

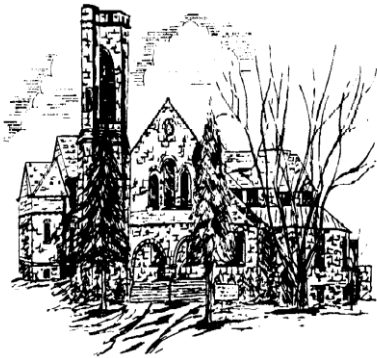


# St. John's Newsletter

May 2017

St. John's Presbyterian Church  
28 2nd Street East  
Cornwall, ON, K6H 1Y3

(613) 932-8693



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

Newsletter

Susan MacDonald  
Cynthia Seguin  
Carol Esdale  
John Adams  
Martha Woods

Join us for  
Communion on  
Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00 a.m.



Then Jesus declared, "I am the  
bread of life. Whoever comes to  
me will never go hungry, and  
whoever believes in me will  
never be thirsty.

## **The Season of Pentecost and a Season of Celebrations**

BE CAREFUL, AND WATCH YOURSELVES CLOSELY SO THAT YOU DO NOT FORGET THE THINGS YOUR EYES HAVE SEEN OR LET THEM SLIP FROM YOUR HEART AS LONG AS YOU LIVE. TEACH THEM TO YOUR CHILDREN AND TO YOUR CHILDREN'S CHILDREN. [Deuteronomy 4:9]

The month of June is a month of several celebrations this year. The Christian community celebrates the joys of Pentecost and the gift of the Holy Spirit that has invigorated generations to live as Christians fulfilling the ministry Jesus commanded believers to deliver to the furthest corners of the earth. Canada was a new nation 150 years ago and the Gospel message was at the heart of this new country in "the new world," having been carried with the early settlers from Europe in both French and English. But before that, on the north shore of the mighty St. Lawrence River small communities had already become established. In 1787 the first Presbyterians are recorded arriving from Scotland. On June 11<sup>th</sup>, St. John's congregation celebrates its 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. As I write this and pause to wonder, this June for me is a "WOW" reflection! What we have here today is because of those who have gone before us! The most valuable "possession" believers can leave to family, friends and community is faith in Jesus Christ. While everyone must choose to trust in the Saviour for him or herself, Christians can and should share key biblical truths with loved ones. These essentials of the faith should not be kept to ourselves.

SALVATION IS FOUND ONLY IN JESUS CHRIST (Acts 4:12). From an early age, children should be taught that the most important relationship they will ever have is with the Lord. Believing in Him and obeying Him is vital. EVERYTHING THAT EXISTS WAS CREATED BY THE LORD, AND HE OWNS IT ALL. (Psalm 24:1). We are managers of our resources, not owners. As stewards, we are to invest in God's kingdom and not just spend on personal pleasures. His priorities are to become our own.

GOD HAS A PURPOSE FOR EACH OF US, AND DISCOVERING IT IS VERY IMPORTANT. (Ephesians 2:10). We can look for opportunities to share what we are learning about God's plan for our life. In the process, our loved ones might become curious about what His purpose is for them.

GOD WILL PROVIDE WHATEVER WE NEED TO CARRY OUT HIS PLAN (Ephesians 4:11-13). Our heavenly Father gives us talents and spiritual gifts to achieve His purposes and plans. He has promised that we will have what is necessary for us to live a life that is pleasing to Him.

Why wait to start sharing your faith? Each day offers new opportunities to speak of our Saviour. Think about the people to whom you could pass along this precious possession. We thank God for those who have passed their faith on to us. As we begin the 231<sup>st</sup> year of ministry and witness here in Cornwall, let us be found faithful as we pass down our faith. Let May June 2017 be a month of celebration, filled with reflection, love, peace and joy.

