



*News from*

# New St. James Presbyterian Church

*A Congregation of The Presbyterian Church in Canada  
Following Christ, Worshipping God, Serving Others*

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

*April 4, 2022*

## *From the Publisher*

With the first signs of spring, the joy of Easter coming, and the possibility that we may be able to lift some of the pandemic restrictions, hope returns. As it does, we celebrate all that New St. James has resolutely continued to do despite the challenges we are facing. And we look forward to what we may soon be able to do. Read and enjoy!

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## From the Minister

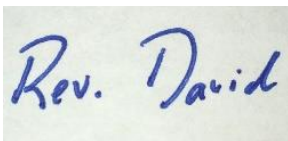
*I will rejoice in Jerusalem, and delight in my people;  
no more shall the sound of weeping be heard in it, or the cry of distress.  
No more shall there be in it an infant that lives but a few days,  
or an old person who does not live out a lifetime...  
They shall build houses and inhabit them;  
they shall plant vineyards and eat their fruit.  
(Isaiah 65:19-21)*

The prophet Isaiah offers a vision of peace; yet the experience of Ukraine today, suffering from the Russian war of aggression, presents a painful contrast. Isaiah envisions peace where infants and the elderly are safeguarded; in Ukraine, infants and the elderly have been maimed and murdered. Isaiah envisions peace where people securely enjoy their homes and harvests; in Ukraine, millions have been forced to flee from destroyed homes, occupied farms, and devastated cities.

During the past several weeks, I have frequently reflected on a statement by Inna Sovsun, a Member of the Parliament of Ukraine. On March 3, after hearing the U.S. Secretary of State comment on the inspiring example of Ukrainians, Sovsun offered this response: "I don't mean to be rude," she wrote. "But I don't want to be inspiring. I want to be able to read a book to my son in our home before he goes to sleep. And I cannot do that now,

just like millions of Ukrainians." We may add to Isaiah's vision of peace: God desires peace where infants and the elderly are unharmed, where homes and farms are safe, and where a Ukrainian mother can again read a bedtime story to her child.

At the March meeting of Session, as I addressed the Russian invasion of Ukraine, I encouraged the Ruling Elders to persevere in prayer, to seek out concrete ways to help (through PWS&D or other humanitarian agencies), and—very importantly—to remain attentive to the conditions faced by the Ukrainian people. As the scale of suffering increases with every atrocity committed by the Russian military, it may become tempting to look away; however, as I shared with the Ruling Elders, the very least we can do is remain aware and bear witness—as we insist that the people of Ukraine deserve the very peace and security that Isaiah envisions.

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

## From the Clerk of Session

Happy Spring and best wishes during this Season of Lent in our anticipation and lead up to Easter and the celebration of the Risen Christ. May the fulfillment of the Easter promise bring you hope and

joy. Session met in mid-March and there are a few things for which we can update you from that meeting.

Session received a letter of resignation

from Jim Simpson as a member of the Human Resources Committee after 15 years of faithful service. We celebrate Jim's long service and dedication to the role. Also, Rosemary Whittaker has stepped down late in 2021 from the Human Resources Committee after 17 years of service, and we thank her for her many years of service and commitment to that role with New St. James. Further, Session approved the updated Terms of Reference for the operation of the Human Resources Committee.

Recently, a number of changes have been made to the District Elder's List and you should expect to be contacted by your new Elder if there was a change.

Finally, Session approved actions to recommence in-person Worship Services, with adjustments accommodated to Session's Policy and Protocol to Manage In-person Worship Services.

Following new and emerging pandemic guidelines, using the experiences of in-person worship last Autumn, and making prudent assessments and decisions, has allowed us to recommence onsite worship services.

In-person worship returned on March 13, 2022, and livestreaming will also continue for those continuing to worship remotely. Attendance continues to require full vaccination, masking, distancing and hand-sanitizing, as well as self- screening for COVID prior to arrival. Pre-registration will not be required, but a check-in at the door and attendance recordkeeping for contact tracing will be carried out upon your arrival.

