

Fall 2016

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

More New Beginnings

I seem to repeat myself on a regular basis about new beginnings!

I could almost write verbatim some of the things I said last fall!

But things really do change and, yes, there are new beginnings as we once again head into the fall and winter.

The property development proceeds and hopefully will see demolition of the Church hall completed... sometime soon.

The election of elders has proceeded and you'll get more news about elders old and new in this newsletter. An orientation will be held that will be a 'primer' for new elders and any who have been serving over the years.

Our fall study, to be held after church starting in late October, is called "Being

the Church" and will have five sessions:

1. Singing together
2. Loving with empathy and compassion.
3. Creating safe space
4. Welcoming all ages
5. Believing in life beyond death.

Sounds like there will be something for everybody!

We are also having guests coming to Saint David's! Stephen Allen, Associate Secretary for Justice Ministries, who we hope will be here at St. David's November 13 when he will be sharing in the worship services.

The Rev. Dr. Richard Topping will join us for the second Sunday in Advent (December 4). Richard is the Principal of the Vancouver School of Theology and will be in town for a Principals' Conference at the Atlantic School of Theology. He will be speaking at both the 9 and 11 am services that morning!

So things are both old and new! I hope you can make Saint David's an important part of your fall – in Sunday School, Bible Study, early communion, and regular, traditional services, and maybe even think seriously about joining the choir – they will have a great program this fall climaxing during the Christmas season.

Kenn Stright

Each Sunday someone (usually an elder) greets you at the front door. The person doing this doesn't have to be an elder. If you would feel comfortable doing this, please let someone from the Worship and Church Life Committee know. We would even like to get families involved. The children could hand out bulletins and it's a great way to meet people you may not know. Let's get more people involved with greeting, reading, and doing refreshments. As to the last item, don't feel you have to bake anything lavish. It's not a competition. Many other churches serve bought cookies.

Letter to the Government of Canada

In June 2015, the 141st General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada urged “individuals, congregations and presbyteries to respond to the pressing need for resettlement of vulnerable refugees from Syria, Iraq or elsewhere through private sponsorship. In September 2015, the Moderator of the church, as instructed by the 141st General Assembly in June, sent a letter to the Prime Minister urging the government to increase the number of refugees coming to Canada by both opening up spaces for privately sponsored refugees and increasing the number of refugees sponsored by the government. We have had many churches, groups and individuals ready and organized to sponsor families. Money has been raised; many

groups have stored all the necessary furnishings, and completed applications well before the March 31st, 2016 deadline. It is now suggested that there are some 7500 groups across Canada ready and prepared to receive refugee families. If that number is accurate and they have raised up to \$40,000 each to support a family, then across Canada groups have raised an amazing amount of money unused for this crisis. Since March when the government completed the arrival of its 25,000 refugees, the processing of refugees appears to have been deliberately and intentionally reduced to a tiny trickle. Committees have been left in the lurch with no information provided by the government and seemingly endless waiting. This is a tragedy. Most especially it is a tragedy for the families who know that they are going to be sponsored and are waiting and suffering

from that wait in Lebanon or elsewhere. Despite reports that there was to be an increase in staffing in Beirut and other key centres for processing refugees, there is little or no evidence that that has been done or that it is making a difference. Canada is telling the United Nations how wonderful it is to have private sponsors in the Sponsorship program. It's time they told private sponsors that every effort will be made to expedite the process. It is time to get the system moving again. Let's get the processing of refugees moving expeditiously again. If that is not to be then the thousands of volunteers in Canada deserve a straightforward and clear explanation of why not.

Kenn Stright

This letter to government is one I helped write to be sent by the Moderator of Presbytery to the various members of Parliament directly involved in the Refugee Sponsorship program

