

May 10, 2016

Dear friends,

Since the late 1940's, St John's has been making Christmas cookies. Did you know the cookies replaced donuts, that had been sold on a regular basis throughout the year? Once a year, the women of St John's have been organized to create and sell boxes of small, butter cookies, decorated for the Christmas season. The proceeds of the cookie sales have gone back into the community, both locally and beyond, through both the Church and other non-profit organizations.

Consider how the world has changed since the 1940's. Consider especially how the family has changed, and the role of women has changed. The cookie sale of 70 years ago probably looks little like it does today, except for the cookie itself! And that is especially true right now at St John's. While a strong core of women remain, there has been change in leadership. We have had some women returning to full time work, others moving to Australia, and some just feeling the time to slow down has come.

On May 22nd, between the two services, we are inviting the congregation to come together and talk about the immediate and long term future of the Christmas cookie sale at St John's. If it continues, we need people to step up to leadership roles.

Personally, I hope we can continue the cookie sale. From my perspective, I see the impact it has on the community, both as people anticipate those cookies being made to the sales being used throughout the community. I see our church family come together in ways that cannot be duplicated. Yes, I know that mumbling and murmuring are sometimes part of the coming together, but I also know the sense of joy in watching people bake, decorate and box the cookies over the weekend. Overall, it is a unique event that brings us together and gives us a presence in the larger community.

That being said, mine is not the only voice. The cookie sale is possible only because many people offer their voices, and their commitment. So let us meet next Sunday at 9 am, and come with our ideas, and a willingness to listen, and ask what we can and will do.

Thanks to all who have worked on the cookies in the past, and to those who will work together this Sunday morning!