



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"***

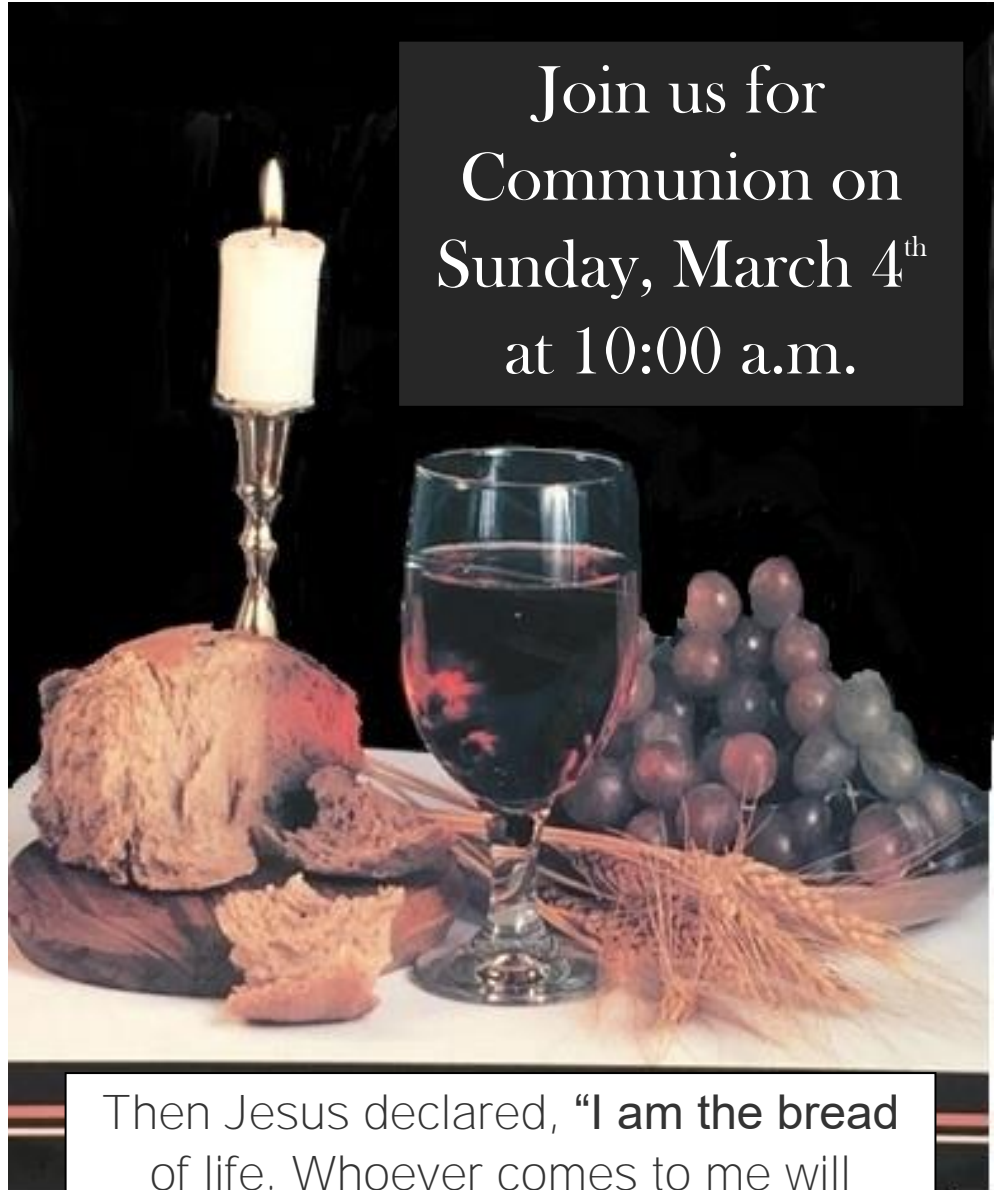
Newsletter

Susan MacDonald  
Cynthia Seguin  
Carol Esdale  
John Adams  
Martha Woods

# St. John's Newsletter

February 2018

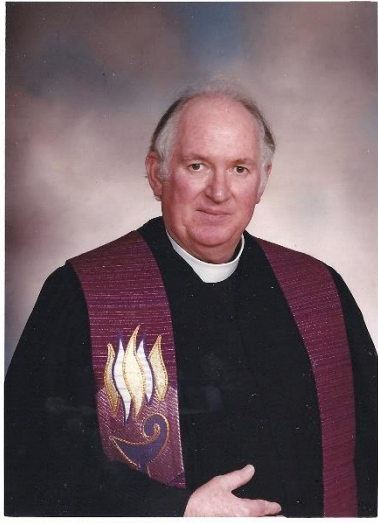
Join us for  
Communion on  
Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>  
at 10:00 a.m.



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."

## **From the Pastor's Desk**

*"Remember, oh man, that thou art dust and to dust thou shall return."* (Genesis 3:19).



We are nearing the end of the season of Epiphany and quickly moving towards the next season – the season of Lent. This somber reminder is always appropriate as Lent begins this year on February 14, Ash Wednesday. Lent reminds us that we are human beings created by God and dependent for our very existence on His grace and mercy.

But from this reminder of our contingent humanity, we move on. Lent is also the season of budding hope and promise, when the days lengthen, and spring appears. As Lent advances, we detect stirrings of new life and fresh beginnings made by God.

The season suggests to us that we too should make some new beginnings, that our lives should shake off the coldness of spiritual winter and embrace what is to come.

What new beginnings will you be making during the season of Lent? Some of you have joined church sponsored programs in various parts of the community, such as reading the whole Bible in 365 days; some of you are attending a Bible breakfast at one of our neighbouring churches and others of you are finding the **Right Now Media** programming to be a source of renewal. Others are probably planning to attend the special study, **The Way of the Cross** (being presented over five weeks). Still others of you are finding spiritual nourishment by having established your own customized devotions, perhaps by regularly reading, **Our Daily Bread**, that is available at each of the sanctuary entrances. No matter what your preference for fortifying your spirit, it is important, indeed essential for you, that you feed, not only your body, but your soul as well.

