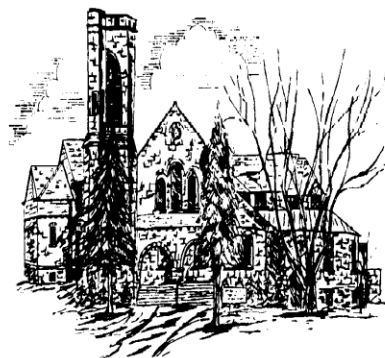




St. John's Presbyterian Church  
28 2nd Street East  
Cornwall, ON, K6H 1Y3

(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

May / June 2018

## The Season of Pentecost

*I'm not being fed spiritually. Yes, but are you willing to eat?*

How very sad and frustrating to a family when someone they love refuses to eat! How helpless they must feel to see that person gradually grow weaker and waste away before their very eyes. In just the same way, how frustrating to a family of faith if the spiritual food they prepare and offer to those whom they love is ignored and never eaten. At STJ (St. John's) we are providing food for the soul, and an abundant banquet for those who are willing to eat. It is part of the grand intention of who we are as a congregation, with a Mission, "...united in Jesus Christ, we seek to bring His love into our world through prayer and a biblically directed ministry."

(1) What do we offer? We offer unity in Jesus Christ. STJ is not a social club; not a business or welfare agency; nor a historical society. Though we do interact socially, though like a business we send out letters, print bulletins and make reports; though we help those less fortunate through local and general missions; though we preserve and value the history of our congregation, we have a unity that is deeper, broader and higher. That unity is found in the living Lord, Jesus Christ.

(2) What do we offer? We provide a biblically directed ministry. This year especially we have focused on God's Word and its implications for our lives – not unlike the Year of Jubilee. Our sermons have covered many texts throughout the Bible, both familiar and some perhaps unknown. We have not studied arbitrary, trendy or "good feeling" topics. We realize that we must seek our direction and purpose in God Himself. And that is why we have cultivated an understanding of Scripture. We invite you to consider programs as they are available for Bible Study and Prayer. The Prayer team will always appreciate your support and participation. If there is not one available in your time convenience, you might like to invite someone to join with you in a new gathering.

(3) What do we offer? In keeping with our Mission as a Church in the Reformed Tradition, we intend in the year ahead to encourage greater emphasis on prayer, and so you may wish to gather for a time in prayer with the choir in the lower hall before worship. I will try to be there most of the time, but prayer is for all God's people and anyone can take the lead. There is so much to keep before us in prayer as we move into the next steps of the Interim Ministry Time. We need to work and pray together to eventually have a permanent Pastor. Everyone who confesses Christ is invited to approach God more conscientiously in prayer with us as a family as we continue to pray with diligence, how the Spirit can use us to bring His love into our community and world considering what we have learned and experienced. We have been praying for several months that the Lord would lead a special person to accept the challenge to work within our congregation family here. I believe that the Holy Spirit has and will continue to bless. I believe we are providing a spiritual feast here at STJ!

*"Am I being fed spiritually?" The answer is: "YES" if you are willing to eat! God's Word:  
**Rise and Eat. (Acts 10:13).***

In His service Ian

From the Pastor's Desk  
(Rev.) Ian K. Johnston, Pastor and friend

## Stewardship Letter

Dear members and supporters of St. John's,

This letter has been written on behalf of the **Session and Board of Manager's** of St. John's Presbyterian Church.

The congregation has been generous in their support so far this year. However, the monthly offerings have not met current expenses. Consequently, the Board of Managers has borrowed \$5,000.00 from the Heritage Trust Fund in April and \$5,000.00 in May to pay expenses. This brings our current operating loan to the Trustees to \$35,000.00. \$25,000.00 in 2017 and \$10,000.00 in 2018.

Some of the work being completed over the next few months is being financed by money given to St. John's specifically for that purpose.

The video screens and audio upgrades in the sanctuary are being financed by the Comrie Fund. Similarly, projects to repair the Bell Tower and replace the lights in the kitchen have been financed by a donor.

