



**Carlisle  
United  
Church**

# Newsletter



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**Winter 2018**

## The Road to Christmas

When I was a child, Christmas meant lights up on the roof, stockings on the mantel and my mother making gingerbread houses. We watched "It's a Wonderful Life", Rudolph and Charlie Brown. There were presents under the tree, dinner with my father's family and a Boxing Day potluck with my mother's side. Tradition was a big thing. My dad had to watch "A Christmas Carol" to see Scrooge turn over a new leaf, while wrapping presents every year. Roast turkey gave way to sandwiches for a week, my favourite. Each kid got a new ornament every year to add to the tree. My grandmother always got us sweaters from the Hudson's Bay Company, I have no idea why, but we had to wear them when she visited.

Once I joined the Church in high school, Christmas meant performing in skits at the family services early in the evening, and singing in the choir at the candlelight communion. There was the Christmas Cantata, and singing carols in the street. Youth group hot chocolate and helping out in the coat room at the school dance. As an adult, it meant standing out in the cold to watch the parade, because my children find it fun. Wrapping presents and putting up the tree, doing the shopping, cooking the turkey, trying to figure out how Nana did sweet potatoes just right.

The thing all those moments have in common is celebration. There is a joy in Christmas, as we reflect on all that we have been given, and on how blessed it is to give to others, to gift joy to those we love and care about. I have much to be grateful for -- two church communities, a wonderful home, a great family, the chance to

work and learn within the Church.

But the thing that I have learned on this journey is that the season isn't really about just celebrating. Christmas is not just an affirmation of the love God has for us, but also a challenge to see how much we love in return. It is a reminder that the Prince of Peace was born in a manger because there was no room in anyone's home. Choirs of angels celebrated Jesus' birth, but they also had to warn Joseph in his dreams. His parents were poor, and had to flee from King Herod to Egypt. The couple knew the child represented hope, peace, joy and love, but they had to work hard to protect the baby Jesus and keep that hope alive.

So yes, we need to take a moment to be grateful and feel blessed. God so loved the world that the Son was given, so whoever followed Him might have eternal life. In our warm homes, with bright lights and roast turkeys, we need to remember not just to celebrate how much we have been given. We also need to remember the hope we have in Jesus Christ, the promise of ages, and let our lives reflect the promise of that love to others.

For there are still the poor and the endangered and the exiled. They, too, are loved by the God who loves us. From those to whom much has been given, much is required - so the Bible says. In other words, if we have been blessed, it is so that we can use those blessings to love others, and bring light to those still out in the cold and in the dark. We are to be messengers of hope, who inspire faith by how much we love. Joy to the world, the Lord is come! Let earth receive her King. Have we enough room? I pray we do. Amen.

*Gavin Williams*

## Steel City Rovers in Concert

The great local musical group Steel City Rovers will present "Winter Tidings" on **Sunday December 2** at 7 pm in Carlisle United Church.

This special event will be a Celtic Christmas concert, presented with vocals and a variety of instruments (Scottish small pipes, fiddle, guitars and accordion). Your family and friends will enjoy this heartwarming seasonal experience. Please consider giving tickets as a welcome Christmas gift for those who "have everything".

Tickets: \$20 or 2 for \$35, Kids 12 and under free. Tickets are available from the Church at 905-689-8630 or at the door.

More information and music samples at <https://www.steelcityrovers.com/home>



## Messy Church – Upcoming Dates and Themes

Alternative worship for busy families

- **January 23** – What is a Prophet?
- **February 20** – Let My People Go
- **March 20** – Creation Theme
- **April 17** – Easter

Time: 5 to 7 pm. Dinner included. Register on the church website or by calling the church office at 905-689-8630.

## Artisan and Vendor Sale

The Carlisle United Church Artisan and Vendor Sale will be held on **Saturday November 24** from 10 am to 3 pm. We have some of the same great vendors this year, as well as some new faces. These are just some of the products offered for purchase:

- ♥ woodworking ♥ jewellery ♥ soap ♥
- ♥ knitting and crocheted items ♥ cards ♥
- ♥ hot sauce ♥ quilted runners ♥ baking ♥
- ♥ Christmas decorations ♥ coasters ♥
- ♥ calendars ♥ Canadian author books ♥
- ♥ Voxx soles ♥ Pampered Chef articles ♥
- ♥ stained glass ♥ clothing ♥ blankets ♥ jam
- ♥ bags ♥ Doterra oils ♥ sparklers ♥
- ♥ Norwex cleaning products ♥ wreaths ♥
- ♥ lavender products ♥ and other crafts ♥

Please come out and support our local artisans, and get a head start on your Christmas shopping! All monies from the rental of tables go to our church.

