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# Oakville News

Winter 2014-15

## John's Jots

I grew up in a “broken home”. My parents were divorced when I was 5 years old. (The circumstances were not as bad as many others, but they were far from “ideal.”) Fortunately, I don’t remember most of what went on. However, I do however remember one dark, winter night when I was hustled up out of bed and taken with my siblings to the house of the local Presbyterian pastor. Apparently there were some “irreconcilable differences” taking place that night that required us kids to be somewhere else. My mother knew the pastor through the Chamber of Commerce (of all connections). Their house was unfamiliar and scary, yet the reassurance and affection of the pastor and his wife put me at ease. Most memorable was my first experience of Swedish pancakes the next morning!



Though I could not completely understand or articulate it then (and throughout my childhood) I longed for everything to be set right - to have an “ideal family” like the Cleaver family, or the Waltons. - Where Mom and Dad would always be there - loving more than fighting, and providing a home that was

filled with those things the Apostle Paul mentions as fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. (Galatians 5:22)

I believe that is a yearning in all of our hearts - whether we are aware of it or not. We yearn for everything to be set right. We long for deliverance from the darkness and broken situations in which we find ourselves.

As we approach Christmas we enter this season the church calls Advent. It is marked by waiting, anticipating, yearning for Good News, which comes with the celebration of the birth Jesus - our Savior - the One who saves us from the darkness, from our brokenness, and the brokenness of the world. Advent looks

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We are trying to clean up our address list. If you have any corrections to the name and address above or would like to be removed from our mailing list, please contact us.

## Christmas Poinsettias

As is our tradition, we will adorn the front of our sanctuary with poinsettias during the Advent season.

If you would like to order a poinsettia in memory or in honor of a loved one, please fill out the form below and mail it to the church with a check for \$8 for each person you wish to honor, or you can email the information below and pay online through the church website.

The number of poinsettias in the sanctuary does not necessarily correspond to the number of donors. All proceeds beyond cost will benefit the **Deacon’s fund**.

Checks can be made out to: **Oakville Presbyterian Church**  
 Please write **Poinsettia** on the memo line.

Your name: \_\_\_\_\_

In honor of: (or) In memory of: *(please circle one)*



\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_



back to the birth of our Savior, but also looks forward to when He comes again and everything will be set right. Every tear will be wiped away, and there will be no more pain or sorrow or death.

Until that time comes, we can experience a bit of that "ideal world" here and now and actually participate in ushering that in - by living out the fruit of the Spirit; by sharing the Good News, by shining light in the darkness, by being that family we are meant to be - not only for our benefit, but to extend loving, open arms to those crying in the dark, those whose family situations are "less than ideal".

I invite you to join in the family gatherings here at Oakville as we prepare for the celebration of the birth of Jesus - our Savior who has already begun to set things right - and we get to be a part of that!

## Hanging of the Greens Sunday, Dec 7th 11:00 a.m.

This is a very special service on the Second Sunday of Advent in which we decorate the church with the symbols of Christmas and prepare once again for the coming of the Christ Child into the world and into our lives.



## The Giving Tree

As our tradition, the Giving Tree will be in the Fellowship Hall during the holidays. Please consider taking one or more tags from the tree and returning it with your wrapped gift by Friday, December 12th.

The gifts will be distributed through Sharing Hands of Brownsville.

## Online Giving

We can now receive donations online. You can go to the church web site [oakvillechurch.org](http://oakvillechurch.org) and make single donations or arrange to have donations automatically withdrawn from your account. If you have questions you can email us at [email@oakvillechurch.org](mailto:email@oakvillechurch.org)

## Operation Christmas Child



85 boxes shoe boxes have been donated, filled with special gifts to be sent to children around the world.

Thanks to all who made donations and filled boxes. They go with our prayers - that the children will receive them along with the greatest gift of all - the good news of Jesus Christ.

## Christmas Program Sunday December 14th 6:00 p.m.

This year's Christmas Program will feature folks from the Oakville Family sharing their gifts of music, drama, and other talents to honor the birth of Christ. We invite you to join us for an entertaining evening followed by a **Dessert Potluck** in the Fellowship Hall.

## Candle Light Christmas Eve Service Wednesday, December 24th 7:30 p.m.

Join us as we celebrate with candles and carols and reflect on God becoming flesh and dwelling among us.

## Open House at the Manse

**Wednesday, December 24th** Following the Christmas Eve service, the Carpenters invite you to join them in their home for refreshments and fellowship and to share the joy of Christmas!

## Holiday Food

There is a box in the Fellowship Hall for donations of non-perishable food to be taken to needy families during the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays.

If you know of families in need, or have any questions contact Deacons Alice Gerber, Sarah Neuschwander, Karen Fruetal, or Debra Brush.

## Year End Giving

We deeply appreciate your support of the ministry of Oakville Presbyterian Church. The 2014 books will close on December 31, 2014. All donations received after that date will be recorded in the 2015 books.