The coming summer months typically have lower givings which will increase our deficit. Please prayerfully consider the information below.

If everyone could increase their weekly offering to **Current Budget Expenses** by 5% or greater this would help with our financial situation at St. John's.

### **For example:**

1. If your weekly offering to current is  $\$20.00 \times 5\% = \$1.00$  for a weekly total of \$21.00
2. If your weekly offering to current is  $\$20.00 \times 10\% = \$2.00$  for a weekly total of \$22.00
3. If your weekly offering to current is  $\$20.00 \times 25\% = \$5.00$  for a weekly total of \$25.00
4. Another choice could be a one-time donation.

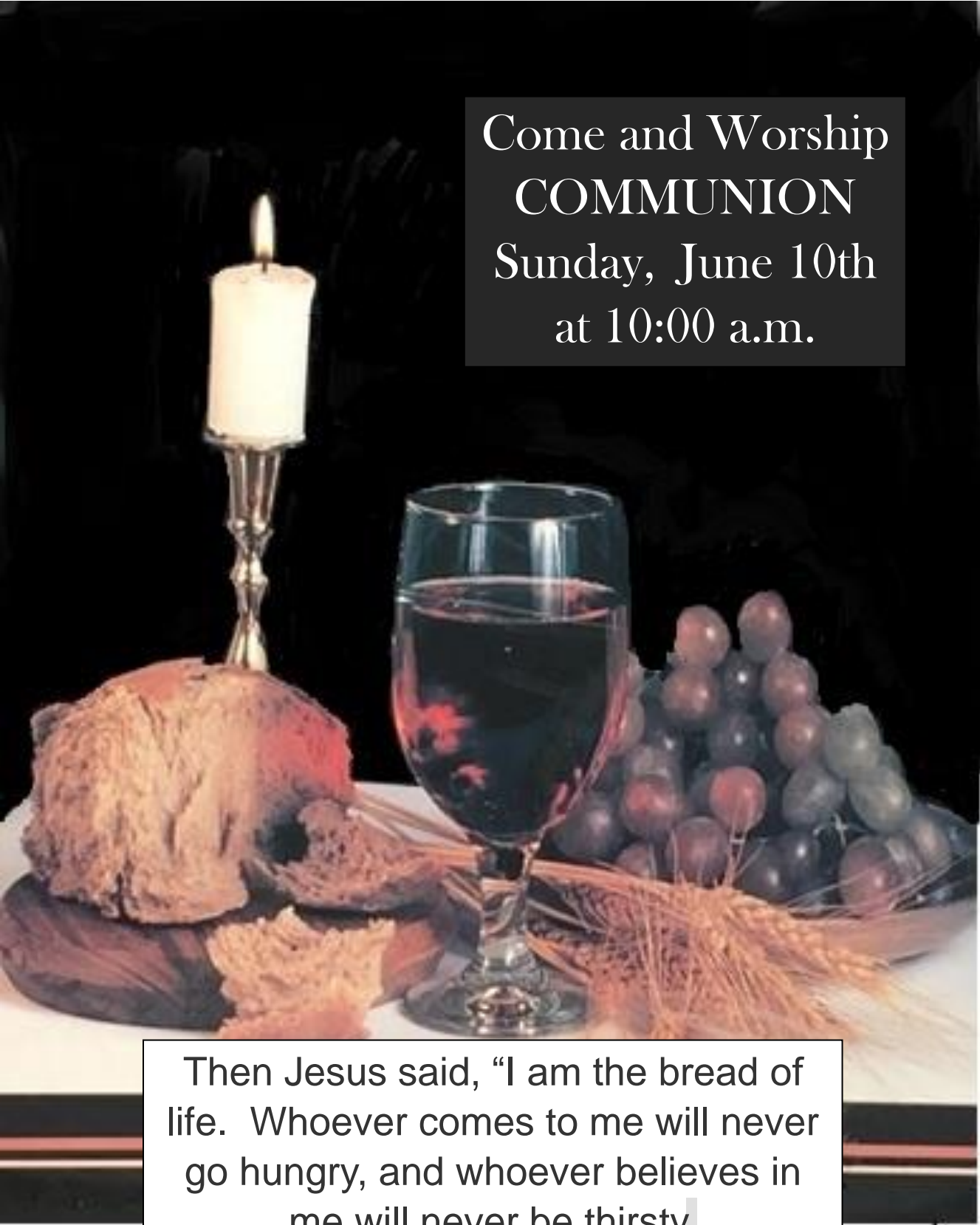
If you wish to increase your givings through Preauthorized Debit (PAD) **you can call the church office 613-932-8693** and JoAnn will arrange it for you. If you wish to sign up for PAD, JoAnn can arrange that for you as well. The regular weekly donations from PAD allow us to budget and pay the bills knowing that monies will be coming in regularly. It is a great help!!

