

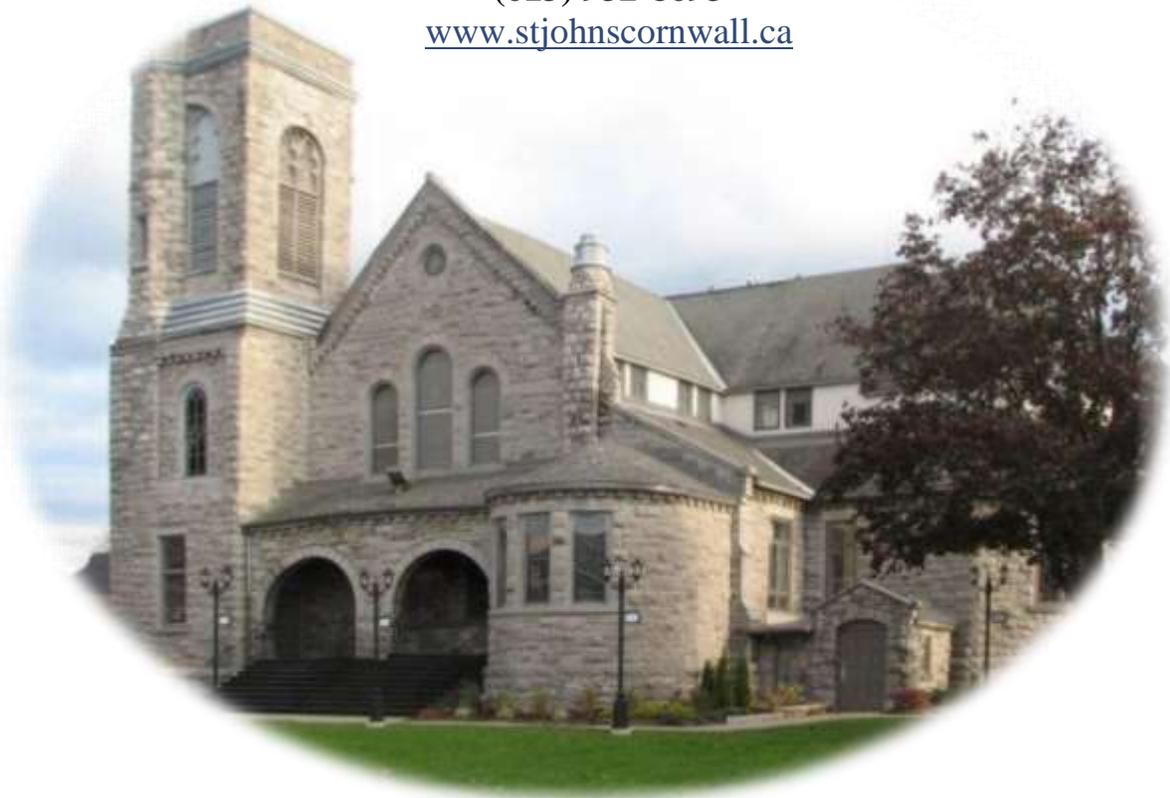


# Congregational Profile 2018

## St. John's Presbyterian Church

28 Second Street East  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 1Y3  
(613) 932-8693

[www.stjohnscornwall.ca](http://www.stjohnscornwall.ca)



**Knowing, enjoying and sharing Christ's love with all.**

**Interim Moderator: Reverend Robert Martin**  
[calder.clere@bell.net](mailto:calder.clere@bell.net)



## Contents

Introduction .....	3
Our Profile .....	4
Church Information.....	4
Staff .....	4
Financial Statement (2017) .....	5
Congregation and Community .....	5
Survey Says? .....	8
Our History .....	10
Our Community.....	11
Session.....	12
Pastoral Care.....	13
Mission and Outreach.....	13
Session Memorial Trust Fund .....	14
House Committee.....	15
Leading with Care .....	16
Women’s Ministry .....	16
Worship and Music.....	17
Sunday Services.....	17
Special Services .....	18
Post-Worship Fellowship .....	18
Audio-Visual And Tape/Web Ministry .....	18
Christian Education .....	19
Nursery .....	19
Sunday School.....	19
Youth Group.....	19
Adult Studies .....	20
Heritage Trust Fund.....	20
Board of Managers .....	20
Position Description .....	21
Challenges .....	22
Hope for the Future .....	22

# Introduction

On behalf of St. John's Presbyterian Church, thank you for taking the time to prayerfully read and consider our Congregational Profile. The Search Committee created this document with significant input from our church community, and we believe it is a true reflection of where St. John's is in its faith journey.

