



St. John's Newsletter

DECEMBER 2016

SEASON OF ADVENT

St. John's Presbyterian Church
28 2nd Street East
Cornwall, ON, K6H 1Y3
Interim Minister
Rev. Ian Johnston, C. D., Th.M
revjohnston@bell.net.ca
(613) 932-8693



*"Knowing, Enjoying and Sharing
Christ's Love With All"*

Have a Merry Christmas
and a Happy New Year
from your St. John's Family!

Newsletter Committee
John Adams (Chairperson)
Carol Esdale
Susan MacDonald
Cynthia Seguin
Martha Woods

The Season of Advent

From the Pastor's Desk

IN THE BEGINNING WAS THE WORD, AND THE WORD WAS WITH GOD. AND THE WORD WAS GOD, ...AND THE WORD WAS MADE FLESH AND DWELT AMONG US. [JOHN 1: 1-14]

Watches, clocks, time pieces of various shapes and sizes – how many do you own? I have a couple of watches; there is a clock in the kitchen along with a timer clock on the stove and a digital clock on the microwave. There is a clock in the study with another in the computer screen; a digital clock on the VCR; there is an alarm clock in the bedroom and another in the wake-up radio; one in the living room and one in each of our vehicles. I dread those two time changes every year. It seems that just when I get all those time pieces changed and corrected, it's time to change them back!

Why are the moments of our lives so precisely measured? Why is time so important to us? Could it be because we like to think we can control time? If we wear time on our wrists, it can never get away from us. We can always look at it and know where it is. We can make it work for us.

The trouble is whenever we try to keep time, we often find ourselves frustrated. Time doesn't seem to want to be harnessed. Gerald Kennedy in his book, *Parables*, wrote; In one of my churches I was on the radio from 11:30 am until 11:59 am. The opening half hour of the worship service was sometimes a nightmare to me because of the timing. With other clergy participating in the service, I never had complete control, yet it was most important to begin the sermon on the stroke of 11:30. It came to me one day that this represented one of the paradoxes of Christian experience. I was preaching the eternal gospel, but I was at the same time desperately aware of minutes.

You and I are aware of the minutes. But there is an eternal word that informs and invades our minutes. This word has already been spoken. In the intersecting presence of God, our time-bound world has been granted a deeper vision and a greater purpose. In the mystery of the incarnation we have learned of God living in time. We know that every moment is swallowed into eternity. There is a destiny beyond our world and a time beyond our time! The word of hope that is given to us is, Jesus!

A year ago I received my annual Christmas letter from the Canadian Bible Society. It served to remind us here in Canada that the peaceful Bethlehem of our carols and hymns is a world away from today's current reality. A divided society, political tensions, life for Arab Christians is tough. For several years now, people from all over the Arab world and Palestine in particular, leave in search of a better life somewhere else in the world. As of December 2015, some estimates suggest there might be no Christians left in Bethlehem in 10 years time. One writer has suggested that "by 2025, Christmas may no longer be celebrated in Bethlehem."

For the children and the adults of Bethlehem the gospel's message of peace and hope can't come soon enough. Nashat Filmon of the Palestinian Bible Society reported something he saw on television just after an uprising and the West Bank was wrought with tension. A five-year old boy was being interviewed. What is your dream in life? asked the interviewer. The boy replied, I want to be a martyr...

As a faithful Christian and generous supporter of the ministry, mission and outreach of the Church through our congregation, it must hurt to hear the turmoil that children are enduring. While the challenge is great both here in Cornwall and on the far side of the world, we must celebrate the night in Bethlehem when, a wondrous gift was given to us. As you sing the wonderful Christmas carols, especially, *O Little Town of Bethlehem*, please remember in your prayers and your gifts, the children in Palestine, here in Cornwall and the SDG.

May Christmas 2016 be a celebration. May the New Year 2017, be filled with love, peace and joy.

By Rev. Ian K. Johnston

Greetings from the Board of Managers.

