



**News from**

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

**A Mission Church**

**Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others**

**January 26, 2021**

## *From the Publisher*

Who can fail to be moved by the words of Amanda Gorman at the inauguration of Joe Biden as President of the United States of America? I was particularly struck by these lines: *For there is always light / If only we're brave enough to see it / If only we're brave enough to be it.*

As we reach the first anniversary of dealing with COVID-19, it is inspiring to see how New St. James is being the light. We may be doing things differently from the way we did things before, but the important thing is that the people are ensuring that the important things carry on. Once again, this issue of the newsletter is rich in details of God's people in New St. James living out our mission statement. Enjoy!

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**Reflecting on a Psalm in Unison,  
Together and Apart:  
An Invitation to Prepare for Lent**

Greetings in Christ:

I am grateful for the shared efforts that make possible the livestreamed worship each Sunday at New St. James. This ministry of worship can continue amid the pandemic thanks to the contributions of the excellent Director of Music (Torin Chiles), his dedicated sons (Nawton and Tennyson), the exceptional soloist (Ariel Harwood-Jones), and several others serving faithfully “behind the scenes.”

Yet one aspect of worship that cannot currently continue is the joining together of voices in the spoken liturgy: until it is safe to do so, we cannot offer readings and prayers responsively, antiphonally (alternating by group), or in unison. Nonetheless, to enable worshippers at home to join their voices together, I include the Call to Worship in Unison and the Psalm in Unison. This way, households worshipping together can still join their voices; likewise, those living alone can offer these elements of worship aloud, knowing that friends in other places are also lifting their voices at the same time.

The First Sunday in Lent, on February 21, is now only a few weeks away. In order to prepare for Lent, I invite you to share in a simple devotional exercise that focuses on our Psalm in Unison for that Sunday. From February 1-20 (the twenty days leading up to the First Sunday in

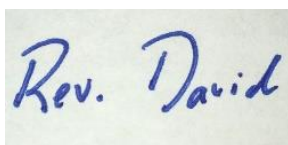
Lent), I encourage you to take a bit of time—each morning and again each evening—to pray one verse from Psalm 25:1-10. Here’s a simple schedule:

February 1 & 2 →Psalm 25:1  
February 3 & 4 →Psalm 25:2  
February 5 & 6 →Psalm 25:3  
February 7 & 8 →Psalm 25:4  
February 9 & 10 →Psalm 25:5  
February 11 & 12 →Psalm 25:6  
February 13 & 14 →Psalm 25:7  
February 15 & 16 →Psalm 25:8  
February 17 & 18 →Psalm 25:9  
February 19 & 20 →Psalm 25:10

Each verse is designated for two days, affording ample time to reflect on its meaning and place in your life of faith. Try reflecting on the designated verse first in the morning (as your day begins), then again in the evening (as your day ends): by bookending each day with the same verse, you may find that you often remember the verse as you go about your daily tasks.

By February 21, the First Sunday in Lent, you will have dedicated many prayerful moments to reflecting—verse by verse—on the Psalm in Unison. That Sunday, when you offer aloud the Psalm in Unison from home, you will share in a Scriptural prayer that we will have explored together and apart. I’ll be interested to hear what you notice or discover as you reflect on Psalm 25: feel free to let me know!

Blessings!

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. David". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

## *Notice of Annual Congregational Meeting*

On behalf of the Session of New St. James, I am pleased to provide you notice and invite you to attend the 2021 Annual Congregational Meeting to be held on Sunday, February 21, 2021, at 12:00 Noon. The Meeting will be held virtually on Zoom.

Members of New St. James Presbyterian Church wishing to join the virtual Annual Congregational Meeting by Zoom may do so by contacting the Church Office Administrator, Judi Le Blanc, and providing their name and e-mail address to be added to a list of persons invited to

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session.

the virtual Meeting, no later than Wednesday, the 17th day of February, 2021, at 3:00 o'clock p.m. An invitation to join the meeting will be sent to you later.

An Annual Report for 2020 is being prepared and will be ready for distribution by early February. The report will be distributed electronically through email. For anyone requiring a hard copy of the Annual Report, please advise Judi Le Blanc in the Church Office and arrangements will be made to have a copy delivered to you.

