



The Vine Online

St. John's United Church Newsletter

September 2014

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

This week I received the official news that we will have the privilege of sharing ministry with each other until the end of December. I am honoured by this opportunity, and am very much looking forward to our time together.

As I scan the St. John's website, I am moved by the words you have used to describe who you are:- "... one congregation with two places of worship in Georgetown and Glen Williams... known for an inclusive approach, outstanding music, and community outreach." I trust that God will show us how we might continue to "welcome all with open doors, open hearts and open minds."

For my part, I offer you a caring presence, a listening ear, a careful weaving of word and music in the gift of worship, the joy of friendship... It is my prayer that I will be able to count on your friendship, good humour, and above all, your faithful, prayerful support week by week.

I am particularly pleased that this appointment offers me the opportunity to share ministry with Kelly Thomson -- someone I have known, and whose ministry I have respected for many years.

That God has placed us in each other's keeping for these next several months is a gift for which I am very grateful. May we help each other recognize God's holy presence moving among us as we journey together.

Warmly,
Rev. Don Parsons
(August 27, 2014)

Wanted: Two willing people to work together, as a team, to fill the role of Chair of Council

We have enjoyed our term as Co-Chairs of Council but that term is quickly coming to an end. There are two people out there who are the perfect fit for this job. You may not think so but as long as you have a love for St. John's, a basic knowledge of how things work and a willingness to constantly learn and keep communication lines open, then you are fully qualified to take on this challenge. We can't pretend it isn't a challenge because every term is different. It involves people and life and a lot of protocol mixed in. The good news is there is a Manual and you will each have your own copy. The other major benefit is that you will have an amazing group of support workers in our Council. They are the lifeline to all Committees and willing to do whatever it takes to be successful. Did we mention that we will be available as resources and support for the length of your term? Oh, yes! We will be there as Past Co-Chairs. If you have a partner in mind that is a big step. If not, we will help you find one. If you are contemplating this position, please talk to us. We will answer all questions honestly and frankly.

~ submitted by Janice Campbell and Shelley Allison



Personal Space

For the months of November and December, our beautiful new sanctuary will be open and available to you, the St. John's family, during the hours our church office is open (M/T/Th/F: 9am to 1pm, W: 11am to 3pm). You are invited to come when and if you wish, to sit quietly and reflect. There are few opportunities and places these days where each of us can be on our own with our own thoughts. Please know you are welcome in our open sanctuary.

New Babies ~ 2014



Karla Rattenbury's grandson, Jace Stephen Jarvis, was born June 30th at 4:28pm. He weighed 8 lb. 14 oz. All the family were happy to be home on July 4.



Clementine Johnson (born August 27th) being welcomed by brother Milo (2 yr., 8 months) and big sister Olive (4 yr., 8 months). Parents Peter and Meaghan. Grandparents Marilyn and Allan Johnson.



Marilyn Mitton's grandson, Tyler Mitton-Pasquinelli, was born on August 20th at 12:50pm. Healthy baby and happy first time parents Sean and Melissa. Tyler was born on his aunt's birthday. Happy birthday to Marilyn's daughter Janet!!



Katrina Kathleen Northey was born on September 3rd. Sadly, her mommy Cheryl passed away on September 5th. Feeding beautiful Katrina, is big sister, Shayne.

An Enjoyable and Productive Summer

The people of St. John's have been enjoying an extra-long summer this year. Our summer services in Glen Williams started mid-May and have been extended to Thanksgiving Sunday.

For many, it has been an enjoyable summer of dropping into a service in the Glen after travelling on extended holiday trips to visit family and friends. There has really been no reason for the most of us to visit our town location, but things have been happening in Georgetown.

For our "men with hammers" and volunteers of all ages, it has also been a productive summer. Many volunteer hours have been donated to the completion of our Georgetown sanctuary renovation. Work by St. John's members has included demolition and tearing out, the removal and reallocation of pews, the framing of a new chancel deck and ramp, and the repair and installation of drywall. With the arrival of September, our volunteer work is essentially complete and we are now employing a number of subtrades to add their skills to our project.