To remind you to nourish yourself in all ways, may I suggest that you leave a Bible on your breakfast or dining room table, along with the salt and pepper. Before, or after dinner, take a minute to digest some spiritual cuisine. Or, consider borrowing a Christian book from our church library located off the MacLellan Room. Develop a habit of reading some Christian literature as a supplement to reading your daily newspaper.

Another lift to your spirit can come by attending Sunday morning worship. I plan to offer sermons that I hope will speak to our Lenten journey and our congregation's transition.

I anticipate the coming of the Lenten season and the many opportunities we are given to reflect upon our faith. May Lent be a time of enrichment for your life as you walk with Christ and fulfill your destiny in Him.

Rev. Ian K. Johnston, Pastor and IM

## **Your St. John's Session**

St. John's had an election for new elders in the fall, and on November 26, 2017. Kerry Adams, Karen Blanchard, Nick Cox, Paul Hickey, Barbara Mason, Dan Plant and Johneen Rennie were ordained and Katalin



Kennedy, Wes Libbey and Jack McMartin were installed. The Rev. Dr. Johan Eenkhoorn and the Rev. Mark Bourgon were granted permission by the Presbytery to be Ministers in Association at St. John's with all the rights and privileges of church members. Marcia McQuaig will be ordained in the spring of 2018 when she returns from her winter vacation.

(From left to Right) Dave Hickey (retired) Stuart Gordon, Susan

MacDonald, Katalin Kennedy, Nick Cox, Karen Blanchard, John McMartin, Dr. Rev. Fred Rennie (Minister Emeritus) Michele Alexis, Rev. Mark Bourgon (minister in association), Johneen Rennie, Rev. Ian Johnston (Interim Minister), Keppel Bharath, Rev. Johan Eenkhoorn (minister in association), Cynthia Seguin, Brenda Aikman, Dan Plant, Paul Hickey, Merna Esdale, Wes Libbey, Barbara Mason, John Adams, Carol Esdale, Kerry Adams, Trish Brown. (Absent: Clarence Adams, Marcia McQuaig)

## **Father and Son Duet**

On Sunday, January 7th, Dan and Alex Plant had the opportunity to sing a duet of God Rest Ye Merry Gentlemen/We Three Kings medley with a contemporary flair, accompanied on the piano by our organist, Gary Postma. With Alex at McGill University/Presbyterian College, we don't get the chance very often to hear father and son singing together, so this was a great opportunity to hear them sing.



