

# ST. JOHN'S NEWS

## JANUARY 2021 EDITION

### Every Day's a Snowday

Looking out the window, I cast my gaze across two to three inches of newly fallen snow from last night. Everything is clean and white. For a moment it is easy to forget that it is the provincial stay-at-home order that is keeping me inside rather than the wintry weather. It is, however, also a reminder that there are blessings all around, if only we have eyes to see them. Many of us have been feeling a little cooped up and longing for human interaction these days, even if only from the grocery store clerk. The other day I saw a cartoon of a man kneeling on the couch beside a dog. Both are looking out the window as mail carrier walks by, and the man says to the dog "Now I see why you get so excited." But today I pause to look at the snow (and not to bark at the postie). It is as the Prophet Isaiah declares in the concluding section of the Book:

*Seek the Lord while he may be found,  
call upon him while he is near; (Isaiah 55: 6a)*

After years spent in Exile, the children of God, longed for hope. These words were God's encouragement for them of focus their thoughts on the Lord.

There is no denying that this has been a long year for people and has inconvenienced us all in many ways; and yet, we know that we believe in a God who promises to be with us in all in life; and, indeed, many people have experienced that it is when we are pressed and challenged that the hope and love of God can most sustain us. For many people, both inside and outside the church, Psalm 23 is a beloved passage of scripture, because it speaks of a God's constant care in times of trouble.

It is important for us to remember that in these days when life seems on hold, we can experience God's presence with us: in the silence of a snowy morning; the in the tuneful melody of our favourite music; in phone calls from family and friends. Everything around us bears the fingerprints of a creative God; everything we do, can be a demonstration and recognition that each person we encounter is created in the image of God.

Let us each set aside time each day, to look for God, assured of this truth: God is near.

Blessings,  
Robert





The following update and photos were submitted by Hannah McFadzen. Thank you so much Hannah for sharing some of the activities and adventures you are having during this pandemic.

Things I have done during the pandemic to keep busy:

1. My family adopted 2 kittens from PawPortunity in September. They are sisters and their names are Abby Rose and Daisy Rey. We love them very much!



2. I tried baking something new- crepes and gluten free chocolate cake.

3. I am doing online schooling and go for walks with my Mom whenever I can.

4. Before the Christmas break, I went to the drive-thru breakfast at my school (CCVS). It was very yummy!



5. My family went to the Holiday sparkle drive thru light show at Gray's Creek over the holidays.

6. I built 1 snowman and 2 snow kitties when we had a big snowstorm.

7. I have started reading the Harry Potter series and started a Harry Potter sock and mitten knitting kit!

8. Last week I did a FaceTime meeting with my Poppa (Ken Ferguson) for his 80th birthday. I hope we will all be able to be together soon.



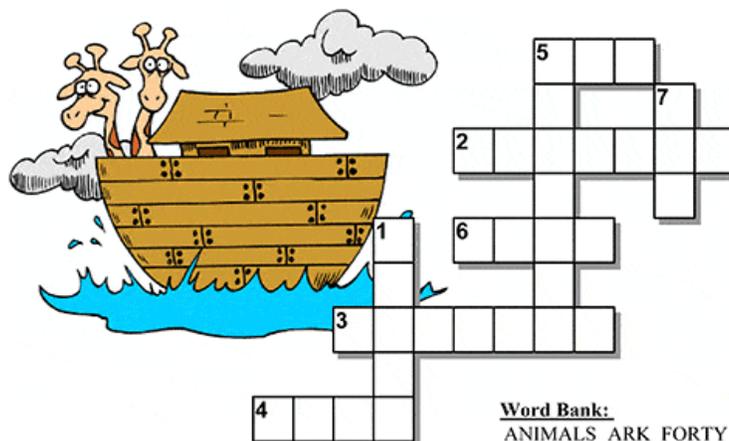
Hannah McFadzen

We would like to highlight a young person in our congregation each month. If you would be willing to volunteer, please contact Susan MacDonald at 613-931-2565 or [susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca). We are looking forward to hearing from you.