(see pictures on page 7)



We are pleased that we have been able to utilize mostly local contractors: Wyatt of Wyatt Hilts Electric – Georgetown; Roy Hilts of Halton Welding & Fabrication – Georgetown; Ken Morrison of Ken's Custom Railings – Ballinafad; Jasper Wintjes of Creditview Refinishing – Georgetown; Bill of Bill Hoekstra Painting – Georgetown; the Carpet Barn – Georgetown; and Alectro AV Systems – Oakville. For assistance with our musical instruments we are utilizing Janine & Nelson Denton of R. A. Denton & Son Pipe Organ Builders – Hamilton; Bryant Holinaty of Niagara Music Repair – Niagara Falls; and Tocher Pianos Sales & Service – Hillsburgh. Our décor advice and chancel furniture is being

supplied by Harvest House Craftsmen – Schomberg; and our sanctuary chairs are being manufactured by New Holland Furniture – Lancaster PA.

We are planning for all the project pieces to come together in the next 6 weeks and we are very excited about how the space will look and function when the extended summer is over. We believe that St. John's newly renovated sanctuary will be an inspiring space for worship and performance.

~ submitted by Drew Leverette

Ladle and Loaf Luncheon and Edible Auction

Last year, the members of St. John's responded with great enthusiasm to our Ladle and Loaf Luncheon and the Edible Auction which followed. You'll be happy to know that a repeat of this fun(d)raising event for local operations is in the works to celebrate the end of Stewardship on Sunday, November 23rd after the morning service.

Our congregation loves to eat and any occasion which offers food is

generally well attended. Our Loaf and Ladle Luncheon consisted of an all you can eat soup, bread, fruit, and cookies menu. For the Edible Auction which followed, our members contributed anything edible. A wide variety of items from specialty vinegars to pickles to jams to pans of lasagna to Christmas cookies and everything else in between were then sold in either in a live or silent auction format. In other words, if it can be eaten, we'd

love to have your contribution. We had a great time and in doing so we all came together to raise money to help support the work of St. John's.

Watch the church announcements this fall for further announcements about this delicious and fun-filled event.

~ submitted by Jackie MacFarlane

Food for Life Received Top Rating

Food for Life's commitment to efficiency, transparency and integrity has been recognized once again by Canada's charity watchdog, Charity Intelligence. Food for Life recently received the highest rating, a "four-star rating", by Charity Intelligence (Ci) in their 2014 report, identifying Food for Life as one of the top-performing charities in Canada. Food for Life is one of only 80 charities to receive the top rating after an extensive review by Ci of more than 500 charities across Canada.



Charity Intelligence (www.charityintelligence.ca) is a not-for-profit independent firm that conducts rigorous research of Canadian charities every year to provide an evaluation tool for potential funders. Charities are rated based on Transparency and Accountability, Need for Funding, and Operating Efficiency.

"Charity Intelligence's research has found charities that are exceptional. We hope Charity Intelligence's ratings help donors get accurate, independent information in making important giving decisions" stated Kate Bahen, Managing Director of Charity Intelligence.

"Food for Life is proud to be recognized as one of the charities receiving Charity Intelligence's highest rating" says Chris Roberts, Food for Life Executive Director. "We rely 100% on donations and our donors need to know that we are fiscally responsible and transparent in our dealings."

Happy Happy Birthdays



I recently enjoyed a beautiful family gathering on August 10th, celebrating the birthdays of my daughter Frankie, my grandson Mark, and my great-grandson Wil. We spent the afternoon swimming, and sharing in a lovely BBQ and birthday cake. I will be turning 94 in just under 6 months. I am living in Guelph, not too far from Frankie's place, and I always look forward to reading the weekly St. John's announcements.

~ submitted by Jean Layman

2015 is a Silent Auction Year

It is never too early to think about what you would like to contribute to the St. John's United Church Silent Auction. It might just be your organizational talent. Open for new administration and ideas. Please contact Shelley Allison at shelleyallison13@gmail.com



Charlottetown Conference

It's hard to believe that both of our St. John's churches were approaching their 25th anniversaries just as the men we now know as our Canadian Fathers of Confederation met to discuss a federal union that would ultimately create our country.

