



A Publication of
the Church of
St. James the
Apostle in
Guelph

Just Times

St. James the Apostle
86 Glasgow St. North
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Environment and Social Justice
Committee Newsletter

Christmas 2016

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Free Community Pancake Breakfast at St. James



Cooking Pancakes at St. James and Students at John McRae Public School tapping trees for the Urban Sugaring Project

St. James will be hosting a free pancake breakfast on Saturday January 28 from 9 am until noon. The breakfast will launch the Urban Sugaring Project for 2017.

The Urban Sugaring Project allows tree owners to tap their trees and have volunteers boil the sap and turn it into syrup. At the January 28th breakfast, tree owners can rent a kit (a bucket, tree tap, and instructions) for \$10. The tree owners collect the sap and return it to a central location for processing.

Urban Sugaring Coordinator John Dennis said “we tapped over 50 trees in 2016 and collected just over 1200 liters of sap. Our goal for 2017 is to double that number.”

In 2017 the Urban Sugaring Project will be expanding by being part of the “Syrup in the City” Festival taking place at John McRae Public School. Taking place on April 1, this event will be run by the students of the Headwaters’ Program. Festival goers will gain first-hand knowledge of making maple syrup, forestry crafts, and conservation.

Coordinator John Dennis said “we hope to be able to distribute the finished Maple Syrup at the Festival but it depends on the weather and the trees cooperating”.

To learn more about the project, contact urbansugar@transitionguelph.org.

Second Repair Cafe is a Success



*Another Item Fixed at the
Dec 3 Repair Cafe*

St. James was host to the second Guelph Repair Cafe on December 3. A dozen fixers and helpers worked with over 35 participants fixing their items and teaching them about repairs.

This free event had fixers that could repair electronics, appliances, clothes, bikes, and glass ornaments. The next Repair Cafe is on Saturday February 18 at Tytler Public School.

The Guelph Repair Cafe was supported by the Meridian Credit Union and Cornerstone Restaurant.

Learn more at
<http://guelphtoollibrary.org/repair-cafe/>

St James Christmas Donations Programs in Action



Christmas Bag Donations and Items Collected for Adopt-a-Family Program

Christmas is a time of year to think about others and St. James was able to help out a number of people in the community.

Continuing with a tradition that has run for a number of years, St. James filled over 20 Christmas bags with items for Chalmers Community Centre. Sarah Dermer tells us that “these bags are often the only gifts that many of the patrons at Chalmers receive.” In total Chalmers gave out nearly 800 bags this Christmas.

St. James also partnered with Sugarbush Church on an Adopt-a-Family Program. This is the second year that we have participated with Sugarbush on this program.

Reverend Jennifer Garbin wrote “Traditionally, it is very difficult

for large families to be adopted in the program because few people can take on such a large list. We at Sugarbush Christian Church have made it a tradition to adopt a large family each year to help ease the burden.” This year, our family had 6 children!” Together Sugarbush and St. James were able to fill all of the requests from the family in a few days.

According to Wendy Woodhouse who helped with both programs “I think an important message is how we managed to give generously under difficult circumstances to both of these programs running at the same time. To my mind, it was delightful to see two churches participating together, regardless of who initiated which.”

CCSC Food Drive Hits Target!!



Sarah Dermer of CCSC weighing a food donation from St. James

A very ambitious goal of collecting 1500 pounds of food was set for 2016 by the Social Justice Committee. Through cooperation between St. James and Sugarbush, we have just surpassed this goal and will end up donating about 1520 pounds of food to Chalmers Community Service Centre!

Thanks to everyone that donated this year. Thanks to those that built donations into their weekly giving routine. Finally, a special thank you to Wendy Woodhouse for the regular reminders in the bulletin and for the email blasts focusing of different types of food to give each month.

One Million Stars Program



Mary Ann Cheessequay showing off a star at LOL Community Bazaar

LOL on Less Update



Living on Less had a busy and productive year in 2016. Sessions were put on at Grange Hill East and St. James. Grange Hill East was also home to some new “pop up” sessions which ran in the summer.

The Living on Less Program has decided to create a governance board. Our first meeting will take place in January of 2017. We will be made up of St. James, Sugarbush, and St. Mathias parishioners as well as members of the community. The board will provide oversight to the LOL Coordinator and look to grow the program.

Finally, Natalie Boustead, the current coordinator has resigned. We wish Natalie well with her future endeavours. We will be advertising for a new coordinator in 2017.

Mary Ann Cheessequay wants your help to make stars. She is part of an international movement of Star Weavers that are working on the One Million Star installation for the 2018 Commonwealth Games.

The One Million Stars project began in New Zealand as a response to the rape and murder of a local woman in 2012. Since then, it has grown into an international weaving movement.

Mary Ann was in attendance at the December 3 Living on Less Community Bazaar and had attendees make stars. According to Mary Ann “the One Million Stars project is an opportunity for every Star Weaver to make something beautiful and powerful together. Domestic violence, violence on the streets, racism and harassment is happening right now and often it is difficult to

know what to do to help those who are suffering and to help prevent it.”

The One Million Stars offers a hopeful and uplifting way for people to talk about the overwhelming human crisis that is violence. Through weaving stars, with others or by ourselves, we keep the conversation of dealing with violence in our communities alive.

To learn more about One Million Stars please go to <http://www.onemillionstars.net/>

Just Times is a publication of the Environment and Social Justice Committee of St. James the Apostle in Guelph. Enquiries about this newsletter should be directed to John Dennis (office@sjapostle.ca)