



Thy Word is a lamp unto my feet and a light unto my path.  
Psalm 119: 105

Dec. 6, 2015      New Maryland United Church Newsletter      No. 31

#### FROM REV KELLY'S DESK

The "experts" would say it ought to NEVER happen on Christmas. Getting a pet that is. They are most assuredly right. A household is too busy, the days and nights too filled with a myriad of activities and guests over the Christmas season, that a new pet may not get the calm attention and introduction into your family life that they need.

But I am forever grateful my father did not know that, or perhaps chose to ignore such sage advice. Because on Christmas morning 1967 my little heart sang with the joy of the angels as I discovered a wriggling brown Dachshund puppy awaiting me under the tree. We named him Casey. (He might have been a German dog, but in our household no one escaped an Irish name!) The thing is, Christmas is always, at its heart - indeed was at its very inception - a chaotic, unscheduled, anything but calm and quiet event!



If you recall, people from all over were travelling, clogging up the highways (sound familiar, even today?!) as they made their way back to their hometowns, that they might be registered. Relatives had already stuffed as many extended family as they could into their homes. A bed was made for Uncle Schlomo in the bathtub and Grandma Naomi was crammed into the pantry with a blanket. So many cousins were bedded down on the floor that walking across the room had become an accident waiting to happen. All the No Vacancy signs were flashing across the land, because every inn was packed to capacity as well.



And yet it was into this messy, completely unorthodox situation that God chose to be born among us, in human likeness. Into all this confusion arrived Emmanuel, god-with-us. So in the spirit of that very first Christmas, let's embrace the unexpected this Christmas. Let's make peace with the imperfect. Let's smile and toss up our thank-yous to God in the midst of the turkey that is too dry; the wrapping paper littering the living room floor; the overtired and fussy babies and the cranky great uncles. For the miracle of Christmas is that love arrives in the middle of mess and turmoil; amidst less than picture perfect settings. Love still arrives. Thanks be to God!

With enormous love for you all, this Christmas and always,  
Rev Kelly

## FROM THE CHAIR OF THE OFFICIAL BOARD

Has it really been a year since our expansion was decorated so beautifully? As we await the birth of the Christ child, here are a few Christmas gift suggestions:

To your enemy, forgiveness.

To your opponent, tolerance.

To a friend, your heart.

To every child, a good example.

To all, charity.

To yourself, respect.

(By Orin Arnold)



As we take time out of our busy lives to celebrate the birth of Christ, may your holidays be filled with love and your New Year filled with peace.

Merry Christmas!

Sue

## NEW MARYLAND UNITED CHURCH WEBSITE



As you probably have noticed by now, The new New Maryland United Church website is sporting a new look. If you have not already done so, check us out by googling New Maryland United Church or by using the web address of:

<http://www.newmarylandunited.ca>.

Pam Gonnason so graciously responded to my request for an updated painting of our church, complete with the accessibility extension in place, and it is this lovely artwork that greets you when you bring up the site. Many thanks to Pam for once again sharing her gift of art with us.

I also want to say a special thank you to Kaye Lister who went above and beyond in helping me gather pictures for the website. Her energy and interest in putting this together made my job an easy one and her continued support is very much appreciated.

As site administrator I will attempt to keep this website as up to date as possible. I am hoping you will all help me with this by keeping an eye on the calendar of events and providing me with updates if anything gets missed or needs corrected. Also if you have special pictures concerning our church that you would like to see included, send them along.

My vision for our web site was to not only provide information but to reflect the warmth of the wonderful church family we call New Maryland United. Thank you all for helping me make this happen.

Sue Harris

Web Administrator

459-7735

[sue.b.harris@gmail.com](mailto:sue.b.harris@gmail.com)



## REPORT FROM SESSION



Session met in November and will meet again in January. Session is working on a few items at present:

- Beginning with the most important item, Session was delighted to approve the baptism of Tenley Allison MacBean to take place on December 13, 2015. Tenley is the daughter of Craig and Chandra MacBean and granddaughter of Gary and the late Gail MacBean.
- We are also pleased to report that Christine Lipsett will be received as a full member of New Maryland United Church.
- On another note, Session felt that the church register should better reflect our inclusive setting. Inclusive registers do not show partners as "male" or "female" but are simply stated as "spouse 1" and "spouse 2". The United Church of Canada has recently made these available and we have one on order.
- Session will also be working on getting the Memorial Book up to date in the next few weeks.

