

# Pennies and Sparrows

## Summer 2026 newsletter - Youth Focus

“Future generations will be told about the Lord, and proclaim his deliverance to a people yet unborn.” Psalm 22:30,31



By Jasmine and  
Terence Chandra  
May 28, 2026



Inner City Youth Ministry, Stone Church, The Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association and Stone Church are going to be partnering this summer on a weekly cooking class for parents and kids. The program will run every Wednesday from July 8-August 12th.

During the summer months, Pennies and Sparrows switches gears and focuses more on Summer camps for kids. We take a break from drop-in and run some programs for the children in our neighbourhood. This focus on kids is important to us because we see so many people whose struggles and trauma from childhood (ACES - Adverse Childhood Experiences) have impacted their ability to thrive in adulthood. By running summer camps and by offering programs for youth throughout the year, we hope to build up our future community leaders who will have strong connections to God and to each other.

# Focus on Youth Connection:



Youth Connections has been one of the highlights of our ministry. It has been wonderful to see this group grow in faith and friendship. While we make it a point to have great food and fun activities, one of the youth recently said to us that we didn't have to put much effort towards planning things, because they would be happy just to hang out with each other.

Since January Youth Connection has expanded to include the Church of the Good Shepherd on the West Side of Saint John. We now are joined by the Rev. Chris Ketch and alternate locations between the two churches. We are grateful to the volunteers at the church of the Good Shepherd who have been preparing meals for us. They also have the benefit of a large gym space which has been helpful for all sorts of activities like theatre sports, indoor soccer, OGRE, and freeze tag. There is also a small chapel that is being given over to the Youth for their use.

As part of the youth program we include a devotional most weeks. We cover a variety of subjects from looking at specific Bible passages to how AI is influencing current culture. The youth have been open to sharing their thoughts and continue to amaze us with their insights.



The Youth group girls have started a dance crew called the "Youth Gals" they have been practicing together and hanging out outside of youth group and church to perfect their choreography. Plans are already in the works for them to try to get together during the summer months. It has been such a joy to spend time with this group and to partner with Bonnie from Inner City Youth. Also thanks to Judy Gallant and Iain Meadows our volunteers.

# Other Ministries:

## Foodie Friday:

Last year we were able to purchase an electric pasta machine for Foodie Friday. If you have never had the chance to taste fresh pasta, then you

might want to find out when it is being served at Foodie Friday. We sometimes make two separate lasagnas - one with traditional lasagna noodles and one with fresh pasta noodles. The fresh one always ends up being the favourite. Every Friday at 11am a group gets together to cook and to eat together. Miriam Westin runs this program. She supplies us with fresh local produce and meat and plans out the recipes. Jen Hallihan from the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood group plans out and makes the desserts. Jonathan Kurian - also



from the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Group - helps things run smoothly. Those who come to cook are given tasks and before long there is a warm, fresh meal being served up.

## Seniors

We continue to run a seniors program that is always well attended. Our focus this year is on connecting seniors socially to make sure that they have friends to call on and things to do to stay active. We hope to launch a walking club in the near future.

## One on One Help

Helping individuals in unstable circumstances. As costs rise across the globe, so do the needs in our community. We make every effort to be able to help those who come to us. We've helped with damage deposits, energy payments, groceries, clothing, hygiene items, bus tickets, and even have mailed things to people who have moved away. There are often people who drift in to talk to us and unload and we're always happy to provide a listening ear.



We were honoured to receive the Mayann Francis Faith In Action Award at the recent Atlantic School of Theology convocation. We had the privilege of spending some time with the honourable Mayann Francis whose life and work is truly inspirational. The award is really for all those whose support and partnership has made this work possible - Thank you!

**Donations to support our work can be made in the following ways:**

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](mailto:stjstone@nb.aibn.com).

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



*Celebrating Sam's 15th Birthday with Jasmine's parents - Steve and Barbara Shantz.*

Terence and Jasmine will be taking a couple month off for a sabbatical this summer. Terence will be spending time getting a start on a book he is writing and Jasmine is going to focus on scripture reading and looking at some historical heritage sites and how they are maintained.