

GOOD NEWS AT GRACE

Grace United Church • December 15, 2023

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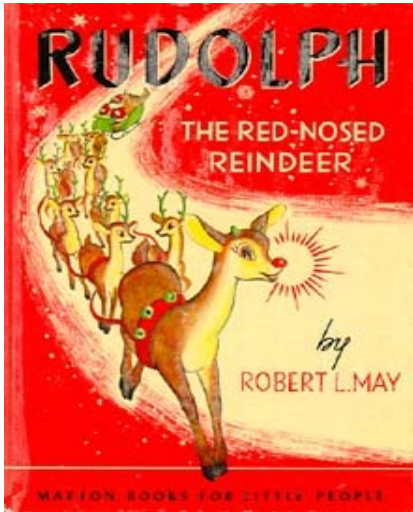
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The Origin Story of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer



As the holiday season of 1938 came to Chicago, Bob May wasn't feeling much comfort or joy. A 34-year-old ad writer for Montgomery Ward, May was exhausted and nearly broke. His wife, Evelyn, was bedridden, on the losing end of a two-year battle with cancer. This left Bob to look after their four-year old-daughter, Barbara. One night, Barbara asked her father, "Why isn't my mommy like everybody else's mommy?" As he struggled to answer his daughter's question, Bob remembered the pain of his own childhood. A small, sickly boy, he was constantly picked on and called names. But he wanted to give his daughter hope, and show her that being different was nothing to be ashamed of. More than that, he wanted her to know that he loved her and would always take care of her. So he began to spin a tale about a reindeer with a bright red nose who found a special place on Santa's team. Barbara loved the story so

much that she made her father tell it every night before bedtime. As he did, it grew more elaborate. Because he couldn't afford to buy his daughter a gift for Christmas, Bob decided to turn the story into a homemade picture book.

In early December, Bob's wife died. Though he was heartbroken, he kept working on the book for his daughter. A few days before Christmas, he reluctantly attended a company party at Montgomery Ward. His co-workers encouraged him to share the story he'd written. After he read it, there was a standing ovation. Everyone wanted copies of their own. Montgomery Ward bought the rights to the book from their debt-ridden employee. Over the next six years, at Christmas, they gave away six million copies of Rudolph the Red Nosed Reindeer to shoppers. Every major publishing house in the country was making offers to obtain the book. In an incredible display of good will, the head of the department store returned all rights to Bob May. Four years later, Rudolph had made him into a millionaire.

Now remarried with a growing family, May felt blessed by his good fortune. But there was more to come. His brother-in-law, a successful songwriter named Johnny Marks, set the uplifting story to music. The song was pitched to artists from Bing Crosby on down. They all passed. Finally, Marks approached Gene Autry. The cowboy star had scored a holiday hit with "Here Comes Santa Claus" a few years before. Like the others, Autry wasn't impressed with the song about the misfit reindeer. Marks begged him to give it a second listen. Autry played it for his wife, Ina. She was so touched by the line "They wouldn't let poor Rudolph play in any reindeer games" that she insisted her husband record the tune.

Within a few years, it had become the second best-selling Christmas song ever, right behind "White Christmas." Since then, Rudolph has come to life in TV specials, cartoons, movies, toys, games, coloring books, greeting cards and even a Ringling Bros. circus act. The little red-nosed reindeer dreamed up by Bob May and immortalized in song by Johnny Marks has come to symbolize Christmas as much as Santa Claus, evergreen trees and presents. As the last line of the song says, "He'll go down in history."

Upcoming Services and Dates

Dec. 17th: 10:30 am Advent 3 Christmas Musical Service.

Bring a friend or neighbour to enjoy the musical.

Wear a festive Christmas sweater to the service.

All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments, and social time in Zion Hall.

Dec. 20th: 10:00 - 1:00 pm Sit n' Knit Stay n' Crochet

1:30 - 3:00 pm Salvation Army Mobile Food Bank - Front parking lot

7:00 pm Board Meeting

Dec. 21st: 8:30 am Fire Safety Inspection

7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 24th: 10:30 am Advent 4 Lessons and Carols Christmas Service led by Rev. Marg. All are welcome to stay for a light snack, refreshments, and social time in Zion Hall.

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight service led by Rev Marg.

Dec. 31st: 10:30 am Worship Service led by the worship committee.

All dates and events can be found on our website calendar as well.

➡ Link to the calendar: [GraceUC Calendar](#)

Services will be recorded and can be found on our You Tube Channel usually later Sunday.

▶ Link to [Grace United Tavistock You Tube](#)



Automatic External Defibrillator (AED)

Thank You. Thank you to the Dave Mounsey Memorial Fund (DMMF), a fund dedicated to the donation of life-saving defibrillators to public buildings in the name of fallen Law Enforcement, Fire, EMS and Military members who have died in the line of duty. We would like to make the DMMF donation in memory of fallen officer Sam Ankenmann. Thank you also to our donors at Grace who have given (unofficially) \$827. The cost for an AED is around \$1600-\$1800 and DMMF would cover a portion of this along with our donations. If you would like to donate please mark AED on your envelope or e-transfer.



This Sunday wear your Christmas Sweater to worship. The more festive the better ! We would love to share some photos in next week's newsletter.

