



News from

New St. James Presbyterian Church

A Mission Church

Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others

November 2, 2020

From the Publisher

Another bumper issue of the newsletter! It's not that people in New St. James are long-winded – previous incumbent minister excepted, of course! – just that there is good news to share and so much going on that deserves to be known and celebrated. Enjoy!

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From the Interim Moderator

“But we were just getting to know each other!”

If your memory is a long one, you may recall that in June 2017 the Presbytery of London appointed me Interim Moderator of New St. James Church. Back then, the retirement of the Rev. Andrew Reid was months away. But the Presbytery, suspecting they had a champion procrastinator on their hands, gave me a head start.

In those innocent days, no one said ‘COVID’, ‘social distancing’, and ‘contact tracing’. These words lurked beyond the far horizon, patiently waiting to infect our vocabulary a few years later.

Who could have guessed our journey together would be such a long one? Decades ago, I completed a PhD degree within the time of my tenure as your Interim Moderator! But here we are, forty-two months later. The Rev. Dr David Clark will be the Minister of New St. James Church. *Laus Deo!*

Dr Clark is an accomplished Minister. He brings to New St. James an impressive breadth and depth of experience, considerable learning, and much pastoral ability. New St. James offers him a celebrated history, a happy congregational life, a strong presence in London, a well-cared for building, well-stewarded finances, and, above all, people endowed with faith, ability, and love for God, the world, and each other.

This was all meant to be, was it not? It gives me much happiness, I assure you, to have played a role in Dr Clark’s Call to New St. James Church.

A pandemic adds a thick layer of difficulty for a Congregation eager to welcome a new Minister. Current conditions make it a challenge to *be* that Minister. So much of the Church’s life and work happen through mutual engagement in common activities, face to face and in each other’s presence, beginning with acts of divine worship in the sanctuary.

But we’re denied all that right now. We can’t gather and greet Dr Clark the way we’d want to do. It will take him longer than usual to orient himself in his new surroundings, familiarise himself with the ways of New St James, and come to know its people. All of this will happen, though. It will just take time. And we do have time. The pandemic is giving us fresh lessons in patience.

Is it wrong for me to say I’m glad to be leaving you now? But that’s only because our work together has finished, and finished so well. Sometimes it was difficult. Now and then, some of you saw my grumpy side. Our patience was tried in many ways. It took a long, long time to complete this work. But we encouraged each other, refused to give up, and carried on. It was the right thing to do.

My association with New St. James rewarded me more than I could have anticipated. It gave me the immense satisfaction that comes from valuable work carried to completion in collaboration with people of integrity, competence, and kindness. That will be my lasting memory of New St. James

Church.

I'm grateful to the Session, to all the members of the Search Committee, and most of all to the inimitable Bruce Curtis,

Your Retiring Interim Moderator,
Rev. Andrew Fullerton

"Thanks, and ever thanks."

Dear Friends at NSJ,

My time with you will end on November 15.

There will be great excitement as Dr. Clark is inducted and starts his work among you.

I have thoroughly enjoyed my time at New St. James, even under such unique circumstances.

I had served for 2 1/2 months, when the lockdown began.

I really enjoyed meeting the folks, leading worship, and especially the children.

It quickly felt familiar, and it was a privilege to be with you.

I have found NSJ to be a faithful, active and committed congregation of God's good people.

I fully expect that to continue in the days

May God bless each of you
The Rev. Mark McLennan

the Clerk of Session. I learned so much from working alongside him in 'hours beyond-counting' of discussion, planning, and decision-making. Those were happy hours.

ahead, and to thrive under new leadership.

I must thank the staff:

Torin has been a joy to work with, as well as the choir. Such talent must never be taken for granted. The music ministry here is a real blessing.

Judi and Mark work diligently during the week to serve those who need help in the congregation and beyond.

The leadership of Dr. Fullerton and Bruce Curtis have made this adventure that much smoother.

I must also mention the pastoral care work of Cathy Taylor. We have worked together pretty closely under weird conditions to meet the needs of the people here over recent months.

I will continue to pray for you folks in the days to come, and look forward to hearing about your good work in ministry and mission.

From the Clerk of Session

On behalf of Session, I would like to thank all of the New St. James Elders,

Members and Adherents for their efforts in helping to process the Call for a

Minister and move forward in bringing Rev. Dr. David Clark to our Church. The Search and Call Processes are always a great deal of work and the complexities and challenges were certainly increased because of the COVID pandemic. Nonetheless, in true New St. James fashion, we have been able to overcome these challenges and work through the process to bring a new Minister to New St. James.

