

# At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

Summer 2011

## The Land, Our Life

I was asked to be part of the KAIROS "The Land, Our Life" campaign, by making a banner which would be the contribution to the Banner Train from the Presbyterian Church of Saint David in Halifax.

I thought that a banner representing the theme of "The Land, Our Life" would work as a quilted project, and chose fabrics depicting various aspects of nature. The pattern I chose and adapted for this purpose, called for fairly small pieces of each fabric, and I was able to put together a collection of nature fabrics from the fabric stash in my sewing room.

I used 20 different fabrics for the pieced part of the banner, which included trees, stars, clouds, flowers, rocks, pebbles, birds-in-trees, birds-in-nests, moons, strawberries, blueberries, animals, humming birds, grass, snowflakes, water and bees. A special fabric, which came from Australia, depicted hands, so I used that to represent the people in our land.

The background and borders were done in a black marble fabric and a multi-coloured fabric including flowers and fruit on a black background was used for the backing.

It was great fun to make this banner, and the banner formed part of the Children's Story in our worship service at Saint David's.

**David Mackay**



## Faith in Action

A few years ago, Olu Brown was one of the recipients in our Christmas families program. After that initial contact, the members of the Guild 'adopted her' and helped as she studied towards her diploma in Dental Hygiene.

According to Sally Fyfe, the Guild assisted her with such things as bus tickets and the purchase of textbooks. Sally also says that Olu and she have become good friends since then.

She received her diploma in 2009 and furthered her studies in the Bachelor of Dental Hygiene program, graduating this year. She is also one course shy of her degree in psychology. In addition, she is the first African Nova Scotian woman to graduate from this degree program.

According to an article in the *Dalhousie News* on May 26, she discovered that there is a real need for a mobile outreach clinic and devoted one of her classes, in entrepreneurship, to create the business plan for a company she is contemplating calling "Smart Smiles Dental Hygiene".

## Sunday Suppers -- June 19

Even on a warm June evening, a hot meal is welcome, especially if you haven't eaten all day. And especially if it's served by people who have called you family for more than 20 years. Caring and connection are what Sunday Suppers has offered to people in Halifax every Sunday night, and Saint David's has been part of the commitment almost since the beginning.

In addition to preparing hot casseroles, Sunday Suppers volunteers might help serve, pour juice, tea and coffee, wash dishes, or clean up. They sometimes bring gently used clothes and shoes they no longer need.

Food is important, but fellowship is the purpose. As well, guests can see a medical student for foot care and can take home clothes and shoes. Everyone - guests and volunteers - is invited to a church service after the meal.

It's a bit of a thrill to tell guests we're from St. David's, because our church's name is familiar to them. Some visit David's Place on Fridays or have used the Out of the Cold Shelter we support. We make a difference as a church.

Preparing and delivering a casserole is a big commitment on a Sunday afternoon, and on June 19, members of our church and others from the Halifax area will provide and serve a casserole for the Sunday suppers project. If you would like to take part or have clothes to donate, feel free to get in touch with me at 422-5878.

Thanks to all our Sunday suppers volunteers -- summer or winter, you touch and inspire our community. Every time it's our turn to do this, I'm proud of the generosity and long-term commitment of our members and friends.

**Nicole Watkins Campbell**

## WALK for MEMORIES



A few weeks before Easter we received a letter from Rev. John Boyd of First Baptist Church saying they have put a team in the Walk for Memories for a number of years and wondered if we'd be interested in joining the cause. At a Session meeting, I agreed to take on the challenge. However due to the many events over the Easter season, we really didn't get started on this project until near the end of April. The walk was on May 16, so we didn't have a huge amount of time, but I managed to corral a few willing people to do the walk and help raise funds for Alzheimer's research. I would like very much to thank (from left to right) George Gillmore, Rev. Kenn Stright, Mary Lou Crowell, Margaret Craig, and Carolyn MacDonald. (*Marie Wamboldt is missing from the photo.*)

Also a big "Thank You" to all the people from Saint David's who contributed to this cause and to those friends of mine outside the church who helped as well. Together we raised over \$1100.00 in a short period of time. Maybe next year, with more notice, we can do much better!!

**Phyllis Morrison**

# **A Tale of Two Churches**

## **A Modern Day Parable**

"It was the best of times"... The imposing downtown church, in the midst of the most prestigious urban area, gave every sign of prosperity. The ultra modern glass and stone edifice looked more like an office building than a place of worship. The old church building that had occupied the premises previously had been torn down more than 20 years before, to make room for this state of the art, well planned structure. There was no mortgage. Long ago everything had been paid for by the wealthy people who were involved in it.

It was a fine Sunday morning in June, a few minutes before 10 o'clock. For a long time now, the service had been at 10 rather than 11, because so many members had very full days at their golf and country clubs, and other important activities. The managers felt it wise to accommodate them. True, very few showed up at church in the summer anyway. But their membership dues were always paid, and many had endowed special rooms in the modern building. The Sunday school rooms were the last word in current religious education, and everything about the place pointed to wealth and efficiency.

The organist had begun the prelude, when a group of men appeared near the front door, obviously working people. They showed every sign of having worked the night shift and then eating a hearty breakfast at one of the few restaurants open on Sunday morning. As they made their way closer, a well dressed usher met them, and told them that the drop in centre was several blocks away.