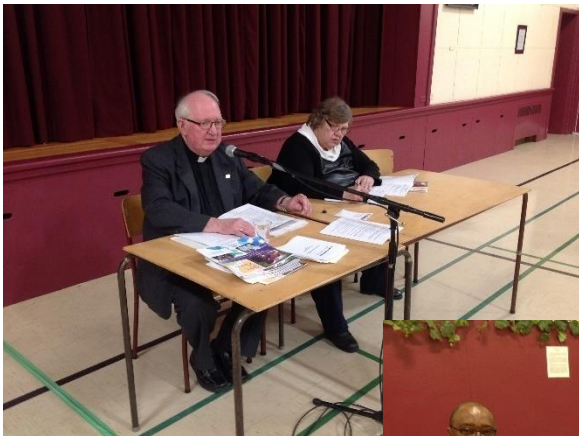


# Annual Congregational Meeting

On Sunday February 11<sup>th</sup> the congregation gathered in Caldwell Hall after the regular Sunday service for St. John's Annual Congregational Meeting. A delicious lunch was served by the WOC. Reverend Ian Johnston chaired the meeting, and Carol Esdale, our Clerk of Session, was secretary. The 2017 Annual Report had been emailed and circulated the Sunday before, and copies were available. Thank you to Lisa Angus, our Church Office Administrator, for diligently collating the many reports. It took many hours to complete.

The reports were received as printed. The main item in the report was the Proposed Budget for 2018. Jennifer Adams, the Board of Managers Financial Chair, walked the congregation through the report. There has been a considerable increase in the budget due to increased salaries and a \$30,000 anticipated expense for a search for our new minister. The total budget that was received, edited and passed was \$266,429.92. This included a commitment of \$17,000 for Presbyterian Sharing.

by John Adams



# STEWARDSHIP

At the Annual Congregational Meeting we learned that the budget is \$266,429.92. There was concern expressed at the meeting as to how this increase could be met? There were positive vibes expressed as to how this would be accomplished! We are a vibrant and very generous congregation. We support the Agape Centre, Syrian Refugees, Baldwin House, Gracefield and many other local and global causes. Now, to meet our budget requirements and to maintain our viability as a congregation, we everyone to step up to the plate. We have faith that this will happen.

The easiest way to meet the budget is to increase the number of dollars in our envelopes and in our Pre-Authorized Debit (PAD) givings. If you would like to join the PAD, raise your current givings or change your allocations, please contact the office.

Another way we can meet our financial obligations is by participating and supporting the events and activities that are planned for this year. Some are old faithfuls, like the WOC Bazaar and Trustees Gala, and some are new, like the Session's Harvest Supper. They are listed on the page of Upcoming Events in this newsletter, so you can mark them on your calendar now. Tell your friends and families and invite them to join us. Plan to help out with pies and cakes, buy some cheese, sell a few tickets, or come out and spend time helping in the fun!

We have accomplished much, and 2018 is looking like a very successful year!

by John Adams

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## **Bible Study for Lent**

Rev. Johnston has agreed to lead a five week Bible Study during Lent starting Wednesday, February 28 through to March 28, 1 PM, for about 1 ½ hours.

The Study is titled: **THE PATH TO THE CROSS** – Embracing Obedience and Sacrifice

This study is a combination of DVD and small group discussion. It is a new venture for Rev. Johnston using this material.

Session One	The Way of the Essenes	February 28
Session Two	The Way of John the Baptist	March 7
Session Three	Into the Desert to Be Tested	March 14
Session Four	The Last Passover	March 21
Session Five	The Fifth Cup: Our Way of Hope	March 28

There is a personal study book available, but it is not necessary. The books have to be ordered from the US to be here on time. They are \$10.00 (Ca)

If you would like to participate in this study, please let the office or Rev. Johnston know as quickly as possible. If you would like to have a personal study guide, please let us know so it can be ordered.