Both the Presbytery of London and the Presbytery of Brampton have sustained the Call by New St. James for Dr. Clark to become our new Minister. In that regard, the London Presbytery has scheduled an **induction service for Dr. Clark at 7:00 p.m. on Sunday, November 15, 2020, in the Sanctuary of New St. James.** Normally, such a service would be an open and in-person worship service celebrating the induction of a new Minister, which is conducted by the Presbytery. Unfortunately, due to the COVID pandemic, the service will be a small event with very limited attendance (Presbytery appointees and the New St. James Search Committee) as arranged by the coordinating Moderators of the Presbytery and our Interim Moderator. However, all of New St. James members can participate by viewing the livestream on Facebook or the recorded version later. You can go to the New St. James Facebook link on our website and open it in a new window to view the service live.

We look forward to Dr. Clark beginning his time with us on November 16, 2020, as our new Minister. It will take some time for him to become oriented to our Church, learn the internal structures and processes, and get to know the staff and some of the key Committee Convenors. This usually takes a period of time to accomplish and that time will only be increased due to the conditions of the

pandemic. Please be patient with Dr. Clark as he becomes accustomed to our Church, to the City of London, and gets to know you. We appreciate your support for Dr. Clark as he makes this transition to become our Minister at New St. James.

As most members of New St. James will be aware, the COVID pandemic continues to be well entrenched and even resurging into a second wave with increased caseloads and further restrictions on gatherings to prevent the spread of the virus. Fortunately, New St. James has been livestreaming its Sunday morning worship services on Facebook for people to view live or the recorded version at a later time. This allows everyone to hear the Scripture readings, the sermon and prayers of Rev. Mark McLennan as well as the hymns from Torin Chiles. Thank you to the Chiles family for their work in helping to make this happen.

With respect to worship services, consideration has been given to when and whether to hold in-person public worship. Although the Provincial Government has allowed in-person public worship to resume, some churches have provided for it and others, like New St. James, have decided to take a more cautious approach and defer until it is safer to do so. The COVID-19 Response Team has met and undertaken a very thorough consideration of the possibility of resuming public worship and the implications which come with such a decision. Given the current resurgence of the virus, the return to Stage 2 for some areas of the Province, and the reintroduction of restrictions on activities related to congregating activities, it does not appear to be a wise time to resume worship in-person. Further, a careful examination of the medical and health care advice regarding large group meetings demonstrates a strong

recommendation to avoid such congregating activities, especially for those in vulnerable populations (seniors, those who are immune compromised and with underlying health conditions) who should remain in "their bubble" or household and not attend large gatherings.

Another consideration is the significant amount of resources required to manage in-person worship services. These require pre-registration, check-in, health questions and temperatures, directing and limiting sanctuary seating, and managing departures. The worship service itself is also restricted with masks being mandatory; no hospitality or social time; physical distancing; no Communion Services; no distribution of bulletins or other common material; no use of common elements (hymn books, bibles,

cushions, etc.); no choir or choral singing; no congregational singing, Responsive Psalms or unison prayers; and no human touching, hugging, hand-shaking, etc. The resulting worship service would be a very different worship experience from what you would be used to in pre-COVID times.

Taking into account these many considerations, it has been advised that the most wise and ethical decision is to continue the suspension of public worship at this time due to the inherent risk of spreading the virus and in order to protect the health and safety of the Church staff, volunteers and members. This matter can be reviewed in the future, after our Minister is inducted, and using the most current information available at that time to guide the decision.

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session

From the Music Director

I look out upon a full moon this evening on the eve of Halloween, and I cannot help thinking that it portends good things for New St. James for the coming month and the coming year. How exciting and encouraging it is to be planning for our November 15th Induction Service when we will welcome Rev. Dr. David Clark to our congregation. It feels like a new beginning just when we need it most – coming into Advent in a year where we are dealing with a global pandemic! Now we will have a sense of new wind in our sails, and renewed determination as we chart our course toward Christmas and a new year that promises hope, and relief, and renewal, and a much-longed-for resurrection as we plough through the new year toward Easter 2021 trusting it will be VERY different from Easter 2020!

We have some wonderful music planned for the Induction Service which we will stream live on FaceBook as we have been doing for Sunday services. I have a trumpet booked so that even though there will not be many people in the sanctuary, there WILL be a festive air and celebratory music bursting through the speakers of your laptops, iPads and computers at home. Ariel Harwood-Jones is ready to give beautiful voice to our praises and joy, singing the hymns that will be singing in the hearts of everyone in the sanctuary and leading the singing of all who can join in singing lustily in their homes without even needing to wear a mask!

I am very grateful to Rev. Mark McLennan for his service to our congregation through these very

challenging times, for his leadership on Sunday mornings, and his collegiality and friendship. Mark started at NSJ in the frosty snows of January, driving in from Woodstock on Sunday mornings through a couple of very big storms. We joked as he started in January that it only snowed on Sundays since he had started at NSJ!

Then, as Epiphany faded to Lent and we settled into a comfortable rhythm looking forward to Holy Week . . . the world turned topsy-turvy with COVID-19. We have settled back into a very intimate and comfortable groove since July with our NSJ live-streamed Sunday services and I am thankful for Mark's leadership of these services and for his ability to reach out through the small lens of a webcam to grab the spirits and contemplations of those who tune in each Sunday and at various times throughout each week. These 'broadcasts' have had an astonishing reach: we are routinely attracting 400-800 views for each Sunday service.

