

### Community Garden



This was the third summer St John's has participated in the Community Garden, and it was the best summer yet. A small but dedicated group of gardeners from St John's (Janice Campbell, Gloria Sinclair, Lis Turner, Sue Sibley, Cathie Fuller and Mark Burns) worked two days per week from late May to late September together with volunteers from Georgetown Christian Reformed Church.

Farmer Earl Burt (cousin of Don Burt) again donated the land for the garden. We planted, weeded, and harvested a record amount of produce. This year we planted peas, beans, carrots, squash, tomatoes, broccoli and cauliflower. All of the harvest went to the Georgetown Food Bank and the Food for Life program (run out of St John's on Tuesdays).

Thanks to all our St John's gardeners. If anyone is interested in joining our group this coming summer, please contact me.

~ submitted by Sue Sibley



### History 101 with Janet Duval

Many fascinating pictures and stories from St. John's history emerged during our 175th anniversary celebrations. There are many more interesting tales in our St. John's archives.

In the 1800s, for example, two of our ministers died of typhoid while serving here: James Campbell in 1883 and R.L. Tindall, age 47, leaving a wife and six children in 1875. At a meeting the following month, Brother George Kennedy and other officers of the church offered "Christian regard and prayer...for our esteemed and greatly afflicted Sister Tindall and family." It's not recorded if they offered her anything else, at a time when there were no pensions or benefits for ministers and their families.



Rev. George Abbs 1883 to 1884

In 1856, various Methodist sects were competing for members here. For a while one group gathered in the school house, until outraged Episcopalian Wesleyan School Trustees fired the teacher who had provided the key, and locked everyone out. Other Wesleyans offered this group the use of their church, but the Rev Law "pious man, god bless him" was much displeased to have the chapel "desecrated by Episcopalian Methodists preaching in it" and kept them out. It gets tricky following these skirmishes among the various sects that eventually united to become the Methodist church.

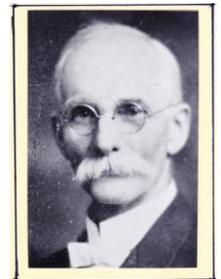
They must have been struggling in 1872, when one departing pastor described the Methodist parsonage as "old, dilapidated, unfurnished and out of the way."

Happily, our records include an account of the first Wesleyan Methodist service in 1841, at which Egerton Ryerson spoke, and a lengthy description of the current Georgetown building and its opening weekend in November 1880. George Kennedy was secretary of the building committee; \$5081 was pledged during the two services on November 21. You can read the reports on these openings as published in the Christian Guardian and the Canadian Christian Advocate on the history page of our web site [www.stjohnsuc.ca](http://www.stjohnsuc.ca)

In 1921, our church minutes tell us that the all-male board discussed a motion "to extend equal rights to women to become Probationers and Ministers. 6 voted yes, 6 voted no, one ballot not marked."

Detailed accounts of renovations indicate that we had cushioned pews until 1944. They had "metal ends of scroll work, and a rack under the seat for a man's hat." As we enjoy the chairs in our new Georgetown renovation, perhaps everything old is new again, almost!

There is one person we must thank for digging out and transcribing many of these historic documents going back to 1828. Bill Kinrade, a member of this church for many years who died in 1998, used to take the GO bus down to Toronto where he spent hours in the United Church archives. Back at home on Ostrander Boulevard he then patiently typed out all of his copied notes. Now 130 pages of his work have been scanned and stored on a CD, along with pictures and stories of ministers and events since then, and a detailed key to the contents. If you'd like to borrow the CD, please ask our Office Administrator.



Rev. Henry Caldwell, a very well-liked minister at the time of Church Union with the Presbyterians and Congregationalists

There are many more archival materials and photo albums stored in various places around the church. We hope that all can be stored in the church library, once some ventilation issues are resolved. If anyone is interested in combing through them to label and explain the contents while they're still meaningful to us, please advise. I'd be glad to scan whatever seems worthwhile. There is much more interesting information to uncover about the "cloud of witnesses" who worked so hard to establish our church family in Georgetown and Glen Williams.

