



At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS.....Summer 2013

Your Church Wants You to **VOTE** on June 9, 2013

History in the making! Come one, come all to the Sunday, June 9 Communion Service and plan to vote at 12:30, on the future of our church.

We require a two-thirds majority among those present in order to proceed and every voice counts. Given the importance of this decision, we ask each of you to make every effort to attend.

The land lease agreement has been negotiated, financial details have been shared, and the developers have presented a development which is carefully designed to align with the 1869 Sanctuary. It is time to vote.

We will present the results to Presbytery on June 11, and our goal is to have a strong voice from our people.

Removal of the church hall would save in the vicinity of \$50,000 per year, and remove the liability of this structure and its need for costly repairs. The annual lease payment is set at just over \$110,000. In order to provide for crucial

ministry and mission needs that are currently carried out in the church hall, a renovation of the Sanctuary costing up to \$500,000, is proposed. If it is deemed that additional space is required, rental of space in the new development would be negotiated.

On June 9, we will ask you to:

- Authorize Session to instruct the Trustees to sign the land lease agreement.
- Authorize Session to undertake renovation of the sanctuary once preliminary archaeological and environmental assessments are complete, in order to provide a smooth transition once the church hall is demolished.

We will also ask that you authorize Session to oversee any additional issues related to provision of space that is consistent with ministry and mission needs.

Barbara MacKeigan

If you know about any members of Saint David's in hospital, please let Rev. Stright, Valerie Macdonald, or Colin MacPherson know.

From the Finance Committee

You have probably read or heard that if the land lease goes ahead, Saint David's will receive what may look like a large annual land lease payment. Does this mean you can reduce your givings to Saint David's? The answer is "no".

We will need a strong flow of funds from consistent offerings throughout the coming few years. In the year ahead we will face major expenses in designing and setting up the new facilities for our church operations and events. Details will depend on the outcome of the June 9th vote.

All the while, operating costs continue, including salaries, heating, cleaning, and many more.

Thank you for your generous givings in the past. Please maintain your present giving, or increase it, if you can.

The land lease payments will be used to do work on our sanctuary. Our hope for several years from now is, that, as a result of eliminating hall operating costs, and reducing the cost of sanctuary repairs, a future finance committee will be able to advise the congregation that the financial situation is much improved.

The Finance Committee

Saint David's Mission and Outreach Committee has made a one-time financial contribution to a project of the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia. The \$100 will go towards the coalition's program "Making Ends Meet". Personal hygiene kits are given free of charge to people living with HIV/AIDS to help with the basic needs of living.

The Coalition works with 200 people who live in communities across Nova Scotia. Other services include counselling, treatment information and a health fund that individuals can access bi-monthly if they are living on a low income.

A Day of Workshops for Congregations

I recently attended this workshop on April 27, 2013, in Truro at the Presbyterian Church. I chose the following presentations: Mentoring Youth; Tween and Junior Highs and Intergenerational Worship. The two presenters were from Toronto and New Glasgow area.

The workshop provided an overview of appropriate Christian education material, their successful work with children and youth. I felt so inspired! I thought about what we can do.

Maybe it is a challenge, but our opportunities have never been greater to strengthen spiritual care and promote health! The presenter from TO (costs covered by Toronto office) will come to Halifax and the presenter from N.G. will come anytime. This is an opportunity for parents of young children and youth (and older) to view material, choose and modify according to their needs and The Presbyterian Church of Saint David.

Another reason for feeling so inspired is definitely my role as mother, grandmother, and clinical instructor for students at the Dalhousie School of Nursing. Presently, I volunteer as a helper, once a month or when needed, with Sunday School at our church. Also, I was the camp nurse at Camp Geddie a few years ago (two summers) during a five-day leadership camp. I enjoy young peoples' knowledge, enthusiasm, abilities (in a changing world) and a set of traditional values (the glue that holds generations and cultures together).

We can build on what we already possess: consider the contribution of youth (as teachers) in our Sunday School, and through the work of our youthful Music Director in mentoring music students and successfully bringing them to our choir. We have an abundance of resources such as our university students, especially those in the health professions, and mentors in our midst and more. For more information, contact me or Kenn.

