



News from

New St. James Presbyterian Church

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

www.newstjames.ca

May 30, 2022

From the Publisher

Take a few more tentative steps towards opening up, add in what is carrying on, plus recognition of the people who make sure it carries on, and what do you have? Lots to celebrate and lots to read, enjoy and look forward to.

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From the Minister

*Clap your hands, all you peoples;
shout to God with loud songs of joy.
God has gone up with a shout,
the LORD with the sound of a trumpet.
For God is the king of all the earth;
sing praises with a psalm.
(Psalm 47:1, 5, 7)*

These verses from Psalm 47 comprise the Call to Worship for Ascension of the Lord Sunday on May 29 (which, at the time of writing, is this Sunday). A frequent theme in the Psalms is singing to God, and this Call to Worship is no exception: “shout to God with loud songs of joy,” we hear, “sing praises with a psalm.” On May 29, this invitation to sing will resonate in a special way, since — after more than two years — congregational singing will resume in the Sanctuary of New St. James. When the psalmist enjoins us to offer God “loud songs of joy,” we will be able to do just that!

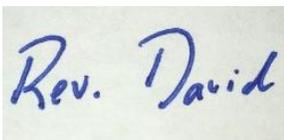
The resumption of congregational singing, announced by the COVID Response Team, should be greeted with excitement, as the congregation can look forward to joining voices in the praise of God. This development, moreover, offers an important opportunity to express sincere gratitude for the remarkable musical ministry that Torin Chiles (Director of Music) and Ariel Harwood-

Jones (Senior Chorister) have continued to offer New St. James throughout the many months of the pandemic.

Torin and Ariel are exceptionally gifted musicians; yet in addition, they have also been wonderfully adaptable amid changing conditions. During my ministry at New St. James, we have needed to make multiple transitions; at times, worship has been livestreamed from the Sanctuary, offered via Zoom from homes, or — as is currently the practice — livestreamed with in-person attendance. Each transition has involved various technical challenges, yet Torin and Ariel have found ways to offer meaningful musical ministry in every circumstance.

As the congregation looks forward to the resumption of congregational signing, may we mark this occasion by expressing continuing gratitude to Torin and Ariel, who — when we could not sing — served as our voice of praise.

Blessings!

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

From the Clerk of Session

As we continue our way through the Easter Season and look toward Pentecost, we celebrate the arrival of warmer weather and our ability to gather and visit with friends and family in the outdoors and shrug off the weight of our long and cold Winter. Session met in mid-May and there are a few things for which we can update you from that meeting.

The Presbytery "Link Newsletter" (included in this New St. James Newsletter) was received from the Presbytery along with a letter from the Moderator, the Rev. Andrew Thompson. Rev. Thompson's letter reminded us all of the stress and pressure which the pandemic has created for the clergy and how they have been stretched in many ways that they never imagined. He asked us to remember to care for our ministers, help ensure their needs are being met, and offer encouragement when needed. He also noted that the pandemic has taken a toll on our Ruling Elders as well as they have continued to serve the Church faithfully and weathered the storm, by God's grace. He thanked the Elders for their leadership and unseen work which has continued in creating a spirit of welcome and love in our churches.

The COVID Response Team continues to monitor the progress of the pandemic and is pleased to announce the resumption of congregational singing beginning on May 29, 2022 (with public health measures continuing, including the consistent use of masks for in-person worship).

Also, Session approved the change to Summer hours for the start of Worship Service as 10:00 a.m., from July 3 until

September 4, 2022, inclusive. Further, Session re-appointed Marg McGugan as our Representative Elder and Mike Ruggi as the Alternate, and Marg McGugan was nominated to Presbytery as a Commissioner to the 2022 General Assembly to be held online in June.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada General Assembly of 2021 dealt with many issues and approved a number of policies. Of particular note was the Policy and Procedures for Addressing Harassment in the Church. This policy applies to all members, adherents, staff, volunteers, and ministries of New St. James. Session, by motion, acknowledged and supported the policy, and approved a number of actions to ensure its implementation. All employees are to be aware of and agree to uphold the policy and the Leading With Care Committee will ensure the policy and procedures are included in their actions and activities regarding volunteers. The policy will be posted on a common bulletin board and the website, and Session will review and read the policy annually and require that all committees, groups and individuals become familiar with and adhere to the policies and procedures for addressing harassment.