## Prayer Circles

All are invited to gather in the Parlour for prayer in support of one another, our church family and those who are in need due to illness, bereavement or other concerns. Prayer Circles are held the second Monday of every month at 12:45 pm. Upcoming dates: **January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8.**

## Mitten Tree

The Mitten Tree is now up in the Sanctuary and is awaiting your warm response! The Mitten Tree is an annual outreach that welcomes your donations of mitts, scarves, toques and socks for clients of Wesley Urban Ministries.

Please drop off donations in the next few weeks, as the items will be given out at the Wesley Christmas Store in December.



## Wesley Christmas Store

Volunteers are needed to help organize stock and serve customers in the Wesley Christmas Store. Carlisle United Church's day to volunteer this year is **Wednesday December 19**. Volunteers usually work the morning shift, but the need is even greater in the afternoon so if you are able to stay all day that would be most welcome. Please let Lynn Gladstone know if you can assist in this very worthwhile and rewarding outreach ([lynngladstone@rogers.com](mailto:lynngladstone@rogers.com)).

If people wish to volunteer time on a day other than December 19, they can contact Julia Zougas at [julia.zougas@wesley.ca](mailto:julia.zougas@wesley.ca).

The Christmas Store is also in need of donations. Last year, we observed a need for new and gently used coats (teen and adult sizes). There will be a box beside the Mitten Tree in the Sanctuary to collect anything that you are able to donate. We also ask you to look for deals on appliances (crock pots, toaster ovens, etc.) as these items are much appreciated. Any gift donation is gratefully accepted, as are gift cards for drug stores, etc.



*Lynn Gladstone*

## Finance Report

THANK YOU for your continued financial support to the Church and our outreach activities.

To the end of October, we have a deficit of approximately \$4,000. The deficit, however is less than last year at this time and results from expenses being much lower. Our Givings to date are \$68,300, which is approximately the same as last year. This represents 68% of the total 2018 budget of \$102,000. To achieve our Givings Budget, we need donations of \$10,000

in November and \$23,700 in December. Please help us achieve this goal.

In addition to weekly envelope and monthly PAR Givings, donations can be made by credit card through the Church website or by credit card at the Church office.

Our Planned Gift Fund was used to pay for/invest in some significant church maintenance projects (\$27,000), including bathroom renos; replacing the side entrance doors and purchasing a defibrillator. Also, to date \$4,400 has been donated to other charities.

Reminder – to be eligible for a 2018 tax receipt, donations need to be received by the church no later than December 27, 2018.

*Barry Gilbert, Treasurer*

## Lighting the Road to Bethlehem: A Musical Christmas Celebration

All are welcome to attend this year's joint Christmas concert on **Sunday December 9** at 7 pm in the candlelit sanctuary of **St James United Church, Waterdown**. Although it seems as if the "bleak midwinter" has already arrived as "snow on snow" begins to appear, this evening of song and fellowship celebrates light coming into the dark world as we prepare for the birth of Christ in Bethlehem. Choral anthems, carols, and readings feature the joint forces of Carlisle, St James and West Plains United Churches, as well as guests and soloists. Donations for Wesley Urban Ministries and their Christmas and Holiday Store are gratefully accepted.

## Sunday Morning Carol Sing

Starting **December 2**, you are invited to join in a carol sing 10-15 minutes prior to each Sunday service in Advent. Feel free to come with a selection from *Voices United* or *More Voices* so we can be sure to sing your favourites this season!

## Message from the Board

O come, O come Emmanuel. Let us prepare a place for Christ in our lives, in our community, and in our world. A world that is unsettling and causes us to wonder about the future, about our place in the realm of wars, hunger and migrants looking for safety and peacefulness. How do we respond to the needs of so many? We can start by looking at our neighbourhood and our city. Wesley Urban Ministries responds to the struggles of so many: the person who is consumed by addiction, the youth who feels abandoned, the newcomer to Canada feeling overwhelmed and alone. Those are just some of the people Wesley is able to connect with and serve. The Christmas Store is an opportunity for us to provide food, gifts, or a monetary donation. We can make a difference. If you are able to help at the store, please contact Lynn Gladstone.