We have been grateful for your feedback and encouragement and we continue to try to make the services better each

Torin Chiles

Office Administrator – Vacation Alert 2020

I will be working half days for the weeks of November 2nd and 9th from 9am-11:30am except on Wednesday when I will be working 9am-11am. For the following weeks through to December 22, I will work half days on Tuesday's on December 8th, 15th & 22nd from 9am-11:30am. If you need to drop off anything at the church or make an appointment to come in for some reason please let me know, and I will accommodate around the times I will be here in the office. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Judi Le Blanc

week, refining the format and the equipment we are using. Would you believe that Tennyson bought a remote-controlled camera-equipped aerial drone with his own money so that we could try a shot looking down from the central dome and sweeping down toward the chancel?! We haven't dared to attempt it yet, but we're having fun IMAGINING the future! I must also express my thanks to Nawton and Tennyson who have shown such dedication to the Sunday live-stream service. They get up early each Sunday to prepare for the service with me and then present it to the congregation with professionalism and commitment. I'm very proud of and grateful for my two dear sons.

Well, let's buckle our seatbelts! How wonderful to feel that we are setting off on a new journey together as we welcome Rev. Dr. Clark this month. The journey continues at the corner of Oxford and Wellington for our community of faith. Our mission, and our Saviour call us still, and we as a congregation answer with renewed vigour and focus as we march forward under the fresh leadership of David Clark. Ready, aye, ready!

Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition

Publisher's note: for several years, Rev. Keith McKee has served as a judge in the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition – this year, he read 400 essays submitted by young people around the British Commonwealth. He provided this information as background to Clara MacNeil's gold medal-winning essay that follows.

Administered by the Royal Commonwealth Society, the Queen's Commonwealth Essay Competition is the world's oldest writing competition for young people. This year's competition was launched in 2019 by Her Royal Highness the Duchess of Cornwall while on tour of New Zealand. The theme centred on the effects of climate change. Volunteer judges read 12,888 submissions from over 30 Commonwealth countries. Clara MacNeil won a rare gold medal. This is quite an accomplishment. Final award winners will be announced soon. The Duchess traditionally presents these awards at a ceremony held at Buckingham Palace. The theme of next year's competition will be announced later this year. Any young person from a Commonwealth country may participate in the competition. Keith McKee

Blue Eulogy

Thank you for being here today as we, the people of the world, join together to celebrate the legacy of our oceans, recognize their generous gifts to us, grieve for the destruction and loss from their depths and to make a promise of action for future generations. May we be called today, united as people, to take action.

The Power of the Oceans

How do we begin to celebrate the power of the oceans, a collective body of water so vast and so powerful? The oceans both join us together and physically separate us. They sustain us and have the power to destroy us. The oceans are one of life's great mysteries.

Oceans cover 71% of the earth's surface and hold 1.3 billion cubic kms of water. Studying a map of the world reveals that 90% of British Commonwealth countries have at least one border on an ocean.

The oceans are vital to the day to day environment in which we live. Ocean plant life is among the most important on our planet. In our atmosphere 70% of the oxygen is produced by marine plants called algae, through a process called photosynthesis. During photosynthesis marine plants use water and carbon dioxide to make oxygen and sugar to help them grow. In fact, the oceans absorb 30-50% of the carbon dioxide emitted by the burning of fossil fuels. Plants in the oceans also provide food for marine animals. In addition, large algae fields and coral reefs provide a safe habitat for a host of ocean animals. As miraculous as the plant life is, also are the thousands of species of ocean animals that make the ocean their home.

Another great gift from the oceans is the huge source of food that humans consume.

Some believe that as much as 25% of the protein consumed by humans comes from the ocean. Millions of people around the world fish our oceans and work in

related food production industries.

The oceans also help to moderate world temperatures. The oceans have absorbed up to 80% of the heat that has resulted from climate change.

The oceans are constantly at work to help us breathe, to feed us, to give us pleasure and to allow us to live in a temperature and climate habitable by us all. However, all of these factors exist in a fine balance. While our lives literally depend on the oceans, the oceans are constantly threatened and harmed by us. With the increase in global warming, human pollution and coastal development, it is imperative today that we recognize and grieve the losses suffered by our oceans.

The Oceans' Losses are Our Losses

The human impact on our oceans is the reason we gather here today to mourn and to reflect. We must recognize the damage caused by our own selfish actions if we are to stop the ongoing peril in our waters. The destruction is vast. While we all enjoy time on the beach, the impact of real estate developments and oceanfront tourist attractions are taking a massive toll on marine life. The traffic of ships across the vast waterways adds yet more to the destruction of the oceans and ruins marine habitats. From the dumping of garbage, to oil spills to the damage from massive anchors and equipment, the impact is significant from large ships. Unsustainable fishing destroys not only marine life but threatens the food security and work of many. The oceans are home to rich mineral, oil and gas reserves. Drilling for and collecting these reserves has yet further impact on the fragile habitats deep in our oceans.

