



Trinity Dove

Nov. 22, 2009 + Reign of Christ + Faithful Journey III
Trinity Evangelical Lutheran Church

André Lavergne and Anne Anderson, Pastors
Lori Arnott, President + Syd Hills, Pastoral Assistant
Gywin Murray, Director of Music + Lori Endress, Missionary in Thailand
23 Church Street + New Hamburg + Ontario + N3A 1J1
Phone (519) 662-1810 + Fax 662-4713 + Web www.telc.ca + E-mail mail@telc.ca

+ Sabbaths & Celebrations

Sunday, November 22 ~ Reign of Christ

Trinity's 175th Anniversary Celebration

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am with Bishop Michael Pryse preaching (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- + Community Brunch at 11 am
- + Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Sunday, November 29 ~ Advent 1

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- + Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- + Nurturing Faith: Adults at 10:45 am - My life; My times. Our world; Our mission (Pr. Vern Cronmiller)
- + Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm
- + Advent Choir Service at Steinmann's at 7 pm

Sunday, December 6 ~ Advent 2

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- + Nurturing Faith: Faith Adventures at 10:45 am
- + Nurturing Faith: Adults at 10:45 am - My life; My times. Our world; Our mission (Pr. Paul Bosch)
- + Sanctuary Worship at 5 pm

Sunday, December 13 ~ Advent 3

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- + Nurturing Faith: Adults at 10:45 am - My life; My times. Our world; Our mission (Pr. Syd Hills)
- + F/A Christmas Program rehearsal at 10:45 am

Sunday, December 20 ~ Advent 4

- + Anchor Worship with celebration of Advent-Christmas church music at 9:30 am. Parish update, 9:20 am
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am
- + Faith Adventures Christmas Program at 11 am

Wednesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

- + Holy Communion with Affirmation Singers at 7 pm
- + Lights, Readings & Carols with Trinity Choir at 11 pm

Sunday, December 27 ~ Christmas 1

- + Anchor Worship at 9:30 am (Parish update, 9:20 am)
- + Community Fellowship at 10:30 am

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✦ Pastor André ~ Faithful Journey III

Grace and peace to you.

The image of “the journey” has been front and centre in my imagination of late.

There's the journey of marriage fearfully and wonderfully begun again; the unpredictable journeys of childhood and parenthood; the mysterious journey of illness and the search for health and wholeness; and, of course, the journey of the people of Trinity begun 175 years ago in the birth and baptism of Jacob Seyler. All of us share at least one of these journeys. Many of us share a number of them.

When I was ordained, a lifetime ago, I was given to thinking of my parish as a community of like-minded people; people who more or less *believed* the same things and therefore approached life in more or less the same way. Shared *belief* was the operative reality. A lifetime later, and the tread worn unevenly thin on my shoes, and now on my walking stick, and I think —no, I *know*— I was a little naive.

It's the journey we share. People believe all sorts of things. God's people. Christian people. Lutheran people. The people of Trinity. We believe all sorts of things. And our beliefs change. They shift with time. Some become more intense or concrete. Some are relinquished even as new ones are entertained. What binds us together, however, is not so much *what* we believe at any given time, but rather, that we be willing to journey together *whatever* we believe.

For the last couple of weeks, I've been looking at photographs —some 3,000 of them. About 80 were needed for the front section of Trinity's new parish album. Many of the pictures showed people at worship: singing, reading, praying, listening, not-listening, moving, waiting, standing, sitting, crawling... Often times, I would contemplate what might have been going through their minds. The sermon? Possibly. Something from the Scriptures? Maybe. A line from a hymn? Perhaps.

In most cases, though, I imagined a little bit of the world which attached itself to the person in the picture: the death of a partner; a son's graduation; a daughter's new friend; feelings stirred by a familiar melody or phrase; test results; what to make for supper; work... In addition to our beliefs, we bring all sorts of experiences and realities to worship and to the living of our lives in community. What we share, in *small* part, are the particulars of the journey. What we share in *large* part is the journey itself.

Perhaps you've noticed. When you read through the Gospels, the thing which ties the bits and pieces together is a *journey*. Sometimes it's a very plain, feet-to-the-ground or boat-in-the-water kind of journey: Jesus was away, then he came here and now he's leaving for over there. Sometimes, it's a different sort of journey, more thematic: a journey toward the cross, for example, as in the Gospel of John. Most often, though, it's a *faithful* journey toward some new depth of reality: a journey toward greater compassion, a more gracious respect for God's world or a new or renewed commitment to love God's people. But make no mistake: the journey's the thing!