St. John's has been in Intentional Interim Ministry with Reverend Ian K. Johnston since February of 2016. In the spring of 2018, we began our search process. The Search Committee was chosen with great care and consists of representation from all demographics (such as equal representation of men and women, age, members who were baptized in the church and others who are newer to St. John's, etc.) and groups (Session, Board of Managers, Women of the Church, Trustees, Women of the Church). We are excited to take another step in the process of calling a Minister of Word and Sacrament. We are confident that God will send us someone with whom we will be able to have a pastoral relationship, who will help us to grow in our faith, and lead us in worship, mission and service. This profile is intended to provide you with an overview of who and what we are, our values and beliefs, the gifts we have to share, and the mission and service activities in which we are engaged. We invite you to learn more by visiting our Church website and Facebook page. If you have any questions, or wish to submit your profile for consideration, please contact our Interim Moderator, Reverend Robert Martin at [calder.clere@bell.net](mailto:calder.clere@bell.net), or by phone at 613-678-2826. Profiles can be received by e-mail or mailed to:

St. John's Presbyterian Church Search Committee  
c/o Reverend Robert Martin  
28 Second Street East  
Cornwall, Ontario  
K6H 1Y3

All profiles will be prayerfully considered and treated in confidence.

Yours in Christ,

Members of the St. John's Presbyterian Church Search Committee.

Interim Moderator Reverend Robert Martin  
Search Committee Convenor Cynthia Seguin  
Katherine Adams  
Phyllis Bateman  
Mark Bourgon  
Lise Evans

Clement Gwanyama  
Paul Hickey  
Katalin Kennedy  
Brian Markell  
Sue MacNeil  
Dan Plant

## Our Profile

**Date presented to Session: November 13, 2018**

**Name: St. John's Presbyterian Church**

**Address: 28 Second Street East, Cornwall, Ontario. K6H 1Y3**

**Telephone: (613) 932-8693**

**Year Congregation Organized: 1787**

**Presbytery: Seaway-Glengarry**

**Convenor of Search Committee: Cynthia Seguin**

**Address: 17816 County Road 18, Martintown, Ontario. K0C 1S0**

**Telephone: (613) 936-8188**

## Church Information

**Average weekly attendance at Sunday service: 110**

**Average weekly attendance at Sunday School: 10 children from September through June**

**Christian Education (please see Christian Education, p. 16)**

## Staff

**Office Administrator: Lisa Angus**

**Financial Assistant: Susan Hoppin**

**Custodian: Dale Shaver**

**Part Time Custodian: Tim McLean**

**Organist: Gary Postma**

**Youth Co-Ordinator: Vacant**

## Financial Statement (2017)

Income from		Expenses	
Offering	\$208,060.73	Operating	\$238,680.00
Investments	\$14,400.00	Debt Payment	\$3,762.76
Rentals/Facilities	16,211.30	Benevolences	\$16,924.00
Other	\$93,184.33	Other	\$44,785.61
<b>Total income</b>	<b>\$331,856.36</b>	<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$300,390.65</b>
Approved budget for 2018			\$266,429.00
Presbyterians Sharing Allocation for 2018		Requested:	\$24,944.90
		Accepted	\$17,000
Current Loan from Heritage Trust Fund for Operating Costs			\$35,000

## Congregation and Community

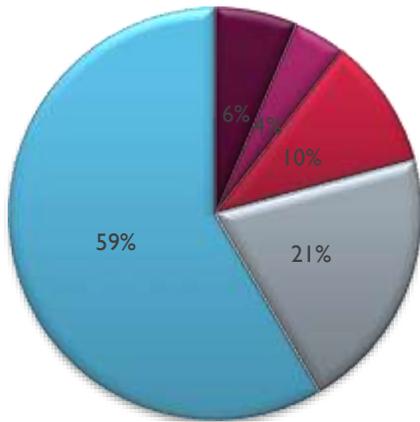
Type of Congregation: Self-Supporting

Type of Community: Medium Urban

	Congregation		Community	
	Present	5 Years Ago	Present	5 years Ago
Members	283	430		
Ministers in Association	4	1		
Adherents	132	280		
Child & Child Communicants	48	161		
Average Sunday School	8	8		
Average Attendance at worship	110	60		
Total Population	467	872	59,700	4

