Sharing and Living the Good News from Middleton St. John's - Part 2

The calendars as well as the arrival of cooler temperatures remind us that summer has departed and fall has begun. Before this new season also flies by, St. John's would like to continue relaying how our faith was turned into action over the summer.

To clarify one point in the last article from St. John's, in relation to our mourning cairn. Although thousands of young people continue to lose their lives due to the continuing unrest in the Middle East, the vast majority are Palestinians living in the Gaza Strip, with a comparatively small number being from Israel. Each and every child, though, is being mourned and greatly missed by family and loved ones. Please continue praying for a lasting peace.

Another battle has been raging, this time on the local front, and being fought against a widespread forest fire in the West Dalhousie area. To help provide care, lodging, food, and support for the many firefighters as well as the evacuees, dozens of volunteers stepped forward. Rev Elisabeth drove from her home in Round Hill to the former Cornwallis Base several times at 3 am to help prepare breakfasts for the many firefighters lodging there from across our country. When asked why she would do that, she quickly replied, "As for why get up at 3 am to do something you know you can do to help when your backyard is on fire…why not? It was an uplifting experience that eased my sense of helpless discomfort with this fire. Working alongside others in a commercial kitchen and seeing, albeit briefly, the firefighters for whom we were preparing the food, was rewarding for sure. Be well, everyone." Others from St. John's also quickly responded to the emergency. Among them were two Red Cross members, Louise Stewart and Sean Boulger volunteering at the Red Cross Relief Centre in Middleton. Both of these people are always among the first to take on tasks in the church as well. Louise commented, "I just simply enjoy doing things like this. It's fun!"

In other news, to celebrate the Centennial of the United Church of Canada, the Congregation voted in August to make a special donation of $5000 to the General Fund of Mission and Service. Board of Trustees Chair, David McCoubrey, commented, "this is the best way to help the most people. From our abundance, we can extend a helping hand to many individuals and communities in the most need in Canada and around the world."

All in all, St. John's United has made this past summer a time of service to others. May this spirit continue in the months to come in all congregations in our Region. St. John's, Middleton, "moving forward in hope and generosity."