Session continues to make visitation a priority. Should you want a visit from Session or know someone who would, please get in touch with any member of Session.

Members currently sitting on Session are Rev. Kelly Burke, Tina Glenn, Sue Harris, Sue Morrison, Lloyd Penney, Meg Simms, David Ward, and Bob Watson.

Merry Christmas!

Sue Harris,  
Clerk of Session

## UCW



The UCW extend their many, many thanks for all the help received from the congregation with our major fund raiser, the Bridge Luncheon, held on October 27th. Our profit of just over \$800 has been put to very good use. As well as all the supplies that we usually purchase for church use (paper products, cleaning supplies, tea, coffee), our UCW has donated \$250 to the Mission and Service Fund, \$150 to Families For Children which is an orphanage in India, and \$200 in US funds to cover the administrative costs of our church web site for the next two years.

UCW will be having our Christmas party meeting on December 9th at the earlier time of 6:30 p.m., where we will enjoy finger foods and a Yankee Swap. We will not be meeting in January, but will start the New Year off with our February Bring and Buy meeting on Feb. 17th, a week later than usual because of Ash Wednesday falling on the second Wednesday of the month. New members are always very welcome! Contact Dorothy Webster at 457-9795.



## MEN'S CLUB

The Men's Club Salmon Supper, held on Sunday October 18th, was a very successful event. A great big thank you to the UCW, the congregation members and all others who help make this such a success, generating a profit of \$3,489.90.



The Men's Club will be assisting the M & S to meet their financial goal for year end. Financial assistance will be given to the Stewards bearing in mind to assist in our church's Local Funds, Presbytery Dues, Accessibility Fund or Building Fund. The amount of \$200 was given to New Maryland Lions Club for their annual turkey drive. An annual donation of \$100 will be donated to the Outreach Committee in memory of Frank Glendenning.

Our Christmas outing will be held Wednesday December 9<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. All men of the congregation are welcome. Please call Dave Ward at 455-8208 if you plan on attending.

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM THE MEN'S CLUB !



## THE QUILTERS



The NMUC quilters will put aside their needles, thread and thimbles until January.

Merry Christmas from each of us!

## AN ARCHIVAL MOMENT



1887 - 1897: For ten years the incumbent ministers from St. Paul's Presbyterian Church in Fredericton officiated at the New Maryland Kirk services. It is presumed that in 1897 the congregation voted to withdraw from St. Paul's and join the Home Mission Board. For the next thirty years, student ministers conducted the worship services. The church hired a horse and carriage from the Queen Hotel in Fredericton to transport the student ministers from Fredericton to New Maryland. Presbyterian homes in the settlement were canvassed for money to pay for the student ministers' services.

## CHUCKLE

A minister's mother runs a gas station out in the countryside. One pump has a sign which reads, "Full Service". The other pump has a sign saying, "God helps those who help themselves."



## MY FAVOURITE CHRISTMAS MEMORY .....

... was December 24, 2008, my first Christmas at NMUC. I walked around the outside of our church on that clear, cold, starry Christmas Eve night, before anyone else had arrived, and gave thanks that God had given me the gift of this particular church and these particular people. Rev. Kelly

... is all the Christmas eves we have been able to attend the service at New Maryland United. There is a magic to the full church, the rich sound of the singing, especially the candlelit "Silent Night". Lydia and Pat LaPointe

... is from this past Christmas. My niece, Jennifer, and family came to stay and had Christmas dinner with us along with our extended family. Such fun to have everyone in one place! Having her four dear children with us made Christmas very special. I am already anticipating another wonderful Christmas family gathering this year, complete with Rachael and Aaron's twins. As busy and confusing as it is, I love having the house filled with children's voices. Sue Harris

... was with my family when my daughter was 18 months old. She was full of joy and loved opening her presents. Helen Marr

... was packing a box of gifts and food for a needy family in 1952 and leaving it on their doorstep late on Christmas Eve. Kaye Lister

... was walking to Midnight mass with my sisters. Sheila Penney

... was when we flew from Goose Bay and rented a car in Halifax to surprise my parents who thought they were going to be alone for Christmas. My mother was overwhelmed but had a fit as she had a chicken for Christmas dinner. Fred said he would let her know the next time we were coming!! Verna Brett

