

September 2020

At the time of writing this letter, our Pandemic Committee has been working hard at completing all the requirements to make possible our re-opening. While we were aware of certain items in order to comply, we have found out that the rules set out for us have been more extensive. Soon our operational plan will be submitted to the Diocese who will give us permission to re-open or advise of changes that need to be made.

Parishes may have different re-open dates since each must comply on their own by application. This procedure may take about three weeks. Please note that your decision to return in person rests with you. While we will do our best, we know that some of you may prefer to be a bit more cautious due to personal health reasons. We wish to honour your decision and will continue to provide Sunday devotionals on Facebook each Sunday. Please remember, said aloud or not, everyone named or not, is included in our Sunday prayers. Our target date to re-open is Sunday October 11. It will be a special Thanksgiving for us all.



It is with sadness that we have learned of the passing of Hap Lafferty. Hap was a man who gave so much of himself for others and we give thanks for his life among us.

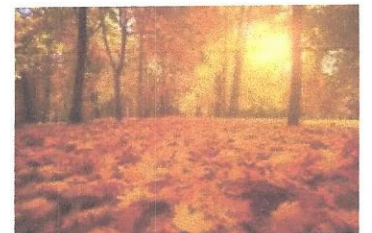
Our current situation is a time for reconsidering many things. Even the Lectionary readings these past months have spoken of perspectives being altered by circumstances. In matters of life and faith, there are times of repositioning that can rearrange our viewpoints as well as our priorities. Such periods may arise unexpectedly,



but they always seem to come with consequences. One thing that can be of assistance to us, is the medium of prayer. Prayer produces a sense of connectedness that has no equal. It is both intensely intimate, and should we develop it, a communication that goes beyond the limits of words alone. It is during these unusual times that prayer can be our best resource. Prayer creates an atmosphere when it is permissible to lay out all our concerns without reservation. Only then can we see them as they really are, and if

necessary to reset our priorities, letting go of some of our concerns to God. Surrendering certain issues to divine keeping releases us from the excess weight of the burdens we carry. As prayer changes us, so must we grow with prayer. It can take us to the next level.

As we step from one season into another, we find new ways to adjust and to make accommodation to involve ourselves in our various ministries. Our Lord's disciples knew this only too well. They had to do their best to keep up with him without having all the information they would have preferred. The very thing that made all this possible, was the fact that he had faith in them first even before their faith in him grew sufficiently stronger.



Looking forward to seeing you again!

Bruce+

Priest-in-Charge

*God is watching over us.
I know because I asked
him to.*

Dear Parishioners and Friends,

Once again we pray this monthly letter finds you well and in good spirits at the end of summer as fall approaches.

We hope that you had a chance to respond to our Parish-wide **Phone Survey** that occurred between Aug. 24- 27 about the re-opening of St. John's this fall for in-person worship. Thank you to our Callers! Your Pandemic Committee wants to hear your opinions and feelings to help us in our planning. Didn't get a call? Call Bruce T or Sue and we'll hear your viewpoint.



The **Pandemic Committee** is doing everything it can to make the return to in-person worship at St. John's safe and comfortable for all those who wish to attend. We are grateful for their work. You will receive a brief outline describing what Sunday worship will look like and the protocols we'll follow for everyone's safety. Anyone who is interested in being a **Pandemic Era Sidesperson** to monitor and help members to follow the Public Health protocols at Sunday services, let your wardens know. There'll be a brief training session so

we all will feel confident and at ease, safely guiding attendees during our re-opening season. Remember, though, that no one should feel pressured to attend our services in person. Our Facebook devotions will continue to serve those who need to stay at home. If you own one of these pillows that have been removed from the pews and would like them returned to you, please let us know.



Our Outreach Continues! You have another opportunity to help Community Care restock their empty shelves during the return to school and the coming of autumn. The sequel to our **"FILL THE TRAILER for Community Care"** that was so successful in June will take place **Friday September 11th from noon to 4pm**. Drop by our Anne St. boulevard with food or a cheque made out to *Community Care*. Can we do it again?



The BWC shed at the back of the church is built and looks great!

Our **Dignity Kit and Prayer Shawl** ministries are coming back in October!



With controlled numbers, masks, and social distancing our volunteers will be working their magic again soon.

Thank you to those who responded with questions about their mid-year Offerings

Report. We were pleased to clarify or clear up any inconsistencies. Once again we have included self-addressed stamped envelopes for your convenience to mail in your offerings or to communicate with us. Your wardens and treasurer are so grateful for your amazing and much needed support.

Many, many thanks go to all those who donated to our **Virtual Peach Festival** spearheaded by Vi and Margaret Priddle. With a bit more money yet to come in, so far an incredible \$2,924 was raised!



Be well and be safe!

Bruce Timms and Sue Thibodeau, Wardens