

# Lent & Easter 2019 Newsletter

## Rector's Message

### *"Something's ... missing."*

Quite often in our lives, we can get so caught up with the to-do lists, the scheduled activities, the busy-ness; such that it can overwhelm us. And suddenly we feel that there's something... missing. Not like a lost sock or mislaid car keys; something deeper, more intimate, more profound: something spiritual.

As we do with other things that go missing, we try to find them: we may search the dryer for the sock, or be surprised to find the keys in the freezer. But the spiritual emptiness within us still lingers as we continue to do the same (un)spiritual things in the same (un)spiritual ways.

The message of Easter, however, is one of finding spiritual fulfillment in new and exciting ways. Our challenge is to be open to seeing the Christ active in our lives in ways we have not considered before. Even the folks in the gospels were shaken out of their old ways and understandings as they came to encounter the risen Christ: Mary was focused on the empty tomb, the fishermen were focused on their empty nets, the disciples headed to Emmaus were focused on their grief. Yet there was Jesus, right in front of their eyes, willing them to see him.

We too, as Christ-followers, are invited to seek out the risen Christ in our lives. We are challenged to look beyond our busy-ness and empty-ness, to focus on the living God present in our lives. We are compelled to focus not on the empty tomb of what's missing in our lives, but to be filled with the power and delight of the risen Lord.

May this Easter season be a time of renewed joys, renewed faith, renewed possibilities for you to be surprised by Christ's resurrection. The Lord is risen indeed, alleluia!

Rev. Laura Marie



## Music At St. John's

### *A note from Barbara.....*

Members of our music team join me in sending warm wishes to all of you as we begin to experience signs of spring and celebrate the Easter Season that is before us.

Due to a scheduling conflict with Symphony Nova Scotia we were unable to bring a performance of *St. Matthew Passion* to St. John's this year. A special performance and dinner with the soloists was held on Friday, April 5 at my home. Many parishioners enjoyed this event and \$3,000 was raised to contribute to the performance at All Saints Cathedral on April 7. We anticipate that next April we will once again welcome Paul Halley and King's College Chapel Choir to Lunenburg for the performance of a major Bach choral work.

Our Music and Meditation Series began on Ash Wednesday at noon and once again this series is enjoyed by our parishioners as well as the general public. "Julia's Music" continued as in past years at Harbour View Haven at 1 pm.

Our list of performances included the following:

Wed, March 6 – Bonnie Romkey, violin; Ifan Williams, cello

Wed, March 13 – Janelle Lucyk, soprano; Sarah Myatt, mezzo soprano; Peter Togni, piano

Wed, March 20 – John Scott, organ

Wed, March 27 – Judith Burdett, soprano; Barbara Butler, piano

Wed, April 3 – Chris Norman, flute

Wed, April 10 – Walter Delahunt, piano

Wed, April 17 – A Cappella Vocal Ensemble

Our appreciation is extended to the musicians who have brought such a varied and enjoyable program to us - and, we thank all of you who have been able to attend and support our music program. Other musicians have added much to our morning worship in the past few weeks – Luc Therien from Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir, brass assembled by Wendell Eisener and soprano Janelle Lucyk. Members of A Cappella Vocal Ensemble also sang with the Chancel Choir at the Service of Celebration for Rev. Laura Marie on March 31. We also welcome new members to our Chancel Choir and look forward to seeing good friends who have been away over the winter and will be joining us again soon.

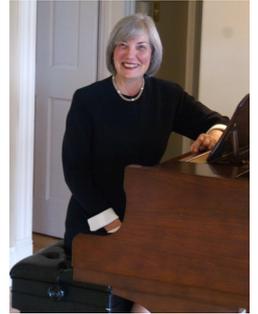
Musique Royale began its 'Cookie Concert' series for families here at St. John's in February, 2014. The concept of providing families an affordable way to experience an engaging hour of music with established Canadian artists of varying styles and backgrounds had its roots here at St. John's as a way to provide an added benefit to our Sunday School. A typical scene involves a roomful of enthusiastic adults with young children enjoying a performance sitting on mats near the performers at the Lunenburg School of the Arts. The next performance features Toronto's 'Hogtown Brass' on May 4 at 2 pm at the Arts School. June's Cookie Concert features Canadian pianist Julien LeBlanc and will be held at St. John's Church on Saturday, June 1 at 2 pm. It would be a pleasure to see you at these entertaining programs.

