



*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)

*August 29, 2022*

## *From the Publisher*

Dare we say it? Things starting to pick up again? Groups planning meetings?? Work continuing??? Opportunities to get involved???? YES!!!

From the Minister	page 2	Women's Missionary Society	page 8
From the Clerk of Session	page 3	Presbytery Newsletter	page 8
From the Organ Console	page 4	Congratulations	page 10
Women's Council	page 6	Condolences	page 10
Malawi trip	page 7	Land acknowledgement	page 10
Nursery	page 7	Church School Birthdays	page 10
Northern Hospitality	page 8	Contact List	page 11

In September, as the new academic year begins, it's important to remember the vital and challenging work of theological education. At General Assembly this past June, I was appointed to the Board of Governors of the Presbyterian College in Montreal (one of the three seminaries of the Presbyterian Church in Canada). For this issue of the newsletter, the Principal of the Presbyterian College, The Rev. Dr. Roland De Vries, kindly agreed to be interviewed; in what follows, he offers us valuable perspectives regarding theological education and the work of the College.

Dr. Clark: Could you share with New St. James a bit about the mission and purpose of the Presbyterian College?

Dr. De Vries: The Presbyterian College was established in 1865—as we like to say, two years before Canada was born! Since then, our primary mission has been the formation of pastoral leaders. But our ministry also extends now to the forming of lay leaders, and to equipping congregations to live their faith in the everyday. Though the times have changed, we have always been a college centered on Jesus and equipping Christians to live in the good news he is for our world.

Dr. Clark: What's a recent development at the College that furthers this mission?

Dr. De Vries: In 2015 the College established a Leadership Centre, and we are presently searching for a full-time Director of Programs, to begin in Fall 2022. The Centre will continue to support a mentoring program for pastors. We will also develop new programs to support reflection on Faith and Work and to equip congregations for their own local mission.

We are also very excited about a new partnership that has allowed us to establish a Master of Theological Studies program, in French. This program now has 17 students enrolled and is designed to support their missional engagement in their Francophone context.

Dr. Clark: In addition to training future ministers, the Presbyterian College offers other learning opportunities. Could you tell us about this?

Dr. De Vries: In 2021 we established a new program of online studies, which are available to individuals and congregational study groups across the country (or the world, for that matter). These studies are usually six weeks in length and include an hour of teaching and then discussion time. For those who are involved with congregational study groups, those groups gather in their own Zoom break-out rooms for conversation. This Fall we will offer two studies: Disability and the Church, and Praying in Public Worship.

Dr. Clark: From your perspective as Principal, what are some challenges that theological students are facing today? How can the Presbyterian Church support our theological students?

Dr. De Vries: There are a number of challenges that theological students face. I think one of the greatest challenges, particularly those training for pastoral ministry, is the overwhelming number of questions or issues they anticipate in ministry—challenges that pastors themselves already face. These relate to mission, racism, doubt, reconciliation, post-pandemic participation in the church, and more. Though these questions can be daunting, please pray

that our students will be able to keep their attention focused on the One who is our life and foundation in the face of all such questions. That they would remain

centered on their call to proclaim and live confidently with Jesus Christ, our Lord.

## *From the Clerk of Session*

As the Summer days become shorter, we know that the Autumn will soon be approaching and that gives us reason to enjoy each and every warm Summer day we have been given and also to enjoy the bounty of the season. Also, please remember that we will resume our 10:30 a.m. start of Worship beginning on September 11. Session has not met during the Summer, but there are a few things we can update for you.

Summer worship has continued both in-person and on livestream. Our attendance on Sunday mornings has been averaging between 50 and 60 individuals and those unable to make it out in person have been watching on our YouTube channel. We thank our Worship Team of Rev. Dr. Clark, Torin Chiles on organ and piano, Soloist Ariel Harwood-Jones, and Nawton Chiles manning the camera and technology to provide the livestream. We also thank those dependable individuals who have volunteered to be greeters and ushers on Sunday mornings and those who have provided for refreshments after worship. It has been a very positive experience to enjoy lemonade and fellowship through these warm months. We are still in need of volunteers to help with the Welcome Ministry by being greeters and ushers. If you can help, please contact Kathy Ruggi [kruggi@newstjames.ca](mailto:kruggi@newstjames.ca) to let her know.

