Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Thanksgiving will soon be here. It is a wonderful time to pause and give thanks to Almighty God for all the blessings we have received. This newsletter is full of articles that reflect the various reasons for giving thanks as members of the Parish St. John’s. My wife Holly and I, look forward to celebrating with you this Thanksgiving, when our special guests will be the Lunenburg and District Fire Service. With little rainfall this summer, many of us along the South Shore have experienced much dryness and a great number of wells and water supplies have been sorely tested. We have even more reason to gather this Thanksgiving with our volunteer Fire Service, which help keep us safe.

I would like to draw your attention to a relatively new season in our Church Year that we began to celebrate this fall at St. John’s. It is called, ‘The Season of Creation’ and it runs from the beginning of September to Thanksgiving. The Season of Creation offers worshipers an opportunity to turn their full attention toward God the Creator and toward their relationship with the whole creation. This year, our parish joined with thousands of other parishes worldwide to celebrate the ‘Season of Creation’.

For the most part, the seasons of the church year follow the life of Jesus: Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, and Easter. The remainder of the church year encompasses Pentecost Season, which celebrates life in the Holy Spirit. Of course, there are many special Feast Days and occasional services throughout the calendar of the church year. Through it all, we celebrate God’s goodness.

In the Season of Creation, we join in a whole-hearted experience of celebrating the mysteries and wonders of creation with God, Christ, and the Holy Spirit. In a special way, the Season of Creation follows the lead of the psalmists who exhort us to celebrate together with creation—with the forest, the rivers, the oceans and the fields who praise the Creator in their own way. We celebrate Earth, the garden planet God has chosen as God’s sanctuary and as our home. We celebrate with the creatures God has created as our kin on this blue green planet. As we celebrate, we are conscious of the crisis that creation faces because of human greed, exploitation, and neglect. As we celebrate, we empathize with those parts of creation—human and non-human—that are groaning because of human crimes against creation. Especially, we celebrate the Christ, whose death brings forgiveness for our sins against creation and whose risen presence is the cosmic power at work in reconciling and restoring creation.

The Season of Creation offers the opportunity to reflect in a focussed way on the foundations of redemption and sanctification, namely, the very creation itself that is redeemed and sanctified. For centuries, our theology, our ethics, and our worship have been oriented in two dimensions: our relationship with God and our human relationships with one another.

Now it is time to turn our attention to God’s relationship with all creation and with our relationship with creation (and with God through creation).

Continued on Page 2
Rector’s Message Continued

A number of years ago, the Anglican Church of Canada added a 6TH Baptismal Vow. It asks: *Will you strive to safeguard the integrity of God’s creation, and respect, sustain and renew the life of the Earth?* Our response is: *I will, with God’s help.*

While the inclusion of this vow is new to the baptismal covenant, the commitment to preserving God’s creation is not. Care for creation is a moral and religious issue, and requires of us the use our God-given gift of knowledge. I invite you to allow the Season of Creation to wake us up and show us how we might live out our Baptism Vows.

Wishing you and yours a very happy Thanksgiving.  

*Michael*

*Some of this material has been adapted from ‘letallcreationpraise.org’*

Music At St. John’s

*A note from Barbara…..*

The summer months have been quite active at St. John’s with a constant flow of visitors to our parish. We increased the visibility of our music program in various ways, creating added interest and enjoyment for both visitors and parishioners. ‘Wednesdays at Noon’ was a new program introduced, somewhat similar to our Music and Meditation series in Advent and Lent each year. The musicians in the list below offered wonderful programs, quite varied and diverse.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Date</th>
<th>Performer</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>June 29</td>
<td>Madrigal Singers</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 6</td>
<td>Peter Togni, jazz piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 13</td>
<td>Sharon Gow Knickle, piano; Ifan Williams, cello</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>July 20</td>
<td>John Laing, organ and piano; Judith Burdett, soprano</td>
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<tr>
<td>July 27</td>
<td>Boxwood Scholarship Recipients</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 3</td>
<td>Judith Burdett, soprano; Edmund Brownless, tenor; Barbara Butler, piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 10</td>
<td>Paul Buchanan, piano/vocals; Eilidh Campbell, Scottish fiddler</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 17</td>
<td>Walter Delahunt, piano</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 23</td>
<td>Duo Concertante</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>August 31</td>
<td>Bonnie Romkey, violin; Barbara Butler, piano</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

