




Spring Newsletter

Clinging to Hope



As the ice and snow melt and the temperatures warm, we start to feel like we might just have made it through another winter. This season usually means an increase in need and an increase in demand for our services. And while that has still been the case, we find that thanks to more shelter capacity and a new government funded Hub, things have not been as intense this year.

We continue to see a steady flow of housed and unhoused guests coming in every day, but our numbers are more regular and the atmosphere is calmer. This is allowing us to address one on one need more effectively. The kind of help we offer ranges from accessing mental health services to replacing stolen ID's, but the most important part is human connection. In a recent drop-in survey we found that many people don't have anyone to reach out to when they are in need. More than what might be provided, it is the human connection that matters the most. We cling with all we have to the hope that the saving grace of Jesus will transform the lives of those we connect with.



In this newsletter you will find:

Latest projects, Ministry Updates, and more. Keep Reading!

Our Latest Projects



Christmas For Newcomers:

This year we were able to host a Christmas dinner for 100 Newcomer students and their families. Bob McVicar and his crew of talented helpers put on an excellent meal. Terence gave a presentation on what the Christmas season means and why it is celebrated by Christians. We had some members from the community who otherwise would not have had a Christmas meal join us as well.

Community Service: over the last couple of years we have been helping individuals complete their community service hours through the probation office. Recently 4 individuals have completed their hours. One continues to come from time to time to have a coffee and check in on how things are going. Many of those who have come to us are hard working and just trying to make a new start in life. It is meaningful for us to be able to offer a caring environment where they can make a difference in the community.

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Free Store: In March we partnered with a group of passionate young people who set up a free store in our space. They collected donations and had over 400 people come in and take what they needed. The group also had food and coffee on hand. We provided some staff to help on site and did our best to help the event run smoothly.



Presentations:

We recently presented on the work of Pennies and Sparrows to St. Mark's Anglican Church in St. George. We've also presented at the Parish of the six saints and have an upcoming booking at S.H.A.R.E Saint John. To book a presentation, feel free to contact us.

Ongoing Programs

Drop-In: Three times a week we open our doors for drop-in. We serve coffee, hot chocolate and snacks. We also have free haircuts, a free clothing rack, weekly community nursing, and monthly help from Service Canada.

Foodie Fridays: Every Friday there is a new dish on the menu that participants help cook together and eat together. When lunch is served there are invited guests who come for the meal and also others who just happen to come by at the right time. The group is currently working on a published recipe book thanks to some help from some nursing students.

ESL After School Program: As well as regular ESL classes (which have been quite full!). We also have an ESL After School program for kids that is run by Clare Andrews. Clare comes up with some great activities so kids are engaged as they learn new words and practice conversation.



Emmaus Way Teams: We continue to offer support to individuals and families in unstable circumstances. We've heard from a couple teams recently about how the social connections from the program are really helping. It's also fun to get updates from past participants. Recently one has gotten a great new job.



Seniors Present: We offer a Monthly Seniors program with snacks and entertainment. Starting next month, the seniors themselves will share their knowledge with the rest of the group. Topics will range from seasonal depression to photography.

Youth Connection: this youth program meets weekly with activities and a faith based reflection. Recently we have been skating (a first for some), we've participated in an online youth conference, had a games night at Heroes' Beacon, learned about recycling, and gone to a hockey game.



How to Help

We appreciate any and all support. We especially value prayer support. Please pray for the next couple of months as we continue our regular services and programs that we would have patience and grace with everyone who comes through our doors so that we can effectively reflect the love of Jesus. Please also pray for our summer programming. As we plan our kids camps we are starting to pray now for the kids who will attend, that they would learn and grow from these weeks.

Pennies and Sparrows is mostly funded through donations. Donations go to support our programs and services and to pay staff. Our current staff is made up of Miriam Westin, Clare Andrews, Terence Chandra, and Jasmine Chandra. Pennies and Sparrows is run under the auspices of the Diocese of Fredericton. To financially support Pennies and Sparrows, 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.

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.



Contact Us!

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We try to get some good family time in each week. For march break we went to the escape room in Saint John. We barely made it out in time.

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WWW.PENNIESANDSPARROWS.ORG