



John and Karen Watton's Christmas Newsletter, 2011



John and Karen Sharing a Dance at the Celebration of her 50th Birthday This Year

Sent to you with Love!

We offer heartfelt thanks to our Lord, and His people everywhere for the Love and friendship we have received from you this year!

Special events in our family's life

- *The Birth of two more grandchildren. **We now have FIVE Grandkids!**
- *Getting Back to Full time duties and a very busy Schedule!
- *Karen's 50th Birthday
- *Our Relationship with Cancer continues.....

Merry Christmas and New Year Blessings from our family to yours!

It is a joy once again to be able to write and share our Christmas letter this!

This past year was a challenging one for us, but has been filled with blessings, new beginnings, friendship and Grace.

We have prayed for all of you to receive God's blessings through your own ups and downs of 2011, and wish each one a blessed, Merry Christmas, and all prosperity and health for the New Year that awaits us!

St. Martin's -Our Spiritual Home.

St. Martin's continues to be a hub of activity and growth. Our diverse ministries continue to evolve, as God works with willing hearts to build His kingdom.

St. Martin's Vestry continues to be a joy to me. As we share our joys and sorrows in this congregation, I am so thankful that we are indeed moving more and more from **Congregation to Community**. I have returned to full time ministry, and wish to thank everyone in the parish and our diocese for the patience and love which was (and continues to be) a major component of my healing! **Earlier in the year I was able to lead the Anglican Fellowship of Prayer retreat**Leading that retreat was

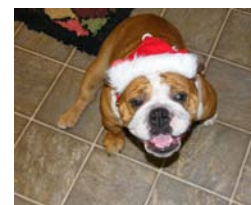
a great help and confidence builder as I struggled to get "back on track" ,and recover a voice damaged by heavy treatments. I recently sang in Church again. What a joy it was to be able to "croak for the Lord!"

We have resumed our Youth Band, have a great Confirmation Class, a fine group of Servers, are running a life in the Eucharist Program..... I will be resuming our Biblical Studies program in January as well.

Our parish will be doing some exciting visioning and planning for the future this year and I am more than excited about being part of that!



Rest in Peace Dear Friend
Our dear Chico passed away earlier this year. She was 15 years old



Billie the Bull Dog Wishes you all a merry Christmas!

Our Children and Grandchildren

Our youngest daughter Ashton is still in Corner Brook with her fiancé Dave. She works as a cook at **Sorrentos** They are both very hard working people, and have completed some major renovations and repairs on their home this year.

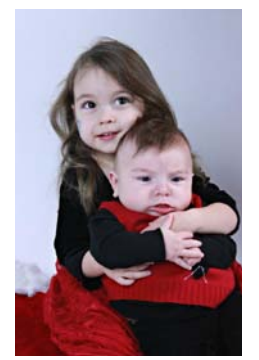
Our second youngest, Lacey, is still in Dartmouth with husband Daniel and daughter Delilah (3 in January) . Daniel is a hard working member of our Armed Forces, and Lacey is now on maternity leave thanks to receiving the gift of **Zacchaeus Daniel John** who was born on September 6.

Our second oldest, Elissa who lives in **Gander** is also on maternity leave thanks to receiving the gift of a new daughter **Teghan Grace** on December 6th Elissa and Robert are doing well as they adjust to the role of being busy first time parents.

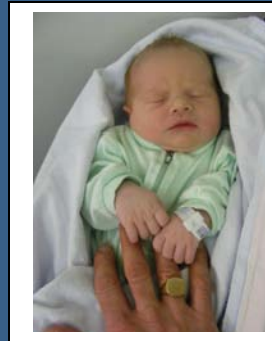
Our oldest daughter Chanda , husband Jason, along with Joshua (8) and Emma (6) are still happily settled in Torbay . Jason works with D.F. Barnes as a millwright ,and Chanda works as an L.P.N. at the Hoyles Escàsoni home.



Emma and Joshua



Delilah and Zacchaeus



Teghan



Our Cancer Journey Continues

2011 has been a year of recovery and success for John.

He finished all of his treatments in October of 2010, and then began a process of healing and dealing with the side effects of chemotherapy and radiation. Suffice it to say it has been more than challenging dealing with the "new reality". We were able to build a greenhouse, and with the help and gifts from friends plant a great garden this year!

We were also able to travel to Nova Scotia for the birth of our Grandson Zaccheaus. Poppy John was able to help renovate Lacey and Danny's kitchen, as well as Tegan's nursery. He also holds the honour of being Delilah, Zacchaeus AND Tegan's very first baby sitter. (Grandparenting is a better word...and we love it very much!)

The first months of the year really had us wondering if health and strength would ever return. Now we have even more hope as John has returned to his leadership role and super busy schedule in the parish.

He is scheduled for a biopsy in January to ascertain if the battle has been won!

John's blog *It's not always someone else*, was published to share the journey. It is still online, and receives a fair amount of traffic. **He promises to have it updated in the New Year!**

There is much to share, and you will be able to read the follow up at <http://notalwayssomeoneelse.blogspot.com/>



Doing Much Better These Days!
Chatting here with my friend
and Associate Priest Brian
Candow