Some spoken responses are being re-incorporated, and Hymnals, Bibles and pew cushions have returned to the pews,

but no congregational singing is permitted yet. We continue to be in need of Ushers and Greeters in order for these services to be held and anyone interested in volunteering may contact Kathy Ruggi at 519-671-1672.

Fellowship and visiting after worship are available outdoors as weather permits and some refreshments outdoors may be available as the weather improves. During inclement weather there may be some distanced visiting in New St. James Hall, without refreshments for the foreseeable future.

Further, limited small group meetings of New St. James' groups are permitted using large space rooms for distance separation and these are to be booked through the Church Office. Again, all attendees for meetings must be fully vaccinated and masked. The continued use of Zoom for some meetings is still encouraged where appropriate and preferred by various groups. The situation will continue to be monitored and Session has committed to assessing the operations of the Church as the pandemic progresses for future changes with a measured, staged and managed risk approach.

Regarding Holy Week and Easter, precautions remain in place where appropriate. For Maundy Thursday, we will hold our traditional Communion Service at 7:00 p.m. by Zoom. Those wishing to attend the Communion will need to send an email to Judi LeBlanc in the Office (email subject line – Maundy Thursday Service) requesting an invitation and should gather the required elements prior to the Zoom meeting. The Maundy Thursday Communion Service will be by Zoom only and not livestreamed. The Good Friday Service will be held at 10:30 a.m., in-person and

livestreamed, and will take the form of the Last Words from the Cross. Easter Sunday will also be in-person and livestreamed, with the accompaniment of trumpet music. Attendance at the in-person Easter Worship Service may be

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session.

## *From the Organ Console Easter 2022*



What a joy it was this past March 13<sup>th</sup> NOT to be one of only four or five people in our Sanctuary on a Sunday morning! It was thrilling to see one dear old friend after another come into the building, and to watch the effect upon them as they

re-entered our beautiful sanctuary, and of being back *together* in that beautiful sanctuary. We've been cautious as we gather again these past few weeks, following social distancing procedures and restraining ourselves from singing with Ariel as she leads the hymns – but it is so powerful to feel, after two full years, the manifest individual and collective joy of gathering together again on a Sunday morning as we share in worship and fellowship and hear the Word and respond in faith and love.

That marvelous feeling of community and feeling God's presence as we gather together is a feeling that we must work now to share with others as the world recovers from the COVID calamity and deals with war in Europe. Many people in our midst in London are yearning for that feeling of connection and communal support, as well as a feeling of belonging, and of responding to God and His creation with gratitude and joy and love.

larger on that day, we will continue to practice the check-in at the door, masking and distancing.

Best wishes for the Spring and Easter.

We've got something wonderful on our little corner of Oxford and Wellington and we should reach out to share it now as we emerge from what feels like a two-year retreat. Indeed, our experience of spring and Easter this year, of rebirth and new life and freedom from our sins and loneliness will be more dramatic than ever! Let us share it – following Christ, worshipping God, and serving others – by inviting others to join us, reaching out to folks who may have forgotten that powerful feeling of coming into Christ's Garden on a Sunday morning, reaching out to folks who need a community but don't yet know how delightful and supportive and loving our little family is here at NSJ.

Bryon Wiebe has been wonderful these past two years at messaging me words of encouragement every so often through the pandemic. His kindness and that of so many others in the congregation have helped sustain me through some dispiriting times! We were sharing our hopes for a return of the choir soon and Bryon quipped "That's a GOOD dream! I hope we can all be together in the loft soon", which was just the buoying up that I needed as this spring starts to bud and as the Lenten path leads closer and closer to Holy Week and the miraculous good news of Easter morning.

May this year's Easter be earth shaking for us all. May it renew and strengthen



our faith, galvanize our community here, and give us purpose to reach out to our wider community, inviting everyone to share that revitalizing spirit that we feel so present with us on Sunday mornings



## Northern Hospitality

On March 16, 2020, your Northern Hospitality team had no idea two years later we would still be serving take out meals to our less fortunate as a result of this pandemic. We think our world was turned upside down but our attendees struggled even more to find safe lodging and a warm hot meal as the months rolled by. They would line up at the door at St Michaels Roman Catholic Church in the rain, snow or whatever the weather, to receive a carefully prepared take out meal and often would eat in the parking lot because they could no longer gather inside. They were always appreciative and even with their masks on you could see how difficult life has been for them.

