



A Message from the Minister:

During my career as a minister of word and sacrament, I have had the opportunity to live in many different communities across this country and meet many different people. Invariably one of the points of conversation that I have discussed with people was where they were from. Some were able to trace their roots back to the local area for generations; others, like myself, lived more peripatetic lifestyles, and had moved far from home. This last group of people included war brides, immigrants, and people seeking employment and opportunity, amongst other motivations. My own history includes a presence in PEI for seven generations with my Adams ancestors moving from Derbyshire in England in 1775. My father's mother was a member of the clan Lamont whose ancestors immigrated from the Isle of Handa during the great clearances in the 1840s. I think it is safe to say that most of us have a story, and an ancestry, that ties us to the here and now but also to past and distant places.

I was musing about these things, as I was reflecting on this note to you, and the special events of the church that come up on the calendar this time of year. The Day to Commemorate Murdered and Missing Indigenous Women passed earlier in May, Healing and Reconciliation Day was this past week, and we will mark National Indigenous Peoples Sunday in mid-June. Thinking about all these special days, and the Church's response to these events of our shared past with Indigenous people, it struck me that the story of Indigenous people is very different than my own. Their people didn't come from elsewhere, they were here as long as they can remember. It was one of those "d'uh" moments for me. I had always known this, and yet had never thought about it.

As Canadian institutions work for reconciliation with Indigenous people, one of the topics you may hear mentioned is the "doctrine of discovery". There are many facets to this concept that legitimized colonialization of other lands by European nations, but at its heart was the understanding that the rest of the world outside Europe, was empty land available to be exploited by European nations. But there were people there already. The ancestors of our Indigenous neighbours were here.

In doing a little reading on the doctrine of discovery, I came across the story of Hatuey, the leader of the native people of Hispaniola – present day Haiti/Dominican Republic. Hatuey led the Indigenous people to resist conquest by the Spanish. Eventually, Hatuey was captured as he sought to warn the Indigenous people of Cuba of the approaching Spaniards, and was burned at the stake in 1512. Before his execution, he was told by a Franciscan friar that if he accepted Jesus he would go to heaven. Hatuey is reported to have asked the friar if the Spaniards went to heaven, and when told that they did, responded that he would rather go to hell so as not to be where he would see such cruel people.

The story of Hatuey humbles me as a Christian. What he had learned of the Christian faith was so far from what I have believed all my life. That there was no joy in believing, as Hatuey experienced it, is tragic. As Christians we must commit to building bridges with our Indigenous neighbours, seeking to understand their culture and celebrating their heritage, all the while seeking to overcome the mistrust that is surely justified.

I think for many of us, when we hear such stories we feel powerless and overwhelmed, because we are being asked to address issues that are so large and go so far back into the history of European conquest in the Americas. I wish I was wiser than I am; but it overwhelms me too. But I know that awareness is the first step toward reconciliation; acknowledging that the Church has not lived up to our high calling to work for justice. May we each grow in awareness that we might acknowledge the sins of the past and seek the reconciliation that will make all things new – especially us.

Simple Gifts

“For I received from the Lord what I also handed on to you, ...”. These are the words that are familiar to anyone who has spent any time in the Church. They are words that span denominations and languages. They are Paul’s words as he taught the Corinthian church about the Lord’s Supper. What Paul had received from the Lord was the tradition of breaking bread and sharing wine; simple gifts that have been infused with meaning, and now are received as the great gift of life given to us in Jesus’ life, death and resurrection.

While these words make reference to the bread and wine of communion, they also speak to us of our calling to ministry. Each of us is gifted, each of us can do something, that when infused with faith can make a difference in the world. From the ladies who work in the kitchen, to the singers in the choir, to the people who collect the offering in worship, to the offering you give, each is a simple gift but when put together with the gifts of others make a difference in the lives of people here at home and around the world.