This month we are excited to welcome David Muir as a new board member. We are pleased to report that we finished the month of October without having to borrow any funds from the Trustees. But their many significant bills to be paid in November and December. Work has also been completed on the required replacement of lines for the heating system in Caldwell Hall.

The House Committee has also accepted more pickleball groups in Caldwell Hall resulting in increased revenue for the last few months of the year and into 2017.

Session has agreed to allow ceiling fans to be installed in the MacLellan Room by the Centennial Choir (at their expense). Our next large expense is for our insurance contract renewal in December. The Board of Managers is very grateful for the congregation's generosity, from month to month and for individuals who work in kind.

St. John's Website Renewal

Thanks to Alex Plant, Tristan Martin, and Dan Plant our St. John's Church Website has been updated. We still have a long way to go, but you can check it out at www.stjohnspresbyterianchurchcornwall.ca There are upcoming events, and newsletters and youth events, and especially a few of Rev. Johnson's sermons for your perusal. We are possibly looking at changing from the PCC site to a GoDaddy type web program. If you would like to be involved in weekly updates to the site contact John Adams at addyandjen@bell.net, or talk to Rev. Johnson to volunteer.

Shop and Support

The WOC once again need your support for their ongoing fundraising project, especially at this time of year when you are shopping for Christmas. It doesn't cost you any more, but they get 2%, 3%, or even 5% on your spending. The variety of credit type cards are handy and great for Christmas stocking stuffers. They can be purchased every Sunday after Church in the hallway, or even on most Wednesdays when the ladies gather around the kitchen to work on their projects.

Address Changes

We have over 500 families at St. John's. This means that every month someone has moved and changed addresses, or someone has changed an email account. When you are telling your friends and family about these changes don't forget to phone the Church office, or call the Roll Clerk, John Adams, at 613-537-8290 to tell about the change.

Mission Moment – Beyond Time

During 2016, theatre companies in Britain and around the world have staged special productions to mark the 400th anniversary of the death of **William Shakespeare**. Concerts, lectures, and festivals have drawn crowds who celebrate the enduring work of the man widely considered to be the greatest playwright in the English language. Ben Jonson, wrote of him, "He was not of an age, but for all time."

While the influence of some artists, writers, and thinkers may last for centuries, Jesus Christ is the only person whose life and work will endure beyond time. He claimed to be "the bread that came down from heaven . . . whoever feeds on this bread will live forever"

When many people who heard Jesus's teaching were offended by His words and stopped following Him the Lord asked His disciples if they also wanted to leave. Peter replied, "**Lord, to whom shall we go? You have the words of eternal life. We have come to believe and to know that you are the Holy One of God**"

When we invite Jesus into our lives as our Lord and Saviour, we join His disciples and all those who have followed Him in a new life that will last forever – beyond time.

Lord Jesus, thank You for the gift of eternal life in fellowship with You today and forever.

Printed from the booklet "Our Daily Bread" (Sept. 2nd reading)

CLIFFORD MACRAE MEMORIAL BURSARY



Sarah and Heather

The Clifford MacRae Memorial Bursary is awarded every Thanksgiving to a deserving student from St. John's who is going on to an institution of higher learning. Clifford was a well known C CVS teacher whose forte was special education. He would find work placement for his students all over S. D. & G. and then visit and supervise them. His encouragement enabled them to become successful members of our society. He was a member of the St. John's Session and the 'tape cassette ministry' was one of his passions. He loved to visit and travelled to Lancaster, or Maxville, or individual homes in Cornwall, with his tapes for the elderly and shut-ins who couldn't come to our worship services on a regular basis. He enjoyed participation in Bible Study groups, participated at Presbytery meetings and was truly a "goodwill ambassador" for St. John's. (a full biography of Cliff can be obtained by contacting Dr. Rennie)