After an extended period without our much-valued New St. James Choir, we are now looking toward the Choir's return in September. Working to develop appropriate pandemic precautions and

safeguards, Torin Chiles has begun to prepare for the Choir's return with protocols to ensure the health and safety of both the Choir and the Congregation. We look forward to hearing the Choir again and enjoying the way in which they enhance our experience of worship.

We are also working toward holding a Communion Worship Service for World Communion Sunday on October 2. Of course, this is dependent on the state of the pandemic at that time. There are a number of logistics and preparations which must be worked out for this Communion Service, so please stay tuned to the Sunday announcements for further information in this regard.

As noted in the April 2022 Newsletter, groups are permitted to meet at the Church using large space rooms to allow for distance separation and these are to be booked through the Church Office. Masking is still required for those ministries of New St. James, and vaccinations are recommended. This situation will be monitored as the pandemic progresses in order to ensure the health and safety of our Church Congregation and Staff. Also, some outside uses may be returning after Labour Day and these will be managed by the Board of Managers.

On a happy note, I would like to relay a story of celebration and success for the Strang Presbyterian Church in Dixonville, Alberta. Strang Presbyterian Church celebrated their 90th Anniversary on August 22, 2022. Many of our

Congregation will be aware that 90 years ago New St. James supported and sponsored Dr. Margaret Strang to travel to Northern Alberta to work on the mission of establishing a new Church in the region. Dr. Strang's work was a success, and the Church was established and is still in existence today. Many will remember 15 years ago when Mary Lou and Ian McCrimmon travelled to Dixonville to help them celebrate their 75th Anniversary. Mary Lou has remarked that Strang Presbyterian Church holds New St. James in great reverence for their support and

sponsorship those many years ago. That support included purchasing and shipping a pulpit to the Church for use in their Sanctuary. The greetings and best wishes of New St. James were extended to Strang Church, through our Clerk of Session and Minister, for their 90th Anniversary celebratory worship and events as we continue to cherish the long relationship between our two Churches.

Best wishes for the remainder of the Summer and we look forward to seeing many of you at worship on Sunday mornings.

Bruce Curtis, Clerk of Session [bcurtis@newstjames.ca](mailto:bcurtis@newstjames.ca)

### *From the Organ Console*



The August morning air has a crispness to it this morning, and a slight presaging scent of leaves and earth that says that the Fall is coming soon. The frenzy of preparation on the university campus has also given me the happy feeling that after two very strange years, a more normal year is about to begin. Here at New St James, we are preparing for a more normal year too. I cannot describe the joy I feel that the NSJ Choir will return to lead worship starting on September 11<sup>th</sup>! That will be a thrilling service and a deeply moving day for me.

What a pandemic journey we have had to get to this point as a church family. I am sure that we will all feel renewed energy and mission with this return to a 'full service' together. Let me extend a wide invitation to all, to come and sing with the choir as we re-establish and rebuild and renew! We are going to need congregational members serving in the choir, to contribute to that strong leadership and to carry on the music ministry of the NSJ Choir. We are preparing a feast – let's invite everyone to join us in our beautiful sanctuary this fall as our praise and gratitude sing out joyfully again!

We will have five fantastic young singers as our choristers this year, and these singers make it very easy to serve in the choir. They all have strong voices, read music well and will lead their sections in a way that makes it is easy to sing along "lustily and with good courage".



Ariel Harwood-Jones will return as our first soprano, and we are so grateful to her for her skill and dedication throughout the pandemic. She was able to deal with any scenario that the public health restrictions imposed upon us. Songs of thankfulness and praise were never silent at NSJ!

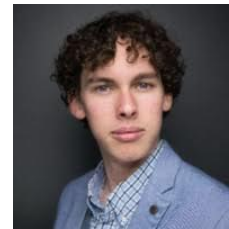


Patricia (Tricia) Wrigglesworth is a third-year performance major at the faculty of music and will lead the second sopranos. She comes from a very musical family and has already held chorister positions in the Toronto area.



Our alto will be Briana Sutherland this year. She is also a third-year performance major and has a beautiful, warm, expressive voice. She has sung in many choirs, including the Ontario Youth Choir, which is where I first had the pleasure of meeting her.

