



The Reverend Allan "John" Parsons

Reverend Allan John Parsons - 78, Truro. The family of Rev. A. John Parsons announce his sudden death on Saturday, October 3, 2026, in Truro. John lived his life committed to God and tried his best to follow the ways of discipleship, acknowledging many times that he failed. He had a spirit of adventure. He was one of the few non-African people to meet a famous Zambian witch doctor. John had a generous heart and a total dedication to social justice. He retired two years ago from Brunswick Street United Church, Truro, his third retirement, but his ministry never ended. He continued offering guidance and care to all who asked it, with endless patience and love. He had a rare gift for remembering the small details of people's lives, and he would always follow up on them in ways that made a person feel incredibly special and truly seen. He saw the best in everyone, and he always made a point of telling them so. John's ministry began at a very young age in Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Labrador. He shared the story of baptizing dolls while playing as a child. Due to being born with cerebral palsy, his grandparents decided it would be best for them to raise him so he would have a chance at an education to fall back on and support himself. John attended Memorial University, where he received his BA(Ed). While there, he served as student minister in Red Bay and Forteau, Labrador. After teaching in the elementary school system in Corner Brook, John was called by the United Church of Canada to work as Overseas Personnel in Kafue, Zambia, at a boys' secondary school. John served there for almost 12 years. His life in Zambia left a mark on his heart. John would say that he learned more from his students than he taught them. It was there, too, that John and Wanalda came to know each other through letters, written faithfully back and forth across the ocean and grounded in their faith and love of God. When John left Zambia, they were married on January 3 at St. Andrew's United Church in Truro. John embraced being a father to Rick and Terra with his whole heart. After a year and a half as a supply minister in Gambo, Newfoundland, the family moved to Halifax, where John completed his MDiv and was ordained in the United Church of Canada. His ministry took him to St. Anthony and Clarendville in Newfoundland, and Cold Springs Pastoral Charge in Ontario. His devotion to God and his faith was evident. His wit and sarcasm were so dry that he always kept you wondering. In his early years, he met each day early, often out walking before the rest of the house woke. John could often be found in his favourite chair with a book in hand, or keeping up with the world's news on his iPad. He read The Guardian, a newspaper that, much like John himself, believed in standing up for the powerless and speaking the truth. His remarkable memory for the details of people's lives didn't quite carry over to technology, though, and his granddaughters, Lila and Adilyn

Greenland, were his ever-patient tech support. John was always open to something new, would eat almost anything, and thoroughly enjoyed a good meal out. He loved a bargain, but he also had an eye for quality, and he was happiest when he found both. He took great pride in a tidy home where everything had its place, and he cleaned so religiously that the bleach was well hidden from him. Most of all, John loved his family, and he loved children. Being Grampy to Lila and Adilyn was one of his greatest joys, and the laughter of the little ones at Terra's daycare filled him with delight. John is held lovingly by his wife, Wanalda (Ross) Parsons; his children, Rick Campbell, Brampton, Ontario and Terra Campbell (Todd Greenland), Truro; his granddaughters, Lila and Adilyn; his faithful feline companion, Walter. He is survived by his brother, Bruce (Liza), Corner Brook, Newfoundland; nieces Ashley (Philip Parsons), Corner Brook, Newfoundland and Angie (Jeff Bannister); special nephew, Kevin Bannister, of Elmsdale. He was predeceased by his great-nephew, Braeden Bannister (Elmsdale); his parents; his brother, Max and sister-in-law, Linda. John loved God and lived life to the fullest. In a letter from Zambia to Wanalda in June 1987, he wrote, "Everything is going well, my only complaint is time moving too swiftly." Those words feel truer now than ever. Time moved far too swiftly; John was taken from us much too soon. In his memory, please listen a little longer, care a little deeper, tell people how much they mean to you, and never pass up a good meal or a good laugh.

A service to honour John's life took place October 8, 2026, at First United Church, Truro, NS.