy's talk to the JOY Group about making quilts for the youth leaving high school and continuing their studies. She was asking for assistance with the many stages that are involved. I dismissed the idea since I don't make quilts. But then.....I started to think about the afghans that I crochet and wondered if they would be welcomed. When I approached Nancy about the idea she seemed open to it and appreciated the addition to her on-going efforts. Since then I have made 5 afghans and the 6th is underway.

When I am making the afghans, I pray that God will bless the youth who will receive the blanket and that they will obtain warmth and comfort from it. We want them to know they are thought of, prayed for and we wish them the very best God has to offer them.



Nancy Hayes
Writer



Louise Sharpe-Berges
Writer

CHILDHOOD CHRISTMAS MEMORIES



Joan Knox
Writer

As a child, being raised by a woman of a different generation and country brought with it both joys and challenges.

It's my maternal grandma Mrs. Ethel Cross whom I refer to, and from 9 years old was my sole caregiver. With the death of my mom at 9 years old she became mom and dad, or to me "Grandma"

Having come from England there was the traditional mincemeat pies, plum puddings. Yes! Served with rum sauce (even to me).

With the plum pudding, you always hoped you received a piece with a nickel wrapped in wax paper.

As a little girl Christmas became real when my Grandma's handmade snowmen family was unpacked from the Savage shoebox. Each one had been wrapped carefully in wax paper and with extreme care mommy; daddy and baby snowmen were placed on the dining room table while the angel hair was delicately placed on the glass of the tea trolley creating a winter wonderland as their honoured place in our apartment.

You'll see by the picture they are made with toilet paper rolls and rolls of cotton batten, construction paper and a secret in each one of them, my Grandma put in herself.



WHEN THEY ARE IN PLACE, I KNOW IT IS CHRISTMAS

HER LOVE

Every year my Grandma's handmade snowman family is unpacked still from the Savage shoebox, each one is carefully unwrapped from the original wax paper and delicately place in the angel hair that still creates a winter wonderland in their honoured place for all to see as you enter our home.

THE MOST SINCERE CAMEL EVER

Like most Christian families, ours focused on the birth of Jesus at Christmas rather than the secular aspects. Our children knew the story of Jesus' birth from the time they could walk, so it was no surprise that our younger child loved to lie on his tummy and use the figures of our Nativity crèche to enact the story of God's gift to the world in Bethlehem. Sometimes I would find a cow on the roof or the angel standing beside a wise man or shepherd.

In a time before junior kindergarten, our children went to a nursery school operated by our minister's wife. His class presented "The Friendly Beasts" at their little concert the year he was four. Do you know it?

Jesus our brother, kind and good
Was humbly born in a stable rude
And the friendly beasts around Him stood,
Jesus our brother, kind and good.

"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown,
"I carried His mother up hill and down;
I carried her safely to Bethlehem town."
"I," said the donkey, shaggy and brown.

"I," said the cow all white and red
"I gave Him my manger for His bed;
I gave him my hay to pillow his head."
"I," said the cow all white and red.

"I," said the sheep with curly horn,
"I gave Him my wool for His blanket warm;
He wore my coat on Christmas morn."
"I," said the sheep with curly horn.

"I," said the dove from the rafters high,
"I cooed Him to sleep so He would not cry;
We cooed him to sleep, my mate and I."
"I," said the dove from the rafters high.

Thus every beast by some good spell,
In the stable dark was glad to tell
Of the gift he gave Immanuel,
The gift he gave Immanuel.



This same Christmas, he came home after his half-day at nursery school bursting at the seams with excitement. He produced a tissue-wrapped play-dough figurine that had been painted and he proudly announced that it was a camel to be added to the Nativity scene. One had to use one's imagination to see what he'd had in mind when creating his gift. We carefully placed it among the stable of animals, right next to one of the magi.

That was forty years ago and every year as I put out the crèche – with the now disintegrating camel - I think of the faith and love that came wrapped in that precious gift just like the heart of God that sent us His son.



Dale Keenlyside
Writer

THE BLANKET PROJECT RECIPIENTS

Receiving my quilt from the JOY Group has helped me realize that I am a valued member in the KPC family. I was baptized as a baby at KPC and receiving this gift has reminded me of all of the love and support that everyone has provided me with since that special day. I know that this support will continue for many years to come and I can not express my gratitude to everyone who has prayed and supported me throughout my childhood and young adulthood.