... was when I was young - we always went for a moonlight horse and sleigh drive on Christmas night. Betty Barker

... was when I was 8 years of age and Pierrette, a woman hired to help my mother, blew into the house and literally tossed a black kitten onto my lap. I have been an animal lover ever since. Sharon Noel

... was my husband's special gift to me early in our marriage - the largest pair of ladies' undies from the Sears catalogue! Money being scarce, I stood in line to return them. Embarrassed I said to the clerk, "My husband has a weird sense of humour." Marjorie Olmstead

... was Christmas, 1981 - my first Christmas with Amos. We had planned dinner for 13. Imagine our surprise when my brother, his wife and their two children arrived at 3 p.m. It was a wonderful year. Great dinner as well. Fun! Audrey Jones

... was the year I received a sled and I went sliding down the driveway on Christmas night. Ruth Anderson

... was back in the 1940's. Our parents put up the tree a week before Christmas. My 3 sisters, my one brother and I, ages 1 to 7, were allowed to trim the tree as high as we could reach. After we went to bed, my mother trimmed it over again. We didn't mind. Carol Charters

**SUCCESS IS LOOKING BACK AT YOUR LIFE AND THE MEMORIES MAKE YOU SMILE!**



## INTRODUCING MAXINE MacCONNELL



Karla Maxine MacConnell was born at Aberdeen Hospital in New Glasgow, Nova Scotia in February 1972. A first born daughter for Joe and Shirley MacConnell of Meadowville, Nova Scotia, Maxine's brother Andrew Jason followed almost 3 years later. Maxine grew up on Rocky Knolls Farm, a century farm passed through generations of MacConnell farmers. Joe and Shirley turned the farm into a milk producing family operation and Maxine and Andy grew up living farm life: up with the chickens, milking the "ladies", feeding and raising the livestock, planting and harvesting crops, making hay and taking care of the running of a farm, under the tutelage of their parents and grandmother. As Max (as she prefers to be called) grew up, she was also involved in various activities,

including Highland Dance and piano lessons for 8 years, and later several part-time jobs including babysitting and clerking in a local diner/grocery store. One of her fondest memories of growing up on the farm was her father bringing in to the house new born lambs during lambing season. There was always a 'pet' lamb each season, one that had not been welcomed by its mother. The wood stove in the kitchen would provide life giving warmth to the small, wooly bundle and then the real care of the lamb would begin for the family. Sunday mornings meant walking to the end of the driveway with her grandmother (who lived with the family) to meet their neighbor for a drive to church. Fond memories recall sitting in the back seat of Bertha's car between her grandmother Margaret and another neighbor, listening to the discussion of quilts, card parties, and who in the community had hung their bloomers on the clothesline.

Graduating from high school, Max was accepted into the University of New Brunswick, and left the only home she had ever known at age 18 to head to the BIG city of Fredericton. She was grateful to her father's sister and brother-in-law for opening their home for her to live with them for her first four years of university. She was on her own, but still supported by family, and still close enough to NS that a weekend trip now and then was a possibility. Adjusting to city life was difficult. Moving from the country to Regent Street was a huge adjustment, but soon new friends were made and studying replaced home sickness. At the end of her first year of school, making money was mandatory. Max obtained a job planting trees for J.D. Irving. Four months of early mornings, blistering heat, driving rain, sunburn, flies, bears, snakes, and wasps, were all survived in the NB forests. Life on the farm certainly helped her persevere at planting trees, as did pure stubbornness. One of the supervisors joked that university students never lasted long – too weak – and Max was determined to prove him wrong. Not only was she the only university student to last the summer, she was also the only woman and was leading her own team by August. Tree planting taught her a lot about who she was and how hard work always paid off. In 1992, Max began a part-time job at Bolden's Café at the bottom of Regent Street. Working there gave her some much needed money to supplement her student loans and the opportunity to meet many Frederictonians – as this popular spot was a frequent haunt of many. She graduated in May 1994 with her Bachelor of Arts with a major in History and minor in English. Her goal was to become a teacher, but when she did not get accepted into the Education program at UNB, decided to take a year off, work full time and take some courses. During that year off, she worked at The Right Spot and briefly as a room cleaner at the Fredericton Inn, which is not a fond memory for her. She was approached by a former customer from Bolden's to babysit for his family. One of his children was deaf and Max quickly learned some sign language so she could communicate with the 7 year old. After courses were over, Max decided to move back to Nova Scotia. She worked at a local pub and spent time with old high school friends and most importantly her father and mother. But the lure of the "big" city called her back and she