**On behalf of the Session and the Board of Managers I want to thank all of you who have been faithful in supporting our ministry and mission during this past year of transition. Without your gifts of time, treasure and abilities, we could not have accomplished so much thus far. With your continued support, together, we will meet the tasks and challenges of the future. Thank You!**

From the Pastor's Desk, Rev. Ian Johnston, Interim Minister

The Congregation of  
**St. John's Presbyterian Church**

28 Second Street East, Cornwall, Ontario

Invites you to

# The McGaughey Organ Concert

On May 28, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

Featured guest artist Rashaan Allwood is a keyboard player and performer of great versatility. As a pianist, organist, and harpsichordist, he actively performs in a variety of solo, collaborative, and chamber settings. A passionate recitalist, Rashaan has performed at venues such as the Canadian Opera Company Richard Bradshaw Amphitheatre, the Montreal Maison Symphonique, the OLG Main Stage at the Beaches Jazz Festival and other venues in the United States and Europe. He was the recipient of the first prize in the Organ Category for the Canadian National OSM Manulife Competition in 2016 and second prize in the Wadden Sea International Organ Competition in 2017.

Rashaan is a graduate of the University of Toronto where he studied piano performance with Professor James Parker and organ with Professor Kevin Komisaruk. He is currently pursuing a Master of Music in Organ and Church Music at McGill University under the leadership of Professor Hans-Ola Ericsson.



Other performers include 14 year old pianist, Ethan Gilmour,  
and the distinguished mezzo-soprano Danielle Vaillancourt.

Enjoy refreshments and meet the artists.

All proceeds from the freewill offering, available at the exits, will be donated to  
The Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry Syrian Refugee Fund.

# The Presbyterian Church in Canada L'Église presbytérienne au Canada

---



MODERATOR OF THE 142ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY  
The Rev. Douglas H. Rollwage, B.Th., M.T.S. M.Div.

May 9, 2017

Rev. Ian K. Johnston  
St. John's Presbyterian Church  
28 -2nd St. E.  
Cornwall, ON, K6H 1Y3

To the good people of St. John's Presbyterian Church, Cornwall:

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ!

On behalf of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, I extend congratulations and blessings for your 230 years of witness to the life and work of Jesus Christ!

Long before Canada was brought together as a nation, St. John's was brought together as a congregation, to nurture the faith and spread the Gospel in word and in deed to the Cornwall area. God has been faithful, and St. John's has responded in faith, to bring you to this amazing anniversary. It is beyond imagining to try and comprehend the cumulative impact of almost 12,000 Sundays of Prayer, Song, Scripture, Sermon and Sacrament. Through war and peace, hardship and plenty, struggle and security, St. John's has been there to inspire and to instruct, to comfort and to commission.

While the days ahead may seem uncertain, there were doubtless uncertain times in the past, but God proved faithful, and the Gospel persevered. There are still great days in store for St. John's, as faithful people continue to respond the challenge of following our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

I commend you for your faith, your perseverance, your service, and your discipleship. I can do no better than to echo the words of the Apostle Paul, whose greeting began this letter (I Corinthians 1:3-9):

"I always thank my God for you because of his grace given you in Christ Jesus. For in him you have been enriched in every way — with all kinds of speech and with all knowledge — God thus confirming our testimony about Christ among you. Therefore, you do not lack any spiritual gift as you eagerly wait for our Lord Jesus Christ to be revealed. He will also keep you firm to the end, so that you will be blameless on the day of our Lord Jesus Christ, God is faithful, who has called you into fellowship with his Son, Jesus Christ our Lord."

Thanks be to God!

Rev. Douglas Rollwage, Moderator

Ecumenical Service  
in Celebration of

**Canada's 150th**



**CANADA 150**  
1867-2017

Canada's 150th  
June 4<sup>th</sup>, at 7:00 pm  
St. John's Presbyterian Church

(28 Second St. E., Cornwall)

Special Appearance by the  
Salvation Army Legacy Brass Band

**All Are Welcome!**

SPONSORED BY THE CORNWALL & AREA CHRISTIAN COUNCIL

## **They're Here!! - Welcome to the Nahhas Family!**

On April 24, 2017, after a 19 hour flight (not including stopovers) five weary, yet happy **Syrian Refugees** arrived in Ottawa to a very warm "Presbyterian" welcome (even though it was a cool day). Walid, Dalal, Tamy, Hiba and Joud were greeted by a team from the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry, and taken to their new home in Kemptville, which was fully and lovingly furnished by hard-working and eager volunteers from the Presbytery. Dinners for the family for the first week were provided by the congregation of St. Paul's in Kemptville.