As a congregation, we are grateful for all the simple gifts – the gifts that we have received from the Lord, and the gifts that we can share with others. We have been truly blessed! So far this year, gifts to the General Fund of the congregation have totaled \$39,354, with an additional \$6,846 for missions and world relief. Thank you. What a blessing you have been to your church and your world through your tithes, offerings, and gifts. While generous, these gifts are a little behind where we have been at the end of April in past years. If you are able to help us to boost that amount, we would be grateful. And as we look to the summer months, we know that people will be on the move – spending time at the cottage or travelling to visit relatives. If you could include offerings for weeks that you plan to be away in your weekly offerings, that would help us to avoid the shortfall that often happens over the summer months.

Enjoy your summer, and may God bless your leisuretime.

Blessings.



June, July and August Birthday Wishes



We extend a very happy birthday to everyone celebrating in June: Paul Quan, Dwayne MacKinnon, Jennifer Vipond, Paul Hickey, Yvonne Willard, Erika King and Judy Seguin.

To all of you celebrating in July, we wish a very happy birthday as well: Doug Carpenter, Ellie Adams, Heather McCleary, James Jones, Betty Barrie, Frank Wilson, Dale Shaver, Tyler Jones, Joan Moak, William J. MacMillan, Angela McCartney, Wilma Bowles, Jeannette Scrimshaw and Alia Hum.

And to all of you who are celebrating in August, enjoy your special day: Susanne Matthews, Chantal Vivarais, Ava Emilee Quenneville, Patsy Portieous, Wes Libbey, Bill Quan, Addison Grant, John McMartin, Kayla Markell, Joan Painter, Grant MacNeil, Donna Leroux, Alma Godard, Daniel Seguin, Archie MacDougall, Susan MacDonald, Anna Newton, Lise Evans, Cassandra MacLennan and Nelda Dewar.

We also send very happy birthday greetings to all those wishing to remain anonymous.

If we have made an error in your birthdate, or missed it entirely, please advise us so that we can update our records.

Fundscrip News

We're selling cards on Sunday morning after service. If you are unable to attend church, please feel free to call Connie at 613-932-0234 or send an e-mail to conniegaucher@hotmail.ca. We would be more than happy to arrange a time and delivery date.

We sincerely appreciate the ongoing support of the parishioners; we certainly can't operate without your support.

Submitted by Gail MacDougall and Connie Gaucher, Fundscrip Convenors.



Hey Katalin!

Reflections

We have been cocooned for over two years. Hopefully, we have all reflected upon and appreciated the simple joys in our lives. I certainly have.

Some four years ago, my mother had been living in Ottawa, alone in her own home, and drastically in need of continuing care. It took well over a year before a long-term care space became available – and that initially in Ottawa. Another six months later, before she could be relocated to Sandfield Place here in Cornwall. Trying times: ongoing trips, selling her home and helping Mom to adjust to her new surroundings. Finally, a sense of calmness even amid the Covid confinement times.

I can't praise enough the wonderful staff at Sandfield. Throughout various Covid outbreaks, these dedicated souls not only care deeply for my mother, but are also supportive to my needs. As dementia continues to invade her mind, I am grateful to live near and be with my dear Mom.

It is a blessing that her memory only wanders to her early happy years with her own parents. She does think about her late beloved husband, but not about the years he was in prison in Hungary. Nor does she reflect on our escape in 1956 and all that it entailed. Although her television is always turned on, she no longer watches the news – as she used to. Thankfully, the devastating war in Ukraine is not within her realm of reasoning. We of course cannot escape the horror, as we pray for peace to all those who are suffering and homeless.

I want to end on a more uplifting note. How wonderful to have been able to watch our worship services on my Facebook. But what a delight it is to be back in person at St. John's; and, to be out and about meeting with my other groups. Each is rejoining this month, attempting to get back to some sense of normalcy. We will not only survive but thrive!

Most exciting for me is that during this 'hiatus' two years – I completed my fifth novel, the *Tree of Knowledge*. It has been released by Baico Publishing. My book launch was held on Saturday, May 21 at 2:00 p.m. at the reopened Cline House Gallery and Studio. Life is good.

"Out of chaos God made a world, and out of high passions comes a people." Lord Byron

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Website - <https://katalinkennedy.com>

Facebook – Katalin Kennedy

Basketball Fun!