Two years later on March 21, 2022, we once again served our hearty shepherd's pie and thankfully the rain held off until the last attendee was served. We have served anywhere from 45 to 70 folks each time and thanks to your generous support of this vital neighbourhood outreach mission they were always well fed.

This coming April 6th the convenors from the five churches that make up Northern

in our sanctuary after these past two years apart.

Warmest wishes for a joyful Easter to us all!

Hospitality will meet and discuss moving forward with possible in-house meals starting in April but most likely September. To my knowledge the other churches remain committed to this mission and without a doubt your New St James team is eager to serve in any capacity.

On another note, our first meal in many, many months was prepared in our downstairs New St. James kitchen after a much-needed major renovation due to years of water damage. Thank you to Deb Noble Van Hees for overseeing this very stressful restoration as the walls came down and the extent of the damage was revealed. It was a celebration beyond words to have such a beautiful kitchen to prepare our dinner in. Thank you, Deb, Women's Council and the many others who helped bring our tired kitchen back to life for many more years to come.

My thanks as always to our amazing volunteers who help me each month to prepare and serve a hearty dinner each month to our attendees.

Cathy Taylor, Convenor

## *From Women's Council*

Don't you love it when a plan comes together?

Yes, the kitchen is almost done! A few touch ups, some ceiling paint, wallpaper . . . Ok, this list is a little longer than I thought, however, we are almost there. The good news is that the kitchen is in working order and Cathy Taylor was able to prepare the Northern Hospitality dinner in March.

We had the ovens calibrated and found that both thermostats had to be replaced. It's a beautiful oven but has a few years of experience (= old) so we are very glad the parts are still available. My thanks to everyone who volunteered to wash our many tablecloths - there are still some left if you can help with that. The tablecloth cupboard has received two

coats of paint and looks clean and bright! Many thanks to my daughter Sarah and Cathy Taylor who have helped with the additional painting. It's possible the fumes got to us at times but we have fun just the same. My son-in-law and daughter put up the beadboard last night and it really gives the kitchen character and charm. A coat of primer and paint is next. Truly a family affair!

Just a reminder that we have some preserves left so please let me know if you are interested in any of these delicious items.

8 Heirloom Grape Jelly  
2 Rhubarb Ginger Jelly  
7 Strawberry Rhubarb Jams  
8 Red Pepper Jelly  
2 Strawberry Balsamic Jams  
2 Grape Jelly

Deb Noble-Van Hees

## *The Link: Presbytery Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations*

The Presbytery of London continues to meet zoom, with meetings opened with prayer and a short worship service. Highlights of the February and March meetings follow.



**New Minister for Oakridge Presbyterian Church!** Oakridge was declared vacant in early 2021. Through the last year, this church continued to worship under the leadership of Rev. Michael Stol, and the search committee for a new minister worked diligently to prepare a congregational profile and to interview potential candidates. Nine profiles were reviewed, four candidates were interviewed, and Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald was invited to preach for the call. Dr. Archibald serves at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church in Calgary. The call to Dr. Archibald has been transmitted to the Presbytery of Calgary MacLeod for their approval.

**New Leadership at Trinity Church in North London.** A contract with Nick Metrifier, a graduate of Knox College, as part time leader (lay missionary with specialized training) was approved.



**Candidates for Ministry.** There are several candidates for ordination this spring. Presbytery is responsible to interview these individuals and make recommendations.



### **Funds and Accounts within the Presbytery of London**

The treasurer of Presbytery reminded the court of the various funds and accounts of the Presbytery of London. They are listed below:

**The General Account** is used to cover general and budgeted expenses with the presbytery.

**The Dayspring Fund** was established following the sale of Day Spring Church in London, and is to be used to support the establishment of new congregations or the renewal of established congregations.

**The Dr. Daniel Stalker Memorial Fund** was established to provide financial support for students for the ministry within the Presbytery.