Saint David's & the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children



The newly-renovated Bauld Centre, courtesy of the Akoma Centre

Older members of Saint David's may recall that when our late elder, Elizabeth Chard, was in charge of the church school, the children's annual Christmas offering always went to help support the Nova Scotia Home for Colored Children (now Akoma Family Centre). Saint David's has another connection to the Home which is less well-known. Its chief organizer was a member of Saint David's, Henry Gibson Bauld, who served as president of the Home and chairman of its board from 1917 until his death in 1948. Bauld was born in Halifax in 1859,

and entered his father's wholesale grocery business. In 1882, he married the daughter of the Rev. Thomas Duncan, minister of old St Andrew's Kirk. Bauld eventually became a prominent businessman in his own right, crowning his achievement in 1890 with election as a director of what is now the Royal Bank of Canada and serving for 19 years. Bauld was a pillar of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, and, like many other conscientious objectors to church union, in 1925 he found his way to the new dissenting congregation which became Saint David's. A well-known friend to African Nova Scotians in Halifax, Bauld was a trustee of the Home when it was incorporated by the legislature in 1915. He was elected to the legislature as a Liberal in 1916 and was instrumental in attracting financial and material support for the Home from the then Liberal government. He was also largely responsible for fundraising among Halifax's mercantile class. The Home finally opened its doors in March 1921, an

achievement for which Bauld deservedly received much of the credit. The official opening, on June 6, saw Bauld acting as the master of ceremonies. Bauld's activism on behalf of African Nova Scotians probably owed a lot to the social gospel, which took hold among Presbyterians especially after the famous pre-Assembly congress of 1913. According to historian John Moir, the social gospel "appears to have received its strongest and most extensive support from clergy and laity of The Presbyterian Church in Canada." To Presbyterian social uplifters and progressives like Bauld, it did not matter that most of Nova Scotia's Blacks were Baptists. An "official history" of the Home appearing in the 1921 proceedings of the annual meeting of the AUBA featured Bauld, who for 30 years was the face of the Home, even going on fundraising tours through the Maritimes. When the Home's new school opened in 1948, shortly after Bauld's death, it was named in his honour. Though the school is long gone, the building still stands and

the community centre which occupies it still carries Bauld's name (<http://www.akoma.ca/bauld-photos>). African Nova Scotians have kept his memory green. "I was surprised that he was so interested in the Home. The whites did not have a good feeling for us; Mr. Bauld would come out day after day to see how things were going." Bauld died in harness in his 89th year. According to his obituary, "It was after a visit to the Home at Preston that, walking up from the Dartmouth ferry on his way home, he collapsed on the street with a heart attack that proved fatal on the instant. He went the way he would have wished to go – still active in good works."

As a footnote, Alice Tilley MacKeen was the first female member of the board of the Home from 1961-1963

Barry Cahill

New Elders Elected

With joy and thanksgiving, the

congregation of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David elected the following to the office of elder in the congregation: Susan Lappin, Colin Roop, and Nancy Tindall. The elders-elect will be ordained on October 16th during the regular service of worship.

Both we and the new elders will be reminded of our calling in Christ during this special service.

"As for you, always be sober, endure suffering, do the work of an evangelist, carry out your ministry fully." 2 Timothy 3:14-4:5

Through the office of ruling elder men and women are ordained to share with the minister in the leadership, pastoral care, and oversight of the congregation.

Living Faith 7.2.4

Most decisions about the life and work of the congregation are made by Session. With the

minister, who acts as the moderator of Session, elders work as leaders - leading the congregation in its fellowship (its ministry to one another) and in its mission (its ministry to the world). Elders seek the will of God for the congregation so they can lead it in the direction they believe Jesus would have it go. They seek to model themselves after Jesus as they listen to people and serve the church.

Kenn Stright

A big thank you to Don Knox, Barbara MacKeigan and Don Hooper--members of the nominating committee. We had hoped to find six to eight new elders, but this unfortunately did not happen. The timing perhaps wasn't right for some. That does not mean that in another few years, when perhaps we want to add to our number of elders again, that circumstances may change and you will feel that God is saying: Now is the time. The Session looks forward to working with the new elders, Susan Lappin, Colin Roop and Nancy Tindall after their installation on Oct. 16. Welcome!

Phyllis Morrison

FELLOWSHIP OF THE LEAST COIN

October 17th

The Women's Inter-Church Council of Halifax-Metro

The Fellowship of the Least Coin service will be held on Monday, October 17, 2016, at 7:00 p.m., at St. Theresa's Church, 6351 North Street, Halifax.

This world-wide meaningful service is one of prayer, peace, and reconciliation. It has 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'.

The Guest Speaker this year is Sister Jovita MacPherson, Co-ordinator of the Sisters of St. Martha Street Ministry in Halifax. While Sister Jovita is primarily involved with the St. Mary's Daily Bread programme, which provides food and a safe environment for those on the streets and those who struggle with the daily

issues of poverty, she also takes an active interest in similar outreach commitments throughout the city, visiting other sites such as our own Friday David's Place and the United Church Brunswick Street Mission.

