



***News from***

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

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

[www.newstjames.ca](http://www.newstjames.ca)

August 23, 2021

## *From the Publisher*

In the August 19 episode of *Under the Influence* on CBC Radio, Terry O'Reilly told the story of a rockhopper penguin named Wellington at the Shedd Aquarium in Chicago. During the pandemic lockdown Wellington was allowed to leave his enclosure and explore the aquarium building. There are several delightful videos on YouTube – my favourite is <https://youtu.be/CdB6I4l8n2A> - of Wellington (native to Antarctica) looking into the tank of three Beluga whales (native to the Arctic). Each explores the other with great interest and curiosity. O'Reilly says that their meeting could only have happened because of the pandemic. And he goes on to talk about other developments that have happened because of the pandemic. What is true for penguins and whales is true for New St. James. Read on to see developments in New St. James.

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## **Residential Schools and the Presbyterian Church in Canada: Growing in Awareness**

In the sermon on August 8, I reflected on the cruelty of the residential school system and the egregious ethical failure of the churches in administering that abusive system. As I also emphasized in that sermon, it's important to acknowledge that the Presbyterian Church in Canada directly administered residential schools.

I wish to invite the congregation to develop your awareness of the legacy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the residential school system. Since there is a great deal of information and material available, I will offer this article as an introductory "online guide." I encourage you to set aside a block of time, or several blocks of time, when you can focus on the resources that I will list below. You may wish to explore these resources over the course of several days, in order to allow time to reflect on what you learn.

Shortly after the heartbreaking discovery of the graves of 215 children at the Kamloops Indian Residential School in May, the Presbyterian Church in Canada prepared this page: [PCC Prays for the Lives Lost at Kamloops Indian Residential School](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/05/31/pcc-prays-for-the-lives-lost-at-kamloops-indian-residential-school/). You can find it here: <https://presbyterian.ca/2021/05/31/pcc-prays-for-the-lives-lost-at-kamloops-indian-residential-school/>

I invite you to take time to reflect on the statement and to share in the prayer. (I quote the prayer, in its entirety, below.) As you reflect on the terrible legacy of the Kamloops Indian Residential School, you may wish to learn more about the role of the Presbyterian Church in

Canada in the residential school system—and this page is a helpful place to start: [Frequently Asked Questions about the PCC and Residential Schools](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/05/pcc-and-residential-schools/)  
<https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/05/pcc-and-residential-schools/>

On this page, you will find some brief information about the role of the denomination in administering residential schools. You will also be introduced to the formal apology of the denomination, "The Confession," which was adopted in 1994. A [Study Guide for the Confession](https://presbyterian.ca/downloads/68916/), (which includes the full text of the apology as well as questions, prayers, and additional context), can be accessed here:

<https://presbyterian.ca/downloads/68916/>  
(Please note: a PDF document will open.)

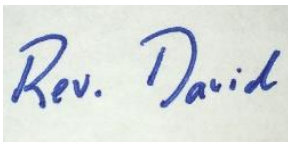
Just this past June, a new statement regarding the legacy of the residential schools was co-signed by The Rev. Amanda Currie and The Rev. Dr. Daniel Scott (Moderators of the 2019 and 2021 General Assemblies). That document, entitled [A Statement Regarding Residential Schools](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/15/moderator-joint-statement/), can be found here: <https://presbyterian.ca/2021/06/15/moderator-joint-statement/>

In this statement, the two moderators note: "Though the church first offered formal apology and confession to God and to Indigenous peoples in 1994 for our role in running these schools—places from which many students never returned, and which caused emotional scars and trauma on generations of Indigenous communities—the harm from these schools and other colonial practices

continues today and so, too, does our need for confessing." This statement also emphasizes the ongoing need for the denomination to take action: notice that the moderators list specific actions that are needed, followed by the refrain, "We commit to this work." One example of a practical effort, which was announced recently, is a fund to "support initiatives associated with searches for unmarked burial sites in communities where schools were operated by The Presbyterian Church in Canada." You can learn about this new fund here: [Honouring the Children: Reconciliation and Residential Schools Fund Established](https://presbyterian.ca/2021/07/02/honouring-the-children-fund/)  
<https://presbyterian.ca/2021/07/02/honouring-the-children-fund/>

This "online guide" is not intended to be exhaustive; indeed, you can find many more resources than I have listed here. However, my hope is that this guide will serve as a helpful introduction to anyone seeking to grow in awareness of the legacy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada and the residential schools.