Looking dismayed, one of the group spoke up, saying that they were just getting off work, and had decided to come to church. Impatiently, the usher replied that admittance to the service was restricted to members only. He gave them directions to a church about a half mile away that was open to the general public, and had a service at eleven. Sheepishly the men left.

"It was the worst of times"...

Talking among themselves, the group decided to take the advice of the arrogant usher. Walking to the new address took about half an hour, and at last they

approached the building, and saw with relief that it was not nearly so modern and up to date. Perhaps they would be welcome here. It was still only 10:45 am, plenty of time for observation

This building was different. It was an old building. While not exactly neglected, it was evident that a coat of paint and other repairs were badly needed. Money was always an issue. Membership had declined sharply and offerings were at low ebb. The church managers had been working on ways to attract more members, but it was rough going. For many years they had been seeking a more prosperous membership, and were currently targeting young up and coming business people. But, most of them were too busy to attend.

The two greeters at the door looked slightly surprised to see the group of workers, but hurriedly directed them to some pews near the back. A very well-dressed visiting couple behind them received warm handshakes, and were ushered into the best seats.

Following them, others arrived and took their places. Many of them were successful looking people who seemed comfortable and were effusively greeted.

From time to time, the men in the back pew noticed curious stares, as others turned around to look at them. Some were whispering. The couple in front of them moved to seats farther up.

The service was the in the usual style; a few hymns, a prayer, and a message that was very general, and would offend no one. There were several announcements and collection was taken up. The new men gave what they could.

Nobody spoke to them afterwards, and they decided to forego the coffee hour that had been announced.

Obviously they were not welcome here either. They concluded among themselves that church was not for ordinary people, and were glad they realized it before they wasted too many Sundays looking for a welcoming place.

You can read their thirteen names in Mathew 10:1-4!

**John Wamboldt**



*PRAYER: Our Lord and our God, we give thanks that we are not strangers or aliens in your sight, but citizens with the saints and members of your holy and eternal household. Guide our ministries so that strangers in our midst may become friends and journey with us along paths of righteousness. In the name of Jesus we pray. Amen. (Prayer by Don Muir)*

Here I am sitting in the study exploring ways to present hospitality to those in this church who feel called to a ministry of "Welcoming". I can't think of a more important emphasis as we enter the summer season surrounded by hotels and invaded by cruise ships, and folks home for the holidays and people transferring in to our community. How do we ensure the welcome they receive is as warm as we can make it in the name of Christ?

In case you missed it, this was the focus of the Hospitality workshop (June 8<sup>th</sup>) and, by the time you read this, we will have committed ourselves to 'radical hospitality in the name of the One who welcomed saint and sinner alike!

Again, there is no magic formula for being such a church. Keeping the topic before us is the best way to ensure that no one ever leave this place without a firm belief that they have, in fact, come home!

Blessings on your summer. Greet someone warmly in the name of Christ. As a dear friend (and elder) says to me almost every week: "I am so glad you are here!"

**Scripture:** Romans 12:9-13

*Let love be genuine; hate what is evil, hold fast to what is good; love one another with mutual affection; outdo one another in showing honor. Do not lag in zeal, be ardent in spirit, serve the Lord. Rejoice in hope, be patient in suffering, persevere in prayer. Contribute to the needs of the saints; extend hospitality to strangers.*

**Kenn Stright**

## Transitions:

### **Births:**

Congratulations to Heidi Schaefer and John Hope on the birth of their third daughter, Allison on April 30, 2011.

### **Baptisms:**

Rory Joseph Henry Lassaline, son of Michelle Burhoe and Trevor Lassaline on May 15

### **Congratulations to our University Graduates:**

**Andrew Lappin** from Dalhousie on May 25 with a B.Sc. (Biology with Distinction). He plans to work, volunteer and maybe get in some travelling during the coming year.

**Neil Macdonald** from Mount Allison on May 16, with his B.Sc. in Honours Chemistry. He will be attending McGill University in September to begin studies on his M.Sc.

**Caitlin MacKeigan** from St. Mary's on May 20 with her B.A., with a major in International Development. She plans to work for awhile before deciding what her next step will be.

**Ainsley Miller** from the Centre of Geographic Sciences on May 25 with her Advanced Diploma Geographic Science, Geographic Information Systems. She was the winner of the Geomatics Association of NS award in Geographic Information Systems.

### **Congratulations to**

**Margaret Campbell and Charlotte Taper** on their upcoming graduation from Citadel High. Margaret received word that she placed first in the IB History and Standard Biology courses. She plans to attend Acadia in the fall. Charlotte is planning to attend Concordia University and major in Psychology.

**John and Margaret Pace** who celebrated their 60<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary (June 2) with a small gathering of friends on May 29.

**John Wamboldt** on being selected Valedictorian on the successful completion of the OWL program  
Congratulations to **Kristelle Stright**, daughter of the Revs. Kenn and Jeanne Stright, who was admitted to the NS Bar on Friday, June 10. She is working at McInnes Cooper in the area of corporate finance.

**Brent Sherar** who successfully defended his PhD. thesis in Chemistry on June 1. He has accepted a position in Houston Texas.

**Graeme Hicks** on being selected Halifax Needham's PC. Volunteer of the Year in February.

### **Directory Updates:**

#### **Janet Brown**

Sullivan Lane Room 219  
156 Parkland Drive  
Halifax, NS B3S 1N9

#### **Peter and Joanne Pronych**

202 Kingswood Drive  
Hammonds Plains, NS B4B 1L2