

# At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

Winter 2011

## Truth & Reconciliation Commission Comes to Halifax

Did you know that several members of the congregation and the wider Presbyterian Community took in the hearings held at the WTCC October 26-29? The truth is hard to hear and especially to know that members of our denomination were a part of the horror that aboriginal children experienced at residential schools. There were stories by the survivors and their families of kidnapping and reckless removal of the children from their parents, beatings, humiliation, loneliness, deprivation, and even murder. There were also stories of the consequences of time spent in the schools-- rejection and alienation from families and community, loss of culture, alcoholism, drug dependency, and lack of parenting skills.

There were heartfelt offers of apology from the churches, several educational institutions, and individuals. There were celebrations of lives recovered, battles fought and won, birthdays missed, and aboriginal culture which is so vibrant and engaging.

The path of reconciliation is an ongoing walk with our aboriginal brothers and sisters. Healing is in sight for some, but for many it will still take a long time and may never come. We must continue the dialogue, keep the doors of sharing open, and celebrate the culture that is also part of our

heritage. We were privileged to have Stephen Allen and Stewart Folster with us at the 11 a.m. service on October 30. They are passionate about trying to help right this wrong. Watch for updates from the Justice Ministry and Saskatoon Native Circle Ministry. Our Mission and Outreach Committee is planning a fundraiser for the latter next spring, before the next set of hearings take place in Saskatoon.

Eight attendees from Saint David's and Calvin gathered at Saint David's on the Sunday evening after the hearings ended to talk about the National Event, what they learned, what it meant to them, and how they would like to see the dialogue continue. We plan to meet again in January to work out some more concrete suggestions.

Already Carolyn MacDonald has made a contact with a visit to Indian Brook for a talk with Isabel Knockwood, a residential school survivor and author. Take the time to talk with Carolyn and hear about what she learned.

You may obtain more information on the work of the National Church by following the links under "Our Ministry" and "Healing and Reconciliation".

**Valerie Macdonald**

## Advance Notice for BOOK CLUB

Several people in the congregation have read "The Shack: by William P. Young. The Worship and Church Life Committee will have a book club meeting to discuss the book in the New Year. Everyone is welcome to attend and it is hoped a number of people will read the book within the next couple of months to prepare for this discussion.

## Choir Notes

You may have noticed a few new faces in the choir stalls this fall. On the men's side, we have two choral scholars- Ian Gilmore - bass and Daniel Wheeler - tenor. Here's a bit of info on each:

Ian was born and raised in Dartmouth. He is a graduate of the Canadian College of Performing Arts in British Columbia. He has performed across Canada and the UK, both as a singer and dancer. Locally he has appeared frequently on the Neptune stage, and has also directed and choreographed local productions. I asked him about hobbies in his "spare" time, but he says he doesn't have any spare time—busy, busy, busy!

Daniel is a graduate in voice performance from the University of Western Ontario. He now teaches voice and piano at the Fall River School of Performing Arts. In a former life he ran track and coached the QEJ track team to the gold medal at the provincial championships. More recently he spent the past summer in France studying opera and is currently the lower strings coach with the King's College Orchestra.

We have two new choir members on the women's side as well who are both long time members of Saint David's - Kathy Large and Laura Blaikie, who both sing soprano. We are delighted that they have joined us and now, when everyone is in attendance, we have 12 members. However, there is always room for more—especially altos! If you read music and can carry a tune, why not make a New Year's resolution to sing your way through 2012?

**Phyllis Morrison**

## Peace and Quiet

One of my favourite things about Saint David's is the peace and tranquility of the early Sunday service at 9 AM. There is special meaning in coming together for quiet meditation and reflection in our beautiful sanctuary, before the other activities of the Lord's Day. It gives calmness and a sense of peace to the heart.

