

People from St. Paul's will be caroling in the community Friday night

Nobleton Notes

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Nobleton United Church

This Sunday (Dec. 23) is the fourth Sunday in Advent. Communion will be at 11:15 a.m., as we continue in our celebrations and the lighting of the fourth of the four advent candles, the candle of Love.

The Christmas Eve Family Service will be at 7 p.m., and will include a dramatization of the Christmas story. Come see our live baby Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the angels, shepherds, the Wise Men. Listen to scripture readings, hear the choir sign Christmas music and join in the Christmas Carols. It is always a joyous occasion and suitable for all ages. All are welcome!

Caroling with St. Paul's

Our Youth Group (for anyone in high school) meets tonight at 6:15 p.m.

Our Thursday morning men's and women's study groups will take a break for the Christmas holidays and resume Jan. 10 at 9:30 a.m.

Join us this Friday (Dec. 21) for our Christmas Caroling evening. We will meet at the church at 7 p.m. and head out from there.

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804 SERVICES

Apple cider, hot chocolate and goodies will await all participants at the church following the event.

This Sunday (Dec. 23) marks the fourth Sunday of Advent. Gregory Dickson will lead us in worship, starting at 9:45 a.m. There is no Sunday school for children and no nursery care offered this week or next week. Our Christmas Eve Family Candlelight Service will be at 6:30 p.m. and our Christmas Day Service will be held at 10 a.m.

For further information about any of our activities or events, please contact the church office at (905) 859-0843.

Horticulture

"Ah, but it's cold out there..." and that's what the potted plants and/or floral bouquets we've bought for Christmas gifts are probably thinking as we are carrying them home or just to the car.

Make sure that these always-welcome gifts are well wrapped (not too tight) in plastic or two or three layers of paper before you leave the store. The wrapping should cover the top of the plant if the weather is cold or windy, but watch that the top flap is not too close to the blooms so as to bruise or break them.

When shopping for a length of time, leave the flowers or plants until last.

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Most florists, supermarkets and garden centres will keep them aside while other shopping is done. This will give you time to take other purchases to the car and let it warm up a little before the flowers arrive. By the by, it is best to stay with the vehicle while it warms. Never leave it running while unattended.

When choosing a plant or bouquet for a gift or for home, make sure the flowers are healthy (no drooping or damaged flower heads, yellowing or badly marked leaves). Sometimes pre-wrapped flower bouquets may have been in the store for some time and the droopy leaves or dead stems that are beginning to go slimy are hidden by the wrapping. This is especially true in supermarkets or stores where flowers are not a big part of the merchandise. It is best to check before buying.

When buying a plant, choose a healthy looking specimen that has mostly buds with only a few showing colour as plants in nearly full or in full bloom (except poinsettias) will have a much shorter life.

A popular gift plant at Christmas includes red/rose or white cyclamen, whose botanical name comes from the Latin for "round," referring to the shape of its bulb. There are hardy cyclamen that will grow in gardens in our area but the potted ones aren't usually that type.

An azalea is another pot-

ted plant that makes a lovely gift. It is a variety of the rhododendron which comes in shades of white, pink, red/rose, apricot and peach. Azalea comes from the Greek and means "dry," which refers to the dry soil it was supposed to grow in. Needless to say, it must be regularly watered to survive. There are hardy azaleas which will grow outdoors, but again not these potted kind. Of course chrysanthemums are another plant

given many times for gifts, but remember many people of Italian heritage view chrysanthemums as strictly a funeral flower. Note: The daisy-like flowers often included in floral bouquets are also chrysanthemums.

Boxed amaryllis bulbs make another great gift. They come in a range of colours including white, red/rose, pink and bicolours. The advantage of giving this bulb is that the recipient has the fun of

planting it and watching it grow. The boxed bulbs come with a pot, soil and planting instructions. Always open the box before buying as, if the plant has been on display a long time, the bulb will have started to grow and be short and distorted. Amaryllis (from the Greek name of a country girl) does have a botanical name as well, which is hippeastrum (hipperus means

See 'Entries' on page 16



BREAKFAST WITH SANTA ATTRACTS YOUNG AND OLD

Santa Claus was the guest of honour recently at Nobleton United Church, but despite that, he was kept pretty busy greeting all the people who had come out to have breakfast with him. Samuel Matukas, 3, of Schomberg made a point of meeting the Jolly Old Elf.

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