Preparations are being made for the coming of the Christmas Season. The ladies had a successful bazaar and the choir is practising their music for the traditional joint choir Carol and Reading Service with St. James and West Plains. Mark it on your calendar: **December 9** at 7 pm.

Are you task-oriented? Do you like to organize? The Steel City Rovers are putting on a concert on **December 2**. We need a lead person for this one event. The tickets are printed and available for purchase. Volunteers will be required for parking duties, tickets and refreshments.

The church cannot function without a church board. We are asking you to prayerfully discern if this might be a way you can contribute to the life and health of our church. The term is three years with an opportunity to serve two consecutive terms. The small number of board members has been a concern for some time. We can make our church stronger in its outreach and visioning with added members. Will you join?

May you and your families be blessed with the true Spirit of Christmas and may we seek justice, love mercy and walk humbly with our God.

*Marilyn Irish, Chair*

## In Memoriam



### **Eleanor Newell**

(October 17, 1942 - October 30, 2018)

Beloved wife of the late Jim, Eleanor was a loving mother and grandmother to daughter Sheila and son-in-law Doug Carroll, son Tom Newell, daughter-in-law Laleh and grandchildren Natasha and Nicholas Newell, and son Mike Newell, daughter-in-law Carrie and grandchildren Joshua and Avery Newell. Eleanor grew up in Millgrove and met Jim on the neighboring farm in Carlisle. She was passionate about her volunteer work at the Flamborough Food Bank and will be missed by everyone at Carlisle United Church, especially her team members on the Carlisle Festival organizing committee.



### **Pat Walker**

(October 9, 1922 - November 10, 2018)

Mary Patricia "Pat" (nee Bennett), beloved wife of the late Maurice (2009). Survived by her loving daughter Shawn Walker and son-in-law Ron Allen. Cherished grandmother of Trevor Hand and Jason Hand (Hayley), and great-grandmother of Ben and Emily Hand. Dear sister of Joy Watson. Known for her love of family, friends, euchre, Coronation Street and Toronto sports teams, Pat dedicated herself to the people she cared about with diligence. Our thoughts and prayers are with her family.

## Lay Supervision Team Report

This group meets with Gavin on a regular and casual basis. We give input on how the learning goals can be met at the Kilbride/Carlisle learning site.

As a learning site, we have the opportunity to “give back” to the church and support Gavin on his journey to ordination in ministry. With the revamping of the structure of the United Church of Canada, there will be some changes; however, our role will remain the same. We all continue to work together.

Our committee members (Andrea, Susan, Erin, Sean, Muriel, Mary and Frances) are looking to hear from you. We thank the congregation for providing us with comments as to how we can improve Gavin’s leadership excellence. An example: we heard that Gavin “speaks too fast”, so as a result Gavin has researched the steps he needs to take regarding speed of delivery, pauses in presentation and how to adequately communicate the message and to improve in this area. We are continually asking for both positive and negative feedback from both congregations.

To meet the learning goals previously outlined, Gavin is working with the church membership in a number of ways. Here are just a few:

1. Bible Study “Talkback Tuesdays” starting **November 20** for lunch at 11:45 am.

Do come out to support and learn together.

