

COMMUNITY COMING TOGETHER (CCT)

December, 2012

This month's theme is *Community*



CHRISTMAS IS A TIME FOR GIVING

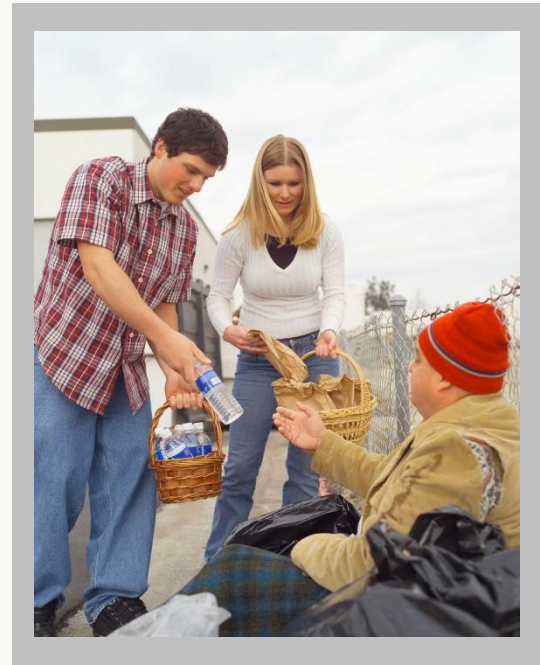
Our theme this month is community which, by definition is “a group of people with a common characteristic or interest living together within a larger society.” This rather broad definition can apply to our own family, our neighborhood, our city, our province, our country, or our world. So how do we cultivate a sense of community outside of our families, to feel part of something larger?

“It’s the most wonderful time of the year,” or so the famous Christmas song tells us. Certainly that is a true adage for a lot of people but for many others, it is a challenging time of year. Holidays such as Christmas can be difficult for people, such as those who are isolated, impoverished, or missing loved ones. In the hustle and bustle of the season, sometimes we forget that not everyone is in a place of Christmas cheer. But perhaps that offers an opportunity for us to share with others the spirit of the season.

The tradition of exchanging gifts is a key aspect of the Christmas season, a tradition begun in Bethlehem with the three Magi delivering their offerings to the baby Jesus. Too often, though, we can get caught up in the consumerism of the season and forget the significance of the custom of gift-giving. A gift does not have to be something bought in a store and wrapped up in pretty packaging. A gift is simply something that is given freely from one person to another, without the expectation of receiving anything in return. Babysitting for a young family, volunteering, shoveling your neighbor’s sidewalk, visiting someone who is lonely...any number of acts of kindness would be appreciated by friends, family and even strangers. And maybe when you see how great it feels to give, you might even decide to do it throughout the whole year. What a gift *that* would be!

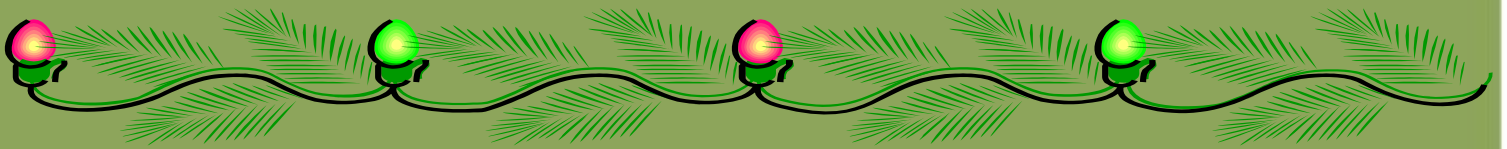
Remember this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously.

2 Corinthians 9:6-11



CHRISTMAS FACTS

- ☆ Each year more than 3 billion Christmas cards are sent in the US alone.
- ☆ All the gifts in the Twelve Days of Christmas would equal 364 gifts and is estimated to cost about \$25,431.18!
- ☆ The word Christmas means “Christ’s Mass”. The abbreviated “Xmas” is derived from the first letter of the word Christ in Greek which is chi, which is identical to our X. Xmas was originally an ecclesiastical abbreviation that was used in tables and charts.
- ☆ A wreath with holly, red berries and other decorations began from at least the 17th century. Holly, with its sharply pointed leaves, symbolized the thorns in Christ’s crown-of-thorns. Red berries symbolized the drops of Christ’s blood. A wreath at Christmas signified a home that celebrated the birth of Christ.



COMMUNITY EVENTS

McMan Community Services proudly presents Making Spirits Bright Charitable Gala, featuring Tom Jackson, on December 16 at the Medicine Hat Golf & Country Club at 6:00 pm. Tickets are \$100 (with a \$50 tax receipt provided) and all proceeds support McMan's Youth and Adult Homeless programs.

McMan Community Services is also partnering with Mark's Work Wearhouse. On Dec. 1-2, purchase any new clothing item at Mark's (in store only) and McMan will distribute it to people in need within our community.

Medicine Hat Public Library: Tic-tac will be hosting a Monopoly & Pizza Night on Friday, December 7 from 7:00 - 9:30 pm (doors open 6:45 - 7:15 only) Eight lucky teens will get to play on the life-size board. Everyone else gets to play on regular boards. All teens are able to play their game the whole evening (with a break for pizza of course). Free, no registration is required. For all teens 13 - 18 years old. For more information call Michelle B. at 403-502-8537

MHPL will be hosting a tween night. To help get into the Christmas spirit we're showing the movie "The Nightmare Before Christmas" (rated PG for some scary images). This is Monday, December 10th, from 7:00 - 8:30 pm. For ages 10 -12. Drinks, popcorn, and other munchies provided. For more information call 403-502-8526

UPCOMING CCT EVENTS

Dec. 3: Judging for our new logo contest. Yes, we're getting a new logo! Deadline for submission of logo designs is Nov. 30 and is open to all students at McCoy, St. Mary's and Notre Dame. We have great prizes which have been donated by community partners (an iPod Nano from McMan Community Services, tickets to an upcoming show from the Esplanade). Thanks so much to our partners for their generosity and good luck to the students on their entries!

Dec. 4, 6:00-7:00 pm: Family Night, McCoy High School. Any families from St. Mary's, Notre Dame and McCoy are welcome to attend for a fun family activity.

Dec. 13: last day to donate food or clothing items for the Christmas hampers at St. Mary's and Notre Dame Academy.

No one is useless in this world who lightens the burden of it to anyone else.
Charles Dickens