

October 15, 2018

Dear St. John's friends,

About 25 years ago, my Russian stepmother, Tania, was hosting a young couple in their 20s who were visiting from her hometown in Russia. She asked if I would spend a day taking them around to sights they might enjoy. On the appointed morning, right after picking them up, I took them to Dunkin Donuts to pore over a lengthy list of possible destinations, including my church. They had been to a church service while in the U.S. but had never gone "behind the scenes."



Lissie Brooks

When we arrived at St. John's, our wonderful secretary at the time, Betsy Brown, greeted us warmly and asked them about their hometown and their U.S. travels. As we walked down the hall toward the sanctuary, our sexton at the time, Rick Pond, introduced himself and proceeded to tell them two stories about my children, Chase and Julia, and their antics the Sunday before. By the time we reached the sanctuary our then-rector, Allan O'Neil, joined us to give a very personal tour of the church.

When we returned to the car, I asked the young couple what impressions they had of St. John's. They exchanged a few words in Russian between them and then the more fluent of the two said, "We think when you go to church, you go home." I got goosebumps. Later that evening, when I shared the story with Chase and Julia, they looked at me as if I were from Mars: "Of course when we go to church, we go home."

Twenty-five years later, so much has changed in my life and the life of our parish, but that sense of St. John's as home has never wavered. My husband Lynn has joined me in this shared love and dedication to St. John's. With the persistent support and generosity of time and treasure from each person at St. John's, this legacy continues and thrives. With little effort, I could list many reasons why St. John's has enriched my life, yet none are as compelling as the feeling of belonging, the knowledge that whenever I go to St. John's, I come home.

Please join me in pledging your support during this year's annual stewardship appeal, so that St. John's can continue to be a home for all of us and our neighbors.

Fondly,

Lissie Brooks  
Member of St. John's Church