~ submitted by Janet Duval

### Hallelujah

...as presented to Rev. Kelly Thomson on her final Sunday with us

Kelly preaches in front of the choir  
It's easy to see her get inspired  
By the great sounds of music coming to her  
She's heard the choir with flute and drum  
Singing a cappella or with a hum  
She's heard them sing a lot of hallelujahs  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly started here with Jim Ball  
With Stephen and Susan in these halls  
Now there's Don a former mentor to her  
Kelly's messages can be profound  
Her Chapter's coffees have helped her sound  
To strike a note of sermon hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly's led several confirmation classes  
With many lads and fewer lasses  
Leading them on the way to full communion  
From these church halls to Burtville North  
These eager minds would sally forth  
To find their own way to hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly tells children's stories with lots of props  
Brings in stones and things that pop  
Engaging with the young is special to her  
Her stories have a Kelly frame  
That leads the kids into the game  
Where they can encounter hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly likes to be involved  
In "food for life" be it resolved  
Ev's Kitchen is a sacred institution  
Where the needy can get fed  
Supping on Ev's daily bread  
That makes them rise and shout out hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

At weddings and funerals Kelly weaves a spell  
Honoring the honorees quite well  
Rites of passage moments are special to her  
She always seems to strike a chord  
That must be pleasing to the Lord  
That makes attendees call out hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly's gradually become hi tech  
With a microphone about her neck  
Free to roam the aisles to be closer to us  
She's added videos to the worship scene  
She keeps the tech crew on the beam  
When it all works we call out hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly's come through our 175  
The sanctuary has been revived  
She maintained her cool through all the renovations  
Whether at the Glen or here  
Work crews have been with her several years  
Now that it's done we call out hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Here's to the women of our church  
Who never leave us in the lurch  
Kelly has always been right there with you  
Whether UCW or Tri-S  
For all of our women we are blessed  
And we offer up a heartfelt hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

Kelly is leaving us today  
We wish you well in your brand new day  
We'll miss you and your family among us  
Farewell Colin, Josh and Kyle  
Kelly's helpmates all the while  
For all of you we sing out hallelujah  
Hallelujah, hallelujah. Hallelujah, hallelujah

~ submitted by Stephen Lipka and Jim Broughton

### Dear Members and Friends of St. John's United Church

Chaim Potok, in the opening pages of his novel *"In The Beginning"* introduces us to David Lurie. He is remembering back to some of the stresses of his childhood, when his mother would soothe him with the words, "This is the way it is, David. All beginnings are hard..."

In recent weeks, Kelly Thomson has talked frequently about "new beginnings" - her own, and this congregation's new beginnings. What a beautiful celebration of Kelly's ministry you offered her on January 4th, blessing her as she moves into a new chapter of her personal life.

Although I have been with you for several months, as we move into 2015 my relationship with you feels like a new beginning, shaped as it is by increased hours and responsibilities. I'm sure this transitional time feels like a new beginning for you as well, as you begin to discern what God has in mind for the future mission and ministry of St. John's church.

Let us acknowledge that as Potok reminds us, "All beginnings are hard..." Most of us would prefer church life that is steady and predictable. Yet we know that in the weeks ahead of us we will be confronted with challenges and growing edges - and that may be unsettling.

But we will walk this journey together. For my part, I offer you a caring presence, a listening ear, the nourishment of strong worship, the joy of friendship... May I encourage you to help make these new beginnings less stressful for our church family by continuing to offer your faithful, prayer-filled encouragement and support week by week.

I am profoundly grateful that we are sharing this ministry -- this new beginning -- together. May we become aware of the Spirit's Holy presence moving among us, nudging us into the dream that is in the heart of God for this wonderful church family.

~ submitted by Don Parsons

### Spring Swizzle – 50s / 60s Dance



Get your best "Twist" out of the cobwebs, we are going to have a Dance! Saturday, April 18th at 8pm Mike Boyd is going to have Oldies and Goldies spinning and the temperature rising in Celebration Hall. More details to follow but if you would like to help out, please contact Rob Allison at [rallison@kubota.ca](mailto:rallison@kubota.ca) or 905-877-4110.