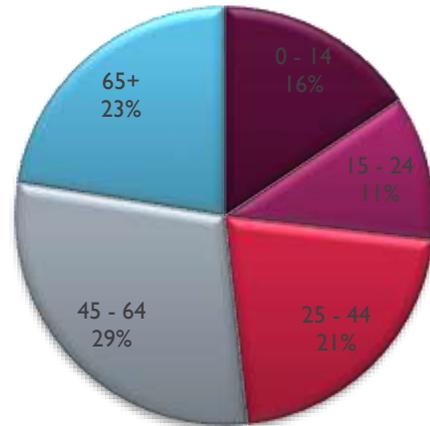
## Demographics

### Age (Congregation)



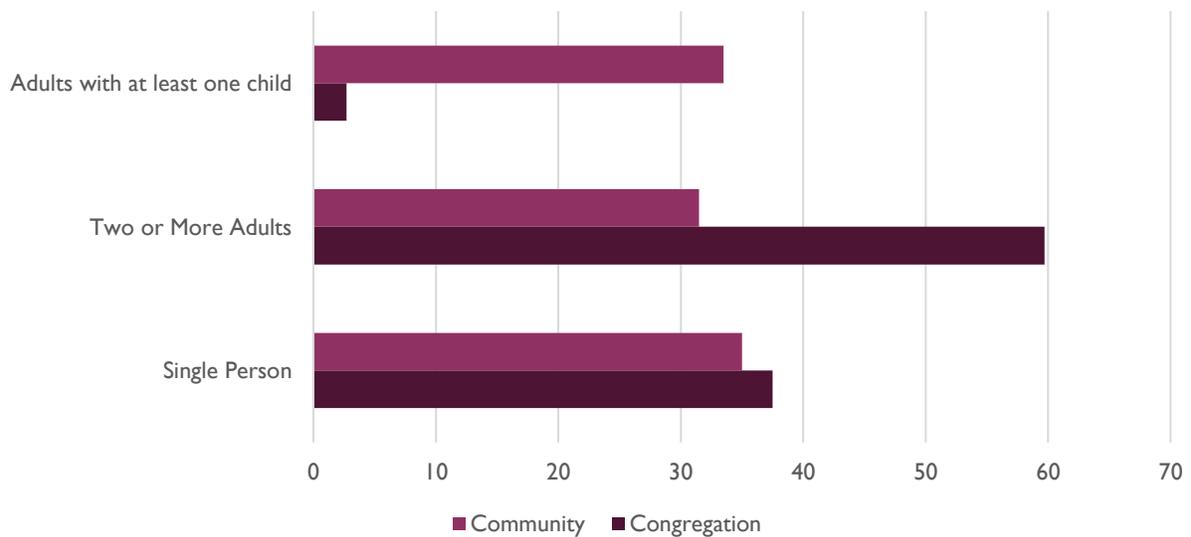
■ 0 - 14 ■ 15 - 24 ■ 25 - 44 ■ 45 - 64 ■ 65+

### Age (Community)

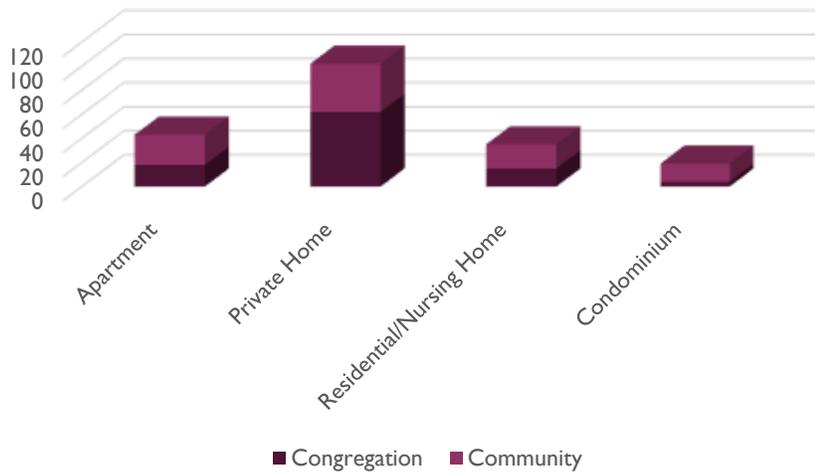


■ 0 - 14 ■ 15 - 24 ■ 25 - 44 ■ 45 - 64 ■ 65+

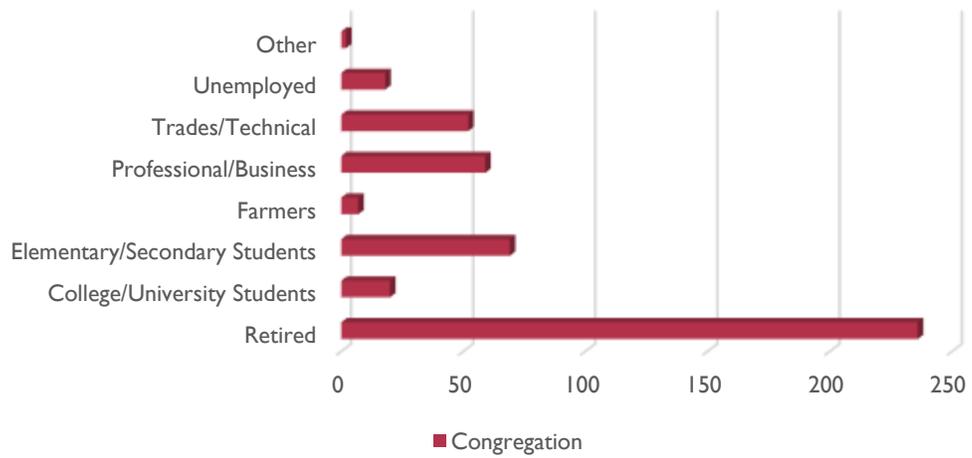
## Living Patterns



### Housing Patterns



### Occupations Within the Congregation



## Survey Says?



Several methods were used to gather data and feedback. The Search Committee felt it was crucial to give people many opportunities to share their thoughts. It was also important to give people a variety of ways to respond. For the surveys and questions, paper copies were distributed at the church and by email. The Search Committee created an email address to receive feedback electronically, and the ‘Thoughts and Wishes Box’ was used to collect paper responses.

