



Summer 2018 Newsletter

Priest In Charge's Message

Dear Parishioners,

Spring is the season of new growth, and the signs of change are all around us. Spring-time is seen as a time of renewal, of new life being born, and of the cycle of life once again starting. It is also seen more generally as the start of better times. At this time of year we begin to feel less sluggish, and become more open to inviting changes – *both big and small* – into our lives. The symbolism of spring is one most people can appreciate. In all cultural traditions, the world over, it is a time of re-birth and new beginnings.

Our Parish is now entering into a rebirth, the process to appoint a new Rector has begun. We watch as new leaves appear on the trees, new buds form and nature comes alive with colour and activity. We are the same, as we reach out to encourage our Parish to flourish and put forth new life. We have an opportunity to create something even better than we have at this time. All of us need to be encouraging to those who have been given the task for this new appointment and also uphold them and our Parish in daily prayer. *“Be strong and steadfast; have no fear or dread,... for it is the Lord your God who marches with you. He will never fail you or forsake you.”* Deut. 31:6

There are things you can do to positively impact this transition time. Whether you are excited about a new Rector coming, grieving the loss of your last Rector, or uncertain about the new Rector bringing their own ideas and ways of doing things, know that your leadership matters. However you respond, you can count on this being a time when the parish culture opens to new possibilities. A new spirit and new opportunities will emerge. How you will be a part of them is up to you!

Alvin+ Priest in Charge



Mothers Day Brunch Back Again

After missing last year's Mothers Day Brunch, this year's event held on Saturday 12 May returned as a rousing success. Under the skilled leadership of Blake Starratt with his loyal team of men, a brunch was prepared and served in celebration for everything that mother's and ladies of the Parish do in so many ways for all of us and for our Parish – not every year like what we do, but every month, every week and every day. Eighty-eight ladies enjoyed a brunch of one a several types of egg strata, rolls, salad and desert with a little bubbly to wash it down as well.

Father Alvin opened and closed with a prayer and, at the end, Sharon Green

thanked all the men for their work and indicated she was looking to enjoy it all again next.....month????

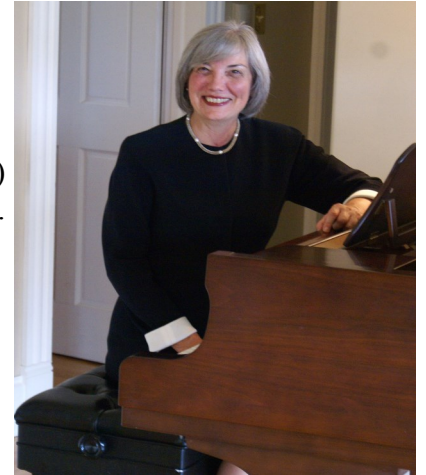
We are not sure that a monthly event is in the cards, but maybe more than one per year. Truth be told, the fellowship of the men getting together for the prep work the day before and in the kitchen the day of, was a lot of fun.



Music At St. John's

A note from Barbara.....

On Sunday May 20 a memorable evensong with Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir was held at St. John's. The choir, directed by Nick Halley with organist Paul Halley, comprises ten men and twelve boys (ages 7-14) and is modeled on the great Anglican tradition of men and boys church choirs. The service began in semi-darkness due to a power failure that had been ongoing since the morning. But that didn't dampen our spirits as it made the service even more magical. Candles were lit resulting in light bouncing off the brass - a quiet, prayerful service with glorious music that filled the sanctuary. Capella Regalis is an outreach program of Musique Royale and the event was arranged in partnership with St. John's Music Committee. Proceeds from the offering totalled \$1,800 and will be given to support the restoration of earthquake damaged churches in the Anglican Diocese of Cuernavaca, Mexico, where Rev Gillian Ball resides. I thank everyone for the generosity that was shown and extend my appreciation to Alvin and Wendell and to members of our chancel choir and Musique Royale volunteers who hosted a beautiful reception following the service.



