

July 2020

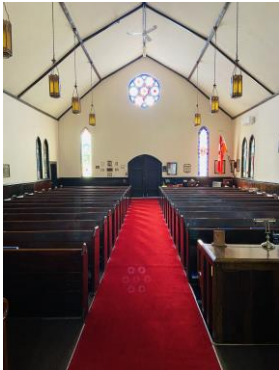


Dear Friends,

As I write this letter, I am thinking back to the summers of my youth. This weather seems to trigger that recollection because as I recall, they usually were long and hot. This made for a time of new discovery and homespun adventures. While I might have the inclination, circumstances prevent us all from venturing out.

We see around us people stirring and getting restless. Under the increasing pressures, governments are easing off the imposed restrictions. At the same time, we see that there is a price to pay for letting our guard down. It is clearly evident that this pandemic is far from over. I do pray that you are well and keeping safe.

Our prayers continue for the world, our country and province as well as for those who reside in the Niagara Region. Prayers are being said at home and in St. John's whenever we stop by and as we make preparations to do our Sunday devotionals. It is interesting to take the time to read some of the introductions for each of the services in either the Book of Common Prayer or the Book of Alternative Services. The constant theme of being rooted in and connected to the traditions of the Anglican faith remind us that we never worship alone. Somewhere on this planet there is another soul or another community praying the same prayers. We stand upon a time-tested and very strong foundation. When I look around the church, I see this now ever clearer.



We are in a dormant period but a stage of anticipation. We may not know how things will be, but there is an anticipation to experience the next development of what church will be. Sacred spaces like St. John's requires holy people, not separated, but joined as one to be "the Church." In the meantime, we might set aside time to gather ourselves to know God, to consciously accept the divine presence which blesses us every day. Our personal renewal can only enhance our community further.

In a similar vein, we need to accept that we should conduct ourselves in a manner that is safe for everyone in whom we come into contact with. Consideration for others helps to keep us all safe. There will come a better time for us to be together, to pool our resources and to live as a vital community in the name of Jesus Christ.

Thanks be to God!

Bruce+

**Faith, Family &
Friends
For these,
we Give Thanks**



Once again, we hope this letter finds you well and enjoying the warmth and sunshine of summer. It is hard to believe that it was March 13 the last time we worshipped together inside our beautiful church! Following the direction of Bishop Susan, our facilities remain closed to keep everyone safe during the summer months. It is our hope that we will open again after Labour Day with many safety protocols in place. But we await future recommendations of Public Health authorities and the Diocesan Office before we make concrete plans to re-open for in-person worship. Our St. John's Pandemic Committee will meet when more specific regulations are available and we will share the official announcement of our re-opening with you later in August.

Until we can meet in person, continue to join the many followers of our **St. John's Port Dalhousie Facebook** devotions that are posted at 9 a.m. each Sunday morning. Did you miss any? Every posting since Holy Week is on our Facebook page! We are so blessed that Father Bruce, with the wonderful assistance of his wife Suzanne, provide us these exceptional short but moving and inspirational on-line services. We predict that even with eventual re-opening and return to our in-person worship that on-line devotions will continue to be part of our new normal. They allow our members who are unable to leave home and friends living far away to join us in worship.

Despite the restrictions of this Covid 19 Pandemic, Outreach continues. Sincere thanks for the incredible support of our parishioners and the citizens of Port Dalhousie who contributed to our "Fill The Trailer" Food Drive for Community Care. In four hours on June 10, we collected eight brimming barrels of food and supplies and \$1115 in donations to help those in need. The Community Care truck driver was so moved and amazed by the generosity of our community. Local folks thanked St. John's throughout the day for providing a safe way for them to help out. Our BWC partners and the Port Legion helped us spread the word. Be prepared! We plan to have another Food Drive near the end of August. Our doors may be closed, but our work continues!



You might have noticed an attractive shed arising behind the church. St. John's is providing Port Dalhousie's Beautification and Works Committee (BWC) at their expense a place to store all their gardening equipment they use to beautify our downtown core and park spaces at the entrance of the town. This is part of our church's mission to partner with local groups and to maintain our role as a meaningful hub in the community.

Due to the devotion of so many parishioners, regular offerings have remained constant despite the closing of our facilities! Enclosed you will find your half year report of offerings. We are still feeling the impact of loss revenue from hall rentals, poor performance of investments, and cancelled fundraising. But we have much to be grateful for. Steady parishioner offerings, a diocesan interest free loan, reduced staffing and expenses, and support from the federal government for non-profit groups (CEWS) allow us to pay our bills

and keep afloat. *Thank you* for your critical financial support. Once again, we have supplied a self-addressed stamped envelope for your convenience. (If you don't use these envelopes, save and return them later to help us save money.) During this unusual time, we thank our phone callers, gardeners, our caretaker Rudy, and Parish Council members who continue their work on Zoom.

Please keep us informed of parishioners who need our prayers and support. We are all missing each other. And when the fall returns, we will reveal our creativity and passion to resume in some form or another the various groups and ministries that enrich our personal lives, support our parish, and help others.

Blessings until then,
Your Wardens, Bruce Timms and Sue Thibodeau

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Please review your contribution statement for the first half of 2020 (enclosed).

At the beginning of this calendar year, your parish administration completed its goal to keep all church records on a computer program. Our administration staff has been affected by the Pandemic, however, data entry has continued. While we have strived to keep the information on your contribution statement up to date, it is possible that there may be some inconsistencies with your personal records.

If you have questions regarding your statement, please call the church office at 905-935-6021, state your name, envelope number and call back information, as well as any dates and amounts in question. You may also use the enclosed return envelope to write a note including the above information. We will be happy to investigate and make any corrections necessary and report back to you as soon as possible.

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Hear Ye! Hear Ye! Hear Ye!

Announcing St. John's Covid-19 Peach Festival

This is your challenge, should you choose to accept it...

*On **Thursday, August 20, 2020** we are having a **Virtual Peach Festival**. Since we are not allowed to gather together with our church family at this time, we are suggesting you gather with your own family circle and have your own Peach Festival at home.*

Each family is encouraged to decide how much they would normally have spent on food and drinks, as well as donations to the bake table and silent auction. We are suggesting that you write a cheque to the church for the amount you would have spent if we had been able to attend the Peach Festival in the usual way.



As we adjust to our new normal, we can spend time with family and friends while we continue to support the church until we are able to gather safely once again.

*And as an added bonus... as you enjoy your Peach Festival meal at home, join some of your St John's friends on **Zoom at 6pm.** to socialize and catch up with one another. Bruce Timms will be your Zoom host. Reach him at brucetimms@yahoo.com to let him know that you want to join in on the fun and he'll send you an invitation.*

Please send your donations to:

Violet Priddle, 118 Bayview Dr., St.Catharines, ON L2N 4Z6 or place your cheque labelled Peach Festival in the monthly self addressed envelope in our monthly mail-out.

**Where in St. John's were these photos taken?
See if you can identify the location of these pictures. Include your guess in the
return envelope enclosed. Don't forget to add your name.**



Picture 1



Picture 2



Picture 3



Picture 4



Picture 5



Picture 6



Picture 7



Picture 8

Name			
Picture 1		Picture 5	
Picture 2		Picture 6	
Picture 3		Picture 7	
Picture 4		Picture 8	