## Pickleball

Have you tried playing pickleball? It is the fastest growing sport in Canada. Several hundred play each week around the city at different venues including our St. John's Church Hall. Pickleball is a paddle sport created for all ages and skill levels. The rules are simple, and the game is easy for beginners to learn, but can develop into a quick, fast-paced, competitive game for experienced players.

It is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. A game is only to 11, and so is very short, and players rotate quickly. It can be played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court, or in the 4 quadrants of a tennis court. It is played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. Most play doubles. The only equipment necessary for getting started is a pair of running shoes and a paddle. A very economical racket can be purchased for \$40.00 at the website below.

**On Tuesdays from 10 – 12 am, there is a drop-in group in Caldwell Hall at St. John's. Cost is just \$5.00. Try it, you will like it.**

<https://www.pickleballdepot.ca/collections/paddles/products/apex-club-lite>

**It is cheese time again! The Session will kick off a Cheese Drive with St. Albert's Cheese, starting February 25, 2018. All orders will arrive in time for you to enjoy with your families at Easter. Proceeds will be dedicated to the boiler repayment project. We hope you will support this endeavour.**

**Please consider taking copies for your family, friends, co-workers and neighbours! Extra forms are available on the tables at the exits and at the office.**

**Many of these products are unavailable at your local grocery store. You will also note that prices offered through this campaign are cheaper. Don't like cheese? Please consider making a donation to the Easter Cheese Drive under Specials on your envelope.**

**Orders will be received in the MacLellan Room after service on Sundays, or you may drop orders and payment off at the church office on or before Sunday, March 18, 2018.**

**Make cheques payable to St. John's Presbyterian Church.**



**ST. JOHN'S  
PRESBYTERIAN  
CHURCH  
EASTER  
CHEESE DRIVE**







## Order form



NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE: \_\_\_\_\_

**Orders and payment will be received in the MacLellan Room after service or may be dropped off at the church office on or before Sunday, March 18, 2018.**

**Make cheques payable to St. John's Presbyterian Church**

Please check how you would like to receive your cheese:

- ☐ I will pick up my cheese at the church on Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup> between 1:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m.
- ☐ I will pick up my cheese at the church after the service on Sunday, April 1<sup>st</sup>.
- ☐ I will be home to have my cheese delivered between 9:00 a.m. and 11:30 a.m. Saturday, March 31<sup>st</sup>.

ORDER INFORMATION			
PRODUCTS	QUANTITY	COST PER UNIT	TOTAL COST
Curds 400g		\$ 8.75	
Curds color 400g		\$ 8.75	
Cheddar Mild white 300g		\$ 7.50	
Cheddar Mild marbled 300g		\$ 7.50	
Cheddar Mild color 300g		\$ 7.50	
Cheddar Medium white 300g		\$ 8.00	
Cheddar Medium color 300g		\$ 8.00	
Cheddar Old white 300g		\$ 8.25	
Dill Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Garlic Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Jalapeno Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Hot-Peppers Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Onion Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Salsa Cheddar 300g		\$ 8.00	
Double cream brie 200g		\$ 7.25	
Cheddar Mild white ORGANIC 200g		\$ 7.75	
Cheddar Medium white ORGANIC 200g lactose free		\$ 8.00	
Cheddar Old white ORGANIC 200g lactose free		\$ 8.25	
Swiss ORGANIC 200g lactose free		\$ 8.50	
Mozzarella ORGANIC 200g lactose free		\$ 7.75	
GRAND TOTAL UNITS		GRAND TOTAL	

**Extra forms are available on the tables at the exits and at the office.**

**Order confirmed and received:** \_\_\_\_\_

## Boiler Repayment Program

A few years ago, the congregation committed to repaying the loans that were borrowed from the Heritage Trust Fund for repairs and upgrades to the boiler system and roof. This year, as part of that commitment, it was decided that we would focus on the boiler debt, and track givings in a very visible way.

