



At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS.....December 2012

Property Development

Your Session is making progress on property development! Following the June Congregational meeting which resulted in unanimous approval for Session to proceed to negotiate a land lease agreement with Greenwood/Lawley, several steps have been taken.

A design session was held for congregation members in the church hall, and input was gathered regarding options and important considerations for space which the church requires. An architect was engaged to work on plans and those will be the subject of a future presentation.

Legal counsel at Stewart McKelvey has prepared a proposed land lease agreement and it is now being reviewed by counsel for Greenwood Lawley prior to bringing it back to the congregation for final approval. We thank Brian Tabor and Ross Cantwell (our financial advisors) for working on our behalf.

A full presentation was made to Presbytery in November, and they offer blessings on our work.

The church's application to have the church hall de-registered has been successful! Once the land lease agreement is in place, the developer will make application with the HRM and we will keep you informed as things progress.

We thank you for your support of this project, and your continued support of the mission of the church. We know as this newsletter is printed, we will begin to receive almost 20 per cent of our year's givings in the month of December. Please continue your generosity, especially this month, as it makes such a difference in our church life and mission as we prepare to move into this next phase of our development.

Session Committee Convenors

A David's Place Story

A few weeks ago we had a reading from Mark 12 in church. Part of the scripture went like this:

A poor widow came and put in two small copper coins, which are worth a penny. Then Jesus called his disciples and said to them, "Truly I tell you, this poor widow has put in more than all those who are contributing to the treasury. For all of the others have contributed out of their abundance, but she has put in everything she had, all she had to live on."

A few days later an envelope was slipped into the basket at the Brunswick Street door. All it said, in rather shaky writing, was "Donation David's Place-God Bless-Thanks". It was \$100.00. It started me thinking about the scripture above and some of us who volunteer at David's Place speculate it is from a former guest. Yes, we call those who come to share food and conversation, get some warmth, and maybe see the nurse "guests".

Maybe this person has found a job and is no longer in need of our services, but wanted to say "Thank You". We really don't know from whom it came. But I feel that even if they are doing better in their position in life, \$100.00 is a lot of money to them. It's a lot to almost everyone in this day and age. Makes you pause and think, "Can I do better?"

If you've never experienced David's Place, you are welcome to drop in any Friday between 10am and 12:30pm to see what goes on. No need to be apprehensive - our guests are very grateful. It might just warm the cockles of your heart!!

Phyllis Morrison

Pennies from Heaven

Mission and Outreach has counted the pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, loonies, toonies, shillings, Dartmouth ferry tokens, communion tokens, and other assorted gifts Saint David's members donated through the Penny Drive, and now has a grand total of \$318.07 to share with Presbyterian World Service and Development.

Over the next short while, the committee will choose some gifts from the "Gifts of Change" catalogue, and send in a cheque.

Thanks to everyone who participated. Since the cheque hasn't gone yet, we're happy to accept more change - a little more - and add to the joy.



Sunday Suppers Celebrate 27 Years

Sunday Suppers is inviting all those who take part to join them on Dec 16 for their Christmas party and 27th birthday. Saint David's has been one of their partners since the beginning.

Okay, maybe we haven't been there from the very beginning. Frankly, it's been so long, it's hard to remember. But we began taking part in this outreach to the homeless early on.

The casseroles our members prepare three times a year go a long way to making winter a little easier for people who spend way too much time out in the weather.

Saint David's members and friends feed between 600 and 900 people through each year, a significant demonstration of our love for our neighbour.

Hats/gloves/warm socks/even jackets are always appreciated, any time. For help in delivering warm clothes, or to prepare or serve a casserole, call Nicole at 422-5878

Nicole Watkins Campbell

New Choir Members this Year



L-R: Sarah, Shannon, Michelle and Pember - story & picture - Phyllis Morrison

This fall we welcomed four new members to our choir—all female.

Sarah Hamilton sings alto. She is a student at Dalhousie University studying Classics. She is originally from Toronto, sang in her church choir from the age of 11, and was the head chorister in her last two years there. She took piano lessons until university and currently sings in the King's College chapel Choir as a choral scholar. In her down time she enjoys playing tennis and reading.

Michelle Harley also sings alto. She is originally from Stephenville, Newfoundland. She started piano lessons at the tender age of five and completed her Bachelor of Music (piano performance) at Mount Allison, and then went on to complete a Bachelor of Music at Memorial

University. Throughout her career she has sung with the Mount Allison Chamber choir and the Camerata Xara Young Women's choir. Presently she sings with the Halifax Camerata Singers (as do Adam and Tristan) and the Symphony Nova Scotia chorus. Michelle is a music teacher, Honour Choir accompanist with the Halifax School Board, and gives private piano lessons. In her leisure time she enjoys camping and rowing.

Pember Edwards is one of our new sopranos. She hails from East Hampton, Long Island, New York, but spent her summers growing up in Liverpool, N.S. She sang in three choirs in high school and two choirs during her undergraduate studies at Allegheny College in Meadville, PA. Presently she is a first year dental student at Dalhousie, and also sings in the Dal Medical School Choir. Her hobbies include playing tennis and golf, swimming and painting.