~submitted by Shelley and Rob Allison

### Silent Auction

We are gearing up to receive your donations for the 2015 Silent Auction. A few have come forward already so the excitement has begun. St. John's has always risen to provide spectacular items to make this a successful Fun(d)raiser. In 2013 thirty-seven families donated 135 items and we raised \$4,500. We are hoping to reduce the number of items but maintain the high level of value.

This is your chance to be creative. Some of our popular donations in the past were Gourmet Dinners, Royal Wedding Breakfast, Reiki Session, Pampered Overnight Getaway, Computer Tutoring and Afternoon Tea. New ideas come to the surface every time – if you offer it, they will bid.

A change in format this year is that we are condensing the event to two weeks. Items will be set up for bidding before and after church on Sunday April 12th and 19th, with Sunday April 19th being the grand finale! Plan to linger over a pot-luck Brunch on that day as we will be encouraging active bidding!

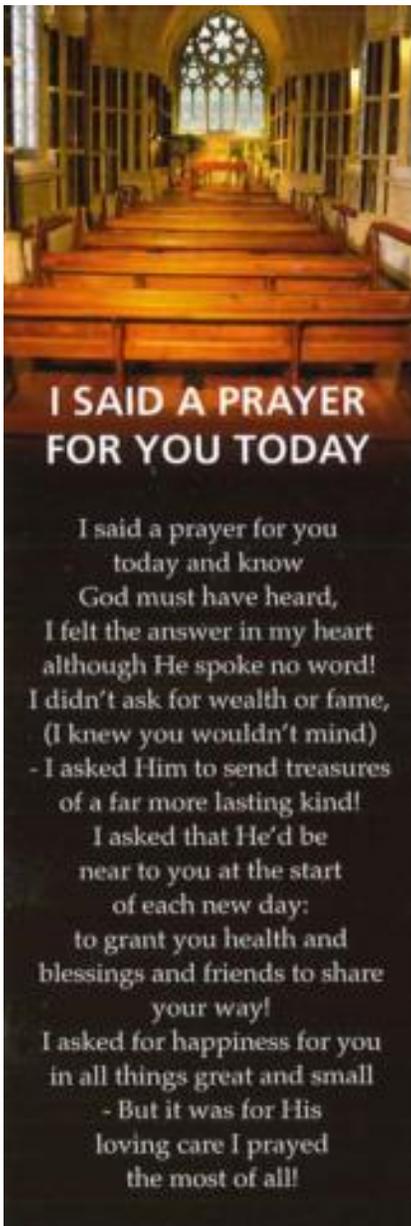
An extra bonus with the 2015 Silent Auction is that some of the larger items will be on display at the 50s/60s Dance on Saturday April 18th. This will allow members of St. John's and the public to view and bid on prime items. Lots of fun to look forward to!

If you have any questions or have treasures to donate, please contact Shelley Allison at [shelleyallison13@gmail.com](mailto:shelleyallison13@gmail.com) or Janice Campbell at [janarlcam@hotmail.com](mailto:janarlcam@hotmail.com)

~ submitted by Shelley Allison

### Jean Layman Remembers Her Scouting Days

I had wonderful Assistant Leaders and Junior Leaders over the years and one of the best unregistered leaders was Jack Layman. He used his pickup truck in the bottle drives to make money for all those wonderful bus trips the Pack had, with the help of the Cubs and Cub fathers. Jack was great on all hikes and in the spring he made each Cub a Willow Whistle. On fall hikes he made each Cub a Sumac water gun. He was always making skipping ropes. I will list some of the well-known names of boys in the 1<sup>st</sup> Georgetown Cub Pack at St. John's United Church in the 1960s. I will try to remember all the names, but if I forget some, I am sorry. When I moved to Guelph I lost some of my scouting material, but I remember them all so dearly. They were all the best! I often hear from so many of them....Allen, Arthurton, Atherley, Betty's Son, Baker, Beker, Boyle, Carter, Clark, Collett, Collier, Darcie, Dean, Doig, Doupagne, Egar, Getty, Haddock, Halsall, Hamilton, Hammond, Hastings, Henderson, Hogan, Hope, Jickling, Johnson, Jones, Kennedy, Latimer, Lucas, Louth, McCallum, Maclaren, McConnell, McGowan, McMurray, Megelink, Murdock, Nicholls, Panabaker, Peck, Prouse, Rand, Ral, Scarrow, Scrivens, Schenk, Stone, Strudwich, Spiller, Thompsons, Weiss, Young - I wish all those young men the very best for 2015 and beyond.