As this issue of TRINITY DOVE hits the streets, we'll be at the front end of many months of celebration: the 175-years-long faithful journey of God's people at Trinity. What will distinguish our journey together, from any other, is the striving, ever and always, for our journey to be a *faithful* journey: a journey marked by God's abiding presence; a journey shared with Jesus; a journey lived, as best we are able, as he would have us live: with compassion, grace and love.

For my part, I continue to look forward to our journey *together*, 'cause that's the other thing. A *faithful* journey, is *faithful* only insofar as it is *shared*. Shared with God. Shared with Jesus. Shared with God's people.

Thank you for your companionship in Trinity's wonderful faithful journey. And thank you for your compassion, your grace and your love.

All blessings.

✦ *andré lavergne*

✦ Nurturing Faith: Adults

My life; my times. Our world; our mission.

This series offers a number of retired pastors an opportunity to reflect on their ministry and the continuing mission of the church. We'll break on November 22 to celebrate our anniversary with Bishop Michael Pryse, and then over Christmas for a number of other obligations.

- November 8 - Pastor Eric Reble
- November 15 - Bishop Bill Huras
- November 29 - Pastor Vern Cronmiller
- December 6 - Pastor Paul Bosch, CWA
- December 13 - Pastor Syd Hills
- January 17 - Pastor Dr. Harold Remus

✦ *andré lavergne & friends*

+ Sacraments & Seasons

Birth

We extend best wishes to Mike & Melanie Eichler upon the November 11 birth of Reid Michael.

Baptisms

On Sunday, October 18, we celebrated the baptisms of Owen Davis Bowslaugh, son of Allen Bowslaugh & Katie Schwartz; Owen Robert Cape, son of Amy (Bender) and Brendan Cape; and Amber Brooke DeRuiter, daughter of Corrie (Baker) & Pete DeRuiter. Welcome, all!

Confirmations

We rejoice at the October 25 witness, and November 1 confirmations, of Megan Clarke, Kirsten Danner, Mykaela Erb, Alexander Hiuser, Ian McCurdy, Nathan Riedel and Morgan Schaaf.

December Birthdays

1 - Scott Leu, Brandon Morrison; **2** - Wendy Chapman, Kathy Bingeman; **3** - Wendy Schwartz, Carol Ann Weichel, Alexander Buehlow, Madison Yost, Tanner Snyder, Sara Rundstedler; **6** - Brendan McCutchen, Brandon Stewart; **7** - Susan Rogers, Ruby Farr; **9** - Chantelle Junker, Emma Wiechers; **10** - Kathy Bender, Eric Noseworthy, Paige Gingerich, Nate Anderson; **11** - Krystalyn Johnston, Jordan Steinman, Tia DeRuiter, Hawkins Becker; **12** - Doris Weicker, Tony Beavis, Kathy Scheerer, Murray Ludington, Brad Becker, Trevor Deckert, Stephanie Martin, Kaden Eichler; **13** - Carl Hallberg, Ron Schaaf, Wally Mueller, Doug Hammer, Crista Coughlin, Stephanie May, Kendra Danner, Meghan Dale; **14** - Doris Doering, Ross Eichler, Susan Danner; **15** - Heather Kienapple; **16** - Lotus Hammer, Kimberley Murray, Greg Steinberg, Christianne Mann, Mason Runstedler, Ryleigh O'Brien; **17** - Betty Minnie, Earl Nickolas, Bruce Jantzi, Marcus Scheid; **18** - Lorraine Zoeller, John Hillar, Travis Deckert, Joshua Otto, Zachary Becker; **19** - Betty Ritz, Ken Barnes, Brenda McCutchen, Rachel Gueguen; **20** - Kaye Pauli, Megan Clarke; **21** - Catherine Deckert; **22** - Grace Nauman, Tracey Erb, Sherri Keller, Andrew Hatchwell; **23** - Greta Mello, Holly McCurdy, Charlotte Speers, Kristal Preidt; **24** - Holly Koehler; **25** - Kay Hofstetter; **26** - Florence Sebert, Sheila Zoeller, Joe Ziegler, Katie Murray; **27** - Roger Lindner, Shannon Snyder, Lucas Haffner, Shayne Grebinski; **28** - Jean Schaaf; **30** - John Parsons, Kylie Becker, Alyson Lockie, Tricia Hammer; **31** - Jennifer Barnes, Sydney Ferguson. Happy birthday, friends!

