

# Church School

## A&P Pageant's 50th anniversary!



The Church School was very involved in preparations for Christmas throughout the months of November and December. Once again four of our families helped with the Advent Candle lighting each Sunday - special thanks to Ian and Hugh Edwards, and the Luckow, Cristofaro, and Beaulieu families.

A special thanks to the Oegema family for lighting the Christ Candle at the Family Christmas Eve Service.

Of course we were also very busy with one of our biggest events – the Annual Christmas Pageant! This being the 50th Anniversary of the Pageant, it was indeed a very special one! All of our Church School classes were represented this year – from Nursery through to High School and of course our Youth Group played an integral role in the planning and presentation. Throughout the choir rehearsals, casting, costume fittings, we began work on creating a roster of all the participants scanning 50 years. With the incredible devotion and hard work of The Rev. James Armour, a publication will be available shortly for all to enjoy!

After the Pageant, the Church School hosted a wonderful family dinner attended by over 220 people. It was a very special time of fellowship and fun after all the hard work done by so many! A time to share and make new friends, while viewing a slideshow of past and present Pageants, enjoying a sing-a-long led by David Christiani and of course the arrival of our favourite “pipe-playing” Santa. How blessed we are to have so many of our Congregation willing to share and help with the Pageant and Family Dinner – two enormous and important events at Christmas enjoyed by so many – young and old.

This year, we thought it would be a great idea to have the Pageant professionally filmed and once I have received permission slips from all our parents, it will be made available to everyone interested in having a copy.

We had a wonderful turnout for the Family Christmas Eve Service with numerous visiting children joining us to decorate the Christmas Tree as our Church School and Youth Group read the scriptures as well as the significance of the various decorations. What fun to watch the children’s glowing, happy faces as they added tinsel, angels, stars, hearts, shepherds staffs, and bells to the tree, each feeling they had a very important task to perform. Finally as the service ended, Kay Diviney invited everyone to sing “Happy Birthday” to Jesus and then enjoy some birthday cake!!

In January our senior classes participated in the Annual Youth Retreat held once again at Ville St. Martin, who always make us feel so welcome and accommodate us so kindly. I was told by the Administrator that we are one of their favourite groups! Our theme this year was “Welcoming our Refugees” and we enjoyed a very informative presentation by two young people from St. Columba by the Lake, who shared their experiences in the planning and welcoming of their refugee family from the Congo. On Saturday we were very pleased to welcome Brian and Lucinda who gave an update on the families we will be sponsoring and answered many of the questions the youth had about the sponsorship. Over the weekend we spent a great deal of

time discussing the ways in which they could help the families arriving. They made special placemats to present to them on their arrival, and decided that they would concentrate their efforts on the children.

Our Church school is growing and we are most pleased with the number of young teens who continue to attend classes every Sunday – our Senior classes, in fact have the largest number of attendees on any given Sunday. At the other end of the spectrum is our precious Creche and each Sunday some of our wonderful volunteers come earlier to help with the babies of our Choir members.

Upcoming events to note in your calendars:

- March 20, Palm Sunday - Our junior classes will be singing in church
- April 10 - The Annual Cabane a Sucre is scheduled at Sucrierie de la Montagne
- May 8 – Mothers Day Breakfast
- June 12- Church School Celebration and Honoring Fathers
- Week 1 July 11-15 and Week 2 July 18-22: VBS - “SURF SHACK – CATCH THE WAVE OF GOD’S AMAZING LOVE”

Thank you all for your continued support and prayers for our Church School.

*Sharon Dworzak*  
Church School Coordinator



Welcome to the Christmas Reception!