obtained a full time job at Swiss Chalet in 2005. A few months later she was accepted to the Bachelor of Education program at UNB. She completed her teaching internship at Oromocto High School teaching history to grade 11 and 12 students. The five months of her internship solidified that teaching was what she wanted to do. During this internship, she continued to work full time at Swiss Chalet. She credits her cooperating teacher and her boss at Swiss Chalet for supporting her during this stressful time. During her practicum, her father had a heart attack and would not allow her to come home to help care for him. He wanted her to keep going and graduate. It was a special day in May 1998 at her graduation to hear her father and mother's voices above the crowd in the Aitken Centre cheering her on.

A few months later, Max was hired for her first teaching job at Nackawic Middle School. It was a term position, however it gave her much needed experience. On December 21, 1998 Max's father passed away from another heart attack. Devastating to the entire family, it was difficult to return to NB after the Christmas holidays and leave her mother home on the farm alone. Christmas has never been the same for the family. For the next few years, Max continued working at Swiss Chalet and supply teaching in and around the Fredericton area. Her luck changed in 2001 when she interviewed for a long term supply position at Oromocto High, which turned into a "D" position and 2 years later turned into a permanent "B" teaching position. She started out teaching ancient history and then picked up teaching geography, social studies, world issues, political science, and law. She became SPR of the history department in 2009. Max was very involved in school life. She attended many student activities, was advisor to the Yearbook for six years, teacher liaison to the boys hockey and football teams for several years, various student groups and organizations, and often filled in at the office for the admin team. She also spent every July teaching summer school, and despite some grumbling, enjoyed working with the kids who needed a little extra attention to find success.

In 2011, Max's mother moved from NS to NB with her. Life changing for both Shirley and Max. Max bought a house in Rusagonis – getting back to the country – and Shirley has made it into a home. In 2012, Max was asked if she would like an Acting VP position at OHS for a few months. It was a difficult decision because she loved being in front of a classroom and working with students, but was thinking about change and a new challenge. She made the move and really enjoyed it. She decided to enter the Masters of Administration program at UNB. The goal was to take one course at a time and return to her classroom. However, fate had other plans. The person Max replaced decided to retire and Max was encouraged to apply and was the successful candidate. Working full time and going to school part-time was challenging, but she recently finished her Masters. She misses the day to day of the classroom, as some days as VP are stressful and deal with the ugliness of education, but she strives hard to get out and about with the kids and see them at their best. She enjoys connecting with former students (mainly through Facebook) and keeping up with their lives and seeing the influence she had with them in the messages they send and share, inside jokes they remember and continue to tease her about, mainly about her obsession with the Leafs and hate for anything mathematically related. Max has opened her home to International Students as well. Francisca joined the family for 5 months in September 2013 from Pernambuco, Brazil and Zeynep stayed for the entire 2014-2015 school year from Turkey. They have enjoyed sharing their home with the girls and plan to welcome a new girl from Brazil in February 2016.

Max has travelled several times over the years to New York City and still complains that she has not seen everything she wants to yet. She has a fear of flying and has tried to overcome it with two trips to Florida, but still prefers to travel by car and has driven to Boston to see a baseball game and two hockey games. A highlight was travelling to Boston last year with her brother to see the Bruins play her beloved Leafs. Andy is a diehard Bruins

fan, so friendly sibling rivalry was celebrated. Her next goal is to see the Leafs in Toronto, so she can wear her jersey and not be ridiculed.

Max is unmarried and plans to stay that way. She adopted a golden lab a couple of years ago and together she and her mother have acquired 6 cats. Animals have always been a huge part of her life and she jokingly refers to herself as the spinster, cat lady of Rusagonis. She takes joy in spending time with her god child Kennah, who her good friend adopted from Ethiopia. Kennah often spends time at Max and Shirley's house where the cookies are freshly baked and A.J. the dog is always ready to play. Max is an avid reader and enjoys reading for pleasure again, now that she has finished school, and enjoys going on road trips with her mother, showing her the scenery of New Brunswick, and spending time together. Their decision to attend Christmas Eve services at NMUC two years ago was kismet. Driving by the church and seeing the "All welcome" message on the sign was the deciding factor. Both felt warmly welcomed by everyone they met and now feel they are part of a larger church family. Being part of a church that is open-minded, progressive and welcoming to all is important to Max and she feels she has found that in NMUC.

