



St. John's Newsletter

December 2019

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

Join us for Communion on Sunday, December 1st at 10:00 a.m.

WHERE
**BROKENNESS
& GRACE
MEET**
MARK 7:24-30



**"For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you
proclaim the Lord's death until he comes."**

First Corinthians 11:26

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Newsletter Committee
John Adams (Editor)
Susan MacDonald
Cynthia Seguin

A message from our Minister!

Behold! I am about to do a new thing!

After the children of God had lived in captivity for decades, the prophet Isaiah declared these words. God was going to act; God will save God's people. How were the people to know that this promise would come true? The prophet went on to recount the many ways that God had saved his people in the past. Just as God had acted in history to deliver the descendants of Abraham from slavery in Egypt, God would once more hear their cry and set them free. The God of Israel was faithful to the divine promises.

We are in a season of "new things" - both in the Adams' household and within the congregation of St. John's. In our house, we are getting used to a new home and a new community. As your minister, I am learning how things are done in a new congregation, new routines and traditions, and learning new names - lots of new names. And as a congregation, I am sure you will be exposed to new things, as you get used to the way that I lead in worship and in some of the ways I approach ministry. Yet despite all of these "new things" we know this to be true, that the God who has called us to this moment is the same God who has guided us in the past and that God is trustworthy and true.

We are also on the threshold of the season of "new things", the season of Advent. Advent is more than just the countdown to Christmas. Advent is the season in which the church looks backward to celebrate what God has done in taking on human flesh in the person of Jesus Christ to redeem the world. Advent is also that season in which the church looks forward to the great hope at the centre of our faith, that Christ will come again. In our worship over these next few weeks we will look for the ways in which God continues to be faithful to us, and how Jesus exemplifies for us the faithfulness of God.

I think we all recognize that new things can be uncomfortable. New things push us out of the familiar, and that can be an unsettling experience. Yet, as the church we have this assurance - that the God in whom we trust is our constant, and these new things are part of the new life God offers to us, individually and as a congregation. So let us look for the new things God is doing in our very midst, even now; and rejoice.

With God's richest blessings.

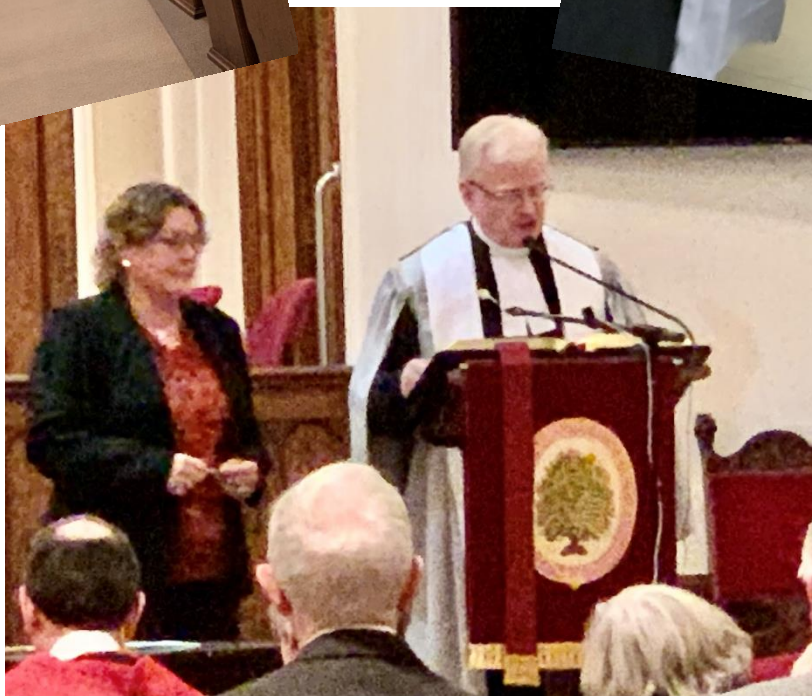
Robert



From left: Carol, Robert, Mariah and Colleen

The Induction

Many gathered to
express their joy
with the
Induction of the
Reverend Robert
L. Adams on
Sunday,
November 17,
2019.



LOOK WHAT OUR YOUTH ARE UP TO!