December Anniversaries

7 - Ron & Terralene Johnston; **23** - August & Margot Popp; **28** - Joyce & Lyle Roth; **29** - Dee & Kitch Radke; **31** - Anita & John Hanson, Ann & James Patton, André & Barbara Lavergne. Happy anniversary, friends.

Congratulations, friends!

+ jill merner

+ Faith in Film V

Based on a True Story is the theme for this Monday evening Faith in Film V series hosted by Sherry Coman.

Showtime is 6 pm. Bring a brown-bag supper. Info: sherry.coman@gmail.com.

- November 16 - *The Mission* (1986, Roland Joffe) Jesuits seek to protect local community in South America.
- November 23 - *A World Apart* (1998, Chris Menges) A 13 year old girl in South Africa copes with the arrest of her anti-apartheid journalist mother.
- November 30 - *Amadeus* (1984, Milos Forman) A court composer lives out his jealous desire to avenge the gifts of Mozart.

+ sherry coman

+ "We Care" Christmas Bags

Have you seen the bright yellow "We Care" bags at church? This is an initiative originally undertaken by Trinity's Nurturing Faith folks. We're encouraging people to take a bag home and fill it according to the list provided. The bags will be sent out through Canadian Lutheran World Relief to children all over the world who are in need. We give in the spirit of Christmas knowing that the bags will go to children regardless of their faith or culture of origin.

Please consider taking a bag as part of your family's Advent ministry. Simply fill it and return it to the church as soon as possible. A contribution of \$5 (cheque made out to Trinity in an envelope marked "CLWR") should accompany each bag to cover shipping. Join us in making our faith real in the global community!

Need a terrific Christmas gift idea? How about a garden? Or a granary? What about a goat? Take a look at the enclosed *Gifts from the Heart* leaflet.

+ anne anderson



✚ Sabbath Blessing

We are grateful to Molly Wolff for her kindness in making the gentle voice of Sabbath Blessings available to us.

*Note 1: In this lovely piece, we are introduced to Penelope and Telemachus. Telemachus (Greek: "far-away fighter") is a figure in Greek mythology, the son of Odysseus and Penelope, and a central character in Homer's *Odyssey*.*

Note 2: Richard Hooker (1554-1600) was an Anglican priest and theologian. His emphasis on reason and tradition, in addition to the Scriptures, considerably influenced the development of Anglican thought. Today, many add experience.

Penelope

Telemachus didn't tell his mother what he was planning. Instead, he borrowed a friend's ship, stocked it in secret, and rowed off without a word to her in order to search the world for his father. His mother, when she learned of this, was distraught. She'd spent twenty years as a single parent, raising her son, looking after his interests, managing their properties, fending off predatory suitors, and mourning her absent lord. And now she gets this treatment? She also has the legitimate worry that he might get himself killed. He hasn't seen much of the world; can she trust his judgment? I don't think I saw how accurate a real-life portrait this was until the last couple of weeks.

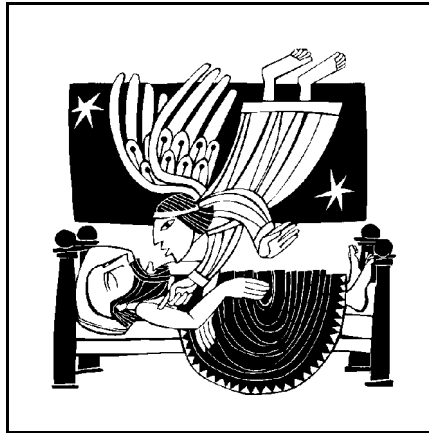
Nobody warns you about adult kids. You only find out about the problem when you fall over it, usually ungracefully and without the least preparation. I won't get into the details, but I've done such a morris dance of late, not quite blowing it but coming pretty close. I just didn't know how fast the rules of engagement can change and in such unexpected directions, how doors slam shut and boundaries shift like the staircases at Hogwarts Castle. It's unnerving.

