

# ST. JOHN'S NEWS

## MARCH 2021 EDITION

### From the Minister's Desk - A Brand New Day

Every year it's the same thing. It happened again just last week. We had a day or two of nice weather and suddenly everyone began looking forward to spring. Goodbye to bulky jackets and clunky boots; welcome golf shirts and shorts. In the matter of just one day, we turned from being "inside" people to "outside" people. The windows in the house were opened, the lawn chairs were quickly dug out from their winter resting place and placed in the sun.

This is the miracle of spring. Rebirth is all around us. From that first day's warming rays, to the first green shoots poking through the soil, to the first bud, the next few weeks will be one of wonder and excitement. The reassurance that life begins again. It is also why Easter is so closely linked with the celebration of spring. It is more than just an accident of the calendar. It has to do with the celebration of new life, both in our faith and all around us. As Jesus emerges from the tomb on that first Easter morning, we are reminded that the God in whom we believe is the God of life, and has the power to bring forth life all around us; and even death cannot thwart God's creative ability. As Jesus reflected on the purpose of his death with his disciples, he appealed to the rhythms of nature:

*unless a grain of wheat falls into the earth and dies, it remains just a single grain; but if it dies, it bears much fruit. Those who love their life lose it, and those who hate their life in this world will keep it for eternal life.*

This little parable about the single grain reminds us that in each of our lives there will be that time of dormancy, but it will be followed by new growth; just as spring follows winter. Each spring we have a reminder of the new life that God extends to us. And yet we acknowledge that it is nothing compared to the promise that God has made to us, that our lives are not finite, but that the promise of new life is offered to us all. As Jesus was raised from the dead by the power of the Father, so too we will one day be raised.



As we draw near to Easter and to another spring, let us open our eyes to see the new life that is bursting forth all around us; and to recall the promise of new life that has been held out to us. A brand new day is here.

Blessings.

*Robert*



# March Birthday Wishes

Happy birthday to everyone celebrating in March: Keith Markell, Erin McDerby, Winona Johnston, Wendy Barnes, Johneen Rennie, Corrine Bourgon, Brian Loucks, Bryce MacNeil, Fleur Eenkhoorn, Jody Quan, Clarice Neill, Janice Plumadore and to all those wishing to remain anonymous.

## Kids' (and the young at heart) Corner Challenge



# Easter Story

## Word Search

S	C	B	M	N	E	J	E	S	U	S	C	H	R	I	S	T
K	A	A	P	O	D	V	G	V	A	R	E	J	O	I	C	E
J	R	V	M	S	P	R	A	Y	E	R	W	C	B	V	F	S
Y	N	O	I	X	I	F	I	C	U	R	C	T	R	M	L	E
L	A	P	C	O	I	E	B	Q	O	X	B	B	N	O	O	L
I	R	E	S	U	R	R	E	C	T	I	O	N	R	E	S	T
T	R	E	P	P	U	S	T	S	A	L	Y	E	M	B	L	S
S	H	L	U	P	V	Y	T	K	V	F	D	M	T	E	K	O
O	C	A	R	N	E	P	A	X	R	E	S	I	H	M	R	P
C	R	M	E	P	E	N	L	D	M	A	N	A	O	I	E	A
E	U	B	I	K	G	A	A	P	I	J	R	R	R	R	V	V
T	H	X	C	H	Y	N	T	N	H	R	S	M	N	A	O	X
N	C	N	C	A	M	I	E	O	C	T	F	Y	S	C	S	J
E	K	E	R	K	O	S	E	W	N	E	I	D	A	L	S	U
P	U	T	O	N	I	R	N	W	R	P	Y	A	O	E	A	D
L	E	Z	W	R	W	M	D	R	Q	I	T	Y	F	O	P	A
B	S	M	N	D	I	S	C	I	P	L	E	S	C	X	G	S

Calling all people of any age! 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) or drop it off at the church office will receive a prize. We will publish the name of the winner in the next newsletter.

There were no entries for February's challenge. We hope we will have one sent in this month!

APOSTLES  
 BETRAYAL  
 CAVE  
 CHURCH  
 CROSS  
 CROWN  
 CRUCIFIXION  
 DISCIPLES  
 FAITH  
 GOOD FRIDAY

JESUS CHRIST  
 JUDAS  
 LAMB  
 LAST SUPPER  
 LENT  
 MARY  
 MIRACLE  
 PASSOVER  
 PENANCE  
 PENTECOST

PRAYER  
 REDEMPTION  
 REJOICE  
 RESURRECTION  
 RISEN  
 SAVIOR  
 SON  
 THORNS  
 TOMB



# Bible Study Group

The group are currently studying *ENTERING THE PASSION OF JESUS*, a beginners guide to Holy Week.

