



# ST. JOHN'S NEWS

## APRIL 2021 EDITION

### From the Minister's Desk

If you are in ministry long enough, you will compile a catalogue of scriptures that have names associated with them; favourite passages, scriptures they want to have read at their funerals, biblical texts that give them hope. Florence, Laurene, Carol – all are called to mind as I read the passages that once I read for them. Carol suffered from severe rheumatoid arthritis and spent most days in pain. She had had numerous surgeries to fuse various parts of her spine and wore a neck brace to hold her head in place. Carol shared with me that before each surgery she would ask her husband, John, to read Psalm 91.

You who live in the shelter of the Most High,  
who abide in the shadow of the Almighty  
will say to the Lord, "My refuge and my fortress;  
my God in whom I trust."

Down through the years I have remembered how Carol found comfort and strength in the words of Psalm 91, and therefore I have oftentimes read this Psalm to other people I have visited in the hospital. But invariably, I will arrive at these verses:

A thousand may fall at your side  
and ten thousand at your right hand,  
but it will not come near you.  
You will only look with your eyes  
and see the punishment of the wicked.

It is an uncomfortable moment. Psalm 91 reminds us that God's watchful care exists in the midst of suffering. Carol cherished these words and found hope in them, because she was faced with the uncertainty and anxiety of surgery.

We have now made it through one year of this COVID-19 pandemic. We have all experienced feelings of fear, anxiety, and frustration as our knowledge of this disease has developed, and as we have sought to keep ourselves safe. Along the way, there have been members of our congregation who have suffered health issues and loss. And yet, time and again, as I speak with members of St. John's they remark on how blessed they feel. They may not say it in quite the same manner as the Psalmist, but they have experienced the assurance that comes with dwelling in the shelter of the Most High. All of us have a sense that we have been blessed. We would not go back, but we rejoice that grace has seen us safe thus far.

And now, we are beginning to look forward. Every day I speak to someone who is anxious to let me know that they have received their vaccine. Each of us is looking forward to new life. We are

looking toward gathering for worship; all the while acknowledging that things won't be the same as they were in the past. Time has changed. We have changed. As we begin to think about what we will do once we are allowed to move more freely, I would invite you to think about what the future will look like? What lessons have we learned over this past year? How will these lessons change our old patterns and routines?

Through May and June, we will bring together members and adherents of St. John's to reflect upon the lessons we have learned in this past year and discuss who we wish to become as a congregation. For those without internet access, we will make questionnaires available so they can participate also. This is a time of opportunity and renewal, as we acknowledge that God is calling us into a new future.



We hope you will take this opportunity to share your thoughts on what God has done and is doing in and through the church.

Blessings.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Robert". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Robert



It is hard to stay connected these days, but we hope that our youth will join our Zoom meetings on Sunday evenings. If you have not received an email invite, please contact Sarah-Jane Woods ([sarah\\_jwoods@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_jwoods@hotmail.com)), Trish Brown ([brownietrish4@gmail.com](mailto:brownietrish4@gmail.com)), or Reverend Adams ([minister@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:minister@stjohnscornwall.ca)).