*Barbara*

## Primate, Fred Hiltz Will Be Retiring On July 16<sup>TH</sup>

As many of you know, the Primate (our beloved Fred) was rector in this parish 1988-1994; he will be retiring this summer. In honour of his ministry, we are collecting a special gift to be given to PWRDF (Primates World Relief and Development Fund).

We have challenged other parishes in this region to do the same. We will happily collect your gifts for the Primate through the spring. Please mark your envelope clearly 'PWRDF Gift for Fred'.



# St. John's Church, Lunenburg

## The Journey of Holy Week



Monday, April 15: Evening Prayer 7:00 pm (*spoken*)

Tuesday, April 16: Seder 7:00 pm

Wednesday, April 17: Tenebrae 7:00 pm

Thursday, April 18: Holy Eucharist 7:00 pm

*Washing of feet, Stripping of Altar*

Good Friday, April 19: Liturgy & Stations of the Cross 10:00 am

*Ecumenical Walk 11:30 am*

Saturday, April 20: Holy Eucharist with Baptism 4:00 pm

Easter Sunday, April 21: Holy Eucharist 8:30 am & 10:30 am



## Wardens Reflections

We would like to thank Duncan Crowdis for the dedication and leadership which he brought to his position as Church Warden for the last three years. Duncan finished his term of Warden at the March 10<sup>th</sup> AGM but will continue as Chair of the Vision Team and the SafeR Church committee. St John's has been, and will continue to be, blessed with Duncan and Pam in our parish family.

At the AGM Raymond Francis joined our team as the third Church Warden along with Blake Starratt and Robert MacMillan. As a past Warden for St John's, Raymond brings his experience and knowledge to the position and is eager to work with our Rector.

The AGM also saw Brooke Nodding and Stephen Lewis elected to Parish Council to take their places with Sam Burton, Charlene Demone, David Penney, Emmi Fraser, Peter Matthews and Barbara Nowe. St John's parish is in good hands as 2019 progresses with Rev. Laura Marie at the helm.

The delegates elected for this year's Diocesan Synod in May are Haigh Carthew and Robert MacMillan. Blake Starratt is the alternate delegate.

Regional Council Members Mary Meisner and Betty-Lou Olivier were elected once again. Blake Starratt is the alternate to Regional Council.

We are happy to announce that Dan Steele will be taking over the position of Parish Treasurer. As he steps down from the position of Treasurer for St John's, we would like to thank Dan Sargeant for his time, dedication and work with Mary Wagner and the parish bookkeeper Cammy Tibbo.

We thank God for these dedicated people who have stepped forward in ministry for the betterment of the St. John's and the mission of Jesus Christ.

*Respectfully submitted: Robert MacMillan, Blake Starratt and Raymond Francis.*

## SafeR Church Ministry Report

While our SafeR Church Plan is now well in place, the committee's work to ensure the plan is constantly reviewed and updated as necessary, continues. In 2019 we have several areas of focus:

First is to ensure that all police checks for individuals in a "Position of Trust" are up to date and consistent with our policy to refresh them every 3 years. This work is on-going for 2019 and is now a little over 50% completed. This was quite a large task, as our plan was initiated in 2015/2016 so many of the individuals who are still in a Position of Trust are coming around to year three and the need for a police check refresher.

We are looking at two changes this year to our SafeR Church Plan:

First is to add a "photo release" procedure that provides an authorization to utilize photos that are taken of an individual or group with the intention of publishing them in a general communication. For those in other youth organizations this is "standard procedure" and our Youth and Family Ministry are already doing this as it relates to our Sunday School children.

Second is to add to our "Positions of Trust" those who have a key(s) and access to one or more of our facilities. The core work here will be to institute a "key control" process which will be a simple way of ensure we know who has keys for what parts of our parish facilities and a way to manage "flow" of keys. Raymond Francis will be taking on this daunting task likely in the fall of 2019.