### FROM THE GREEN COMMITTEE

Wishing a Safe and Merry Christmas to Our Pets



Christmas is a time when we want to share joy with our families and that includes our pets. It is tempting to want to share our meals with our pets and we often do that by giving them a bone or two from the table. All cooked bones are an absolute "no, no" for pets. The safest bones are large, raw bones that a pet cannot chew up and swallow, cow's thigh bones are ideal.

Christmas meals often create many fatty food leftovers. Excessive fat can cause inflammation of the pancreas, a very painful condition requiring a week of intensive care. So don't feed table scraps and remember to keep the lid on the garbage can.

As for decorations, secure the Christmas tree well, so pets cannot pull it over. Don't allow pets to drink from the tree stand as the water is stagnant and may contain fertilizer. Avoid plastic decorations. Plastic does not show up on x-rays so is difficult to diagnose. Tinsel is very attractive to cats, especially kittens, but very dangerous if they eat it.

Poinsettias are mildly toxic to pets but should cause no major concern. Some very toxic plants are mistletoe, holly and lilies. Mistletoe and holly can cause gastrointestinal upsets and cardiovascular problems. Lilies can cause kidney failure in cats.

Keep wires and batteries out of reach and never leave lighted candles unattended.

A couple of chocolates will not be especially harmful to dogs but not especially healthy either. In all sweets, watch for a new sweetener, "xylitol", which is very harmful to pets. Watch for it in pet food and treats, as well as peanut butter. It's really better to buy your pet a pet toy. For dogs, a Kong ball filled with a favourite treat, for cats, an Interactive Cat Dancer or a ball, that cannot be swallowed, filled with catnip.

Last, but not least, pay attention to your holiday cocktails, alcohol can cause respiratory failure in pets.

The Green Committee wishes all a joyous Christmas and a safe Holiday Season.



## HATS OFF !



- to those who decorated our church so beautifully for the Christmas season!
- to Matt Webb, husband of Heather (Gonnason) Webb: Awarded the Top 20 under Age 40 in Canada for Metal Manufacturing! Matt shares the award with his boss John Wood. Together they run Excel Manufacturing in Harvey.
- to Sara (Hiscock) Hayes on winning 'Best Lady Driver' at the World Clydesdale Championships in London Ontario!
- to Steve Hayward for becoming a great addition to our Christ Church Outreach Team!

## HOSPITAL CAFETERIA CHANGES



Horizon's cafeterias have been facing many challenges in recent years, such as competition, poor location, aging equipment, and rising costs. After reviewing the financial performance of the cafeteria in each of the facilities, they have determined that adjustments must be made to ensure that their retail operations achieve a break-even position. Horizon's cafeterias are currently losing \$350,000 per year.

As a result, they are introducing changes that will allow them to operate their retail services more efficiently. Please note the changes only relate to retail cafeterias, and do not affect the inpatient food services, which will continue as currently provided.

As a first step, we will begin introducing alternative food options to our staff, visitors, and physicians and reducing hours in our cafeterias effective January 8, 2016.

Dr. Everett Chalmers Regional Hospital and the Saint John Regional Hospital:

Monday – Friday 7 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., closed on weekends and statutory holidays.

The Moncton Hospital

Monday-Friday 8 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., closed on weekends and statutory holidays

## NMUC OFFICE HOURS



Regular Office Hours, when Lorna Ball is in:

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday: 10:00-12:00 noon. Friday: 8:30 -12:30.

Please note: The Office will be closed from December 25-January 4.

Please contact Rev. Kelly directly at 470-9634 for any assistance.