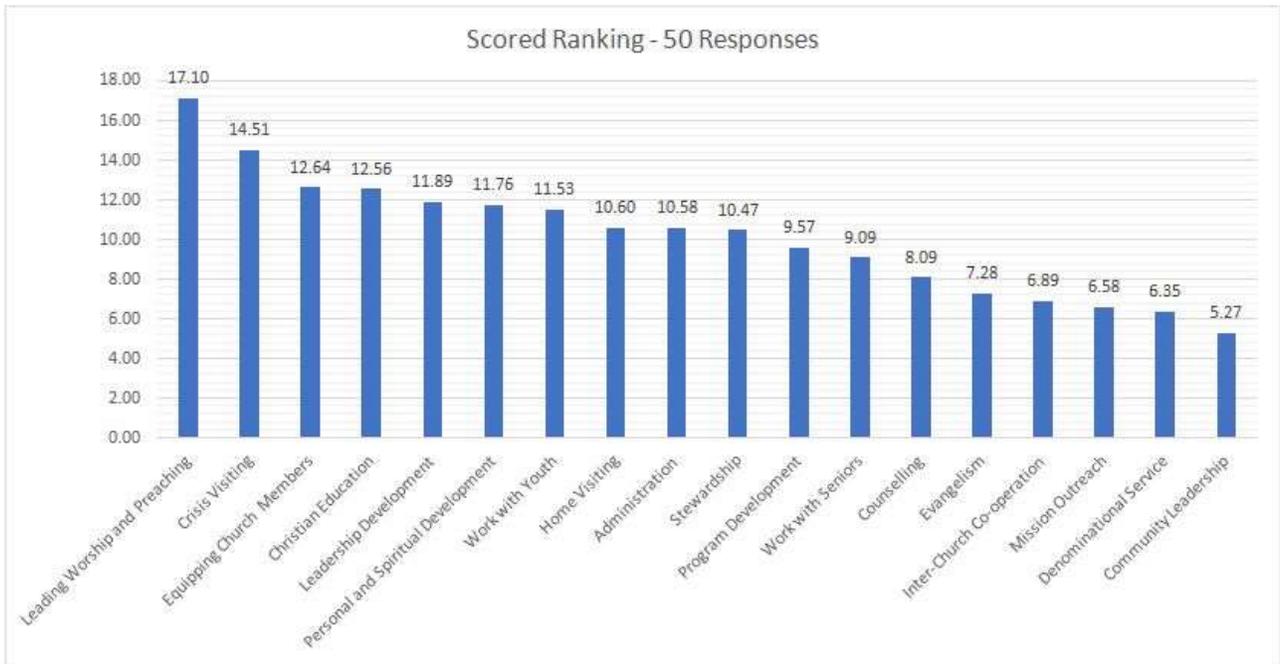
The Search Committee held a Town Hall meeting that was attended by 35 members. The format for this session was a Stop/Start/Continue activity. A series of 7 questions were developed using some of the questions from the survey and some that were created by the Search Committee. These were distributed each Sunday as a bulletin insert for seven weeks. The full questionnaire from the Guidelines was hand delivered to the congregation by the Elders. These surveys were also made available at the church and sent to everyone with an email address. Finally, the Pastoral Skills and Interest Survey was distributed for 3 weeks in the bulletin. It was also sent by email as an attachment and in an online “Survey Monkey” format.

Common themes that emerged from the feedback:

- recognizing the importance of the building as an historical presence in the community
- connecting music to the theme of the service
- developing a strong children and youth presence
- enriching and fulfilling worship services
- healing and bringing people together
- building our capacity to accept change
- putting more focus on people and visiting
- developing people’s faith through Bible Studies and small groups
- having special services and events
- stabilizing the financial situation
- growing fellowship

The Pastoral Skills and Interest Inventory revealed that the priorities for our congregation are:

1. Leading Worship and Preaching
2. Crisis Visiting
3. Equipping Church Members
4. Christian Education
5. Leadership Development
6. Personal and Spiritual Development
7. Working with Youth



## Our History

In 1787, God's will gathered together a small band of people in Cornwall (then called New Johnstown) under the itinerant ministry of the Reverend John Bethune. From such a fragile beginning grew a congregation of the Reformed/Presbyterian Tradition that continues to worship