**Erin Libbey,
Georgia Fourkiotis,
Eleni Fourkiotis,
Hannah McFadzen
and Laura
McFadzen went to
Gracefield. They
had a fantastic
time!**

**Isabelle Gosling, Laura McFadzen, Alice
Park, Trish Brown, Hannah McFadzen,
Roy Choi, Julie Choi, Bryanna Carriere,
Tonio Fourkiotis, Hailey Pond, Georgia
Fourkiotis, Erin Libbey visited
Pumpkinferno, which never disappoints!**





The Clifford MacRae Memorial Scholarship

Clifford MacRae was an Elder at St. John's. He was a teacher and a Special Education consultant with the Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education. The Bursary is given to a member of St. John's who has taken an active part in the life of the church and is going on to higher education. **Amanda Mullin**, daughter of Stephen and Sally Mullin, is the 2019 recipient. She is a graduate of CCVS and attends Bishop's University in Lennoxville Quebec, in the concurrent education program. Amanda hopes to teach French when finished her degree. Amanda took part in Presbykids, Youth luncheons, helped with Agape meals, sang in the Children's Choir, and was part of the Christmas and other holiday pageants. She was a camper and then Camp Counsellor at Gracefield Presbyterian Camp. Congratulations Amanda!



Above: Muriel (MacRae) Laughton, daughter of the late Clifford MacRae and Amanda Mullin. Right: Reverend Mark Bourgon and Amanda Mullin.

Mortgage Burning Party!



We celebrated the elimination of the mortgage debt with a ceremonial mortgage burning! Retired firefighter Bill Hope kept us all safe, while Heather McCleary, Treasurer of the Trustees, presented the mortgage for burning!

Pictured below left: Molly MacDonald, Doug Carpenter, Margaret Dube, Michele Alexis, Valerie Rowe, Ken Evans, Brenda Aikman, Susan MacDonald, Donna Doyle, Corinne Bourgon, Heather McCleary, Marcia McQuaig, Rev. Mark Bourgon, Joan Gibson, David Ferguson, Fleur Eenkhoorn. Below right: Bill Hope and Heather McCleary.



Thank you Reverend Martin!



On Wednesday, November 13th Session celebrated the wonderful work Reverend Martin did during his position as Interim Moderator with cake and a gift. His guidance and wisdom through our vacancy was greatly appreciated. We wish him and his wife Ruth all the best! Pictured from left are Kerry Adams, Karen Blanchard, Dan Plant, Wes Libbey, Paul Hickey, Brenda Aikman, Rev. Martin, Johnneen Rennie, John Adams, Katalin Kennedy and Carol Esdale.

A Little Humour

Our Travel Plans For 2019

Check out these interesting places to travel. I'm not sure you will find them in any atlas, or on google!

I have been in many places, but I've never been in Kahoots. Apparently, you can't go alone. You have to be in Kahoots with someone.

I've also never been in Cognito. I hear no one recognizes you there.

I have, however, been in Sane. They don't have an airport; you have to be driven there. I have made several trips there, thanks to my children, friends, family and work.

I would like to go to Conclusions, but you have to jump, and I'm not too much on physical activity anymore.

I have also been in Doubt. That is a sad place to go, and I try not to visit there too often.

I've been in Flexible, but only when it was very important to stand firm.

Sometimes I'm in Capable, and I go there more often as I'm getting older.

One of my favourite places to be is in Suspense! It really gets the adrenaline flowing and pumps up the old heart! At my age, I need all the stimuli I can get!

I may have been in Continent, (not funny) but I don't remember what country that was in. It's an age thing. They tell me it is very wet and damp there.



Members of the congregation bid farewell to Darlene and Jack McMartin on Sunday, October 27th. Jack and Darlene are in the process of moving to Sarnia, Ontario to be closer to their children and grandchildren. We thank them for their hard work and dedication to St. John's and we wish them much happiness in their new home.



FUNDSCRIP

A lot of people are beginning to pick up Christmas gifts for their sons, daughters, grandchildren and/or friends. We are asking the congregation for their continued support and trust that you will think of Fundscrip when making your Christmas list, if gift cards are being considered.