Our choirs will be active over the next few weeks but rehearsal will suspend for the summer months. Do keep in mind that new members are always warmly welcomed. The Chancel Choir meets each Wednesday and Handbells each Tuesday evening at 7pm.

Our third season of 'Wednesdays at Noon' will begin on July 4. The opening event is a Musique Royale presentation called '4 Seasons, 4 Viols' with Montreal's Les Voix Humaines. Other artists through the summer are Pat Watson, John Bird, Edmund Brownless, Kristen Wöckel, Boxwood scholarship recipients, Hodge Podge, Walter Delahunt, Glenn Patscha and Matthew Fraser. The series ends on Wednesday, August 29 at noon with another Musique Royale presentation featuring Steve Normandin, accordion, and Sylvie Briday, cuban percussion and guitar. Julia's Music will continue at 1 pm on Wednesdays at Harbour View Haven.

We always welcome your thoughts. Our choirs and music committee join me in wishing you all a wonderful summer.

Barbara



**St. John's
Sunday School
At
Zion Lutheran Church
May 2018**

Warden's Reflections

It remains a very busy period for our Parish on many levels. Since Christmas, our Parish has lived through somewhat of an emotional roller-coaster and, at times, it seems as though we are being “*put to the test*”.

First, after battling a brain tumour since this time last year, our beloved spiritual leader, Father Michael finally succumbed to the hideous disease in early January. It was a long illness and Michael is now at peace with his ever-loving God. The overflowing church at his funeral was an indication of the many people that he touched in such a positive way during his tenure at St. John's.

In the latter part of winter, Lynn Burton, who has been generously helping in the office and replacing Mary during her vacation and absences, was diagnosed with cancer and following surgery in March continues with chemo treatments on her journey to recovery. In April, our Hall Custodian and Church Sexton Joseph Carnevale became ill and was finally diagnosed with B Cell Lymphoma. Joseph is now in the VG in Halifax undergoing chemo treatment. If there is good news here, it is that this type of cancer is generally considered treatable. His spirits remain very high and Joseph is “*ready for a fight*”. And finally Mary Wagner, our Parish Secretary, has recently been diagnosed with cervical cancer and is now awaiting a date for surgery after which we will have a better assessment of the situation. However, we are hopeful that this has been caught at an early stage and pray for a quick and complete recovery. It is times like this that reminds us of how important and comforting it is to be part of a family; a family that cares, a family that is there to support each other when it counts, a family that is there to help pick ourselves up and move forward in life. This is what a Parish Family does and this is what the Parish of St. John's is demonstrating today in so many ways.

We pray for the complete recovery of Joseph, Lynn and Mary and we pray for Holly in her time of emotional healing following the death of Father Michael.

So many of you have stepped up over this trying period – it has been heart warming and inspirational. And, while we have been without a full time Rector for more than a year, we should be proud of the way we have been able to keep our parish moving forward in such a difficult period. It is incredible as we look at the work of all ministries and committees and realize that they have not skipped a beat. However, in spite of everyone's best efforts, there will always be a few cracks popping up here and there that shouldn't be a surprise with the absence of a full time Rector/“maestro” for this length of time. What has been encouraging and is a demonstration of a committed and passionate parish, is the patience shown toward each other when one of us has tripped. We are truly a blessed parish!

While St. John's has demonstrated itself as a caring, compassionate and supportive parish, equally we are demonstrating that we are focused, determined and passionate about creating an exciting future. The discernment process that we have just now completed to create a Shared Vision for our Parish is a great example.

Over the course of 17 meetings that has engaged over 130 of our parishioners since February, we have witnessed an inspirational passion for what we, as a parish, can create by working together with the guidance, and through the eyes, of our Lord Jesus Christ to bring the Good News to our community (see the article in this newsletter on our Shared Vision).