And finally, later this year, our ministry will conduct brief SafeR Church re-freshers for Parish leadership and all ministries to:

- Ensure an understanding of the Plan in general
- Know who is involved
- Understand what to do in the event of an observation of a reportable event, and
- Be available to answer any questions

*Respectfully Submitted by the SafeR Church Ministry*

## St. John's Vision Team

Because our Shared Vision remains relatively new, we continue to share the Vision Statement, our Common Values and Focus Areas. Our Vision Statement is: *“We are a Christ-centered, caring community shaping our future, preserving our heritage and living our faith in word and deed”*. Supporting the Vision Statement are four core building blocks we call **Common Values** that include ***Worship, Fellowship, Leadership and Heritageship*** (i.e. *The Four “Ships”*).

The road towards our vision is a journey, and as with all journeys of this type, it will take time and we must embrace the blessings and enjoyment of the learning that will come with walking this path together.

We are fortunate to have Rev. Laura Marie as our spiritual leader, who is as passionate about our vision as St. John's parishioners were in its creation. At the AGM in March, Rev. Laura Marie outlined some of her action priorities as they pertain to the vision. She described the Focus Areas as “waves” of the sea that support our four “Ships” or Common Values. Our goal in 2019 is to ensure that over the course of the year, the total of our ministries are addressing ALL nine Focus Areas or “waves”. Here is some of the work that is already underway or planned for 2019.

**Worship** – Rev. Laura Marie has formed a Worship Ministry made up of a handful of parishioners representing a good cross-section of our parish's ministries. This group plans to meet 4 to 5 times per year, to provide feedback and discuss options to meet our various spiritual needs. The members of this ministry are Rev. Laura Marie, Margaret Murray, Brooke Nodding, Sheila Morris, Susan MacMillan, Anne Spence and Barbara Butler.

**Music** – Music continues to be a critical and integral part of St. John's. Our shared vision calls for a balanced diversity of music (traditional, new, gospel, etc.) that the Music Committee is already working into our services. Future efforts from the work of both the Music and Worship Ministries will look for ways to expand the offerings to meet the needs of our parish.

**Communications** – Our Vision identified a desire for stronger and clearer communications. We are putting together a Communications Strategy to streamline our efforts and meet our needs. In the meantime, we have an active St. John's Facebook page, and Rev. Laura Marie offers a weekly “spiritual blog” on <http://everydaychristianityblog.blogspot.com> and is contributing monthly articles in the Diocesan Times.

**Youth and Family** – Our new name for Sunday School, the Youth and Family Ministry team includes dedicated and energetic volunteers who are leading this and future generations in areas of Christian Education, connecting with the community, and supporting our Parish Family.

**Missional Work** – As a church, we are called to go into the world, to love and serve the Lord. Missional Work is a theme that upholds many of our ministries. The good news is that we are already connecting with folks beyond the walls of our church! We will continue to work with all ministries, offering support in their mission focus; some specifics will be highlighted in a later newsletter.

**Support for Parish Family** – We are committed to ensure that there is strong support for, all members of our Parish Family. This Focus Area has a broad scope, and over time, will include prayer chains, on-going pastoral care, support for those who cannot easily attend church activities, support for parishioners through the various life milestones such as births, baptisms, weddings and deaths and finding ways to celebrate appropriate milestones on a regular basis (perhaps a “Baptismal Celebration Day”?).

**Community** – Our on-going outreach activities already focus on meeting needs and engaging our local community, including efforts by the Heritage Committee, Ladies Guild, ACW, Music Committee, Food Bank, Meals on Wheels and of course our Youth and Family Ministry. We will continue to look for ways to engage the community, and look forward to working with other churches and agencies locally.

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## St. John's Vision Team - Continued

**Heritage** – Much of what we do as a church embraces our rich heritage and the leadership role that St. John's has played, and must continue to play, in the community life of Lunenburg.

**Green Church** – As we want to play a proactive and leadership role in moving to a “greener” church within Lunenburg, in 2019 we will work to define just what this means, and prioritize the work to be done. This happens to be a passion for Rev. Laura Marie and, as a member of the Diocesan Environmental Network, we have an excellent leader to help us.