As most of you know, since David is an Islander, we spend our summers in PEI. This year, there have been major Island-wide celebrations marking this important nation creating conference.

In the aftermath of the Rebellions of 1837 in Upper (Ontario) and Lower Canada (Quebec), Britain passed the Act of Union in 1841 which created the larger province of Canada. Lower Canada became Canada East and Upper Canada was renamed Canada West. Each was given equal representation in government, a factor which led to political deadlock and the inability to pass any legislation as most votes resulted in a tie.

Special preferential trade agreements such as the Corn Laws with mother country Britain had been cancelled. There was little if any east to west trade happening in part due to the inability to transport goods across land and a general lack of cooperation among the colonies.



Canada's Premiers, pose like it is 1864, in Charlottetown

Our neighbour to the south also moved the thoughts of a union among the British colonies along. The American Civil War had been going on since 1861 and would not end until 1865. Fears abounded that if the North lost the war and the South became independent that Canada would be looked upon as a suitable replacement. In addition, the Irish Fenians were continuously attacking small towns such as St. Albans in the Niagara region from across the American border. The Americans failed to take any steps to stop these actions.

The American West was settled far ahead of the Canadian one. As land became scarce, American settlers began to cast eyes northward to the unsettled Prairies, land that, if filled with American settlers might be annexed by the USA.

A national railway was the answer for defence against the USA, for moving trade goods back and forth across the country, and for transporting settlers out to the waiting prairie land. The Atlantic colonies did have railways, but there was no uniform gauge to the track width. As a result intercolonial trade by land was very difficult.

The delegates from Canada got word that the Atlantic Provinces were planning a meeting to discuss Maritime union as a way to solve many of the aforementioned issues. The Canadian delegates decided they would join this meeting and see if they could bring the notion of a larger union to fruition. The Canadian delegation arrived unannounced so no one knew they were coming. No one was at the Charlottetown dock to greet them until finally William Pope rowed a boat out to acknowledge their arrival. A circus was in town so there was virtually no room at the inn. They were forced to stay overnight on the SS Queen Victoria while the Maritime delegates scurried around to plan meetings and social events for these Canadian delegates and their wives.

The successful Charlottetown Conference was held from Sept. 1st-9th and resulted in a promise by the delegates to meet in Quebec City the following month to continue the work on Canadian Confederation.

The 150th anniversary of the Charlottetown Conference in 1864 is well worth celebrating as are the 175th anniversaries of our two church buildings.

~ submitted by Jackie MacFarlane

A River Runs Through It



Lis Turner (front left) on a run through the rapids

Katharine Krul is volunteering in Sri Lanka



Late in the evening on October 3rd, I will be flying to Sri Lanka with my husband. In November we will be celebrating twenty years of marriage, and thought a “volunteering holiday” would be the perfect way to recognize our anniversary. We will be spending a week with a local family, living in their home and eating their home cooked meals...and traveling each day to our work site, where we will be assisting with the renovation of a Buddhist Temple. We will gather on the day of the full moon, with the locals, to observe and participate in holiday traditions. After our week of volunteering, we will spend a few days touring

around the villages before we come back home. I will be taking a load of pictures and doing a lot of writing and soul-searching. I am looking forward to this time away, and to coming back and sharing my journey with you. TRI-S and UCW have already asked me to be a guest speaker...so I hope to see you at one of their meetings.

~ submitted by Katharine Krul www.krulfamily.ca

creating Inspiring Spaces



Before



During



Men with Hammers

This November ~ Let's Celebrate 175 Years ...one last time

Please be sure to invite all your friends and neighbours to join us for our concluding 175th Anniversary celebration on **November 1 & 2**. This final weekend will honour the beginning of our Georgetown church in 1839 and the continuing faith journey that awaits us in Halton Hills.

Over the last 3 ½ years we have enjoyed some wonderful events in both Glen Williams and Georgetown, including: a Big Tent Revival Weekend, a Coronation Jubilee Weekend, a Car Rally, Dinner and Variety Show, and a series of musical concerts. We think our November 2014 Anniversary Weekend will be equally enjoyable.