As our Parochial Search Committee starts the process to find and appoint a new Rector, we are reminded of our many blessings. Without question at the top of the list, has to be our Priest-in-charge, Rev. Alvin Westgate. Father Alvin has selflessly stepped up in our time of need and provided the parish with its spiritual leadership while allowing us the time to grieve appropriately for Father Michael and to conduct a 3 month visioning process that is such a critical step in the search for a new Rector. For this, we will always be eternally grateful.

In spite of our challenges, the parish of St. John's continues to thrive and demonstrate its passion and resilience. To those who say “*Why us?*”, we say “*Thank goodness it is us!*” because WE CAN DO THIS!

Respectfully Submitted; Wardens Robert, Blake and Duncan

St. John's Shared Vision

There are two ingredients that make a vision a living, successful path to a better and brighter future. The first is that it is a “Shared Vision” – one that comes from the hearts and minds of all those who are going to live it and who have the ability to make it a reality. Secondly, we are not a self-serving organization, but rather an organization focused in the service of God. Therefore any vision created to facilitate the work we do in the service of our Savior must be done through a discerning and fully prayerful process.

It is for these reasons that we have spent so much time and energy over the past three months on this initiative. As we said from the outset, our intention was to make the process *transparent* (we wanted everyone to know what’s going on), *inclusive* (we wanted everyone to feel welcome to participate), and *flexible* (we wanted everyone to have the opportunity to participate).

We did our best to live up to this commitment and while not every Parishioner engaged in the process, in the past 3 months we did have more than 150 attend a total of 17 meetings with over 90 individuals participating one or more times. This was an OUTSTANDING display of a caring, vibrant parish coming together to create a stronger future for all of us and for generations to come. On top that, the discussions were lively, engaging and filled with an overwhelmingly positive and optimistic view of the future for our Parish. Father Michael would have been proud of his parish..

The general sentiment coming from the meetings, and what we have tried to reflect in our vision outline, could be summed up as a healthy balance of:


A strong pride in our history and rich heritage and the many good initiatives that already make up the core of our parish work, and

A positive outlook of change that will move us in new directions to more successfully fulfill our mission given the changing dynamics of the role of the church in our community and in today’s society in general.

While the total amount of information we pulled together was about a dozen detailed pages of notes, there was a hand-full of common themes that flowed from the meetings that we pulled together as the core of our Shared Vision.

The Flow Chart on the following page provides a relatively high level summary of the key elements of St. John’s Shared Vision:

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Property Committee Update

2018 will be a relatively light year for the Property Committee. Coming off two busy years of maintenance projects, this year there are only two major projects planned.

One is the replacement of the Cumberland Street door of the Parish Hall. This project is long overdue as both the door and the door frame have a great deal of rot that must be replaced.

