



News from

New St. James Presbyterian Church

Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others

www.newstjames.ca

October 12, 2021

From the Publisher

Following his words in the last newsletter and his sermon on August 8, Dr Clark suggested that I prepare a Land Acknowledgement in the newsletter. This draws heavily on the Land Acknowledgements prepared by Western University - my thanks to Gabor Sass for supplying me with this document - and by the City of London. May it serve to remind us how much we owe to the original stewards of this land and help us honour their culture. It is a fairly lengthy statement: I may use a more concise version in the future. To learn more, visit <https://presbyterian.ca/2018/03/23/acknowledging-traditional-territory-recognizing-relationships/>

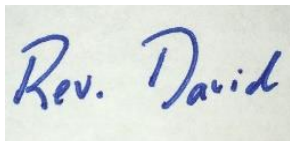
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Appreciation for Mark McDonald

Mark McDonald has announced his intention to retire at the end of October. In the days ahead, the congregation will have opportunities to thank Mark for his work and to celebrate his service at New St. James. I'd like to take this opportunity to express and share gratitude for Mark's years of service. In my time as minister of New St. James, I have personally very much appreciated Mark's collegial and cheerful presence at the church. Indeed, I've enjoyed all my conversations and interactions with Mark. However, since I haven't known Mark for long, I thought it would be valuable to share some reflections by others; accordingly, I asked several leaders of New St. James, who have known Mark for years, to tell me a bit about their experiences with Mark.

One Board Member commented, "Mark has been our 'Manager of First Impressions' at New St. James for many years now. He is loved by everyone in the congregation and has been a welcoming presence at our building for the congregation along with many outside groups." The Board Member added, "He is appreciated for his willingness to help with many jobs around the church; no task is too big or small, and he has gone about his work in a very pleasant, efficient manner." This Board Member also noted that Mark's diligence has continued despite the difficulties presented by COVID 19. "Throughout the pandemic," the Board Member concluded, "he has worked especially hard to keep the building secure and clean."

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Rev. David". The signature is written in a cursive style on a light-colored background.

I spoke with an Elder, who commented that "Mark is always a kindhearted soul who is ready to help others at the church and helped so many people to get things done around New St. James." This Elder reflected on the positive and cheerful presence that Mark brings to his work, adding: "Mark always has a very pleasant disposition and is quite cheerful in carrying out his many tasks around New St. James to keep up the maintenance on our very old building."

Another Elder similarly commented on Mark's helpful attitude: "Mark is always willing to offer a helping hand whether it is setting up tables for coffee or special events, helping other staff and doing things behind the scenes to help keep our facilities both inside and out in the best of shape. Over the years, he has often been there to greet us on a Sunday morning as he goes about his duties or to touch base and welcome us to New St. James as we arrive for midweek activities." This Elder added: "Mark is well known for his quiet way, good nature, and his love of home-baked chocolate chip cookies!"

These reflections and memories, from leaders of New St. James, show clearly what a positive impact Mark has had during his years of service. As New St. James thanks Mark for his hard work and positive contributions, I hope that Mark will enjoy the satisfaction of knowing that he has done his job well. Congratulations on your retirement, Mark—and may God bless you throughout this new chapter of your life

From the Clerk of Session

Greetings from Session! It seems that the time since preparing an article for the last Newsletter has sped by very fast, but in that short time much has also happened. We have the new video and audio equipment installed in the Sanctuary to allow us to improve the quality and technical production of the livestreamed worship services on Sunday morning. This high-quality equipment has been permanently installed and provides for integration with our existing sound system and a greater range of visual perspectives to capture all aspects of the worship service. While some further fine tuning continues, we express our thanks to Steve Harris, the Board of Managers and some funding from the Sanctuary Memorial Committee and from an anonymous donor for helping to make all of this happen.