The Worship and Music Committee brought forward a recommendation, which was approved, for in-person Communion on October 2, 2022, if the pandemic conditions continue to improve. Due to considerations related to livestreaming of the worship service, the Communion Service would be held separately, shortly after the worship service has concluded, in the Sanctuary. A Zoom Communion Service would be held the following week for those continuing to worship remotely.

Best wishes for an enjoyable Summer.

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session.

From the Organ Console Pentecost 2022



By the time you read this we will have already begun to sing hymns together again in our New St. James Sunday services, as this congregation has done together since 1833. This is the realization of an

ardent dream I have had for over two years now, when, in March of 2020 we had to stop praising God together with our collective singing. It seems like poetic justice that my dream of a return to congregational singing comes true just in time for Pentecost when the Holy Spirit descended upon the Apostles and led them out into the world to share their good news and to love and serve everyone on this earth.

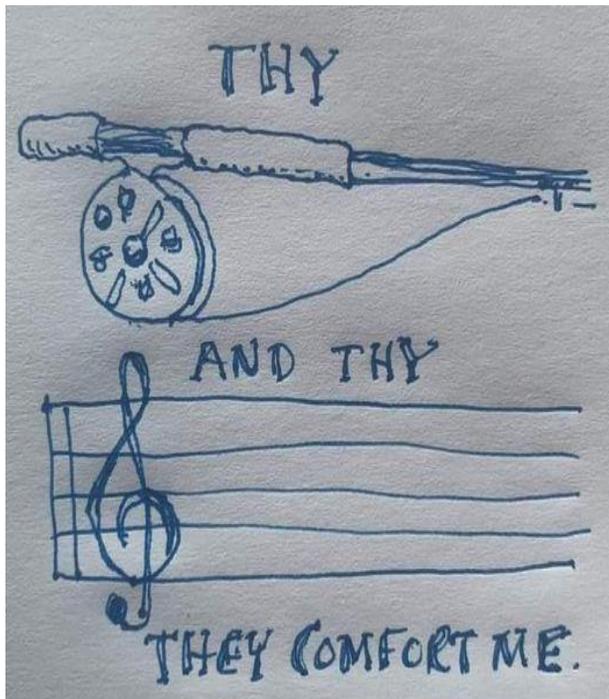
In my last article for our newsletter, I opined that with the lessening of the COVID-19 restrictions and precautions we must now reach out to our community and invite people back into our beautiful sanctuary even as we go out into the world with our message and our ministries. Some in the congregation have kidded me that their voices are out of practice, and it will take a while to regain their full singing strength after so long a break from hymn singing. Part of the Pentecost story is about the Apostles finding or perhaps regaining their voices after the descent of the Holy Spirit – I hope that we feel a bit of that too in the coming weeks. Our voices will grow

stronger as we sing God's praises; our voices will inspire those around us to join our musical expressions of praise, joy, gratitude, dedication, and mission.

"We've a Story to Tell", as the old hymn goes, and the way we share it, and the way we tell it have an incalculable effect on those around us. I have seen this effect very vividly in many of the WorkStudy students that have sung in our choir over the years. They often tell me years later that their time in the NSJ Choir was formative for them and transformed their lives in ways that surprise me and surprise them. Music is so very powerful... I think it was St. Augustine who said, "to sing, is to pray twice"! That sounds like a well-tuned voice of experience.

Pentecost is the season of the church when we go out into the world and share our message through our Christlike actions – leading by example, helping and serving others, and singing our songs!

As the pandemic situation continues to improve, let us hope that more and more of us join the hymn chorus on Sunday mornings at New St. James ... "to God and to the Lamb I will sing, to God and to the Lamb, who is the great I AM, while millions join the theme, I will sing!" Now is the season to invite people from within our community to join us, reaching out and welcoming them within as we become the hands and voice of the Holy Spirit right here in London, Ontario.



Torin

Kammerchor London



Kammerchor
L O N D O N

Kammerchor London is the musical ensemble headed up by our soprano soloist, Ariel Harwood-Jones, and they are back in action! Over the months from February to June they will have produced three musical events. The last one is planned for June 29: Back to Bach, featuring works by the great composer and ones by composers who were influenced by his greatness.

They are hoping for their first in-person live performance since COVID, so stay tuned!