Shannon Lawson is our "high" soprano. You'll hear her powerful voice on descants. She studied vocal performance at UPEI. Currently she is working at Humani-T Café as well as teaching voice lessons and is a member of the Camerata Xara Young Women's choir with Sophia, as well as teaching voice lessons. Shannon arrived in Halifax from Charlottetown in the fall of 2011. She is engaged to a medical student,

Steve Scales, from Charlottetown, and is an avid crafter and baker.

Christmas at Saint David's

Advent Bible Study every Sunday at 12:30

**Sunday Dec. 16 Advent III
9 and 11 a.m.**

Communion at both services
White Gift Sunday

December 17

7 pm

The choir will present its service of Lessons and Carols

December 21

7 pm

Longest Night service at Calvin

December 22

9 am

Wrapping party

**Sunday Dec. 23 Advent IV
9 and 11 am**

Monday Dec. 24

Christmas Family Service at 4 pm
Candlelight Service at 7 pm

Advent

*It is good to have an end to journey towards, but
it is the journey that matters, in the end.*

Ursula Le Guin

Scripture teaches that we are on a journey towards God. We may travel through many stages, places, people, events and experiences, but with every step God is walking with us guiding and leading us towards the destination that brings eternal life to all. Advent is the journey for us to finally come to the Bethlehem manger and often we want to shout “hurry up!” Many times we focus too much on the end of the journey and miss the joy of journeying itself, the joy of walking with God and of seeing God in everything taking place around us.

Each week in Advent we focus on a different aspect of the journey. Christian tradition would have us walk through the themes of HOPE, PEACE, JOY and LOVE. Enjoy the journey. Take time to consider what each of these themes mean to you as individuals and then how we as a community use them to prepare ourselves for the miraculous moment when the Messiah, the long-expected gift of God, is brought to birth in Bethlehem.

Finding God throughout our journey makes the journey meaningful and blessed. It is up

to us to recognize moments of hope and peace, joy and love and, in so doing, become more fully conscious of God’s presence. During this Advent let us take time to reflect on our own journey and see where we are on the journey. Remember Jesus promised his presence to the end of the age, to wherever the journey would take us. He also promised on that journey to be ‘the way, the truth and the life’ for us. He came to share with us the experience of God and His eternal love.

This Advent let’s go to Bethlehem and see this thing that the Lord has made known to us. In the midst of shopping sprees let’s ponder in our hearts the Gift of Gifts. Through the tinsel let’s look for the gold of the Christmas Star. In the excitement and confusion, in the merry chaos, let’s listen for the brush of angels’ wings.

This Advent, let’s go to Bethlehem and find our kneeling places.

(Anne Weems, Kneeling in Bethlehem)

The Advent wreath helps us focus on the meaning of the journey we take. The Advent wreath and candles are symbols that represent the anticipation of the arrival of the Christ child. Traditionally the wreath is made out of evergreen branches, which is a representation of life, even after all else has died.

- **Candle of Hope** The first purple candle is also known as the candle of

prophecy. It can represent the promise that foretold Christ's birth or the hope we have in Christ

- **Candle of Peace** The second purple candle is a reminder of the peace that God brings to us by forgiving our sins.
- **Candle of Joy** The third Advent candle is pink and represents the joy the shepherds felt at hearing the news of Christ's birth or the joy that God brings into our lives
- **Candle of Love** The third purple candle represents God's love, demonstrated by His son's death to save us
- **Christ Candle** This white candle sits at the center of the wreath and is not lit until Christmas Eve. This candle represents the birth of Jesus Christ.

Kenn

Updates from Session

Elders' Districts: You may have noticed that your elder has changed in recent months. This year we have had a number of changes in the composition of the Session, so Murray has had to work diligently to keep the districts balanced. We extend a big thank you to our three elders who have moved on this summer and fall.

Fred McClintock recently moved to the Valley and resigned as an elder. He

originally was ordained in NB and was elected and inducted as an elder at St. David's in 2004. He also served as a Trustee and on the Property/Maintenance Committee, while keeping in close touch with the people in his district..

Anne Sommerville was elected and ordained an elder in 1997. Christian Education was Anne's focus long before she became an elder, and she continued in that role afterwards, serving as Convenor of the CE Committee. She worked hard to raise the funds and then accompanied the young people on trips to Triennium and CY. More recently she has served on the Worship and Church Life Committee with special emphasis on the CE part of that work. She was a faithful visitor to the people in her district, whether it be in person, by phone or by mail. Anne decided to retire this fall and we thank her for her dedication over the past 15 years.

John Wamboldt was elected and ordained as an elder in 2004. He also served as a Trustee. John was Assistant Superintendent of the Church School and more recently the Superintendent, a position he retired from in the Spring. John also served on the Finance and Property/Maintenance Committees. He is now working on a major project on the Tabernacle. We thank him for his many years of service to Saint David's, and particularly to the children and the people in his district with whom he kept very close contact.