The author of the book is Amy-Jill Levine. Ms. Levine is a Professor at Vanderbilt Divinity School and College of Arts and Science. She is a renowned scholar and teacher.

The group get together currently via Zoom on Wednesday nights usually for an hour or so. This current group comprises around nine or ten and Rev Adams is our leader. Prior to getting into the book itself I want to thank Rev Adams for making us all feel so welcome and free to ask our questions and for providing his view and insights on the topic of the week.

The book is broken down into six chapters:

1. Jerusalem, Risking Reputation
2. The Temple, Risking Righteous Anger
3. Teachings, Risking Challenge
4. The First Dinner, Risking Rejection
5. The Last Supper, Risking the loss of friends
6. Gethsemane, Risking Temptation

As one can see the book deals with the many risks that Jesus encountered during the Holy Week. The different perspectives of Matthew, Mark, and Luke compared with that of John are brought to the forefront in the book. You will have noticed that each of the chapters deal with risk and we are all invited to take a risk during our study.

I expect that a copy of the book is available in the Church Library and I would encourage you to give it a read.

We still have a couple of weeks to go so I have not gone into the details of the book with you.

I can tell you that in a couple of hours from now the group will have the honour of meeting AJ via Zoom and I am very excited about that. I have been very impressed with AJ as Rev Adams has included her particular views each week and you can pull her up on YouTube as you are reading the book.

For me personally, I want to learn more about Jesus, to bring him more into my life and to make me a better person. I want to thank Our Lord for taking my late wife, Yvonne, into his arms and caring for her until we can meet together once more.

I also recommend that you give the next group a try, you won't be disappointed.

God Bless,

R. Orrin J. Splane

A special thank you is extended to Orrin for writing this article and submitting it for this edition.



ENTERING  
THE PASSION  
*of* JESUS

A BEGINNER'S GUIDE TO HOLY WEEK



## SALE OF FUNDSCRIP CARDS

Gail and Connie have started selling Fundscrip cards on Wednesdays and encourage you to think of them once again to buy your food, gasoline, restaurant, etc. cards. We've had a very bad start to the year but hope that we can make up for some of the lost time.

If you want to purchase cards, please call or email Gail (613-932-2811) or Connie (613-932-0234) no later than Tuesday night. You can pick up your cards in the kitchen on Wednesday between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m.



If you have a concern about coming into the kitchen, we are, without hesitation, open to the idea of bringing the cards to your car. If you want us to do this, please let us know when you call to order your cards. We are also open to dropping cards off at your home if you feel uncomfortable about coming into the church kitchen.

The WOC has invested a lot of money into keeping an inventory of cards, for the purpose of reaping a reasonable profit, so we hope we can depend on your continued support and co-operation.

Convenors - Gail MacDougall & Connie Gaucher



We hope all our young people will join in the following activities! For the younger youth, we are providing children's worship bulletins. These can be found on the under the children and youth tab on the church webpage.

For our teens, an online zoom meeting is held on Sunday evenings. If you have not received an email invite please contact Sarah-Jane Woods at [sarah\\_jwoods@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_jwoods@hotmail.com), Trish Brown at [brownietrish4@gmail.com](mailto:brownietrish4@gmail.com), or Reverend Adams at [minister@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:minister@stjohnscornwall.ca).

The youth will assist in the planning and will be participating in the Good Friday virtual service – we hope you will watch!

# The Book of Hebrews Chapter 11 – Written by Paul, the messenger of Christ

The Easter season is upon us and Christians will have the opportunity to again witness the story of the cross and the resurrection of Jesus from the dead three days later. The apostles were able to witness this miracle firsthand. We must have **FAITH!**

**What is faith? It is the confident assurance that something we want is going to happen. It is the certainty that what we hope for is waiting for us on the road up ahead!** We know that all things were made by God's command; they were all made from things that can't be seen. **Men of God in days of old were famous for their faith.**

**Abel obeyed God** and brought an offering that pleased God more than Cain's offering did. God accepted Abel and his gift. We can learn from him about trusting God. **Noah was another who trusted God.** He went about building an ark to God's specifications even though there was no sign of a flood. His belief was in direct contrast to the sin and disbelief of the rest of the world. **Abraham trusted God** when he was told to leave home and go far away to another land that God had promised him. **Sarah, too, had faith, and because of this she was able to become a mother in spite of her old age.** She realized that if God had promised, it would certainly come true. And so, a whole nation was born from Abraham, a nation with so many millions of people that, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the ocean shores, there was no way to count them.