Sister Jovita has been described as "a true activist for social justice".

Everyone is invited to hear this enthusiastic woman, a woman completely devoted to the Sisters of St. Martha's response to offering some ease to those who struggle in a life of poverty in Halifax. This invitation is obviously for men as well.

Anne Sommerville

*Presbyterian Representative)
Women's Inter-Church Council
of Halifax-Metro*

Update from David's Place

David's Place is back in full swing for the fall, after a busy summer with a reduced group of volunteers due to vacations. Regardless, we were there every Friday serving up nutritious food

and friendship. We had three BBQ's to mark each of the holidays of Canada Day, Natal Day and Labour Day. Thanks to volunteer Mike McPhee who brought his electric BBQ and also got donations of meat to serve.

We average 30-40 guests for most of the month, but in the last two weeks of the month we usually see 50-60 guests and sometimes serve more than 70 meals when we are able to offer seconds. While our supplies from Feed NS are less now than they used to be, several members of the congregation have agreed to be on a list to help out when supplies and our volunteers are stretched to provide the meal. Some will provide a main course and others a dessert or sweets. If you would like to be on the list, please contact Val or Johannah with an idea of what you would prefer to supply. We also are very grateful for the donations the congregation at large provide on Food Bank Sunday—the second Sunday of the month. Toilet paper, canned goods, single

wrapped toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, pasta and sauce, cereal, juice, and snacks are always welcome.

For Thanksgiving we will provide a ham and scalloped potato dinner with pumpkin or apple pie for dessert. We are also looking ahead to what special meal and gifts we might offer at Christmas. If you would like to be part of that endeavour, please let us know.

One of our volunteers, Betty MacDonald, moved to Toronto the beginning of the year to be near her family, but likes to keep in touch. She has moved into a seniors residence but still walks to church regularly and besides her nieces here, she misses David's Place guests and volunteers the most. Fridays were the highlight of her week. Our guests often ask about her. One of our guests returned to Australia and we hear from him periodically by e-mail. He even asks about Betty! David's Place truly is a community of caring. We ask for your

continued support and prayers.

Valerie Macdonald

A Dream, A Stairway

In my dreams I see the son
this new one beyond the
frozen one

A soul transformed to
have its way
where limit could not hold
me away

Set amongst the world an
equal play
so a purpose means
something every day
Capturing progress by self
choice my say

living feeling of worth a
magical array

In these dreams it would
always transpire
a stairway rising with
others ever higher

David Mac Eachern

Elves Needed!

Christmas is not that far away and one of the traditions is to deck the halls of our sanctuary. It's a chance to get together, exercise artistic talents and prepare the church for the holiday season. So get your thinking caps on for fresh ideas and feel free to share them!

Stay tuned for the date in early December! Many hands make light work.

Meet Some of Our Members of Session

Over the next couple of newsletters we will be introducing elders old and new. The session is the governing body of the local church, consisting of the teaching elder(s) (presently Kenn) along with ruling elders (presently 12). Ordination to the eldership is for life. Churches now have the option of having elders with no set term (for life) or elected for two three year terms in office before stepping down for at least a year. Saint David's uses the former method.

Valerie Macdonald

I was ordained an elder in 1997. Since then I have served on the Worship and Music and Christian Ed Committees and as Convenor of the Pastoral Care Committee. When we restructured our governance I was appointed convenor of the Worship and Church Life Committee, which is responsible for all of the above plus Congregational Fellowship. This position also meant that I served on the Building Project Committee. Most recently I was elected Clerk of Session. There is also the general care

and contact that each elder has for the families in their district. While the time commitment has varied over the years with the committee I was on, my role therein, and to some extent the time of year, I suppose that it has averaged out to between five and 10 hours per week. A call to eldership is a call to service, and I feel blessed to have been able to do that within the fellowship of Session and the wider church community and to have developed the relationships I have within Session and with the families in my district.