The good news is (a) I developed much greater compassion for my own late mother; and (b) I did an awful lot of talking to other parents who've gone through this experience and have emerged with a significantly broadened understanding and some self-compassion, always useful for parents apt to beat themselves up, which is most of us. Just as I didn't understand infant abuse until I had an infant, I now understand how prickly and crazy-making the adult-to-parent relationship can be — but now I understand it from the other side.

Which gave me to think about God, always a fruitful direction to take things.

God-as-parent changes so much through the course of Scripture: from the One Who Creates, to the One Who Imposes Consequences, to the one who's driven nearly crazy by our childish (not in a good way!) behaviour, to the one who covenants with us... I could go on and on. But the God of the Old Testament is never disengaged. He is a hands-on parent, guiding, directing, and sometimes administering a slap upside the head

The God of the New Testament, however, we experience through Jesus, not directly (if I recall correctly, and if I don't, no doubt someone will correct me). The God of the New Testament has given us an adult child with whom God is in full and perfect agreement, and whom God wants us to follow.



Doesn't this represent an important shift? It's not that God has distanced Himself from us; it's as though we've passed through some sort of process whereby we need a new relationship with God, one that presumes that our job is to become grownups instead of just keeping the house rules. Not that keeping the house rules isn't a Good Thing, and not that God doesn't regard the children with extraordinary

tenderness, but both parties to the relationship have shifted their ground.

We want to *understand* (at least if we're Anglicans!), to struggle first towards a sort of independence from over-simplicity that may very well lead us into confusion, even darkness. We want to go off traveling, like Telemachus, in search of our own mature understanding. And this may very well feel like God's becoming more distant, when in fact God is simply being patient, giving us plenty of space, and letting us get on with it.

It's hard to do, as a parent, because it represents such a radical shift from the care-giving we've done for twenty years and more. We may understand its necessity while still fearing and grieving (and a bit resenting) as Penelope did. Telemachus had no time for how his mother felt. He couldn't afford that, because it would have paralyzed him.

And God is wiser than Penelope, or our own parents, or ourselves with our adult children: God freely and lovingly grants space and freedom and time, in trust that the child will make his or her own way and in time find the right place to be.

It's hard though. God knows how it all turns out, which the rest of us don't. Penelope, move over.

✚ molly wolff

+ Trinity Church: Partner for Life

Did you know that 1 out of 2 Canadians can give blood?
Did you know that about 1 in 60 actually do?

And did you know that approximately every minute of every day, someone in Canada needs blood and that some 52 per cent of Canadians say that they, or a family member, have needed blood or blood products for surgery or for medical treatment?

The good news is that one blood donation—in just one hour—can save up to three lives. Now, Trinity Church and Canadian Blood Services are partnering together to save some of those lives. Trinity Lutheran Church has joined the *Partners for Life* program of Canadian Blood Services.

With the commitment of Trinity members and our families and friends to donate blood, we will be able to increase the blood collections at New Hamburg blood donor clinics and ultimately help meet the increased demand for blood in our hospitals. There's a member registration form in your family's Faithful Journey stewardship kit. Simply fill in the form and get it in to the church. Ken Seltzer, Trinity's *Partners for Life* program champion, will collect the information and pass it along to Canadian Blood Services.

Recently, Bill Ritz, Jake Ritz, Bob Anger, Mim Miller, Tim Sheerer, Debbie Linseman and Blake Edwards all signed up to participate in the *Partners for Life* program. Terrific! What about you?

You can attend a clinic anywhere and anyone in your community of family or friends can partner with Trinity. Our partner ID is TRIN010646. If they put that on their application form or mention it when they give blood, that will simplify things greatly. (We received this number after our Faithful Journey Stewardship Kits went out.)

As it happens, Trinity will host the next local clinic—our annual Christmas Clinic—on Monday, December 28, from 1:30 to 7:30 pm, at Waterloo-Oxford. You may call 1.888.2DONATE. Care to volunteer? Contact Ken Seltzer at kseltzer@netflash.net or 519.662-2432.

Please consider filling in the member registration from your family's Faithful Journey Stewardship kit and come out to the Christmas clinic on Monday, December 28. Join us in making our faith real in the local community!