## UCC'S MODERATOR'S LETTER

Response to the Recent Acts of Terror

For full letter, see:

<http://us3.campaignarchive1.com/?u=ff2087d5fde243a770ed893a8&id=5eda0cdf&e=104a8810e>

For more info re security concerns see: <http://www.cic.gc.ca/english/refugees/crisis/canada-response.asp>



Dear members and friends of the United Church,  
November 2015

I am writing to you with a heavy heart but also with a sense of hopefulness. The horrific acts of terror committed over the past month in Paris, Beirut, and Baghdad suggest that a new phase of terrorism has begun. Our hearts go out to all whose lives have been thrown into grief, fear, and chaos by these barbaric acts. Yet amidst the sorrow and grief, there have been glimpses of humanity at its very best. A friend saving the life of another as bullets rage, a father refusing to respond to the murder of his wife with hate, and community groups insisting that, despite what has happened, they will leave their doors open to welcome Syrian refugees. These are living testimonies to the resilience of compassion.

Resistance rooted in love is our best hope for defeating terrorism. This conviction will no doubt be tested in coming years. Recent events have clearly demonstrated that we are all vulnerable to terrorist attacks. People in all parts of the world and of every faith are being targeted. When terror strikes close to home, we may be tempted to project our fear onto our neighbours, to make enemies of those who dress, or act, or pray differently from us. At times like this we must hold firm to our faith in the power of love to overcome evil.

The United Church has been involved in refugee sponsorship in Canada since 1979, which has richly blessed us as well as those we have sponsored. Congregations across the church are preparing for the arrival of Syrian refugees to Canada. We need to resist the fears that call for a withdrawal of support for Syrian refugees and

remember that the vast majority of these people are victims of the very terrorism we also face.

As a church we also have a long history of building respectful relations with Muslim communities in Canada and, indeed, elsewhere in the world. One of the strategies of the terrorists is to divide Muslim and non-Muslim citizens. In this context it becomes even more critical for the church to strengthen relations with Muslim neighbours, to invite visits between our congregations and communities, and to affirm that we are all Canadians together.

Let us practice once again what it means to follow Jesus: to live a life of compassion, to be courageous in faith, to resist fear and hatred, and to believe that, finally, love will win. Thanks be to God for the work all of you are doing in this troubled time.

The Right Reverend Jordan Cantwell  
Moderator, The United Church of Canada

## NEW MARYLAND HOUSE TOUR



Hosted by New Maryland Community Support Group, the New Maryland Village 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Christmas House Tour is taking place on Sunday, Dec 6 beginning at 6 pm.

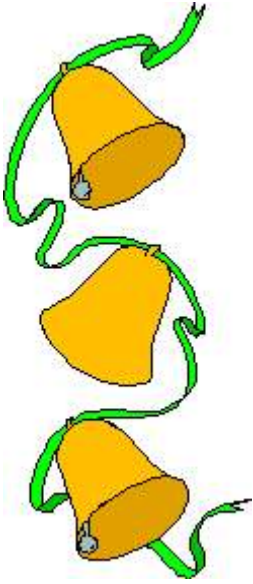
Tickets are 20 dollars and are available at the Village office. Don and Nancy Ostaff's house is part of the tour!

## MEMORIAL TREE LIGHTING



Wed, Dec. 9, 7pm at McAdam's Funeral Home, Fredericton there will be an evening of remembrance, a lighting of the tree, and a reading of the names of those who have died this past year. For more info, please call 458-9170 for more info.

## PLEASE JOIN US



Fri., Dec. 4, 2015, 6 pm - Progressive Dinner (a "moving" feast!)

Sun., Dec. 6, 2015, 11 am - Advent II Worship: White Gift and Mitten Tree

Sun., Dec. 13, 2015, 11 am - Advent III Worship & Sacrament of Baptism

Tues., Dec. 22, 2015, 6:30 pm - Carolling -Meet at NMUC, then carpool

Sun., Dec. 20, 2015, 11 am - Advent IV Worship: Holy Communion

Thurs., Dec. 24, 2015, 7 pm - Christmas Eve Family Service: Pageant: Michael Mouse

10 pm - Service of Candlelight and Holy Communion

Sunday, Dec.27, 2015, 11 am - First after Christmas Worship

Sunday, January 3, 2016, 11 am - Worship: Celebration of Epiphany

## Year-Round Joy



Christmas is full of shiny things  
That sparkle, gleam and glow;  
These holiday pleasures dazzle us,  
And yet, deep down, we know...

That Christmas has its special gifts,  
But our year-round joy depends  
On the cherished people in our lives,  
Our family and our friends.

MAY YOUR YEAR BE FILLED WITH HAPPINESS, PEACE AND LOVE.