The Youth enjoyed a great night on the courts at St. John's on a Saturday evening in May. Thank you to Angela Matthews and Trish Brown for making this happen! Participants included Nico, Leni, and Antonio Fourkiotis, Erin Libbey and Laura and Hannah McFadzen. This will be an event that happens again – watch for emails or announcements for the next date. Everyone – young and not so young, are warmly welcome!



Your chuckle for today...

Got a good joke, poem, or a funny 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.

Puns for Fun

A man's home is his castle, in a manor of speaking.
Does the name Pavlov ring a bell?
Reading while sunbathing makes you well red.
A bicycle can't stand on its own because it is two tired.
A chicken crossing the road is poultry in motion.
The man who fell into an upholstery machine is now fully recovered.
Every calendar's days are numbered.
Once you've seen one shopping center, you've seen a mall.
Bakers trade bread recipes on a knead-to-know basis.
Santa's helpers are subordinate clauses.

Thank you to Nick Cox for sharing our chuckle for the newsletter.

Reflecting on my Graduation from Seminary

– by Alexander Plant

I have had the fortunate opportunity to document my time at Presbyterian College Montreal and McGill University over the past few years through the Annual Report of the congregation. I encourage you to explore the past reports I've submitted to gain a better insight into the types of courses and some of the experiences I had at seminary. As the next Annual Report will contain my final summary of 2022, I thought to write an extended note here on the conclusion of my time at seminary, particularly focusing on the convocation ceremony.

I first became a member of St. John's on Sunday, February 28, 2010. I was 15 years old at the time. Some of you have known me since I was an infant, baptized by the Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie. As I lived my teenage years in Cornwall, I was brought into the life of St. John's under the faithful guidance of my Father and Stepmother. I mostly grew up in a secular household, and my exposure to faith was limited. Over the years, I was able to experience the life of St. John's in a way that most kids don't often get to see. I remember the various committees and groups I've served over the years, the times I've spent with the minister discussing faith and church life and seeing the work that ministers do both in the pulpit and behind the scenes.

After I left for University for the first time, it took me a few years to process my experience at St. John's. I took time away from the church to understand what faith meant beyond serving others. It was my time at Gracefield Christian Camp that allowed me to open up to faith and allow



I had the opportunity to represent the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry at the 139th General Assembly. Pictured here is me addressing the Assembly as a Young Adult Representative

God to reveal to me the personal relationship that he had with me. Once I heard my calling from God to go into ministry, all the experiences I had and the developing faith I was seeing inside me made seminary a certainty in my eyes. But I am humble enough to admit that I went into seminary with a naïve attitude.

All of the experiences of faith I had inside and outside the church touched me, but I always kept those experiences at a distance. After completing my first degree and entering into seminary immediately afterwards, I approached the educational aspect from a humanitarian perspective. I treated faith as something to be solely studied, rather than something to live. McGill's method of teaching encouraged that line of thinking, largely treating the seminarian training as an academic study to be poked and experimented with rather than something to explore within me. That luxury ran out once I entered the final year of the M.Div. program.

Known as the "In-Ministry Year", the final year of the program is structured in such a way that students take the knowledge that they have acquired and apply it to real-world situations and placements. We no longer learned about ethics or New Testament studies. Rather, we were learning about grief, education, preaching, and all the practical things about what it meant to be in ministry. We were given a placement and expected to set goals for ourselves, tracking our progress through regular reflections.

Many ministers over the years have warned me about seminary, and how it can make or break



Receiving my Master of Divinity Degree and Diploma of the College from the Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, Principal of Presbyterian College Montreal. Also photographed is the Rev. Dr. Lucille Marr, Chaplain and Academic Dean

someone's faith. I never truly understood what they meant until this past year. I had friends, people I got to know very well, who were much more outward with their faith than I, dropping out of the program because they were forced to ask the tough questions. I too was faced with those same questions, and never had I felt so vulnerable in my life.