To conclude, let us return to where this guide began, with the prayer in response to the discovery of 215 children's graves at Kamloops Indian Residential School:

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. David".

*Creator God of love and justice,  
Comforter of those who mourn,  
We have learned of more  
Indigenous children lost, more children  
who never were able to return to their  
families from schools they should never  
have been forced to attend in the first  
place. This news is devastating. We pray  
first for healing for the children's families  
and communities, who are met again  
today with pain no one should ever have  
to bear.*

*We also acknowledge the actions of  
your church, our complicity in running  
residential schools and taking children  
like these, who were just found, from  
their families. We repent for the pain and  
ongoing harm we have caused and ask  
for the will and wisdom to act to end that  
harm. We have asked for forgiveness and  
committed to work for healing and  
reconciliation. But we recognize that for  
many, that change came too late.*

*Comforting God, we pray for  
healing in the communities and families  
of all who experienced residential  
schools, comfort for all those grieving,  
and strength for all to pursue  
reconciliation.*

*Amen.*

### *From the Clerk of Session*

Hello from Session and hopefully you have had some time to enjoy the hot summer weather and get some rest and relaxation during this time. New St. James continues our regular Sunday Worship Services conducted virtually and maintains our presence online through the Church's website and connection to

the Congregation by means of the Newsletter.

We have now managed our way through almost 18 months of the Coronavirus pandemic and we have met and overcome the many challenges which have been presented to us during that

time. As the Scriptures tell us, *"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go"* (Joshua 1:9). While we have not been able to meet together in person in our Sanctuary, we have found ways to continue our Christian witness and worship of God in new ways through virtual and electronic means.

Also, when the pandemic began, we had Rev. Mark McLennan as our Stated Supply Minister and now we have a newly called Minister, The Rev. Dr. David Clark, who brings his deep theological knowledge and understanding and much hope and opportunity for the future of New St. James. We are so fortunate to have Rev. Clark as our Minister and the thoughtful sermons and prayers he offers each week and the messages he weaves into our understanding of the Scriptures. For those of us who have had the opportunity and privilege to work with him, he is always well prepared for meetings and ready to offer well considered contributions to our discussions. Although, many members of the Congregation have not had the opportunity yet to meet with him or his family in person, we look forward to sometime in the future when we can gather together and celebrate his new ministry with us at New St. James. In the meantime, we need to go forward and be strong and courageous and know that God is with us wherever we go.

As I write this article in mid-August, we are getting ready for new steps or stages in our progression through the pandemic. A new permanent video camera and audio equipment has been installed in the Sanctuary which will allow us to livestream worship services on Sunday morning though YouTube. (Thanks to Steve Harris and the Board of Managers

for overseeing this installation.) We will transition from Zoom Worship Services to livestream on August 22 and in the process provide the opportunity for the Minister, Music Director, Soloist and Scripture Reader to be together in the Sanctuary while practising required health precautions to ensure everyone's health and safety. The livestream can be viewed by clicking on the YouTube link on the Homepage of the Church website and a recorded version will also be available there too. We express our thanks to the Rev. David Clark, Torin Chiles, Ariel Harwood-Jones, Scripture Readers, and co-liturgists for their parts in conducting the Zoom Worship Services for the past five months and also those members whose work behind the scenes to help make it all happen, especially Charlene Beynon, Steve Harris, and Judi Le Blanc.