To keep informed about upcoming events, please visit their website

www.kammerchorlondon.ca or their Facebook page

<https://www.facebook.com/Kammerchorlondon> . You can also watch past video events by visiting their YouTube channel

<https://m.youtube.com/channel/UChprLegUHKPz6G8kr-FiT1A>

Highland Group

The Highland Group will be meeting outside on June 14 for their annual pot-luck. If you are interested in attending and joining our Highland ladies, please call or email Karen Buchwald. We will meet at 5:30 and you should bring a donation of food, your lawn chair, plate and cutlery and mug.

MARKETPLACE, 2022

Women's Council is planning on having another Marketplace in the Fall. We

Karen Buchwald karenbuchwald@hotmail.com 519-641-6742

don't know the format yet as we wait for Covid to take its course.

What we do know is that we need all you great cooks to please make PRESERVES that we can sell. This has been a very popular event and the reason is because you make wonderful preserves! Rhubarb is ready and strawberries will be soon so please make some jars of your favourite preserves for the sale.

Women's Council

RUMMAGE SALE

We're calling all shoppers! The NSJ spring rummage sale is ON - June 18 from 10-1. Back by popular demand and the fact that our rooms are overflowing with stuff. We'll be using the gym and if the weather cooperates, the parking lot.

Sorting, sorting and more sorting has been happening. We have a wonderful selection of clothing, puzzles, books, glassware, kitchenware, barware, knick-knacks or tchotchkes, pictures, frames, toys and so much more. We're even thinking about a silent auction for some

of the more precious and new items that have been donated. (By the way, thanks, for sending in all your treasures!)

Oh, and did I mention that our famous hotdogs and onions will be for sale in the parking lot!

We need your help, so the call is out for sellers and greeters, "setteruppers" and "takerdowners" (are those even words? but you know what I mean, right?) It's going to be epic or at the very least, so much fun!

For any further information, please contact Karen Buchwald karenbuchwald@hotmail.com 519-641-6742 or Deb Noble Van Hees denvh1@hotmail.com 519-471-6857

Northern Hospitality

Two years and three months later your Northern Hospitality team served our last take-out meal for the spring of 2022. Fifty plus folks were served delicious

turkey, roast beef sandwiches with all the trimmings, hard boiled eggs, fruit and home made cookies and brownies. A special thank you to Rev Dr. David

Clark's wife and children who baked close to 100 amazing chocolate chip cookies. Our attendees love homemade baking and these cookies were generously loaded with extra chocolate chips. Wow.

We do not serve the third Monday in June due to graduation at St Michael's Catholic School that evening. Our next meal will be September 19, 2022.

I wish to thank all our faithful volunteers who have prepared food, served, baked homemade cookies and financially supported this very vital outreach mission in our neighbourhood. Together we never missed any commitments to host throughout the many challenging phases of this pandemic.

Cathy Taylor convenor
519 433 4095, cathytaylor@rogers.com

The convenors of the five churches that make up Northern Hospitality are meeting in August to discuss the logistics of serving indoors once again. I really believe this venue will resume unless the pandemic numbers indicate otherwise. Our volunteers will wear masks and all safety measures will be respected to keep our volunteers safe.

Many of our volunteers have indicated they will serve in the fall, but by all means new volunteers are always welcome. Please contact me if you would like to be part of this rewarding outreach mission the third Monday of the month for a couple of hours between 5:00 and 6:30 in the evening. Thank you.

Everyone knows that what happened at Crieff stayed at Crieff

The same applies to Camp Kintail . . .

A group of Highland ladies enjoyed a weekend retreat at Camp Kintail in April. The ladies experienced wonderful fellowship together, enjoyed great food and learned about the struggles of five women of the Bible brought to life under the care of Marg McGugan. Everyone has said that they can hardly wait for next year!



Women's Missionary Society

The London Presbyterial Women's Missionary Society is starting to return to in-person meetings, with the 2022 Spring Retreat – details below. The day is open to all, so if you would like to attend, please let Cathy Reid reidc@rogers.com or Kathryn Tew kathryntew@rogers.com know.

London Presbyterial WMS



Spring Retreat at Backus Page Museum
29424 Lakeview Line, Wallacetown

Thursday, June 9, 2022

The Backus-Page House Museum is a [living history museum](#) located in the heart of the [Talbot Settlement in Wallacetown, Ontario Canada](#). The [Georgian style](#) house has been restored as closely as possible to its [state in 1850](#). The museum is maintained and run by the Tyrconnell Heritage Society which is a local independent organization that is dedicated to the restoration and preservation of Backus-Page House and surrounding [estate](#).

Registration: 9:30 a.m. Programme: 10:00 a.m.