During Boxwood week I worked with Edmund Brownless in the church hall for a series of vocal workshops with members of our chancel choir, Boxwood attendees and other participants from the community. We were able to tackle more challenging repertoire, culminating in two special services of music on July 31 – the morning service at 10:30 and an added evensong at 3 pm. We were pleased to have various guest musicians at other services through the summer. They included Marcel d'Entremont, Edmund Brownless, Bonnie Romkey, Jamie Gray and Judith Burdett.

Seventeen copies of ‘Common Praise’ with music have been placed in the pews. They were acquired this summer from St. Bartholomew’s Church after it was closed. This is a wonderful boost for our congregation as many of the pews did not seem to have books with music in them.

The music on October 23 will have a gospel theme both at the 10:30 service and an evensong at 3 pm.  

Warm regards,  

*Barbara*
St. John’s Prayer Chain Ministry

The Prayer Chain is a special type of prayer ministry. It consists of a group of people willing to take time to pray for those who have requested prayer of the ‘Prayer Chain’, be it emotional, spiritual or physical.

Each member is notified by email by the co-ordinator and prays as time permits, in their own way. One can actually pray while continuing with normal activities, or a more structured format.

We share intimately in people’s lives, as we journey in faith through the hard times and good times.
We are “to pray for one another”, JAMES 5:16 “bear one another’s burdens, and thus fulfill the law of Christ.”

Our ‘prayer logo’ is “Jesus we offer our lives to you. Live in us, and through us. Here are our faces, shine from them. Here are our ears, hear the cry of hurting persons through them. DIVINE HEALER, HEAR OUR PRAYERS.” Amen.

If you wish for more information regarding how the Prayer Chain operates, to request a prayer for yourself or someone else, or how you can participate as part of the Prayer Chain Ministry please contact Holly.

Submitted by Holly Mitchell, Coordinator

Heritage Ministry At Work

This example of the Heritage Ministry at work started with an email request to the Church Office

Subject: Frederick Arthur Shepherd (deceased) of Lunenburg
April-23-16 8:21 AM

Hello,
I am contacting you to ask if you would have any records of my uncle and his family, who lived in Lunenburg from 1953 until about 1979, please? I live in Dorset, England and my husband and I are having a holiday visiting Nova Scotia this June, spending two nights in Lunenburg, so would like to see where my uncle lived and the church where they worshipped, especially as I never met my uncle and auntie.

They were Frederick Arthur Shepherd and Lillian Shepherd (nee Schlenger) with daughters Lynne (died in 1990s) and Cindy.

Frederick, born in Bermuda, was one of my mother's brothers, and it was through him that my Dad, working in the Naval Dockyard in Bermuda in 1940, met my Mum, also born in Bermuda. I understand that Uncle Freddie was a cabinet maker and also served as assistant treasurer of St John's Anglican Church, Lunenburg, that his funeral was at your church on 11th March, I think 1981(I have a newspaper cutting of day but not year) and he has buried in Hillcrest Cemetery.

Having had only a postal box number I would love to know the address where they lived and how I might be able to trace my cousin, Cynthia (Cindy) Shepherd. I don't even know if she's married.

I would be very grateful of any information you might be able to send me.
My Auntie Lillian was a great letter writer and, although I never met her, I would love to be able to see where they lived.