They are off to a busy start already, with a bank account being set up, OHIP applications submitted, applying for their SINs, registering 7-year old Joud for school, and exploring their new community. A trip to the Middle Eastern grocery store in Ottawa was planned for later in the week, and Tamy and Hiba are already looking into employment opportunities.

Sincere thanks to Rev. Samer Kandalaft and Shahrzad Dezhbod Kandalaft, who are taking a great deal of time to help with the settlement experience, Garnet Thompson, who worked closely with the family to secure their visas, and devoted members of the Presbytery Refugee Committee, who have worked so hard to make this sponsorship a reality.

We will still need more volunteers to help with transportation for grocery shopping, doctors and dental appointments, and other settlement support. If you live within a reasonable distance of Kemptville, and would like to help out, please contact Rev. Marianne Emig Carr at [rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca](mailto:rev.marianne@myhighspeed.ca), or Rev. Samer at [reverend@stpaulskemptonville.ca](mailto:reverend@stpaulskemptonville.ca). We will also need to continue our fundraising efforts, so every little bit helps!

By Rev. Marianne Emig Carr





## **News from our Youth!**

So many things have been afoot this spring and we would like to share them with you.

This past winter, we hosted members of the congregation for our first ever **St. Patrick's Day celebration** with Irish stew and all the fixings, fellowship and the music of Mike McAnany. Sixty people got to share that evening. It was such a success that those who attended are planning to come back with more friends next year.

We also did a **Confirmation Retreat Weekend at Gracefield Camp and Retreat Centre**. This centre is owned by the Presbyterian Church and it can be safely said that you can see God in every corner of the camp. You feel His presence in the air, in the rising of the sun, in the shine on the lake and in each sunset that reminds us that another day will soon follow. Eleven of us headed up to the Camp and stayed in White Pine Lodge which is the largest building on the property and houses accommodations, dining hall and gathering space. The weekend included Scripture lessons, crafts, music, snow shoeing, puzzles, movies, great food and memories that money cannot buy. We all came away with a sense of God's touch in our lives.

**Christian Family Sunday** was a time for us to give a gift to the Congregation in the form of our mini-Pageant, **"The Mother Zone"**. If you missed it, you can hear it on St John's Presbyterian Church's Face Book as an audio file (podcast). It sounds incredible and captured everything that was presented. While on the Face Book page, you can also check out Alex Plant's sermon for that day as he took over the pulpit for the first time. Alex has completed his studies at the University Ottawa and has been accepted to McGill University and the Presbyterian College to pursue his studies in ministry.

We are about to participate in the **30 Hour Famine for World Vision**. We ask the Youth and their leaders to fast for 30 hours. This is to show our Youth that there are people that go without food for much longer periods than 30 hours. We take pledges from sponsors and submit them to World Vision to help Youth in suffering countries. That is our mission abroad, but we also collect non-perishable food items for Agape and Baldwin House. The fast begins at midnight on Thursday, May 25<sup>th</sup> and throughout the day on Friday. That night, we attend a sleepover at the Wesleyan Church. The 30 Hour Famine is done with other Church Youth Groups in the area under the name of The Underground. The evening has a worship service, a guest preacher (this year it is Pastor Scott Sayers), scavenger hunt, indoor games and the sleepover. The fast is broken on Saturday morning when we serve up a feast for our young people, after which, we conclude with a small worship ceremony.

Mark your calendars for a Passport to Peru, our **Vacation Bible School** being held this summer August 21<sup>st</sup> to the 25<sup>th</sup>. I will be the leader with volunteers and the Youth. Open to all children – your children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, friends and neighbours. The cost is free and is 5 morning sessions concluding with a meal on the Friday lunch time. Watch for our posters, information and registration. We have begun the work and you will see it up in the next few weeks.

