

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

At Saint David's

Halifax, NS
Autumn 2017

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Farewell

*"May our Lord Jesus Christ
Himself and God our
Father, who loved us and by
His grace gave us eternal
encouragement and good
hope, encourage your
hearts and strengthen you in
every good deed and word."
- 2 Thessalonians 2:16-17*

For seven years I have ministered here at the Presbyterian Church of Saint David and these seven years have probably seen the greatest time of transition for the congregation since 1925. Looking back, I can't help but quote Charles Dickens: "It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of enlightenment, it was the age of foolishness.". This might be said of most transitional moments when the world as we know it changes into the unknown future we often fear.

For forty years I have ministered within the Presbyterian Church of Canada and looking back I would offer the same quote.

What amazing changes have occurred, both within the denomination and throughout Canadian Society. No-one could have imagined the transformation of society from 1977 to 2017... both for good and ill, enlightenment and foolishness.

If I were to be completely honest I could never have imagined the things that have occurred during those forty years of ministry. I learned a lesson along the way – 'no' closes doors; 'yes' opens doors. I've learned to say 'yes' much more often than 'no' and my 'yes' sent me to a first nations community, to ministry throughout Atlantic Canada, to service at the local, regional, national and international level.

I served on five national committees at the same time, represented the denomination in Brazil, Zimbabwe, Malawi, and all across the Caribbean. Numerous times I was dean at Triennium and then at Canada Youth. I was a delegate to the Canadian

Council of Churches, the World Council of Churches, the Decade of Churches in solidarity with Women, and I was the last convener of the Nation Presbyterian Congresses which began in 1910.

Along the way I got to write dozens of articles, book reviews and three books. I served four pastorates, two interims, a new church development and was staff for National Church initiatives. I was even named 'Canadian Ecumenist' for 1996!

I'm tired just thinking of all that has made up my ministry. So, maybe that tells me it really is time to retire (Jeanne's been telling me this for nearly three years!). Maybe the greatest (and hardest) transition is still before me.

I promise you my prayers and solicit yours both for my retirement and for my family.

My first ministry with the Anishanabe taught me never to say goodbye (they don't have a word for it), but 'giga-waabamin' -I'll see you again! #731 in the Book of Praise says it even better: "Farewell dear friends, stay safe dear friends, have peace, have peace. We'll see you again, we'll see you

again, have peace, have peace."

Kenn Stright

Who Said It? (#1)

"Do all the good you can.
By all the means you can.
In all the place you can.
At all the times you can.
To all the people you can.
As long as ever you can"

- see page 8

'THE FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN' INGATHERING SERVICE

This year's "The Fellowship of the Least Coin" service will be held in Halifax, on Monday, October 16, 2017, at 7:00 p.m. at Bayers Road Baptist Church, 7077 Bayers Road,

The Least Coin service is one of two major services undertaken each year by the Women's InterChurch Council of Canada, the other service is The World Day of Prayer held in March.

This world-wide service is one of prayer, peace, and reconciliation. It evolved out of a programme that began in the 1950s which invited women world-wide, of every economic background, to join in regular prayer as an

expression of solidarity with 'suffering humanity'. At each prayer session women contribute a least coin in their local currency, bringing these Collections of Coins together at the Ingathering Service held in more than 170 countries on the third Monday of October.

The Theme of the Service This Year is "UNITED IN MIND AND HEART". Guest Speaker is Lisa Mullin, Executive Director of Marguerite Centre, located in Timberlea. The Centre is a residential facility for women in recovery from additions and abuse. Lisa is a woman devoted to serving her community, working within the non-profit sector, and passionate about promoting equality for every woman in Nova Scotia.

The Least Coins contributions go towards programmes involved with peace and justice.

A free-will offering will be received for the Marguerite Centre.

A reception will be held following the service. ALL ARE WELCOME to this service (men and women).

Anne Sommerville

**WOMEN'S INTER –
CHURCH COUNCIL
OF CANADA**

For six years I have been Saint David's representative on the Halifax Chapter of the Women's InterChurch Council of Canada along with four other Presbyterians. This group consists of women who represent interdenominational churches in Halifax-Metro and meets five times a year. The WICC-Metro is made up of committees which liaison with support groups such as The Elizabeth Fry Society, The Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA), The Food For Phoenix Programme, and Coverdale.