Many thanks and best wishes,
Janet Cooper

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Hello Janet,

I am copying our Heritage Chairperson, Roger Demone to ask that he search for your uncle's date of death. Those names sound so familiar to me, but I think I only knew of them. Facebook has a wonderful group page called 'You Know you're from Lunenburg' and I am thinking you may get wonderful stories about them if you reach out and ask.

I wish you all the best,
Mary Wagner
Parish secretary

Hello Janet,

I actually have the Burial records here in the church office, so was able to look up the date of death for your uncle. You are correct in that he died March 11, 1981 at the age of 67. His residence at that time shows as Halifax.

Thank you,
Mary

Hello Mary & Roger,

Thank you for your email regarding my uncle, Freddie Shepherd. I just wanted to update you with an amazing story!

Having initially been unsuccessful in tracing my cousin, Cindy Shepherd, I Googled my Aunt's name, Lillian Shepherd who died in 1997 and it was great to find that a memorial award had been set up in her name for illustrators of children's books (she was a journalist and a great book lover) and I found an article in Atlantic Books about her in 2014, which was mainly written by my cousin, Cindy. My husband and I, who live in England, had planned a holiday to Nova Scotia arriving 14 June this year, but it wasn't until I'd landed in Halifax that I thought to contact the publishers of Atlantic Books for my cousin's contact details and the very next day we were in contact by email! I had never met my Uncle Freddie or Auntie Lillian or Cindy so how amazing it was to find that Cindy was recently back from working in the Arctic Circle and living less than an hour from Lunenburg!

So we were able to meet at last in Lunenburg for a day (we were staying two nights in our campervan on Blockhouse Hill Campground, in beautiful weather!) and Cindy showed us around. What a special day! Very moving to visit the cemetery and see the resting place of my Uncle, Auntie & cousin Lynne. Cindy took us into St Johns Church and we sat in their family pew, although they often sang in the choir and my Uncle was assistant treasurer.

It was so lovely the next day for my husband and I to attend the 8.30am service at St Johns before we set off for Digby. Appropriately it was Fathers' Day because if it wasn't for Cindy's and my father's friendship I wouldn't exist! everyone was very friendly and your church is very beautiful.

If you have a newsletter I would be happy for you to include our story just in case some of your congregation remember Lillian, Lynne & Cindy Shepherd (perhaps not so likely Freddie who died in 1981) I will try to attach a couple of photos, Cindy is on the left in the photo.

Best wishes, Janet Cooper
This letter from the Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund, was recently received in the Church Office.

Great Job bringing well deserved Congratulations for the Sunday School children.

We all look forward to hearing what their goal will be this year and who will be the lucky recipients of their efforts.

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**The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund**

Le fonds du Primate pour le secours et le développement mondial

The Anglican Church of Canada · 80 Hayden St., Toronto, ON Canada M4Y 3G2 · www.pwrdf.org

Tel: (416) 924-9192 · Fax: (416) 924-3483

August 22, 2016

Ms. Mary Wagner, Parish Secretary
St. John’s Anglican Church
PO Box 238
Lunenburg NS B0J 2C0

Dear Ms. Wagner:

How lovely to receive correspondence from St. John’s Anglican Church in Lunenburg, Nova Scotia. CONGRATULATIONS to your Sunday School children on their successful fund raising campaign. Thank you, too, to the parents who facilitated the project. When I read stories of children in Vancouver and Montréal raising money for mosquito nets and now children in Lunenburg raising money for clean water I realize the importance of raising awareness, educating and connecting Canadian adults, youth and children with our partners around the world. At the parish and diocesan level a tangible program with measurable results boosts enthusiasm and commitment.

On behalf of the Board, staff and partners I ask you to please pass along our sincere appreciation to the children of your Sunday School for their remarkable gift. I hope they are very proud of accomplishing their goal of raising $300 through the bottle drive and collection at the entrance to the church.

Our Board met in Halifax in May 2009 and a small delegation including my husband and me visited St. John’s Anglican Church. Beth Baskins, a staff member at the time, spoke to a small gathering. I well remember the delicious meal prepared for us followed by a fabulous cakewalk. I left with a yummy chocolate cake that changed the meaning of a “health break” at our meeting the following morning.