On Sunday, October 9th, 2016, the Clifford MacRae Memorial Bursary was presented to Sarah Gellately, daughter of Janet and Al Gellately. Heather Arthur, a daughter of the late Clifford and Annie MacRae, made the presentation. The scholarship has a value of \$200.00, made possible in part by a bequest from the Clifford MacRae Estate. Sarah graduated from St. Joseph's Catholic Secondary School and is presently attending the University of Western Ontario. She is enrolled in the Kinesiology program. Sarah is also playing Varsity Basketball for the University

Sarah is a very deserving recipient of this award. On behalf of the Kirk Session and the congregation we wish her well in her future endeavours and look forward to seeing her back at St. John's. Congratulations, Sarah, and may God be with you and bless you in your studies and in the career that He has planned for you. The plaque Sarah received with all the previous winners is displayed in Caldwell Hall.

By John Adams & Carol Esdale

THE CORNWALLIS

The Cornwallis was one of six ships of the Canadian National (West Indies) Steamships' casualties during World War II. Five of the six were lost during this war.

On September 11, 1942, the Cornwallis, under the command of Capt. Duncan MacLeod, was torpedoed while at anchor in the harbour of Barbados. The unloading and loading completed, she was waiting for an escort so she could sail on to Trinidad. The serenity of that day soon ended when an explosion rocked the harbour. Skilfully a German submarine commander had taken advantage of the dazzling glare of the sinking sun reflected of the water and had taken deadly aim. To reach the Cornwallis, the submarine had to first bomb its way in through the submarine nets around the harbour. The local small crafts scattered as Capt. MacLeod tried to defend his ship, but the torpedo struck with precise accuracy. As his ship began to sink, the captain managed to beach her in shallow water on the sandy bottom. The submarine got away in the confusion.

The Cornwallis was patched up and taken to Mobile, Alabama, where she was made seaworthy again.

On December 3, 1944, the Cornwallis under the command of Capt. E. H. Robinson (this was his first trip as master) was again the target of a German submarine. This time however the Cornwallis was not that lucky. The ship was lost in the Bay of Fundy off Mt. Desert, with her captain and 41 of her crew. There were only 5 survivors. The Cornwallis was the last of the Canadian National fleet to be lost to enemy action in W.W. II. Less than 6 months later the war ended.

In 1996, a ceremony commemorating the Battle of the Atlantic and the very first public memorial for the Merchant Navy, reminded me of those ships that provided my Island Home with food, medical supplies and just about every thing else we needed.

I have often heard people say that the men in the Merchant Navy never knew what war was, and I strongly disagree. I am ever thankful for the men on those ships that crossed the Atlantic to feed Islanders like me. To me and many others these men were heroes, just as much as those in the regular Navy.

THANK YOU MERCHANT NAVY.

Fleur Eenkhoorn



From the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry - Refugee Sponsorship Update

In late 2015, in response to the refugee crisis in Syria, the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry voted to sponsor six Syrian refugees to Canada through Presbyterian World Services & Development (PWS &D). The Presbytery formed a Refugee Sponsorship subcommittee, composed of representatives from the various churches in the Presbytery, to select six Syrian refugees and work with PWS&D to sponsor them.

The Committee chose a family of five (parents, two adult daughters and one child), as well as a single woman. All are Christian living outside of Syria (the family is in Lebanon, and the single woman is in Qatar).

The Nahhas family consists of father Walid, mother Dalal, daughters Hiba and Tamy, and Tamy's son Joud. They are originally from Homs, Syria, and fled to Beirut in late 2014. Walid and Dalad are retired education professionals, Hiba has her degree in Pharmacy, and Tamy has her Master's Degree in Civil Engineering. Hiba and Tamy both speak English fluently. They have requested to settle in Kemptville, so that Hiba and Tamy may bring their Syrian academic credentials up to date at one of the Ottawa universities.

Nouida Daghistani is a divorced woman who is currently teaching English at a private girls' school in Qatar. She has her bachelor's degree in Education from the University of Damascus, and her credentials to teach English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) from Arizona State University in the USA. The plan is to locate her initially to Brockville, as she has some contacts in this community that will aid in her resettlement.