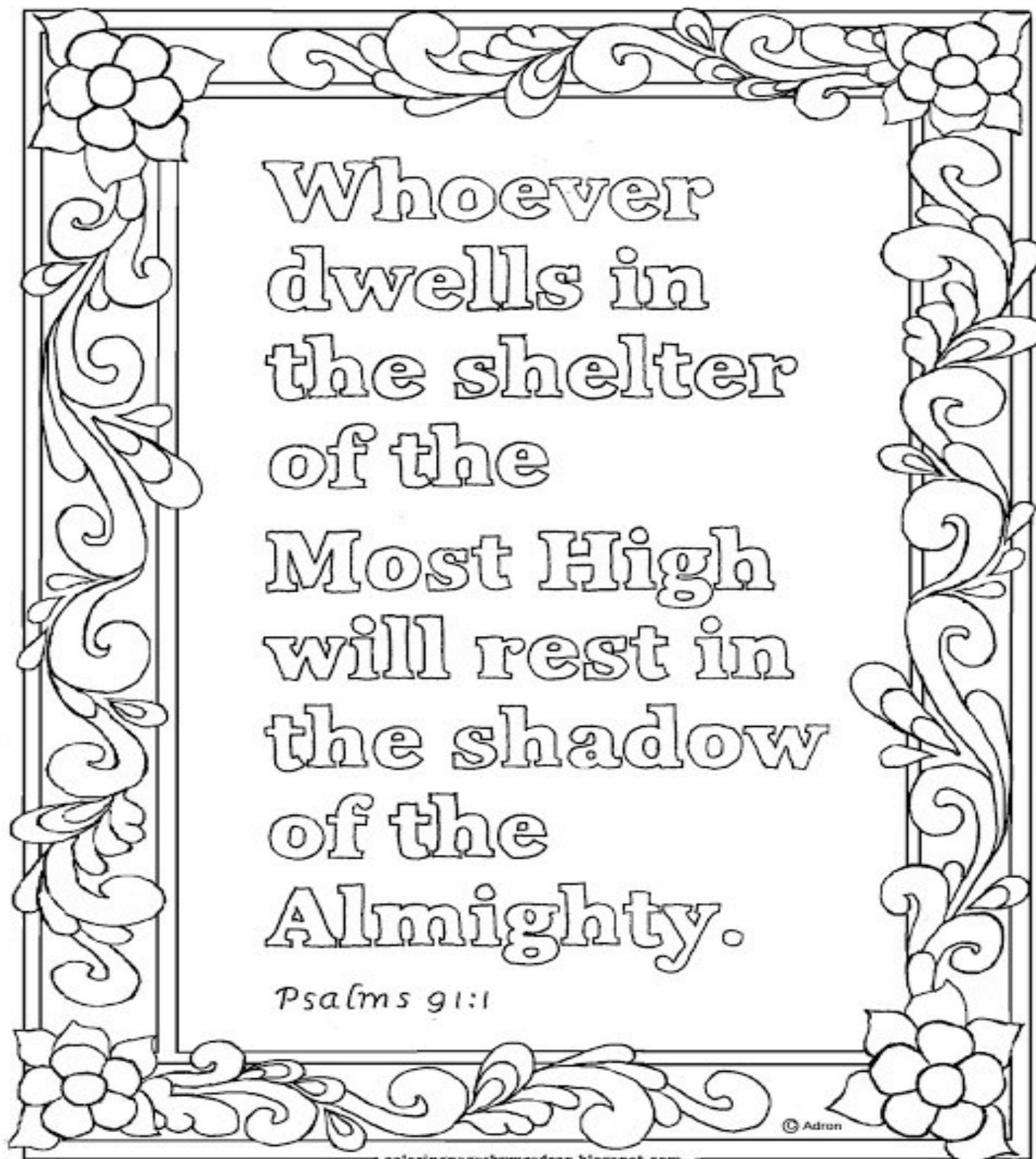
We enjoyed the youth participation in the Good Friday service and sincerely thank them for their wonderful leadership. Thank you to Innes and Libbey Adams, Monica Brown, Julie and Roy Choi, Antonio, Eleni, Georgia, and Nico Fourkiotis, Deanna Gill and Hannah McFadzen. Stay tuned for updates on the youth's next project.

Do you have a child or grandchild who would like to be involved with the youth activities? Please let us know – we would love to have him or her join us.

## Kids' (and the young at heart) Corner Challenge

Calling all people of any age! We challenge you to complete the colouring page. The first person to correctly finish it and return it to Susan at: [susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca) or drop it off at the church office will receive a prize. We will publish the name of the winner in the next newsletter.

There were no entries for March's challenge. We hope we will have one sent in this month!