## Noah's Ark Crossword

# Kids' Corner Challenge

Calling all kids 10 years of age and younger!  
We challenge you to complete the crossword puzzle. The first person to correctly finish it and return it to Susan at:  
[susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca) will receive a prize. We will publish the name of the winner in the next newsletter. You'll need your Bible, and Mom and Dad can help.



**Word Bank:**  
ANIMALS ARK FORTY  
GOD NOAH OBEY  
PROMISE RAINBOW

**Across**

- God put this in the sky
- A covenant is a \_\_\_\_\_.
- This means to listen.
- Noah built an \_\_\_\_\_?
- Who built the ark?

**Down**

- Rain fell on the earth for \_\_\_\_\_ days and \_\_\_\_\_ nights.
- Noah brought these on the ark.
- Who told Noah to build the ark?

## COVID CAPERS

One day a terrible disease swept over the land. It was called Covid. Now there was an old woman who said she would not go out of the house until this scourge had left the earth - no matter how long it took.

The old woman had a lovely young daughter and the daughter told her mother that she would get her groceries and do any other errands she had.

One day, the daughter was shopping for the mother and decided that she would FaceTime the mother so that she could see what was going on in the world. The mother was entranced. She had forgotten what it was like to be out shopping and loved looking at all the items on the shelves, seeing the people with masks and everyone social distancing. She was particularly interested in the way folks had to line up to pay for their items and was intrigued with the lines indicating how to move throughout the store. After a particularly lengthy period of quiet time, the mother said, "That woman is going the wrong way!" This was much to the embarrassment of the daughter, for the woman could hear the mother very clearly.

Several days later, the daughter was going shopping once again and the old woman had such a good time on the first outing she wanted to go as well. As the daughter was getting ready to enter the store, the old woman asked her what she was doing. The daughter replied, "putting in my new earbuds."



Got a good joke, poem, or a funny Covid-19 or isolation story? Please share it with us. We will not reveal any names unless you give us permission to do so. Send your submission to [susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca).



# Celebrating 101 years!

On Sunday, January 24<sup>th</sup>, a “songbird trio” visited Les Foulds as he celebrated his 101<sup>st</sup> birthday. When we arrived, Les was enjoying his special day with his daughter Carley. We surprised him with a cupcake and card from the congregation and gave a resounding rendition of Happy Birthday. Les has not left his home during the pandemic and said he was enjoying many calls from friends wishing him a happy birthday. He talks to his friend Ralph Anderson often and keeps busy with regular day to day activities.

Pictured here is Les social distancing as he chats with us.

Happy Birthday wishes are also extended to Grace Lattimer, Emily King, Ashley Mullin, Sarah Newton, Carolyn Wolff, Benjamin Woods-Chisholm, Bella Gwanyama, Abigail Esdale, Clarence Quan, Ken Ferguson, Chuck Stewart and to all those wishing to remain anonymous.



On February 14<sup>th</sup>, Transfiguration Sunday, Rev. Adams will be celebrating the Lord’s Supper.

We pray that you will join him, and your St. John’s family, as we prepare to enter the sacred season of Lent.

If you would like to receive a pre-packaged cup and wafer, please contact Lisa (613-932-8693 or [admin@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnscornwall.ca)) and remember, our staff members are not at the church full time during this lockdown, so please leave your name, with a message, and your package will be dropped off at your residence prior to the service.

## Making Worship Available for All

Reverend Adams and Dan and Alex Plant are continually upgrading our technology and finding new ways for our members to worship. We have retired the tape cassette ministry and have replaced it with CDs (audio) and DVDs (video). There is something for everyone. Please contact the church (613-932-8693 or [admin@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnscornwall.ca)) to order your preference. Remember to leave a message as we are not there full time due to the Covid-19 lockdown.