Also, Session met in late September to consider the possibility of limited in-person worship services in the Sanctuary. Significant regulatory research, health and safety analysis, and logistical assessments were undertaken by the COVID Response Team to determine if this could be done and how it could be managed. Session reviewed the report and adopted a policy to support a return to in-person worship. The policy establishes all of the protocols, requirements, details and considerations to help manage the incrementally staged return to in-person worship. The policy may need revisions and updating based on practical experience, changing circumstances and any future governmental and health orders which may be issued. Also, as pandemic conditions continue to change, suspension of in-person worship may

very well be required in the future. Session's approval aims to begin in-person worship on Sunday, October 10, 2021. All attendees will be required to pre-register on-line for worship, be fully vaccinated, wear disposable / surgical masks while in the Church, not sing or respond during hymns and prayers, sit physically distanced, and remain at their assigned seating in the pews. All of these are required to abide by necessary health regulations and appropriate safety precautions. There will be no refreshment time in the Church after service or visiting with the Minister or other Congregants, and doors and windows may be left open to allow for increased air flow. Further, there will be some modifications to the Order of Service to reduce the length of time people are spending contained indoors. In short, things have changed, and the worship service will be a different experience for the foreseeable future during the pandemic.

Further information on the return to in-person worship will be sent in an email to everyone for whom we have an email and it will also be available on the Church Website Homepage. Please be patient as we adjust to this new opportunity and cooperate with us to make it a success.

Session received requests to retire from Elders Janet Hines and Pat Taylor. Both requests were accepted with understanding and gratitude for their service and their names have been added to the inactive Elders list. One other item dealt with by Session is that given the uncertainties of the pandemic, one Christmas Eve Service has been planned and it will be held at 7:00 p.m.

Bruce Curtis

From the Thomas Kent Trust

Thomas Kent was a prominent businessperson in London in the 19th century, and a member of our church. When he died in 1912, Mr. Kent bequeathed shares in the company which he founded, the London Loan and Savings Company, to "The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church at the corner of Oxford and Wellington Streets, London" as the residual beneficiary of his considerable estate.

The principal of this donation was not to be depleted, but the interest earned was to be used for mission. Through judicious management and wise investments over the decades, the original gift has grown, despite the fact that many thousands have been disbursed to a variety of worthwhile local, national and global causes.

The Trust has grown to \$1,021,279 at the end of August, exceeding \$1 million for the first time. Income in 2021, included in the above, is \$19,111. So far this year, the following support has been provided to these mission activities:

Frank Walsh

Presbyterian Sharing	\$ 5,000
Camp Kintail	\$ 2,500
NSJ Service Group	\$ 500
NSJ Benevolence	\$ 1,250
NSJ Northern Hospitality	\$ 500
Mission Services of London	\$ 2,500
Anova	\$ 2,500
St. Paul's Social Services	\$ 2,000
Ark Aid	\$ 1,000
London Food Bank	\$ 1,000
My Sister's Place	\$ 1,000
ARISE Ministry	\$ 1,000
Total	\$20,750

The last item on this list is a new mission for the Thomas Kent Trust. ARISE Ministry's stated goal is to empower individuals involved in the sex trade to reclaim their lives. Through providing outreach, case management, and spiritual care, helping relationships are established, hope is fostered, and futures are reclaimed for many women across Canada. We are very pleased that Rev. Clark brought this mission of the Presbytery of East York to our attention and we hope to build an ongoing relationship with them. For additional info on ARISE Ministry, please go to <https://ariseministry.ca>

The Link: Presbytery Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations

What is the Presbytery? Instead of being governed by individuals, the Presbyterian Church in Canada is governed by groups of people that are called courts. The presbytery is one of the courts of the church (along with sessions, synods and General Assembly). The Presbytery is made up of one minister and one elder (called the representative elder) from each church

within a geographic bound.

The Presbytery of London includes all of the Presbyterian churches in London, and extends south to Port Stanley, east to Dorchester, and west to Dutton and just outside of Mount Brydges. Presbytery meets on the 2nd Tuesday of September, October, November, January, February, March, April, May and June at 7pm

So what do we do?? The presbytery has three main roles, and is organized into three teams to do this work.



The Business Team deals with matters related to other courts of the church; manages any funds of the court, collects police records checks for clergy and Leading with Care documents for churches, ensures that the Presbytery Lending Fund, the Refugee Committee and a Sexual Abuse and Harassment Team are functioning.

The Ministry Team interviews students for ministry, provides a pulpit supply list, interviews candidates to serve as lay preachers, works with the congregation team to aid congregations/clergy during times of transition or difficulty.

