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Office Hours: Wednesday, 10am–12pm

PASTORAL LETTER

June 24, 2022

This morning I drove over to Royal Court for the chapel service there. I've lost count how many times I've visited that building. The woman at the desk made chit chat with me while I signed in and I commented on how busy things were. Just then, around the corner, Lois Weatherby appeared and walked over to where I was. "Would you like a cup for tea before we go to chapel?" she asked. "We have coffee, too!" I sat at a table with her friends while Lois poured me a cup of coffee, black. (I was operating on three cups of tea already so I figured it was time to switch!)

It's a nice feeling talking to people. The women at the table were filled with good humour and good stories. I loved the randomness of it all, as I had not expected to be sharing a cup of coffee with anyone today. They were so gracious and welcoming. I really felt their hospitality. As we all got up to go to chapel, I thanked Lois for the coffee. One woman said, "Thanks for letting this old Anglican join you!"

There was construction work happening in the hall outside of the chapel. We could hear the hymn singing as we approached. When I arrived, I introduced myself and commented on how leading services there was something I valued. We even sang, "In the Sweet By and By" which I haven't sung for years. During the service, I asked about moments where heaven and earth connect and one woman replied that for her it was the moment she held a baby. What I loved was the good humour in the room and how interactive everyone was and happy to be there.

After the service a man approached and asked if I knew two of his friends, which I was happy to say I knew them well! Another man made a point of saying thank you for the service. It was a highlight of my day for sure.

On my way down the elevator I was joined by a Sister who lives at Royal Court named Dora. We discovered that we had a mutual friend in common from Antigonish. She said, "I know all of the Sisters from there because I'm a Cape Bretoner!" By the time the elevator doors opened I think we were convinced that we were somehow related, even though she's from Cheticamp. I said, "I could tell you were a Sister, you just have that vibe." That made her laugh.

On my way home I dropped a book off to a friend, then arrived back to a waiting dog and a phone call. The other day, CBC had contacted me about a story they wanted to do on something I had posted about a member of our church, Pat Gillespie, giving my son Eli a fishing rod. He said, "We love this story. Can we talk to Pat?" I said, "He's a pretty humble guy so I'm not sure, you may have to ask a few times." They did, and finally Pat agreed to talk. As I spoke with host Kahlil Akhtar, from Shift, I was quite taken with how interested he was in Pat. I think he thought it was just about the nicest thing Pat could do to give his



fishing rod to a little boy. The story will air on CBC New Brunswick's program Shift later this afternoon and on the CBC News website.

This coming Sunday will be our last together for a little while. I will be on vacation for the month of July; however, I am still available if anything should happen. I'm not far away. When church resumes in August the service time will be 10am.

I'm happy to share with you that as a "Welcome Back!" to the congregation on September 11th we will be having an outdoor service at Rotary Lodge, Camp Centennial (weather permitting) with a barbecue. This will be a wonderful time to bring a lawn chair and have church with different music and a relaxed atmosphere in a place that has been special for us for many years. An announcement will appear in August asking people to sign up for this service. (We know some will be away but this was the only date available at Camp Centennial.)

This will be the last pastoral letter for the summer months. I am grateful for your feedback, and I have loved connecting with you through these letters. It's just a small way of saying that the church is here for you, and that you are part of it. It doesn't serve any other purpose. Being able to share with you the interesting moments, or the hard moments, from my week has been a blessing in disguise. I hope to see you all again soon.

We will be celebrating Communion this Sunday, June 26th (for those who will be joining us online).

Your friend,

The Rev. Aaron Billard
Minister



The bulletin and pastoral letter are dedicated in Loving Memory of
Freda Murray
by Daughter, Lynn Murray

MEMORIAL

Donations have been made to St. John's United Church in memory of:

Mary Geraldine "Gerry" Dayton (wife of Mac Dayton)
by Mardi Cockburn and Beth Cockburn-Savoie

A donation has been made to the Mission & Service Fund in memory of:

Margaret "Marg" MacEachern Fergus (sister of the Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern)
by Alberta MacLellan


IN HONOUR

A donation has been made to the Mission & Service Fund in honour of:

Doug Bannon's 101st Birthday
by Doug & June MacEachern

NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

Check our website at www.stjohnsmoncton.ca for on-line Worship, calendar, and more.

June 26	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP – in-person (mask required) & online - Communion	
June 29	Wed.	9am-1pm	Church office open (weekly)	
July 1	Fri.		Church office closed – Canada Day	
July 2-31			St. John's UC closed for vacations; the church telephone and mail will be checked regularly	
Aug. 1	Mon.		Church office closed – NB Day	
Aug. 2	Tues.		St. John's UC re-opens with Office Admin. working from home	
Aug. 3	Wed.	9am-1pm	Church office open (weekly)	
Aug. 5	Fri.	9am-1pm	Church office open (weekly)	
Aug. 7	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	WORSHIP – in-person (mask required) (<i>note time change</i>)	
Sept. 11	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP at Rotary Lodge (Centennial Park) followed by a BBQ	

SOBEYS & SUPERSTORE GIFT CARDS are once again available and will be sold each Sunday in the Sanctuary before and after Worship and at the Church Office on Wednesdays between 10:00: a.m.-12:00 p.m.



We make 4% on every card sold. ~ Your support is needed & appreciated.

CHURCH SERVICES and PASTORAL CARE



During the month of the July, there will be no in-person or online worship services offered. We recommend that you visit churches across Canada and the world who will still be offering online services during the month of July.

Rev. Aaron will be away; however, he will be on call for any requirement for care such as hospitalizations or deaths. If you need to be in touch with him, please contact him directly by text or calling at 850-2621. This is only for emergencies.

Summer services will resume at 10:00 a.m. in August.

Have a great summer!

DIME BLITZ - Don't spend a dime this summer - save them for the UCW summer fundraiser. Plastic pill bottles have been placed at the Church entrance for your convenience. Deposit in the offering box on a Sunday morning or drop off in the mail slot. Thank you for your continued support of UCW projects.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND

How do you feel when you're inspired to mission, invited to generosity, and thanked for gratitude? Can you inspire, invite, and thank those around you?

ST. JOHN'S UNITED CHURCH CARES... To notify the Minister of personal concerns, anxieties, illnesses, hospitalizations or deaths, or to pass along a prayer request, contact Rev. Aaron Billard at 858-8289 or sjucrev@gmail.com

CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



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Bruce Lawson,
Property Manager



Staff holidays & church office closure: July 1-Aug. 1, 2022
Have a memorable and safe summer!
Stay well!