Many thanks for your consideration.

Karen Blanchard, Session

Nick Cox, Session, Board of Managers

Jennifer Adams, Finance Chair, Board of Managers

A still life arrangement of communion elements on a white surface against a dark background. On the left, a large, round, golden-brown loaf of bread sits on a dark wooden board, with a small pile of bread crumbs in front of it. To the right of the bread is a tall, slender silver candlestick holding a single lit white candle. Further right is a large, clear glass chalice filled with red wine. To the right of the chalice is a bunch of purple and green grapes. In the foreground, there are several stalks of wheat or barley. The overall lighting is soft, highlighting the textures of the bread, the liquid in the glass, and the grain of the wheat.

Come and Worship  
**COMMUNION**  
Sunday, June 10th  
at 10:00 a.m.

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

St. John's Presbyterian Church is entering an exciting phase in our Ministry. This spring, the Session was given approval to begin the search process for our new Minister. The Search Committee has been formed and consists of the following members:

Katherine Adams  
Phyllis Bateman  
Mark Bourgon  
Lise Evans  
Paul Hickey  
Clement Gwanyama  
Rev. Ian Johnston (Interim Minister)  
Katalin Kennedy  
Brian Markell  
Rev. Robert Martin (Interim Moderator)  
Sue McNeil  
Dan Plant  
Cynthia Seguin (Convenor)



The committee consists of a wonderful representation of all areas of our church family, including newer and lifelong members, rural and urban, diverse cultures and ethnic backgrounds, young and older, women and men, Elders, Trustees, the WOC, Session, Youth and the Choir. We thank them for their willingness to serve.

The members of the Search Committee were commissioned at the service on April 29<sup>th</sup>. Many of the members attended the workshop sessions given by Dr. Cheryl Gaver, titled *Re-Imagine Your Church*, on April 22<sup>nd</sup> and 25<sup>th</sup>. The first meeting of the Search Committee was held on Wednesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>.

The first step in the search process is to gather data and information about our congregation, which will be used to complete a Congregational Profile. The Committee will use a variety of ways to gather feedback from everyone who is affiliated with St. John's. You may have already received the first few questions. We hope you will take a moment to respond. You can return your responses via email, or you may bring them to the church and place them on the collection plate or in the Thoughts and Wishes box in the MacLellan Room.

Other information will be gathered by the Elders. The Search Committee will hold town hall meetings, and we hope you will attend one at some point during the process. We will also be meeting with the various groups of the church, such as the WOC, Board of Managers, the Choir, Trustees, and Session.

The email address, [search@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:search@stjohnscornwall.ca) can be used at any time. Our belief is that the more feedback we can receive, the better our profile will be. All of our thoughts, ideas and wishes, which will be summarized as part of the process, will be very worthwhile and valuable. Doing this work for our Congregational Profile will be a positive move as we go into the next phase. This step will be to compare the candidates' profiles with our own profile, thus allowing us to find the best match.

Our target date for the completion of the first phase is December 2018.

By Cynthia Seguin

## **Boiler Repayment Program**

As you know, the congregation has committed to replenishing our Heritage Trust Fund, which will allow the Trustees to forward higher monthly interest payments to the Board to help with day-to-day operating costs. 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 this effort to repay the debt. We hope you will continue to 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.