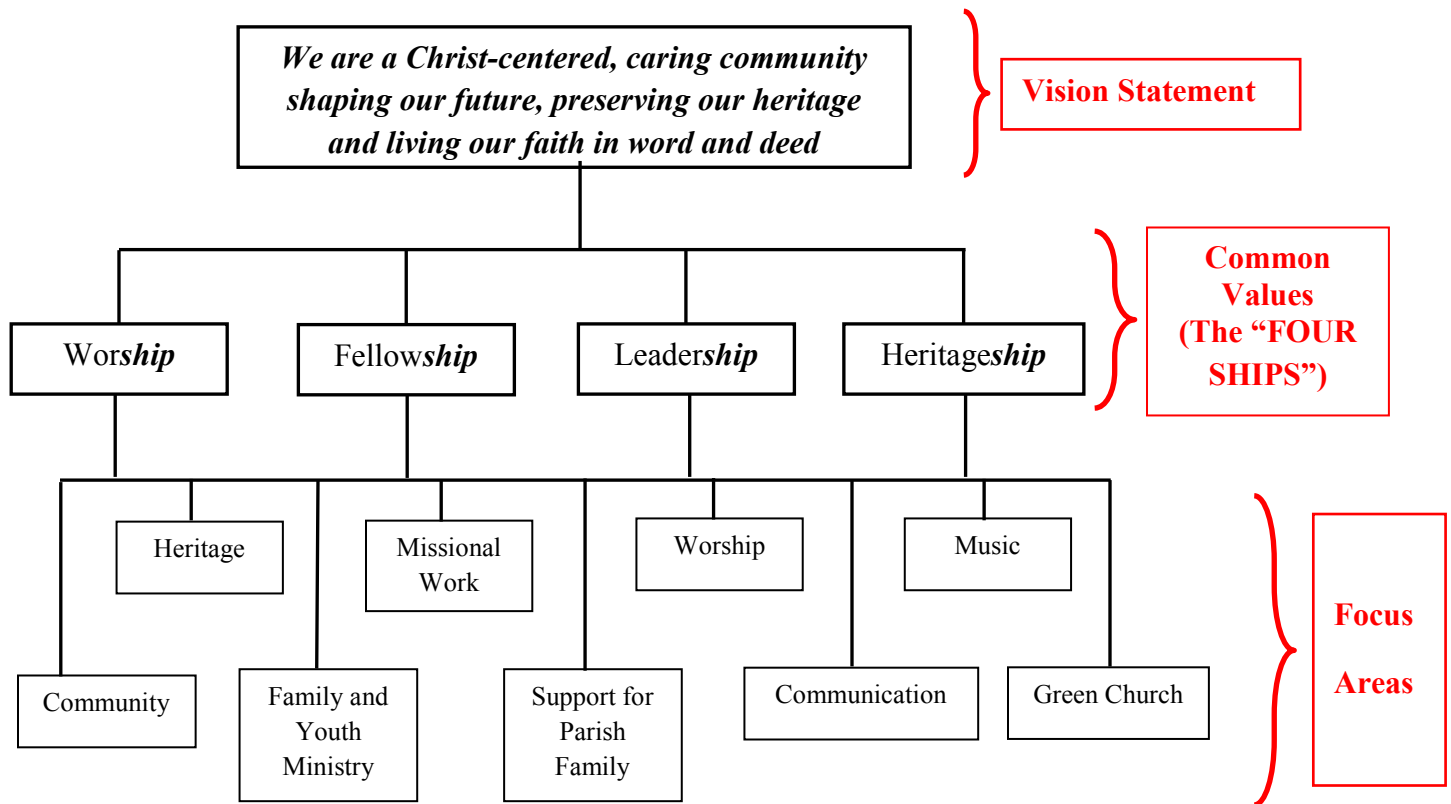
The other project is to complete the repair, scraping and painting of the Church Bell Tower from the bottom of the open arches to the bottom of the pinnacles. All four spires were done last year.

The only other project that we may take on is the “refreshing” of the rectory if a new rector chooses the rectory as his or her residence. While not completely defined, we have included money in the budget in the event that we need to complete this work this year.

Respectfully Submitted by Property Committee

St. John's Shared Vision Continued

Our Shared Vision model starts with a single umbrella “**Vision Statement**” that is supported by four core building blocks that we call “**Common Values**”. Supporting our Common Values are “**Focus Areas**” that provide the framework for actions and initiatives.



COMMON VALUES

We believe the four core themes or “Common Values” that came from our vision meetings were strong and truly represent St. John’s in Lunenburg. We are particularly excited about the very local “nautical” theme of the “Four Ships” including the creation of our own word ending in “ship” (“Heritageship”). The phrase “Four Ships” is easy to remember and has the potential to create a strong local flavour in our communications based on our heritage born of the sea.

FOCUS AREAS

The nine “Focus Areas” are simply those key actionable elements that were repeated many times over during the course of the discussions that support our Common Values. Many, if not all, of these focus areas can be applied and support all four of our Common Values. The following is a brief description of each:

Heritage – We celebrate our rich heritage as a parish and as a community while embracing the journey into the future

Community – We welcome and embrace people of all races, ethnicities and backgrounds. Our support and inclusivity for the wider community is visibly demonstrated through our actions and initiatives. At all levels, St. John’s plays and demonstrates a strong visible leadership role in the community.