The Congregation Team appoints interim moderators, appoints visitation teams, works with the ministry team to aid congregations/clergy during times of transition or difficulty.

How do I learn more about the Presbytery of London? Go to our website! www.presbylondon.ca, or ask your rep elder or your minister!

What is "The Link"? This is a new "newsletter" that the Presbytery is sending out after each meeting to let Sessions (and congregations) know about decisions made at our monthly meetings.

What happened at the September 2021 meeting of the Presbytery?? A presentation was made from the Presbyterian Church Heritage Centre. The Centre has moved to a former Presbyterian Church that is about 20 minutes north and west of London. The

Centre is gratefully accepting donations, and hopes to be functioning and ready to welcome visitors in 12 months or so.

Rev. Mavis Currie and Rev. Shelly Butterfield Kocis finished their term as co-moderators of the Presbytery of London. Rev. Andrew Thompson, the minister of Knox-St. Andrew's, Dutton was elected as the Moderator of the Presbytery for the 2021-2022 year. The moderator elect (to serve in 2022-2023) is Richard Cote, representative elder from Chalmers, London.

The court approved a grant application to the national church for St. James, North Yarmouth.

Gord Brown, the student minister from St. James, North Yarmouth was ordained on September 19 and was inducted as half time minister of that church on October 3.

Rev. Jim Patterson has begun his work as General Presbyter. The General Presbyter (G.P.) is a new half time position in the court. Jim will serve as a minister overseeing a number of smaller churches who do not have the funds to call a full time or a half time minister on their own. Jim will be arranging pulpit supply, leading Session meetings, and serving as a conduit for these churches with the presbytery. This position allows for more consistent leadership for these communities of faith: St. John's, Port Stanley; Knox, Fingal; Crinan and Largie; and South Nissouri. This position also ensures that every clergy in the presbytery is NOT serving as an interim moderator. Jim has been a member of the Presbytery of London for a number of years, and we are grateful for his leadership in this new role.

COVID 19 and Re-Openings of

Sanctuaries: A reminder that decisions regarding the opening of sanctuaries and return to public worship is a decision for individual sessions. Public Health is advising that contact tracing must be done, masks must be worn, congregational singing should be minimized, and social distancing

maintained. Some churches have already begun having in person worship services, some are still online, others are hoping to transition to in person services in the next month or two. We continue to pray for all of our elders as they make decisions faithfully for the good of the church and Christ's kingdom.

New St. James 29th Annual Christmas Toy Drive 2021



A SMILE FOR EVERY CHILD!

The Salvation Army is offering the Christmas Hamper program this year. In a time of so much struggle, our support at Christmastime will bring smiles to many kids' faces (and their moms and dads!). What a wonderful way for New

St. James to make a difference in our community! 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 many children in our community! A non-violent toy that does not require batteries is preferable, and please do not wrap the toy. You will have until Wednesday, December 8th to drop off your toy at the Church. Please call the Church office 519-434-1127 to make an appointment to drop off your gift. Thank you for your continued generosity.

Judi LeBlanc

From the Women's Council

PRESERVES AND BAKING MARKETPLACE, November 20, 10:00a.m.-noon
Again this year, Women's Council, is organizing a virtual Marketplace to replace our Bazaar. The date this year will be Saturday, November 20.

We have been asking the congregation to make PRESERVES for this sale. If you have done so, please bring them to the church Monday to Thursday, October 18 to 21. The church office is open 9-12 and 1-3 except for Wednesday when it closes at 2:30. It is closed on Friday. Please call Judi first and let her know when you will be there. Buzz the office when you get

there, Judi will let you in and you will put your preserves on the trolley inside the door. If you need help to bring them in, please ask for Mark to come to the door. Please wear your mask. If these times are not convenient for you, please call Karen Buchwald. We need the donations there at this time in order to prepare a list of items for sale.

We are also asking you, the congregation, to BAKE some of your specialties for the sale as well as asking you to make DELI items. Please call or email Karen Buchwald, 519-641-6742 karenbuchwald@hotmail.com between

now and October 22 to tell us what baking or deli you will be donating. Again, we need to know this in order to create our sales list. These donations should be brought to the church on November 19—one day prior to the sale, preferably in the morning. There is room in the church freezer so if you need to freeze something, you could bring it to the church on any Monday – Thursday during the same hours as outlined above. When you call Judi ask her to have Mark meet you at the door and he will take your donation to the freezer. Again, you can call Karen Buchwald if this is not convenient.

