

# At Saint David's

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## A Single Step

**Hebrews 11:8-11** - By faith Abraham, when called to go to a place he would later receive as his inheritance, obeyed and went, even though he did not know where he was going. By faith he made his home in the Promised Land, like a stranger in a foreign country. For he was looking forward to the city with foundations whose architect and builder is God.

The old saying is that every journey begins with a single step. I wonder how many joined the journey of Christian in John Bunyan's *Pilgrim's Progress*, at some time in your life? What better place to start such a journey than at the beginning. For

Christian, this beginning is the result of an encounter with a character called Evangelist. Evangelist offers Christian guidance and seeks to get him on the right road. This is their opening exchange:

*Evangelist says, "Do you see yonder shining light?" "I think I do," Christian responds. "Then", says Evangelist, "Keep that light in your eyes."*

The journey begins by following the light.

The Bible is meant to be our light, our inspiration for life, and it is in the Bible that we see this imagery of the journey, a journey much like that of the fleeing Hebrew children, one step

ahead of Pharaoh's army, those same Hebrews who would spend the next 40 years on a journey of faith wandering and waiting to enter the Promised Land. We will be hearing much about the journey ahead of us in the months to come as we look for the light that will guide us safely to our destination.

**Prayer:** *God who gives strength for the journey; we seek to follow the way of Christ in a world that is filled with detours. "We need your light to lead us, your hand to hold us, and your love to complete us. In Jesus' name we now ask for your blessing".*

*Amen.*

**Kenn Stright**

## PHOENIX HOUSE Annual Appeal

Once again Saint David's is being asked to support the snack program at Phoenix House. This is a once a year contribution that goes towards healthy snacks for the youth who use Phoenix's facilities. We have been asked to provide \$175 and anyone who wishes to contribute is asked to give their donations to Carol Dobson or Anne Sommerville. (Income tax receipts will be issued).

Thank you for supporting this worthwhile endeavour.

## Presbyterian Record

At our Congregational Meeting on March 1, the operating budget for 2015 was approved.

The budget indicates that Saint David's will discontinue the Every Home Plan for the Presbyterian Record, effective June 1, 2015.

The Every Home Plan has been costing Saint David's as much as \$1,500 per year over several years.

The on-line version of the Presbyterian Record for current and earlier issues

can be read at [www.PresbyterianRecord.ca](http://www.PresbyterianRecord.ca) at no charge. To do this you need a computer or tablet with a connection to the web.

Starting in July, Saint David's will be receiving four printed copies of the Record, which will be available in the narthex for those who wish to borrow them.

Those who would like to subscribe to the Record for the next subscription year (June 1, 2015 to May

31, 2016) can do this through the website [www.PresbyterianRecord.ca](http://www.PresbyterianRecord.ca). The cost has increased and will be \$39.49 per year plus tax for a total of \$45.41.

If you are mailing your subscription, send your payment to:

Presbyterian Record  
50 Wynford Drive  
Toronto, ONT  
M3C 1J7

**The Finance Committee**

## Women's Inter-Church Council - Update

The Halifax Metro Women's Inter-Church Council of Canada held its annual World Day of Prayer service on Friday, March 6, at Calvin Presbyterian Church. The 2015 prayer service, observed in more than 170 countries, was prepared by women from The Bahamas and guest speaker was the Rev. Michael Koslowski speaking on the theme "Do You Know What I

Have Done to You". Offering goes to areas of need, locally and throughout the world, and are identified each year by application for grants. This moving service is open to everyone (men included).

The Halifax Metro Women's Inter-Church Council consists of dedicated women who support organizations such as Elizabeth Fry

Society, Coverdale, Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority (APSEA), and Phoenix House. Saint David's has supported the WICC 'Food for Phoenix Program' for many years - April being the month for several Presbyterian churches. An appeal for this program is presented elsewhere in this current newsletter.

**Anne Sommerville**

## People of Promise

It's been hard to get our Bible study on track this Lent with storms and meetings and holidays. Here is a summary of where we hoped to go as 'A People of Promise' in our first four studies.

### Our study was meant to begin with Genesis 9...

From the beginning of time God has sought to live in relationship with human kind. Here, in the story of Noah, a more formal relationship is established called a covenant. In such a relationship promises are made and conditions are established to ensure that the covenant is maintained. In the story of Noah, God promises that the earth will never again be destroyed by water.

What God has promised, God will make good on, no matter what the apparent obstacles, and our job is simply to set about cooperating with the promise-maker rather than with the obstacles. Promise has already been prominent in Genesis

12:1-3, 7; 13:14-17; 15:1, 4-5, 7, 13-16, 18-21; 16:10-12 and now we turn to Genesis 17.

**Genesis 17:1-7, 15-17:** God makes a covenant treaty with Abram. In this covenant God says that he is making Abram the father of many nations and he renames him Abraham, meaning *father of many*. Perhaps the most striking point of newness is God's promise to Sarah (17:15-16). Sarah is made a co-participant in the divine promise regarding a son and his descendants. She has a promise in her own right, not simply through Abraham.