That is why there is a thermometer in the MacLellan Room. As we receive contributions, you will see the thermometer rise. This will indicate how we are doing towards reaching our goal. The various groups of the church – Session, the Women of the Church, the Trustees, Board of Managers, and the Youth, have committed to holding events as part of this effort to repay the debt. We hope you will support them!



We challenge all members of the congregation to join in and consider adding a few (or more!) dollars each week to the line on the envelope called Boiler and Roof Renovation (Replenishing our Heritage Trust Fund). If you are on Pre-Authorized Debit, you may call the office to have your commitment revised.

Committing to replenishing our Heritage Trust Fund will allow the Trustees to forward higher monthly interest payments to the Board to help with day-to-day operating costs.

Thank You,

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## A Candle is Shining

The time has come to start focusing on the positive aspects of St. John's, past and present, and to honour the commitment and love of the people that has been demonstrated for 230 years. When it was decided to make a concerted effort to reduce the boiler debt, an idea grew as to how we could pay tribute to these people by lighting candles every time we collectively reach \$100.00.



Are the two programs one and the same? Absolutely not. Must you contribute to have our loved one's name appear in the bulletin or have a candle lit for them? Absolutely not. The names are chosen randomly. If you have someone you would like to be remembered, please put his or her name in the Thoughts and Wishes Box.

Would we happily accept a check from you? Absolutely! We are trying to reduce the boiler debt, but the lighting of the candles is not contingent on an individual's generosity.

To date, candles have been shining for George van Beek, Margaret MacLennan, Carolyn Barclay, John Gaucher, Lois Gemmel, Brent and Natalie Pringle, Robert Wilkes, Beryl Brown, Margaret (Greta) Carvell, and Bryson Comrie.



# Youth News

Another year has dawned but we look fondly back on the year that was. Our Pageant, Star Trip was covered by the Seaway News and they featured it in the paper as well as online. Great Job, everyone! We followed that up with a Christmas Party for the Youth as we shared and tried to open the most taped up package possible. Loaded with treats, it was wrapped in gift wrap, kraft paper, duct tape and packing tape. Each one had a turn at getting it opened until it was done. Big thank you to Wes & Carole for helping us celebrate that night.



Our University students were trying to get home for Christmas but the weather was not cooperating well. We had a brunch at the Glengarrrian Pub on December 23<sup>rd</sup> and those who were able to attend, had a great time re-connecting with each other as their studies take them to all corners of Canada.



We had a great plan to start off the new year but again, the weather intervened with what has become known by the Youth as “the great flood”, not to be confused with Noah ☺. Between the damages and the snow days in January, we did not get to meet up again until the end of January. We missed each other BUT it also allowed us to appreciate the fact that we have the space and time and ability to be together and share. As Lent began, we held our Shrove Tuesday on our Monday night and everyone had their fill of pancakes.

We held our first fundraiser of the year in January to celebrate Scotland’s great poet, Robbie Burns. We had a dessert night with musical entertainment by Mike McAnany. The funds raised were to go to St. John’s Board of Managers for the boiler repairs. Our efforts totaled a donation of \$ 460.00

Coming up, we look forward to our Legion Chicken Dinner & Silent Auction on February 25<sup>th</sup> & our St. Patrick's Stew & Music Night on March 10<sup>th</sup>. Once again, Mike McAnany is offering up some fine Celtic music for the night and a bit of a sing-a-long. Get your tickets or reserve your table. These fundraisers will help our Youth to attend the Presbyterian Canada Youth Conference this summer at Brock University.

We also had the opportunity to go to Wiinterlude and join Westminster Presbyterian for fun in the snow and supper. We also took part in a small worship service with Rev William Ball & Dr. Cheryl Gaver.



The Youth are looking at some mini-pageants to choose for the spring. Our Christmas Pageant had a limited number of roles and this one will allow more of the Youth & Children to participate.

As always, we are looking for members of the Congregation who would like to share their talents one night with our Youth. With our University students, we are looking for partners to mail our monthly Youth Newsletters out as well as a few care packages around exam times. See Debbie if you would like to help out in these parts of our ministry.

