ISSUE
004
October
2024

YOUR REGULAR SOURCE OF EVENTS, HAPPENINGS, AND INFORMATION

St. John's Today

this issue

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Celebrations

Congratulations, Outreach BBQ team who between the Outdoor Worship and Thank You Friday, served over 200.

Congratulations to the Pot Luck Team on a successful gathering on Oct. 5, attended by an estimated 60-80+ people.

Happenings

Watch this space for what's happening around the parish.

- **Fall Bazaar** – Oct 26th upstairs in the Parish Hall.
- **Harvest Tea** – Nov. 2nd@ 1:30-4:00 p.m. – Parish Hall
- **Community Games Night** – Nov. 8th, Food @ 5:30, Games start 6:30.
- **Parish Council** Meetings – Oct. 16th and Nov. 20th.
- **Keenagers** – 2nd and 4th Tuesdays, every month at 10 to 11 a.m. – Civitan Hall.

If you have any events you would like to have posted here you can drop us a line at: stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com with "Newsletter Coming Events" in the title.

You Our Readers Have Named Us!

And the winner is: ***St. John's Today***.

In the final tally it came up with 80% of the popular vote. Once again, the finalists were:

- St John's Community Newsletter
- St John's Community Weekly/Monthly Newsletter
- The Eagle
- St. John's Eagle
- St. John's Today

Thank you to all of you who wrote in with your votes. And a special thank you goes out to all of the participants who came up with the names.

In the spirit of keeping fresh and maintaining the lines of communication, we will likely revisit our name on an annual basis. So please stay tuned and keep your ideas and suggestions flowing.

Remember you can always reach us at: stjohns.smithsfalls@gmail.com. Include the word Newsletter in the subject of the email.

Our Teams – Servers Guild & Good Neighbours

In our continuing series on the teams that make things happen in the parish, we take a closer look at a long, standing traditional team and an informal team born from observed needs. This month we focus in on, the Servers Guild and the Good Neighbours.

Server's Guild

The Servers Guild is a long-standing formal team in the parish. Guild members prepare the way for worship. Their duties include preparing the altar for services, lighting the candles and preparing the sacraments of bread and wine for communion.

Once the service begins, they still lead the way. The crucifer carries the cross, leading the processional, leading the choir and the clergy into the service. Similarly, the crucifer leads the presiding celebrant into

(continue on Pg. 3 –Teams Formal and Informal)

About Us:

Editorial Staff: Dan Willis, Christina Kerfoot, Brenda Ferguson
Contributors: Kathy Porter, Debbie Lewis, Emily Duberville, as well as, anyone and everyone. Please join us.

ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SMITHS FALLS | 175 YEARS | 1849-2024

Dr. Glenn Lockwood

As part of celebrating our 175th anniversary Dr. Glenn Lockwood gave a wonderful presentation after the 10:00am service on Sunday, Sept. 29, 2024. He was so knowledgeable and entertaining as he led us from 175 years ago in 1849 to the present time.

History is vital to understanding our present. As one example, here we are in 2024 having to make difficult decisions regarding our parish hall and organ. Many years ago, decisions were made regarding building and taking down the tower, deciding whether to build or not build the south aisle.

Even though it is our 175th anniversary we discovered that Anglican worship began here approximately 200 years ago in a government storehouse on French Hill. It was driven by workers on the Rideau Canal.

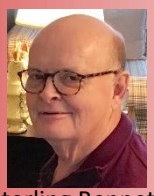
Also, to celebrate its 100th anniversary in 1949, the terrazzo floor was built in the church.

These and other interesting details were included in Dr. Lockwood's talk.

We are very grateful and excited to have learned so much about our beloved St. John's. *(K. Porter)*

Parish Faces – Coffee Crew

Nancy Bennett


Sterling Bennett

Bev Donovan

Dawn Dunlop

Debbie Lewis

Kathy Porter

Last month we featured the adhoc group "*The Coffee Crew*". Here they are ready to help us!

Parish Stewardship Update

Corporation and Council both have a responsibility for stewardship of our resources, including structures and facilities. As reported last issue, we recently became aware of some significant issues with the parish hall. More recently we have encountered issues with the church organ. We want to keep you in the loop on these challenges moving forward.