Pollutants on land often make their way into the oceans. Chemicals, pesticides and, most significantly plastics, take a massive toll on the ocean. Many marine animals perish by consuming plastic. Once an animal has consumed the plastic the animal is not able to digest it, often creating blockages in the digestive system, leaving the animal to starve to death. Animals also become entangled in the plastic and suffocate. Take for example the sea turtle. Many sea turtles mistake single use plastic bags as jellyfish, leading a turtle to a terrible demise. "Ghost" fishing nets, those damaged nets cut loose and disposed of in the water from fishing boats, account for roughly half of the plastic in the oceans. Five garbage vortices exist, the Great Pacific Garbage Patch being the largest, of around 1.6 million square kilometres. It is composed of 80,000 metric tons of plastic, ghost nets and other debris.

Researchers suggest that up to 700 marine species are at risk of becoming extinct.

The losses are as vast as the oceans themselves. However, the importance of the oceans in our lives must motivate us and move us to action.

Ocean Reflections

As we consider the impact of the ocean on each of us, we welcome the thoughts and reflections of three people, separated by many miles across many oceans, but joined by their common gratitude and their fears.

My father is a fisherman. So was his father, and his father before him. I wish to be a fisherman someday. I run to the docks right after school each day to meet my father arriving back from his day on

the water, and to help him unload his fish. He is tired and his skin thick from the sun. He used to smile as the boat approached, proud of his catch. But lately his smile is fading, He looks worried and his catches are meager. He tells me stories of his nets collecting more plastic than fish. I hear him talking to my mother when I lie in bed at night. They are both worried. Please help my father.

Yusuf, age 12 - Malaysia

It was dawn on the eighth day after our refugee boat left the shore when my elderly mother fell ill and died suddenly. Surrounded by my younger brothers and sisters we cried and prayed over her body. Then we laid her body to rest on the surface of the calm ocean. As the boat pulled away, I watched her white dress become smaller and smaller in the distance. Until she disappeared. To this day I continue to thank the ocean for holding her in her arms. Her gentle resting place.

Binh, age 50 – Canada

I work at a turtle rehabilitation hospital on an island off the coast of Australia. We care for all species of marine turtles. The oceans have blessed us with so much beauty. The turtles are for me the most beautiful creatures in the world, each with their own personality and strong will to live. The Great Barrier Reef is home to magnificent turtles. But not all turtles are healthy. "Hazel", a leatherback turtle, came to us starving, after being entangled for days in a plastic bag. Sea turtle "Squirt" had to have his flippers amputated after being caught in ghost nets and "Luke" was brought to us with "floaters syndrome", after having ingested plastic and unable to dive deep into the water to get food. Turtles should not suffer. Turtles need to be free and healthy in the ocean, their home.

Zoe, age 23 - Australia

For each one of us the ocean has unique meaning. May the strength of our efforts to save and rehabilitate our oceans parallel the magnitude of that meaning.

Our Promise to the Oceans

Our promise to the oceans must be both individual and global.

Individually, we must take responsibility. We must "live blue". We must reduce our plastic consumption in favour of reusable alternatives. We must reduce other pollutants such as pesticides and store toxic substances safely. We must shop wisely and be responsible when we fish. We must pick up litter from our beaches. And we can consider joining an international organization focusing on ocean conservation to lend our support.

We must vote responsibly, locally, and nationally. We need to make informed decisions so that we elect leaders who are knowledgeable about the oceans and who will make decisions that are ocean friendly and make it a priority for our country to be part of the global ocean recovery solution. For example, regarding the challenge of ghost nets, some suggest the development of a worldwide fishing net registry so that boats leave and return with the same nets. Other alternatives might be a tagging system for nets or a GPS locator on nets linking them to individual ships, with enforcement by fines or fishing restrictions.

We must be creative and innovative. We are strong individually. We are even more powerful together.

In Parting

We part today with grief for what has been lost but a renewed commitment to protect the oceans and pledge to do our part in their ongoing rehabilitation and

Clara MacNeil

Mission and Social Action Committee

The Committee received a "thank you" note from Theresa McDonald-Lee for its support of Camp Kintail with \$3,000 and from The May Court Club of London for the recent \$800 donation.

Other correspondence included:

--a colourful and detailed brochure from the Change Her World group based in Stratford ON. The group works in Malawi to change the lives of women and girls. Its latest venture is "This little pig went to market" which donates a pig to families as a means to make money. You can check their website at www.changeherworld.ca

--"The Ark" newsletter from Ark Aid Mission on Dundas Street
www.Arkaidmission.com

--a brochure titled "Breaking Bread – Year in Review" from the Canadian Foodgrains Bank which sponsored projects worldwide including 10 in Malawi with a budget of \$2,981,000 with 56,539 beneficiaries

--a letter from Camp Kintail detailing some of the virtual programs offered this summer such as FLASH (Faith, Learning, and Sharing), campfire on-line, story-times, and cha-podcasts (morning chapel). At the end of July, the camp was able to offer "A Weekend Away" for families who could rent an RV space, Nest room, or cabin for a weekend.

care. May we move forward, individually, and collectively, in a manner that allows our oceans to thrive and ensures our ability to continue in our search of their many mysteries.

