



St. John's United Church, 75 Alma Street, Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
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A PASTORAL LETTER TO THE CONGREGATION

November 26, 2021

As I was sitting here writing a sermon one of the workers who are doing repairs to the social hall downstairs came to my door and excitedly said, "Look what we found in the ceiling!"

It's a perfectly preserved clear glass bottle from J. Mc. D. Cooke, Chemist and Druggist. The label says that the "medical hall" was located on 707 Main Street, Moncton, New Brunswick, which is just around the corner from where Alma and Main meet, in the current building where Tim Horton's is located. I'm not sure of the date BUT the label is filled out with a pen.

Dr. Botsford wrote the prescription and the woman's name is still on the bottle. The cork is still firmly in place. I have two theories. One, the woman to whom the prescription belonged took her medicine after church one Sunday (then stuck it in the ceiling for some reason) OR someone found and used the bottle for other purposes and stowed it away up in the ceiling when they were finished!

Either way, it's miraculous that something so old and fragile survived that long. I'm including a photo of it here in the letter so you can have a look! One reference to the name I found online was a website dedicated to antique "dose" bottles. The collector had one small bottle from Cooke. Further checking states that the pharmacist, J. Mc. D. Cooke, was elected an officer of the New Brunswick Pharmaceutical Association back in August of 1922. Isn't it amazing such records can be found online? Goodness, I would love to be able to talk to Grant MacMellon about this.



Old churches have lots of surprises. I remember when they lifted the Malagawatch Church off of its foundation back in 2003 to move it to the Highland Village in Iona, Cape Breton. I was talking to the engineer a few months later when we were doing the post-mortem on the day. The church was built in 1874. (For context, St. John's was formed in 1838!) When Malagawatch Union Church was moved onto a barge the engineer noticed that on the frames that held the building there were holes filled with a black substance. He took some and later tried to figure out what it was by boiling it. Can you guess what it was? It was chewing tobacco. The men who built the church likely spit it into the holes in the timber as they were preparing the foundation to build the church.

There are a few references to hidden treasures in scripture. Isaiah writes, "I'll give you hidden treasures, riches stored in secret places, so that you may know that I am the LORD, the God of Israel,

who summons you by name.” Of the Parable of the Hidden Treasure Matthew says that the kingdom of heaven is like a hidden treasure in a field. When a man found it he went and sold all that he had to buy the field.

What hidden treasures have you found over the years, be it grand or humble or humorous? What thing was lost to time that you were able to retrieve and find purpose for again? I’d love to hear.

I hope you are finding meaning and purpose in these disquieting days as we approach Advent for it is in the shaking of the foundations we shall see the approach of our God.

The Rev. Aaron Billard
Minister



NOTICES, UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS

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

Nov. 28	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School (Zoom)	
Nov. 28	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP – in-person and online - 1 st Sunday of Advent	
Nov. 28	Sun.	12:00 p.m.	SJUC 2019 & 2020 Annual Meetings (Sanctuary following Worship)	
Nov. 30	Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Worship & Music Committee (Zoom meeting)	
Dec. 1	Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Advent Bible Study (Zoom) - see details below	
Dec. 5	Sun.	10:00 a.m.	Virtual Sunday School (Zoom)	
Dec. 5	Sun.	11:00 a.m.	WORSHIP – in-person and online - 2 nd Sunday of Advent	
Dec. 13	Mon.		Deadline to order Christmas Memorial Flowers - see details below	

2022 OFFERING ENVELOPES & PAR PACKETS WITH SPECIAL OFFERING ENVELOPES are now available for pick up. Please do not use your 2022 envelopes until the New Year.

As a cost-saving measure, offering envelopes used very infrequently were not renewed. Anyone may make a donation any time to the Church; and as long as we can identify the donor (name/address), the donation is receiptable. Welcome envelopes and blank offering envelopes are available at the entrance on Sunday mornings, from the Church Office or you are free to use your own envelope to donate.

DON'T HAVE ENVELOPES and would like a box? Contact the Church Office.

PAR information pamphlets with application form are located at the Church main entrances and outside the Church Office. Application form is also available on our Church website.

You may also donate using e-transfer or Canada Helps; links on our Church website.



