



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 Committee

Susan MacDonald  
Cynthia Seguin  
Carol Esdale  
John Adams  
Martha Woods

# St. John's Newsletter

October 2018

Greetings to all of you as we move into **the Autumn Season, 2018**. The first Sunday of October this year is a twin celebration for we Canadians, **Thanksgiving Sunday and World Communion Sunday**. The scripture verse that calls the Universal Christian Church to Communion this year is, *All who eat and drink without discerning the body, eat and drink judgment against themselves.* (1 Corinthians 11:29)

The first Sunday in October is designated as World Communion Sunday, which celebrates our **oneness in Christ** with all our sisters and brothers around the world. Paul tells us that we are to "discern the body" when we partake of Holy Communion, mindful that we note our relationship to all our brothers and sisters in Christ in the celebration. One is not to go hungry while another is drunk! (1 Corinthians 11:21). This is scandalous behaviour opposed to the Way of Christ. Thus, it is appropriate that World Communion Sunday is also a time when we receive the extra special gift for Presbyterian World Sharing and Development as a way of continuing the ancient Christian practice of sharing what we have with sisters and brothers in need. (PWS&D envelopes will be in the pew if you wish to make a gift)

Some have referred to World Communion Sunday as: "A Presbyterian Gift."

World Communion Sunday (originally called World Wide Communion Sunday) is a gift of the Presbyterian Church to the larger ecumenical church. The first celebration occurred at Shadyside Presbyterian Church in Pittsburgh, PA, in **1933** under leadership of Dr. Hugh Thompson Kerr.

David S. Bell, the late Clerk of Session and historian at Shadyside, recalled that Dr. Kerr came up with the notion of a World-Wide Communion when he was Moderator of the General Assembly. He related that it grew out of the Stewardship (Committee) at Shadyside as **an attempt to bring churches together in a service of Christian unity** – in which everyone might receive both inspiration and information, and above all, to know how important the Church of Jesus Christ is, and how **each congregation is interconnected one with another**.