The Youth Group this year has grown considerably and we meet every Monday for supper and an evening of various activities. Because of our growth, we are in need of individuals who could come out once in a while to help with sports or crafts or games. If you would like to volunteer for a few hours a few times a year, please contact me. We will be twice blest – by he that giveth and he that taketh. (I borrowed that from The Bard and Shylock) But seriously, I cannot describe to you the feeling of being with our young people and sharing with them.

The Youth of St. John's and myself thank every one of you for all your support over the years and we look forward to inviting you to all our future endeavours. Have an awesomely blessed summer enjoying the Son, the sun and your families.

P\*U\*S\*H\* Debbie Plant





## “St John’s – a Short History”

*At the request of John Adams, Editor of our Congregational Newsletter, I have prepared a short history of St. John’s Presbyterian Church, as part of the Celebration of our 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 2017. It would be nice to someday have a much larger account written!*

As I see it, there are 2 historical events which lie behind the initial formation of St. John’s Church (that is – in addition to God’s will and plan). One was the depressing **poverty** of the Scottish Highlands in the 18thc., and the other was the **fierce loyalty** to the British Crown. By the latter, I refer to the rebellion of the 13 colonies on the eastern seaboard, of what was eventually to become the United States of America. A phenomenon called **The United Empire Loyalists** emerged, who chose to leave their homes after the War of Independence, and establish homes in more hospitable surroundings – Upper Canada being their choice. From these two sources emigrants left for our country, to better themselves, and to continue to maintain and exhibit their undying loyalty to the British Crown.

In 1784 the first emigrants arrived in what is now known as Cornwall. They were assisted in settling themselves into a new land by the **Rev. John Bethune** (1751 – 1815), who gathered them together in communities such as Lancaster, Williamstown, “the front of Charlottenburg” (= Summerstown), and Cornwall. For about 28 years these congregations were all served by Bethune, who at the time was the only Presbyterian clergyman in all of Upper Canada. The Archives has a drawing of the first Church in which St. John’s people gathered for worship – a small, low log structure located some where on Pitt St. It was commonly known as “**the Scotch Church**” because the only competition in town was from “**the English Church**” which had started a few years earlier, rooted in Anglicanism. It is reported that the “Scotch Church”, shared its facilities with others in Cornwall, i.e. holding of local courts, because it was the only public building available. It also served as a temporary barracks sometimes as well.

After Bethune died, St. John’s was served by two Presbyterian clergy who were also Masters of the Cornwall District Grammar School. The Church was not fully organized – there being no Session in place until **the Rev. Dr. Hugh Urquhart** arrived in 1827. In the same year our official Session Records begin as well. We possess nothing on paper before that date. Besides his duties as Minister of St. John’s, Dr. Urquhart was for many years also, the Master of the Cornwall Grammar School.

Prior to his coming an attempt had been made in 1823 to erect a better structure to serve as the Sunday meeting place for Cornwall Presbyterians. It was half finished when Dr. Urquhart arrived, and our Archives contain the contract with **Hiram Prowty** who was engaged to finish the work. It should be noted at this point that in 1819 the British Crown granted land - free – to Anglican and Presbyterian churches in Upper Canada. The Anglicans received all the land running west from Augustus to York Streets, on the north side of Second Street W. to Third Street. On this their house of worship had already been erected (but hardly comparable to their present edifice), and a graveyard begun which for a time, accommodated deceased Presbyterians as well.

The parcel of land granted to the Presbyterians was **Lot 15**, on the east side of Pitt Street, from Second Street south to First Street, and in depth running 176 feet to the east. It was on part of this land grant that St. John’s second Church building was erected, opening in **1827** after Dr. Urquhart arrived. The remainder of the land grant was divided into building lots and on such, different places for commerce located

themselves, paying yearly land rentals to the congregation. One significant building erected was the **Rossmore Hotel**, which became well known throughout Eastern Ontario in the latter 1800's.

