

ST. JOHN'S NEWS



ADVENT

At last, it seems that autumn is truly here. The leaves have fallen from the trees; heavy coats have been pulled from the back of the closet; and with each passing day, the daylight gives way to the darkness of the lengthening nights. While there has been great debate over the last couple of years about the pros and cons of the seasonal time change, the unavoidable reality of this time of year is that the sun sinks lower in the sky, the days shorten, and darkness comes. With each passing year, it seems that people decorate their homes earlier and earlier. Even now, people have started to turn on their Christmas lights – all in an effort to hold the darkness of winter at bay.

The opposing metaphors of light and darkness have long been used to describe our sense of hope and despair. We all recognize the effect of the grey and cloudy weather on our psyche. For some this effect is significant indeed. Some people suffer from SAD – seasonally affected disorder – brought on by the darkness, and they require light therapy to lift them out of the doldrums of winter. Throughout the world, many societies and religions hold celebrations around the time of the winter solstice to bring light into the darkness of winter.

In the Christmas story, the star which the magi followed shone brightly, and led the travelers to the infant Jesus. Elsewhere, Luke reports that when the angel of the Lord appeared to the shepherds out in the fields, “the glory of the Lord shone around them.” The birth of Jesus Christ, and the hope he came to bring, was like light shining into our darkness.



Sometimes it may seem like these are dark days indeed. Environmental and economic concerns dominate the news. But into that darkness, the promise of Christ still rings true – that God sent God’s Son into the world to redeem the creation from all those things that separate us from God and the light of God’s love. Jesus Christ is our hope, and as we learn more about him and the love of God that Christ came to show us, we will discover new ways to look at the world.

As we move through the season of Advent, let us pray that the hope, peace, joy and love of this season will reign in our lives and in our world.

Blessings,

Robert



November and December Birthday Wishes

Happy birthday to those who celebrate in November: Derek Markell, Trish Brown, Zachary Jones, Barbara Adams, Barbara Mason, Alan Parks, Mackenzie Woods, Hubert Seguin, Carey McCartney, Georgia Fourkiotis, Anna Parks, Donald Newton, Karen Blanchard, Sandra Loucks, Nick Cox and Laurel Adams.

We wish all of those celebrating in December a very happy birthday as well: Innes Adams, Carol Esdale, Greg Doll, Dorothy Snetsinger, Carol Fleming, Jennifer Adams, Dennis Borland, Laura McFadzen, Nicolaos Fourkiotis, Brenda Aikman, Richard Watson, Mark Bourgon, Gwen Coleman, Maxwell Hum, Don Bowman, Colleen Jones, John Adams, Lois McCartney, Hannah McFadzen, Bev Hope and Myrna Whittaker.

We also send very happy birthday greetings to all those wishing to remain anonymous.

If we have made an error in your birthdate, or missed it entirely, please advise us so that we can update our records.

White Gift Sunday



Our annual White Gift Sunday will take place on Sunday, December 12th. There is a new twist this year! Baldwin House has never owned a vehicle and having one will be of great value to the staff and clients. A fundraising campaign has been launched to help them meet that goal.

This year, we are asking for money donations for Baldwin House. If you would like to help them reach their goal, please include your donation in your envelope using the "Other" line or through the other means of giving, again clearly indicating that the donation is for Baldwin House.



We will continue to support the Agape Center and the following are needed items: peanut butter, tuna, salmon, canned vegetables, oatmeal, canned chick peas, canned lentils, whole grain pasta, low-sodium pasta sauce, canned tomatoes, rice, cooking oil, unsweetened applesauce, fruit cups (no sugar added), canned turkey, ham or chicken, low-sodium vegetable or beef broth.

Meat Pies

The Women of the Church are once again selling meat pies (which, by the way, make the lower hall area smell heavenly!) They are \$12.00 each for a 7" pie, and are sold on a first-come-first-serve basis on Sundays after service and Wednesday afternoons. If you would like a pie but are unable to attend on Sunday, you can call Phyllis Bateman at (613) 938-6250 so that delivery can be arranged. Please note, this service is only for people who are unable to leave home.