Our thermometer in the MacLellan Room is rising! Our goal is \$23,174.95. We are pleased to announce that as of April 30<sup>th</sup>, we have raised \$9,758.46 and are well on our way to reaching our target!

Thank you.

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## **A Candle Is Shining**

We continue to focus 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.

Since the last newsletter, the following loved ones have been honoured: Hilda Brownell, Eileen Gillette, Clifford MacRae, Cecil Runions, Colleen Cox, Rick Forrester, Ernest and Kathleen Yates, Rev. Dr. W. Lloyd MacLellan, Gwelda Markell, Marvin Scrimshaw, Annie Peddie, Bruce MacIntyre, Irwin Bethune, Reg Evans, Jean Foulds, Ida Hurtubise, Ron Primeau, Ron Sullivan, Shirley Warner, Margaret Wilson, Dan Alguire, Hugh Esdale, Melba MacGregor, Lillian Ross, George Foster, Borden Johnston, Agnes Milloy, Darleen Aitken, Joe Craig, Margaret Meek, Isabelle McGaughey, Alfred (Alf) Painter, Max Cullen, Florence Loucks, Dorothy Urquhart, Stuart Clark, Rev. Duncan Scott Kennedy, Annie MacRae, Jessie Carpenter, Ruth Davies, Donald Loucks.

If you have someone you would like honoured please place their name(s) in the Thoughts and Wishes Box.



## Meet Our New Office Administrator/Bookkeeper



The Board of Managers is pleased to announce the hiring of **Jo-Ann Periard** for the position of Office Administrator/Bookkeeper at St. John's. Jo-Ann will be working 20 hours per week, Tuesday-Friday 11 am to 4 pm.

Jo-Ann comes to us from Glengarry where she worked for the Township of South Glengarry filling a similar bookkeeping/office administrator position for many years. Please stop in and introduce yourself to Jo-Ann as she begins settling in to her new position here at St. John's.

Jennifer Adams, Office/Finance Chair



## *Fourth Trustees Gala Dinner and Auction* **Saturday, June 16, 2018 at 6:00 p.m.**



*Nepean Panharmonics Steeldrum Band*  
**Fun - Fellowship - Entertainment - Music - Dancing**

**\$25 per Person with \$15 Tax Receipt**

**Tickets: Church Office, 28 Second St. East**

**Buy Early – Don't Be Disappointed**

## The Gala

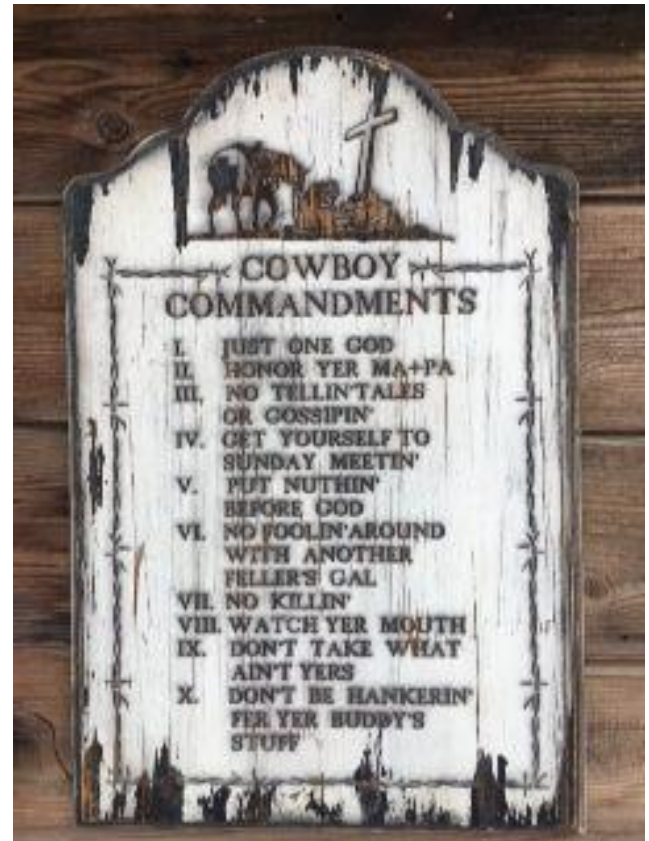
Tickets are now on sale on Sunday morning, or at the Church Office during the week. This is the best deal in town offering a full course **Roast Beef** dinner including salad, dessert and two glasses of wine. Last year, about **\$4,000.** was raised for the Board of Managers towards the budget. Sell tickets to your friends and family to fill a table. See you there!