Tenor, Robert Hutson, has sung with us before, including a Sundays over this summer. He is a London native and grew wonderful Amabile Choir system. He has served at Knox in St. Thomas for several years and we are delighted that smuggled him back to us here in London. Robert is graduate studies at Western this year. He is also a fine



couple of up in the Presbyterian we have beginning his bassoonist!



Finally, our baritone is Nathan Dyck, a second year Masters student. He is from Manitoba and also has had many years of choral singing experience. We look forward to his leadership in the back row and to the moving solos that his handsome baritone voice will offer this year.

I am also making plans to restart the WorkStudy opportunity that allows university students across the campus to join our choir. This has been a wonderful way for us to offer real-world work experience to young musicians while at the same time reaching out to them and offering them a church home while they study at Western. We have supported many students through this program over the years! This is the perfect opportunity for YOU to join the choir too! There is no audition, no onerous commitment... Come when you can, offer what you can. The miracle of collective singing is that everyone makes a contribution as they are able, and the whole is miraculously better and bigger than the sum of its parts! The Choir plays an important role in the ministry of NSJ and I invite YOU to answer that call this year. To quote Charles Schultz, "happiness is singing in a choir"!



*Torin*

## *From Women's Council*

FALL RUMMAGE SALE, SEPTEMBER 17, 9:30 until 12:00 noon.

It is time to do some decluttering and donate some wonderful items to our Fall Rummage Sale. The sale will be on Saturday, September 17 from 9:30 until 12:00 noon with product for sale in the New St. James Hall and outside. We will have our world-famous hot dogs and onions to purchase as well. Please be sure that donations are clean and not broken. Books are welcome; magazines, VHS tapes, encyclopedias are not.

Donations may be brought to the church from now on. It is best to be sure that Judi is in the church in order to gain entrance or get in contact with Deb Noble Van Hees or Karen Buchwald to meet you there.

Help will be very much needed. Please let Deb or Karen know if you can help on Thursday, September 15 and Friday, September 16 to set up and also to sell on the day of the sale. Women's Council depends on the willingness of you, the congregation, to help with our fundraising efforts. We also know what wonderful fellowship is created in the process of working a sale!

As well, please help us with advertising! Let your friends and relatives know by word of mouth or email. Post it on social media or even post a notice on a community board.

MARKETPLACE 2022, NOVEMBER 19, 9:00 - 12:00 NOON

Women's Council is planning to have a Marketplace featuring Preserves, Baking, Deli selections, Jewelry, a Treasure Table, a Tombola Table and perhaps more!

Please continue to make preserves for us to sell and if you need jars, please let Karen Buchwald know. Frozen delights will be needed for the deli so maybe plan to make a batch of meat pies or chili or

mac and cheese or lasagna or whatever your specialty is. If you would like to put this type of thing in a church freezer, please let Karen Buchwald or Deb Noble Van Hees know. Please also plan on donating baking--a table that is always extremely popular!

Please mark this date on your calendars, please plan to help and please pass the date on to your family and friends.

### ADVERTISING

Women's Council is looking for someone in the congregation who would be willing to oversee the advertising for the Rummage Sale and the Marketplace. We understand that most advertising is now done through on-line means on

social media sites etc. and hope that someone who is comfortable with these sites would volunteer to help. Please let Deb Noble Van Hees or Karen Buchwald know if you would be that willing person! Thank you from Women's Council

Karen Buchwald [karenbuchwald@hotmail.com](mailto:karenbuchwald@hotmail.com) 519-641-6742  
Deb Noble Van Hees [dnolevanhees@newstjames.ca](mailto:dnolevanhees@newstjames.ca)

## *Are you ready to go!!*

2023 will be our next Mission trip to Malawi. We will go either in May or September. I will confirm dates with our dear friend, Rev. Dr. Silas Ncozana, when I see him in Germany at the World Council of Churches Assembly at the beginning of September. If you are interested in going and sharing projects with our friends in Chipagala please let me know as soon as possible. We will be

in Malawi for three weeks staying in the Blantyre area, in the south of the country.

As soon as I know who is interested in going, I will set up a meeting, probably at the end of September. Please pray for our friends in Malawi, and also for those considering going on the Mission trip.