We had a wide variety of baking last year—loaves, cookies, scones (very popular), buns, bread, muffins, fudge, squares, tarts, Christmas cake (very popular), carrot cake (very popular) and bits and bites. We are closer to Christmas this year and we know that our customers will be looking for Christmas selections.

Our deli items were very much in demand last year—meat pies, cabbage rolls, frozen apple pies, frozen apple crisp

Women’s Council

and I am sure there are other items you might like to prepare.

The list of what is available for purchase will be emailed to everyone in the congregation the first week of November and you will then be able to PLACE AN ORDER. If you do not do email and wish a list, please let Karen Buchwald know in order to get you a printed copy. Orders will be placed by phone or email and the details will be explained when the list goes out. Please share this list with friends and neighbours.

On Saturday, November 20, anytime between 10:00a.m. and noon, you will come to the Oxford Street parking lot where you will be greeted outside while you remain in your car. You will give your name and someone will get your order for you. You will pay that person and then be on your way! If you do not have transportation available to do this pickup, you should tell Karen Buchwald when you place your order.

Thank you for supporting this effort.

Big news from Timvane Children’s Centre. Chipagala, Malawi

RE: RECEIPT OF MONEY

We write to officially inform you that we have received the money you have just sent us for the said project, that is land procuring we have received the sum of MWK 3,260,000.00 and once again we are assuring you that it serve its intended purpose and will come back to you with further details of the land that will include even the map, your immediate response is greatly appreciated.

May the good Lord continue blessing you and the entire church for your support.

Madalitso
CHAIRPERSON

Leman
SECRETARY

Above is the reply I received when we sent the funds to buy the 2 acres of land about 2 kms from the village. This seems a great distance for us, but it is not for Malawians. I was hoping to have the paperwork and the map before the newsletter was published!

I hope the land will enable the Centre to grow maize and other crops which will make it easier to feed all 250 children five days a week. Please remember all the children and volunteers who are part of the Timvane Children's Centre. Hopefully the pandemic will ease in

Cathy Reid

Malawi and we can start to plan our next trip. We hope to help them learn how to prepare the land so that it can yield better and more crops.

Thank you for your support for this mission. It would not be able to function without your financial and prayerful support.

The photo below shows the committee and volunteers who run Timvane. Madam Chief is on my right, and Madalitso is in the striped shirt, second from the right.



Staff

The Board is grateful for the service of Mark McDonald at New St. James these past 14 years. Mark recently informed us of his intention to retire on October 31. Plans are underway to honour Mark in the midst of these strange times. He has been a faithful helper and a dear friend to our congregation. We will all miss him at New St. James. The Board will ensure the ongoing maintenance of our facilities upon Mark's retirement.

Property

We are working at numerous property improvements and concerns. Water damage to plaster in the southeast corner of the sanctuary at the East Tower, has recently revealed itself. We

Financial Update as of September 30, 2021

Below are some financial highlights of where New St. James stands financially as of the end of September this year, and where we stood at the same time over the previous two years.

Not surprisingly, our receipts decreased when the pandemic forced New St. James to shutter our building in March 2020. We experienced a \$38,000 decrease in Congregational Support in the first nine months of 2020, but we have seen some rebound in 2021 and, with the doors beginning to open again, I am hopeful that we will see a further increase in givings.

Our expenses also decreased in 2020, when the doors were closed, and we received significant relief from the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy

Steve Harris, Chair of Board
Jeff Goud, Treasurer

will be attempting remedy this issue in October, before the weather becomes inclement.

In-person Worship

The Board has played an active role in helping to set up a safe return to in-person worship at New St. James. We have also assisted with the recent installation and operation of equipment for live-streaming worship services. Your prayers, patience, and encouragement in these matters are much appreciated.

Finance

Thank you for your ongoing financial support of New St. James. Jeff Goud provides a report below on current financial matters.

(CEWS) program which further reduced our expenses. The CEWS subsidy is not nearly as generous in 2021, and we now have a full time Minister, so our total expenses have increased, as has our shortfall.