## *Preparing for the Annual Congregational Meeting*

BUDGET DISCUSSION by ZOOM:  
January 31, 2021 at 12 noon

The Finance Committee has prepared the 2021 budget for review ahead of the Annual Meeting in February.

Members of the Congregation are invited to review the budget with the Committee

at 12 noon on Sunday, January 31.

Please contact Steve Harris before January 29th at 5 pm to receive a Zoom invite link and a digital copy of the draft budget.

Email: [sjh@bellnet.ca](mailto:sjh@bellnet.ca) or call 519-671-3950

## *From the Clerk of Session*

Greetings from the Session and our best wishes to everyone for a happy and healthy new year. As we continue to work through the challenges of the COVID pandemic, we are thankful for our safety and our health and also the opportunity to worship virtually on Sunday mornings. We are also thankful for our new Minister, the Rev. Dr. David Clark, who has been providing us with comforting and thoughtful Worship Services. Rev. Clark has incorporated numerous opportunities in the service for

Congregants to be engaged and participate. We also appreciate the fine work of Torin Chiles, Ariel Harwood-Jones, and Nawton and Tennyson Chiles in bringing these wonderful services into our homes through live streaming.

Session met recently by Zoom to continue conducting the business of the Church. Rev. Clark expressed his joy in beginning this position in ministry at New St. James and would like to express his gratitude for the support he has received

during his first couple of months. He has had organizational and administrative orientation; established meaningful, safe and sustainable remote worship; and has been able to offer pastoral care via remote means as needed. The support and guidance he received from the leadership of the Church has been very much appreciated.

The Session received a letter of resignation from active service by Elders Mary Lou and Ian McCrimmon. Their request was approved with regret and thanks for their many years of faithful service to the Session of New St. James. At an appropriate time in the future

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session.

when we can gather together, their service will be recognized at a Congregational event. Also, the Search Committee was formally dissolved. Session expressed its immense gratitude for the diligent, careful and patient work of the Committee to bring a minister in the person of the Rev. Clark to New St. James.

The Session looks forward to future virtual meetings to continue conducting its business, and to provide careful and thoughtful guidance to the Church as we navigate these uncertain times and seek stability beyond the pandemic challenges.

### *From the Organ Console*

The calendar has flipped into another year and while that always brings a sense of newness and promise, I am feeling that energy more than ever after the year that we have had with a global pandemic and our regular Sunday worship together in the sanctuary at NSJ suspended since March 15th of 2020!

Our mission continues at New St. James even though we perhaps feel less connected with each other, and despite having to learn new modes of reaching out to each other and our community, we DO have new hope and are ARE rejuvenated especially with the arrival of Rev. Dr. David Clark, our new long-term minister! I am so enjoying working with David and getting to know him (I can hardly wait to meet his young family) and I can already feel the coalescing energy that gathers us in the Spirit's tether as a community of faith, growing and budding towards the blossoms that will soon come.

Easter this year may share some similarities with last year's Easter, but I can feel already that it will be more like a regular Easter than last year. Last year we were still staggering to absorb what we were up against with the lock-down and how to respond; these past ten months we have figured out what we are up against and we're learning how to respond better and better with each passing month. David's ministry to us at New St. James is already bearing fruit, not just through his sermons and prayers but through his leadership, his new firm hand on the tiller and wise counsel. We have waited a long time for his arrival and after a careful and thorough process we have found someone wonderful. It feels so uplifting to have a person of David's calibre to lead us the rest of the way through the desert of this pandemic and back out into the promise of a post COVID world. We will be stronger for our sojourn these past three years (and especially this past year). With David, with the turn of the calendar, and with

each other, we will have renewed purpose and fresh energy to bring to our continuing mission here at the corner of Oxford and Wellington in London, Ontario.