**The Discretionary Fund** is used to cover expenses that were not included in the yearly budget.



**Referrals from General Assembly.** Presbyteries and Sessions are invited to review the Study Guide "Living in God's Mission Today". Sessions are invited to review the guidelines to extend calls to candidates who identify as LGBTQI.

**Coldest Night of the Year Walk.** A team from Chalmers and St. Lawrence Churches raised funds for the Kenora Fellowship with a walk in February for the Coldest Night of the Year. Over \$2900 was raised.

**Congregational Visits.** The Congregation team of the presbytery will be arranging visits to several churches in Presbytery this year. These are friendly check in visits to allow congregations to reflect on their work and ensure there are open lines of communication between Presbytery and congregations.

**Presbytery Refugee Committee.** This committee is looking for 2-3 new members. A family of 7 people in Syria are waiting to be settled. During the wait, two members of the family passed away (one from Covid, one from a heart condition). The committee hopes that this family will be able to be settled in the next year. The committee is also providing support to a couple from Eritrea. There is some discussion around providing refuge to a family from Ukraine.



**Presbyterian World Service  
& Development**

**Relief for Ukraine.** The Presbyterian Church in Canada joins in prayer for the people in Ukraine as they face war, danger and uncertainty. The Canadian Foodgrains Bank and ACT Alliance are receiving donations through PWS&D.

## Highland

The ladies of Highland Group met on March 14<sup>th</sup> for lunch and a visit with each other. It was wonderful to be together! We hope as the weather gets better, we can meet outside as we were doing last fall and summer. We continue to support

each other and to do what we can for our church. Hopefully it will not be long before we can have our regular meetings again. We always welcome new members so if you are interested, please contact me at [karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com)

### KINTAIL RETREAT

Thirty ladies have registered to go to Camp Kintail for our annual retreat (was Crieff retreat) on the weekend of April 22<sup>nd</sup> to 24<sup>th</sup>. We will arrive for supper on Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> and leave early afternoon on Sunday, April 24<sup>th</sup>. We will have a study, play games, enjoy the

grounds of Kintail, enjoy each other's company and generally have a lot of fun. If there any other ladies interested, please contact me at [karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com) for information.

Karen Buchwald

## Recent Publication

During his Study Leave in October 2021, the Minister was working on two articles, one of which has just been published in Studies in Christian-Jewish Relations (the peer-reviewed journal of the Council of Centers on Jewish-Christian Relations). Dr. Clark's article, "Dietrich Bonhoeffer,

Prayerbook of the Bible, and the Reichsschrifttumskammer (RSK): Reassessing the Historical Record," can be read here: <https://ejournals.bc.edu/index.php/scjr/article/view/14853>

## Easter Appeal

The Board of Managers reports a very similar financial picture to this time last year.

generous response to the 2021 Appeal was very encouraging, and helpful to the life and mission of New St. James.

Please watch your mailbox in the coming weeks for an Easter Appeal letter. The

Thank you for your continuing support of the church.

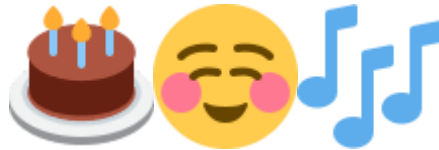
Steve Harris

## Condolences

To the family of Doris Bonnell who died on March 19, 2022.



## HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sunday School and Teen Group members



~CONGRATULATIONS FOR YOUR BIRTHDAY~~

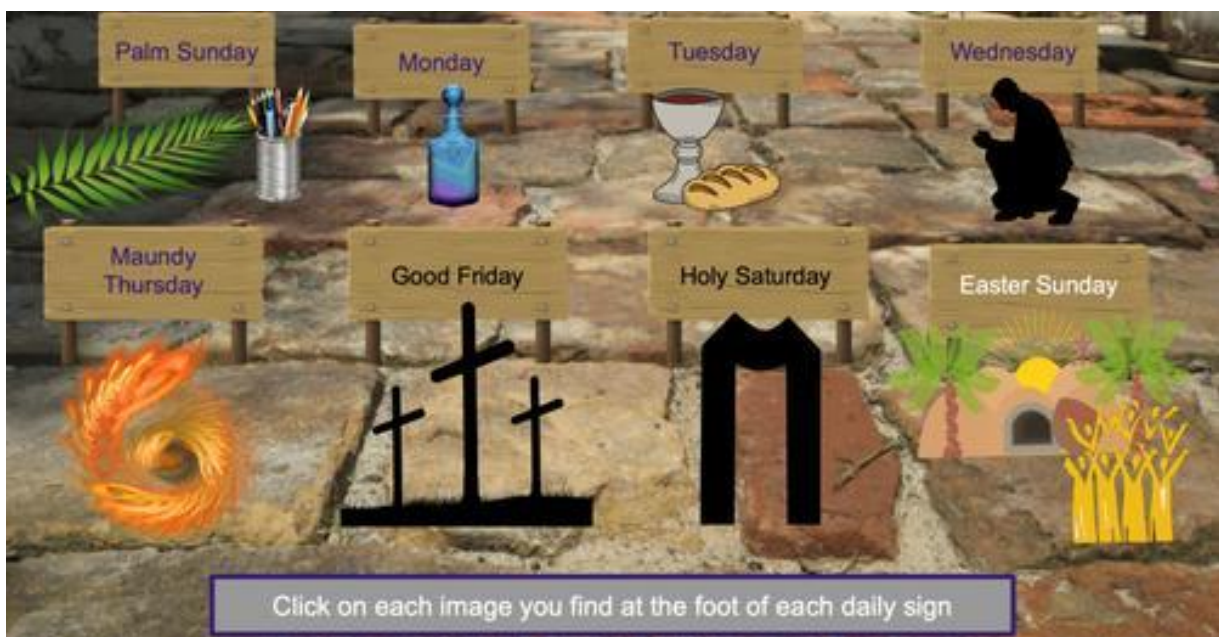
April Joy K., Jayden K. and Jack D.

May James H. and Cole L.

Enjoy your day and blessings for the year ahead.  
God has great plans for you all!

### *For children of all ages*

Holy Week is rich with key stories of our faith. However, for children, some of these stories can be quite difficult to understand and even scary. For this reason, this interactive Google Slide has been loaded with videoed Bible stories written by excellent children's educators and read by caring leaders of our church. This free Google Slide can be downloaded for your family from the Synod of CNOB at [https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRoUO9UllfVzduaXRXJU6ZQux1BX5qH6AvZYV7JRvBt987-KfW8GYbu7fmygggZK39YZWImSj7pjFLL/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g11e8b104587\\_1\\_14](https://docs.google.com/presentation/d/e/2PACX-1vRoUO9UllfVzduaXRXJU6ZQux1BX5qH6AvZYV7JRvBt987-KfW8GYbu7fmygggZK39YZWImSj7pjFLL/pub?start=false&loop=false&delayms=3000&slide=id.g11e8b104587_1_14)



## *Hockey "Knight" in London, 13 years ago*

Karen friends experienced their first hockey game, preceded by gourmet hot dogs and floor hockey in NSJ Hall. Following an exciting trip up the escalators to our seats in the last row of the arena, we settled in for a London Knights Hockey game.

The National Anthem was sung, the puck was dropped, and immediately both teams started fighting!

Eventually a boxing match turned into a hockey game ...



## Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that New St. James is located on the traditional lands of the Anishanaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Attawandaron (Neutral) and Wendat peoples, lands connected with the London Township and Sombra Treaties of 1796 and the Dish with One Spoon Covenant Wampum.

<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>
Deputy Clerk	Charlene Beynon <a href="mailto:cbeynon@newstjames.ca">cbeynon@newstjames.ca</a>	Website questions or issues? <a href="mailto:web@newstjames.ca">web@newstjames.ca</a>
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles <a href="mailto:tchiles@newstjames.ca">tchiles@newstjames.ca</a>	Facebook Postings? <a href="mailto:facebook@newstjames.ca">facebook@newstjames.ca</a>
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And finally, following up on last issue's cartoon - snowdrops at Fullerton Park, Troon, Scotland (photo by Roy Mulvanny and posted on Facebook). . .