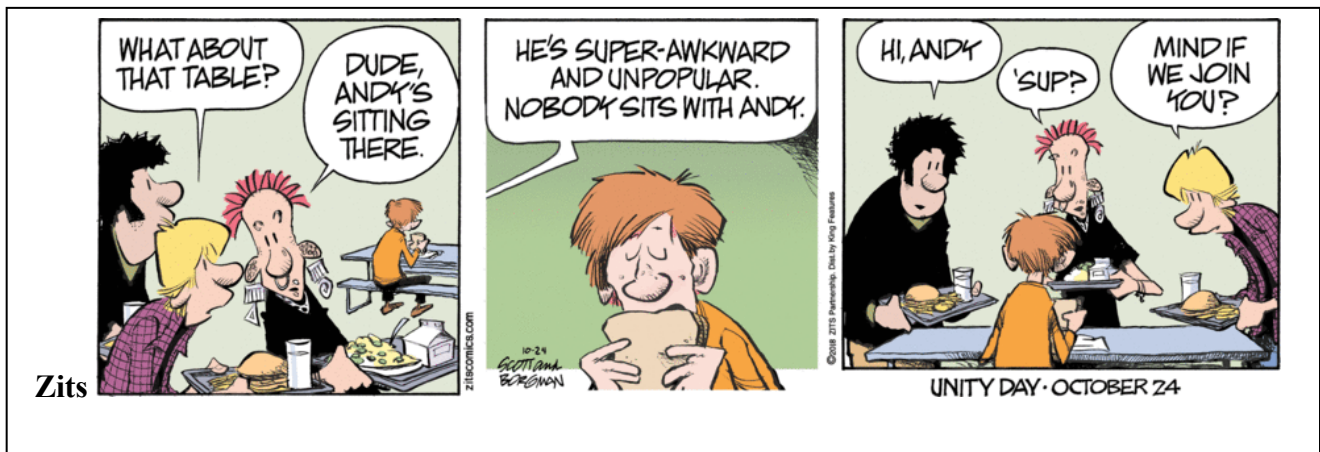
2. Conversation Time during Worship for the young and young at heart.
3. “Gavin’s Grapevine” on the website.
4. Posting some sermons on our website and perhaps on Facebook.
5. Working with “The Prayer Group” and developing visiting strategies.
6. Working to meet all learning styles.
7. Talking to and getting to know our community and membership.

The church needs to be inclusive, flexible, empowering and able to navigate under the leadership of a facilitator, our minister. During our group meetings we have a lot of great discussion and sharing of ideas. The group discussions led us to examine a comic strip titled “Between Friends” (shown below).

We concluded that as a church we are called to be welcoming, intentional, invitational, inclusive and to practise “Who will we invite today?” by face-to-face communication. Ideas to examine were “Stone Soup”, “The Alpha program”, “Carol Sing” and perhaps a Barn service. What would you like to see?

We thank you for your input and continue to ask “**How are we doing?**”

*Mary Gilbert*



## Bells of Peace

One Hundred Bells tolled on November 11 at dusk at Carlisle United Church. At the going down of the sun, communities across Canada marked the 100th anniversary of the end of the First World War with the ringing of 100 bells. The ringing of bells emulates the moment in 1918 when church bells across Europe tolled as four years of war had come to an end.

In the silence of the night air about 50 people stood in our cemetery to hear and witness our bell ring out. Canadian flags were also distributed for each person to place on a grave of a loved one who served or to place in the memorial garden at the side of the church, in Remembrance.

Stories were shared in the sanctuary, out of the cold, of family who served in war. Judi Partridge offered a word of thanks for all who came to participate and share in this service of remembrance.

Letters sent home by Marilyn Irish's great great uncle during the First World War at Vimy Ridge were read. The final letter was sent to inform the family of the supreme sacrifice of this brave soldier.

Fred Gray shared his memories of being a little boy in our sanctuary during the dedication of a



stained-glass window with many tears while remembering a family member who served. Erika Friesen shared her happiness of the end of the war as her father had returned home and therefore she is here today.

Marie Ireland had a touching story of her grandfather and other Canadians who had been taught needlepoint embroidery to help heal the wounds of PTSD and other scars of war. She highlighted a story about "an altar cloth featuring embroidery by First World War soldiers on display for the past four years at St. Paul's Cathedral in London, England" to celebrate the 100th anniversary of the end of the war, titled "Lest We Forget". The yellow tulip on the altar cloth was identified as having been embroidered by a veteran from Port Dover, Ontario. Marie also commented on a piece of embroidery which she has framed that her grandfather embroidered at that time. Here is the link to the story "Beauty Out of Pain": <https://www.cbc.ca/news/world/first-world-war-soldiers-altar-cloth-embroidery-1.4895370>

Thank You to all for your involvement, and attendance. A very touching tribute!

*Mary Gilbert*



*Photos courtesy of Larry Woodworth and Mary Gilbert*

## Fall Migrant Workers' Dinner

You did it again! Our farewell dinner for our migrant workers on Sunday 14 October was everything we had hoped and more, much more. With typical commitment, you filled up the food sign-up sheet almost as it left my hands and you responded to the need for donations and help with a generosity that filled me with a sense of admiration and humility.

The evening, although sunny, was not ideal for playing football. Instead, early arriving guests were able to enjoy photographs taken at our event in June, displayed on the sanctuary screen. Many thanks to Cathy Moulder and Andrea McRae for making this possible. Following Gavin's welcoming prayer, translated by Marcelino, Frances set the festive tone with a rousing message of welcome. The Mexican-themed food was a hit with all our guests and they proved it by eating every scrap. For the first time we had only leftover desserts and bread (courtesy of Cobb's bakery) for them to take back to their farms.