Meals were prepared and served cafeteria-style. The beach was open and lifeguarded. NSJ's donation helped pay for taxes, year-round staff, hydro, administration, telephone, water testing, cleaning supplies, masks, gloves, and plexiglass.

A new affordable housing initiative has come to the attention of the Committee. Indwell is a Hamilton-based Christian organization which opened its first London residence, Woodfield Gate, in 2019 at 356 Dundas Street, just east of Waterloo St. It is an apartment residence for those facing homelessness. Some tenants are referred by CMHA (Canadian Mental Health Association), Mission Services and other agencies in the city. People can also self-refer.

Committee Convenor Lyn Hill had a tour of the facility and was impressed with the services offered. She learned that the residences are "sustainable, affordable, and accessible" and are "permanently available" and "permanently affordable". For some, it is just a stepping stone until they get back on their feet. For others, they need supportive housing to continue journeying toward wellness.

There are 10 people on staff who are funded by the Ministry of Health. This includes two nurses and one staff member who is trained in helping those with addiction recovery.

Funding:
55% -- Canadian Mortgage and Housing Corporation
20% -- the province
10% -- the municipality

15% -- private donors (individuals, churches, businesses, foundations)

Website: www.indwell.ca/projects

Lyn Hill, Convenor

Seniors Activity Group

Members of the Tuesday Seniors' Activity Group have donated \$100 to the church's general fund in memory of Donna Mellon, a founding member and devoted supporter.

Northern Hospitality responding to the pandemic

Your Northern Hospitality team continues to serve the less fortunate during this pandemic and are adjusting our menu each time to meet the needs of this very important neighbourhood mission. Since last April we have been serving take out style brown bag meals from the doors of St Michael's Catholic Church. In-house gatherings are not permitted which is so unfortunate because the regular attendees miss the socialization we provided in a friendly, safe environment. We expect to be serving take out until at least next June or until a vaccine is found.

This past September and October we served delicious sandwiches, fruit, homemade cookies and a beverage for approximately 42-48 attendees. In November, we are hosting two hot take-out meals on November 9 and 30 rather than our traditional once a month commitment. One of the five churches that made up our Northern Hospitality team have taken this year off due to the aging of their committee and the concern of exposure during this pandemic. We anticipate with the colder weather,

Cathy Taylor, convenor

continued unemployment and months of families living on lesser income our attendance will grow. City programs that were housing the homeless in hotels and the Salvation Army serving 600 meals a day was not sustainable so churches and other organizations will offer this much needed relief.

Your Northern Hospitality team is committed, and all safety precautions are in place. We appreciate all your financial support for this vital mission. Every dollar donated goes directly to feed the less fortunate and they are very appreciative. I will have a better idea after this month how much each meal is costing once I factor in the cost of environmentally safe take-out containers. I know folks have asked me in the past and I hope by the next newsletter to be able to report those numbers.

We welcome any new members to this committee, and I thank all my members for their ongoing dedication. Home-made cookies are so welcome so bakers, keep us in mind! Thank you.

Women's Missionary Society

We have been meeting each month by Zoom. In September we worked through a study on the Raw Carrot Soup project in Paris, Ontario. On Friday, November 13 at 1:00pm we will be looking at a study on the history of the WMS. If you would like to join us please contact me at reidc@rogers.com or 519 204 7406 to get the link to the meeting.

We shared a Thanksgiving Service on

Cathy Reid, President

Our National Treasure

Did you know that New St. James is home to a national treasure? No, not a priceless object but, even better, a wonderful person who is quietly and efficiently creating positive change in very wide circles these days.

If you haven't guessed by now, I'm referring to Cathy Reid who has been named National President of the Women's Missionary Society. What an honour! What a responsibility in these challenging times! And what better person for the job!

Cathy has been involved in WMS work from her earliest days in Scotland where she was part of the Women's Guild and through that was inspired to visit Malawi some day. After moving to Canada, Cathy became a member and Treasurer of the WMS in Hamilton and, of course, joined WMS when Andrew and she moved here. Thankfully, she has been President of our NSJ group for a number of years and has served as President of our London Presbyterial. Recently, she also took on the responsibility of Synodical President for Southwestern

Zoom with a number of ladies from London Presbyterial and the Synodical of South Western Ontario. This turned out to be a wonderful celebration of Thanksgiving and a renewal of friendship and fellowship for the members in the Synodical. We hope to have other joint meetings in the future.

We invite you to join us on November 13.