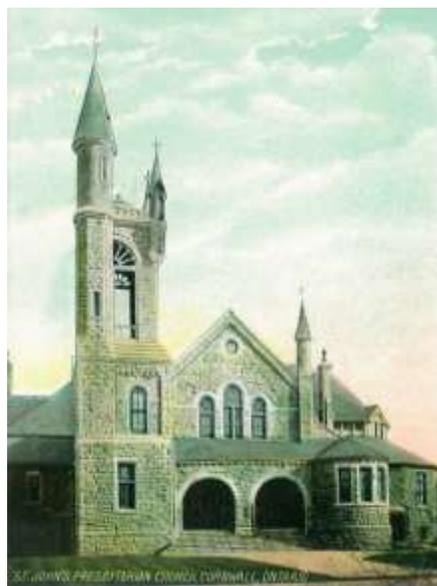
Christ and to serve Him in many ways in the community.



Upon the death of Bethune in 1815, the congregation was ministered to by Masters of the local Grammar school until 1827, when the Reverend Hugh Urquhart arrived from Scotland. A new building for worship was completed on Pitt Street, a Session of Elders was organized for good government, and, in 1831, the name “St. John’s” was chosen. Dr. Urquhart ministered to St. John’s until his death in 1871, building a strong congregation with great influence for good in the growing community.

In 1888-89 under the direction of his successor the Rev. Neil MacNish, the congregation built their existing building on Second St. East. This impressive building, built of limestone, quarried locally, was a sign not only of expansion, but of solid determination to preach and share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with the community of Cornwall. A task that has not changed throughout the years. In 1959 Caldwell Hall was built to meet the needs of an expanding congregation and ministry.

Bethune, Urquhart and MacNish were the initial “builders of the congregation” but their successors have continued their faithful labours for Christ. St. John’s has had 19 ministers over the past 231 years. St. John’s continues to honor it’s past but has not ignored the present or the future in worship or in serving Jesus Christ in Cornwall and area.



# Our Community

The City of Cornwall, and the St. John's community with it, recognizes and remembers that we gather together on the traditional territory and lands of the Kanien'keha:ka, the Mohawk of the Haudenosaunee or Iroquois Confederacy, with whom we are the people of the Upper Canada Treaties. Our efforts are to live with respect on this land and live in peace, with justice and tolerance with its varied people.

Cornwall is strategically located on Highway 401 between Toronto and Montreal, and is just an



hour's drive southeast of Ottawa. Two international airports are a short distance away, and Cornwall also has VIA's passenger train service. It is important to note the proximity of the International Border Crossing to New York State.

The city itself has a population of approximately 46,000 and offers affordable housing prices. Cornwall is unique in its bilingualism. The census of 2016 indicates that nearly half of the local residents have knowledge of

both English and French.

Cornwall's industrial base is a diversified mix of manufacturing, automotive, high tech, food processing, distribution centres and call centres. The city hosts Walmart, the largest supply chain management distribution centre in Canada. The city has options for post-secondary education including St. Lawrence College, the University of Ottawa, the Nav Centre, and the St. Lawrence River Institute.



Cornwall has a lot to offer in recreational terms. The St. Lawrence River allows for boating, fishing, water sports, but also 75 km of waterfront recreational trails. The city has a variety of facilities including: modern gyms, hockey arenas, an Aquatic Centre, as well as a Curling Centre. In addition, the Civic Complex and Lamoureux Park offer venues where Arts, Entertainment and Festivals may be enjoyed.

## Session

St. John's Kirk Session currently comprises an Intentional Interim Minister, Clerk of Session working closely with the Minister, and the ruling Elders elected by the congregation. Presently there are 22 active elders, 12 women and 10 men, dedicated to nurturing the spiritual well being of its members and adherents. For pastoral care purposes, each elder has been assigned one of the 22 districts which define the span of St. John's outreach to its families.

Session monthly meetings are held from September until June inclusive, to address the various activities and matters in which the congregation is involved. A brief meeting is also held prior to each of the Communion Services held 4 to 5 times each year. The Clerk of Session records the minutes of meetings; these minutes, the agenda and written committee reports are forwarded to Session, before monthly meetings.

Among the various functions Elders carry out include the distribution of the Newsletter to their districts prior to Communion services; maintaining ongoing contact by visits and other means as well as identifying to the Minister, those who require his prompt attention. Session also hosts and supports special events to encourage congregation and community outreach participation.

Each Elder takes part in at least one of the standing committees as convenor and/or as member: Worship and Music, Christian Education, Pastoral Care, Mission and Outreach, House Committee, Leading with Care and the Session Memorial Trust Fund.

Representatives of the following non-session committees also sit on Session: Board of Managers, Trustees, and Presbytery. As needed, special committees are also struck, such as the present Minister Search Committee which not only consists of Elders, but also of representatives from the congregation at large.



## Pastoral Care

At St John's we have an active, dedicated and caring group of individuals who are involved in pastoral care. Members of the committee currently visit our local hospital and local long-term care homes. Of course, the minister will be the leader of this committee and the pastoral care committee is there to assist the minister in whatever capacity required. The minister would be expected to be available for pastoral counseling, crisis visitation and hospital visitation on a regular basis.