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St. John's Shared Vision Continued

Worship – We recognize that we have a wide demographic with different spiritual needs in terms of worship. Our vision supports these diverse needs through flexible, varied and additional worship services and opportunities, both in terms of format and time

Music – Music will continue to be a fundamental way we celebrate our faith. Our music program will be characterized by a balanced array of music types in our various worship services, by adapting to children-friendly music during services that involve our youth and by being a welcoming host to various musical concerts that provide additional opportunities to welcome the community to cross our threshold

Missional Focus – In line with the new Diocesan focus, the development of new and strong missional programs was one of the most discussed elements of our vision meetings with many ideas generated. Our missional work will be expanded significantly at many levels as we serve Christ in our community with much of the impact occurring beyond the boundaries of our own parish family and outside the walls of our buildings.

Family and Youth Ministry – Initiate and strengthen multiple faith-based and fellowship programs that engage all core groups of our parish that include entire families, children and youth/young adults

Support for Parish Family – We will expend the support for all parish constituent groups that include the family, children, youth, millennials, young parents, our employees and seniors. This will become part of our every day life and will be similar to the support that would be found within a tight family. The support will come in many forms including pastoral care, home communion, transportation to parish events and the celebration of various life milestones

Communications – The communication to both internal and external audiences will be regular and strong and carried through the use of multiple and appropriate media to reach all audiences. Parishioners and the people of Lunenburg will always know what is going on at St. John's.

Green Church (Environment) – We will be strong and visible stewards of God's earth with a number of our initiatives focused on our maritime heritage

While the above provides a general definition of the Focus Areas, the final Shared Vision document will contain more detail of the direction and scope of each. In addition, there were many ideas generated during the vision meetings that were specific suggestions and actions to start the real work of moving forward toward our Shared Vision. All of these ideas were captured and will be forwarded to the Parish Council and the various committees and ministries to form the foundation of their specific action plans going forward. We are committed to keeping the Parish informed of the action that is being taken and the progress we are making in the journey towards our Shared Vision.

Although this describes our Shared Vision, it must be emphasized that a plan is only a plan until you **do** something with it. As Father Alvin Westgate states at the end of every service: “**And now the work starts, as we go out into the world to love and serve the Lord**”. So, its time to roll up our sleeves, celebrate our rich heritage and embrace the journey into the future.

Your will, O God is our dearest desire. We, your people, stand ready to serve.

Respectfully submitted by St John's Vision Committee of Emmi Fraser, Jane Ritcey, Wendell Eisener and Duncan Crowdis

Sunday School

Our children continued their Christian education throughout the Lenten Season. During general assemblies we reviewed the basics...colour of Lent, number of days in this season, Ash Wednesday, Palm Sunday and the importance of Easter Sunday. We then went on each week to explain one of the many symbols associated with Lent by way of a snack, short video or discussion... munched on hot cross buns, pretzels and watched Davy the Donkey. We continue to have prayer and music time during general assembly with one very welcomed change. Dr. Rev. Wendell Eisener is now accompanying us on the piano for our weekly song. This is so much more pleasant than following iTunes and certainly much better than my singing...a sigh of relief. Lesson Plans during class time included the stories of God's covenant to Noah...making promises....Moses following God's word when he lead his people on an Exodus out of Egypt...trust and faith. The students were given an understanding of Jesus's last days of ministry, death and resurrection through bible readings, activities and an age appropriate film.

Special Thanks to Emmi Fraser who participated on the Shared Vision Committee and to those leaders who gave her valuable input from our ministry.

On April 29th thanks to the generosity and welcoming spirit of Jane Ritcey, we once again had a very successful Pool Party at emOcean Spa with thirty people in attendance. It definitely was a team effort to spread the word. Thanks to Mary Wagner who placed our poster in the bulletin, sent out an email to the parish and hung posters in the church and hall. Grant Dixon gave us great exposure on the church website and last but not least our lady who creates these lovely posters...Chasity Spindler. We always like to send the children home with a little treat and thanks to Louise Holdbrook the children were not disappointed.

