

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

At Saint David's

Halifax, NS
Winter 2017

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

Greetings from the Interim Moderator	1
Watson Fund	2
Much more Music	3
Christmas Families	3
Advent Services and Events	3
David's Place	3
A thank you letter	4
Even More Music	4
Finance News	5
The Elder Berries	5
Question Period	6

**The Presbyterian
Church of Saint David**
1544 Grafton Street
P.O.BOX 36061 RPO Spring
Garden
Halifax, Nova Scotia
B3J 3S9

Newsletter editor:
Mac Mackay
macmackay@ns.sympatico.ca

Web Site:
www.saintdavids.ca

Greetings from the Interim Moderator:

It is appropriate that we begin our relationship in earnest as the Season of Advent begins. Though I was appointed by the Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg to begin November 1st upon the retirement of The Rev. Kenneth Stright, and while I have been at various meetings and events through November to start the process, it is now in the worship and service of Advent, that we both ground ourselves in the reality of the present and look toward the future in hope.

For that is the meaning and purpose of Advent. It is a time, yes, when the church prepares through Scripture and prayer for the celebration of the birth of Christ. But it is even more profoundly a time when the church considers the ultimate promises of God for the world and the whole creation. It is a time when we ache for God's presence

and yearn for things to be set right, and a time when we wondrously hear that God has heard our cry and that there is hope in the One who has made us and to whom we belong.

The Presbyterian Church of St. David has been through a trying and challenging time with concerns related to the changes in the building and finances and, now, a change in ministry leadership. Midst global uncertainty and turmoil and hurt, there is also congregational anxiety, sadness and concern. But when we look to Scripture, we realize there has never been an easy time for the people of God. The calling of God has never been simple and straightforward and trouble-free. It is in the midst of exile in Babylon, after losing their homeland, their temple, their security, their dreams, that the people hear the word of the Lord through the beleaguered prophet Jeremiah:

For surely I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans for your welfare

and not for harm, to give you a future with hope. [Jeremiah 29.11]

This is God's promise to the people of God and to the world--and to us at The Presbyterian Church of St. David. We do not know what the future will look like but, in the encouraging words of an article I recently found in an old *Presbyterian Record*, "The best is yet to come."

As we get to know each other and work together over the coming months, let us live in hope. God has plans for us--for our welfare and not for harm, to give us a future with hope. Let us open our minds and hearts and imaginations to see where God is leading us. In the words of *Living Faith*, "May the God of hope fill us with joy and peace in believing so that by the power of the Holy Spirit we abound in hope!" [L.F. 10.7]

As we move through Advent to the Christmas season and beyond, may the world--and may we all--know the hope, peace, joy and love offered through the greatest and central gift of Christmas: Emmanuel, God-with-us.

Peace,

Iona MacLean

Watson Fund

Twice yearly, the Helen M. Watson funds makes contributions to support missionary work in Halifax. Six grants from the Watson Fund are now on their way to:

Out of the Cold Shelter	\$5,000
Phoenix Youth Programs	\$1,000
Coverdale Courtwork Society	\$1,000
David's Place	\$5,000
St Paul's Family Resources	\$500

For more information on the Watson Fund or to make an application – see our Website

Much (more) Music

On September 3, 2017 we were thrilled to welcome Nick Veltmeyer to Saint David's as our new organist and choir director. Nick was born in Halifax in 1991 and resides just a short walk from the church.

He received a B.A. in Classics and Religious Studies from the University of King's College and went on to study organ and conducting with Paul Halley and a number of other notable musicians in Canada and other parts of the world.

He was interim organist at the Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax and is the assistant organist at the University of King's College Chapel. Nick has been a guest organist at too many churches to list, around Nova Scotia and in Ottawa. He has also been involved with the Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir of Halifax.

In the larger community Nick has founded educational music programs in various locales and conducted workshops with children, youth, and high school students. Just recently he organized special music events featuring guest artists at Christ Church in Dartmouth and is doing the same at Saint David's this fall.

Also in 2017 Nick was commissioned to compose for the Mount Allison University Chapel organ. He has also composed music performed at our Oct. 8 service.

We look forward to Saint David's joining the ranks of First Baptist, the Cathedral and St. Matthews who are well known for their music in the community at large.