The modern world cannot stand quiet. It seems that every waking moment must be filled with some type of animated conversation, music blaring, or noisy activity. Even the current obsession with text messaging and other technological activities, while quiet in themselves,

indicates an unwillingness to ever be alone with one's thoughts. A department store manager told me that in his managerial training they were given the reason for loud music in their stores: they did not want customers to think, only react! We see it especially now, with all the noise associated with Christmas.

Seven years ago, when I was teaching the little girls' class, we did an experiment. How long could teacher and pupils sit quietly, without making sounds, without giggles, and not much movement? Have you ever tried that with nine excited girls, ages seven and eight?

The lesson was about Elijah's pity party in 1 Kings 19, after he heard that Queen Jezebel was after him. There he was, feeling sorry for himself because he felt alone and fearful of the queen's wrath. How did God get his attention? Not by a mighty wind, not by the earthquake, not even by fire. God was not in these. It was by a still small voice (verse 12). My marginal reading says it could be translated as "a sound of gentle stillness." Read the story, first of Elijah's victory over the false prophets (1 Kings 18: 17-46) and then 1 Kings 19:1-18.

God's voice of gentle stillness is the same in 2011. Sometimes we just need to get away from the noise and activity and listen. Why not join us on Sunday mornings at the early service!

Oh, about the experiment! We sat quietly without giggling, whispering, or moving around for about six minutes. Finally one of us broke the stillness. Can you guess who?

**John Wamboldt**

## CANADA YOUTH 2012 - 'On Fire'

*"didn't we feel on fire as he conversed with us" (Luke 24:32)*

The CANADA YOUTH 2012 conference will be held on July 3 - 8, 2012 at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. Canada Youth 2012 is an initiative of the national Presbyterian Church in Canada, which started in the year 2000, and meets every three years.

Youth and youth leaders come from across Canada to meet in a time of fellowship, spiritual growth, worship, music, and of participation in many varied, interesting, and fun activities, crafts, games and exercise. Youth line up early for the daily two hour worship services and leave the Conference with a sense of excitement. There are several "tracks" - a Conference Track for ages Grade 9 (completed) - Grade 12; a Mission Track for ages 18 - 25; Adult Advisors positions (ages 25 plus). The Canada Youth 2012 site will be up on November 30th. To view information about previous years, Google Canada Youth 2009. Costs for Canada Youth 2009 were approximately \$700/900. This included the Conference and transportation.

## What a Difference a Year Can Make!

WHAT A DIFFERENCE a year can make! I was just looking back on my calendar from a year ago and I had penciled in on this date a note to bring a few boxes of books to the minister's study. The reality that I would soon be the minister of the Presbyterian Church of St. David was just sinking in. After four years as Synod staff I was wondering what pastoral ministry would look like at St. David's.

A year has quickly passed and I again reflect on ministry and what awaits both this congregation and my life in the year to come. My last workshop as Synod staff and my first event as the new pastor was our Advent Preparation Day – Adventure. Not a bad title for what has been a year-long adventure here at St. David's. A year ago we gathered to 'Tell our Story – Share our Faith', and we've been focused on hospitality and creating a welcoming congregation ever since.

The year has been filled with opportunities for our leaders to grow in their positions and explore the ministry Christ has called them to here. Leadership is crucial at this point in the life of the church. Congregations need confidence that the future has been entrusted to those who can 'see visions and dream dreams' (Joel).

Probably two highlights stand out for me. The first is worship. One of the things I missed most was the regular movement of worship taking us through the Christian year and through the drama of our faith. I so appreciate Tristan and the choir members who enliven our worship and bring the sacred to our service. And I enjoy the opportunities to worship with the Korean congregation and find such combined services ever so meaningful!

The second is pastoral visiting. I can't tell you how much it means to me that I am getting to know most of you... and the best way to do this is visiting you in your homes, dropping in on

your places of employment, getting together for lunch and coffee, and any other excuse I can come up with to connect with you. I didn't make my own personal goal of visiting everyone in my first year but that has a lot to do with your schedules and also that there are many more people connected to the congregation than I first imagined, but I came very close!