FUNDSCRIP CARDS FOR CHRISTMAS!



We're now into the month of November, which means Christmas is quickly coming. If you're a gift card giver, or if shopping just isn't viable during these weird covid times, consider ordering gift cards through Fundscrip. There are many stores from which to order, such as Toys R' Us, American Eagle, Old Navy, Amazon, Bath & Body Works, Sephora, and many, many more. A list of all retailers can be found on the bulletin board.

Please submit your order no later than December 1st; in order to receive your cards before Christmas. Thank you to everyone who has faithfully supported Fundscrip. Make sure to contact Gail (613) 932-2811, or Connie (613) 932-0234 for more information.

Cards are available on Wednesdays between 1:00 p.m. and 1:30 p.m. and are now on sale after church as well. If you have a concern about coming into the church, we would be happy to bring the cards to your car on Wednesdays. Please call us to make arrangements. We will deliver cards to your home if you feel uncomfortable coming into the church. Please give Gail (613) 932-2811 or Connie (613) 932-0234 a call.

Don't forget to get cards for food, gasoline, restaurants, etc. This is a wonderful fundraiser for the Women of the Church.

Convenors - Gail MacDougall & Connie Gaucher



Join us in person or online for
Communion on Sunday, November 28th.
If you would like a pre-filled communion
cup for your use at home, please
contact the office at (613) 932-8693
to arrange delivery.



We are pleased to offer two services on Christmas Eve, one at 4:00 p.m. and the second at 7:00 p.m. Please call the office to reserve your seat.

Welcome to the team!

We are so thankful to Brian Markell and Roy Choi for coming on board to help on Sundays with the audio-visual needs. This is a huge job, especially with the livestreaming and powerpoint, and it is wonderful for Dan Plant, our lead A/V volunteer, to have support. We're glad you joined the team Brian and Roy!



From left to right: Roy Choi, Dan Plant & Brian Markell

Remembrance Day Service

A moving Remembrance Day service was held on Sunday, November 7th. It was wonderful to welcome back trumpeter Steve Dubinsky, who has not been able to join us since covid began. The names of our fallen were read by Nick Cox, and Wes Libbey skillfully recited In Flanders Fields. The Session Trust Funds purchased a new wreath for the service, as well as a wreath that was laid at the cenotaph on November 11th



Pictured from left to right: Reverend Adams, Steven Dubinsky & Gary Postma



Pictured from left to right: Reverend Adams & Wes Libbey

The Clifford MacRae Memorial Bursary

Congratulations to Ellie Adams, daughter of Katherine and Kerry Adams, and Monica Brown, daughter of Joanne and Barry Brown, who are the recipients of the Clifford MacRae Memorial Bursary for 2021. Each of these worthy young ladies received \$250.00. Ellie is pursuing studies at the University of Western Ontario, in the Bachelor of Arts program, majoring in Kinesiology, and Monica is attending the University of Toronto, working towards a Bachelor of Arts degree in History and English. The Clifford MacRae Memorial Bursary was inaugurated in 1993, when a bequest of \$1,500.00 was received by the Session from the estate of Mr. Clifford MacRae. Mr. MacRae was a faithful servant of Jesus Christ in St. John's Church, a devoted Elder of the congregation, and a beloved educator of youth in the former



Monica Brown

Stormont, Dundas and Glengarry County Board of Education. The congregation is appreciative of Mr. MacRae's family for their continued involvement in keeping his legacy alive.



Ellie Adams

KARING 4 KIDS

St. John's is partnering with Central Public School to provide hats, mittens/gloves, neck warmers and socks to help keep children warm this winter. Your gifts will go to children 5 to 11 years of age. Please drop your items off at the church on Sunday morning or at the office during the week. All items will be placed on or around the **A**Kids Tree in the MacLellan Room.

