



At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

Easter 2012

What is He up to Now?

When I first began a conversation with the Saint David's search committee, I expressed my passion for all things 'missional' – from the local to the world context. Mission has simply been part of my life since my earliest days in ministry when I began working with the Anishanabe of Manitoba.

Some of my mission experiences have been of brief duration while others have been part of my life for decades. Way back in 1997, I was asked to host part of the *Young Adult in Mission* group visiting Canada from North America and a dozen islands of the Caribbean. We created a mission opportunity for these 18-30 year-olds based on our Canadian context. I was invited to be part of the teaching program (at the Tatamagouche Centre) helping define what that Canadian context was in reference to mission and mission opportunities in Canada.

Based on this initial experience, I have been invited to work camps across the Caribbean as diverse as Curacao and Grenada. This summer I'll be at it again as I take part in YAM 2012 in Trinidad and Tobago. A holiday in the Caribbean, you say? Ha! Eighteen hour days are the norm for a work camp and this one is extra long since the last week will bring together many who have been part of YAM over the last two decades in the first-ever reunion. I am the chaplain for both the work camp and the reunion. I am already planning the Bible studies with an international group from Cuba, the Dominican, Jamaica, and Trinidad itself. And if you've ever



been in the Caribbean in July/August, you'll know what 40 degrees C and humidity feel like (and then add physical labour, which is always part of our work camp experience!)

See if you can translate this into Nova Scotian English - "Strike Up D Riddim; Mission is we Beat". This is the theme for both the work camp and for the Bible studies that are integral to the life of the work camp. It is an invitation to 'sing the Lord's song in a strange land', to be engaged in mission in an active and dynamic way that is suited to this generation, and to the culture the mission message finds itself addressing.

These studies will probably be translated into our mission and ministry here at Saint David's when I return – one more opportunity to make an impact in our local community and among the many un-churched folk of HRM and Nova Scotia.

I ask for your prayers in my preparation and then for the time I will be away during parts of July and August.

Kenn Stright

Responding to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission

A small group gathered in the minister's study on March 20 to watch a presentation called *Niigaanibatowaad: Front Runners*. The film is a story about aboriginal students at a residential school who were recruited to run with the Pan American Games flame to Winnipeg. The NFB production is aimed at examining the injustice experienced by First Nations teenagers during the 1967 Pan American Games, as well as the role that residential schools played in the "degradation of First Nations identity".

The presentation is one of a series of follow-up efforts that are being undertaken to respond to the work of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada after its meetings in Nova Scotia last fall. Several people in our congregation were active in the events that took place. They witnessed hearings in Indian Brook First Nation and at the World Trade and Convention Centre in Halifax. Some others volunteered at events.

Now a group from several Presbyterian churches in the Halifax area has formed to respond to the work of the Commission. The group meets at Calvin Presbyterian and includes our minister, Rev. Kenn Stright, the chair of our Mission and Outreach Committee, Shelley MacDonald Parsons, Val Macdonald, Roderick Macdonald, and Carolyn MacDonald .

The TRC's interim report contains a challenge that all Canadian public buildings should display the Canadian government's statement of apology to aboriginal people. Shelley is finding the appropriate space for this display at Saint David's.

Rev. Kenn explained to the group that gathered for the film other ideas that are under consideration.

Discussions have begun to find a project to undertake in support of the Mi'kmaq Friendship Centre in Halifax which could possibly be funded through our national church's healing fund. Another idea is to reconnect with the people of Indian Brook. When the TRC hearing was held there, a large portion of the audience was from the Presbyterian Church.

Kathy Large

GRACE

Being comforted from dark solitude of need, onto a table where mercy shall feed.

A soul's acceptance is sure for each, coming in hope their worries be eased.

Strong independence for all has everyone's heart, may graceful thanksgiving, sharing wealth, play its part.

Surely it shows that another does care, when commitment and gratitude bring love there.

David MacEachern

"Imagine"



The Program Committee of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces is hosting a lecture series, "Imagine", with presenter, John Bell, of the Iona Community, on September 28-30, at the Presbyterian Church of Saint David.

Cost: \$75 .

John will present four lectures on the topics of "The Pre-requisite called "Community", "The Engaged Spirituality of Jesus", and "The Imagination as a Resource for Faith". As well, he will be providing music leadership in the morning worship at Saint David's on Sunday morning. *Stay tuned to the June newsletter for more information.*

"My Daddy Keeps Your Daddy Up There So High"

The title comes from a song written by Woody Guthrie, the man who wrote *This Land is Your Land*, and many others. This year marks the 100th anniversary of Woody Guthrie's birth.

The song is about the conversation of three little children. While they are outdoors playing, a plane goes by, high overhead. One of the children says "My daddy drives that ship in the sky." Another child answers that her daddy "works in the iron and the steel". The third child pipes up "My daddy works in the place where they land".

