

Night of the Nativities and the Calling of the Carols

Tuesday December 12th

Christmas time, and the events leading up to Christmas, are not always filled with joy and ho, ho, ho. Often we carry hurts in our hearts from the year or years that have come before. Sometimes we carry grief and we long for a quiet Christmas to rest in our sadness until we can move through to the other side. And this can take time. But we don't need to journey alone. We journey together with compassion and caring with and for each other.

On Tuesday December 12th, there will be a special event to be held at St. Andrew's in Markham. This is a joint initiative of the clergy of St. Andrew's, Lemonville, Clarendon, Goodwood, Stouffville and Mount Zion United Churches. The clergy involved are my colleagues and friends Rev. Sandra Farrow, Rev. Karen Smart, and Rev. Nancy Umphrey.

We invite you to join with us through a tour of nativity sets in the narthex amidst soft twinkle lights that illumine the magic and mystery of our Christmas story.

You are welcome to come in the afternoon after 3 p.m. till about 4:30 that day, but if you come at 6 p.m. you will experience the twinkling lights with the darkness of the silent winter night outside our doors. At 6:50, you will hear the Calling of the Carols in the sanctuary inviting you to enter into a quiet and calm service of singing the carols of years past, hearing by whom and why they were written, praying for peace in our hearts that will lift the sadness some of us feel at this time of year, and then returning to the narthex magic for cider and cookies. It is to be a gentle, quiet, and calm time to spend together before the real excitement of Christmas descends upon us.

If you have a nativity set you would be willing to loan to us for display, that you would like to share with others, please contact me directly. Till then, may the magic, mystery, and hope of this time of year cushion the hurts in our hearts whatever they might be.

Peace, peace, peace,

Rev. Deb

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