**Abraham offered up his own son Isaac** and was ready to slay him on the altar of sacrifice; yes, to slay even Isaac, through whom God had promised to give Abraham a whole nation of descendants! He believed that if Isaac died God would bring him back to life again. **It was by faith that Isaac knew God** would give future blessings to his two sons, Jacob and Esau. **By faith, Jacob, when he was old and dying,** blessed each of Joseph's two sons as he stood and prayed, leaning on the top of his cane.



**Moses' parents had faith too.** They took their child and trusted God to keep him safe amongst the reeds of the river. He would be saved from the death the king had commanded. **When Moses grew up,** he refused to be treated as the grandson of the king but chose to share ill-treatment with God's people. He eventually left the land of Egypt and wasn't afraid of the Pharaoh's anger. **He had faith that his people would be saved by the sprinkle of blood on the doorposts** of their homes, and the terrible Angel of Death would 'Passover', and would not touch the oldest child in those homes! **Subsequently, Moses and the people of Israel trusted God and walked right across the Red Sea on dry ground!**

**There were many prophets in the Old Testament like Gideon, David, Daniel, and Samuel, who trusted God with their faith,** and as a result they won battles, overthrew kingdoms, ruled their kingdoms well and received what God had promised them. Some were safe in a lion's den, or a fiery furnace, some women received their loved ones back again from death.

**These are all heroes of the faith. We should believe likewise!**

Paraphrased by John Adams from Hebrews 11.

Thank you John, for your submission to this month's newsletter.

## Your chuckle for today...

There was a very gracious lady who was mailing an old family Bible to her brother in another part of the country. "Is there anything breakable in here?" asked the Postal Clerk. "Only the Ten Commandments." answered the lady.

Thank you to Charles Eadie for putting a smile on our faces.

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).

## TECHSURROUND

In December 2017, a committee was formed to explore a way to enhance and upgrade our worship service. The goal was to provide optimum viewing and to add a new dimension to our services.

Lessening our paper trail was also a consideration. Once we decided on the three large TV screens, it became apparent that we needed new equipment to fully use these screens, so a Beringer sound board was purchased. AND as things go, we then knew we needed a structure of some sort to house it!



day job at Bell. He kindly donated wood and time to our project, making the cost far less than any commercial purchase might have been.

When Covid landed on our doorstep last year and online viewing was all we had, a second camera was added on the middle back wall to provide better viewing. Of course, then we also needed more room for the video operator to do his job! Steve Richer came to the rescue again and built the lower portion. We now had a functional structure to house all our new technology....hence the name TECHSURROUND.

The TECHSURROUND has been a welcome addition to our church both practically and aesthetically. It was built with pride, with care and particular attention to the aesthetics of our beloved church.



Pictured above is our wonderful tech team of Dan and Alex Plant.

Submitted by Barb Mason

Thank you so much Barb for keeping us update on this important part of our Ministry.

## Years Ago & Far Away [Memories of Markham, ON. - 1952 to 1962]

by Charles Eadie

It's not correct now, but we used to have fun  
Playing Cops & Robbers with a toy gun.  
To add bangs and smoke we used to use caps.  
We played Tag, Hide and Seek, without many mishaps.

We played games outdoors. And with friends we'd pick teams.  
Or explore nearby woods or fish in the streams.  
We could dig in the sand box or climb the steep cliffs.  
And in winter there were snow forts dug into the drifts.



We had no Atari, Nintendo, or Wii  
But we did have an analog black and white T.V.  
We'd watch Davy Crockett; Lassie; Zorro; Rin Tin Tin.  
Then act them out, in the yard, until Mom called us in.

There weren't any splash pads: There were swimming pools.  
Where we took Red Cross lessons. Learned the strokes and the rules.  
We had Brownies; Guides; Cubs and Scouts - held in the church hall.  
And the town fair we'd go to, with our class, in the fall.

Had no ipods or ipads. No e-mail or web.  
No computers or calculators. We learned times tables instead.  
We memorized poems to recite to our class.  
Learned cursive writing. We tried hard to pass.



Kids could go to the movies. Use our allowance to pay.  
See a Disney film, with friends, at a matinee.  
Pinocchio, Snow White, Old Yeller, Shaggy Dog.  
When the show ended - return home at a jog.

When summertime came - our family would camp.  
In canvas tents - both dry weather and damp.  
We'd cook on a campfire, or perhaps Coleman stove.  
Enjoy the scenery and sites wherever we drove.

We rode bikes with no helmets. No seat belt in an auto.  
A house had no detector for smoke, fire or CO.  
Yes we're much safer now than we were way back then.  
But the memories are good - as I think way-back-when.



A sincere thank you to Charles for this submission.