The Ten Commandments or "ten words" form the requirements of a covenant treaty from God, in the style typical of covenants made by a sovereign monarch to vassal kings. The Commandments are the central requirement of the stipulations made known to Moses. They define the life to be lived by the Lord's people in relation to God and in relation to

each other. They are the basis on which the people of God are to remain faithful. **Exodus 20: 1-17** The Commandments are opened with a statement about the giving of them. It is Israel's call to covenant faithfulness that is based on what God has done to free them from slavery and to make them God's covenant people. God will further bless them if they follow the divine path and do as God wants. However, their deliverance from Egypt is not dependent on this obedience. God has already graciously brought their salvation about, but has more for them in the future.

**John 3: 14-20.** From the Hebrew *Hesed* we receive the Greek word *agape* which is the primary word used in John 3:16. The word *agape* is also found in the second lesson for this day, in both noun and verb forms. Ephesians 2:1-10 speaks of the "great love (*agape*) with which he loved us ... " (v. 4). This is the essence of the new covenant relationship in Christ. The single

### Don Knox's Squash, Pear and Parsnip with Ginger Soup

Makes about 8 servings

4 carrots, peeled & diced  
4 parsnips, peeled & diced  
1 leek, white & pale green parts only, washed and sliced  
1 ripe pear, peeled, cored & diced  
¼ cup (60ml) grated fresh ginger  
2 Tbsp (30ml) unsalted butter  
2 medium butternut squash, peeled, seeded & diced  
½ cup (125ml) dry white wine  
1 tsp (5ml) dried oregano  
6 cups (1.5 L) chicken or vegetable stock  
In a large pot over medium heat, sauté the carrots, parsnip, leek and pear and ginger in the butter, until the leek is softened.  
Stir in the squash, wine and oregano. Add the stock. Bring to a boil over high heat, and then reduce the heat to medium-low. Simmer, uncovered, until the squash is tender, about 30 minutes.  
Puree the soup until smooth. Reheat over medium heat and add salt to taste.  
If required, add a swirl of whipping cream and some croutons or pinch of green herbs.

From the *Soup Sisters Cookbook*, edited by Sharon Hampton & published by Random House.

## Transitions

### Deaths

**Margot McCurdy,  
David Precious,  
Edwin Kinley  
Connie Fris  
Nigel Service**

*Blessed are they who die  
in the Lord*

### Holy Week & Easter

*Please join us for a half  
hour prayer service at 7:30  
a.m. followed by a  
continental breakfast.*

#### **Monday, March 30**

Cathedral Church of All  
Saints

#### **Tuesday, March 31**

Presbyterian Church of  
Saint David

#### **Wednesday, April 1**

First Baptist Church

#### **Thursday, April 2**

Maundy Thursday  
Communion @ 7:00 in the  
sanctuary

#### **Friday April 3**

Good Friday service 10:30  
– St. Andrew's United

#### **Easter Sunday April 5**

**6:40 am:** Easter Sunrise  
service at Point Pleasant  
Park (Lower Parking lot)  
with First Baptist. **Sunrise is  
6:48 am.**

**9:00 am:** Early service

**9:45 am:** Congregational  
potluck breakfast

**11:00 am:** Easter  
Communion/ Baptism

### Mark your Calendars!

Sunday, April 26,

Anniversary Service at  
11 am with Dr. Laurence  
DeWolfe as the guest  
speaker

most important thing to notice about this verse is that God loved the world. God deeply loved the world that God created, and God longs for this creation to live. The purpose of God's having sent the Son was to save the world, just as the purpose of commanding Moses to erect a serpent on a pole was to save the people from death.

All these passages help prepare us for an understanding of what God has done for us in the Easter event we are celebrating.

**Kenn Stright**

## Cold and Stormy Winter Makes Mission Work Even More Important This Year

Saint David's outreach to the community that surrounds our congregation continued this winter, despite raging storms and an icy driveway. Each Friday morning, guests arrive at the front door in a steady stream to share a filling meal and talk with friends. David's Place volunteers are also faithful in their attendance to help in the kitchen, serve at the tables, or chat with the guests.

A wonderful surprise arrived in the door one Friday in late February when Hugh Macdonald brought a gift of pairs of socks gathered by the members of First Presbyterian Church in Pictou. Food items contributed by the congregation on Food Bank Sunday and others from Feed Nova Scotia are offered for take-away as well as a few clothing items. Gifts of apples, toiletries, and cans of tuna are always welcome. The program is coordinated by Valerie MacDonald with support from Johannah Roberts.

Saint David's Mission and Outreach Committee is continuing our congregation's connection to the Out of the Cold Shelter which operates from December to April at St. Matthew's United Church. We supply take away lunches once a month. Anne Sommerville took on the job for March and delivered 15 packed lunches to St. Matthew's on March 7, which were then given out as guests left the shelter the next morning. A volunteer is needed for April to do this same job. Please contact Kathy Large if you are interested in this outreach.

The Out of the Cold Shelter has been extremely busy all winter, according to site coordinator Kayleigh James. An updated list of items the shelter needs on an on-going basis is available on their website: [www.outofthecoldhalifax.org](http://www.outofthecoldhalifax.org)

**Kathy Large**