There are still three months left in the calendar year, and these three months are historically the strongest, financially, at New St. James. Earlier this year, the congregation approved a budget with a \$31,700 deficit. Although, it seems unlikely that we will balance our books this year, I do believe that we can finish this year ahead of our budget targets.

As always, I welcome any questions regarding our finances so, if you have any, please feel free to reach out to me at jrgoud@hotmail.com

	Jan – Sep 21	Jan – Sep 20	Jan – Sep 19
Congregational support	\$138,737	\$126,246	\$164,476
Trust funds	\$ 38,774	\$ 37,700	\$ 37,700
Other income	\$ 11,351	\$ 7,921	\$ 8,864
Total income	\$188,862	\$171,867	\$211,040
Total expenses	\$249,532	\$178,740	\$265,780
Net shortfall	\$-60,670	\$ -6,873	\$ -54,740

2021 Salvation Army Kettle Campaign



Hard to believe that 2021 is going by so fast but the Salvation Army is already planning the 2021 Christmas Kettles campaign. Their goal for London is \$550,000, which they believe to be a very ambitious goal, yet achievable, as caring Londoners continue to rise to the challenge of increasing community needs. They are asking New St. James for help again this year, as long as COVID 19 restrictions allow them to operate. They will be taking all the safety precautions and providing PPE supplies to volunteers.

We are asked to support the cause once again by hosting the kettle that will be placed in the Valumart at Oxford and Richmond. Our initial target is to fill the 4 timeslots on each of Thursday, November 25; Friday, November 26; and Saturday, November 27. The four timeslots per day: 10:00 to 1:00, 1:00 to 3:00, 3:00

Frank Walsh

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 or call 519-850-0139, 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 fourth 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!

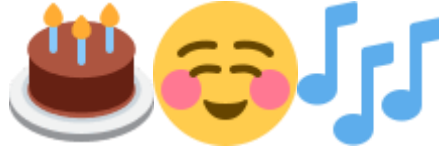
Condolences

To the family and friends of Jack Fairs, who died on August 30.
To the family and friends of Paul Skinner, who died on September 22.

Congratulations!

To Bob and Kay Giles who celebrated their 70th wedding anniversary on October 3.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sunday School and Teen Group members



OCTOBER: Steve C.
Bethelia C.

NOVEMBER

Isla H
Owen D.
Avery V.

DECEMBER:

Sasha G.
Clara M.

Enjoy your day with your family and friends. Hope you'll be surrounded by people who care about you. Lift your face to the sun and open your arms wide to a brand new year ahead. God has great plans for you...

Love from Sunday School children, Teen Group Class and folks from congregation.

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that New St. James is located on the traditional lands of the Anishanaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, Attawandaron and Wendat peoples, who cared for these lands for centuries before the first Europeans arrived. These lands are connected with the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum of 1701, and the London Township Treaty of 1796. Our local First Nation communities include Chippewas of the Thames First Nation (Anishanaabeg), Oneida Nation of the Thames (Haudenosaunee), and Munsee-Delaware Nation (Lūnaapéewak).

<i>How do I contact . . .</i>		<i>What if I have . . .</i>
Minister	Rev. Dr. David Clark dclark@newstjames.ca	Upcoming announcements & events? admin@newstjames.ca
Clerk of Session	Bruce Curtis bcurtis@newstjames.ca	Website postings? admin@newstjames.ca
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles tchiles@newstjames.ca	Website questions or issues? web@newstjames.ca
Office Administrator	Judi LeBlanc admin@newstjames.ca	Facebook Postings? facebook@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		

And finally . . .

Every Child Matters

Chi-piitendaagziwag kina binoojiinyag

Ojibway (Chippewas of the Thames First Nation)

Translated by: Monty McGahey of Chippewas of the Thames

Kwayate Kaksatake Tsi'Uska

Oneida (Oneida Nation of the Thames)

Translated by: James Antone Sr. of Oneida Nation of the Thames

Kiiloona Kshaaleewihna amiimunzak

Lenape (Munsee-Delaware Nation)

Translated by: Velma Noah of Delaware Nation-Moravian of the Thames

lpl.ca/TruthandReconciliation