Your St. John's Trustees

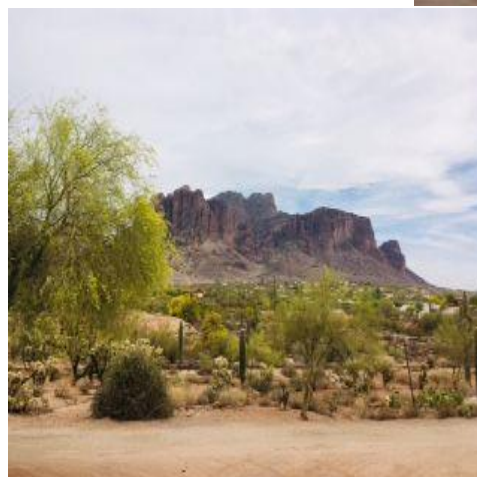
## A Trip to Phoenix, Mesa and Apache Junction

In April, Jennifer and I travelled to Las Vegas, the Grand Canyon, Phoenix, Mesa and just east of there to Apache Junction. Nearby there was an old gold mining ghost town called Goldfield, in the desert. There we found a small, quaint, clapboard church. Inside the church near the entrance were written **the 10 Cowboy Commandments** (below), written in language that could be easily understood in the wild, wild west of the 1700's. Another day at a **Botanical Garden** we viewed over 150 different types of cactus plants. It was spring time and it was beautiful to see many of these thorny plants blooming in bright colour, a direct contrast to the dry, dusty, and sandy terrain all around in the desert. We enjoyed our visit.

By John Adams



Desolate Terrain



One of 150 Different Species



Beautiful Bright Colours



## Ringin the Bell

Every Sunday morning it is one of the duties of the Board of Managers to make sure the St. John's bell is rung. To complete this task children from the congregation are chosen to gather under the bell tower to help. Anyone passing by the church will hear the deep tone of the bell announcing that service is about to begin. At one time we had Dale Shaver ring the bell on week days at 12:00 noon. Should we bring this practice back? Does it make us a little more visible in the community? From where is that sound coming?

*You're doing a fine job, Doug!*



**Libbey, Alia and Maxwell**

## The History of our Church Bell

Our Church bell has a long history attached to it. Our Church records indicate that it was purchased in 1830, not long after our second Church home was erected on the east side of Pitt Street, between First and Second Streets. When our present building opened in 1889, the bell was placed in the tall tower and still hangs there today. Very few people have ever seen it, but our Archives has pictures of it, taken by an adventurous young man (John Rennie) who climbed the tower one warm summer day to take them. Our Bell was purchased in Montreal and that cost, plus the shipping and hanging of it cost 95 pounds English sterling.

J.D Pringle, in his 1890 reflective work on Cornwall and area – “Lunenburg or the Old Eastern District” notes that for many years our Bell was rung 3 times a day – at 6 a.m., 12 noon, and 9 p.m., for the benefit of many people who did not have watches at the time. Our Bell told

them when to get up, when to eat lunch, and when to be at home for the night! Until 1889 it was also the Alarm Bell to be raised in times of fire in the city. The late John King, who lived in what is now the Glendale Subdivision, east of Cornwall, remembers hearing St. John's Bell rung as a young boy, knowing that if he left at the “first bell” (which rang 15 minutes before worship) begins, “they could make it to the Church on time”! Our Bell also rings for Church Weddings and Funeral occasions.