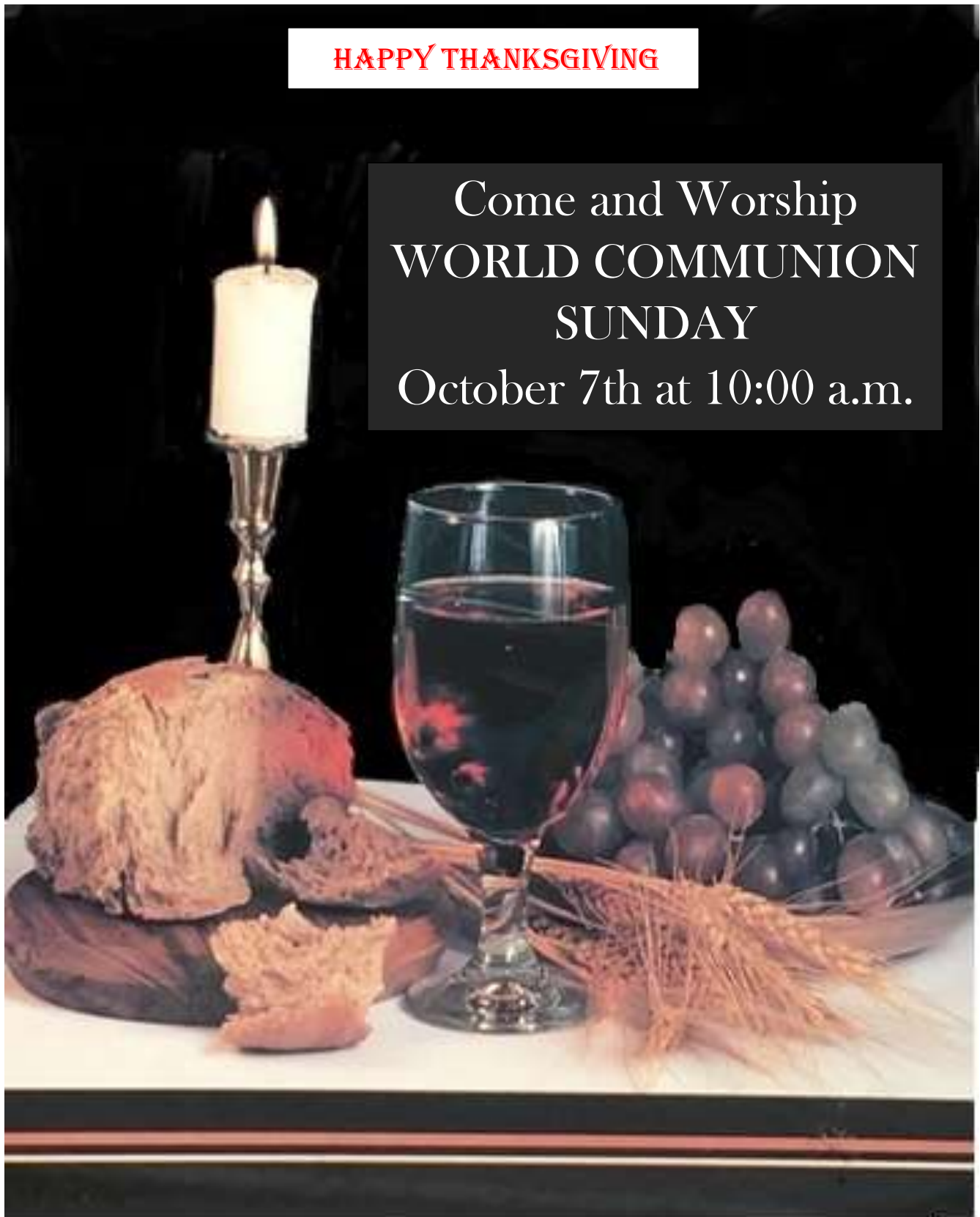
Rev. Donald Kerr (son of Dr. Kerr) said that the concept spread very slowly at the start. People did not give it a whole lot of thought. It was during the **Second World War** that the spirit caught hold, because **the Church was trying to hold the world together, in a spiritual sense**. It emphasized that we are one in the Spirit and the Gospel of Jesus Christ. Celebration of World-Wide Communion Sunday was adopted as a denominational practice in the Presbyterian Church (US) in 1936. Churches of other denominations were invited to celebrate from the beginning, but it wasn't until **1940**, the predecessor of the World Council of Churches promoted **extending the celebration to the Christian Churches around the world**, and the practice became widespread. Today, **World Communion Sunday is celebrated around the world**, demonstrating that the Church founded on Jesus Christ peacefully shares God-given goods in a world increasingly destabilized by globalization and global market economies based on greed.

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

HAPPY THANKSGIVING

Come and Worship  
**WORLD COMMUNION  
SUNDAY**

October 7th at 10:00 a.m.



We thank you, Father, for our families,  
friends, and for all our blessings. Let us  
break bread together as a community of  
Christ Jesus, our Saviour.

# St. John's Presbyterian Church

## Harvest Turkey Supper

### Saturday, October 20



Seating: After 5:00 pm.  
Adults \$15.00, Students \$10:00  
Family \$40:00  
Children under 5 – Free  
Take out after 4:30 pm  
Call 613-932-8693 or 613-537-8290  
to order tickets



28 Second Street East



Enjoy music by our organist, Gary Postma  
4:30 to 7:00

*Sponsored by our St. John's Church Session*

## A Message From Your Session

### **Retirement**

At the meeting on September 11<sup>th</sup>, your Session received a letter of resignation from Elder Merna Esdale. Merna joined the Session in 2014 and has been an active member of the Communion Committee as well as the Session Trust Fund. She has also acted as liaison between the Women of the Church and the Session. Merna will be missed by the members of her district as well as the members of Session. Thank you, Merna, for your many years of work on behalf of St. John's congregation.



### **Remembrance Day**

St. John's continues to be a part of the Royal Canadian Legion Remembrance Day Service at the Cenotaph. This year, the wreath will be placed by Wes Libbey whose grandfather lost his life on October 2, 1918 in France. We must never forget.

