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Rejoice in the Lord always: and again I say, Rejoice. ~ Phil 4:4

WELCOME TO 2023

Welcome to 2023! The great thing about a new year is that it offers hope for new opportunities, and the optimism that this year will be better. Whether we make new year's resolutions or not, 2023 is a blank calendar waiting for us to fill in the days, weeks and months ahead. Will they be filled with problems, unhappiness, and woe or will we be able to fill them with joy, anticipation, and love. I hope my calendar will reflect my gratitude for this country, its freedoms, and its possibilities. I hope it will record many joyous interactions with friends and relatives. I hope it will show that I have been helpful to those in need and caring to those who struggle. I am filled with the hope that 2023 will be the best year ever and that is my wish for you as well.

DATES AND EVENTS

Session Meeting / Sunday, January 8th / **9:30am**Annual General Meeting / Sunday, February 12th / **Following Church**Alison Lupton Concert / Friday, February 24th

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202

WERE YOU THERE?

This Christmas season Central was the scene of several concerts, special events, and opportunities to join with other members to join in joyous celebration of the season. We hope you were able to be part of it.

CAROL HYMN SING

On November 30th, over 90 participants joined together to sing some favourite hymns and Christmas carols. With the David Durward Bell Ringers, Elizabeth Cresswell and Ron Klink at the helm, we enjoyed the opportunity to sing together and then meet for tea and cookies.

GIFT BAGS FOR HOMEBOUND

Central youth were instrumental in decorating and filling the bags for our homebound seniors. These bags are important for they show that our homebound seniors are not forgotten.

MITTEN TREE / WHITE GIFT SUNDAY / FAMILY SERVICE

Once again, Central recognized the Christmas season by recognizing that others are less fortunate. The Mitten tree receives hats, scarves and mittens which are donated to the Food Bank for distribution. The White Gifts are also forwarded to the Food Bank for seniors who are struggling and for whom, this might be the only gift they receive. Donations to Rachel's Home, our orphanage in Lesotho, and for the Ortiz family who are working in Guatemala to develop food security, were also received.

POTLUCK SUPPER

On November 26th, the hall was filled with beautifully decorated tables, tantalizing smells, and a hall filled with hungry Central members. Following the dinner which everyone enjoyed, we moved to the sanctuary to sing carols together. It was a wonderful way to celebrate Advent.