The 1827 building was a vast improvement over the crude facilities in which the Presbyterians had first worshipped. The worship space was considerably enlarged, with a high centre **Pulpit**, shaped like a goblet, approached by a winding stair of many steps on both sides, and overhung by a sounding board supported from the ceiling. The **Precentor's Desk** was in front of the Pulpit. There were 50 pews on grade with their straight backs and narrow seats (a few of them were "box" pews), and a Gallery of 22 pews. One third of the congregants had to sit with their backs to the Minister. One pew on the ground floor (#34) was designated for the Minister's family. There was no basement, and no sheds – horses and carriages were **exposed** to all kinds of weather. Porchless front doors let in the wind whenever they were opened on a winter's day. Neither was there any musical instrument used in worship – the **Precentor** provided that! His task was to "line out the Psalm" – that is, to sing the individual line of words and music first, which the congregation then sang back to him, and in like manner to make progress through the Psalm chosen for the day. Only the Psalms of David were sung, in Presbyterian worship.

To sustain the ministry (as well as to upkeep the building) **Pew Rents** were assessed at varying rates to the members of the congregation, depending on their location. Your Archives possess the original **Pew Rental Register** that was used from 1848 to 1867. There was no facility in this Church for the Minister to prepare for weekly worship, or indeed to offer counsel to his people. This was done at the **Manse**.

But it does not appear that the congregation had a **Manse** for the Minister! The first Manse was not built until 1875, and so we assume that Dr. Urquhart had his own dwelling place. He died "in office" in 1871. There is an indication on an old map of Cornwall of "Dr. Urquhart's house" on Adolphus Street, but we have not been able to confirm this with the Land Registry Office. The congregation worshipped in this building on Pitt St., until **1889**.

**The Sacrament of the Lord's Supper** was celebrated quarterly, and it was a four day affair - the common Presbyterian practice at the time. Often congregations came together for a joint celebration. The four days were devoutly spent on personal **Preparation**, **Confession** of sins, the **Meal** itself, and a Day of **Thanksgiving** that concluded every "Communion Season" for Presbyterians. The Session was empowered to exclude people from the Table if a known sin, be it adultery, fornication, or theft, was not confessed. There are many references in the Session Minutes of the day of people coming before the Session and asking for **forgiveness** of their sins, particularly that of fornication, which was not becoming of a believer.

It has been noted above that the Anglican Church had a **Cemetery** as part of their land holdings on Second Street West. From the beginning, and for a few years thereafter, they allowed Presbyterian burials to take place in such, until in **1831** the Vestry took steps to deny such usage. Despite protests, the decision was upheld, so St. John's then purchased an acre of land - **Lot 12** - on the east side of Sydney Street, abutting 6<sup>th</sup> Street to the north, for their Burial Ground. **Burials** began in 1833, and by 1885 there had been close to 550 interments. It was closed later that decade because municipal officials were concerned about ground water contamination, and Woodlawn Cemetery was opened for public use on the west side of Cumberland Street. Sadly, no Record of such early burials exists today.

The Church building on Pitt Street did not lend itself to the **education** of the young in the Christian Faith. Such was thus carried out on Sunday afternoons in select homes of the congregation in the town, and in the country. One of the first actions of Dr. Urquhart after he arrived in Cornwall was to install a **Library** in the “Minister’s House” for the benefit of young and old alike to grow up in the Faith.

In days of very primitive communication, Churches used a **bell** to call their people to worship on the Lord’s Day. Our records indicate that not long after the building on Pitt St. was opened for worship, a bell was supplied by the Cline family. That bell **continues in usage** today. It was, as well, a bell for the community - rung 3 times daily – **6.am**, indicating when to get up; **12 noon**, when to eat lunch; and **9 p.m.**, when to be home for the night! For worship services, it was rung twice - **First bell** – rung 15 minutes prior to start, and then at the **Second bell** worship commenced. It is difficult to tell how long services of worship were, as an **Hour Glass** was the prevalent means of telling time in those early days. To the chagrin of some in the pew, the clergy might often say - “and now let us have another Glass” – by such, speaking of time, and not refreshment!