Cathy Reid [reidc@rogers.com](mailto:reidc@rogers.com)

## *CHURCH NURSERY*

Starting Sunday, September 11, the Highland Group will have the nursery available for young children. Highland is looking forward to having our little ones with us again.

Highland Group

## *From the NSJ Gardening Committee*

Do you love to garden and would like to share your talents with New St. James?

Are you looking for volunteer hours?

We would love to have you join our committee either on a regular basis or if you are able to come once or twice. Generally, we work in the church gardens about 3 or 4 times a year- spring cleanup, summer maintenance and fall clean up. We will definitely need some help cleaning up the leaves this fall. We are a friendly group of about 7 or 8 who prune the roses, trim the bushes and trees, pull weeds, plant, add mulch and water when required.

Recently we got together to remove a

dying cedar on the west part of the garden and to remove the large yews that were facing Oxford Street. Weeds were pulled, Hosta flower stems removed, roses pruned, and a couple of dead bushes were also removed. The church gardens look so well groomed!

We are so lucky to have a prominent setting for our church and we want the community to know we take pride in our gardens and church building. Along with that comes regular clean up of refuse left behind by frequent visitors on the steps and stuff that blows over to our yard. If you are interested in helping out, please let me know- I would be very glad to hear from you!

Deb Noble-Van Hees, on behalf of the Garden Committee  
[dnoblevanhees@newstjames.ca](mailto:dnoblevanhees@newstjames.ca)

## *Northern Hospitality Resumes In-House Meals September 19!!!*

On Monday, September 19 after two and half years serving take-out meals to the less fortunate, our attendees will be able to enjoy a healthy hot meal indoors. As most of you know New St. James has been serving the less fortunate once a month from September through to June for more than 25 years. We are all aware how expensive groceries have become and our most vulnerable are struggling even more. I know our attendance will be higher but New St. James will be there to serve our attendees with your help both financially and in person.

We host our dinners at St Michael's Roman Catholic Church at Cheapside and Maitland on the third Monday of the month from 5:30-6:30. Thankfully many

Cathy Taylor convenor 519.433.4095 [cattaylor@rogers.com](mailto:cattaylor@rogers.com)

of our New St. James volunteers are returning but more volunteers will be needed.

I especially need volunteers to serve in various roles from 5:15-6:45 at St Michael's. Our attendees do not have to be vaccinated but I would say the majority are. I encourage all our volunteers to wear masks as we serve in this most important and rewarding outreach mission. I would love to see our high school and college age young people become more involved and all volunteer hours will be recognized.

Please contact me if you are able to volunteer on occasion or on a regular basis.

## *Women's Missionary Society*

Dear W.M.S. friends,

Great news! We are happy to be gathering in the lower hall at New St. James for an in-person W.M.S. meeting!

Our September meeting will be on Friday, September 9, and as we are still not able to have lunch, we will meet at 1:00 pm. (That means no catering cost.) We will be expected to wear a mask for the meeting.

Kathryn Tew [kathryntew@rogers.com](mailto:kathryntew@rogers.com)

Cathy will be abroad in an official W.M.S. capacity but I am planning a program for us. The theme is "Remembering the Children"

In order to get tables set up for us in accordance with COVID protocols, I need to know how many will attend, so please RSVP to me at your earliest convenience.

I'm SO looking forward to seeing you all!

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

The Presbytery of London met on Tuesday June 21, in Elmwood Church, London. The meeting was opened with prayer and a short worship service was

led by Rev. Dr. Andrew Fullerton, minister of Elmwood Church.





**Congratulations to Rev. Mike Burns**, from Burns Presbyterian Church, Mosa! Rev. Mike has completed his studies for

the degree Master of Pastoral Studies and is looking forward to joining the college of registered psychotherapists in the next few months.

**Congratulations to Rev. Katharine Michie** who recently celebrated a BIG birthday this month!

**Rev. Katharine Michie and Rev. Herb Hilder** are hoping to host a monthly lunch for clergy beginning in the fall. They are looking for input regarding how this might look and whether it would be appreciated.

**St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth** is celebrating its 184<sup>th</sup> anniversary this month!

**Crinan Presbyterian Church** celebrated their 161<sup>st</sup> anniversary in June. Their organist was recognized for her 70 years of service! Wow!