On this occasion we were blessed in having almost 80 very appreciative guests amongst whom were many first timers as well as old friends. We were again delighted to welcome special guest Jesús Florés, along with his wife and daughter. We learned that Jesús will soon be receiving digital prosthetic legs. He hopes to dance at our next event! Jesús played guitar and sang a few songs in Spanish as well as

accompanying another young singer. Without exception, all entered into the spirit of the games, even the Hokey-Pokey led by Frances. Lucky winners were overjoyed to receive grocery store gift cards, chocolate treats and other useful items all of which will make their reunion with their families extra special and all made possible by your thoughtful donations. The men were particularly appreciative of the nicely arranged clothing, shoes and suitcases. The baby clothing and suitcases were notably popular as many were expecting to be returning to their families in the coming days. This time there were no proposals of marriage to the cooks or requests to be adopted, only their simple "gracias" expressed repeatedly as they departed.

I have estimated that this was the twenty-fourth time our church has offered hospitality to our migrant workers, each one being a success story to celebrate. Although I have not been involved from the very beginning, I feel privileged to be part of a group of people who are capable of the tireless generosity of spirit and kindness that keeps this outreach energized and happening twice a year. To all of you who cooked, donated gift cards, money, prizes, clothing, suitcases, bags, who prepared, served, cleaned up, removed leftover clothing, translated, entertained, transported, visited farms with me, obtained and packaged bread, took photographs, etc., a sincere and heartfelt thanks.

*Catherine Swatten*



*Photos courtesy of Larry Woodworth. See more photos on the church website.*

## Talkback Tuesdays

On **November 20**, we launch “Talkback Tuesdays”, a time of discipleship and fellowship. Those are “churchy” terms for study and friendship. Over lunch we will be examining Bible stories and the meaning of faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century. We will explore how God speaks to us and how we can “talkback” in our lives, to engage in conversation and grow in the fullness of that relationship. It is an exciting opportunity to feed a genuine need for our “daily bread”, the Word of God in Bible Study, but also to go beyond the words on the page to how we can live out God’s Word.

The Bible is a collection of books from individuals and communities, reflecting their understandings of God. It contains history, letters, poems, songs, dramas, stories and news, without being any one genre. Its purpose is not to record history alone, or entertain alone, or educate alone. Rather, it is intended to reveal who God is to the world, and allow us a resource for seeing how God is still involved in our lives by comparison to the traditions and narratives and experiences of those who came before us. The Bible emphasizes in Joel and Acts that the Holy Spirit has been poured out on everyone – that all of us can share in the presence of God, if we seek it. In this way, all of us have access to “special revelation”, the opportunity to get to know God one on one. The Bible acts as a window into “general revelation”, a message for all people, by which we can understand when we are listening to God and when we are just serving ourselves. Those two revelations in dialogue with each other give a living conversation of faith.

So come “talkback” with us, engage with members of your community in discovering what God is saying to us in Carlisle-Kilbride, in our time, in our context, in our lives!

*Gavin*

## Mark Your Calendar



- **Mondays, January 14, February 11, March 11, April 8** – Prayer Circle, 12:45 pm
- **Tuesdays** – “Talkback Tuesdays”, faith in the 21<sup>st</sup> century, 11:45 am, lunch included
- **Saturdays, November 24, January 26, March 30** – Paper and bottle drive in the Church parking lot to support Carlisle Scouts, 9 am to noon
- **Saturday November 24** – Christmas Artisan and Vendor Sale, 10 am to 3 pm
- **Wednesday November 26** – Messy Church: Journey to Christmas, 5 pm
- **Sunday December 2** – Advent I, Hope
- **Sunday December 9** – Advent II, Peace
- **Sunday December 9** – “Lighting the Road to Bethlehem”, joint choir concert with St. James and West Plains, at St. James United Church in Waterdown, 7 pm
- **Sunday December 16** – Advent III, Joy
- **Wednesday December 19** – Volunteering at the Wesley Christmas Store
- **Sunday December 23** – Advent IV, Love
- **Monday December 24** – Family Christmas service, 4:30 pm, Candlelight Christmas service 10 pm
- **Sunday December 30** – (joint service Carlisle and Kilbride) 10 am in Carlisle
- **Wednesday January 23** – Messy Church: What Is A Prophet?, 5 pm
- **Sunday February 17** – Annual Congregation meeting after church
- **Wednesday February 20** – Messy Church: Let My People Go, 5 pm
- **Sunday February 24** – Baden Powell Sunday



## Christmas in the Country Bazaar & Other Things

The ladies of the UCW have (once again) put together a successful Bazaar that was held on November 10.