ADVENT BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday evening during Advent (Dec. 1, 8, 15 & 22), you are invited to a gathering on Zoom to share in the coming Sunday's readings as we prepare for the season of Christmas. Bring your questions and curiosity as we make this holy journey towards the light of Christmas while holding onto the message of Advent to wait and wonder.

Led by our Minister, each session will begin at 7:00 p.m. and will last approximately an hour. Register by emailing Rev. Billard at sjucrev@gmail.com. Each week a Zoom link will be sent out to you as well as the lectionary readings for that Sunday.

If you've never taken part in a Bible Study before, this is a great opportunity. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to ask. You don't have to take part in each session, just as you are able.

STEWARDSHIP SECOND

Like everything else we have, hope is a gift from God. What do you have to share that will bring hope to someone else?

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



In-person Worship

Please bring a mask and proof of vaccination & Government ID.

<https://www2.gnb.ca/content/gnb/en/corporate/promo/covid-19/nb-vaccine/Proof-of-Vaccination.html>

Have you watched our **online Worship**? If not, join us every week online using one of the links below:

via our Church website - <http://www.stjohnsmoncton.ca>

via our Church Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/16465565858>

via YouTube - <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCNHB60ajQtwsf7-vCfXGHBw>



CHURCH MINISTRY PERSONNEL AND STAFF



Rev. Aaron Billard, *Minister*
email: sjucrev@gmail.com



Karen Geldart, *Office Administrator*
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Rev. Dr. Douglas MacEachern
Minister Emeritus
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Branden Olsen, *Music Director*
email: bwcolsen@mun.ca



Pat Arsenault, *Custodian*



Bruce Lawson,
Property Manager

Highlights of Nov. 23, 2021 Church Council Meeting

Things discussed at our recent monthly meeting included in-person Sunday Services resuming. Church Council members expressed their appreciation to staff and volunteers who have worked diligently to ensure a safe vaccinated environment for all who attend.

An Advent Bible Study group will begin their sessions on December 1, 2021.

Advent and Christmas service planning is well underway with two services being planned for Christmas Eve – family service at 4:00 p.m. and traditional Lessons and Carols service at 7:00 p.m.

Zoom Sunday School is continuing for children of the congregation. All the children in our congregation will receive an Advent Calendar that will be delivered this week. We currently have a vacancy in the Chair of the Christian Development Committee.

The financial report for the period ending November 2021 is as follows:

	2021	2020
Income	\$180,371.10	\$178,590.91
Expenses	\$199,073.01	\$206,097.83
Deficit\$	18,755.91	\$ 27,506.92

(A positive difference of \$8,751.01)

Repair work has been started this week on the Social Hall ceiling.

The Pastoral Care & Membership Committee has made efforts to identify and reach out to our members who are isolated during this pandemic time. In the month of November, 28 telephone calls were made to check in and connect with these members. This is an ongoing effort.

Mrs. Roberta Bunker and Mrs. Lois Weatherby have resigned as Co-Chairs of the Pastoral Care & Membership Committee and our sincere appreciation is once again expressed to these ladies for their diligent hard work in this leadership position.



Christmas Memorial Flowers

MEMORIAL DEDICATION FORM

Poinsettia plants will be placed in the Sanctuary during Advent. If you wish help us with our plant order, you may make a memorial in memory of a loved one; below are ways to reach us:

- complete this form with payment and place in the offering box
- complete this form with payment and drop off in the mail slot on the Victoria St. church entrance
- complete this form with payment and mail to the church at 75 Alma St., Moncton, NB E1C 4Y3
- complete this form or provide the same details in an email to the office at sjuc@nb.aibn.com and pay by either an e-transfer, mail a cheque or drop off a cheque/cash in the church mail slot on the Victoria St. door

The cost is \$15.00 each. The deadline to have your memorial form/payment to the Church Office is Monday, **December 13.**

All memorials will be listed in the pastoral letter on December 17.

(We will bring in only a few plants needed for the Sanctuary, and the extra proceeds go to the Chancel Fund to help cover costs associated with the Sanctuary.)

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Quantity: _____

In Memory of: _____

From: _____