### **Christmas Eve Service**

Please note that there will be one Christmas Eve Service this year. Due to the lower numbers present at each of the services last year, it is felt that one service will meet everyone's needs.

Service time will be 6:00 p.m. Should we discover that this does not work, we will re-visit it for 2019.

### **Presbytery Seaway-Glengarry Representatives**

If you have questions or concerns regarding the work of the Presbytery, please speak with Paul Hickey, who is the Session representative, or John Adams, who serves as the alternate representative.

### **Library Donation**



Reverend Jim Ferrier has made a generous donation of theological books to our library. Rev. Ferrier was the Minister of the Maxville and Moose Creek congregations until his recent retirement. We invite you to come and explore these new books as well as the many already in stock.

### **Penpal Opportunity Vanuatu**

Rev. Johnston received a request from Norman Manua who is from a very small country in the South West Pacific Ocean. He is an Elder of PCV Presbyterian Church of Vanuatu and a member of the Presbyterian Church of Big Bay on the island of Espiritu Santo in the Republic of Vanuatu. He is interested in our church and would like to correspond with people from our congregation. If you would like to be a part of this new ministry you may contact him at [manuanorman15@gmail.com](mailto:manuanorman15@gmail.com)

### **New Sign**

We hope you have had the opportunity to see our new sign on the front lawn. A special thank you to Paul Hickey who is covering the cost of the sign for one month. At the end of the month we will determine if it is a viable option and a way of advertising the events taking place at St. John's, and whether or not it helps create more of a presence in our community. If you have any thoughts or suggestions regarding the sign, please call the church office and leave your ideas with our Office Administrator Lisa or let your Elder know how you feel.





## **Report from your St. John's Board of Managers**

September means back to school and back to work for the Board of Managers. We continue to meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month. We are **always looking for new members** and would be more than happy to have you join the board if you are interested. More hands would give us a lighter work load. A big thank you to the entire congregation, including the church committees for their support in continuing to help achieve the goals at St. John's.

There was plenty of work to go around this summer! Following the flood earlier this year due to frozen pipes, **the carpets were replaced in the Sunday school room, and the youth room.** Thanks to Doug, Nick and Dale and others who took up the carpet and helped the carpet installer. Debbie and her team worked hard to remove all the items from the youth room and had a chance to reorganize at the same time. **The insurance claim paid \$10,275 while expenses added up to \$9124.** The difference is to be split between the Youth Group (loss of some items in the room) and the BOM. Some additional carpets are required for the hallway, instead of repainting. **The floor in the Gym was also redone and sealed and new energy efficient LED lights installed in the kitchen by Nick Cox.** The pickleball teams really enjoy the facility and our rental income from several groups helps immensely with our expenses.

In early September, we had **our annual Fire Protection System Inspection**, which the Ontario fire code requires. Our security company, **Chubb**, completed the inspection at a cost of \$953. All the 50+ heat and smoke detectors, fire pulls, bells and the panel passed inspection and testing. **The fire panel will need to be replaced** soon, due to age, and certain heat sensors will also need to be replaced/moved due to inaccessibility. These items will be costly to repair and will need to be accounted for in the 2019 budget.

We struggled with the **office administration position** over the summer and are adjusting one more time. On a positive note, we **have re-hired Lisa Angus as the office administrator** who will continue to work Tuesday to Friday – 12-4 pm. **Susan Hoppin will be our new bookkeeper** (approximately 3-5 hrs/week). Lisa has re-entered her role seamlessly, and Susan is catching us up for the summer months and will get us back on track in no time. We look forward to presenting the congregation with a sound financial report early in October.

For the month of October, you will be greeted at the door by Nick, Clement and Lise. Leaves are falling, and autumn is calling! Enjoy this beautiful time of year.

Respectfully submitted, Laurel Adams, Board of Managers Chair

## **The Can Man**

Again this year 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. 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. So far over \$1,000.00 has been raised to support the roof/boiler replenishing project. The red on the thermometer in the McLellan Room is edging closer to the top. This is money members don't have to take out of their own pockets. Remember to ask your friends, neighbours, or work associates to collect their cans for St. John's too. I'm sure they won't mind at all!