I have been so very grateful to my two sons, Nawton and Tennyson, for their skills and dedication each Sunday morning. We started off last March doing short Sunday devotionals, streamed each Sunday from our living room, but through the months and especially through the fall, these devotionals have evolved into a regular service of worship – a nourishing feast, offered through a

Torin Chiles

## *COVID Response*

The situation with the COVID virus continues to evolve and as the Congregation is aware, the Provincial Government has issued new restrictions to reduce the spread of the virus. Accordingly, the COVID Response Team has met several times recently to adapt and enhance the COVID-related procedures of New St. James. New St. James continues to take a precautionary approach which always meets or exceeds Provincial requirements.

live stream on FaceBook to our congregation and to a much wider community beyond our immediate church family. I am blessed to work with a partner such as David who can so easily and powerfully work in format that we could not fully imagine a year ago. I am also blessed by and grateful for the technical skills and dedication of my two sons to help us navigate the treacherous techy waters each Sunday.

Please do join us for those FaceBook Live streams. There is a new “rule” on FaceBook (post Trump) that prevents us from mirroring the live stream directly on the church’s FB page in real time. We have been posting it as soon as the live stream is finished. If you want to watch it live at 10:30am please reach out to me on FaceBook with a Friend Request and you will get a notice each Sunday as soon as we are live streaming. We have big plans to explore other platforms that may increase our outreach, such as YouTube Live, but we have discovered that these technical evolutions take time, practice, patience and dedication week by week. Please stay tuned!

Effective January 14, physical attendance at the Church building will be for essential purposes only.

The Minister and Staff will be in the Church building on a limited basis only, ensuring essential on-site work is completed and that the building is secure.

If you have an important reason to enter the Church building, please contact the

Church Office Administrator by phone or email well in advance.

Worship services will be conducted in accordance with the new requirements including masking for ALL individuals involved.

Masking is required for all indoor activities, including Worship Services.

Further, the Church is also a workplace under legislation, and we must ensure

The COVID-19 Response Team

## *Book Club*

The New St. James Book Club is going online! Our first monthly Zoom meeting will be arranged for February 22nd at 1:30, as before. Connection details will be sent close to the date.

We have been assured by the library that the book bag and its contents have been quarantined for the required length of time. Books will be delivered to your door - I will phone everyone ahead of

Looking forward to seeing you all online!

Jeanine Taylor

## *Northern Hospitality*

Could I have another dinner? I don't know where my next meal will come from."

That was the exact quote from one of our attendees at our December 21st take out hot turkey dinner for the less fortunate. All 65 people who arrived at the door were so appreciative of their hot meal, homemade gingerbread cookies, clementines and the \$10 Tim Horton gift cards provided by Cathy Reid's co-workers in Burlington.

that all employees and volunteers are adequately and appropriately protected from the virus through the use of masks at all times.

The COVID Response Team is committed to supporting practices and precautions that keep everyone as safe as possible during worship services. Given the spread of the virus, masking is a proper, necessary and sensible measure to protect the health of all individuals.

time to confirm delivery details, then Pat and I can work out our delivery route. If anyone prefers to pick up their copy at the church, let me know, as we can drop off there also. For your safety and peace of mind, we will sanitize our hands between deliveries.

Please email me if you have any questions, or if you would like to join the Book Club – [elderduck@tekksavvy.com](mailto:elderduck@tekksavvy.com)

By the time you read this newsletter, we will have hosted our January meal on January 19th. (Publisher's note: Cathy tells me that as per Middlesex-London Health Unit guidelines, we have gone back to serving sandwiches to reduce the number of volunteers gathering to prepare a hot meal. Extra turkeys were bought when they were on sale in December to provide enough leftovers to serve delicious turkey sandwiches. 38

Cathy Taylor, Convenor

## *Women's Missionary Society*

We have already had our January meeting online and enjoyed fellowship together. Our theme was 2020 Reflections and it was amazing how much actually happened last year. We are excited to announce that our speaker at our group meeting on February 12th (again online) will be our minister, the Rev. Dr. David Clark. Our members are looking forward to meeting him.

At our group meeting on March 12th (still online) we are having Eva Goud's sister, Thea, speak to us about her last mission trip to the Ukraine.

One of the things we are missing most is meeting face to face and connecting with one another. Under the present

Everyone is welcome to join one or all of our meetings. Please email me at [reidc@rogers.com](mailto:reidc@rogers.com) if you would like the link.

Cathy Reid

guests were served, the number reduced because of the lockdown.)