For the hall, a working group was formed with the express purpose of fact and data gathering. They will collect and collate their information over the next few months forwarding it to council. Council will report to the congregation on the findings. In parallel, corporation has commissioned an engineering report to better understand the condition of our buildings and any work which may need to be done. The Bishop and Diocesan leaders have been informed.

Separately, the church organ was given a service check. The results were surprising. In summary, we have been advised by the maintenance technician that the console is in very bad shape and beyond repair, with issues including the electronics, the pedal board, and its power supply. Kudos do go out to John and Sterling who have managed through these issues to date.

Again, good stewardship is to gather the facts and information on repairs, replacements and alternatives.

"Collected information will be reported to the congregation through Parish Council."

The details of the maintenance report have been shared with Council, the Music Ministry, and the Choir. Their input and feedback has also been collected.

As with the hall, we are still in information gathering mode to understand the issues and options. When sufficient information has been gathered to support meaningful insights and recommendations, they will be shared with the congregation.

Given the costs of both these issues, final decisions will be run through vestry. For now, as we learn what we can, please keep us in your thoughts and prayers. *(Parish Clergy and Corporation)*

Dr. Glen Lockwood on: A History of St. John's.

In 1849 in Wardsville (Smiths Falls) Anglicans built a temple church – simple in design, rectangular shape, flat ceiling, brown stone, pointed windows along the side walls but remained unconsecrated.

In 1863 the church was enlarged by adding a chancel and vestry at west end. It was consecrated in 1867.

Land beside the church was donated in 1873. The rectory was built in 1881.

In 1890 St. John's hired a very prominent Canadian architect. As a result the Church was changed around to face east toward Jerusalem and transepts were added.

Later, St. John's featured the most prominently-placed altar in whole diocese. It was honoured by a white frontal that Glenn believes was designed by Frank Darling and carried out by ladies of church embroidery guild in Toronto). In 1909 the parish hall was built having the arches of the same purple sandstone. *(G. Lockwood, K. Porter)*

Teams Formal and Informal

(from Page 1)

(continued from page 1 – Our Teams, Part 2)

nave of the church, to preach the gospel among the people.

Later, as the celebrant prepares for communion at the altar, the server presents the bread, the wine and the water for their consecration in the sacrament of the eucharist. Following communion, the server assists in cleanup, offering the purifying water to cleanse the vessels.

At service end, the servers douse the candles and once again lead choir and clergy in the recessional.

The Good Neighbours

This is an informal team that saw a need and stepped up to do it. It was noticed that as many as 8 children from the neighbourhood were waiting outside the church for their school bus. This was not a problem early in the fall, but as the weather go chillier, brrrr!

From this, The Good Neighbours were born. Several of our parishioners volunteered to come in every weekday a few minutes before the bus was due and open up our doors for the children and their parents to wait in a more comfortable environment. This also piqued the curiosity of young minds regarding the church.

With the construction on George Street, we are currently not a bus stop, so this service has been suspended for now. But as the work completes and the weather turns, we will be ready to once again welcome and comfort our neighbours. Kudos to the Good Neighbour team!!

To reach either team inquire at the office at 613-283-1261.

(L. Arkel, K. Lewis, K. Porter)

This Month's Interesting Read

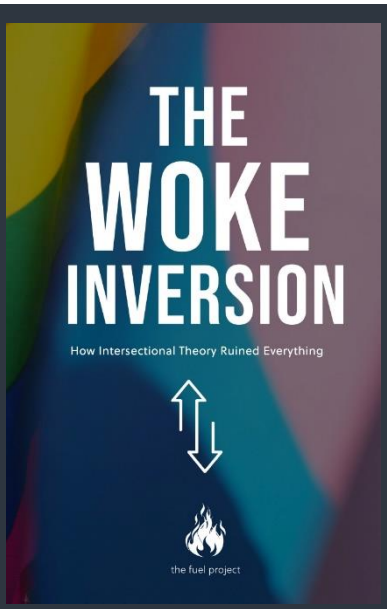
The Woke Inversion

How Intersectional Theory Ruined Everything

Authored by Mark Fairley.