Fee: \$10.00 per person

This year we will gather in the New Agricultural Centre - a large spacious addition to the museum grounds.

The Centre is not heated/cooled so dress for the weather.

Guest Speaker: Angela Foreman-Bobier, Cultural Manager of the Museum
This presentation will focus on the People and Architecture of Local Churches.

Morning refreshments - courtesy of Knox-St. Andrew's Evening Friendship Group.
Bring your own Brown Bag Lunch

You may wish to tour the Museum, guided by the Backus-Page volunteers to see the lovely home meticulously restored to the times gone by.

Let's get together – we have missed seeing everyone for a very long time.

Hoping you will plan to attend!

The Link: Presbytery Newsletter for Sessions & Congregations

The Presbytery of London met in person on Tuesday April 19 at Chalmers Church, London, and on Tuesday May 10 at Caradoc Church. Below are some highlights from both meetings. You can read full issues of The Link and minutes of Presbytery meetings at www.presbylondon.com

Prayers: The Presbytery holds Rev. Dr. Bob Robinson in prayer after the death of his wife, Donna. Prayer was also offered for the family of Bob Holt, Clerk of Session at Knox Church, St. Thomas, who died at the end of April.

Welcome: We welcome Rev. Dr. Tim Archibald as minister of Oakridge Church, and Rev. Herb Hilder and Rev. Katharine Michie, retired Presbyterian clergy who have moved to our Presbytery from British Columbia.

News from the Presbytery! Rev. Dr.

David Clark has published "Bonhoeffer's Christological Interpretation of the Psalms: Tensions, Subjectivity, and the Voice of Christ" in the journal *Pro Ecclesia*. You can find the article at <https://doi.org/10.1177/10638512221084240>

Rev. Mike Burns, minister of Burns Church, Mosa, has completed his studies for his of Pastoral Studies. He looks forward to joining the college of registered psychotherapists in June. Jackie Leitch has stepped down after 27 years service as a ruling elder. We are grateful for her faithfulness.

Rev. Katharine Michie recently celebrated the 43rd anniversary of her ordination to Word and Sacrament.

Students for the Ministry: Elizabeth Macleod was re-certified as a student for ministry. Sonia Brule and Byron Kappes both graduate this year. Byron has been certified as a candidate for ordination.

The Refugee Committee hopes to sponsor the family that they had committed to bring to Canada pre-pandemic. There were six people in this family, however, two have passed away due to Covid 19. The committee is also investigating sponsoring refugees from Ukraine.

Resource for Congregations and Individuals: "Overflowing – Prayers for a more Sustainable Compassionate and Just World" is a collection of prayers published by PWS&D. This is a great resource for personal or congregational prayer, and is available at www.presbyterian.ca

An important message from the Moderator of Presbytery

Dear Presbytery, Session, and Congregations,

I wanted to bring to you a concern that has come to my attention as we continue to deal with decisions that all of us are facing as we endeavour to navigate through this uncertain season of our church. I understand from various colleagues, and I can attest to this myself, that the clergy are under a great amount of stress as this pandemic has stretched them in ways that they never imagined. The clergy as well as other helping professions, families, and people from all walks of life continue to face the pressures and stress of learning new skills, bringing their work home and dealing with all of the financial strain presented by the pandemic.

I remind you to care for your ministers and to find practical ways of caring including: making sure that your minister is taking their holiday and study leave, giving them an extra Sunday off and be willing to offer encouragement when needed. I am blessed to have a congregation who recently gave me some extra time to grieve and be with family in the Maritimes after the loss of my mother-in-law. It was extra special that the session stepped in to conduct the services for two weeks.

I would be remiss not to mention the toll that the pandemic has had on our ruling elders as well. Who knew that the world would turn upside down in two years' time, but elders have continued serving the church faithfully and are weathering this storm, by God's grace. I want to thank our ruling elders for your leadership and for all the unseen work you do and for creating a spirit of welcome and love in our area churches.

All this to say, continue to care for one another as you have been doing and remember to pray for your leaders who minister the Word of Life to you. We are truly in this together and by the grace of God, we will overcome this pandemic together.

It is my prayer that the hope of the risen Christ will guide our churches through this time and may God's blessing keep us safe and ready to do God's will. And may the peace of Christ shine through us as we endeavour to be a non-anxious presence in an uncertain world.

I want to close with a Scripture which continues to be relevant as we endeavour to keep sharing the love of Christ with one another.