Jasmine Fox

I was surprised to have received a blanket, but as soon as I got it I was in awe of how thoughtful the gift was, and loved the whole meaning behind it. It made me appreciate what an amazing community we have at KPC, and what a loving family we have created. It was such a sincere act of kindness, I'm so grateful that I am able to have a piece of KPC out in Halifax with me as I go through my University years."



Angie Chia Baxter

The blanket was given to me exactly when I needed it the most. I was really struggling in a none-Christian residence situation, and was feeling quite lonely. Not only did the blanket remind me that I have an amazing church family supporting me at home, but it also made me realize that moving back home to a loving, uplifting, and supportive family would be ideal for my success. The beautiful afghan lies on my bed and keeps me warm every night, reminding me of how lucky I am to have such an amazing community supporting me.



Kiera Seguin

Thank you very much for the time and effort into the blanket. It is beautiful and comes in handy when I need to snuggle up and study. Whenever it's used it brings happiness knowing that I will always have a family at KPC who care about me and loves me. Thanks again.



Athena Dunk

My blanket means so much to me, it is a reminder of the love and support that my church family at Kortright has for me.



Charlotte Brown

A GIFT FROM THE HEART

Christmas at the Duhamel Family 1920-1940

My Dad was the youngest of 15 children. His family lived somewhere by a set of train tracks in St. Hyacinth, Quebec.

Each Christmas my Grandmaman (Grandmother) would tell the children to invite the homeless, hanging around the train tracks, to come in for a meal. She didn't separate them when they came into the house. All around the table was a Duhamel, homeless, Duhamel, homeless... Whatever food was on the table everyone got to eat of its goodies. (She didn't just do this at Christmas – but several times during the year when able)

My Uncle Real told me that his Mom would put on a fantastic spread of food on the table. Roast Beef, Ham, Turkey and all the trimmings etc.

I learned this story at my Dad's funeral in Montreal, September, 1996.

While growing up, I remembered my Dad begging my Mom to just feed one person who can't give back. Just once I remember Mom finally agreed, Dad went to find someone and then brought him back to our place. My Mom fed him alone at the table with my Dad present. Dad kept the person company and then after the meal the person would leave. Then our family had our Christmas Dinner. Dad had a good heart!

I wish I could have been sitting at the Duhamel's Family Christmas Dinner each year. I would've have loved it.

I try to at least feed people in my building that can't repay me, with my Dad always on my heart!

(Special Note: Whenever the Duhamel Family went away – homeless people protected the home. No one ever broke in to their house)



The Duhamel Family
Guy Alphonse Duhamel (Father)
(Front Row, smallest boy)



Helen Duhamel
Writer

CHRISTMAS TREE TRADITION

We have a tradition in our family of going to cut a Christmas Tree every year.

I remember cutting a tree when I was a child and Dennis and I started doing the same the year we had our first daughter, Erin, and with Denise and Brian have looked forward to tree cutting for 43 years missing only one or two!

It's been a new adventure every year from towing the three kids as babies on sleighs through the snow, to going when they were teenagers and having lots of snowball fights and laughs!

The challenge of finding the 'perfect' tree was enjoyed by all of us and everyone always knew Mom would be the one to make us stay out there for way too long searching for just the RIGHT evergreen tree, and then with great 'relief', finally cutting it down and dragging it through the field or woods to the car! We have travelled north, south, east and west to find our trees over the years, just depending on where they were available or how the weather would be. Friends of ours owned a Christmas Tree Farm at one time while living in Hillsburgh for 13 years which made it a bit closer to home.

Through recent years we have enjoyed the blessing of sharing this tradition with our daughters' husbands, grandchildren and various friends our son Brian has brought along too! We found a place in Rockwood several years ago that takes a family picture each year that we visit and purchase our tree. When we return the following year they have a photo album where we look up our family picture and they give us the copies of last year's family photo to keep as a memory of a great fun family time together! This is a great way to connect and have some fun before things get really busy during the Christmas season!



Marlene Mortley
Writer