There is a well administered prayer chain ministry that seeks to provide spiritual comfort and support in times of uncertainty or distress.

The tape ministry makes the Sunday Service available to shut-ins on a tape cassette. It is duplicated and delivered by a volunteer. At present there are at least one to two tapes requested. Although becoming obsolete, we do have more cassettes available should there be a greater need in the future. We also have some of our recent Sunday services available online at [stjohnscornwall.ca](http://stjohnscornwall.ca)

The card ministry involves sending a card on the first anniversary of a bereavement loss. Birthday, anniversary, get well, thinking of you, and encouragement cards are sent and can be found Sunday mornings at the back of the church for signing by the congregation that Sunday.

A pastoral care manual is currently being worked upon.

Through the pastoral care committee we want to show God's love, as we seek to care and comfort those who are not able to attend church, or those in need of prayer requests.

## Mission and Outreach

St. John's is a caring congregation of dedicated members who provide support to world-wide and community-based organizations as well as take on special projects.

Through our commitment to Presbyterian Sharing, St. John's contributes generously to the Presbyterian Church in Canada to carry out mission and ministry across Canada and around the



world. As well, personal donations are made to Presbyterian World Service and Development. Our gifts assist people in impoverished countries: to develop skills and help enhance the lives of their families, teach girls about human rights through education programs, support struggling ministries to be reborn and provide support, hope and resources for inner city, refugee, and native ministries.

Locally, support is provided to the *Agape Centre*, Cornwall's largest food bank and only regular daily soup kitchen. A dedicated team of volunteers from St. John's provides a hot meal at the *Agape Centre* for the less fortunate in our community every two months. Throughout the year, financial contributions are also made to the Centre as well as to Baldwin House, a Shelter for Abused Women.



Individuals and families are also assisted on a needs basis by St. John's, as gifts and donations to the benevolent fund are a part of our on-going care for others.

St. John's has become involved in the Presbytery Refugee project in the area by participating on the committee and fundraising. Members of this congregation recently hosted a shower for a young woman refugee to set up her new home (photo above).

## Session Memorial Trust Fund

St. John's Session Memorial Trust receives bequests in memory of loved ones.

These include the following: F. & B. Warner, C. MacRae, S. Milloy, G. Brown, I. McGaughey, I. McNaughton/St. Thomas Fund, MacNish, D. Comrie, A. Milloy and Memorial Funds.

The returns from these investments are used for a number of annual disbursements. It also provides an amount to be used at the Minister's discretion for benevolent needs. In 2018, the following

received support through this ministry: Cariboo Missions, Gracefield Christian Camp and Conference Centre, School in the Dump, and the Presbyterian College.



Above: In 2017, the McGaughey Memorial Organ Prize was presented to Rashaan Allwood by Reverend Johnston and Keppel Bharath, during an organ recital.

Left: Lauren Thomas, the 2018 MacRae Bursary recipient, receiving the award from Reverend Johnston. Lauren is currently studying at Queen's University.



## House Committee

The role of the House Committee is to manage the events and activities that take place within the Church. The members of the House Committee comprise representatives of the Board of Managers, the Women of the Church, the Session and the Minister.

We are pleased that a number of community groups and organizations feel St. John's to be a welcoming home for their activities.

We enjoy the friendship of a number of regular groups who use our facility including those who participate in Pickleball and Keyboarding. Vagabond Theatre Production is a new group that has recently performed at St. John's.

We continue to host the Rotary Club Pancake Breakfast as well as the Presbytery and the Cornwall and Area Christian Council meetings.



The Quilts of the Seaway

Other special events have included the 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of St. John's in 2017, the Cornwall and Area Christian Council's 150<sup>th</sup> celebration, Classiqu' Arts SD&G Christmas concert, the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary celebration of the Centennial Choir. Quilts of the Seaway, the McGaughey Organ recital, Vacation Bible School, Bible study classes, Leading with Care workshop, Paint Night,



The Women of the Church Fall Luncheon and Bazaar and other in-house events such as the Trustees' Gala, the Session's Harvest Dinner, weddings, funerals and private events such as baby and wedding showers.

The Cornwall and Area Christian Council  
150<sup>th</sup> Celebration Service

## Leading with Care

The membership of the *Leading with Care Committee* has been serving the congregation for a number of years, comprising representatives from the various church organizations: Session, Board of Managers, House Committee, Pastoral Care Team, Sunday School, Women of the Church and the Youth Group.

The Committee is responsible for the implementation of the policy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada - to protect the children, youth, elderly and vulnerable adults in our church community. Periodic meetings and workshops are held to provide ongoing information and thus ensure St. John's commitment to this important issue.