Phyllis Morrison

Nicole Watkins Campbell

Christmas Families

Saint David's is supporting four families this Christmas for our annual Christmas mission. Most of the gift tags have been claimed by members who want to shop for the children and parents, but a few remain. To take part in this joyful experience, take a tag on Sunday (leave your name on part of it) and purchase the item listed on the tag. Return your unwrapped item to the church by Sunday, Dec. 17 with its tag attached. We will also need financial support to buy groceries and volunteers to shop for groceries for Christmas dinners and for any final items; to wrap gifts on Dec. 21; and to deliver food and gifts that day. Contact Nicole Watkins Campbell if you have questions: 902 422-5828.

Who said it? #1

God loves us as if there were only one of us.

Advent Services and Events

Saturday, December 9
3 p.m. Carol Service

Sunday, December 10
9 a.m. Communion
11 a.m. Advent 2:
The Candle of Peace, lit by the Nickerson family

Friday, December 15
10 a.m. David's Place Christmas Dinner - All are welcome

Sunday, December 17
9 a.m. Communion
11 a.m. Advent 3:
The Candle of Joy

Thursday, December 21
10 a.m. Christmas Family Wrapping Party and Delivery
7 p.m. Longest Night Service, First Baptist Church

Friday, December 22
10 a.m. David's Place -- All are welcome

Sunday, December 24
11 a.m. Advent 4:
The Candle of Love

Christmas Eve
4 p.m. "Angels of the Nativity" Service, led by the Church School. The Christ Candle

7 p.m. Holy Night Service, led by The Rev. Iona MacLean, Interim Moderator:
The Christ Candle

Friday, December 29
10 a.m. David's Place -- All are welcome

10 Things Always Welcome For David's Place

Toilet paper, tea bags, grocery bags, Ivory Soap, Dove Soap, Socks, Gloves, Toiletries from your travels, chapstick, alcohol-free hand sanitizer.

And don't forget – Canadian Tire money is also welcome- there is a specially marked box at the main aisle of the church.

And grocery bags are always in demand.

The writer of Hebrews urged fellow believers to “continue to remember those in prison as if you were together with them in prison, and those who are mistreated as if you yourselves were suffering” (13:3).

***A thank you letter
from Kenn and
Jeanne Stright***

To the Presbyterian Church
of Saint David:

Greetings in Christ:

I'm probably not quite over the shock of retirement, the sudden ending of a forty year long full time ministry, or the novelty of having the commodity of 'time' to do things I've put off for months and years.

One thing I simply cannot put off is saying 'thank-you' to a marvellous congregation made up of so many wonderful people I've grown to know and love over the years. Church tradition says I need to keep a healthy distance for a while from the congregational life you enjoy but that does not diminish my care and concern for the ongoing life of the congregation. As you have so wonderfully embraced me over the years, I now hold you in the care and keeping of the Christ of God.

Thank you for everything, the cards, the gifts, the crocus bulbs you gave Jeanne which I planted yesterday, the gifts of money to myself and to

Presbyterian World Service and Development. I've directed Mac to send this gift to PWS&D earmarked for Mulange Maternity hospital in Malawi. I visited this hospital while in Malawi and have seen the amazing work that is done with minimal resources. The gift you made possible at my retirement will make an amazing difference to the work they do! Dr. Lappin, you would be in doctor's heaven if you could see what they accomplish!

I've forgotten to say many things in this note but not to say 'thank you' and God's blessing in the mission and ministry before you.

All our love and prayers

Kenn and Jeanne (Stright)

Even More Music

Most of our choir members are new to Saint David's. They are very approachable and like to talk as well as to sing! Please greet them after church.

Emma is a fourth year student at the University of King's College, where she studies Classics and the History of Science and Technology, and sings alto in the Chapel Choir. She is originally from the Fraser Valley in BC. Emma says

thank you to everyone for being so welcoming and encouraging to the new choir, Sunday mornings have been a delight to share with you!

Mary Louise Belyea is from Saint John, New Brunswick and in her second year at King's College studying computer science and voice. She normally sings soprano and honestly can't think of a time when she wasn't singing. She is a choral scholar with the University of King's College chapel choir.