Our Youth Group is open to all Youth, members of St. John's and their friends from home and school. We meet Monday nights for a supper and activities. Doors open at 3:30, supper at 5:00 and the evening is done at 8:00. Sunday School is every Sunday morning after children's time (excluding Communion Sundays where we participate in the service). We may have some exciting news next month about programs for our Youth.

P\*U\*S\*H\*

Debbie Plant  
Youth Co-ordinator

**Presbytery Refugee Subcommittee Report**  
**January 16, 2018**

With respect to the **Nahhas** family, Tamy continues to update her engineering qualifications while she works full-time as a supervisor at Wal-Mart. Hiba is also working part-time at Wal-Mart. Walid and Dalal are practicing English and learning quickly, and Walid now has his G2 and acts as the family chauffer! Joud continues to do well at school and is learning to ice skate!

The Presbytery received a request from the family to sponsor Hiba's sweetheart to come to Canada as a refugee. She was thinking of going to Lebanon to marry him and then try to sponsor him to Canada (family reunification) but that process is very slow and can be very difficult, especially since she is a newcomer to Canada herself.

His name is **Fadi Hanna Karyo**. He was born November 29, 1980 in Aleppo, Syria. He is Christian. He has fled Syria and has been living in Lebanon for about a year now. The Nahhas family indicated he would live with them when he arrives. He apparently has a degree in agriculture from the University of Aleppo. His English skills are not quite to the level of Tamy's and Hiba's, but he is working on improving his proficiency.

For the Presbytery to sponsor him, we would first have to apply for and receive a space in the PCC's quota for 2018. We do not actually know yet how many spaces the PCC will have for 2018, but it would most likely be what they obtained last year (77 private sponsorship spaces out of 7500 spaces across the country). If we don't acquire a space, there would be no sponsorship.

The Presbytery approved a motion at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to sponsor Fadi, depending on whether the PCC gives us a quota space.

**Nouida Daghistani** is continuing to settle into life in Brockville. She is volunteering as a translator for other newcomers in the community and is updating her resume to begin her search for employment. She has also passed her G1 and is hoping to obtain her G2 license later this year.

Marilyn Leach-Duck advises that fundraising is continuing, although the Presbytery has done very well to date. Please do continue to encourage your congregations to support the Syrian Refugee Fund!

**COMMITMENT**

<b>NAHHAS Family</b>	<b>NOUIDA</b>	
\$39,567.36	\$ 16,593.05	
<b>RAISED</b>	<b>SPENT</b>	<b>Bank Balance</b>
\$68,969.89	\$ 41,357.81	\$27,612.08
<b><u>Total Commitment</u></b>	<b><u>Raised</u></b>	
\$ 56,160.41	\$ 68,969.89	<b>-\$ 12,809.48</b>

***Funds raised, exceeds our present commitment***

St. John's has been very generous in support of our Syrian families. The congregation has given over \$4,000.00 including Christmas gift monies as well as, house warming gifts for Nouida's shower

Blessings to you all in the New Year!

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Marianne Emig Carr/Jennifer Adams



## **Does This Poem Speak to Jesus?**

### **How Do I Love Thee**

by Elizabeth Barrett Browning

How do I love thee (Jesus)? Let me count the ways  
I love thee to the depth and breadth and height  
My soul can reach, when feeling out of sight.  
For the ends of Being and ideal Grace  
I love thee to the level of every day's  
Most quiet need, by sun and candlelight.  
I love thee freely, as men strive for right  
I love thee purely, as they turn from praise  
I love thee with the passion put to use  
In my old griefs, and with my childhood's faith.  
I love thee with a love I seemed to lose  
With my lost saints, --I love thee with the breath,  
Smiles, tears, of All my life! -- and, if God choose,  
I shall but love thee better after death.

### **A Child's View of Thunderstorms**

When you read this, you will never think of thunderstorms the same way again.

**This will make you smile!**

A little girl walked to and from school daily. Though the weather that morning was questionable, and clouds were forming, she made her daily trek to school. As the afternoon progressed, the winds whipped up, along with lightning.