## Women's Ministry

Membership in The Women of the Church (W.O.C.) consists of all women connected with St. John's Presbyterian Church. Its Constitution was approved in 1990 and like all other organizations within the Presbyterian Church, is subject to the ultimate supervision of the Kirk Session.

The stated purpose of the W.O.C. is to provide a vehicle for the nurture and fellowship of the women of the congregation and to provide physical, emotional, spiritual, and financial support to the ministry of St. John's. There is an elected Executive Committee which has authority to speak and act on behalf of the W.O.C. in matters pertaining to the life and mission of St. John's Church. Two general business meetings are held each year, and the W.O.C. treasurer manages the bank account, receiving monies and dispensing monies as approved by the Executive Committee and general members.



Over the years, the W.O.C. have catered fund raising dinners, held an annual Bazaar and Luncheon, provided Funeral Luncheons for our church families, hosted various teas, yard sales, and canteens, and sold a variety of edibles baked and cooked in the church kitchen weekly. These activities continue, however as our membership ages and the number of active members decline, we have had to reduce our involvement in some projects that require heavier physical work.



Fortunately we have wonderful support from the men in our congregation, and other groups within the church have stepped up to take over fund raiser dinners, with the W.O.C. acting in a more advisory role.

Another important aspect of our ongoing financial support of the church is Fundscrip, whereby we sell shopping gift cards, receiving 2% to 5% return on each card sold. Because the cards are available for our everyday stores from groceries to Tim Horton's and everything in between, it is an easy way for our congregation to simplify their shopping trips and contribute to the church at the same time.

One thing that does not change with the passage of time, is the camaraderie and laughter and caring shared by the women as they work together for the ministry of St. John's.

## Worship and Music

### Sunday Services

St. John's holds Sunday services at 10:00 A.M. where we follow a more traditional order of Worship. We have members of Session and the Board as greeters at the door; we also have volunteers who run the elevator to bring persons with mobility issues from the ground floor to the Sanctuary level. Music at our services is under the direction of Gary Postma, who is accomplished on both the pipe organ and the piano; Gary is both organist and choir director at St. John's. We mainly sing traditional hymns from the 1997 Book of Praise and occasionally include contemporary music. Our Choir currently consists of approximately 3 women and 3 men although we are always on the lookout for new members. The choir normally sings an anthem during the collection of our tithes and offerings. Children stay with their parents up to "Time With the Young and the Young at Heart", after which they head downstairs to Sunday School (see Christian Education section). We also have a nursery under the care of volunteers who have been caring for our youngest for many years.



## Special Services

St. John's holds several special services throughout the year including Maundy Thursday evening service (a small gathering with communion by intinction), Good Friday morning service and Christmas Eve service (one or two services). Our youth also present pageants during service throughout the year for special days like Mother's Day, Father's Day, Easter and Advent. On special occasions such as Remembrance Day and Christmas Eve, we have guest musicians join us for the service to provide enhanced musical accompaniment, solos and other musical offerings. We celebrate the sacrament of communion 4 - 5 times a year. All, including our child communicants, are invited to partake of bread and juice during Communion; our usual practice is to have the elders serve the congregation in their pew.



## Post-Worship Fellowship



As do most congregations, St. John's enjoys getting together after worship to fellowship with one another over a cup of tea, coffee or juice and snacks. Several times a year, the youth put on a fundraising luncheon for the congregation in Caldwell Hall, where a free will offering is collected to help support youth events including attending Canada Youth conferences. Left, the annual Sundae Sunday is a crowd pleaser.

## Audio-Visual And Tape/Web Ministry

St John's has a digital sound system that includes wireless headset microphones a hand held wireless microphone and wired microphones in various locations. We have wireless FM headphone sets available to members of the congregation with hearing difficulties. This year, we installed LCD monitors in the Sanctuary and are currently using PowerPoint to show announcements before services and the order of service (including the words for unison prayers, call to worship, videos, etc.) during worship but we are exploring various software options to allow us to enhance worship and reduce the amount of paper used to print our bulletins every week. There are other upgrades to the sound system planned for 2018/2019 including a new sound board with expanded capabilities. We have paid and volunteer people who run our audio-visual equipment every week; our service is recorded both on tape and electronically for distribution to those that cannot make it to service on Sundays and for archival purposes. Examples of our services, including the audio recording, bulleting and sermon notes can be viewed on our website <http://stjohnscornwall.ca/worship-services/sunday-service-archives/>

# Christian Education

## Nursery

Each Sunday during worship, the nursery is staffed by two adult volunteers. Our audio system makes it possible for nursery volunteers to hear the service, if there is not too much activity in the nursery!

## Sunday School

From September until June, we have programs for children aged 3 to 6, 7 to 11, and a Teen Class for ages 12 and up. All groups attend adult worship for 15-20 minutes until they are dismissed to their programs. The 3-6 and 7-11 groups are led by 6 volunteer leaders, who rotate throughout the school year and the leaders follow a Sunday School curriculum chosen by the Christian Education Committee.

