



St. Andrew's
G U E L P H

161 Norfolk Street
Guelph, ON N1H 4J8
(519) 822-4772

www.standrewsguelph.com
mailbox@standrewsguelph.com

November 5th, 2017

Dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

I know it's a **little early**... perhaps I am taking a page out of the Retail calendar - after Halloween, we switch on the Christmas lights! It is true that I'm looking forward to **celebrating the Christmas season together** in the coming weeks... but I also wanted to let you know about a couple of other special things coming up at St. Andrew's that we are **really excited** about.

Christmas is often **wrapped in gift giving** and exchanging gifts can be a beautiful part of the season. As a community who seeks to follow the One who gave us the gift of life, we know that we have **a lot to be grateful for**. Christmas itself is the day we mark one of the most significant gifts we can receive - **the Gift of Jesus** who has come to bring light to the world! May this Advent and Christmas be a meaningful time for you and those whom you love. **Join us for worship**, sing the familiar carols, and experience the Greatest Story Ever Told all over again.

One of the **early Christmas presents** from St. Andrew's this year comes in the form of an important conversation that we will be sharing in worship on **Sunday November 19th at 10:30AM**. We've invited a representative from **Hospice Waterloo Region** to talk to us about **Advance Care Planning**. We are calling it - ***"Peace of Mind - The Best Gift Possible"***. In a conversational format during worship, I will be talking to our guest about what is important about Advance Care Planning, what are some of the misunderstandings and most importantly, **how to have a conversation with your loved ones** about your wishes around your end of life care. I expect it to be a meaningful time to share together in the context of Sunday morning. I'd encourage you to **invite your**

loved ones to worship on this Sunday as it might be just the right kind of spark to begin a conversation that you've been meaning on having for some time now. Our guest will be bringing lots of resources with them and joining us for our fellowship time to answer any questions you or your loved ones may have. I do hope you will join us for this special Sunday! Attached to this letter you will find a little more information on Advanced Care Planning and a link to their website.

On a different note, we have another gift to share this season - Father Mark Curtis "Canada's Singing Priest" will be with us again on Sunday December 3rd at 7pm at St. Andrew's. He will be presenting a musical sermon entitled - "*Coming Home to Heart of Christmas - The Gift of Jesus*". We are so delighted to be able have Father Mark with us again. A free will offering will be collected in support of our Rejuvenate 190 Campaign. Invite your friends and family and make a night of it - it could be that early Christmas gift that you've been looking for.

Included in this letter is the line-up for our services over the Christmas Season - I do hope that you can join us for many, or all, of these special occasions. Please invite your friends and family to come with you as you celebrate 'The Gift of Jesus' in worship over the next few weeks. The story is life-changing and the music is often familiar and inspiring.

As you seek out just the right gift for those you love, may you come to know in this Season that the One who has given you the greatest of gifts - the gift of life itself - has already been seeking you out... and may you find each other anew this year. A very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you and those whom you love from my family to yours.

Have fun this season,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'John Borthwick', with a stylized flourish extending to the right.

The Rev. John Borthwick