This is an important time of the year for Fundscrip, because we make the greatest percentage of profits near Christmas. It doesn't cost you anything extra out-of-pocket to buy these gift cards, and it gives us a return of at least 3%, sometimes up to 5% and more, depending on the retailer. Remember especially our Tim Horton supplier that gives us a 5% return year-round.

We are appealing to the congregation to consider stopping at our table downstairs after church to buy or to order these cards. It is such an easy way to raise funds to put towards any of our current debts —and at no additional cost to you.

We thank you so much for helping us achieve a worthwhile goal.

Connie Gaucher & Gail MacDougall, FUNDSCRIP Convenors

The Can Man

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 2019 we have raised over \$900.00 and are trying to once again break the \$1,000. mark. Remember to ask your friends and neighbours to collect their cans for St. John's. Old barbecues are made from aluminum and can also be recycled. I will pick it up.



By John Adams

A Comment About Our St. John's Archives

Once again, I have been asked by the Editor of our Newsletter to write something about St. John's Archives, and I welcome this opportunity to share such with the readers of this issue. But first let it be noted that an Archives is not a Library, in which books and periodicals can be loaned out to interested readers. Nor is it a Museum! Archives deal with the preservation of history! St. John's Archives preserves books, registers, and printed and handwritten articles pertaining to our history, for the benefit, not only of the present generation, but as well for those who will follow us in the faith and life and work of St. John's Church. Bona fide researchers, however, are allowed access to our Records when asked, but materials provided cannot be taken off the premises! Those who wish to consult our materials do so under the supervision of the Archivist. Almost all of holdings are of the "one of" nature - which increases their value to St. John's. This is our history and it must be zealously guarded and preserved for the generations who will follow us in their day!

Therefore, what is in our Archives? The first filed documents are the Minutes of the chief governing body in the Congregation - the Session. Ours date back to 1787. Secondly, are the Minutes of the Board of Managers, whose concern is with the temporal affairs of the congregation, and finally, the Minutes of the Trustees of the congregation. But we are not limited to such works only - the records of the Missionary Societies of the congregation, and our work with children and youth over the years also deserve their place. We are indeed fortunate to have in our holdings, photos of all the Ministers who have served St. John's since 1787, and copies of Congregational Photo Directories over the years. These men (and two women - the Revs. Hanna & Draffin, were the leaders of the Congregation in their day, but it is regrettable that there is very little of social comment on their life and work.

Where are our Archives located? In a very appropriate place - the "Old Vestry" - in the Church basement. This room was the Minister's "meeting place" for individuals contemplating marriage, or Baptism for their children, or arranging for the funeral of loved ones. It has also been used for the meeting of a Sunday School class. The 'new' St. John's of 1887 included this room for its Minister. It is noted that this room, in the beginning, had its own heating system, as there are 2 chimney cleanouts in the north wall! This was obviously a means to save on fuel costs, since it meant that the Church sanctuary did not have to be heated for the benefit of the Minister, when he was on the premises.

If you wish to access "the old vestry" and the Archives Room after worship some Sunday, take the southeast exit from the sanctuary down a few steps, and you can walk right into the St. John's Archives! If you wish more information or have more interest contact our Archivist, the Rev. Fred Rennie for an appointment. He works one day a week organizing and filing the materials he receives.

By the Rev. Fred Rennie

Fall Bazaar and Luncheon



Barbara Mason

The Women of the Church were exceptionally excited this year for the huge, overwhelming turnout from our church and community. It was great to see the hall filled to capacity and people thoroughly enjoyed the food, the festive decor and the opportunity to socialize. We do well to remember that so many who come out are seniors, and this is a wonderful way to reconnect.

Special thanks are extended to our huge support help; namely, Farm Boy, Marlin's and Bruce Wickham. We would also like to say thank you to everyone who helped and contributed in many, many different ways. This event is not possible without our team effort.

Given that our numbers were way up this year, it reinforced that our Fall Bazaar and Luncheon is still a hallmark event in our community.

From a financial perspective we achieved the following:



Rita Clark, Connie Gaucher, Merna Esdale

Luncheon	\$3,266.70
Bake Table	\$817.70
Knitting Table	\$250.50
Jams and Jellies	\$493.00
Donations	\$395.99
Sale of Food	\$12.25
Special Treasures	\$374.90
Silent Auction	\$35.00
Total:	\$5,646.04

THANK YOU.....THANK YOU.....THANK YOU!

