

# Summer 2017

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

## Out of the Mouths of Babes...

Laura Alary has created wonderful resources for the church at a level where children can understand and respond. "A Child's guide to Advent and Christmas" will be released this fall, joining the ever-growing collection of children's resources you'd love to have for your children and grandchildren.

A few years back when I was writing the "Kids of the Kingdom" books, I created some conversations kids might have about life in the church. Here's one of them:

### KID'S KONVERSATIONS

Our cast of characters:

Kid #1 is sort of the leader of this little group.

Kid #2 is the 'yeah' person and every line begins with... 'yeah'.

Kid #3 is timid but gets to the heart of things really fast.

Welcome to the world of 'Kids'. These three children will take us on a journey - a journey of faith in the promises of God, but they'll do it down at their level. If they had the ability to put into words all the things they think and feel and experience and believe, then we might overhear a few conversations ... like these.

1: We're Kids. We belong in God's kingdom. We're part of a club of kids who love Jesus and want to tell people about Jesus and learn about Jesus. This 'kingdom' is the place

where stuff happens the way God wants it to.

Jesus says so and Jesus tells the truth so you gotta believe him.

2: Yeah, Jesus said you big folks are supposed to be more like us.

You've gotta get down here where we are and see like we see.

3: It can be scary down here.

2: Yeah, you people are big and everything looks big from down here.

1: And you people do all the talking and you sometimes forget we're down here. How come you're always saying we should be seen and not heard and then you don't even see us or hear us?

2: Yeah, we count.

1: Even Jesus had trouble getting his friends to count us.

2: Yeah, when all those people got fed, they only counted the men.

Women didn't count and you can bet no-one paid any attention to us.

3: Well that isn't really fair. A few big people take time to look down once and awhile, like Andrew did and saw Timmy with his little lunch, just ready to share with that whole crowd of people. But that doesn't happen very often, except when Jesus is around.

2: Yeah, Jesus always seems to see us, no matter what size we are. Maybe that's because he can remember being a little kid and the crummy way he was treated, you know - being born in a barn and having to run away with his parents as a refugee when he was real little.

1: When he wanted big people to get a message about who's important and who's first, he took a little kid, like us, and said whether you're first or last in line, you got to be like a kid to get where you're going, especially if that

happens to be Jesus' place.

2: Yeah, and when the disciples wanted to chase us away he told you to become like one of us. Hey, that means we're pretty special.

3: We still know how to play and pretend and imagine all kinds of neat stuff. I guess its not so bad to be a child of God. I guess I really like being a kid of the kingdom.

2: Yeah.

***Kenn Stright***

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## Spring Update



While Kenn was enjoying a well-deserved vacation with

his family on a Mediterranean cruise, we had two very special services here at home.

On April 23, we welcomed Iona MacLean to the pulpit for our anniversary service. During the service she baptized Anderson Harris. The Harris family were members of Iona's church in Pictou, before they moved to Halifax. She married Ben and Mirren then baptized Anderson's older sisters Siobhan and Mairi. Both girls participated in the baptism and then helped Iona cut the anniversary

cake. During the announcements, we presented Iona with a

gift to mark her 40th anniversary of her ordination, which had taken place at Saint David's.

On April 30, we marked Mission Awareness Sunday. Four members of the Mission and Outreach Committee - Johannah Roberts, Barbara and Gary Smith and Nicole Watkins Campbell took part in the service leading in prayer, readings, and the community conversation. John Wamboldt conducted the service. We welcomed representatives from two recipients of grants from the Watson Fund. Greg Fraser, the treasurer of Camp Geddie, talked about the Mission Animator position and the importance of sharing mission with the youth who attend the camps. Kevin Kindred from Out-Of-the-Cold passionately shared the mission of the shelter

and why he finds it so important for himself, all the volunteers, and the nightly guests and the need to work at solving the issues that bring folks to their door.

Johannah also spoke on Saint David's own mission--David's Place - and the important role it plays in the lives of our guests. While we would pray that the day would come that there would not be a need for folks to come looking for food or shelter, the community spirit that is fostered there benefits everyone involved.

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***Valerie Macdonald***

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## **Transitions**

### ***Baptisms***

Anderson Richard Harris, son of Mirren and Ben Harris

### ***Graduations***

Alissa Taper from Sacred Heart. She plans

to pursue a degree in science

Reagan Mills from UPEI with his engineering diploma. He will be continuing studies toward his degree.