Those reflections, no longer than a page or two, felt at times impossible. 20-page research essays felt like a walk in the park compared to some of those reflections. Many of those in my cohort felt the struggle with me, as our faith was put to the test. There were a few times when I contemplated abandoning the program. Sometimes it ended in internal shouting matches with myself as I struggled to truly understand what kind of relationship I had with God, with Scripture, and with the Church.



Meeting the Convocation Speaker and Graduates'/Alison Stewart-Patterson Lecturer Dr. Lisa Weaver from Columbia Seminary in Decatur, Georgia where she serves as the Assistant Professor of Worship

But as some of you were able to watch on the livestream, I made it through. I use the following violent imagery on purpose to describe the sensation coming out of the program. I felt as if I had the humility beaten into me. No longer did I have the haughty attitude of an academic, thinking I could treat my Christian faith as an accessory I wore or an accomplishment I hung on the wall. Instead, I took on every vulnerability, and the faith that I kept away for so long took me on and changed me.

I am very fortunate that God has given me the strength and the love to carry through this process. Having an intimate convocation was a true blessing to mark the occasion of earning my Master of Divinity degree. There were five of us graduating from the program with one, unfortunately, having to stay remote. I was also pleasantly surprised to have won three awards that evening. I managed to earn the Fredrick Buechner Prize in Writing – Second Prize, the Graduates' Society Prize (the prize awarded to the student chosen by the student body who has contributed most to college community life), and the John Johnston Prize in History.

The convocation speaker, Dr. Lisa Weaver, gave a rousing speech during the ceremony. I had the honour of speaking to her throughout the day and I took careful note of the weight of responsibility I am embarking upon. I also took note of the joy that I hold in being not only on the journey I have taken, but being a Christian as well. As I close this rather lengthy chapter of my life, I am leaving behind the world of heavy academia and entering a new chapter of learning.

This new chapter of my life will still have books and workshops, but I will be primarily learning through scripture, meditation, and experience. The gift that St. John's has given me will serve as a vital tool for my sermon writing. Rev. Adams presented me with a brand-new set of lectionary commentary books entitled *Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship*. There are 9 books in total, three for each of the three sets in the series. Each set covers a particular lettered year in the lectionary calendar that runs every three years. Each year begins with Advent and runs until the next



Receiving the gift of Connections: A Lectionary Commentary for Preaching and Worship from the congregation of St. John's

Advent, so it's a perfect way to keep on track when planning worship! I sincerely thank the people of St. John's for this wonderful gift.

I am honoured to have shared this journey through seminary with you all, and I pray that God will continue to guide me as I move forward from this momentous accomplishment in my life. God has given me the tools and the guidance needed to succeed in the classroom, it is time I transition into the real world of ministry and to serve those whom I am called to serve, both directly and indirectly in the people I meet and the causes I work toward.

I wish to thank you for being a part of my journey, and I humbly ask that you continue to keep me in your prayers as I go forth from seminary into the world, to serve as Christ served, proclaiming the Gospel through word and deed, and to show the love of Christ through my meditations and my actions towards others and myself. To quote 1 Corinthians 2:12-13, "What we have received is not the spirit of the world, but the Spirit who is from God, so that we may understand what God has freely given us. This is what we speak, not in words taught us by human wisdom but in words taught by the Spirit, explaining spiritual realities with Spirit-taught words."



Fellow Graduates L to R: Kersaint Fils Saint-Juste (B.Th. from McGill), Sandrah Mashingaidze (M.Div. and Diploma of the College), Robert Taillefer (M.Div.), Alexander Plant (M.Div. and Diploma of the College), and William Henbest (M.Div. and Diploma of the College). Absent: Kirsty Dickson-Maret (M.Div.)