By John Adams

**Important Upcoming Date for Your Calendar!**

**Fall Bazaar and Luncheon**

**Wednesday, November 7th**



**Your Search Committee is busy at work getting the congregational profile prepared, and we are on track to meet our Christmas deadline! At the meeting on Wednesday, September 25<sup>th</sup> the members of the committee took responsibility for writing sections of the congregational profile. The categories that will be included are a history of the church and building, a**

**description of the community, a breakdown of the demographics and make up of our congregation, and summaries of the various groups of the church, including the Session, Trustees, Board of Managers, Women of the Church, Christian Education, Worship and Music, and Pastoral Care. There will also be a section on the financial status of the church. We will include a description of the challenges we have faced, a summary of what we heard from you through the surveys, bulletin questions, and town halls, a ranking of the top criteria that come from the survey that is being distributed through this newsletter and email. Finally, we will end with a statement about our hope for the future. At our next meeting we will put the sections together, in hopes that it can be presented to Session at their November meeting.**

**However, we still need your input. On the following page you will find a survey. This survey will also be sent out via email, so that you may complete it electronically. We were pleased that we received 99 responses to our last survey. For this survey we hope to double that number. Please note that we are limiting responses to one per person to make it a fair survey, and therefore your name is required. You can email your response to our confidential email address at [search@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:search@stjohnscornwall.ca), you may put it in the Thoughts and Wishes Box, or return it to the office to be placed in my mailbox. The Search Committee sincerely means it when we say we need your feedback – and this survey is one of the most important tools to determine what attributes we as a group want in our Minister. However, as we considered this survey, the Committee felt it was important to note that no minister can have all 18 attributes – there are no superheros out there!**



**Thank you for your encouragement, feedback and prayers. We are confident that, because we are going through this process with open minds, care, patience, and your support, that the right candidate will be called to minister here at St. John's.**

**Cynthia Seguin  
Search Committee Chair**



## THE KIND OF MINISTER WE NEED

What skills do you feel our new Minister should have? Please rank the following in order of priority from 1 (most important) to 18 (least important). It is crucial to understand that no candidate will have all the attributes that everyone wants, but we want to try to create a good match. Please rank #1 – 6 being the areas you most wish your Minister to exercise, remembering that no one can be perfect and have all the skills that everyone wants.

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

(Please note – all responses will be confidential and for the use of the Search Committee. Your name is required to ensure that only one response is recorded for each individual)

- \_\_\_\_\_ Administration (Managing the affairs of the congregation and other organizations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Christian Education (Writing or selecting appropriate curricula for our educational ministry, and planning activities for groups of all ages)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Community Leadership (In areas like drug problems, schools, community organizations)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Counselling (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Crisis Visiting (Serving people at times of illness, death, trauma, family crisis, job loss)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Denominational Service (Sharing in the work of all the courts of the church)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Equipping Church Members (Integrating Christian faith with life)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Evangelism (Relating the gospel to people outside the church and helping the congregation to do the same)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Home Visiting (On a regular basis)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Inter-Church Co-operation (Working in inter-denominational programs and activities)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leadership Development (Planning for and sharing in the training of leaders for the church's programs)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Leading Worship and Preaching (Planning and conducting worship services)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Mission Outreach (Evangelism and social justice in the community, the country and the world)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Personal and Spiritual Development (Providing resources and guidance for peoples' devotional life, prayer groups, retreats and other small group experiences)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Program Development (Establishing goals and organizing programs in church and community)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Stewardship (Faithful use of our time, gifts and money in response to the generosity of God in Christ)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work with Seniors
- \_\_\_\_\_ Work with Youth

Return to [search@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:search@stjohnscornwall.ca), the Thoughts and Wishes Box, or the church office before October 19<sup>th</sup>.