Please give my regards to your rector, Archdeacon Michael. I very much appreciated his tour of the church and patience with our questions. Having lived on PEI from 1981 to 2015, St. John’s, Lunenburg holds a special place in my heart.

Sincerely,

Lynne Taylor
Director, PWRDF Board
This Summers Events

We here at Saint St John’s Sunday School, hope that everyone had an enjoyable summer with family and friends. We are looking forward to starting up another new school year with a few changes to better suit your needs. I would like to personally thank our leaders for their time and efforts over the summer to continue with much reflection and planning to be up and ready to welcome everyone back and to the leaders and families who took the time to help organize and participate in our two summer activities, “Pool Party” and “Movie Night”.

On Sunday July 26th, despite claps of thunder and a sprinkling of rain, the skies cleared and we had a very fun Pool Party and BBQ at the Lunenburg District Swimming Pool. There were a total of 35 parishioners, friends and visitors in attendance. It was a pleasure to hear the young children playing in the pool, their parents chatting with each other and, at the same time, a small huddle of those who are young at heart reminiscing about Sunday School picnics in days gone by. This is what we were hoping for….making summer Sunday School memories for our children. Thanks to Michael, Mary M, Louise, Cammy and Brooke, for your assistance and for all the contributions of food...Lori, Roxie, Emmi, Brooke, Cammy, Louise and Missy.

Fifty people again gathered for our Movie Night on August 26th. Originally planned for outside, but because we were blessed with rain that had been awaited for about a month, we had to move the event indoors. The children didn’t seem to mind, as they spread over the floor relaxing on their blankets, pillows and lounge chairs...and snacking on juice and popcorn. Thanks to Lori and Hughie for making the popcorn and to Michael, Wayne and Bruce for setting up the screen and assisting David with the sound system. Louise, Brooke and Jeff were on hand and helped where needed. We feel this was a success and is something we will consider doing more often.

Inter-Congregational Sunday School Meeting

On June 21st, 2016 Wayne Dodge, Emmi Fraser, and Rena Demone met with fellow SS leaders from Bridgewater and Mahone Bay at St James Parish Hall. The purpose of the meeting was to share ideas and experiences for inspiration to improve our own programs. Topics discussed were curriculum, special events, music, and scheduling. It was agreed that this meeting was very useful and we will continue to get together on a yearly basis.

Sunday School Reopening

By the time you receive this Newsletter, our classes will have already resumed on September 18th. This year we have a few changes in class structure. Nursery will be for children up to the age of three, Grade I for 4-6 yr olds, Grade II for 7 yr olds and Grade III for 8 yr. olds and up. One Sunday a month, all the older boys will gather for a “Guys Only Group” to do a lesson plan or community service activity of interest to them. Please contact any of our leaders if you have any questions about our program.

Also new this year, Sharon Hill will work with a group of interested students who would like to sing as a group. This will take place at the Parish Hall 10-15 minutes prior to the 10:30 service. We are hoping this will give an opportunity to these students to develop a repertoire of faith-based music for their own pleasure and to share with others.

Congratulations

Congratulations to three of our Youth Assistants, Alex Payne, Nikki Saunders and Laura Eisner, and also Noah Romkey and Aisling Curtin who will be confirmed on Wednesday October 19th, 7:00pm at Saint John’s. We are very proud that they have shown their commitment to their faith into which they have been baptized