What a difference a year can make... and what a difference I/we can expect in the months ahead. I thank you for your support and cooperation over the past year, but more than this, I thank you for your love displayed in so many ways. A year ago many of you were strangers to me and now you feel like part of my family. There can be no denying the challenges that await us in the next year but with the guidance of God and the promises of Christ we can be confident in our direction and our future.

**Kenn Stright**

## Christmas Families:

Once again this year we have requested 15 families to support with food and gifts. Watch for tags on the tree in early December. I understand that we may have some single people and couples this year as well as families with children. Please remember to sign out your tag. You can also donate money towards the groceries and gift. **Please indicate it is for Christmas Families.**

Also, if you purchase a gift, you may obtain tax credit by giving your receipt to Mac Fyfe.

Please keep in mind that we will also need wrappers for Elizabeth's baskets, which will be done in advance of Wrapping Day which will be December 21. If you are able to help with deliveries on the 21st, please give your name to Anne Sommerville.

*If you have any questions, please contact Valerie Macdonald.*

## Transitions

### Deaths:

Beverley Tucker Smart - October 22

*Blessed are they who die in the Lord*

### Directory Updates:

#### Addition:

Heather and Jim Stewart

Apt 1802, 5770 Spring Garden Road

Halifax, NS B3H 4J7

T: 818-0957

[stewart.jimheather@gmail.com](mailto:stewart.jimheather@gmail.com)

#### Changes:

Brian Ashworth

Apt. 904, 5885 Cunard Street

Halifax, NS B3K 1E3

Don and Linda Miller

270 Ridgevale Dr.

Bedford, NS B4A 3Z3

Carolyn MacDonald lives in Halifax, not Bedford!

#### Did You Know?

We had three members of the Barlow family lay the wreath at our Remembrance Service on Nov. 6:

Cdr.(RCN-Ret'd) Jim Barlow, his son-Lt.Cdr.(RCN)

Alex Barlow, and his daughter Lt.(RCN)Dr. Lee

Simpson.

Paula and Amy Minnikin took part in a yacht race from the East Coast of the US to the Caribbean on the yacht *Sialia* in the World Cruising Association Carib1500 race. It crossed the line at Nanny Cay on Nov. 21.

Shauna Krasuski has been travelling extensively in the Far East for the last 2.5 months. So far she has been to Japan, South Korea, Thailand, Laos, and Cambodia.

Bali is next on the list and then she plans to winter in Australia, hopefully working in Queensland. She is having a wonderful time with a myriad of new experiences and friends.

Caitlin MacKeigan is in New Zealand. She traveled to Auckland in mid October, to travel and work for a few months. She has traveled the North Island of New Zealand and is now living and working in Mount

Maunganui. She recently spent a week on the remote island of Motiti, where she was able to assist with the cleanup of the oil spill from the ship *Rena*, in the Bay of Plenty - which included rescuing and cleaning penguins! She sends greetings to all her friends at Saint David's!

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## Christmas at Saint David's

Nov. 27: First Sunday in Advent

Lighting the Candle of Hope

Dec. 3: Christmas Chowder Luncheon and Sale, 12-2

Dec. 4: Second Sunday in Advent

Lighting the Candle of Peace

Dec. 10: Potluck supper/decorating the sanctuary 5 pm – all invited

Dec.11: Sacrament of Holy Communion

Third Sunday in Advent

Lighting the Candle of Joy

Dec. 15: Tupper Band Christmas Concert - 7:30 pm.

Dec. 18: Fourth Sunday in Advent

Lighting the Candle of Love

Carol Service 7:00 pm.

Dec. 21: Christmas Families Wrapping Party 10:00 am

Dec. 22: Longest Night Service, 7;00 pm

Dec. 24: Family Christmas Eve service, 7:00 pm

Lighting the Christ Candle

Dec: 25: Christmas Morning Worship, 11:00 am

Jan: 1: New Year's Morning Worship, 11:00 am