Be completely humble and gentle; be patient, bearing with one another in love. Make every effort to keep the unity of the Spirit through the bond of peace” (Eph 4:2).

In Christ’s service,
Rev. Andrew Thompson, Moderator of the Presbytery of London

2022 General Assembly



Refuge • Peace • Strength
2022 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The 2022 General Assembly will be online from June 5-8. This virtual gathering provides an opportunity for the church to consider matters affecting the ministry

and mission of our denomination. Information will be posted at <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2022/>

The Assembly considers matters affecting the ministry and mission of our denomination. Commissioners, who are responsible for the business of Assembly, will discern and make decisions. At Assembly, commissioners, young adult and student representatives will welcome ecumenical and interfaith guests. The Assembly will open with worship Sunday afternoon and will gather for worship daily.

Condolences

To the family and friends of Donna Robinson, who died on May 4.
To the family and friends of Carol VandenBrink, who died on May 24.

Financial Update, end of April, 2022

Easter Appeal - Thank You!

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy he has given us a new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead." 1 Peter 1:3

Dear friends,

Thank you to the congregation of New St. James Presbyterian Church for your ongoing support.

Your contributions to the 2022 Easter Appeal total \$4415. These funds will be of considerable help to sustaining church operations this spring.

There is a gradual sense of a 'return to normalcy' at New St. James. Your continued prayers, your time and talent, and your generous support are such a blessing to the church.

With gratitude,

Stephen Harris
 Convenor, Board of Managers

	<u>Jan-April 2022</u>	<u>Jan-April 2021</u>	<u>\$ Change</u>	<u>% Change</u>
<u>Total Income</u>	\$101,274.69 *	\$ 80,392.35	\$20,882.34	26%
<u>Total Expense</u>	125,212.59 *	110,058.56	15,154.03	14%
<u>Net Income</u>	-23,937.90	-29,666.21	5,728.31	19.31%

1. Envelope givings are up 18% to date from last year (\$34,898 vs \$29,469) and PAR is down 7.5%
2. Income and expenses are higher than last year due to Kitchen Renovation Project expenses and funding from Women’s Council (\$18,983)

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.

HAPPY BIRTHDAY to Sunday School and Teen Group members



HOPE YOU KNOW WE CELEBRATE ANOTHER WONDERFUL YEAR FOR YOU ALL!!!
 IN SO MANY WAYS YOU ARE AMAZING - YOUR LIGHT SHINES BRIGHT
 IN BIG AND SMALL WAYS.