We anticipate that the refugees will arrive in Canada sometime in the spring of 2017. In the meantime, please consider fundraising events to help support the families once they are here. We will also need "in-kind" donations, especially of furniture, bedding, kitchen and other household items, but please do not start collecting those until we have a much better idea of when they will arrive. If you would like someone from the Presbytery for your event to update you on "our refugees", please contact Rev. Marianne Emig Carr at rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca, or speak to a subcommittee member from the list below.

Thank you for all you do to help and support these people who are fleeing war and violence that most of us will never know. Jesus calls us to help "the least of these, my brothers and sisters", and we are grateful that we can help in this very special way.

Deepest thanks to the Subcommittee members:

Jennifer Adams, Iris Clark, Rev. Feras Chamas, Angie Cowan, Henny and Ed Donkersteeg, Mary Ferguson, Hugh Gallagher, Christine Hains, Lisa Jennings, Heather Lightfoot, Garnet Thompson, and Neil Williams.



The Nahhas Family



Nouida Daghistani



Remembrance Day Service

On Sunday, November 6th, the congregation took part in a very solemn Remembrance Day tribute. From the opening prayers, and the singing of O Canada and God Save the Queen our part in Canadian history was remembered. Bella Gwanyama read In Flanders Fields by John McCrae, and Wes and Carole Libbey read the names of those from our congregation who lost their lives in the Great Wars. During the service the trumpet of Steve Dubinsky accompanied the anthems and hymns. The Last Post, the Lament and the Reveille resounded throughout the sanctuary. Steve and our organist, Gary Postma, played a very moving offertory duet, Allegro Maestoso by George F. Handel. The hymns including Onward Christian Soldiers and O God Our Help in Ages Past contributed to our thoughts of thankfulness as we left the sanctuary.

By John Adams



In Flanders fields the poppies blow,
Between the crosses, row on row,
That mark our place; and in the sky
The larks still bravely singing, fly
Scared heard amid the guns below.

We are the dead. Short days ago,
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,
Loved and were loved, and now we lie
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe
To you from failing hands, we throw
The torch; be yours to hold it high.
If ye break faith with us who die,
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow
In Flanders fields.

News from the Youth

It has been a great start to the next decade for St. John's Youth. We celebrated our 10th anniversary of the group last May with a great meal and reminiscing over the ten years through a great slide show assembled by Alex Plant.

Starting in September, the group gained another 9 new members, 8 boys and 1 girl. We meet every Monday night after school and have supper together followed by various activities. Each time, there are at least 9 youth who attend and share. This group can easily grow to 12 or 15. Therefore, the need to have extra leaders is growing as Leading With Care dictates that there should be 1 adult leader for every 10 youth. If you are interested in coming out once in a while, please let us know. It DOES take a village to raise a child and as we all have gifts that the Lord has blessed us with, you can share your gifts with our Youth.

Our University Students are well into their studies and we would still like members of the Congregation to help us keep in touch with them. A list will be provided with the names of the students, their field of study and the institution they are attending. We need people to send them our newsletters and little packages that the Youth put together for them. Prayerfully think about this and let us know if you would like to help. It only takes a few minutes a month of your time BUT, on the receiving end, it means the world to our young people.

Our Youth held their first ever "Rent Your Own Table" Yard Sale. It was held in Caldwell Hall and the final sum raised by the Youth was \$ 517.30. These funds will be used for the youth programs as well as a much needed update to their room downstairs.

We went to Pumpkinferno at Upper Canada Village in October. Many taking part in this activity had not been there before and it was an amazing display. We required 3 vehicles to bring everyone together that night.

We have also taken in the Tour of Italy pasta fundraiser at CCVS. St. John's needed 3 tables to accommodate the attendees that night. Great fun was had by all.

Our Boston Pizza Lunch Fundraiser was a great success. Over 65 people who were friends of the group and members of the Congregation attended. A meeting has been set up with the manager of Boston Pizza for the week of the 16th of November and we will have a final total at that time. The Youth decided that these funds would be designated to the Church – specifically the heating project in Caldwell Hall. If those funds have been raised, in full, then the money will go to general expenses.

