

## KIRKIN' O' THE TARTANS—ITS ORIGINS

### **The History...**

The ceremony of Kirkin' o' the Tartans is American in origin, though based on Scottish history and legend. After Bonnie Prince Charlie's Scottish forces were defeated by the English in 1746, Scotland again came under British rule. An Act was passed that forbade carrying arms and the wearing of kilts or tartans which represented Scottish heritage. This Act prompted the Scots to carry secretly a piece of their tartan as they went to the Kirk (church). The minister then slipped a blessing (a Kirkin') into the service for the tartans. The prohibition against tartans lasted for nearly 50 years. When at last repealed, the Church of Scotland celebrated with a Service of Family Covenant, at which time the tartan of each family was offered as a covenant expression for the Lord's blessing.

### **The First Kirkin'...**

The Saint Andrew's Society of Washington, DC held the first Kirkin' during the early years of World War II. The late Dr. Peter Marshall, an eloquent Scot, then Chaplain of the US Senate as well as a pastor, led the service in 1943, choosing "Kirkin' o' the Tartan" for the title of his sermon. He had preached many sermons in support of the British War Relief and the Scottish Clans Evacuation Plan. As the war continued, the DC St. Andrew's Society continued to hold prayer services for the British subjects. These became known as Kirkin's.

### **The Service...**

The service is traditional in content, using much of the Church of Scotland format. Central to its theme is the presentation of various tartans—through flags and the wearing of tartans—for a blessing. Clans were simply a gathering of peoples for their protection and for economic, political, and social support. The Kirkin' is intended to encourage participants to reflect with thanksgiving on their own family and ethnic heritage, and to celebrate God's grace poured out for all generations.

**St. Paul's Presbyterian Church  
Simcoe, Ontario**

**KIRKIN' O' THE TARTAN**



**NOVEMBER 6, 2016**

**Prayers from Iona**

O Christ of the poor and the yearning  
Kindle in my heart within  
a flame of love for my neighbour,  
for my foe, for my friend,  
for my kindred all.  
From the humblest thing that lives  
to the Name that is highest of all  
Kindle in my heart within

a flame of Love.  
(J. Philip Newell)



O Christ, you are a bright flame before me  
You are a guiding star above me  
You are the light and love I see in others' eyes  
Keep me, O Christ, in a love that is tender  
Keep me, O Christ, in a love that is true  
Keep me, O Christ, in a love that is strong  
today, tomorrow and always.  
(J. Philip Newell)



**The Iona Community is a Christian ecumenical community working for peace and social justice, rebuilding of community and the renewal of worship. It is one of the oldest and most important religious centers in Western Europe, recognized as the founding place for Christianity in the Western world. The Iona Abbey, built in 564, was a focal point for the spread of Christianity throughout Scotland.**

**A PCC MISSION MOMENT: TAKE THE ADVENT CHALLENGE!**

During the Advent season, we celebrate God's amazing gift—Jesus! This gift changed the world. It is with this same spirit of generosity that we too can make a difference for our sisters and brothers across the globe. Each week of Advent, Presbyterian World Service & Development challenges individuals and congregations to share the gifts of hope, peace, joy and love with those living in some of the most vulnerable communities in the world. In the midst of poverty, injustice and disaster, the Christ light shines.

**IN OUR COMMUNITY – BULLETIN BOARD NOTICES**

Saturday, November 12	<i>"Frosty Fair"</i> St. James United Church, Simcoe 8:30 AM - Noon
Sunday, November 13	<i>"Verdi Requiem"</i> St. Basil's Roman Catholic Church, Brantford 3:00 PM Adults \$25 Youth \$15

**“ROOTED IN LOVE”: May 19-22, 2017**

St. Paul’s Mission Circle would like to encourage attendance at the National Presbyterian Women’s Gathering next year in Toronto. Mission Circle will fund \$100 towards registration. Register before **November 30<sup>th</sup>** to qualify for reduced fees.

**THE AV BOOTH** is in need of some additional volunteers, especially for the Christmas Eve and Christmas Day services. Training will be provided. Please contact Nancy at [sppc@kwic.com](mailto:sppc@kwic.com), 519-426-1845 for details.

**ST. PAUL’S MITTEN TREE**

Our Mitten Tree will be up for three more Sundays.  
We need lots of knitted articles (mittens, hats, scarves) and socks, especially men’s.



**JOIN US AT LUNCH BUNCH**

**Monday, November 14<sup>th</sup> at noon**

Blue Elephant, 96 Norfolk Street South, Simcoe

If you plan to attend, please contact Peggy at

[43pmca@eastlink.ca](mailto:43pmca@eastlink.ca).



**ST. PAUL’S HOLLY TEA BAZAAR**

**Saturday, November 19<sup>th</sup> from 11:00 - 2:00 p.m.**

Now is the time to be thinking of how you can help.

Thistle Club needs your support! This is their annual fund raiser.

\*A very special thank you to our hard-working pie-making crew.\*



**MEN’S BREAKFAST**

**November 20<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

Coffee @8:00 AM Breakfast @ 8:30 AM

Speaker: Jay

Topic: “The Two Row on The Grand:  
A Journey of Healing and Reconciliation”

A Super Deal @ \$5.00!



**PLUM PUDDING - PAUL’S PEOPLE AND TEENS – NOVEMBER 27TH**

Please go down to the kitchen around 10:15 AM to check in with Judy, then attend the beginning of the service. After Children’s Corner, please re-join Judy in the kitchen, until 11:45 AM. Thanks!

<b>ST. PAUL'S THIS WEEK</b>		
<b>Monday</b>	Mission Circle	1:30 PM
	Bible Study	7:00 PM
<b>Tuesday</b>	Christian Nurture	2:00 PM
<b>Wednesday</b>	Thistle Club	7:00 PM
<b>Thursday</b>	Senior Choir	7:30 PM

**MISSION CIRCLE – WOMEN'S MISSIONARY SOCIETY MEETING**

**November 7<sup>th</sup> at 1:30 PM in the Church Parlour**

Anyone interested in learning more about our Presbyterian mission work through the Women's Missionary Society is invited to join us.  
Please speak to Marg, Jean or Judy



**ST. PAUL'S BIBLE STUDY**



**November 7<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM in St. Paul's Library**

Join us in a Bible Study focusing on a study of The Holy Spirit.  
Additional dates will be November 14 and 21.



**“What does an elder do?”**

**Ruling Elders play a key role in the life of the congregation. Through membership on Session, they work closely with the minister (teaching elder) in:**

- supervision and oversight of the congregation
- membership and pastoral care
- worship, including participation in the sacraments
- Christian education
- stewardship and mission
- relating to presbytery, synod and General Assembly

**Most decisions about the life and work of the congregation are made by Session. With the minister, who acts as the moderator of Session, elders work as leaders—leading the congregation in its fellowship (its ministry to one another) and in its mission (its ministry to the world).**

**Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church.**

**The church believes that God has given each elder gifts, that the congregation has recognized these gifts, and that each elder has “discerned a call.” By sharing their gifts elders are able to carry out their many tasks and responsibilities.**