Ken Mader

I was ordained in 1977 and have served on the policy and planning, finance, mission, and the now superseded steering committees over the years. As the years have rolled by, my participation has reduced to reflect my advancing years, restricted mobility, and infirmity. My estimate of the time commitment averaged over the years would be around 50-60 hours per year (meetings 35, preparation [readings, discussions with individual members, thinking about readings] 20). Additionally, there would perhaps have been 10-15 hours a year calling on and discussions with members in the "group" assigned to me. The great takeaways for me

were: 1] meeting on an organized basis with individual members assigned as my "groups" (perhaps 45-70 over the year) with such a wide variety of outlooks and approaches. 2] dealing with matters in a way so different from, and of a nature different from what I met in my regular business, professional, and community activities. Finally, the fellowship was spectacular with the Session members.

Mac Fyfe

I was ordained in October 2004. I have been a member of the finance committee (initially under the Board of Trustees) since the 1990s. I became finance convenor in 2010, at about the time the finance and investment committees combined. I am part of the treasurer team along with the offering secretary and the bookkeeper. As a convenor, I was a member of the property development committee. I was pledge secretary on the Building Fund Campaign in 2003 to 2008. I was a member of the worship and music committee for a few years. When I started as an elder in 2004 only three out of 11 persons in my elder's district wanted me to visit. Now no one in my district wants me to visit. However, I talk informally with many church people both in my district and outside it. I have enjoyed

serving Communion four times a year at St Vincent's Nursing Home and at Melville Heights.

David Mackay

Ordained an elder in 2004. Former member of Mission & Outreach, under the convenorship of Margaret Craig. Attended committee meetings 3-4 times a year, assisting with special projects such as Wells for Africa. Currently serve on Finance Committee, with the following responsibilities: Attending Committee meeting. Assisting with annual budget preparation and presentation at the Annual Congregational Meeting. Recording offerings and other donations in the PowerChurch program. Preparation and distribution of tax receipts for all donations. Representative Elder, effective February 2016, which includes attendance at Presbytery (four times a year) and Synod (once a year) meetings. Member of the Program Committee for the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces. Member of the Outreach and Education Committee for the Presbytery of Halifax and Lunenburg. Time Commitment: The Finance Committee commitment is approximately one hour per week. The time commitment for Session, Presbytery and Synod depends on when the

meetings are called. It is an honour and a privilege to serve as an Elder in the Presbyterian Church of Canada, which strengthens my Christian faith.

Upcoming Events & Notes

May 19-22, 2017 - the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering.

Come join us for another weekend filled with opportunities to learn, meet, worship, share, and praise. We guarantee, you will experience many moments to take away with you, moments that will hopefully last a lifetime!

God has the power to exceed our expectations. When we are rooted in God's love, we can work together, to accomplish the unimaginable. Come and consider the unimaginable... Poster and Registration form in the vestibule. Check womensgathering.ca/ for more details

Presbyterian Record Ends in December—New Publication to Come

The Presbyterian Record magazine has faithfully served the church in Canada for 140 years. The recent decision made by

Presbyterian Record Inc. to cease publication of the Record as of December 2016, is a loss for the denomination. Many of us grew up on the Record, learning of the mission and ministry of our church and the stories of those who made a difference here at home and across the world.

In order to continue facilitating communication within the denomination, and to build upon the Presbyterian Record's legacy, the Life and Mission Agency will begin publication of a new resource that will merge some of the news and features once covered in the Record with educational and informational materials produced by the ministries, committees, and agencies of The Presbyterian Church in Canada.

Transitions:

Baptisms:

Rachael Jane McLeod Reardon, daughter of Catherine McLeod and Mark Reardon
Suffer the little children to come unto me.

Weddings:

Ken McRobbie and Colin Blanchard

Deaths:

George Miller
Anne Henriksen

Welcome to New Members:

Mirren and Ben Harris
- First Church Pictou
Colin Roop -The Kirk of St.

James, Charlottetown
Claudia and Fred Saoud - by
Resolution of Session

Update on Our Financial Situation

On October 23 after the worship service, Mac Fyfe will report on congregational giving and on our operating, renovations and investment accounts.

LOOKING AHEAD

For several past Decembers Saint David's choir has presented an amazing - and outstanding - Choral Christmas concert – one of the finest in the city.

Each December Saint David's gifted choir director, Tristan Cleveland-Thompson, gathers together an extremely talented group of singers who have returned home to Halifax for the holidays. These musical folks come together with the equally talented Saint David's choristers to create beautiful and powerful singing - projecting music from all corners of Saint David's beautiful Victorian setting.

As we get closer to December please watch for events taking place during the Advent Season at Saint David's, which hopefully will include a 2016 Choral Concert.