...at the Gilwell Reunion of Scouters  
 on September 6, 2014 at Blue Springs Scout Reserve

~submitted by Jean Layman

### New Babies



Nora and Rudy Lipp were thrilled to gather with their entire family during the Christmas holidays! And the cousins were able to meet each other for the first time. Two and a half year old McKenna Kempers, two month-old Blake Lipp, and 1-year-old twins Maple and Koda Kempers.



Don & Kathy Burt are pleased to announce the birth of their 2nd granddaughter. Anna Lyndsay Katherine Burt, daughter for John and Amy, was born on December 8, 2014. She is a 2nd grandchild for Glenda and Dale Wood and great-grandchild number 9 for Norah Williams.



Emanuella Esther Duval was born Saturday, November 8, 2014 in Kuala Lumpur. Jay and Sandra now have two boys and two girls ages 6, 3, 1 ½ and newborn.



Beckett David Baker was born on January 31, 2015 to Topher and Kirsten Baker. Proud grandparents are Joan and John Murphy. Little Grayson is now a big brother!!

### Benevolent Fund

After our Christmas Eve services, any loose cash gifts on the offering plate go into a Benevolent Fund, to be used by our ministers for needs that arise throughout the year. In December 2014 the total was about \$750.

Just before she left us, Kelly Thomson chatted about the Fund. "We used to have people stopping in to request help with emergency issues like rent or furnaces breaking down, and we didn't know how to respond faithfully," said Kelly. The Benevolent Fund was set up for those kinds of need. "My practice when we got requests was to respond by saying that we don't give out cash." On advice from the Council Chairs and from Susan Tupling, who runs our Food for Life program, the ministers found other ways to help, such as grocery vouchers, or meal vouchers for the McGibbon Hotel.

Kelly remembers an elderly fellow who dropped in and needed a place to stay for the night, so he could catch a bus or train the next day. "I called the Cedar Springs Motel, and the owner there was really cooperative. He just took him in and sent an invoice to the church to be paid through the Benevolent Fund."

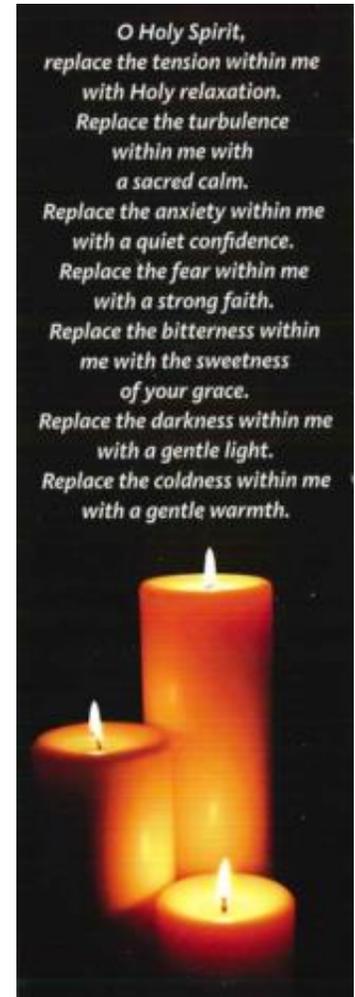
Another time, Susan Garrod-Shuster received a call from someone who wanted to buy equipment so he could get hired on for a painting job. Rather than giving the cash, Susan asked him to make a simple list of the equipment needed, which a volunteer then purchased for him with money from the Fund.

These days, says Kelly, with ministries like Food for Life and Ev's Kitchen going so strong, there are fewer requests for financial help. That seems like a very good thing, as we try to be the face and hands of Jesus at St. John's.

~ submitted by Janet Duval



Ev's Kitchen at Christmas



White Gift Pageant  
December 2014

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