In the 1860s agitation arose within Presbyterian Churches for the use of an **instrument in worship** to improve the congregational singing – an **organ**! After much thought and deliberation, the Session approved of this innovation, but “there was no money in the budget for its purchase”! Nevertheless the “innovation” won the day in **1867**, and a Melodeon was installed in the gallery through the removal of some seats - and the Precentor dismissed with thanks!

With a growing congregation, Dr. Urquhart was **not** without help. From 1866-68 the **Rev. J. S. Burnett** was his Assistant. From 1868-1871, the **Rev. Dr. Neil MacNish** was engaged as his Assistant and then Successor, upon his death. It was for Dr. MacNish that the first Manse was built on property that the Church possessed – the east corner lot of Second and Gloucester Streets. The Manse was built by subscription from congregational members and friends.

Both Dr. Urquhart and Dr. MacNish were well educated for their task – Urquhart from King’s College, **Aberdeen**, and MacNish, although born in Scotland, came to Canada at a young age, but returned to take his theological studies at **Glasgow** and **Edinburgh**. In 1868 he returned to Canada to begin his long connection with St. John’s. Church. Because of their obvious intellectual gifts, both men also served as university professors during their years of ministry – Urquhart for many years was a Sessional Lecturer at **Queens’s College**, Kingston, filling the Chair of Ecclesiastical History and Biblical Criticism. MacNish for many years held the position of Classical Examiner at the **University of Toronto**. He was also recognized in his lifetime as “the most distinguished Celtic scholar on the American continent”. For many years he also taught **Gaelic** at the **Presbyterian College, Montreal**, to students who might possibly serve Gaelic speaking congregations in the Maritime provinces, where the language was still in use.

When Dr. Urquhart died in 1871, Dr. MacNish became the Minister of St. John’s, a post he held until his death in 1903. At the beginning of his work, St. John’s was not a large congregation, being smaller than the Martintown and Williamstown churches. It **soon became an active, growing Church**, regarded as one of the most affluent in Ontario, because of its land holdings and the rental income derived therefrom. It was during his years of ministry that the present Church building was erected on Second Street E., on land just adjacent to its Pitt Street holdings. The lack of a Manse was rectified in 1874-75.

It had long been recognized that the frame Church on Pitt Street was **not adequate** for a fruitful ministry. It was becoming too commercial! Thus in 1886 the Trustees purchased **Lot # 14** on the south side of Second Street, immediately adjacent to their Pitt street holdings, for \$3000, as the site for the third home of the Presbyterians in Cornwall. A well-known Canadian architect, **Sydney Rose Badgely**, working out of Cleveland, Ohio, was engaged to prepare plans. He did so, without coming to visit the site; and a Contractor was engaged from Hamilton, Ontario to build the edifice, using **local limestone**, which farmers and others were encouraged to bring to the building site, and for which they were paid \$2.50 a cord for perfect stone, and \$1.25 for less than perfect. Construction began in May 1888, and was finished in **mid-March 1889**, at a cost of some \$39,000. The design of “the new St. John’s” included a stone tower on the east side affixed to the building, with a large turret on its top which contained the Church Bell. In 1929, the Tower had to be reduced in size since it was threatening the stability of the east wall of the Church. It was slowly sinking into the ground. In the late 19<sup>th</sup> c. only primitive soil testing was done for stability. We now know that our building sits atop a huge mass of blue clay, the consistency of Jello! Further undergirding had to be done in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> c.