Women of the Church

The Gathering Place



On October 24th, Judy Neville spoke to a full house in the MacLellan Room. She shared some wonderful, yet heart-wrenching stories about the British Home Children. Judy's personal knowledge, commitment to research and excellent ability to present captivated those in attendance. We sincerely thank Judy for joining us in The Gathering Place to share this topic with us.

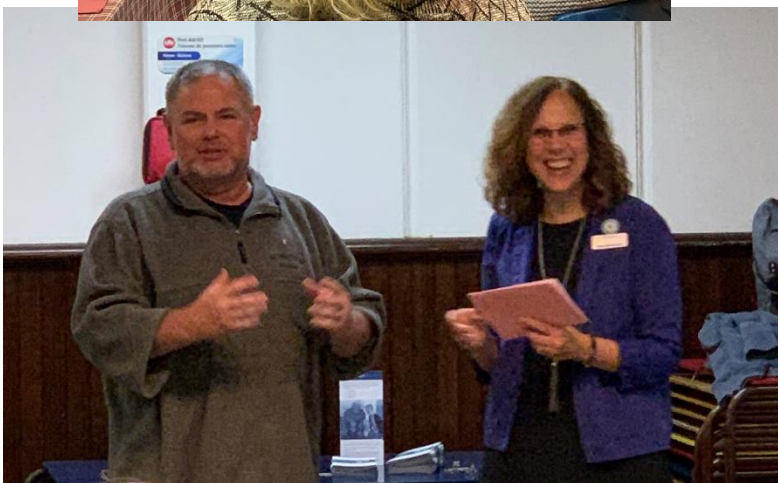
On Thursday, November 21st many gathered in the lower hall for lunch and to hear an outstanding presentation by Josee Desroches, Education Co-Ordinator with eh Alzheimer's Society of Cornwall and District. We learned about signs of Alzheimer's and how to work with loved ones and friend who are exhibiting signs of dementia. A donation of the free will offering totaling \$235.00 was presented to Josee.



The next Gathering Place will be a movie night (and Saturday afternoon!) Book your calendar and come on down to the church to gather with friends and family for a holiday classic, It's a Wonderful Life. Bring your comfy lawn chair - popcorn and hot chocolate will be served!

We welcome neighbours and friends.

Need a ride? Contact Paul Hickey
613-362-0396, or paulhickey24@gmail.com





**Costume Cleaners**

The pageant costumes and some fabric are in need of a good cleaning. If you are willing to take some or all of these to your laundry, please contact Susan MacDonald at 613-931-2565.

Scripture Readers

Willing to read the scriptures on a Sunday morning? Please contact the Office Administrator Lisa Angus at the church at 613-932-8693.

Sound Technicians

Help is needed on the sound board on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in learning about this piece of equipment, and volunteering your time some Sunday mornings, please contact Dan Plant at 613-932-4845.

Choir Members

Can you sing? The Choir is looking for more members. Practice is on Sunday. For more information please speak to Gary Postma after service or arrive in the choir room at 9:35 a.m. any Sunday morning!

Door Greeters

Want to welcome people to church? This position is available! You can choose to do one Sunday or a month of Sundays. If you are interested, please contact Cynthia Seguin at 613-936-8188.

Prayer Chain Volunteers

Volunteers need to be added to the prayer chain. You will be placed in the chain to receive and send a phone call for someone in need of a prayer. For information contact Johnneen Rennie at 613-933-3252.

Newsletter Editor

Are you technologically savvy? We are looking for someone to take the content of the newsletter and put it together into the final copy. The newsletter comes out 4 times a year. Please contact John Adams for more information 613-537-8290.

Pastoral Care Visitors

Looking for people to make hospital and nursing home visits. Will suit your schedule! If interested, please contact Johnneen Rennie at 613-933-3252.

Youth Night Volunteers

Do you have a skill, talent, gift or great idea for the youth? We are looking for individuals willing to organize one night for the Thursday youth group. For more information, call Trish Brown at 613-363-3030.

Elevator Operators

If you are okay going up and down, this job is for you. This important job makes our sanctuary accessible for all. Can you do one Sunday, or a few? Please contact Bev Ferguson at 613-933-8394.