Bells are no longer included in most Church buildings today. Some communities ban the Sunday ringing of them in our now diverse society. But St. John's Bell still rings loud and clear in Cornwall on Sunday mornings - saying - “the Church of Jesus Christ has come together to worship God, and you are most welcome to join us”!

By Rev. Dr. Fred Rennie



Two gentlemen having a conversation at coffee hour after church, David and Fred. Looks very important!



MOTHER'S DAY PLAY



At Easter I hope you and your congregations celebrated a blessed Holy Week and Easter season! This is an update on our Syrian refugee sponsorship activities to date.

All continues to go well with the **Nahhas** family. Tamy is focusing on updating her engineering qualifications with the Professional Engineers of Ontario, while she works full-time as a supervisor at Wal-Mart in Kemptonville. Hiba is working part-time at Wal-Mart, too, although she is receiving nearly full-time hours. She is also continuing to work toward certifying as a pharmacist here in Ontario. Walid and Dalal are practicing English and learning quickly, and Walid now has his G2 and acts as the family chauffeur! Joud continues to do well at school. He took ice skating lessons over the winter and has become quite proficient.

The Presbytery is entering Month 14 with the Nahhas family. That means our *financial support* obligations under the terms of the sponsorship will end. Of course, that does not mean that we will not continue to support them as their friends and Canadian “family” as they continue to settle into life here!

The Presbytery received a request from the Nahhas family to sponsor Hiba's sweetheart to come to Canada as a refugee. His name is **Fadi Hanna Karyo**. He is Christian, and fled Syria about a year ago after he had been captured and abused by the Syrian army when he refused to serve again in the military (he has already done his mandatory military service). He has a degree in agriculture from the University of Aleppo.

He is currently staying with relatives in Lebanon, but is unable to work, because he has no legal status. His English skills are not quite to the level of Tamy's and Hiba's, but he is working on improving his proficiency. The Nahhas family indicated he would live with them when he arrives.

The Presbytery approved a motion at the January 16<sup>th</sup> meeting to sponsor Fadi, and on March 29<sup>th</sup>, we were notified by PWS & D that we have been given a sponsorship space for Fadi. So, we will begin the process of completing the sponsorship application for him. The application needs to be submitted by the end of May. We are not sure yet how long it will take before he arrives in Canada – based on previous experience, it should be about twelve months from the time the application is submitted. Please keep Fadi and the Nahhas family in your prayers.

**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. She is also actively seeking full-time employment in Brockville.

The Presbytery had also received a request to sponsor Nouida's sweetheart, **Fadel Joseph Lubbou**, who is a Christian Syrian currently living and working in Qatar. The Presbytery had agreed to sponsor him at the Presbytery meeting on February 9<sup>th</sup>, but, unfortunately, we were not given a spot by PWS & D to bring him to Canada as well. PWS & D only had 82 spots for private sponsorships and received requests to sponsor close to 200 refugees in 2018. We will be making enquiries as to whether there might be alternate avenues available to bring him to Canada. Please keep Nouida and Fadel in your prayers as well.

Marilyn Leach-Duck advises that fundraising is continuing, although the Presbytery has done very well to date. We are grateful for your support!! Please encourage your congregations to continue to remember the Presbytery Syrian Refugee Fund, especially as we are still responsible to support Nouida until September 2018, and we will now be bringing Fadi to Canada as well. Thank you, Marilyn, for your faithfulness and hard work!

Blessings, Rev. Marianne Emig Carr

## **From Our Youth Reporters at Easter**

Before Easter, the Youth prepared news articles that would have been printed or told in today's news, explaining the happenings around the resurrection. The following are some of their stories.

By Debbie Plant

### **GARDEN VALLEY SECURITY COMPANY**

Regular surveillance at the tombstones hit the headlines on Monday morning. The director of operations has a lot to answer for as it turns out that a HEAVY stone was moved and no explanation is coming forward from the guards, or other witnesses.