For myself, attending these meetings means working with a group of dedicated, strong women who are committed to outreach within the Halifax Metro area.

The two major programmes which the WICC undertakes each year are the Fall Rally of the Ingathering of the Least Coin (October) and The World Day of Prayer which takes place in March. In this moving WDP service Christians around the world worship "together" on the same day and are led by the

same programme and words, prepared three years in advance by women of a specific country articulating their struggles, suffering, and hopes.

In regard to the Food For Phoenix Programme churches were asked to buy food supplies for its extensive daily Drop-In Centre. Originally members of the Ladies Guild provided the funds at Saint David's and the Women's Auxiliary would do the shopping. Now Phoenix House requests contributions of funds which enables Phoenix House to shop for the food supplies. Metro Presbyterian churches participate in this programme in April.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the WICC and its programmes are welcome to contact me at annesommerville@me.com.
Anne Sommerville

Who said it? (#2)

"The Christian shoemaker does his duty not by putting little crosses on the shoes but by making good shoes."
- see page 8

FINANACE NEWS

Up to October 5th we have received two donations by E-transfer and several donations via the offering plate.

Donations to the Special Appeal go to our Operating Account, which is in deficit. Anyone who received the Special Appeal letter by email will not have received a Special Appeal envelope. So that we can keep track of Special Appeal donations please do one of the following:

- .1 Pick up and use a special appeal envelope at the church.
- .2 Use any envelope and on it write your name or envelope number and the amount you are giving to the Special Appeal. Also write "Special Appeal".

Anyone giving to the Special Appeal by E-transfer, please enter "Special Appeal" in the "to" field, or send this information in a separate email.

Thank you
Mac Fyfe
Convenor,
Finance Committee

FROM Presbyterian Record TO Presbyterian Connection

After 140 years of informing Presbyterians with articles about the Canadian Presbyterian Church and its activities, the *Presbyterian Record* magazine ceased publication in December, 2016. The Presbyterian Church in Canada has replaced *The Record* with *The Presbyterian Connection* newspaper, an informative paper that continues the work of the *Presbyterian Record* in keeping Presbyterians connected.

The format may be different but the content is familiar and continues to publish similar topics as those of the former *Presbyterian Record* - biblical / theological reflections, Presbyterian mission outreach, programmes and events in the life of churches (and individuals) across Canada and the world.

The Connection is published quarterly and free subscriptions for Presbyterians and friends can be obtained by contacting presbyterian.ca/connection. Saint David's also provides

numerous copies of this very informative and detailed newspaper at the back of the church.

Anne Sommerville

FROM THE SIDELINES

Although my active involvement in the church school officially stopped five years ago, I have continued to watch with loving interest this aspect of the ministry at Saint David's. Many of the former pupils still keep in touch with me, and it is my joy to see them making their marks in our hurting society.

Our church school is in good hands! Each week we see evidences of loving care by all those involved. Our children go to classes with joy and enthusiasm. Their participation in the children's time in the sanctuary uplifts us all, as well as providing the occasional chuckle.

The church school is not a babysitting club. It is a very real and powerful time, both of Christian education and of worship. The values instilled in the classes go way beyond the walls of Saint David's.

Some of the young adults who attended as children

have told me of the strong influence that Saint David's has had upon their lives. It is not the ritual or the stories that stand out to them, but the loving care. Teachers and leaders, I thank God for you!

A Word of Caution

As they grow older, many of the pupils no longer attend church. While we would love to have them still actively engaged at Saint David's, let us not assume that the efforts have been in vain. In 2017 the world is a very different place. People are scattered over the globe. Some are involved in activity so complex that my generation can have only a vague concept of its power.

But make no mistake; any work in the church school is not a vain effort. If one of the goals of the church school is to equip our children for a fruitful and useful contribution to society, then I would say we are succeeding.

Let us all do everything we can to encourage and promote our church school.

"And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not." (Gal. 6:9).

"Therefore, my beloved brethren, be ye steadfast, unmoveable, always abounding in the work of the Lord, forasmuch as ye know that your labour is not in vain in the Lord." (1 Cor. 15:58)

John Wamboldt

The Organ

Saint David's can be very proud of its organ – a magnificent instrument, unlike any other in Halifax and in Nova Scotia. Did you know that we have more than one organ? In fact we have three organs, consisting of five divisions.