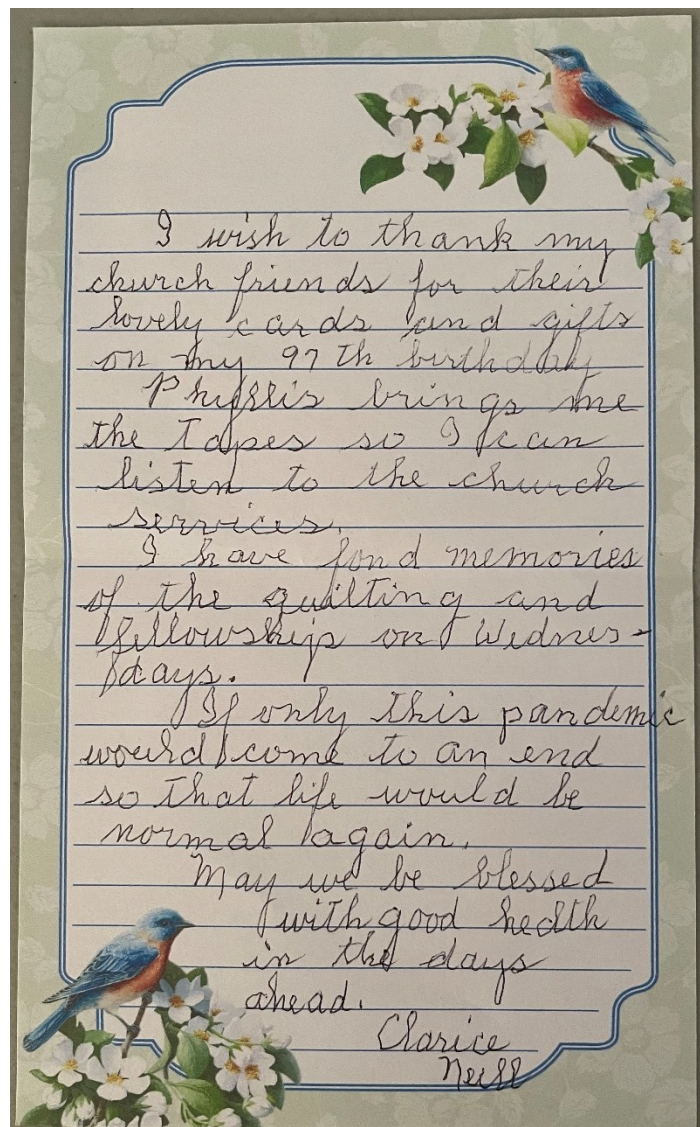




## April Birthday Wishes

Happy birthday to everyone celebrating in April: Eric McCartney, Scott McFadzen, Agnes Cooper, Jonah Newton, Phyllis Bateman, Kenneth Evans, Joop Eenkhoorn, Jean Lalonde, Dan Plant, Dorothy Asselstine, Frank Bartle, Mariah Adams, Bev Ferguson, Susan Newton, and to all those wishing to remain anonymous.

### A note from Clarice...





# Highlighting Judy, Hubert, Daniel, Patrick and David

Hi everyone!

Hubert, Daniel, and I live in the north end of Cornwall just off of Pitt Street. My oldest son Dave decided to move to Nova Scotia last October and Patrick is in Ottawa.

During this time of washing hands, wearing face masks and staying at home, we are given the time to really stop and enjoy what beauty is around us such as the squirrels and birds at our bird feeder. We have seen some cardinals this year. There are those brilliantly coloured sunsets, clean white blankets of snow, and the flowers and green carpet of grass with the spring.



We all miss those regular activities of attending meetings, meals with family and friends, going to church, singing with the Seaway Senior Choir, bowling, and of course Dan misses his magic games.

Like everyone we take walks with our dog and keep in touch with family and friends by phone, email and texting. There are those rare times when we actually meet someone at the grocery store, drug store, (4 times) doing Meals on Wheels or out walking and I have a short safe distance talk.



I have had opportunity through Zoom to connect with some of our church family during the bible studies which Rev. Adams has hosted. The last one on Lent gave me a very different look at a story that I thought I knew. Again, the Seaway Senior Centre has been able sometimes to host Zoom choir. We can hear and see our director Steve as he plays and sings but we cannot sing together.

We are very fortunate at St. John's to have people like Dan and Alex so that we can have church on line. I have to admit it is nice to sit in my favourite chair especially when it is snowing and blowing out.

During one of my walks I stopped to talk with a neighbour. To my delight she had some books she wanted to pass on to someone. The library was closed at this time. So from time to time I get some more books and put them aside for a couple of weeks and then enjoy. I like to read at bedtime.

Just before Christmas our family was given tickets for the drive through light display at Gray's Creek. It was a lovely and safe outing.

Hubert comes from a large family. They always (before Covid) celebrated all the holidays together. We could have up to fifty some people. When his sister Bernice turned 65 they came up with a way to celebrate from a safe distance. We were (brothers, sisters, and better halves) to stop by her place for cake and ice cream. In this way Bernice was able to see her four sisters and three brothers. Just not all of us at the same time.

I have been able to get my vaccine for Covid and Hubert will get his this week. Even with the rising numbers and lock down I do feel just a little bit safer now.

Please stay safe.

Thank you so much to Judy Seguin for contributing this article to the newsletter.



## Hey Julie!

Covid-19 has changed things for me! Here are the three things that I miss the most.

It has been over a year since the Covid-19 pandemic started. Since the pandemic started, I have spent more time with my family, and I got to talk more with my family than I did before the pandemic and learn more about my family's daily life. But, since the pandemic started, I started to miss many things that I thought were usual before Covid-19 existed.



Firstly, I miss gathering with my friends, and having sleepovers or hangouts at each others' houses. When Covid-19 started, most people became very sensitive and did not want any contact with anyone. So, when everything becomes normal, I want to hangout with my friends and enjoy freedom without masks or social distancing.

