



October, 2024

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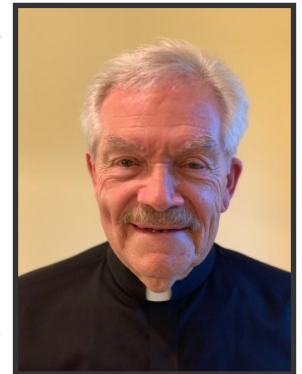
Dear people of St. John's,

I don't have to remind you that fall has arrived. God's paint brush is busy creating the beautiful colors of the season which we all enjoy. I don't mean to be negative but those beautiful colors will soon be covering your lawns causing us to forget the wonderful art work and grab the rakes. On a positive note, the grass is not growing as fast.

Community is important to us here at St. John's and our hospitality is the centerpiece of our days at the church. Our after service buffets are a prime example. Status was of crucial importance in the Mediterranean world of the first century. Children had no status in that world. Jesus dismissed the overly protective disciples and declared children to be icons. They represented those who understood intuitively what it takes to enter and be received into the Kingdom of God. We should never be so enamored in status that we forget how to be receptive of others (thank God we are not). The kingdom was not to be gained by status or rigidly following the rules; it is a gift to be received

gratefully and graciously, as children receive good gifts from adults.

What is so special about children? What is the unique way they engage with God? Children have an orientation of curiosity, wonder, love, trust, generosity, reverence, awe, and delight. How do we hold on to these spiritual gifts as we grow up and age?



The desire for wealth can lead to injustice, lack of compassion, and the estrangement from God. In the mainstream of early Christian tradition, wealth was understood to be a blessing from God. The rich man should not forget, for any reason, he should bless others in return for his good fortune. "Paying it forward" is not a twenty first century invention. The poor, the widow, the orphan, and the stranger, must never be forgotten or neglected. The prophets of old had insisted the God of Israel protected their interests and would not deal kindly with those who disregard their needs. *Continued on page 2*

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St. John's Journey is published monthly. We're looking for your photos and articles. Please email them to "stjohnschurchdryden@gmail.com" with the word "Newsletter" in the subject line. Deadline for November is October 26.



Happy Birthday!

Ina Dockham
Yvonne Malinich
Susan McNary
Sherry Petrie
Russ Underwood

Happy Anniversary!
Jack & Ida Lynn
Dodd

Vestry Notes

Dear Friends,

The squirrels are making my front yard look like it has measles. The oak trees are showing God's bounty this year – the acorns are double or triple the usual number. Squirrels keep digging little holes to bury the acorns – then they'll dig more holes in the spring trying to find them. Walking down the driveway is hazardous – those acorns are everywhere and could lead to tumble. I guess Fall is finally here.

Sorry if I'm sounding a little like Eeyore. Easy to get that way on a gray, cloudy day. But then I look at this last month and I don't feel so gloomy.

What a wonderful September we just had! I am continually surprised and grateful when I see what our small church family can do. Thanks to you, we collected an impressive amount of school supplies for our school partners. You got the word out about our concert which was very well attended – and well provisioned (great food for the after-glow).

Even more important, we supported folks going through a hard time with prayers and visits to the hospital or nursing home. It's inspiring and humbling to see Jesus at work through your actions.



I thought October would be less active but now that I look at the calendar, maybe not. Canadian Thanksgiving is on October 14th, Diocesan Convention on October 18th & 19th, then there's Halloween when we get to see the imaginative costumes local children create. Stir in Sunday services, and it's an active month. I hope you can participate in the fun gatherings as well as join us on Sunday mornings.

Let's enjoy this lovely season together. And let's keep extending Christ's love and hands to each other in the many ways we see possible. You make St. John's special. I am grateful for you.

Peace & Love,

Becky

Continued from page 1... Have you ever fought with a sibling over who gets the front seat? How about over who gets the corner piece of cake or gets to choose what movie to see? In one of our Gospel readings this month James and John jockey for a seat next to Jesus for all eternity. Jesus explains these fights are pointless. The point is, not who gets the best seat or the most icing. The point is arriving safely, being together, or enjoying the homemade treat. The main point is following Jesus in the way of love, which means giving up a bit of what we want, for something more important.

If we can make it through the month of October, we will only have one more month until the season of Pentecost comes to an end. Sometimes it seems to go on forever. Stay strong in the faith and Advent will be here before you know it.

In God's Love,

Rev. Harold

Mustard's Retreat a Success!

On Sept. 14th, we held our 5th music concert at St. John's featuring the folk duo, Mustard's Retreat. We had over 60 folks in the pews AND Oxford Community TV recorded the entire concert for viewing on the OCTV channel in the Oxford area.

It's also on YouTube – here's the link for those who are interested...

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BvJWln4Idwc>
Donations were over \$400 which will help with our school outreach programs.

As you can see, we had close to a full house. You may recognize some of the faces in the pictures below. And our members provided quite the after-glow repast for our guests. Many thanks to everyone who helped make

this evening possible. We look forward to holding a concert next spring. Still looking for a good act...suggestions anyone?



Financial Summary for August

August is the last full month the Vestry reviewed.

August 2024	Monthly Budget	Monthly Actual	Better or Worse than Budget	YTD Budget	YTD Actual	Better or Worse than Budget
Income	\$5,547	\$2,791	\$2,756	\$44,377	\$50,694	\$6,317
Expenses	\$5,449	\$3,632	\$1,817	\$43,594	\$41,098	\$2,496
Net Profit	\$98	\$841	\$939	\$783	\$9,596	\$8,813

After adjusting the monthly income to account for the large donation made in January, the monthly income is \$956 lower than expectations. Expenses continue to look good and our YTD figures are strong.

Don Smith Memorial Canadian Thanksgiving on Monday, October 14th at 6PM



Join us for a pot-luck to celebrate Canadian Thanksgiving. Don and Margaret Smith started this tradition and it's so much fun, we look forward to it every year. Always good food and good company. And we get to sign "Oh, Canada" too! Sign-up sheets are in the Parish Hall.

Halloween Coming Fast!

On the last Thursday in October, youngsters in the area let their imaginations explore many

SCARY possibilities for costumes. Please join us as we distribute candy in front of St. John's. Dress warm, bring an umbrella (maybe a snowsuit?). It's always fun to see the little ghouls and goblins stopping by. And some of the parents get into the act too! The fun begins around sunset (6:30). See you there.



Under Construction...

The ministry schedule is being created as we speak, so it is not in this month's newsletter. Please keep your eye on your email box. The schedule will be sent out as soon as it's completed.

Prayer for the 2024 Annual Convention

This is the first convention for the new merged diocese. Our delegates will vote on a new, updated constitution, bylaws, budgets and organization issues. They will also consider next steps in the process of calling a “permanent” bishop to the Diocese of the Great Lakes. Our delegates to this convention are:

Mary Cameron

Neil Hargrave

Beth Ann Tesluk

Russ Underwood



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