Communications spokesperson, Ari Bruna David deflects responsibility from the company. He stated, "Although we were given advance requests for additional security, graveyards in that part of town are pretty **DEAD** at this time of the year. The senior member who was on site was running point on that operation – medical tests are still inconclusive, but it seems he must have passed out from low blood sugar. From now on all night shift workers will be required to carry grape juice with extra sugar cane and unleavened bread on each shift."

"We have always informed families to BURY at your own RISK. Yes, the body of Jesus Ben Joseph Christ is gone, but rumors are swelling that he is not, in fact, dead. If he is alive, he is no longer our property. Not our problem. In fact, I would say, if he is alive, you have got BIGGER problems than that!

### **JESUS BREAKS THE INTERNET**

This morning, the internet broke over news that Jesus has risen. All search engines, social media and more are down because of the buzz around this story. This is due to the debate behind his resurrection.

"All I can say is, I saw what I saw", eye witness Mary Magdalene tweeted just before the shutdown.

"The disciples official Twitter account just released a statement saying, "Fake news is flooding our timeline from disbelievers".

Sources say that we should expect the internet to be working in the next few hours.

### **SCANDAL AT THE TEMPLE** – Religious Leaders Under Scrutiny

In an attempt to discredit the disciples of The Way, religious leaders admitted today to bribing guards at the tomb to say that Jesus' disciples had stolen the body from the tomb. After many reports from witnesses of Jesus being alive, the guards recanted their stories. The religious leaders must now appear in front of the High Commissioner to testify.

### **BREACH!!! WHAT'S NEXT?**

In the early morning hours, a breach was discovered in a tomb in the gardens. Following a hectic week for the Hebrews, which culminated in a showdown at Pilot's court, the regular Friday crucifixions took place. An extra was added as the infamous "King of the Jews" was finally apprehended, tried and sentenced to death. Joseph of Arimathea & Nicodemus provided space in the garden to lay and prepare his body. This morning, the tomb was empty. This reporter spoke with many who were still bewildered. Was this a thief in the night, over zealous followers or..... was this REALLY the Son of God? Stay tuned as we continue to follow this story.



## **COMING EVENTS**

JUNE 8	Youth Sleepover at the Church
JUNE 10	Communion Sunday (this may also be an honouring of graduates as well) to be determined
JUNE 17	Father's Day Play – "A Wild West Mellerdramer", a western look at the meeting of King David & Abigail
JUNE 18	Last Youth Night until September
JUNE 24	Commissioning service for the group going to CY 2018 Sunday School Closing and Church Picnic on the front lawn

## **Mother's Day Play**

On Family Day Sunday (Mother's Day), the Youth "Storytellers" did just that – they told the story of Peter's escape from prison with the help of the angel. Bella was the narrator, Deanna the angel, Nico was Peter, Innes was the guard, Erin was Rhoda, Byancka was the messenger and the church group was made up of Eleni, Georgia & Marissa. A few of the players were performing for the first time here. (Pics on previous page)

## **CY 2018**

Our group is ready to attend the Canada Youth 2018 (commonly referred to as CY2018). Dan Plant & Chris Paquette will be volunteering to man the first aid station for the week and I will be attending in the Leadership track. Lauren Thomas will attend in the Discipleship track, and Bella Gwanyama, Deanna Gill and Ellie Adams will be in the Youth track. The commissioning service for this group will be on Sunday, June 24<sup>th</sup>.

By Debbie Plant

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## **Help for Agape**

Rev Ian had a call from the Agape Center last week and they are in an **urgent need**. So, we are reminding people to bring a non-perishable food gift on Communion Sunday. You can also drop off donations at the Agape Center at 5<sup>th</sup> and Augustus behind St. Columba Church. Any contribution would be greatly appreciated.

**Garage Sale** – The Board of Managers' Garage Sale on Saturday was a huge success raising over \$1,800 to put towards the budget. The ladies served tea, coffee and goodies from the kitchen as well. A big thank you to all those who volunteered to either set up, sell and/or clean up. Oh, and we had a lot of fun and a few laughs as well.

**COMMUNION SUNDAY JUNE 10<sup>th</sup>**  
**Come and Worship as a Community of God**