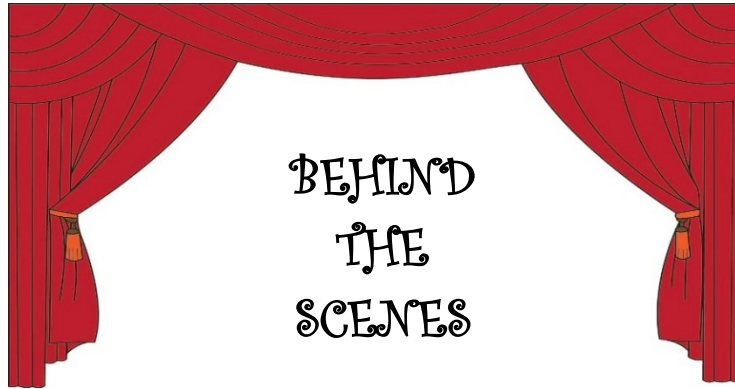
Secondly, I love to travel by plane, but since there are many restrictions that block my way from traveling abroad I could not go anywhere this year, including visiting my family in South Korea. I have not seen my family for many years since living in Canada, and I had been excited and planning to go, but then the Corona virus started to spread all around the world, and my plans were stopped. My family and I had to stay at home and were not able to travel anywhere.



Finally, the last thing I miss the most is going shopping in bigger cities such as Ottawa or Toronto. We were not able to do that because the virus started in the big cities then spread to the other cities. Also, the pandemic had a lot of effects on shopping, especially days like Boxing Day and Black Friday. It is a difficult and unpleasant situation to go shopping these days.

In conclusion, the activities or hobbies that seemed normal during my life became remarkably important to me, and I am additionally delighted and thankful to God about what I am able to do and the environment where I am living in now. I can still go to school virtually, practice the violin, and visit with friends virtually!

Thanks so much to Julie Choi for sharing this wonderful article with us!



There are always those whose work sometimes goes unnoticed and unappreciated. But for those of us involved in setting up for events like the Fall Bazaar or Christmas, there are folks who are always ready to help us out, even though they are not members of St. John's!

One of those is Bruce Wickham. Bruce has run a highly successful EVENT PLANNING business for many years...everything from setting up for the Mulroneys' parties in Ottawa, doing countless events at Nav every year OR setting up and supplying tents and decor for a lovely, intimate country wedding!

When we first approached him a few years ago to help with some event, perhaps the bazaar, he did not hesitate to provide what we needed at no cost to the church I might add. Since then he has helped us with innumerable projects: drapery and stanchions for the Fall Bazaar, lighting to enhance our Christmas decor, tablecloths and columns for our Easter lily display. AND if we ever needed advice or contact information for a talented, reliable tradesperson he always knew someone.

Nice to know there are people like Bruce Wickham in Cornwall. People who are willing to "give back" freely.

We truly do appreciate all those who do - especially Bruce Wickham!

Thank you to Barb Mason for submitting this article to recognize Bruce!

## Remember this old beauty?

Does this photo bring memories to mind? If you have a personal memory or a shared memory from a grandparent, parent, other relative, friend or neighbour, we would love for you to share that memory with all of us. If you wish to remain anonymous, we will respect your wishes and not print your name.

If you have a memory, information or a story to share about this photo please email or call Susan ([susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca) 613-931-2565) or Cynthia ([cynthia.seguin14@icloud.com](mailto:cynthia.seguin14@icloud.com) 613-936-8188).



## Your chuckle for today...

While walking along the sidewalk in front of his church, our minister heard the intoning of a prayer that nearly made his collar wilt. Apparently, his 5-year-old son and his playmates had found a dead robin. Feeling that proper burial should be performed, they had secured a small box and cotton batting, then dug a hole and made ready for the disposal of the deceased.

The minister's son was chosen to say the appropriate prayers and with sonorous dignity intoned his version of what he thought his father always said: 'Glory be unto the Faaather, and unto the Sonnn, and into the hole he goooes.'

(Thank you to Charles Eadie for submitting this joke.)

Boy aged 4: Dad, I've decided to get married.

Dad: Wonderful! Do you have a girl in mind?

Boy: Yes – Grandma! She said she loves me, I love her, too... and she's the best cook and storyteller in the whole world!

Dad: That's nice, but we have a small problem here.

Boy: What problem?

Dad: She happens to be my mother. How can you marry my mother?

Boy: Why not? You married mine!



(Joke courtesy of Facebook)

Got a good joke, poem, or a funny Covid-19 or isolation story? Please share it with us. We will not reveal any names unless you give us permission to do so. Send your submission to:

[susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca](mailto:susan.macdonald5@sympatico.ca).

### Closed for In-Person Worship – Alternative Services Available

To those of you who may not know, our in-person services have been cancelled for the time being due to Covid-19 restrictions. Please know that you can still enjoy Sunday worship on-line or with a CD (audio) or DVD (video).

There is something for everyone. Please contact the church (613-932-8693) or [admin@stjohnscornwall.ca](mailto:admin@stjohnscornwall.ca) to order your preference. Remember to leave a message as we are not there full time due to the Covid-19 lockdown.