Inside, this new home for St. John’s Church consisted of a Sanctuary of pews for some 700 worshippers, a fine Organ produced by the famous company - **S.R. Warren and Sons** of Montreal (and paid for by the Ladies Aid), powered first by human labour and then by water drawn off from the Cornwall Canal. Adjacent to the Sanctuary was a commodious room, with 5 alcoves, for the use of the Sunday School. This room was called “**the Upper Sunday School Room**” and there was a duplicate of it in the basement below – a “Lower Sunday School Room” for the care of infants and toddlers during worship. The Sunday School met on Sunday afternoons at 3 p.m. and to avoid opening the huge front doors, there was a separate entrance for the pupils on the northwest side of the Church. A Minister’s **Study** was also included, located in the basement, and independently heated by 2 small stoves. It also had its own **outside** door for access. The building was heated by 2 huge coal-fed furnaces located in the basement. Behind the church were **sheds** for the winter protection of the horses and sleighs. Automobiles had not yet made their appearance in Cornwall’s history! Following the death of Dr. MacNish in 1903, some 15 full-time, Assistant, Associate, or Interim Ministers have served St. John’s for various periods of time.

Four noteworthy actions took place in this time period – during the years of **the Rev. G.S Lloyd (1937 – 1954)** the worship axis of the congregation was changed from East/West to North/South because it was said that he did not like Choirs behind him when he conducted worship. During the years of his successor, **the Rev. Dr. W. Lloyd MacLelland**, (1955-1974) the congregation undertook to increase the space for a growing Sunday School by erecting a spacious Caldwell Hall in 1959, attached to the south wall of “the new St. John’s”. It was also during Rev. Lloyd’s years that the installation of beautiful Memorial Stained Glass Windows began in the sanctuary. Today such windows cost \$1000 a square foot to purchase and have installed. All the 14 windows are fortunate to have come from the same supplier – **McCausland and Son** – and are now insured for one million dollars.

During the **Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie’s** ministry (1975 – 2001) the 1927 Franklin-Legge pipe organ, installed to commemorate the **Centennial** of the congregation’s beginning, was completely refurbished at a cost of some \$90,000, and an annual **Organ Concert** instituted, at no cost to the public, to showcase both the instrument, and the musician’s ability on this instrument that has long been associated with the worship of the Christian Church. Prior to the coming of the **Rev. Ruth Draffin** (2003 – 2016) the decision was made to change the axis of the sanctuary back to the original east/west. alignment. This was completed in 2003,

restoring the seating to the former position of 1889. In the course of this work 4 window openings on the south side of the Church were uncovered, and became Memorial Stained Glass Windows as a result.

St. John's Presbyterian Church has had a glorious past. In 2017, therefore, we are celebrating some 230 years of Presbyterianism in Cornwall.

By the Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie



## 230<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Weekend

This is the 230<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Rev. John Bethune, a Church of Scotland clergyman and United Empire Loyalist, organizing the first congregation here in Cornwall in 1787. Starting our anniversary weekend will be a **Celebration Dinner** at 6 p.m. on Friday, June 9<sup>th</sup> at the Cornwall Golf and Country Club. Tickets will be \$30 for choice of either turkey or salmon with a youth's portion of chicken fingers and fries available for \$15. We will have music by Sheldon and Mai-liis and dress will be Sunday best.

Service will be in tables of eight. Tickets will be available after church on Sunday and at the Church office.

Sunday, June 11<sup>th</sup> will be our **Anniversary Service** at 10 a.m. with our former Associate Minister, Rev. Jonathan Dent as guest preacher. He and his wife Lynne will be with us for the weekend. The Centennial Choir of Cornwall will be our guests in the choir loft.



Following the Service at 11 a.m. will be our **Church Picnic** on our front lawn or in Caldwell Hall if necessary. All three levels of government have confirmed they will bring greetings. A "No Charge" lunch consisting of sandwiches, platters and ice cream for dessert will be provided. Some may choose to dress in period attire. Please bring your lawn chair.

Rev. Ian wants everybody to enjoy the weekend with nobody working.

**Let us ALL celebrate 230 years of St. John's Congregation  
here in this place!**





## QUILTS ON THE SEAWAY

The Cornwall Quilters Guild presented their show **"Quilts on the Seaway"** at St. John's on April 20 and 21, 2017. They showcased a number of quilts made especially for Canada's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary, along with numerous quilts belonging to the Guild's members. Our Church was graced with quilts in Caldwell Hall, the MacLellan Room and on the pews in the Sanctuary. At the front of the church was an exhibit called the "Bed Turning" which held another 12 quilts. Quilt Guild members told the story behind each of these quilts during the show. One of these quilts, submitted by Rev. Dr. Fred and Johneen Rennie, was a retirement gift from the congregation. This

beautiful quilt was created and quilted by the St. John's Quilting Group.