## Paint Night—Great



## Our Youth in Action -



## Rally Sunday / Sundae





## Our Presbytery Refugee Sponsorship Update

September 18, 2018

### Current Sponsorships

- The 12-month financial sponsorship of the Nahhas family ended in April 2018. They continue to live in Kemptville and are doing well. We continue to support them with our friendship and help wherever we can.
- The 12-month financial sponsorship for Nouida Daghistani ended this month (September 2018). Nouida was unable to find full-time work in Brockville, so she has moved to Ottawa. She has given her notice on her apartment in Brockville, and her lease ends in October. If anyone is able to help her move her furniture and personal effects to Ottawa, that would be greatly appreciated!

### New Sponsorships

1. The application for Fadi Hanna Karyo (Hiba Nahhas' fiancé) was submitted by PWS & D to IRCC in May 2018.
2. On July 26<sup>th</sup>, the Presbytery was approved as his sponsors by IRCC. The application was then transferred from Ottawa to Beirut for processing. As the end of June, average processing time was **19.8** months for the Beirut visa office.

It will likely be a year or more before we have any news on his being interviewed by the visa office. However, PWS & D will notify us immediately of any changes in his status. I will advise the Presbytery accordingly.

Fadi had been dealing with increasingly severe and painful gall bladder attacks earlier this year. However, through some contacts that PWS & D had in Beirut, he was able to have surgery and the gall bladder was removed. The cost of the surgery was paid by the Catholic Church in Beirut.

I have been advised that there will be no additional private sponsorship spaces available to sponsor Nouida's beau, Fadel in 2018. We will reapply for a space for him in the sponsorship quota for 2019.

### Finances

Upon the conclusion of the 12 months of financial support for the Nahhas family and Nouida, the Presbytery Refugee Subcommittee bank balance was at **\$17,062.48**. I will speak with the Treasurer, Marilyn Leach-Duck and the Presbytery Treasurer, Rev. Ian MacMillan about how we might invest this money in the interim so that it is available for Fadi's support when he arrives. However, once we know he is arriving, we may need donations in kind to help furnish his accommodations in the Nahhas family home.

Respectfully submitted,  
Rev. Marianne Emig Carr



Joud, First Day of School  
In Kemptville

An update from Marianne: Nouida does have friends who live in Ottawa, and she does have a job already at Talbots. She has an apartment as well. She would have liked to have stayed in Brockville if she had been able to find work. I don't live far from Ottawa, so I will make sure I touch base with her regularly, as I do with the Nahhas family.



Tamy at Mosaic Culture



Tamy, Hiba, Dalal

## **On the Question of Unity and Diversity Church Doctrine**

The General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada has referred a document for study by presbyteries, sessions and congregations. This is from the 2018 General Assembly. Please download it, and if you have opinions or comments, please submit them in writing (in the Thoughts and Wishes Box) so that they can be included in the discussion at the next regular session meeting on October 9, 2018 and forwarded to the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry. Your name is not required on your submission.

This subject has taken up the time and energy of many across our denomination for the last several years. The closing paragraph is indicative of the struggle to minister to and with those outside the heterosexual community. The writers of the document admit that there is tension across the Presbyterian Church in Canada that is threatening to split and divide our modest size denomination.

This document is as important as, and not less than equal to, that which split the denomination in 1925 with the creation of the United Church of Canada. This is an example of how our denomination makes decisions and eventually governs, from the top down and from the bottom up.

It is most likely that, at the General Assembly of 2019, the final decision will be made. This is our opportunity to affirm the process or speak against it. Once all of the opinions, suggestions and recommendations are given to the Session, it will make a motion (one way or the other) which will then be sent to the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry and it will become part of the Presbytery's response to the General Assembly special committee.

The LGBTQ community is already present and represented within the families of St. John's Cornwall congregation. Please give this document your earnest prayer and careful discernment. Thank you in advance for your time, your prayers, your discernment and your input.

The document titled "On the Question of Unity and Diversity Church Doctrine" is found on the following website: <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2018/2018referrals> under Study and Report (reports requiring responses).

**COMMUNION SUNDAY OCTOBER 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Come and Worship as a Community of God**