
PENNIES AND SPARROWS

Central Saint John Community Ministry

Waterloo Village Partnership

The Waterloo Village Association continues to meet on a regular basis at Stone Church. They've recently hired a Community Navigator (Jennifer Hallihan) who offers her help with a number of Pennies and Sparrows programs, including the Drop-in (Stone Café).

Foodie Friday

Foodie Friday is a Pennies and Sparrows ministry launched by Miriam Westin. Each Friday morning, anyone from the neighbourhood can come and participate in the cooking of a simple meal- soups, stews, stir fries, etc. It's a wonderful opportunity for people to learn new cooking skills and socialize.

Seniors Step it Up

One Wednesday each month, seniors from all across the community gather at Stone Church to have fun, socialize and learn something new. They also have started a craft and chat group that meets twice a month.

Sowing and Reaping



In the nine years since we launched Pennies and Sparrows, we've learned a number of important lessons, one of which is this: When we step out in faith, trying something innovative and fresh, a fruitful new ministry is sometimes the result. However, if we insist on playing it safe—burying our talents, as it were—then we are guaranteed no return. Take, for example, the English Language Day Camp which we first launched last summer— a program which gave newcomer youth an opportunity to make friends, explore the city and, of course, improve their English. I'll be honest with you: at first, I wondered if such a ministry was even worth trying. Would we get enough volunteers to run the program? Would newcomer parents actually be interested in signing their kids up for such a camp? In the end, our decision to go ahead with the day camp turned out to be a wise one, with 20 kids enrolled and an outstanding team of volunteers to teach and mentor them. In fact, the ministry worked out so well that we decided to run two separate English Language Day Camps this summer— one for children and another for junior teens. Both Day Camps were organized and implemented by the latest



Meet the newest member of our team:

Clare Andrews

This past summer, Clare took the lead with our English Language Daycamp. She also teaches our intermediate English class, held each Wednesday morning at Stone Church.

Clare was born in Halifax, Nova Scotia and has lived in Saskatchewan and Ontario before recently moving to Saint John in 2022. She is a TEFL certified English teacher and has been teaching English online since 2017. Having earned a bachelor's degree in Fine Arts, Clare has a special place in her heart for music and theatre. In her spare time she loves to sing with the Cantores Celestes women's choir as well as spend time with her two little boys.

member of the Pennies and Sparrows Team— Clare Andrews. With her at the helm of this ministry, we were able to serve nearly twice as many newcomer kids— kids who have come to our little city from every continent of the world.

As the Apostle Paul once wrote to the Church in Corinth: “The person who sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and the person who sows generously will also reap generously” (2 Corinthians 9:6). We believe that, this year, we’ve been able to sow generously - to invest our time, energy and finances into ministries that have born fruit. However, we would not have been able to invest in our community in such a way unless you— the many supporters of Pennies and Sparrows— were first willing to invest in us. Many of you have devoted hours of your precious time to volunteer for ministries such as the English Language Day Camp. Others have generously donated money. Some of you have simply made it a point to pray for us regularly. Please know that we deeply appreciate your support. Without you, Pennies and Sparrows simply wouldn’t bear fruit at all.



Kids Lead

Because of you, we were also able to offer a Kid’s Lead Program this summer— a program that gave children and youth an opportunity to learn about the problems of this hurting community (poverty, homelessness, food insecurity, crime, etc.) and meet people from organizations who have been working hard

to address these challenges. This year, a total of 20 youth were able to participate in this program and, as far as we could tell, they had a wonderful time. Special thanks go to our team of volunteers, without whom this ministry wouldn't be possible.

New Emmaus Way Team

Because of you, we managed to launch another Emmaus Way team of support— this time around a single mother, struggling to parent a toddler with serious medical issues and another child on the way. This team is made up of roughly six women of various ages, all of whom have stepped up to offer drives to medical appointments, babysitting, parenting advice and, most importantly of all, friendship. Because of this team, this single mother can rest assured that, when her baby is finally born, she won't be alone. Instead, she'll be surrounded with a community of support that is focussed on making life easier both for her and her children.

Adult English Classes

Because of you, we were able to relaunch our adult English Language classes this fall. This year, Terence has stepped back from his role as teacher and handed the ministry over to the two other members of the Pennies and Sparrows team— Miriam Westin (who teaches beginner English each Monday) and Clare Andrews (who teaches intermediate English each Wednesday). Not only do their students get a chance to practice conversation skills, built their vocabulary and improve their grammar; they also get a chance to get out of the home and socialize. This is very important, considering the fact that newcomers— lacking the social connections that others might take for granted— are particularly vulnerable to loneliness and isolation.

“My daughter had an incredible time attending camp. Your dedication to creating a nurturing and educational environment did not go unnoticed, and it made a significant impact on my child's summer. Thank you for fostering an environment where learning is not only educational but also fun and engaging.”

- Kateryna Niemets
(Mom of English
Day Camp Participant)



Help us Pray through the week:

Monday: 10-11:30 - Beginners ESL Class, Drop-in 1-4pm.

Tuesday: Seniors Craft and Chat 10-11am (2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month), Drop-In 1-4pm

Wednesday: 10-11:30am - Intermediate ESL class, Seniors Step It Up (Every 3rd of the Month) 1-2:30pm.

Thursday: 1-4pm Drop-In

Friday: 10:30am-1pm - Foodie Fridays, 6-8pm Youth Connection.

We largely rely on donations to make our work possible. Tax receiptable donations can be made to the Anglican Diocese of Fredericton with a note that funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows. This can be done in several ways:

Online through Canada Helps (using the drop down tab on the page to select Pennies and Sparrows) <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778>.

By cheque sent to the Diocese of Fredericton with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 168 Church Street Fredericton, NB E3B 4C9. Or by cheque sent to Stone Church again with Pennies and Sparrows in the memo line - 87 Carleton Street Saint John NB E2L 2Z2.

By etransfer to Stone Church with a note that the funds are to go to Pennies and Sparrows - stjstone@nb.aibn.com.

How to Contact us:

Pennies and Sparrows

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