Elizabeth Cameron

Our Own Ballroom Dancing Star

Do you watch "Dancing with the Stars"? Do you know that we have a dancing star in our midst at Saint David's? On May 9 there was an article in the Chronicle Herald about Ann Hart McGrail. She's a tiny, quiet lady who used to sit in the back seat until those seats were roped off. Now she sits a little further front. You'd never guess her age! You can read about Ann's exciting life and her many dance competitions across North America at <http://thechronicleherald.ca/artslife/1128636-tiny-dancer-recalls-the-golden-days>. I've also posted the article in the hall.

I first got to know Ann back when Laurence DeWolfe was here and we had a 9am communion service each Sunday. Ann and Peggy Hirschfeld were there nearly every week. Now unless I get out of choir practice early, I don't get to chat with Ann. Introduce yourself if you haven't met this dynamo.

Phyllis Morrison



WHEN YOU HAVE TO START OVER

It's been a long month and more for me (and probably for those around me!)

A sudden fall on my 39th wedding anniversary (sorry Jeanne – it wasn't the day we planned) changed my life for the last month. I think I've adapted rather well to the changes imposed. It was a challenge to put on pants but that's a piece of cake now. Sermons takes much longer to prepare but they may be a bit shorter and more concise (which might please more than a few!).

Then, out of nowhere, the doctor said it would be best to start over. It's not the kind of news you want to hear when you think you're on the right track toward a healthier future but it must be done. So, two weeks after the accident, I walked out of the pulpit and into a johnny shirt and onto a surgical table to start over.

Thank you for asking - yes, the wrist is coming along well but it's not always easy when you have to start over.

That's the parable for today.

It's not easy to start over, even when it is for the health of the body. It wasn't easy for our ancestors in the faith to start over when they left the comfortable pews of the peninsula's Presbyterian churches to come to this place. It wasn't easy to tear down the first hall fronting on Brunswick Street and start over again and

make plans for new facilities we've called home for more than a half century.

And it's not easy to face the future with the decisions before us. But face them we must! It would be easier if that future were clearer and we knew the pitfalls awaiting us but we walk by faith and not by sight. And I don't mean blind faith. I mean Hebrews 11:1 faith (look it up!) which encourages us to step out in faith with a plethora of personages who proceeded us and thereby became part of the faith story that takes us into the future (you really do need to read the rest of Hebrews 11 to get the message). And speaking of The Message, Eugene Peterson translates this verse to say:

"The fundamental fact of existence is that this trust in God, this faith, is the firm foundation under everything that makes life worth living. It's our handle on what we can't see."

My prayer is that the preparation and the praying and the planning over the past half-decade will be pleasing to God and will be our 'firm foundation under everything...'

It is the only handle we have on what we cannot see in the future before us. There are many attitudes we can take in this time of transition but I pray they all have the foundation of God's promise, especially that found in the words of the prophet Jeremiah:

"I alone know the plans I have for you, plans to bring you prosperity and not disaster, plans to bring about the future you hope for." (Good News Bible)

I've been told I might have to adapt, at least for a while, to some limitations and accompanying

pain but that, in most ways, my future (or that of my wrist) is bright and full of promise... and that is the start of another parable for another day!

Kenn

Transitions

Deaths

Tom Guildford

Nancy Purves

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

Retirement

With regret Session accepted the retirement of Bob Guild, who is moving to the Ottawa area.

Graduations

Lesley Roberts - MD from Queens on May 23. Lesley will be returning to Halifax to pursue a residency in OB/GYN

Andrew Lappin - Will receive his certificate in Occupational Health and Safety from NSIT on June 18
Hanna Molyneaux will graduate from Citadel High on June 27

Congratulations

Shannon Lawson on her marriage to Steve Scales, June 8

Dr. Jim Farris on his 90th birthday, May 5

Dr. Laurence Mawhinney on his honorary D.D. from Presbyterian College.

Michelle Hartley on her acceptance to Westminster Choir School

Summer Schedule

June: Rev. Stright preaching June 9, 16, and 23

June 30: Rev. Brian Fraser of Burnaby, BC. Rev. Fraser is in Halifax to teach a course at AST on "Thinking in Jazz about Missional Leadership". His sermon topic will be "Thinking About Jesus in Jazz".

July: Rev. Stright preaching

July 28: Joint service with Korean congregation

August 4: Rev. Sydney McDonald

August 11: Rev. Judithe Adam-Murphy

August 18: Rev. Anna Smith. *Rev. Smith is a member of our Mission and Outreach Committee*

Rev. Stright - study leave /vacation July 28-August 20