The Bazaar has many parts and our volunteers are essential. We had our student volunteers Ryan and Nolan to do the heavy lifting and move the frozen foods from freezer to table. They also did carry-out for our customers. Wolfgang and Murray set up and took down tables and chairs. Days and weeks before the bazaar, Donna, Janice, Mary, Shirley, Lynda and Judy made pies, cabbage rolls, tart and quiche shells. The same ladies, along with Carolyn, put on jar tops, price tags and whatever else that needed doing. The week before the Bazaar, the ladies and our helpers made the mincemeat and butter tarts, ham & cheese and broccoli & cheese quiches and filled bags with cookie mix, pancake mix and biscuit mixes. Two of the ladies, with help from their families, made the meat loaves. Everyone helped with the displays and did pre-bazaar shopping.

On Bazaar day, our volunteers in the Deli and Craft rooms were Lynda, Lois, Joan, Nan, Catherine, Mary, Linda, Sheila, Pat, Marie, Louise, Ann and Trudy. Every year Laurie takes care of the Silent Auction and Erin looks after the Penny Sale. Sean once again helped with both. Thanks for all the donations that made these tables possible. Country Kitchen help included Jane, Kathy, Debbie, Riley, Jennifer, Sophie, Pat and Shirley. Vickie made a soup for us. Our student volunteers and anyone left standing helped to pack up and put away.

This year the Deli layout changed, thanks to lots of help from the Food Bank workers. They emptied shelving and moved whatever they could to give us a more useable space. The new floor plan was great. Thanks again.

It takes quite a bit of time and planning to put on the Bazaar. Cakes and puddings were

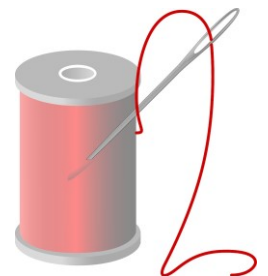
made and frozen in May and June. During the summer two of our members made most of the preserves, sweet and savory. All during the year, members worked at home sewing, knitting, crocheting all the many items we needed for the Craft room. All the hats, bowl cozies, quilts, cat toys and everything else was crafted by our members.

Hours later it's all over and we can breath again -- Well Done, Ladies.

At our next meeting we will plan for the Vendor Sale. Then we sort for the Wesley Store, Food Bank Christmas Store and other donations. The Ladies of the UCW are Secret Santa for a family of five children this year. Lots of shopping to do.

In December we will have our annual meeting to recap this year and plan for next. We also make our annual donations to various charities at this meeting.

Speaking of next year ~ Do you need/want yarn, fabric, trim or craft supplies? The UCW will be having a Huge Sale – probably in February or early March. We are still working on the format: something like “BUY A BAG FOR \$2 & FILL IT “. Get your patterns out. More about this later.



The members of the UCW are: Betty Alderson, Laretta Allen, Gale Bale, Donna Bartliff, Cynthia Bishop, Diana Cordingley, Helen Coverdale, Mary Currie, Erika Friesen, Evelyn Gable, Marilyn Gray, Betty Hughes, Sandy Jarrett, Janice McEdward, Judy Parkin, Shirley Roantree, Eleanor Scholey , Margriet Sinclair, Dien Steenbruggen, & Marilyn Watson.

Please Join us when you can - we believe in Fellowship & Fun. Wednesday mornings from 9 to 11.

THANKS LADIES!

*Judy Parkin*



*Two pictures from a recent Messy Church session: Gavin tells the Good News story, and the great young volunteers enjoy their dinners. Thanks to all who make this outreach work. (Photos courtesy of Janet Heeley)*



*Frances writes: "Otis and I moved to a pew closer to Heather. I needed to talk to her as soon as the Postlude was finished. Otis sat quietly waiting, moved forward and settled on Heather's foot and stayed there until the music ended. He is just like his owner—not much musical talent but really appreciates the classics." (Photo courtesy of Frances Quarrington)*