Our next big outings are in November. We begin with our Legion Chicken Dinner & Silent Auction on November 20th followed by a supper at Jack Lee's with a concert at First Baptist Church, featuring Tim Neufeld & the Glory Boys, on November 21st.

And, of course, 'tis the Season. We are gearing up for our Christmas Pageant in December. Mark your calendars for this event. On behalf of our Youth, I would like to thank every one of you that helps and supports our Youth in all capacities.

P*U*S*H*

Debbie Plant - Youth Leader





TRUSTEES REPORT FOR 2016

The Trustees Roster for 2016 was as follows:

Heather McCleary (treasurer); Wes Libbey (2012 – 2016); Doug Carpenter (property manager 2013- 2016); Sue MacNeil (secretary 2013- 2016); Bill MacMillan (2014- 2016), John Adams (Trustees at large) (2014- 2016) Keppel Bharath (Chair) and Jeanette Scrimshaw Honorary Trustee (guidance as required).

Barbara Fraser (Chair) decided to retire from the trustees in 2015 and we still reflect on her words of wisdom and guidance.

Keppel Bharath was nominated as the Chair of the Trustees starting in 2015.

Detail:

The Church owns the land including St. John's Lane on the west and the Church building proper. We continue to own and maintain the cemetery property on the east side of Sydney Street at the corner of 6th Street.

Upkeep on the cemetery property costs \$1,350.00 yearly and in 2016 we have had to carry out some maintenance on the monuments thereon.

All the lots previously owned on Pitt Street have been sold and the money invested as per the Trustee Act to preserve our Heritage Trust Fund.

The **Heritage Trust Fund** is to continue in perpetuity. It is the endowment fund of our congregation. The fund is made up of various bequests, (many of which have specific stipulations as per use), and the proceeds from the sale of the former manse which was located at the corner of 2nd Street and Gloucester Street.

The Fund is reviewed every year (as per the motion at the 2012 annual meeting) by a committee comprised of the Minister, the Trustees, the chair of the Board of Managers, the Clerk of Session and the chair of the W.O.C. The last review took place on Sept 25 2016 (financials).

The Trustees allocated \$1,500.00 per month in 2016 to the Board of Managers for operating expenses. This allocation is from interest earned on the money invested in the Heritage Trust Fund. The Trustees will endeavor to continue this allocation through 2017 but it is uncertain if it will continue, due to monies being advanced to the congregation for the short term operation of the Church with the severance pay of Rev Ruth Draffin, plus interim Minister, Ian Johnson's salary, and some additional expenses (pointing, moving / heat in Caldwell hall).

The Trustees have always been good stewards of the Heritage Trust Fund while keeping the spiritual needs of the congregation as its guiding force. It is imperative that future planned projects be supported by strategic fund raising and individual donations to insure the future financial viability of our Church.

In order to demonstrate this potential a special account called the **Major Project Account Fund** was created. This Fund will be used to support the Congregation at large to carry out Special Projects that require funding. The operation is simple ... if you have an idea, then start to raise funds to get your idea to fruition, when you reach 80% of your target then this fund can be used to finance the remaining 20% of the Projects cost. By doing this we will not always look to the HTF to fund projects

The Trustees launched a **Gala** to show how simple it is to raise money when you are offering a service for a fee. We have done Galas in 2015 and 2016 and each was successful in that over \$4,000 was raised for the Major Project Fund.

At the end of 2016 (Meeting called for Jan 8 2017) the Board of Managers shortfall will be tallied and following that meeting a congregational meeting will be called to approve a transfer of funds to cover expenses if required.