In the fall our intention is to hold a “Ministry Fair” that will give everyone a chance to learn about all of our ministries, about what they do, and how they go about their work, and look for opportunities where your passion and desire to volunteer can enhance the life of our church.

While this provides a brief summary of where we are in our journey, we are committed to keeping the Parish updated with plans and actions as we journey together toward the Vision our Lord God has guided us to create.

Our Vision has been created in a prayerful process, our parish is ready and *now the work starts as we go out into the world to love and serve the Lord.*

*Respectfully submitted by St John's Vision Committee*

## Family & Youth Ministry

**Family Fellowship Evening** On February 22nd, Rev. Laura Marie hosted a lovely dinner in her home for the parents of our parish. Meanwhile, their children enjoyed a nutritious meal and play time with their friends in the Family Fellowship Room. Child care was provided by Heather Eisenhauer, Mary King, Louise Holdbrook, Henry and Rena Demone, all who enjoyed a pleasant evening of food and conversation.

**Book Club** (Emmi Fraser) The St. John's Family and Youth Ministry has spearheaded a mixed ages Book Club held approximately every six weeks. Our numbers have been small, about 8-10 members, we have challenged ourselves to connect with a variety of books, both fiction and non-fiction. Each month we post in the bulletin and create posters advertising the book selection. Since January 2019 our new rector, Rev. Laura Marie has graciously hosted us for this fellowship in the Rectory. In February, we had a lively discussion about the Hobbit by JRR Tolkien which included members of other parishes in the area. We invite you to join us! (PS You are always welcome to join us for the fellowship and conversation even if you haven't quite completed the book!)

**Pancake Supper** Thanks once again to the parish families who faithfully carried out all the behind the scenes details needed to host our annual pancake supper. Each year Jim Green and Howard Keeping source our shopping list. We thank Mr. Robb from Foodland and David Francis of Independent Grocers for their food contributions. Also to Jim, Viola, Jamie, Jeff, Ryan and Daria Green, Howard and Lillian Keeping, Jenn and Dave Britles for your personal donations to help lower the costs and make this evening a fundraising success. This year we give a “Big Thank You” to Jim and Ernst Symes, Elroy Creaser and Jim Morris, Christina Pottie, Sherry Skinner, Marlene Bower, Sharon Green, and Louise Holdbrook, Brooke and Morgan Nodding, Lori and Peyton Nickerson, Jim, Nolan, and Lydia Green, Tegan and Avery Heisler, Kaylee Fox, and Peter Matthews, Shannon and Caden Fox, Olivia Romkey, Sophia Miller, Jasmine Saunders and Peyton and Ashley Green, who made this evening a success.

Thank you Rev. Laura Marie and Wayne Dodge for serving ice cream and Patty Tanner for receiving the donations from our supportive community. We were able to raise \$587.25 this year which is again more than enough to help support Maritsa our sponsored child through World Vision for another year with food, water, education, and health care.

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## Family & Youth Ministry - Continued

**Random Acts of Kindness Club** (Chastity Spindler) Youth and Family Ministry were excited to continue our monthly random act of kindness night. This is a non denominational evening where anyone from the community can join us to spread kindness together. For March we decided to RAK the Burg Classic Hockey tournament. We made inspirational labels for bottles of water and the children colored them. There was enough water for each player to get a bottle with an inspirational message. Our next RAK night is this coming Friday, April 12th at 6:30 pm

**Community Outreach** (Women's Second Storey) We continue to collect toiletries for Women's Second Storey (WSS). A small basket is in the church entrance, and Anne Spence will present the donated items to WSS each time it is filled. Thanks to Pam Crowdis, who risked excess baggage to bring back her and her friends collection on her flight. On Sunday, April 7th a representative of WSS stopped by and took a photo of our students, to be posted on their website in appreciation of ongoing support.