As with any event, we needed food. The WOC hosted the Tea Room in Caldwell Hall. On Friday, the menu included ham & cheese and vegetarian quiche, a green salad with mandarin oranges and almonds, hamburger and pea soup, along with muffins and other delicious desserts. On Saturday visitors enjoyed a variety of sandwiches with a vegetable soup and more baked goods. It was a busy two days with over 900 quilt lovers visiting the show. The Tea Room brought in a profit of over \$1500.00 and we thank everyone who worked or donated baked goods for this huge endeavor for the WOC. The Cornwall Quilters Guild were very happy with the support & hospitality they received while they were preparing for this wonderful event. They are planning to return with another show in 2019.

By Bev Hope and Phyllis Bateman



## **Announcements and Information Page**

### **Audio Recordings of St. John's Services via Podcasting**

So what is podcasting? Podcasting is storing audio files on the internet so that people can either listen online or download to a smartphone, tablet, etc. to listen to later. Podcasting allows you to subscribe with your favourite podcast app so that when new audio files (called "episodes") are uploaded to the internet, the episode will automatically download to your device. Miss a service or want to hear it again? We are currently uploading the scripture readings and the sermon every week with plans to also upload full services later this summer. You can subscribe to the Scripture and Sermon files at <http://sjpc.podomatic.com> and the full service files on <http://stjohnscornwallon.podomatic.com> or you can search for St. John's Presbyterian Church or SJPC on iTunes and Google Play Music.

Have any questions? Speak to Dan Plant for more details.

### **Shop and Support Cards**

Gail and Connie and the WOC send out greetings and a reminder to continue to purchase your favourite shopping cards to support their fundraising efforts. Buy these cards as birthday and anniversary gifts. Jennifer likes her Tim Horton's card kept up to date for her 4 o'clock coffee on her drive home.

### **Cans Cans Cans**

The aluminum cans continue to pile up each week in the coat room in St. John's Hall. Thank you to those who support this worthwhile fundraiser with every kind of can imaginable. I know that some have a secret source and work diligently to bring their stash weekly. Others collect at a slower pace and bring a bag occasionally.

In 2016 over \$900.00 was raised for renovating the boiler. This is money members don't have to take out of their own pockets. Remember to ask your friends and neighbours to collect their cans for St. John's. I'm sure they won't mind at all!

By John Adams

### **6<sup>th</sup> Street Cemetery Update**

A committee has been struck to oversee the dismantling of the monument at the 6<sup>th</sup> Street Cemetery at the corner of Sydney Street. With further deterioration, it has become a dangerous hazard. A backhoe and truck will be used to remove the debris. The committee will then decide on the next course of action with the funds available. To date \$4,748.50 has been donated to this cemetery restoration. You can donate using your envelopes to this necessary project. Contact Doug Carpenter for further details.

From the minutes of the BOM

### **Trustees' Gala**

Because we are celebrating our 230<sup>th</sup> St. John's Anniversary in June the Trustees' Gala has been postponed until October. So, everyone, put away your dancing shoes for about four months.

### **Presbyterian Sharing**

Wonderful news! We continue to meet our monthly goal for Presbyterian Sharing bringing us closer to the \$16,500.00 we pledged at our annual meeting in February. In April \$1,437.00 was given bringing our total to \$5,739.00. St. John's congregation is a caring, giving group of people. Keep up the great work and thank you.

### **Alex Plant**

Alex Plant has now been approved by the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry to commence studies at the Presbyterian College in Montreal in September of this year. This will lead to Alex becoming a Minister of Word and Sacrament. As part of the process, Alex brought to us the Mother's Day message. We hope that you will support Alex as he progresses through his faith journey in the next few years.

By Susan MacDonald