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Sunday School Continued

Your 2016 Sunday School Leaders

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Nursery</th>
<th>Missy Romkey, Viola Green, Chasity Spindler, Rena Demone, Youth assistant - Nikki Saunders, &amp; Laura Eisner</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Class I</td>
<td>Sherry Skinner, Vivian Risser, Assistant &amp; Church Service Youth coordinator - Brooke Nodding, Youth Assistant - Sebastian Haumering</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class II</td>
<td>Lori Nickerson, Louise Holdbrook, Christina Bower, Youth Assistant - Alex Payne</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Class III</td>
<td>Emmi Fraser, Wayne Dodge...Guys Only Group, Assistant Christina Pottie, Youth Assistant - Alex Payne, Sebastian Haumering to assist with Guys Group, Substitute Leader - Lisa Mc Cabe, Substitute Assistant - Jennifer Britles</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Submitted by Rena Demone

SafeR Church

The fundamental purpose of the SafeR Church Ministry is simple – help create a trusting and trustworthy environment in which our parish operates. In particular, we must ensure, in all we do, the appropriate protection of our community’s children, youth and vulnerable adults.

Our core SafeR Church Plan was created through the first half of last year and implemented in the later part of the year. Our plan has two basic components:

- Preventative Action – based on a risk assessment conducted by each of our ministries, we have developed a series of actions that are being taken to minimize potential issues from arising in the first place
- Response Action – we have also developed a number of action and communication protocols that would be initiated in the event that an issue does occur

Our focus in 2015 was to finalize the plan and then communicate it to the various leaders of the church, primarily the Parish Council and chairs of the various ministries and committees. In the later part of 2015 we also started meeting with all members of the ministries and committees to provide an overall understanding of the principles behind SafeR Church, its key components and general and specific areas of responsibility.

Our work will continue in 2016 and into 2017 and will include:

- A review of the plan with appropriate revisions based on feedback we have received over the past year from our ministries as well as integrating any input from the on-going work being done at the Diocese level
- We will also continue our meetings with the various ministries and committees over the next six months. This will be in the form of an annual refresher for those that we already met with during the initial implementation process.

If any parishioner would like to know more about the SafeR Church plan, what it means and how it will be used within our daily life within the Parish, please contact any one of the members of the SafeR Church ministry: Maureen Moffatt, Roxie Smith or Duncan Crowdis. Our goal is very clear and simple – to work to create a strong trusting and trustworthy environment within the Parish of St. John’s and our community in Lunenburg.

Respectfully,
Duncan Crowdis
Chair: SafeR Church Ministry
Pew Cushion Campaign

*Heritage, Faith and Vision, and now perhaps Comfortable pews!*

When we celebrated the 10th Anniversary of our Restoration a few years ago, one of the "looking forward" suggestions was to have cushions in our pews. We started with small individual cushions, but the request has remained.

At our Annual meeting last March, the donations in memory of Captain Alex Green were pledged by his family to begin a campaign. Over the spring and summer we investigated many options, and have chosen the cushion which has been on display over the last few months in the church. It is made of a high density foam, and covered with a stain resistant material used in IMAX theatre seating. It has been received with enthusiasm!

At the September 20th meeting of Parish Council, we agreed to run a Pledge campaign for one month, until Oct 27. The average cost of a cushion is $200., and we have 96 pews in the nave...so our Campaign is $20,000.

We ask that you call Mary in the Parish office (902-634-4994), or Heather (902-634-4713) in the next month, to pledge your commitment to the Campaign.

- Perhaps you would like to pledge a cushion in memory of a loved one.
- Perhaps you would like to pledge several cushions to recognize the efforts of an individual or ministry within the parish.
- Perhaps you would like to pledge a few dollars to support our comfortable pews.

If we have pledges greater than half of the campaign ($10,000 ) by Oct 27, we will move ahead. Please call now to make your commitment for a comfortable pew!

Blessings to each of you!
Heather (902-634-4713)
Mary (902-634-4994)

*Submitted by Heather Eisenhauer*

ACW Requesting A Few Good Items

If anyone has any good quality items they no longer want and would like to donate them to the ACW, it would be appreciated.

Recently the ACW has been able to sell a few of the good quality left over Flea Market items at the local consignment shop.

All donations may be left in the parish hall, marked "FOR ACW".

*Submitted by Sandra Jordan*