With the lifting of some of the pandemic restrictions, we have also been looking at the possibilities for some limited in-person attendance at Sunday morning Worship Services this Autumn. The COVID Response Team has been reviewing the regulations, researching the experiences of other churches, and preparing policies and protocols which comply with the government requirements for the health and safety of the Worship Service participants and the Congregation. This will be a staged transition and we will take a cautious approach in order to ensure everyone's safety. Please listen to the Sunday morning announcements and watch the website for more information in this regard.

The COVID Response Team continues to monitor the pandemic situation along with governmental and health directions and manage the work conditions of Church staff. Rev. Clark and Office



Administrator, Judi Le Blanc, continue to be available by email and telephone, however, people should not come to the Church except for essential purposes and must make an appointment through Judi Le Blanc, sign-in, and be masked at all times.

On another subject, a break-in at the Church was thwarted by alert neighbours who called the Police and the intruders

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session.

were captured inside before anything was stolen. A damaged window has been replaced and iron bars have been installed by the Board of Managers to prevent a repeat of this.

I hope you enjoy the remaining warmth and sunshine of the summer season and that you and your families continue to remain safe and healthy during the pandemic.

### *A Reminder from our Administrator*

If you have moved or changed your phone number(s) or email address, please notify the church office. Thank you.

Judi Le Blanc

### *Mission and Social Action*

Publisher's note: the first part of this update was sent but disappeared into cyberspace and did not reach me in time to be included in the last issue.

Dateline May 27:

A couple of weeks ago, \$100 worth of personal hygiene items and snacks were delivered to the Men's Mission on York Street. What an eye-opener! Beside the main building, on the corner of York and Colborne Streets, was the temporary housing set up for the homeless during the winter.

There are two parking lots by the Men's Mission. In one, two city by-law officers were telling people living in a tent on the lot that they'd have to remove it.

At the second lot near the main entrance, Chris, a worker from the Mission helped carry in four large reusable shopping bags filled to the brim. He was thrilled to get a new influx of soap, razors, deodorant, toothbrushes,

and toothpaste as well as a good supply of snacks. (The Mission is not serving meals during the pandemic shut-down.)

In that lot, there were 12-15 people milling around – mostly men but a few women. Some of them looked like they had all their worldly possessions with them in backpacks and garbage bags.

There is still \$200 left of the \$300 the Committee had allocated for the Men's Mission. Chris said there is a need for 'Depends' underwear so most of the remaining money will go towards those items and they'll be delivered as soon as possible.

Please keep this agency in your prayers.

The Committee agreed to send \$500 to

PWS&D for aid to India during the pandemic.

Latest bulletin:

The Committee has donated \$500 to The May Court of London for its school nutrition program.

The Committee was happy to sponsor a young man for a week at Camp Kintail in the LIT (Leadership in Training) program. He has been sponsored by MSAC since he was a young lad and has attended camp over the years both as a camper and as a VOK (Volunteer of Kintail). He loves the camp and the Co-Directors,

Lyn Hill, Convenor

Theresa McDonald-Lee and Johnathon Lee are always happy to have him around. Payment for this program was made possible by the Ivan and Eula Taylor Trust Fund.

In the past, the Committee sponsored his older sister and brother. The latter also went through the VOK and LIT programs and eventually was hired on as staff. Next year, it is hoped that two younger sisters will avail themselves of the opportunity to attend Kintail. (There was no overnight camping for young children this year due to pandemic restrictions.)

### *News from Women's Council*

The good news is that we have had work done on the outside of New St. James thanks to Tom DeKay and his dad. However, we still have some water seeping in the lower kitchen so we continue to explore ways to seal the walls before restoring the kitchen to its former glory! It's an old building and needs quite a bit of love, so stay

tuned...

We will be offering a sale of goodies in the fall - preserves, jams, baked goods, maybe some deli items - to raise funds that will help with the cost of repairs in the lower kitchen. See below for more detail and stay tuned for more information on this event.