**First Communion/Altar Guild** (Lori Nickerson &/Rena Demone) Rev. Laura Marie has offered two time options each week for our young people to attend a First Communion Program. Parents truly appreciate this flexibility resulting in an attendance of 15 very enthusiast candidates. Please make a special effort to attend their First Communion at the April 28th, 10:30am service. There will be a light refreshments to follow. To further enhance our older Sunday School class's experience and appreciation of Eucharist, the Altar Guild has offered to share their ministry. Maureen Moffat met with students prior to 10:30 service. Christina Pottie has asked Lori Nickerson to join her for Altar Guild responsibilities during the month of May. Lori's daughter Peyton will also be part of the team. During May the three of them will do all the jobs required of the Altar Guild, coordinated in a way to receive in depth instruction. This type of one-on-one mentorship is how we bond our church families and pass traditions to the next generation. We hope others will offer to do the same. The students would embrace the challenge and feel accomplished with what they have learned as well as a sense of pride in their church.

**Summer Camp** Summer Day Camp this year will be on Thursday August 29th, 9:00am-4:00pm. Allie Colp met with Rev. Laura Marie and Rena to discuss what was needed from the parish, and what will be offered to us from the diocese. We will need volunteers and as last year we hope this will come from folks outside of the parent realm to foster intergenerational support. Prior to that day volunteers will be given a two hour workshop on SafeR Church policies, in the parish hall at time that is convenient to us. Rev. Laura Marie and Rev. Dr. Wendell Eisener plan to participate. This is open to all friends and families so spread the word.

**Wednesday Morning Tot Group** Alexandra Acton-Bond said that there were twenty families present over March Break, and fifteen families the following week. She is certainly fulfilling a needed outreach in our community and making good use of our new Family Fellowship Room. Thanks to Louise Holdbrook for dropping off a second donation of baked goods to share with the parents. Alexandra would appreciate any additional baked offerings to welcome our neighbours.

**All Families Service** Thanks you to all those families who have served during the "All Families Service". The liturgy and music are carefully planned to allow all ages to participate. We thank Rev. Laura Marie, Barbara Butler and Dr. Rev. Wendell Eisener who make this possible. Each month Brooke Nodding looks for volunteers for greeting duties, several different types of readings, collection and carrying of the Elements. This is for everyone as we don't want to appear to only have the same families each month. Please reach out to Brooke Nodding and sign up for the next "All Families Service".

When we are looking for families this does not have to include just families with small children. It can be a family of friends who sit together every Sunday at service, family members who live a distance from their home church of St. John's and are planning a visit with us or a family of committee members who would like

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## Family & Youth Ministry - Continued

to all be together at a single service. If you have a child, grandchild, niece, nephew, godchild who would like to come to any of the services with you and perform any of these duties, please let us know.

**Committee Support** The Heritage Committee has gifted us the remainder of the items from the St. John's Gift Shop, as a means for us to raise funds for our future projects. We will start by first reaching to our parishioners as these are lovely keepsakes for you and your extended families. Anyone wanting to make a purchase, please contact Rena by email.

renademone@gmail.com

Prices of items are: A pack of five gift cards \$2.00, plates \$5.00 each, DVD \$2.00, Square spikes found in the rubble during the cleanup of St. John's after the fire used in construction work in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries \$10.00.

Submitted by Rena Demone/Emmi Fraser/Lori Nickerson/Chasity Spindler



## Easter Season Bible Study

Drop-in format with open discussions on scripture.

Bring your Bible (any translation) and together we'll journey through the Book of Romans; to discover how God is speaking to us today.

Wednesdays 11.00 in the Parish Hall, starting April 24th.

## Ask Me Anything

An evening where the **Rector will sit in the proverbial 'hot seat'** and answer any of your questions. From how I named my dogs, to how I discerned my call to ministry, to what my favourite colour/food/Gospel is... ask me anything!

Monday, April 29th

7.00pm in the Parish Hall, snacks provided

## TALENT NIGHT

Looking for stars of stage and screen!

Bring your comedy, singing, dancing, skits, musical instruments...

And bring your friends to support people on stage.

Please join us Friday, May 31st, from 5.00pm onwards

\$10 suggested donation, pub-style food provided

*An evening hosted by your Parish Council*

\*Sign up sheets for talent portions will be in the church after Easter\*

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