Of the two main organs, the great and **swell** and **pedal** divisions are located on the south side of the chancel, above the **console**. The **choir** and **great** divisions are located on the north side of the chancel. Then there is the **echo** (or **antiphonal**) organ in the east balcony. The echo organ is particularly interesting because it contains parts of the organ that Saint David's inherited from Grafton Street Methodist Church, dating back to the 1911 and built by Karn Warren of Woodstock, Ontario.

The main parts of the organ were built by Casavant Freres for Saint David's before our congregation had even chosen its name. Parts shipped to Halifax from St-Hyacinthe, Quebec in 1928 are stenciled "First Presbyterian Church, Halifax". They were installed in the north and south balconies as we see them today, with their decorative pipes, and forming the "**choir**" part of the church – an architectural feature which did not exist when it was a Methodist church.

Over the years the organ installation has been repaired, upgraded and rebuilt twice. First in the 1960s by Hill Son Norman and Beard from England did a complete rebuild as did G.Leslie Smith of Fergus, Ontario in the late 1990s.

In the intervening years some deterioration has taken place and the electronic components have become obsolete and unreliable. It is time for another major overhaul.

Early in 2017 we received a proposal from Acadia Pipe Organs to do this work, and Session accepted the proposal subject to available funds. That amount, totaling some \$200,000, was far beyond the current balance

in the Organ Fund, which has been supported by the congregation by means of designations on the weekly offering envelopes.

Peggy Corkum to the Rescue

Over the years Peggy Corkum's generosity to Saint Davids has become legendary. There is the magnificent Peggy Corkum piano, which has been used in countless services, performances and recordings. This Yamaha grand piano was dedicated in her name at a special service.

Perhaps not as well remembered is Peggy's generous support of the previous organ restoration in the late 1990s. She personally underwrote the cost of most of the work which at the time brought to organ up to the current state of the art and repaired many of the deteriorated components.

Once again Peggy has undertaken to fund the majority of the cost of the current restoration and upgrade. However there is a condition. She would like her funding to be the seed money for other work to protect the investment for the long term, and looks to the congregation and others to support that work.

The challenge

There is some additional peripheral work connected with the actual organ work. This involves sealing up the inside of the two large windows that were covered by the organ when it was built in 1928. The heat loss through these windows creates uneven temperature conditions in the organ lofts and makes the organ hard to keep in tune and results in stress on some of the delicate wooden components.

We have the opportunity to correct this condition when the pipes are removed from the organ lofts for repair.

Please be sure to remember the Organ Fund section of your envelope when you check off the designation lines.

With completion of the work in 2018, Saint David's organ will again be one of the finest instruments in the country and will be the backbone of a music program that will help to keep Saint David's 'on the musical map'

Mac Mackay

Who said it? (#3)

"God does not give us everything we want, but he does fulfill his promises, leading us along the best and straightest paths to himself."

See page 8

Have you noticed?

A New Building?

Brick Repairs?

A New Sign?

A New Plan

New Building

Amidst the construction boom in downtown Halifax there is another new building going up. To be called Grafton Park Apartments, it is an eight storey complex, built on Saint David's lands under a long term lease. When complete the building will generate income for Saint David's and help to sustain our needs for the long term. Construction took a long time to get started as an extensive archaeological program was needed to relocate the Grafton Street Methodist cemetery. When that work was completed early in 2017, demolition of the church hall (1950) and Sunday School wing (1962) got underway, followed soon after by excavation down to bedrock – and below!

The work also included underpinning the adjacent building to the north.

Once that once accomplished construction of foundations began in earnest. The most visible sign of this is the huge tower crane that will be in

place until the building is topped off.

The new building will soon will begin to rise above the street level and the current schedule should see the building substantially completed by the end of 2018.

The builders hope to pour one floor a week when they get above ground level.

The new building will also contain space for Saint David's – a new minister's office with private entrance and additional washrooms.

Repairs

In January 2017 we noticed some brick had become dislodged from the southeast corner of the building. Since it posed a potential risk to passersby we ordered staging to be erected around the corner. Unfortunately this blocked the driveway, but was a necessary precaution.

Now repairs have been completed and the staging will be down by the time you read this.

There is some more work to do on the brick in that corner, but that will have to wait until next year, and it is not expected to require blocking the driveway.