Ontario for a term from 2016-2018. You also remember, I'm sure that Cathy has seen her dream of going to Malawi come to fruition for several mission trips she organized. In Malawi she spearheaded a number of projects to improve the quality of life for people there and which she constantly monitors and contributes to. In Malawi Cathy has connected with the equivalent to our WMS, the Mvano Guild, a large and enthusiastic group of warmly welcoming and socially active women who provide Cathy with lots of opportunity to dance.

On the Canadian scene, Cathy has been very instrumental in planning three National Women's Gatherings held in Toronto which are open to all Canadian women and invited international guests from our partner countries. (The most recent of these conferences last May had to be postponed.) Some of those international guests were women Cathy got to know when she attended the Tumekutana Conference in South Africa in 2018 to which 22 African nations sent delegates. Two other large Canadian WMS conferences, one in B.C. and one in Montreal have been modeled on the

success of the National Women's Gathering with Cathy on the planning team.

For several years Cathy has represented WMS Council on the Women's Inter Church Council, the Assembly Council and the Life and Mission Agency of the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Last January, as National Vice President, Cathy accompanied President Janet Brewer and Executive Director, Sarah Kim to India to assess WMS projects abroad and ensure that funding was

Kathryn Tew, Secretary, New St. James WMS

reaching deserving hands.

Do you see what I mean about wide circles? Were it not for restricted travel due to the current pandemic, Cathy would happily be hither and yon instead of being queen of the Zoom meetings.

Cathy's dedication and commitment to serving WMS are tremendously valuable and we're so proud of the far-reaching effects of the work she is doing as National WMS President. Congratulations, Cathy and we wish you God's blessings in all you are doing.

Your Website Corner www.newstjames.ca

10 Ways You Can Use the NSJ Website

1. Breaking News - Keep up with what's happening at NSJ. Check out the latest announcements on the Homepage.

2. Worship on line - Tune in to the service broadcast from the Sanctuary using Facebook Live, each Sunday morning at 10:30 AM. Access the service from the Facebook page found on the Homepage. No need to have a Facebook account!

Enjoy your favourite hymns, hear the scripture lessons, be moved by meaningful sermons and prayers, celebrate Communion and keep in touch with what's happening at NSJ with the announcements.

If Sundays at 10:30 AM don't work for you, you can watch at another time that fits your schedule as well as catching up on services you may have missed or just want to watch again!

3. Rev. McLennan's Midweek

Meditations - Enjoy the meditations posted every Wednesday on the **Sermon** page and also for quick access see the link on the Facebook postings. These brief messages offer memorable stories, are real world based and always provide "food for thought". A perfect energizer for your mid-week schedule!

4. Prayer Board - Consider using this new feature of the website to submit a prayer request. It's easy to use and requests can be submitted in confidence or can appear on the website. Requests are forwarded to the NSJ Prayer Chain. The Prayer Board is one way that we can stay connected with the needs of others and can also offer our support by praying for those requests on the Prayer Board. If you prefer, you can contact the Church Office admin@newstjames.ca 519-434-1127 and ask to be connected to the Prayer Chain.

5. Newsletter - Be the first to read what's happening at NSJ. You will find the newsletter on the Homepage - just click on "Our Latest Newsletter".

6. Financial Health – Even though the building remains closed due to COVID, the many ministries of NSJ are ongoing. Explore the many different options on the **Donate** page about how you can continue to financially support NSJ.

7. Music - Check out the many choices on the **Music** page. Enjoy selections recorded from the Sanctuary from past services including special presentations, anthems by the NSJ Choir, congregational singing and the 2019 Good Friday service. Experience the exceptional expertise of Torin Chiles, Director of Music at the organ, and the talents of our gifted musicians.

8. Photos - Virtually reconnect with your Church family and revisit past celebrations and special events through the pictures on the **Photo** page.

9. Help others stay connected – Spread the news and share the information on the website and posted on Facebook. Help others who don't have access keep up to date with what's happening at NSJ.

10. Visit the site 24/7!! Visit the website - it is available when you are! Take a tour around the site! Check it out and experience the site's many features!

What Can You Do?

Let others know about the website and what NSJ can offer them. Sunday services can be a vital link for others who may not be able to worship with their

Until next time, your Ad Hoc Website Committee: Steve Langham, John Malone, Andrew Reid and Charlene Beynon

own congregations or may not be associated with a church home.

Keeping an Eye on the Website's Vital Signs. Here is a quick snapshot of our most recent results in comparison to those reported in past editions of the newsletter. The upward trend continues!!

Number of Visitors in the Past 30 days* as of:

June 2	Aug 22	Sept 28	Oct 27
594	733	1250	1357

*2020

It is also interesting to note that the top two referring sites are google.com and google.ca .

May the website continue to be a vital tool to help us stay connected as a congregation and to share with others what it means to be part of NSJ!