Respectfully submitted to the newsletter.
By Keppel Bharath



Upcoming Events



<p>Annual Legion Chicken Dinner & Silent Auction</p> <p>Sunday, November 20, 2016 4:30 – 6:30 p.m.</p> <p>In support of our Youth Group</p>	<p>Communion</p> <p>Sunday, November 27, 2016 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>1st Sunday in Advent</p> 
<p>Mid-Week Communion</p> <p>Wednesday, November 30, 2016 2:00 p.m.</p> <p>Rev. Ian Johnston – Officiating</p>	<p>Centennial Choir Christmas Concerts</p> <p>Friday, December 9, 2016 8:00 p.m.</p> <p>Sunday, December 11, 2016 2:00 p.m.</p> 
<p>White Gift Sunday</p> <p>Sunday, December 11, 2016</p> <p>Just a reminder to mark your gift for either Evangel Hall or Baldwin House</p> 	<p>Christmas Pageant</p> <p>"Just a Little Christmas"</p> <p>December 18, 2016</p>
<p>Christmas Eve Services</p> <p>Saturday, December 24, 2016</p> <p>Family Service at 6:00 p.m. Candlelight Service at 8:00 p.m.</p>	<p>Sunday Service</p> <p>Christmas Day 10:00 a.m.</p> <p>Coffee Hour to follow</p> 



Harvest of Homes Fall House Tour

FRIENDS, Fun, and FUNDS

The photos tell it all! Thanks to all of our congregation for their support in our new, successful venture. A special thank you to our home owners for opening their doors! Another positive event for our St John's.



Understanding and Interpreting the Bible

Virtually all branches of the Christian Church refer to the Scriptures of the Old and New Testaments as the standard of belief with regard to their doctrine and to their practices of faithful living and rituals. In spite of that common affirmation, the diversity of doctrine, practices and rituals among those who self-identify as Christians is staggering. Even when one narrows the sample down to one particular denomination [eg The Presbyterian Church in Canada], the range of doctrinal emphases and/or exclusions, of stresses in personal faithfulness, of methodologies in worship, and of priorities in mission are unbelievably high.

Yet in denominational life, core unity in essential doctrine, lifestyle practices and governing regulations is a requirement for organizational vitality and focus. To determine the extent and the content of those requirements, Presbyterians most often turn to the Scriptures for guidance. Given all the diversity arising from various understandings of the Bible as noted above, how do we achieve that goal of core unity?

At last June's general Assembly, the Committee on Church Doctrine presented a study paper, *Understanding and Interpreting the Bible*. It outlines some principles of interpretations that seek to provide a basis for a common and accepted approach to understanding and applying the Scripture to our life, mission and governance as a denomination. The 2016 general Assembly has commended this document to The Presbyterian Church in Canada for use, but also invited response both to its usefulness and to its comprehensiveness. The deadline for responses is January 31, 2017. Responses can be sent to the committee convener, Blair Bertrand, through the General Assembly office. The document, *Understanding and Interpreting the Bible*, can be found on pp. 265 – 278 of the 2016 Acts and Proceedings, this can be downloaded from presbyterin.ca. The study paper provides good material for personal and congregational reflection. Your feedback can assist the committee, so what is now good can become excellent. Given the challenges before us in the century, a guide that is excellent is a treasure to be passionately pursued.

Ian Shaw, Simcoe, ON rianshaw48@gmail.com -

(Presbyterian Church in Canada. www.renewal-fellowship.ca

Recommendation No. 7 (adopted, p. 39) That the document “*Understanding and Interpreting the Bible*” be commended to congregations, presbyteries and other groups in the Presbyterian Church in Canada for their use.

Recommendation No. 8 (adopted, p. 39) That sessions, presbyteries and other interested groups using the document “*Understanding and Interpreting the Bible*” report comments to the Committee on Church Doctrine through the Assembly Office by January 31, 2017, and that the results of these comments be reported to a future General Assembly.