Contact us

Rev Marg Smith cell 289 926 0707 margsmith@rogers.com

Carol Young cell 519-301-1356 tavigraceyouth@gmail.com

Office 519 655 2151 graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com

E-transfer donation email gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com

Office Hours (please call ahead for an appointment)

Rev. Marg Smith, Thursdays 9:30 - 3:30 pm

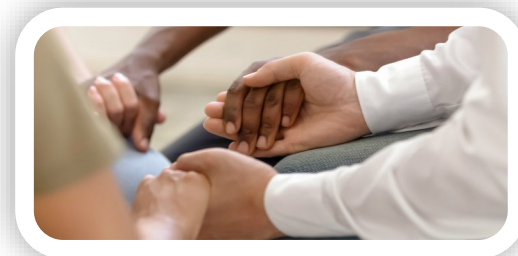
Katherine Brenneman, Thursdays 9:30 - 2:00 pm

Do you have a prayer request?

"In all things let your requests be known to God in prayer." (Philippians 4:6)

Grace has a group of wonderful and dedicated people that form a prayer chain. If you, or anyone you know is in need of prayer, please reach out to the chair of Grace PCO, Bev Neeb 519 655-2695, or Rev Marg Smith 289 926 0707 and we will begin praying for you.

- † pray for Brenda Mohr as she copes with health issues.
- † pray for Keith Weitzel as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Marg Pletsch as she deals with health issues.
- † pray for Ron Rudy as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Ken Brenneman as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Shelley Walker as she deals with health issues.
- † pray for Larry Odette, father of Ken Odette, who is dealing with health issues.
- † pray for Mary Mitchell, a friend of Rev Marg's, as she deals with health issues.
- † pray for Doug Shirray as he recovers from surgery.
- † pray for Ed Pellow as he deals with health issues.
- † pray for Betty Lou Deckert as she deals with health issues.
- † pray for the family of Lynda Wettlaufer as they mourn her passing.



Advent and Christmas at Grace:

Dec 17th 10:30 am Advent 3 - Christmas Musical: Bring a friend or neighbour along to enjoy the musical

Dec. 21st 7:00 pm Blue Christmas Service

Dec. 24th 10:30 am Advent 4 Lessons and Carols Service

7:00 pm Christmas Eve Communion and Candlelight Service

Dec. 31st: 10:30 am First Sunday after Christmas Worship Service



Volunteers Needed for Dec 24th Worship Service:

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following spots:

10:30 am Ushering/Offering

Please sign up on the schedule by the office. Thank you !

Project Good Tidings

Project Good Tidings finished on Sunday December 10 with great success with 32 bushel baskets along with many gift cards to The Christmas Place, TAP, Optimism Place, Shelterlink Youth Services! Thanks to all who gave to spread the good news of the hope, peace, joy and love that was given to us in the birth of Jesus.



Please join us December 21st 7:00 p.m.

Service led by
Rev Marg
Smith
and
Pastor Harold
Schlegel



Blue Christmas Service

A service for those who have suffered loss
or are feeling those losses at Christmas

Music
by
Marilyne
Nystrom

Grace United Church Tavistock

116 Woodstock St. S.



It's time to renew your subscription! For just \$30 (including tax), you'll receive 8 more issues of *Broadview* delivered straight to your mailbox. You won't want to miss out on a single issue of the magazine's award-winning coverage of spirituality, social justice and ethical living, as well as United Church news and perspectives.

Not a subscriber? It's never too late to join our *Broadview* subscription group!

Please put your payment on the plate in a separate envelope marked *Broadview* subscription with your name (and address if you are starting a new subscription). Cash

or cheque payable to Grace United Church. Subscriptions will auto renew by Jan. 10th. Please contact Deb Stevely if you don't wish to renew.



Salvation Army Mobile Food Bank Wed. Dec. 20th

Every third Wednesday
afternoon 1:30 - 3:00
pm Grace United Church
Parking Lot

Please call 519-271-2950
if you wish to receive
services at our mobile
locations.



Mini Monthly Financial Report

Year to Date

JAN 1 - DEC 12

	2022	2023
Anniversary	5,334	3,326
Core Receipts	88,387	98,014
Bequest	0	81,121
Other Donations	467	671
UCW Donation	3,000	3,000
Fundraising	4,469	6,006
Manse Rental	10,575	11,450
Funeral Donations	350	5,695
Misc. Receipts	3,034	6,796
Total Receipts	115,616	216,079
Expenses	168,858	212,949
	includes	includes
	\$40,000 to	\$75,000 to
	repay CEBA	invest
Surplus/Deficit	-53,242	3,130

Thank you! We are grateful for your generous support for the ministry of Grace United Church. If you would like to make a donation to Grace please see the options below:

- Plate placed at the entrance on Sunday morning, using your offering envelopes or a pew envelope.
- Etransfer to gracetavistockdonation@rogers.com (Security answer is Grace1980). Also include any special notes in the message.
- By mail to Grace United Church, PO Box 189 Tavistock ON N0B 2R0
- We also offer Pre-Authorized Remittance. [PAR forms are available here.](#)



Christmas Office hours: The office will be closed Dec. 25th to Jan. 3rd. For this reason we encourage those who wish to make any year end donations outside of Sunday morning worship, to do so before these dates in order to receive a donation receipt for 2023. Please contact Katherine if you have any questions about your donations.

There will be no newsletter Dec 29th and Jan 5th. Please keep this in mind for your news and announcements.

LOOKING AHEAD: We have scheduled our annual meeting for Sun. Feb. 11th. In order to have the annual report and financial statements ready ahead of time we are asking committees and staff to submit their reports and books by Wed. Jan. 10th. Thank you.

At this time the membership list will be reprinted — if you have any address or phone number changes please submit them to Katherine at graceunitedtavistock@gmail.com