Questions/Comments about the Website. Keep in touch! Email us at web@newstjames.ca

Do you have something you would like to post on the NSJ Facebook page? Contact the Facebook Team (Lesley Banks, Nawton Chiles, Monica Sass, and Blu Say) at facebook@newstjames.ca

Watch for future updates in upcoming editions of the Newsletter.

Pastoral Care Updates

Our church doors may be closed but phone calls, emails and greeting cards let

people know we care. Our prayer chain brings comfort to many and our on-line

Prayer Board is available for all including folks who may never walk through our doors but are struggling through difficult times. Thank you to our elders and many others who are connecting with our members with a friendly phone call, card or email during this pandemic. Rev Mark has stayed connected with several of our folks who are going through difficult times and appreciate a phone call or visit from their minister. Please contact Judi or me if you would like a visit from pastoral care and we would be happy to help.

Visit with Ruth Evans

A number of people have asked about Ruth Evans. She is receiving excellent care in her long-term facility. She is also being cared for by her extended family. Rev Mark and I left a little album of photos of the church sanctuary and stained-glass windows and a copy of the October newsletter, and we prayed

Cathy Taylor

To My Friends At New St. James

As I begin these sincere words of thanks today, I am reminded that it was just one year ago that I began an unplanned journey through the various stages of cancer. The shock, the treatment, the effects of treatment which made it necessary for me to find a place for respite care, and finally, the most wonderful words: "cancer free" . . . Music to my ears!

Through all of this, you gave me hope, strength and love which came to me

God Bless You All
Betty Murray

together before we left.

Thank You Mary Lou

Mary Lou McCrimmon has been leading pastoral care for the last several years but feels it is time to retire. She has phoned, visited, sent cards and supported our folks in their homes, hospitals and long-term care with so much compassion and care. Mary Lou organized our Christmas baskets and poinsettias for our seniors and oversaw our well-loved Friendship Communion and Strawberry Social in June. Her strawberry shortcake topped with Heemans' strawberries and real whipped cream was the best!

Mary Lou, on behalf of all your New St James family a huge thank you. Pastoral care is a very special calling, and you epitomize that person in spades. You will always be the matriarch of our church family retired or not. Hugs!

daily from cards, phone calls, visits (before COVID 19), and your prayers for healing which I could truly feel.

New St James is truly blessed with a host of people who are right there for one when needed. Between them, my family who were with me through the whole experience, and some clergy friends who taught me how to think positively every day. I sincerely thank all of you from the bottom of my heart.

Women's Council Marketplace

The Marketplace sponsored by Women's Council concluded on Saturday, October 24 with a drive-by delivery of the purchased products. The sale was very successful with an amazing profit of \$3471.55. Women's Council wants to thank all those who donated preserves and baking to be sold and wants to thank all those who purchased these products. Thanks, also, to those who made monetary donations. We had some enthusiastic help on Friday, the 23rd and Saturday, the 24th and thanks to them all. These funds will be used to help pay

for the major renovations needed in our lower kitchen as a result of the water issue.

There are a few preserves that are still available. We have 3 small jars (125ml) of strawberry jam—\$2.50 each, 1 jar (500ml) salsa—\$4.50, 2 large jars (500ml) of orange marmalade—\$8.00 each, 4 jars of red pepper jelly (250ml)—\$4.50 each. If you are interested in purchasing any of these preserves, please email Karen Buchwald karenbuchwald@hotmail.com

Women's Council

Free to a good home!

Free, good working stair lift, custom fitted for a home with 7 steps. You will need to dismantle from the stairway, and it is yours. Contact Ann Milling at 519.452.1189.

Board of Managers

Your Board of Managers is taking on the restoration of the lower kitchen. Or, at the least the demolition of it! Don't turn us loose in a kitchen.

Rob McGugan, Frank Walsh and Mike Ruggi tore out old cabinets along the south wall of the kitchen. Tom DeKay of DK Equipment kindly sent along a bin for removal of water-damaged materials.

We will be working this Autumn to waterproof the foundation at the exterior

Steve Harris, Board of Managers Convenor

of the kitchen. Before any new installations take place, we will ensure that our basement kitchen is waterproof. We will take the time that is provided during this challenging period to measure our efforts at making the space watertight.

A lovely old Mason jar was discovered in the wall behind the cabinets during the tear-out. We are, however, still looking for the pot of gold!

Financial Update & Autumn Appeal

Thank you for your patience, understanding and incredible support of

New St. James this year. Even though we haven't yet been able to gather as a

congregation, New St. James has pulled together in wonderful ways since March. Through your prayers and faithfulness, we have continued to worship and serve, to meet our budget commitments, and to maintain our facilities.

It has been a challenging year in so many ways. Respecting these circumstances, we have been very tentative about asking for financial support since March; and yet, at Easter, through Thanksgiving, and at all times in between, the congregation continued to contribute financially to the ministry of New St. James. Your help along with careful management of expenses and substantial government relief, have put our church finances in a solid position at this point of the year.