Printed from Head Office in Toronto



Christmas Luncheon and Bazaar 2016

This year's Bazaar and Luncheon on November 9th is now just a memory—but what a wonderful addition to our collective memory bank! Oh yes, there is always the accompanying huge amount of organization, food preparation, physical set-up, decorating, definitely lots of co-operation, and maybe even some friendly persuasion. Nevertheless, we get it done. Our St. John's family is blessed to have a capable convener in Darlene McMartin, who leaves no detail unaccounted for, as well as kitchen co-ordinator Bev Hope who can actually turn total chaos into orderly production lines. It's a credit to all the women and men working together to prepare and serve the meals, that our guests so often comment how much they enjoy the luncheon at St. John's.

Meanwhile, away from the dining area, the bazaar tables are laden with delicious baked goods, preserves of summer bounty, attic treasures, cozy hand-knitted and stitched items, crafted greeting cards, and even a collection of silent auction offerings. All are made and/or donated by generous and gifted members of our congregation. Overall there is a Christmas theme, with the stage area of the hall forming a charming backdrop of festive adornments and colourful lights, all thanks to a few dedicated souls with decorating talents.

When the lights were out and all was tallied up, our profits amounted to approximately \$4,000.00 (some bills are still outstanding) and this money will go toward repairs to the heating system in Caldwell Hall. But what we will remember most is the warm camaraderie, the fellowship, and the outreach that happens during an occasion such as this. It brings us together and brings others into our midst and that is the best result we could hope for.

Phyllis Bateman





CONGRATULATIONS **ON YOUR** **RETIREMENT** **ALINE!**



On Sunday, October 16th at the end of our regular worship service the retirement of Aline Fournier, our office administrator at St. John's for some 35 years was celebrated. Betty McConnell on behalf of the WOC congratulated her and presented her with her favourite pie, lemon meringue! John Matthews, a former Financial Chair for the Board of Managers brought his good wishes to Aline. Debbie Plant brought thanks on behalf of herself and the youth at St. John's. Aline's husband and her sister were present to witness the celebration. Following the farewell speeches, sandwiches and cake were served in the MacLellan Room. Aline's name will be the first to be inscribed on a plaque to honour faithful employees. It will be hung in the alcove off the MacLellan Room.

Some Remarks Regarding Aline

By The Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie, St. John's Minister Emeritus

I should like to begin by expressing my sincere **thanks** for this opportunity to say a few words about Aline on this occasion of honouring her for 34 years of service to St. John's Church. I also commend the Board of Managers, and thank them, for their insight to have this event.

I could spend much time speaking about Aline and her good works for St. John's, but that would probably embarrass her too much! She followed a long serving and much loved **Agnes Clark** in the Church Office, the first such person to hold that position in the history of St. John's. Agnes was a great ambassador of the Church in our community. She probably knew everybody in our large congregation, and was a great source of needed information for this young Minister, who followed on Dr. McLellan's ministry in 1975. I truly appreciated all the help Agnes could give me. Such were her gifts . . .

And then **Aline** was chosen to succeed her in the office, and she too came with her gifts. But a **revolution** was afoot in office practices and equipment - we were on the **cusp** of the coming of "the information age" as they call it, complete with the latest technologies to replace typewriters and pen and paper! **And Aline took to it like a duck to water!** Change did not faze her - she met the challenges and won, and brought our office practices into the 21st c. It was not necessary for me to learn all the info about the latest "gizmos" - I just left it in her capable hands as the years progressed. But she had the capacity of mind to quickly master such. She soon got to know the people of St. John's and their interrelatedness to others - helpful information to my growing knowledge as well, of St. John's! Although her workload also grew during my years, she always accomplished her work well, and on time! Monday to Friday she was here - 8 to 4!