The conversation has its lesson: we are all dependent on one another. "No man is an island unto himself" according to Shakespeare. Woody's song ends with the words "You tell your mama 'don't be afraid', My dad'll bring your daddy safe home again."

One of the important things that the Bible emphasizes for God's people is the idea of community. God is constantly striving for His people to act as a unit, with the same aims. When Israel was in the wilderness, they had the tabernacle as a reminder of this. When they got to the land, it was the temple. In the New Testament, Jesus forms a new community -- the church. All through the book of Acts we see the newly formed church, meeting with one another, supporting one another, and learning and evangelizing together. (Acts 2:42)

When Pete Seeger, a friend of Woody's, was a college student, he was reflecting on his future vocation. Hearing of a person who was living as a recluse (a hermit), Seeger remarked to a buddy "Ah, that's the kind of life for me! Alone I could commune with nature, and be a better person". His friend replied "What? You would live alone, improving yourself, and let the rest of the world go to Hell? What kind of morality is that?"

One of the most wonderful aspects of Saint David's is the sense of community. Every week I see people planning together, laughing together, and sometimes crying together. We are the church in this part of Halifax. We are a community within a community. Together, as the church community, we strengthen and look after one another, and then reach out to the larger body around us.

The three children in the song had it right. We are all dependent on one another. We all keep each other "up in the sky" and then make sure of a safe landing. We all need one another. We all contribute to one another. Knowing that makes us stronger.

John Wamboldt

The Helen M. Watson Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David

Applications for financial assistance from the Watson Fund will be received prior to **April 30, 2012**. The Helen M. Watson Fund of The Presbyterian Church of Saint David generates funds, to be used "exclusively for local missionary work in Nova Scotia".

Application forms and guidelines, may be obtained from the church office at (902) 423-2660, or by email: stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca



Do You Enjoy the Music at Saint David's?

If the answer is **YES**, please take note of the **Music Program** line on your church envelopes. We do not have enough church members who participate in our choir, so Tristan has hired four amazingly talented choral scholars. They are a wonderful addition and they are so gifted, but they cost money! We also don't want to lose them to another church that might pay them more.

Please remember the music program in your givings.

Many thanks.



Transitions

Colin, Pauline, Madeleine, Hannah, and Gabriel Roop
Email: pauline_tranroop@hotmail.com

Deaths:

Brenda Wilson

Dr. Margaret Corston

Blessed are they who die in the Lord

Directory Updates:

Murray and Lynne Alary

Apt 410, 15 Bently Drive

Halifax, NS B3S 0G2

Did You Know?

Geoff Hopgood (son of Chris) is setting the Toronto restaurant scene ablaze with his new, East Coast centric restaurant, *Hopgood's Foodliner*.

Will Sommerville's Winning Maple Squash Soup

1 large butternut squash (3 lb)
Half an onion
Half a stick of butter
Around 6 cups of water
4 tablespoons (or more) maple syrup
1 cup (or more) cream.
Pinch nutmeg
Dash Tabasco

In a large pot, fry the onion in the butter until it is golden and clear. Then, add the strings and seeds from the centre of the squash and fry until the butter turns a dark gold colour.

If your pot has a steamer insert, cut up the squash into pieces. Add the water to the seeds and onions and use this to steam the squash until it is very tender. Peel the squash and strain the solids out of the water. By this point you should have about 3-3.5 cups of water left. Purée the squash in batches with your new squash stock (water) and transfer to a clean pot. The other way to do this is

to roast the squash in the oven until tender while simmering the seeds/onions in the water.

Keep on low heat while you stir in the remaining ingredients. Try not to boil.

Serve

Holy Week & Easter Services

Ecumenical Holy Week Services - 7:30 - 8:00 A.M.

Continental breakfast after each service

MONDAY, APRIL 2: Cathedral Church of All Saints 1330 Martello Street Host: Very Reverend Paul W. Smith, Dean

TUESDAY, APRIL 3: St. Andrew's United Church Corner of Robie St. and Coburg Rd.

Host: Rev. Dr. Russell Daye

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 4: First Baptist Church Halifax

1300 Oxford St.

Host: Rev. John E. Boyd

THURSDAY, APRIL 5: Presbyterian Church of Saint David

Host: Rev. Kenneth Stright

Easter Services

April 5 – 1:30 p.m.: St. Vincent's Guest House Communion

7:00 p.m. - Maundy Thursday Communion

Joint service at Calvin

GOOD FRIDAY

April 6: 10:30 a.m.

Ecumenical service St. John's United (at the Maritime Conservatory of Music, Chebucto Road)

EASTER SUNDAY, April 8

6:30 a.m. Joint sunrise service with the First Baptist congregation at the lower parking lot of Point Pleasant Park

9:00 a.m. Early Service

9:30 a.m. Easter Breakfast

11:00 a.m. Easter Service – Communion