✚ *andré lavergne*

+ Stewardship Task Group Update

Cottage Meetings

As this issue of TRINITY DOVE goes to press, we have completed the training of our cottage meeting presenters and the cottage meetings themselves have begun to unfold across the parish. Families which were unable to participate in a meeting are receiving a copy of the Faithful Journey Stewardship Kit by mail or by hand.



People have many different opportunities to respond whether by accepting our invitation to ministry, by joining the *Partners for Life* program (see elsewhere this page), by making a financial commitment, by joining PAR or saying "thank you." Complete details are carried in your copy of Trinity's Faithful Journey Stewardship Kit. Of course, the Kit is also available on-line. Simply visit Trinity's website at www.telc.ca.

Partners for Life

We've added a *Partners for Life* application form to our Faithful Journey Stewardship Kit. This will allow Trinity members, family and friends an opportunity to band together to serve the wider community by giving the gift of life and to support the great work of Canadian Blood Services.

✚ *rick ritz*

+ Anniversary Task Group Update

Look for some interesting surprises at our November 22 Anniversary celebrations. We gather for worship with Bishop Pryse at 9:30 am and for lunch, sponsored by Trinity's TYGers and hosted by our ELW and friends, at about 11 am.

Call or e-mail Pat Schmetzer re numbers for lunch at 519.634-8232 / pat.schmetzer@sympatico.ca. There's always room for one more!

✚ *larry gravill*

+ Mitten Tree to Bloom

The First Sunday in Advent falls on November 29, this year. Knitters... It's time to do your lovely work! Have any spare yarn? Get it in... We'll put it to work!

✚ *andré lavergne*

+ Tintinnabulations

November 29 ~ Advent Choir Service

Gather at Steinmann Mennonite at 7 pm.

December 1 ~ Prayer Circle Update

Shirley Unrau & the pastors meet, 9:30 am, one week later than usual.

December 2 ~ Congregate Dining

Gather, 11:30 am, at Zion United. Details: 519.749-0784.

December 7 ~ ELW

Gathers, 12:30 pm. Info: Pat Schmetzer, 519.634-8232.

December 10 ~ DOVE Prep Team

TRINITYDOVE Prep. Team gathers, 9 am for this week-early Christmas edition.

December 13 ~ CCC Breakfast

Come to Trinity Hall, 8-11 am, for a great breakfast sponsored by Trinity & the Optimists. Community Care Concepts benefits. Tickets: \$5/adults, \$3.75/kids; \$15/family. Neil Klaassen, 662-1641, has tickets.

December 14 ~ ELW Cookie Plates Prepared

The ELW prepares cookie plates at 9:30 am. Additional bakers needed and welcome! Contact Pat Schmetzer (519.634-8232) for information.

December 14 ~ Trees Down/Up

Advent Mitten Tree comes down; Christmas tree goes up. Decoration at 7 pm.

December 15 ~ Hampers Prepared

The Priscillas prepare Christmas Hampers at 9 am. You may assist by participating in the gifts program, giving to the mitten tree or by making an offering to "hampers."

December 15 ~ Gentle Friends

Gentle Friends Readers gather, 7:30 pm, in Trinity Hall. October's pick: Mr. Pip by Lloyd Jones. Information: Kathryn Ritz, 519.662-2960.

December 28 ~ Blood Donor Clinic

Hosted by Trinity Church at Waterloo-Oxford, 1:30 - 7:30 pm. Call 1.888.2-donate! Ken Seltzer, 519.662-2432, is looking for a number of volunteers to assist.

First & Third Mondays, 8 pm ~ CLEAN

CLEAN meets in the M. Luther Room. Holidays excepted.

Tuesdays, 6:45 pm ~ TOPS

TOPS —Taking Off Pounds Sensibly— M. Luther Room.

Saturdays, 8 pm ~ A/A

A/A open meeting in Trinity Hall.

+ *andré lavergne & jill merner*



+ October 21 Council News

Every month, Council sends a number of thank-you notes to people named in the pastors' report. This month, we thanked the Clarkes for providing food for our

Affirmation youth; Bishop Pryse for his recent pastoral care; Dave Mello for his photography; the Trinity Quilters for their support of our seminarians and others who are warmed by their actions.

- Budget preparations are underway following the process adopted last month. Rick Ritz welcomes input with respect to any aspect of our work.