Consider for a moment **her work load**: the weekly Bulletin with inserts; the materials I needed for my weekly Bible studies, held 8 months a year; Agendas for Session and Board meetings; the once a year “monster project” – the **Annual Report** which increased in size over the years, and the people to be “chased” to get their Reports submitted on time! Correspondence was prepared, not only for me, but also the Clerk of Session at times, and for the Assistant Ministers we had over the years as well; and meeting drop-in visitors with their needs – she was a “first line of defense” for me! Then there were preparations for Weddings and Funerals, as well as Baptisms; researching and answering historical enquiries; informing the caretaker regarding various “set-ups” needed for Church or non-Church events, the list goes on and on and on. Aline could supply a **full** list, I am sure! And then there was her weekly typing of my sermons – as my expertise on such an instrument was only passable! If at times she appeared a **little indifferent** to drop-in office visitors, it was because her plate, at the moment, was “full”, and she was trying to “juggle” her work to get all things done – on time!

I would use these **words to describe** Aline – efficient, capable, organized, faithful, dependable, willing to learn “the new”, always accurate, a fast learner with a good memory, and **smart enough** to know how to open the 100-year-old safe in the vestry of the Church – something that I, as your Archivist, will never achieve!

I could go on further, but I will close with 2 comments:

As some of you will recall, for 10 years I wrote a **weekly column on hymns** for the Saturday edition of the Standard Freeholder. This was a “labour of love” for me every **Sunday evening**, to research, and to write the column – “Sing your Way Home” within the number of words allowed to me. My handwritten copy was on Aline’s desk every **Monday** morning, which she would type out and then “walk it” to the S/F office every **Tuesday** morning – in all kinds of weather! This was the day when computers were in their infancy!

The 2nd comment concerns my work as a member of The Experimental Fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, a Fund which was established in 1981, through the inspiration and beneficence of the late George van Beek, Elder and Clerk of Session at one time. The Minister of St. John’s was **automatically** a member of the Board of Directors, and for some time also the secretary, and again I relied heavily on Aline to type the minutes of our meetings, and mail them for me! As secretary, I also received **requests** for grants, and Aline knew that as well. On one occasion, I was about to step on board my **Via Rail** train to Toronto for a fall meeting of the Fund, when who should come rushing up to me with another request for funding? Yes, **Aline!** She knew my whereabouts and caught up with me just in time! That was commendable **initiative** on her part, that was continuing **support** – that was Aline!

We **applaud** her for all her care and support, not only of my ministry, but of St. John’s Church, as well, from **1982 – 2016!**



To Aline from the Board of Managers

By Jennifer Adams

On behalf of the BOM at St. John's, it is my pleasure to congratulate you upon your retirement after your many years of employment as our office administrator.

Aline has been employed at SJPC from October 1982 to August 2016, an incredible journey of 35 years! I have served a few terms on the board and most recently served as the Office chair. In this capacity, I was able to get to know Aline and her work habits a little better. I would like to share a few things I learned about her.

- When you asked Aline to do something she would reply, "I'll see when I can get that done, meaning you would have it in an hour or so!"
- Aline, was in CCU at the hospital and she was guiding me through the computerized PAD procedure by phone.
- She took very few sick days over the years, even when she wasn't feeling up to scratch.
- Her attention to detail and incredible knowledge of all things pertaining to St. John's.
- Many of you would not know that on Sunday afternoons, Aline would come in and verify the offering count done by the board...I am sure she scratched her head a few times wondering how our math tallied up. It was a great feat if she remarked that your team didn't make any mistakes this month!
- Also, thank you for dealing with all the papers we put in that black bag and left you to figure out on Sundays.
- Before going on holidays Aline would have the summer bulletins photocopied and ready to distribute on Sundays in advance.

Aline, on behalf of the current board and the many who have served and worked with you over your many years at St. John's, we thank you so much for your dedication and diligent work for our congregation and we wish you many happy, healthy years to spend in retirement with your husband, Bob, and your daughter and her family especially your grandchildren. All the best!



CHRISTMAS

CHILDREN & YOUTH & PARENTS

DINNER
&
CHOIR PRACTICE

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 16TH

6:30 pm

RSVP: John Adams – addyandien@bell.net / 613-537-8290

Susan MacDonald – susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca / 613-931-2565

Performance: Sunday Service December 18th.

Jesus proclaimed, *"Bring the children unto me and I will
give them eternal life."*