Deb Noble-Van Hees,  
on behalf of the Women's Council of NSJ.

### *Fall Preserve and Bake Sale*

Women's Council is planning on a fall preserve and bake sale similar to the one we had in the fall of 2020. Hopefully, some of you wonderful cooks out there have been preparing some preserves for us to sell. The opportunities are still out there to make jams, jellies, chutneys, relishes, pickles, pickled beets, etc, and with tomato season upon us, you can now make chili sauce and salsa. Red peppers will be ready so red pepper jelly

can be made — a very popular item. Closer to the sale, we will be asking for baking. Deli items could certainly be made now and frozen.

At this time, we do not have the details regarding the format for the sale or the date that it will take place. Keep an eye out for emails and newsletters from the church that will explain if the sale will be virtual or live and when it will take place.

We very much appreciate all your help with this endeavour. If you have any questions, please contact

[karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com)

Karen Buchwald

### *Women's Missionary Society Fall Program*

New St. James WMS is excited to announce our fall program!

September 10: PCC and Residential Schools

October 8: Gayle Harrison on eyecare work in Nunavut

November 12: May Court Club programs

December 10: Christmas program

At present our meetings are still held on Zoom on the second Friday of the month at 1:30 pm. We hope it will not be long before we can meet in person again. We invite any ladies to join us as we discuss and hear the presentations.

Please email Cathy Reid [reidc@rogers.com](mailto:reidc@rogers.com) or Kathryn Tew [kathryntew@rogers.com](mailto:kathryntew@rogers.com) for more information and the Zoom link.

Cathy Reid

### *Job Opportunity at St. John The Evangelist*

The Anglican Church of St. John the Evangelist [www.stjohnslondon.ca](http://www.stjohnslondon.ca) seeks a Children and Youth Ministry Developer, who will work with the Rector to develop and lead Children and Youth programs aimed at nurturing the Christian faith of people aged 0-18 and their families. To apply or to ask

for a complete Job Description please email, indicating "CHILDREN AND YOUTH MINISTRY DEVELOPER Application" in the subject line, to [office@stjohnslondon.ca](mailto:office@stjohnslondon.ca) or call 519-432-3743

### *Board of Managers*

Thank you to DeKay Construction!

At the end of June, Bev and Tom DeKay led the work by DeKay Construction to excavate around the foundation adjacent to the lower kitchen. As part of our battle against water in the lower kitchen,

moisture barriers were installed on the foundation and the landscape was graded away from the building.

Bev, Tom, and crew did a great job, and the Board is most appreciative of their generosity to New St. James.











## *New St. James Livestreaming*



Since March of 2020, the congregation has been able to join in worship

electronically in various forms. Torin Chiles and family were leaders in

facilitating our initial virtual experience, and worked very hard to eventually present services from the sanctuary. They have done a wonderful job and been extremely dedicated to the task.

Over the past several months, we've enjoyed being together via Zoom. It has been a great opportunity to worship together and share in fellowship, albeit online.

On August 22, worship leaders will return to the sanctuary at New St. James. This is an exciting step.

The service will be broadcast over YouTube, which should also allow for improved audio for spoken word and music. Video will be fed from a new camera, which has been discretely installed under the balcony, centred at the back of the church. As you view the video, you will note that the camera can rapidly focus on the pulpit, the lectern,

Steve Harris

and the entire front of the church. It is a very small camera and operates quietly.

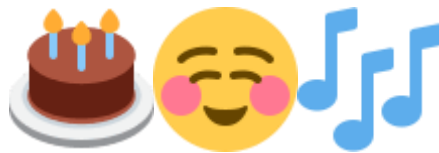
We are hopeful that the congregation will feel encouraged to see worship return to the sanctuary. In time, even after the congregation can safely return to worship together in that space, we will be well-equipped to continue offering online broadcasts to those who wish to join in worship virtually.

Thank you to the Memorial Fund and an anonymous donor for covering some of the expenses.

