

# I Can Still Hear Grandma's Voice

The family was gathered around the tree on Christmas morning. The presents had been opened and the traditional smells of dinner were beginning to waft through the house.

Talk turned to the previous evening's church service. "I remember when Grandma used to sing that solo," said Ian, who had just turned 18.

"Which one?" asked his older sister, Jessica.

"*O Holy Night*", said Ian. "She sang that every year for as long as I remember. I can still hear her wonderful voice in my head."

"And later Grandpa would always read *'Twas the Night Before Christmas* to us, too. Remember that?" asked Jessica.

"Yeah," responded Ian. "I remember so many things about Advent and Christmas from over the years. Everything was fun—all the anticipation and then the surprises on Christmas morning."

"Remember the Christmas pageants?" said Jessica. "How Mrs. Merritt used to insist that we memorize every word of our lines before we could even start to rehearse?"

"Yeah! I can still recite Angel Gabriel's words to Mary: 'Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favour with God,'" Ian said in his booming voice, and with all the right gestures.

"Wow! I'm impressed that you still remember them."

"You know", said Ian, "when I think of it, my best Christmas memories are about experiences—the stories and the songs—and about the people who made them happen."

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For many of us, Advent and Christmas provide a time of reflection and good memories. Each of us could name a number of people in the church who have had a positive influence on our life's journey: people who have shaped what we think, what we feel and what we believe.

**This Advent and Christmas season, why not honour these people by making a gift in their name?**

Why not consider making a tribute gift in honour or in memory of someone dear to our church's Mission and Service ministries, to your own congregation, or to any mission or outreach program of The United Church of Canada.

You can name your gift in honour or in memory of a loved one, an important Sunday school teacher, a minister ... perhaps a music director ... or even that great neighbour down the street who was always there to patch up those scraped knees and elbows.

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You can make your gift online at:

<http://www.united-church.ca/getinvolved/donate/howto/direct>

Or, for more information, you can contact the United Church Financial Development Officer in your region.

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