**Rev. John Bannerman**, minister at Chalmers Church, London has announced his retirement as of September 1<sup>st</sup>. John has served at Chalmers for over 25 years.

**Marg McGugan** brought greetings from the W.M.S. Synodical of Southwestern Ontario and reported that some of the W.M.S. groups are now meeting in person.

**Treasurer's Report:** Lu Brule reported on the funds of Presbytery, with a reminder that Presbytery has funds to which congregations can apply for innovative projects, a fund to help students for the ministry, and a lending fund for churches who are completing

capital projects and need financial assistance.

**The Synod of SouthWestern Ontario** (the court of the church that oversees Presbytery) meets once a year in October. This year, synod will be meeting via Zoom.

**Rev. Jane Swatridge** has completed her work as interim minister at St. Lawrence Church, London.

**General Assembly Commissioners:** Every year, clergy and ruling elders from all of the Presbyteries across the country attend our yearly national gathering, General Assembly. Our commissioners reported on highlights of this multi day meeting over Zoom. It was noted that this was the first year that an openly gay individual served as Moderator of the highest court of our denomination. Rev. Dr. Bob Faris was commended for his leadership.

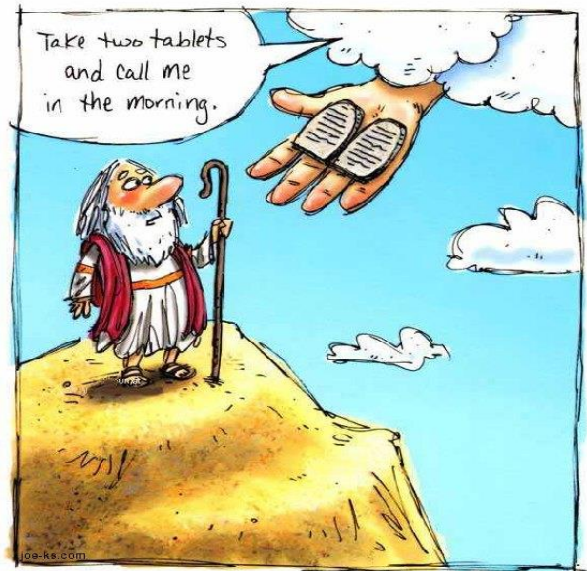
The Life and Mission Agency produced a very helpful report, available on the national church website). Churches are encouraged to access the resources this agency offers for small churches.

**The Ministry Team** recommended that Sonia Brule be certified for ordination, the final step for a student discerning a call to ministry.

**The Congregation Team** is hoping to complete several regular visits to congregations in the fall, and is working to encourage churches that have not completed a Leading with Care policy to do so.

**The Refugee Committee Report:** The committee is waiting for a family in Lebanon to be interviewed. There is also

a second family, father and son, from Eritrea. This family is being privately funded by an individual but is supported by Presbytery. The third family is a Ukrainian family of five who require air fare to get to Canada. This family has accommodation arranged with relations in southern Ontario. Presbytery approved that this family's airfare be covered through the refugee committee.



**Can you help?** There are more Ukrainian families and individuals who are requiring assistance. Cheques can be made out to the Presbytery of London, with "Ukraine Refugees" in the memo section. Cheques may be sent to the treasurer of Presbytery.

## *Congratulations and best wishes!*



To Blu Say and Nay Moo who were married on July 23

## *Condolences*

To the family and friends of Pat Taylor, who died on July 10.

## *Land Acknowledgement*

We acknowledge that New St. James is located on the traditional lands of the Anishanaabeg, Haudenosaunee, Lūnaapéewak, Attawandaron and Wendat peoples, who have cared for these lands since long before the first Europeans arrived. These lands are connected with the Dish with One Spoon Wampum of 1701, the London Township Treaty of 1796, and the Sombra 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 <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>
Office Administrator	Judi LeBlanc <a href="mailto:admin@newstjames.ca">admin@newstjames.ca</a>	
Newsletter publisher	Andrew Reid <a href="mailto:areid@newstjames.ca">areid@newstjames.ca</a>	
New St James Presbyterian Church 280 Oxford Street East, London, Ontario N6A 1V4 519.434.1127 <a href="http://www.newstjames.ca">www.newstjames.ca</a>		

And finally, found on Facebook . . .