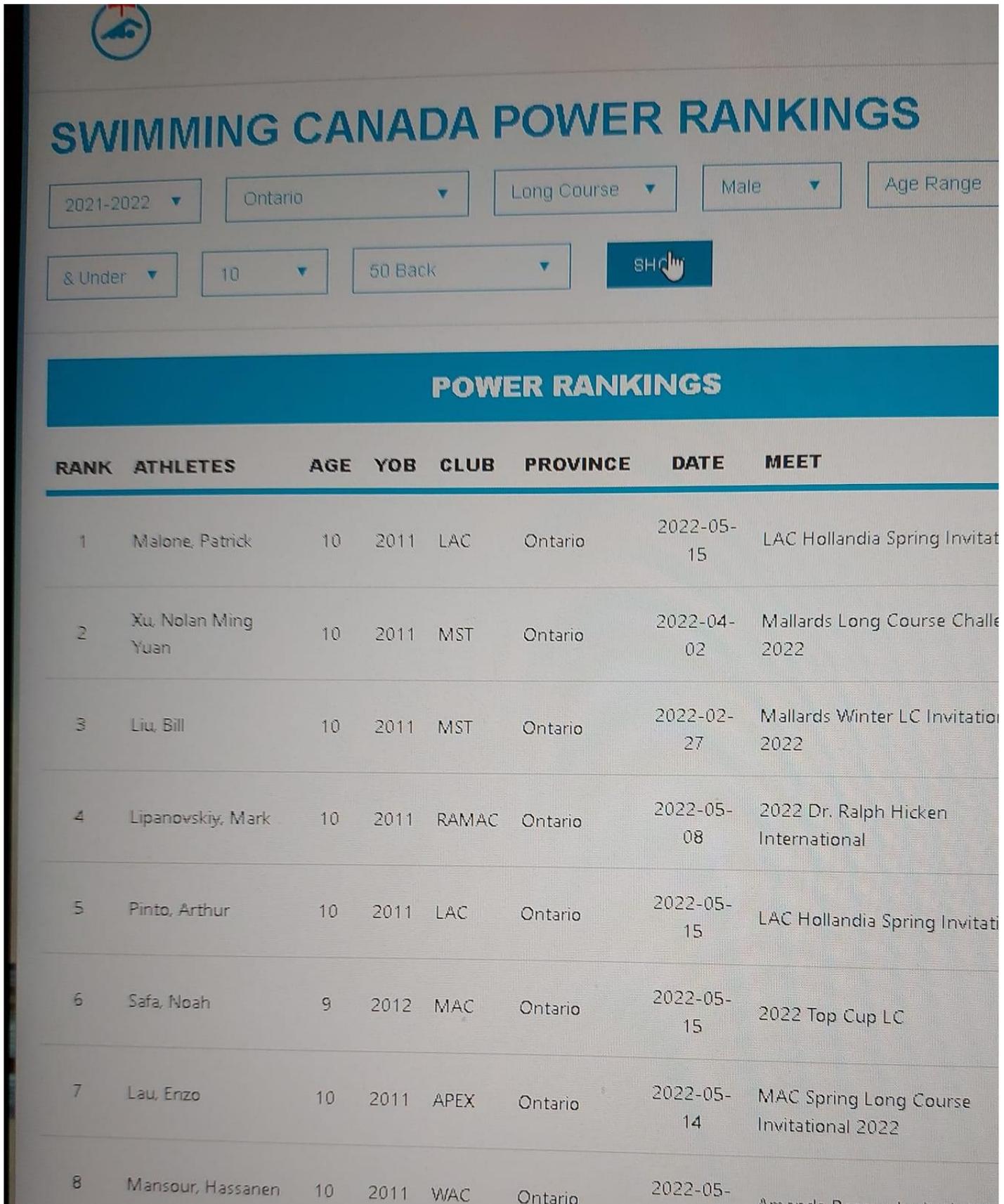
- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------|
| June 12th: Toby S. | June 24th: Sarah Eh Wah |
| June 29th: Nora G. | July 15th: Sylvia S. |
| July 16th: Michael M. | Aug. 1st: Mu Tha Hser |
| Sept. 21st: Patrick M. | |

YOU ARE A BLESSING TO US ALL!

Warm hugs from Sunday School, Teen Group and friendly folks in Congregation

<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
Deputy Clerk	Charlene Beynon cbeynon@newstjames.ca	Website questions or issues? web@newstjames.ca
Music Director	Torin W. Chiles tchiles@newstjames.ca	Facebook Postings? facebook@newstjames.ca
Office Administrator	Judi LeBlanc 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 . . . there must be something in the water at New St. James. Way to go, Patrick!



The image shows a screenshot of the Swimming Canada Power Rankings website. At the top left is the Swimming Canada logo. The main heading is "SWIMMING CANADA POWER RANKINGS". Below the heading are several filter buttons: "2021-2022", "Ontario", "Long Course", "Male", "Age Range", "& Under", "10", "50 Back", and a "SHOW" button with a hand cursor icon.

Below the filters is a blue header with the text "POWER RANKINGS". Underneath is a table with the following columns: RANK, ATHLETES, AGE, YOB, CLUB, PROVINCE, DATE, and MEET. The table lists the top 8 swimmers.

RANK	ATHLETES	AGE	YOB	CLUB	PROVINCE	DATE	MEET
1	Malone, Patrick	10	2011	LAC	Ontario	2022-05-15	LAC Hollandia Spring Invitat
2	Xu, Nolan Ming Yuan	10	2011	MST	Ontario	2022-04-02	Mallards Long Course Challe 2022
3	Liu, Bill	10	2011	MST	Ontario	2022-02-27	Mallards Winter LC Invitatio 2022
4	Lipanovskiy, Mark	10	2011	RAMAC	Ontario	2022-05-08	2022 Dr. Ralph Hicken International
5	Pinto, Arthur	10	2011	LAC	Ontario	2022-05-15	LAC Hollandia Spring Invitati
6	Safa, Noah	9	2012	MAC	Ontario	2022-05-15	2022 Top Cup LC
7	Lau, Erizo	10	2011	APEX	Ontario	2022-05-14	MAC Spring Long Course Invitational 2022
8	Mansour, Hassanen	10	2011	WAC	Ontario	2022-05-	Amanda Benson Invitational