- Pastor Lavergne has been gradually returning to work. He is already busy with parish administration (new Album, DOVE, Rota...) and some pastoral care.

- Our Anniversary and Stewardship Task Groups report that preparations are well in-hand and that their projects are unfolding nicely. We hear from Pat Schmetzer, for example, that the TYGers will supply the food for our anniversary Sunday, while our ELW, Priscillas, men of the church and friends are joining forces to help prepare, set-up and take-down to make the day a success.

- Council acknowledged the recent resignations of Jes O'Donogue and Jo Knackstedt. Following some fruitful conversation, Council elected to invite a number of people to serve with Council until February. (Each could be elected in his/her own right at that time were they interested.) Jackie Currah, Larry Gravill and Heidi Ziegler have each accepted this interim appointment and will bring important gifts to the Council table.

+ *lori arnott, krista durrer et al*

+ Finances to October 31, 2009

	General Fund	Capital Fund	Transfers
Income	\$ 200,988	\$ 12,158	\$ 18,743
Outgo	204,979	-	16,843
Balance	(\$ 3,992)	\$ -	\$ 1,900

Our modest General Fund deficit reflects an insurance payment and increased utility costs.

A broad slate of capital work at the parsonages, with a focus on energy conservation and stewardship, will come to Council in November. We hope to complete this work by year's end.

Please review your recent offering statement as you make your responses to the various aspects of this year's Faithful Journey stewardship program. Faithful Journey materials were distributed at cottage meetings or mailed out to some families and are available on Trinity's website.

✝ *bob ruthig & andré lavergne*

+ Some Words of Thanks

St. George's Bazaar

We extend a word of thanks to Dee Radke —It was her suggestion!— and to the many people who supplied baking and more for the St. George's Bazaar. Great community spirit; great community witness!

Stewardship Kits, Offering Envelope Sets

We are grateful to Ray & Jill Merner and to Ken and Judie Seltzer for assembling the Faithful Journey Stewardship Kits and for getting the 2010 Offering Envelope Sets out.

✝ *andré lavergne*

+ Endowment Fund Ideas?

In 2009, our Trinity Endowment Fund supported Lori Endress in Thailand, helped the Wilmot Family Resource Centre and Interfaith Counselling, provided for *Affirmation! Camping* and much more. We are now making plans for 2010. As always, we welcome feedback and suggestions. Please speak to Pastor André or Pastor Anne.

✝ *andré lavergne*

+ Nurturing Faith - Faith Adventures

Christmas Program

Our Faith Adventures kids are leading us into Christmas. We'll rehearse November 29 & December 6/13 and present the Christmas story after Anchor worship on December 20. Come and be a part of a great tradition. This year Tara Otto and Emma and Caroline Wiechers are directing. Every child can participate!

Still haven't Sparked?

If you are between age 3 and grade 6 please be sure to get a Spark Bible from Pastor Anne or Faith Adventures staff.

Affirmation Ministry Update

Grade 5 & 6 Affirmation children gather Friday, December 4, 9 am - 3 pm.

Grade 7 & 8 Affirmation youth gather for four Saturday sessions. Look for full days of activities (9 am - 3 pm) including lunch. Mark your calendars for January 16, February 6, March 6 and April 17.

✝ *anne anderson & friends*



+ TYGers

Saturday November 28, 6-8 pm - **Killer Bunnies**. Curious? Join us for a crazy game and after a round or two you'll be hooked. Meet in the Storytelling room.

Friday, December 4, 6 pm through Saturday, December 5, 10 am - **24 Hour Famine / Hunger Inter-Mission**. (Note the new date!) We will join St. James, New Dundee, for hunger awareness and to raise funds for CLWR. A sleep-over with movies, games and more will unfold at St. James. Sign-up today and get your forms from Pastor Anne.

Friday, December 11, 6-8 pm - **Babysitting for Shopping Parents**. Come and support our families as they drop off kids and get a little Christmas shopping done. Get some volunteer hours in. Sign-up in the Narthex.

December 19, 6-10 pm - **Christmas Caroling, Hot Chocolate & Movie**. It's become a tradition! Join us for a great evening and get in the spirit! Sign up in the narthex.

Want to connect with Pastor Anne? Call the church 519.662-1810 or catch her via email at anderson@telc.ca or on Facebook at TYGers New Hamburg.

✝ *anne anderson*