## Youth Group

Our church has had a youth group ages 12 and up regularly since 2006 under the direction of Debbie Plant, our Youth Leader. This group meets once a week at St. John's where the youth can come directly from school, work on homework then help Debbie prepare a meal for themselves which they share together before the evening program. You would be amazed at what youth will share with each other around a meal! The youth also have regular outings to Upper Canada Village, Gracefield Christian Camp and Retreat Centre as well as participation in the PCC Canada Youth Conferences held at Brock University in St. Catharine's. There are also occasional gatherings of our "College and University" young adults whenever they come home for special occasions like Christmas and Easter.



Our Youth Group on an outing to the Rideau Canal for skating and Beaver Tails!

Our church has held Vacation Bible Camp programs several times in the past few years with programs like "Athens – Paul's Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth" in 2013 and Passport to Peru – Discovering God's Good Gifts" in 2017.

\* All leaders and volunteers in our children and youth ministries are required to have a Vulnerable Sector Check, as per the policy of Leading With Care.

## Adult Studies

There have been several short Bible Study sessions held over the years at St. John's, such as several sessions from Dr. Cheryl Gaver, Presbytery Ministry Animator for the Presbyteries of Ottawa and Seaway-Glengarry, the Alpha program and a Lenten Bible Study led by the Minister.

## Heritage Trust Fund

The Heritage Trust Fund (HTF) was created from the sale of properties and the former manse, bequeaths, and good stewardship. The fund is managed by the Trustees, which is comprised of 7 members of the congregation on a 3 year rotating term. The HTF is intended to continue in perpetuity. Additionally, the Trustees oversee the public use of St. John's Laneway and the Cemetery property between 5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup> Streets in Cornwall.



The Nepean Panharmonics Steel Drums performed at the Trustee's Gala 2017 and 2018.

## Board of Managers

St. John's is served by a Board of Managers made up of volunteer members of the congregation. The Board is elected and commissioned at the Annual Congregational Meeting held in February or March. The Minister prepares and leads a short installation service for the members of the Board.

The Board meets monthly and has responsibilities related to church finances and to the physical maintenance of our place of worship and surrounding environment. Another significant aspect involves planning and budgeting for future repairs. It oversees the daily management of the business of the Church.

The Board regularly updates the congregation on the year-end report of income and expenditures and regular operations of the Church. The Board may ask people in the congregation who are not Board members but have specific expertise to serve on a committee.

# Position Description

Title: Minister (Full time)

Purpose/Responsibilities/Working Relationships: The Minister leads and shepherds the congregation. He or she leads and collaborates with staff, including the Organist/Choir Director, Church Administrator, Custodians, and Youth Co-ordinator. The Minister moderates the Kirk Session and is responsible to the Presbytery of Seaway Glengarry. Every second month the Minister attends Presbytery meetings, and every two years attends meetings of the Synod of Quebec and Eastern Ontario. The Minister serves on the John Stewart Estate Memorial Trust Fund, which disburses funds annually to local charities and organizations. There are four meetings a year. The Minister participates in two Christian ministerial groups in Cornwall. The first is called the Cornwall and District Christian Council, which is traditional, and represented by the main line denominations, including local Roman Catholic priests. This body meets monthly, and St. John's has been the host for the past year. The other group is a gathering of the more evangelical pastors.



## Challenges

One of the challenges the congregation faces is the cost to maintain a very large, old building. As noted in the survey responses, the beauty and tradition of the church are important for many parishioners. The congregation is still undecided about how to generate funds for much needed projects, and there have been many lively discussions concerning this matter. Great efforts have been taken over the past year to raise funds and step up efforts to ease the financial situation, which have brought people together for a common cause.

In the previous 12 years, St. John's has experienced dwindling attendance and givings. This has resulted in some financial challenges in terms of the day to day operations. It should be noted, however, that in the past 3 years the trend has been towards an increase in attendance, thanks to the work of the Interim Minister, the rejuvenated Kirk Session, and the efforts of many members of the congregation.

Finally, St. John's was challenged by the years leading up to dissolution of the pastoral tie with the previously called Minister. This was a divisive and difficult period for our congregation. During our two year Intentional Interim Ministry, we have seen healing in the congregation which has resulted in growth, increased attendance at worship and a spirit of fellowship.

## Hope for the Future

Our hope is that our faith journey in Christ will be strengthened by the leadership and guidance of the Minister that God will call to shepherd us. Our mission statement is "Knowing, enjoying and sharing Christ's love with all." By the grace of God, our new Minister will help us fulfill this mission to be a strong witness in our community.

It is our hope that together we will continue to grow in peace, love and harmony as a caring and united congregation.

*Instead, speaking the truth in love, we will grow to become in every respect the mature body of him who is the head, that is, Christ. <sup>16</sup> From him the whole body, joined and held together by every supporting ligament, grows and builds itself up in love, as each part does its work.*

*Ephesians 4:15-16*