A current, informative explanation of our current culture of celebrating the victim in our society and promoting love and acceptance of Jesus' teachings above all else.

Available on Amazon.ca and on GoodReads.com (C. Kerfoot)



Green Thumb

Autumn Readiness

As the glorious colours of Fall surround us on the varied foliage in our gardens there are some final things to consider before the winter freeze.

Do you cut down plants in the fall?

If you can wait until all the leaves have fallen, you will allow the trees and shrubs the ability to have better structure and strength to make it through the winter to next spring without any damage. So, put your pruners away for another month or two and let plants go completely dormant.

It's best to leave perennials untrimmed (if the plants are healthy) until spring after air temperatures have increased for a spring clean-up. Also, some plants produce seed heads that are attractive to overwintering birds and these can be left standing until early spring, at which time they can be pruned back. Get rid of any diseased foliage from infected plants. If left alone or composted, they can harbour a new outbreak next year.

Plant your spring bulbs, including tulips and daffodils. Ideally, this should be done six to eight weeks before the ground is expected to freeze. You can also sow seeds of native perennials that require cold stratification. If deer or other critters frequent your yard, plant bulbs they don't like to nibble, such as daffodils, grape hyacinths, and alliums.

Divide dormant perennials that have become too large or numerous. Make sure new plants are well mulched to minimize frost heave.

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Green Thumb 2

Autumn Readiness

(Continued from Pg. 3)

If possible, leave the leaves on your lawn, as well as old brush piles or plant stalks. Pollinators and other wildlife can use them for shelter over the winter. If you do rake them, put them in your gardens where they can help to enrich the soil and provide habitat.

Mulch garden beds to retain moisture and to protect your plants from rapid fluctuations in temperature. Fall is a good time to spread compost over the vegetable garden so that it is ready to be worked into the soil come spring.

Don't forget to fill up the birdfeeder when the weather is colder and sanitize it every two weeks to minimize the spread of disease.
(C.Kerfoot)

Upcoming Events

- **Eat, Play, Love.**
  An evening of theatre, food, trivia, and good times, in support of the Falls Food Hub. Produced in conjunction with Ghost Light Productions and Creative Ideas. Tickets are $100 per person, with a $50 tax receipt for charity included. Your $50 donation will support 10 community lunches. Event starts Saturday, October 19, at 5:30 p.m. at 30 McGill St. North, Smiths Falls (Hanley Hall)

- **Keenagers.**
  Hosted by the First Baptist Church, this is a fellowship time of prayer, scripture reading, music and guest speakers for individuals 55+. The Smiths Falls Civitan Club. Every 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month from 10 a.m.-11am. All are welcome.
  Anyone needing a ride may contact Eric Wills 613-283-7007.

- **Fall Bazaar.**
  A renewed and upgraded tradition, help us celebrate our 175th year as a parish and maybe find that special treasure you have been seeking. Saturday, October 26th, from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

- **Games Night.**
  Games nights happen regularly each month, starting at 5:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. The next games night is on Friday, November 8, starting with food at 5:30 and games at 6:30 p.m.

- **Pray K7A.**
  On the last Sunday of each month, the local Christian community gathers together for shared fellowship and prayers. The location rotates around each month. This month it is Sunday, October 27th, starting at 7 p.m. at Smiths Falls (Independent) Assemblies of God building, 54 William St. West, Smith's Falls.

- **Harvest Tea.**
  Saturday, November 2nd, join us for an afternoon of Music, Tea, and Goodies in the Parish Hall. Presented by Dawn Dunlop and "**Senior Moments**". It runs from 1:30 to 4:00 p.m. in the Hall.

- **Parish Council.**
  Next council meeting is Wednesday, November 20 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall. In December, the meeting will be on Wednesday, December 18 at 7 p.m. in the Parish Hall.

Times of Worship:

Sundays:
- 8 a.m. spoken eucharist.
- 10 a.m. sung eucharist.

Wednesdays:
- 10 a.m. weekday eucharist.

Parish Office:
- 9 a.m. to noon, weekdays (613)283-1261

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