Simon McCormick graduated from Dalhousie Law School and will be articling with the firm of Stewart McKelvey

Amanda Saoud has completed the course work for her Masters degree in Communications and will be presenting her thesis in August prior to graduation in October.

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## **Building Fund**

You will have noticed the excavation at the back of the church and the large scaffolding at the front. The scaffolding at the front will permit repairs to the brickwork on the southeast corner, once the weather is warmer. The estimate for the

brickwork repair is \$7,500. If you would like to contribute, place a donation in the BUILDING FUND. If you have offering envelopes, use the Building Fund line. Otherwise you can use any envelope, mark it "Building Fund" and include your name or your envelope number.

### ***Finances in the Summer***

Many of us attend church less frequently in the summer than during other seasons. Unfortunately, Saint David's expenses with the exception of heating, do not decrease in the summer. If you are going to be away at any time of year, consider giving a lump sum before you leave, provide post-dated cheques, join the PAR program, or you could mail your offering to Saint David's Church, P.O. Box 36061, RPO Spring Garden, Halifax, N S B3J 3S9.

### ***Presbyterians Sharing***

Between January and May, \$10,880 was received. This is 54 per cent of our \$20,000 target.

***Mac Fyfe***

## **Remembering Margaret Hambleton**

Some will remember Margaret who attended Saint David's from the 1960s to 1990s.

Back in the early 2000s, when I was visiting with Brenda Fong, as her elder, our conversation led to me mentioning that I was going to be visiting Scotland and researching some of my Macpherson ancestry in Newtonmore (BBC's *Monarch of the Glen* territory). Brenda mentioned that a former member of Saint David's congregation, Margaret Hambleton, had been very active with Clan Macpherson activities while living in Halifax, but also in her homeland of Scotland,

writing articles, and sometimes being the editor of clan publications. Margaret emigrated to Nova Scotia in the late 1950s and soon met Arthur Hambleton, a widower, whom she eventually married and who had written a booklet on his own family history, as had Margaret. Margaret was a bright woman working as a senior economist with the N.S. Government. Although there was a substantial age gap, both Margaret and Arthur shared similar interests in life. They attended church services regularly - Arthur loved to sing and contributed his voice to the congregation. Margaret took an interest in Saint David's outreach programmes (along with recruiting me to be involved in the Halifax African Violet club). Margaret would contribute to outreach appeals but one, if not the most, memorable contribution she made occurred shortly before

she returned to Scotland in 1992. At that time Saint David's Auxiliary was very involved with several Halifax outreach programmes, one being Family SOS. It was the Auxiliary which originally initiated the Christmas Family Programme, providing gifts and food for one and sometimes two Family SOS single mothers, before joining up with the Guild and their Christmas Family programme. The Auxiliary was on a Family SOS contact list and had supplied the organization with numerous items - the latest request was for furniture for affordable housing. Margaret said she looked around her apartment one day and just decided to donate the entire apartment. You can't imagine how grateful Family SOS was - they were able to furnish several apartments.

When I did visit the Macpherson museum in Scotland, I mentioned Margaret - and received

a very warm welcome. While 'working over papers', I was served tea and cookies and was told this was not a regular occurrence with the Museum and its visitors. Out of curiosity I recently Googled Margaret and found that she had lived until the age of 91, passing away in June 2016. I suspect she kept on living an interesting and active life once she had returned to Scotland. Margaret was a good friend to Saint David's and to me.

### **Anne Sommerville**

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## **Word, Words, Words....**

In recent sermons I've suggested that ancient metaphors – like those involving sheep and living stones and many others no longer work in our 21<sup>st</sup> century and at the same time I've argued that it is crucial for the church to claim new metaphors that will have meaning for those who must live in the

world as we know it. Read the following exchange with the renowned Sociologist Diane Butler Bass as she reflects on her work:

*One of the things we love about your books is that you bring so much knowledge to the table, but also new language...so much beauty and metaphor and lyricism.*

*Thank you, I struggle and slave over that part of it but it matters to me. And to me, probably the biggest problem in the church right now is that the metaphors have failed. The metaphors have come to wound people. The metaphors make no sense, in relationship to science and the way we live in the world today. In order for a metaphor to function, it has to be able to connect to our hearts and to our minds. So, reaching for new language is a serious part of leadership in faith communities today. It's a big deal.*