We understand that due to covid restrictions you may not want to shop at this time. You can still participate by making a donation to St. John's Presbyterian Church. Please clearly state that the donation is to go to Karing **A**Kids.

All donations will be used to provide the children with hats, mittens/gloves, socks and neck warmers, or possibly winter boots or a snowsuit for a child(ren) in need.

Your chuckle for today...

A mother was concerned about her kindergarten son walking to school. He didn't want his mother to walk with him. She wanted to give him the feeling that he had some independence, but, yet know that he was safe. So, she had an idea of how to handle it.

She asked a neighbour if she would please follow him to school in the mornings, staying at a distance, so he probably wouldn't notice her. The neighbour said that since she was up early with her toddler anyway, it would be a good way for them to get some exercise as well, so she agreed. The next school day the neighbour and her little girl set out following behind Johnny as he walked to school with another neighbour girl he knew. She did this for the whole week.

As the two kids walked and chatted, kicking stones and twigs, Johnny's little friend noticed the same lady was following them as she seemed to do everyday all week. Finally, she said to little Johnny,

"Have you noticed that lady following us to school all week? Do you know her?"

Johnny nonchalantly replied, "Yeah, I know who she is."

The little girl said, "Well, who is she?"

"That's just Shirley Goodnest," Johnny replied, "and her daughter Marcy."

"Shirley Goodnest? Who is she and why is she following us?"

"Well," Johnny explained, "every night my Mum makes me say the 23rd Psalm with my prayers, 'cuz she worries about me so much. And in the Psalm it says, 'Shirley Goodnest and Marcy shall follow me all the days of my life,' so I guess I'll just have to get used to it."



Thank you to Barb Mason for sharing our chuckle for the newsletter! Got a good joke, poem, or a funny covid 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.



Hey Jeannie!

We are happy to introduce Jeannie Hughes, our new custodian. Jeannie was born and raised in Ottawa, and moved to Cornwall about 5 years ago. Her move was prompted by a desire to live in a smaller city, as well as the excitement of being near her granddaughter Chloe, who is now 8 years old.

She has connections to Cornwall, one of which was her discovery that her great grandparents settled in this area from England and Ireland in the 1920s – we think she was meant to be here!

Jeannie has two daughters and two sons. Her only granddaughter, Chloe, is at a fun stage right now, and calls Jeannie naughty nana because they like to play tricks and jokes on others. Jeannie admits that she spoils her.

She loves her cleaning job, and it runs in her family. Her grandmother and mother were both cleaners, and her daughter is a cleaner at Queen's University in Kingston. In addition to having things clean, another big interest in her position is making sure that things are organized and where they should be. She has worked closely with clients who suffer from hoarding, and she likes to work with them because she finds it very rewarding. She notes that it is a mental health issue, and she appreciated being able to help them get to a point where they could live more comfortably and safely in their homes, and help them get their lives back just a little bit.



Jeannie came to the position at St. John's after her daughter, who is a manager at Dominoes, saw our job posting on our lawn sign. At the time she was looking for a change, and this was the perfect opportunity. In her previous position she was doing cleaning work in different houses and businesses, which required a lot of travel, and she wasn't sure from day to day which assignment she would have. She is enjoying having a consistent schedule here at our church, and she likes that she can get to know people.

In her spare time Jeannie likes fishing, most genres in reading (but not romance novels!), cooking (especially trying to make interesting dishes like gumbo and stews), and being with family.

Welcome to the St. John's family Jeannie!

Kids' (and the young at heart) Corner Challenge

Calling all people of any age! We challenge you to complete the crossword puzzle. The first person to correctly finish it and return it to Susan at: 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.

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W	I	S	E	A	N	G	E	L	T	O	B
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ADORE
ADVENT
AGE
ANGEL
BETHLEHEM
DAVID
DONKEY
HAIL

JOSEPH
LORD
LOVE
MAGI
MARY
MANGER
NAZARETH
NEW

PRAYER
SAVE
SKY
SONG
STAR
TRAVEL
WAIT
WISE