We don't host in February. Our Monday to host falls on Family Day weekend and St Michael's Church will not be open. This was not our choice, but a decision made by St Michael's. Thank you to all my team for your dedication and to those who have been baking homemade cookies.

circumstances technology that allows us to see and worship together offers us an alternative way to do this. With this in mind WMS Council Executive is planning to hold a series of Zoom online events for the first half of the year. The theme of the series is "Come together". Below is a list of the dates and topics. Each event will run from 1 pm - 3 pm.

February 10	Let's Come Together
March 10	Come together - World Day of Prayer
April 7	Come together - Easter worship
May 12	Come together - Mission Awareness
June 16	Come together - Fellowship and sharing

## *Timvane Children's Centre*

Please pray for the children and committee as they have had to close again because of the surge in COVID-19 numbers. This means many children will not get their daily meal.

We sent the funds at the beginning of January and as soon as the centre is open again the meal will be prepared. Funds were also sent to build a new washroom. The number of children has increased significantly since we were there in 2018.

For several years, the Church School

Cathy Reid

offering has been directed to supporting the children's centre. Even though we have not been able to hold regular Church School gatherings, nevertheless the Christian Education Committee has decided to send money to buy sports equipment.

Please also remember in your prayers the Rev. Dr. Silas and Margaret Ncozana and the congregation in Chuluchosema. They are only allowed 50 in attendance at a service now - they would normally have 200+!

## *2020 New St. James Stewardship Response - Thank you!*

You will be enriched in every way for your great generosity, which will produce thanksgiving to God through us (2 Corinthians 9:11).

2020 New St. James Stewardship Response - Thank you!

One definition of stewardship is "our response to God's love". At a time when we cannot gather in person, nor offer our time and talents at the Church, the Congregation has responded generously with financial support.

The Board of Managers

Thank you for your steadfast support of the life and mission of New St. James in 2020.

2021 will pose more challenges, but thanks to your contributions we begin this year on solid financial footing. The faithful resolve of the members will help to see the Church through this difficult period to a time when we can be together again in worship . . . what a time of thanksgiving and celebration that will be!

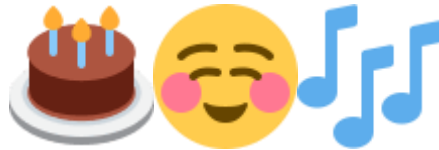
## *Condolences*

To the family and friends of Bob Baron who died on December 25, 2020.

To the family and friends of John Manherz who died on January 16.



*HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sunday School and Teen Group members*



January 2021 – Darrell and Jason  
February 2021 - Leo, Daniel, and Brecken

### *Card of Thanks*

We wish to thank everyone for their cards, thoughts and prayers with the passing of Bob. He was a much-loved man who loved his family, friends and church. He will certainly be missed by many with fond memories.

Karen Baron and family

### *Card of Thanks*

I would like to thank everyone for their caring calls, cards and messages on John's death. He loved and was loved by so many in New St. James, and your support means so much to me and John's family.

Ann Milling

### *For children of all ages*

New St. James has its second Olympian!!! If you don't know who it is, see the last page to find out who. But this is not the first time someone from New St. James has competed in the Olympics Games. Do you know who the first person was? Here's a hint: ask someone who has been around New St. James for a long time! Please email the publisher if you do: [areid@newstjames.ca](mailto:areid@newstjames.ca) Answer in the next issue.

## Contact List

Minister	Rev. Dr. David Clark <a href="mailto:dclark@newstjames.ca">dclark@newstjames.ca</a>
Clerk of Session	Bruce Curtis <a href="mailto:bcurtis@newstjames.ca">bcurtis@newstjames.ca</a>
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles <a href="mailto:tchiles@newstjames.ca">tchiles@newstjames.ca</a>
Office Administrator	Judi LeBlanc <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>
Custodian	Mark McDonald <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>
Newsletter publisher	Andrew Reid <a href="mailto:areid@newstjames.ca">areid@newstjames.ca</a>

New St James Presbyterian Church  
280 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario N6A 1V4  
519.434.1127 [www.newstjames.ca](http://www.newstjames.ca)

And finally, something that will come as no surprise to anyone who knows her . . .