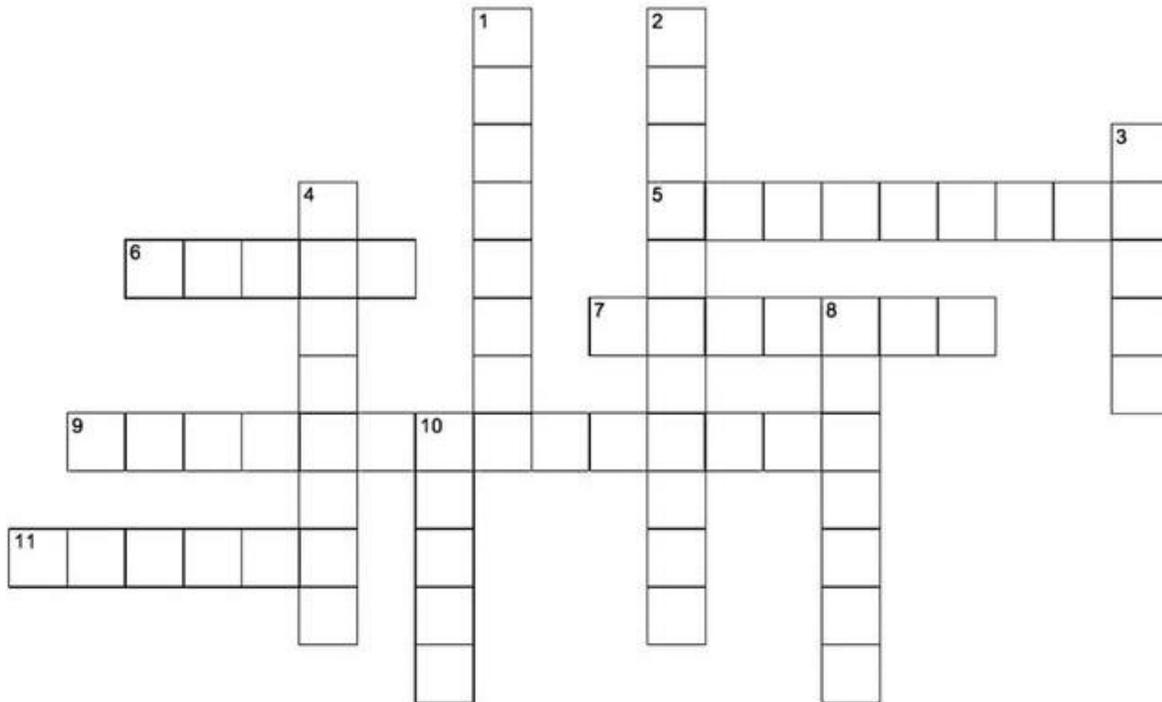
Join us in person or online for Communion on Sunday, November 28th. If you would like a pre-filled communion cup for your use at home, please contact the office at (613) 932-8693 to arrange delivery.

Kids' (and the young at heart) Corner Challenge

We are so delighted to know that many of you are enjoying a moment completing the puzzles. Our last newsletter had three winners: Mrs. Margaret Grindlay who received daffodils, our custodian Jeannie Hughes whose prize was a gift card from Canadian Tire and Laura McFadzen who enjoyed a visit to Tim Horton's.

Calling all people of any age! We challenge you to complete the puzzle. The first person to correctly finish it and return it to Susan at: susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca or drop it off at the church office will receive a prize.

GENESIS 9:1-18



ACROSS

- 5 GOD COMMANDED NOAH TO _____ THE EARTH
- 6 GOD PROMISED NEVER TO DESTROY THE EARTH AGAIN WITH A _____
- 7 GOD PUT THIS IN THE CLOUD AS A SIGN OF HIS PROMISE
- 9 GOD MADE HIS COVENANT WITH EVERY _____ (2 WORDS)
- 11 HAM'S SON

DOWN

- 1 GOD PROMISED TO ALWAYS _____ HIS COVENANT (VERSE 15)
- 2 GOD'S COVENANT WAS AN _____ COVENANT (NEVER ENDING)
- 3 NOAH HAD THIS MANY SONS
- 4 GOD ESTABLISHED A _____ WITH NOAH (VERSE 9)
- 8 AFTER THE FLOOD GOD _____ NOAH (VERSE 1)
- 10 THE RAINBOW WAS SEEN IN THE _____

All of the answers to the clues can be found in Genesis chapter 9: 1-18.

Read the chapter and then find the answers and fill in the puzzle.