**(Offered by Kenn Stright)**

## Summer Schedule

Once again, this summer we will be joining with First Baptist, St. John's United, and St. Andrew's United over the nine weeks of July and August. The schedule is as follows:

### July 2 and 9

St. John's United at the Maritime Conservatory on Chebucto Road

### July 16 and 23

Saint David's

### July 30 and August 6

First Baptist--1300 Oxford Street

### August 13, 20, and 27

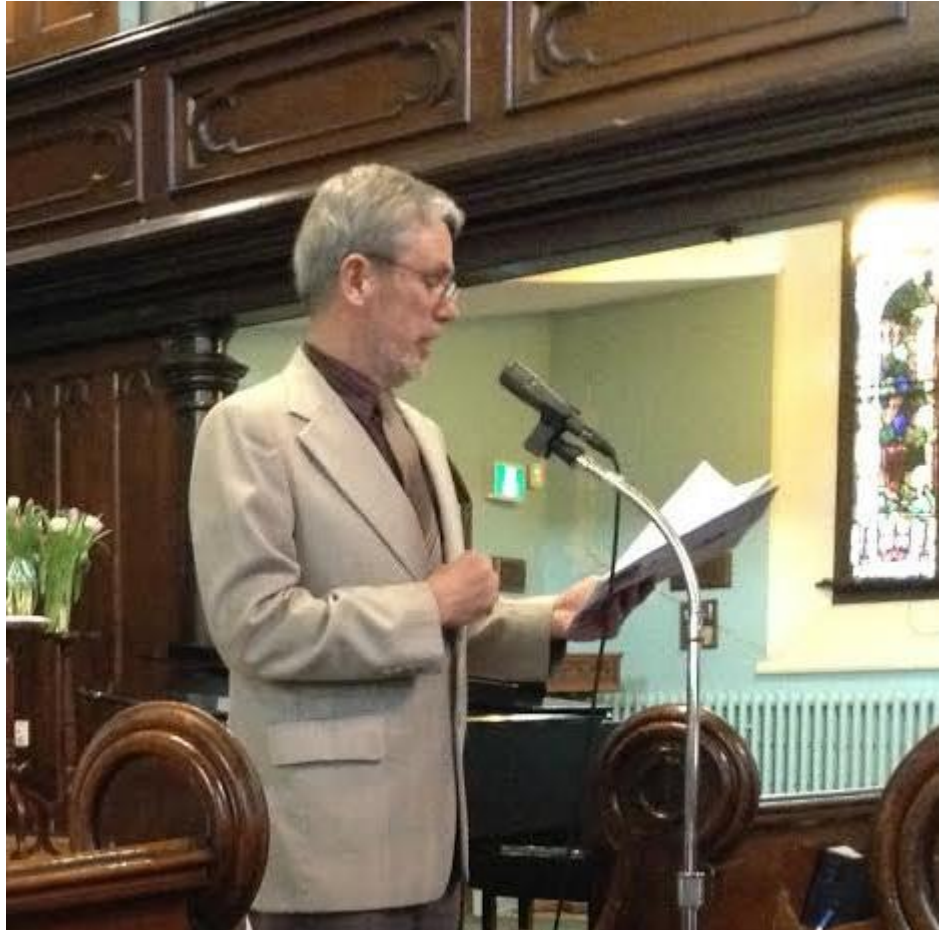
St. Andrew's United, corner of Robie and Coburg

**All services will start at 10:30**

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*The Members of the Worship and Church Life Committee Invite You to Stay After Church on Sunday, June 11 for a summer kick-off barbecue!*

*Congratulations to Kenn and Jeanne on the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of their ordinations.*



## Good News

We received the final itinerary for the Al Saghrji Family. They will arrive in Halifax on Thursday, June 15 at 3:08 on a flight from Toronto, after leaving Beirut Wednesday evening at 8 pm. It has been a long wait, but all our efforts are coming to fruition and we look forward to welcoming Saeed

and Maysan and their 3 children to Canada and particularly our community.

If you would like to see their new apt. There will be an open house on Wed. at Park Victoria, Apt. 413. Time to be confirmed ...