To date in 2020, our total level of congregational support is about 75% of

the amount that the church has received at this time in previous years. If you are able, your additional financial contributions will be helpful and important in the coming months. Traditionally, the strongest level of congregational givings at New St. James happens in November and December. Of particular concern going forward, the government benefits that we have received this year will no longer be available to the church. We will also face significant expenses ahead as we repair the lower kitchen and address water issues around the building.

We look forward to welcoming Rev. Dr. David Clark and his full-time presence for New St. James. The Board is confident that New St. James will, as we always have, continue to respond and serve with joy, faithfulness and generosity.

	Jan - Oct 20	Jan - Oct 19	\$ Change	% Change
Congregational Givings & Trust Fund Support	\$ 196,263	\$ 269,133	-\$ 72,870	-27.1%
Total Expense	\$ 226,686	\$ 306,712	-\$ 80,027	-26.1%
Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy	\$ 28,747		\$ 28,747	100.0%

Steve Harris & Jeff Goud

Salvation Army Christmas plans

NSJ 28TH ANNUAL CHRISTMAS TOY DRIVE 2020

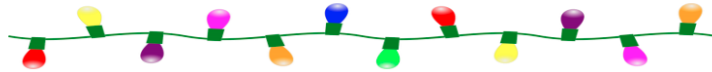


The Salvation Army is offering the Christmas Hamper program this year, and there will be a huge need for donations and support as the need in London is significant. Last year, with our help, over 6750 bags of new toys were donated for children aged 0-12. See the poster below for gift ideas and where the highest need is. A non-violent toy that does not require batteries is preferable, and please do not wrap the toy. Beginning on Monday, November 30th until Monday, December 7th you will be able to drop off your toy at the church. Please call the office to make an appointment (519) 434-1127. Thank you for your continued generosity.



Giving Hope Today

TOY DRIVE



Your generous donation of new, unopened, unwrapped gifts with a value of up to \$50 will help The Salvation Army provide a Merry Christmas to over 6,500 children in our community this year!

★ Highest Need

Infants & Toddlers

- Sleepers and winter apparel - Size 1+
- Soft blankets
- Hats and mitts
- Developmental Toys (i.e. Baby Einstein/Leap Frog/VTech)
- Light up and musical toys
- Cloth/Board books
- No button eyes or noses

Ages 4—9

- Family board games, puzzles
- Art and craft supplies
- Books, colouring and activity books
- Crayons, washable markers, pencil crayons
- Hats, mitts, scarves, socks
- Building Blocks (Lego/Duplo, K'Nex, etc.)
- Make believe toys

★ Highest Need

Ages 10-12

- Jewellery, watch, purse, wallet
- Books, diaries, journals
- Hats, mitts, scarves, socks
- Bath gift sets, lotions, body sprays
- Hair care accessories
- Youth make up/nail kits
- Sport items
- Art and craft supplies/models



The Salvation Army is planning a 2020 Christmas Kettles campaign. Their goal for London is \$550,000 in this most challenging of years where community need is large and increasing.

They advise that they will be taking all safety precautions possible, and will be providing PPE supplies to all of their volunteers.

Once again they have asked New St. James to support the cause by hosting the kettle that will be placed in the Valumart at Oxford and Richmond. Our initial target is to fill the 4-hour timeslots on each of Thursday, November 26; Friday, November 27; and Saturday, Frank Walsh

November 28. There are four timeslots per day: 10:00 to 1:00, 1:00 to 3:00, 3:00 to 5:00 and 5:00 to 7:00. The Salvation Army will provide signage identifying New St. James as the host.

If you are able to participate in this most worthy effort, please email Frank Walsh at walshfw@gmail.com and indicate which day and timeslot you are interested in. I will confirm with a return email and answer any questions that you might have. If possible, a sign-up sheet will be posted in New St. James Hall at a later date.

This is the third year that New St. James has supported the Christmas Kettles. The Salvation Army is most appreciative of the commitment and dedication that our church has graciously given over these years.

It also is a terrific way to get into the Christmas spirit, so have fun, help others, and ring those bells!

Church School Birthdays

November 15 Owen D.
November 16 Isla H.
November 23 Avery B.

December 7 Sasha G.
December 10 Clara M.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Donna Mellon who died on September 12.

To the family and friends of Wally Boam who died on September 25.

To the family and friends of Roy Harrower who died on October 20.

The family and friends of Marilyn Wearing who died on November 1.

Contact List

Interim Moderator	Rev Dr Andrew Fullerton afullerton.elmwoodchurch.ca@gmail.com
Supply Minister	Rev Mark McLennan mmclennan@newstjames.ca
Clerk of Session	Bruce Curtis bcurtis@newstjames.ca
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles tchiles@newstjames.ca
Office Administrator	Judi LeBlanc admin@newstjames.ca
Custodian	Mark McDonald admin@newstjames.ca
Newsletter publisher	Andrew Reid areid@newstjames.ca

New St James Presbyterian Church
280 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario N6A 1V4
519.434.1127 www.newstjames.ca

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