On May 13th we were welcomed to worship with Zion's Lutheran Sunday School. Five of our students and four leadership members came out that morning to worship together. Our time flew by as we worked on a variety of Mother's Day crafts, prayed and ate a snack together.. It was a very enjoyable morning and we appreciate all the time and effort that the leaders at Zion put into this day.

We would like to give our sincere thanks to the St John's Parish for choosing to honour our Sunday School Leadership this year. Traditionally this recognition takes place during the annual meeting. However, this year there was a scheduling conflict as the school March Break and the Annual Meeting fell on the same date. Therefore, parish council graciously agreed to postpone this presentation until our closing on May 27th, when hopefully most of our leadership will be in attendance. Thanks to all those who have been such an important part of the development of our Sunday School over the past four years.



Leadership Team...Alexandria Acton Bond,
Christina Bower, Rena Demone, Wayne Dodge, Emmi Fraser, Hughie Fraser, Viola Green, Louise Holdbrook, Lori Nickerson, Brooke Nodding, Christina Pottie, Missy Romkey, Sherry Skinner, Chasity Spindler, Lisa McCabe
Senior Youth Assistants..Laura Eisner, Alex Payne, Nikki Saunders
Junior Youth Assistants.. Olivia Romkey, Jasmine Saunders, Serenity Holdbrook
Alex Payne-Youth Honouree

By the time you receive this newsletter we will be celebrating the closing of the Sunday School for this term followed by a congregational BBQ. Hope to see you all there!!!

Submitted Rena Demone

Ten Years Of Newsletters

This Summer 2018 Issue of St. John's Newsletter completes a ten year cycle of editing the newsletter for Janice and I. We started with the Thanksgiving issue in 2008 after Father Michael had asked us to take on the role of co-editors.

Our previous history of producing newsletters included a bi-monthly issue for the Vancouver Mission to Seafarers, a housing Co-op in Steveston BC, the Britannia Heritage Shipyard Society, and the Professional Marine Education Society in BC.

Initially we struggled to try and make St. John's newsletter work in MSWord which is not the easiest app to work with when you are attempting to make photographs and inserts stay where you want them to on the page. After a while we found that the St. John's office computer had MS Publisher, as did we. This is a much better app as you can group text boxes, photographs and inserts exactly where you want them. It also has the advantage, when you want to lift something from one page to another, of allowing you to park an item at the side while you change pages, does away with cut and paste and retains your original formatting. We also had to choose a design and layout for the newsletter that we are still using today.

At first we produced a 12 page newsletter. Our mainstay contributors were Father Michael and Barbara Butler who provided us with a constant supply of Good News. Janice filled in with articles on everything from the Creche Convention of 2011 to the history of Rogation days and traditional Easter gardens. Eventually more committees started to use the newsletter to inform parishioners of upcoming events and reports of past goings on. Later, the cost of mailing a large newsletter, to those who cannot pick it up in church, meant we had to reduce to the current 8 page issue to reduce the mail out expenses.

The end of a decade is a good time to take stock of what one is doing and to plan for the future. Consequently we would like you to consider the newsletter and answer a few questions. You could email your answers and comments to cynffig@eastlink.ca or drop them into the office for pick up. (For anyone wondering, Cynffig is the Celtic spelling of the Kenefick name).

1. Do you like the current format Yes No ; if No, what changes would you like to see?
2. Are the Committee reports detailed enough Yes No; if No, what would you like included?
3. Are the articles re the church year interesting Yes No; if No, what would you like to see?
4. Would you like to see articles about other ministries St. John's supports such as the Madagascar School Project, Mission To Seafarers, the Inter-church Food Bank Yes No
5. Are there any other issues you like the newsletter to cover Yes No; if Yes what issues would like covered?

Thank You For Your Support; The Editors

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