New Sign

Watch for a new sign to go up in front of the church. The design of the sign has been accepted and we are applying for the necessary permits, which should take a few weeks. Once approved the sign makers will begin construction and installation which should be done by the end of November.

New Maintenance Plan

Session has approved a new maintenance contract with Greenwood Lane Inc to manage the property.

It is therefore with regret that we say goodbye to John Garland our former maintainer/handyman for many years. John served Saint David's well, attending to the many small chores that come with occupying an historic building such as ours, and keeping our heating system in order.

Brett Wentzell continues as our cleaner.

Mac Mackay

Convenor

Maintenance Committee

Update from YOUR Representative Elder

In February 2016, I was appointed Representative Elder for the Presbyterian Church of Saint David and since then, I have attended Presbytery meetings in Lunenburg, Dartmouth, Hardwood Lands, Windsor, Lower Sackville, Truro and Dean. I enjoy attending the meetings at the various churches in the Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg, and am especially pleased to work with others in our Presbytery.

I serve on the Outreach and Education Committee, and currently, the committee is facilitating discussions at Presbytery meetings, during which we identify resources available to us and share the outreach work that God is doing through our congregations.

We have learned of ideas and programs undertaken by other churches. There is opportunity to share in these programs, and one of these is the Sunshine Bags project at the Lower Sackville church. They distribute sunshine-yellow bags to people of all ages who need a warm welcome or a special greeting. The bags contain small yellow gifts, such as candy, small toys,

or hand towels. I donated a supply of small knitted teddy bears, all wearing yellow sweaters.

The Outreach and Education Committee organizes workshops for elders in the Presbytery. Last April, a presentation on Vital Churches was facilitated by Dr. Stanley Ott, and an upcoming workshop on November 4 entitled "Caring for God's People" will focus on pastoral care, presented by Rev. Dr. Jody Clarke from the Atlantic School of Theology.

As Representative Elder for Saint David's, I also attend meetings of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces, and was pleased to attend the Synod meeting in Stellarton in 2016, just down the road from my home town of New Glasgow. One of the highlights of this meeting was a side trip to Camp Geddie in Merigomish for a delicious turkey dinner.

I am looking forward to attending the 2017 Synod meeting, which will be hosted by Calvin Presbyterian Church in Halifax.

I serve on the Synod's Programme Committee, which includes representatives from the

four Atlantic Provinces. We conserve our time and committee budget by holding meetings via teleconference. I am also a member of the Synod Personnel Committee as the representative of the Programme Committee. I am truly enjoying being the Representative Elder for Saint David's, and I love attending meetings!

Davida Mackay

THANKS

Thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter – my first as editor. If you have something you would like to share about life at Saint David's please e-mail me any time. We hope to have another issue out for Christmas.

Mac Mackay

Editor in Chief

macmackay@ns.sympatico.ca

Who said it?

1. John Wesley
2. Martin Luther
3. Dietrich Bonhoeffer

MILESTONES

Weddings:

Will Sommerville and Katherine Read in New Bedford MA. on July 1.

Siobhan Shears and Alan Brilz in Halifax on July 15.

Deaths:

Janette Guy--June 24

Joy Tanton August 8

Margaret Crickard-August 26

Marilyn Hollett-September 7

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

Congratulations to:

Murray and Lynne Alary on their 50th wedding anniversary.

Margaret Campbell on being accepted into the Masters in Museum Studies program at the University College London.

Lesley Roberts on receiving a fellowship to continue her training in gynaecological oncology in Winnipeg starting next Summer.

Katie Blaikie on her teaching position in Bahrain. Katie is also volunteering with Women's Crisis Care International.

Bridget Lappin on her residency to continue the development of her dance production which premiered last January. "Who's Afraid of a Pussy Cat" is an exploration of her womanhood in the world.

Laura Alary on the publication of her latest book, "Look!: A Child's Guide to Advent and Christmas".

HOSTS, READERS and GREETERS

Saint David's is always looking for volunteers!

Hosts are needed for our after service refreshments. Would you like to read one of the lessons at the 11 am service?

Do you like to be welcomed at the door when you arrive for a service at Saint David's?

Have you ever considered being one of those greeters?

You get to share your love of attending Saint David's with those arriving and is a way of living

Our Vision:

A Worshipping, Sharing, Welcoming Community