On **Saturday Nov. 1 at 5:30pm**, we are hosting a ham dinner in Celebration Hall, followed by an informal musical evening in our newly renovated sanctuary.

On **Sunday Nov. 2 at 10am**, we are celebrating our shared story of faith - past, present and future - with Rev. Nancy Knox returning as our guest preacher.

On **Sunday Nov. 2 at 7pm (**new time)**, we are presenting *The Organ Plays On*, the final concert in our Creating Inspiring Spaces Benefit Concert Series. This concert will provide the public an excellent opportunity to see and hear our newly renovated sanctuary. The evening will feature Chris Dawes on organ and Daniel Rubinoff on saxophone. Tickets are \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door and are available from the Silvercreek Café or the Church Office.

We, as current members of St. John's, have created an important legacy both locally and globally in the way we have recognized our 175 years as faith community. Let's celebrate our 175th Anniversary, one last time, this November.

~ submitted by Drew Leverette



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Message from your Co-Chairs

Welcome to the Fall!

Here we are, ready for new beginnings this fall. We thought it would be interesting to revisit the exciting events and activities that happened this summer before we start in on our new adventures.

In June we bid a fond farewell to Susan Garrod-Schuster and Jim. Undoubtedly, quality time spent at their cottage has eased them well into the fully retired lifestyle many of us envy. As a result of this change in our Ministry team, we launched into altering our structure and finding a short term, part-time Minister to take us through until January. Many phone calls, emails, meetings, interviews, etc. later, we have hired Rev. Don Parsons. A big thank you goes to M&P and our selection committee.

While this was taking place, the seeds were sown in our Community Garden. Many St. John's volunteers joined with the Christian Reformed folks and the harvest is now being appreciated by Food for Life and the Food Bank. Many thanks to those who planted, weeded, watered and picked.

Your Council members are never idle. Presbytery has tasked our area with completing a Ministry and Mission Profile which is intended to replace the JNAC (Joint Needs Assessment Committee) process. Church activities, broken into eight sections, were to be described succinctly and then prioritized. Committees and individuals met to complete their appropriate sections.

Janice compiled them and filled in some gaps. Then Council, Kelly, Carolyn and Katharine met as a group and spent hours going through each section and then voting on priorities to ensure that the report reflects who we are as a church. The second part of the project was to articulate two goals for the congregation. These concrete, timely goals will be included with our submission to Presbytery. The report was edited by Janice and the final result will be approved by Council this month before being sent off. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this process and in advance to the entire congregation who will make our goals attainable.

Interspersed with our "work" projects there was a lot of fun happening. All St. John's ladies were invited to Kathy Burt's cottage in Meaford to relax and enjoy each other's company. Sixteen women accepted the generous invitation and we were joined by St. John's alumni – Jill Blair (and granddaughter Amanda Johnston), Hilda Darcie, Jennifer Robinson and Eleanor Scarth. The men were meeting informally each week to play golf together and in July a scramble tournament was organized at Calerin. Huge thanks to Kathy for her gracious hospitality and to Eric and Steve for coordinating the golf event.

The biggest activity this summer has been the deconstruction and renovation of the sanctuary. Oh, my

goodness. Our "Men with Hammers" plus friends have certainly outdone themselves. Many hours, day and night, have been dedicated to this amazing project. Unless you are one who likes surprises and want to wait to see the final result, I suggest you visit soon to see the various stages. Your chance to see the original painted wooden floor will soon be gone. With the pending arrival of the new seating, everyone was given a chance to claim a pew. Much work has gone into identifying, moving, modifying and delivering them to their new owners. Praise and thanks to all of you who have toiled, under the leadership of Ken and Drew, to bring this inspired space to life.

As you can tell, summer was busy and we are now ramping up for the next season. The Welcome Back Lunch, Book Group, Ev's Kitchen, returning to the Georgetown sanctuary and technical advantages including coffee pots and proper G.A.M.E. facilities, new relationships and reconnecting with those we have missed. There are too many important happenings to mention and besides, some of them are still seeds inside someone's imagination. The main focus for many will be the Finale of the 175th Anniversary celebrations. Stay posted for the wonderful details surrounding that.

Enjoy!

Shelley and Janice

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