The mother of the little girl felt concerned that her daughter would be frightened as she walked home from school. She also feared the electrical storm might harm her child. Full of concern, the mother got into her car and drove along the route to her child's school. As she did, she saw her little girl walking along.

At each flash of lightning, the child would stop, look up, and smile. More lightning followed and with each, the little girl would look at the streak of light and smile. When the mother drew up beside the child, she lowered the window and called, "What are you doing?"

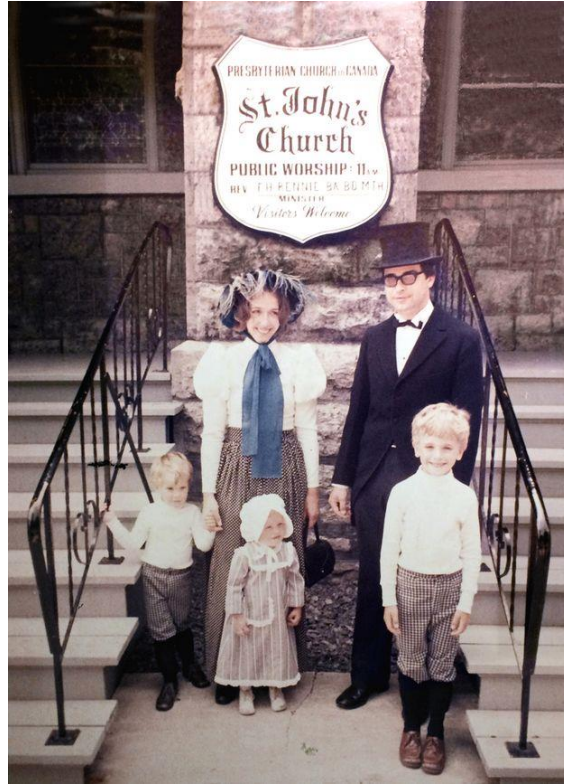
The child answered, "I am trying to look pretty because God keeps taking my picture.

May God bless you today and every day as you face the storms that come your way.

Submitted by Nick Cox

## **Blast from the Past – 1975**

Who is in this picture? Did we dress like this in 1975, or was it in 1787?



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## **Lighting the Christmas Candle**



Forty years ago, when Rev. Dr. Rennie started the lighting of the Christmas Candle tradition at St. John's, the Libbey family was invited to light the first candle. Heather, who would normally have been in nursery school at that time, stayed upstairs to light the very first Christmas Candle with her mom and dad. Thanks to Reverend Johnston and the Plant family, Erin Libbey, niece and goddaughter of Heather, was invited to light the first Christmas Candle this year, carrying on a family tradition. Rev. Dr. Rennie was seated in the first row to see it happen!

## **Confirmation**

Pictured here (from left to right) are Deanna Gill, daughter of Laurel Adams and Sylvain Martin, Innes & Ellie Adams, son and daughter of Kerry and Katherine Adams, Rev. Ian Johnston, and Ariel Thomas daughter of Eric and Sarah Thomas. These four, young people were confirmed as members on Sunday, December 3, 2017. They attended a retreat at Gracefield for a weekend in the fall with Debbie and Dan Plant and Rev. Marc Bourgon to study for their upcoming confirmation. They are the newest members of our St. John's congregation.

# UPCOMING EVENTS

Mark Your Calendars!!

**Sunday, February 25, 2018**

Legion Chicken  
Dinner and Silent  
Auction

4:30-6:30

Tickets are limited

Call the office for more information



**Sunday, February 25, 2018**

Cheese Drive Begins



**Wednesday, February 28, 2018**

Bible Study Begins

Study <sup>the</sup> Bible  
with us



**Saturday, March 10, 2018**

St. Patrick's Day  
Supper and Evening of Music



**Saturday, June 16, 2018**

Trustee's Annual Gala



**Saturday, June 2, 2018**

Garage Sale  
Donate your  
gently



**Saturday, October 13, 2018**

Session Harvest Supper



**Wednesday,  
November 7, 2018**

WOC Bazaar