If you wish to make additional contributions to the cost of the equipment, please contact Steve Harris for information 519-671-3950

As always, thank you for your continued encouragement and support of these efforts.

*HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sunday School and Teen Group members*



BLESSINGS TO YOU ALL.  
GOD IS MAKING GREAT PLANS FOR YOUR LIFE.

July: Michael  
Sylvia

August: Mu Tha

September: Patrick  
Kaia

October: Steven  
Bethel

*SENDING WARM THOUGHTS FROM THE FRIENDLY FOLKS AT NEW ST. JAMES CHURCH!*



## Update on Timvane Children's Centre, Chipagala, Malawi



I received the latest report from Madalitso at the end of term 2 on August 13, along with this photograph of some of the children who come to Timvane. This is part of Madalitso's email.

*"As the World continues to suffer due to this COVID-19 pandemic, survival of organisations like ours has become more challenging operation and needs only God's intervention. Your support has been and is the only instrument that makes this Timvane Organisation be in operation otherwise, survival of this organisation could have been unpredictable. Therefore, we are continuing wishing you and the entire church of New St. James healthy and long life and praying for you as stated in*

*Psalms 91 vs. 1 to 5. Indeed, your helping hand is always a blessing to this Organisation. We know pretty well that it is God who sent you to extend your gospel to Timvane Organisation Centre. We are opening the third term on 30th August 2021.*

*Regards to the entire church and our Sunday school church friends."*

Madalitso has been looking for land to purchase for the Centre so that they can grow some of their own maize. It looks like he has found a piece of land and I am waiting for more information so that we can provide the funds if it is suitable. This is really an answer to prayer as we have the funds, and the Centre really

wants to grow crops to supplement the food for the children. Please pray that this land will be perfect for their needs.

I hope we can send a team to Malawi in 2022 once Malawi has more people vaccinated and travel is safer. Please pray for all the children and our friends.

Cathy Reid

### *Highland Group*

The Highland ladies had a wonderful outing in July. It was so good to be together again. We swam, we talked, we laughed, we ate (our own boxed meal!) —I t was amazing! Hopefully we will be

able to do this again soon. We always welcome new members so if you are interested in joining us, please let me know!

[karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com)

Karen Buchwald  
President





## *Condolences*

To the family and friends of Alma Bennell who died on May 15.  
To the family and friends of Harry Aitken who died on June 4.  
To the family and friends of Marion Horn who died on June 15.

## *New St. James young people responding to tragedy*



(Daryl Newcombe/CTV London)

After the horrific deaths of the Afzaal family, Sydney V., founder of Hope's Hugs, provided hand-made blankets to Mayor Ed Holder, who delivered the blankets to the London Muslim Mosque. The blankets are green and purple, the colours of the ribbons that were tied outside the Mosque.





And after the discovery of so many unmarked graves at residential school sites, and in cooperation with indigenous friends, Sylvia S. designed the logo printed on orange t-shirts to support Atlohsa Family Healing Services here in London. Contact [sassmonica@gmail.com](mailto:sassmonica@gmail.com) for information.

<i>How do I contact . . .</i>		<i>What if I have . . .</i>
Minister	Rev. Dr. David Clark <a href="mailto:dclark@newstjames.ca">dclark@newstjames.ca</a>	Upcoming announcements & events? <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>
Clerk of Session	Bruce Curtis <a href="mailto:bcurtis@newstjames.ca">bcurtis@newstjames.ca</a>	Website postings? <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles <a href="mailto:tchiles@newstjames.ca">tchiles@newstjames.ca</a>	Website questions or issues? <a href="mailto:web@newstjames.ca">web@newstjames.ca</a>
Office Administrator	Judi Le Blanc <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>	Facebook Postings? <a href="mailto:facebook@newstjames.ca">facebook@newstjames.ca</a>
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And finally . . . Maggie Mac Neil, who made Canada, London and New St. James proud!