She is so excited to be a member of this parish and this choir, it's so much fun and I feel that through music, we as a choir are really doing God's work.

Caleigh Davis is from Halifax, sings alto, has been singing for eight years and has previously sung with the King's College Chapel Choir when I was a student there. After she finished her degree she spent some time in Europe, and is currently pursuing a career in law enforcement. She says going to the gym is her favourite hobby outside of music. "I am excited to be involved in the wonderful spiritual community at St. David's and am very thankful to be working such great choristers with my good friend and musical mentor Nick V.

Marielle Nicol grew up in Ottawa, Ontario singing in church choirs and playing the piano and guitar at home with my family. She is currently finishing up a degree in Classics and Religious Studies at Dalhousie University & the University of King's College, where she used to sing in the Chapel Choir. "I am now having a marvelous time singing soprano in the choir here at beautiful Saint David's." Apart from singing and studying she works downtown at Biscuit General Store and owns and operates an online second hand clothing business called GOLDEN Clothing & Design.

FINANCE NEWS

Presbyterians Sharing:

Received up to November 30th: \$18,938
95% of our \$20,000 target

Presbyterian World Service and Development:

Regular PWS&D \$1,950
Famine relief \$2,690
Kenn's gift from congregation \$2,310

SPECIAL APPEAL NEWS

In September we sent letters to the congregation asking everyone to contribute to a Special Appeal.

To date a total of \$8,250 has been received. This helped us

through a difficult period at the end of the summer. We thank those who made these special donations.

OFFERINGS in 2017

Up to the end of November, \$110,823 has been received in offerings. This is 85% of our \$130,000 offering budget. One month to go!

*Thank you
Mac Fyfe, Davida Mackay,
John Wamboldt
The Finance Committee*

The Elderberries

The Elderberries is a friendly social group for LGBTQ+ Nova Scotians aged 50 and older. Monthly events are held at a variety of venues; including theatre outings, educational and social events. We give personal testimonies to young people in GSAs at schools or their conferences. All events focus on remaining accessible for all, both financially and physically.

To join the Elderberries mailing list, please contact elderberries.scotia2@gmail.com. Or you can like our facebook page. Our newsletters are archived at <http://gay.hfxns.org/ElderBerries>

Who said it? #2

If God is your partner, make your plans BIG!

Did you know?

Saint David's once had a manse? This large house, located at 6138 Oakland Road, is still standing. It was sold in 1965.

Floor plans of the house drawn by elder George Miller have recently been discovered.

They will be on a display board at the church if you want to see them.

Who are they?

One of the most beautiful of our stained glass windows is the Rose Window in the chancel directly above the communion table.

There are six persons pictured in the window. Can you name them?

If you look closely you can read their names.

Do you see something odd about the window?

Answers in the next issue of *At Saint David's*

Who said it? #3

Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength is.

Have you noticed?

Fresh new paint on the walls and stunning Christmas decorations?

A small crew of hard workers completed a repainting of the south wall and portions of the north wall over two Saturdays. First the white sills were repainted, just in time for the Christmas decorators to install the garlands at each window.

Then it was time for crack filling of the blue walls. Barb MacKeigan was the chief drywaller for this work, which she did on a Friday afternoon and evening.

Then on the following day, Barb, Don Knox, Colin MacPherson and Mac Mackay saw to the sanding, washing and painting. All will agree that this has been a welcome improvement, and thanks are due to this dedicated team.

With that work done the Christmas decoration team was able to continue their work, which has resulted in a very different look this Christmas.

Katherine Reid, Jane Reardon and Phyllis Morrison deserve special thanks for all their work.

Heating

As you can imagine, a building as big as Saint David's has a large heating plant. A new programmable thermostat for the main sanctuary has been installed. This will allow us to better regulate temperature and save fuel costs.

We have two oil fired boilers in the basement.

These are in excellent condition, but require regular maintenance.

We've recently had new oil filters and a new pressure relief valve installed. The last should also reduce out heating costs.

The building was converted from hot air to hot water heating in the 1940s and a variety of cast iron radiators were installed. Most were bought used. A recent leak in one of the valves caused water damage to the ceiling in the south exit, which has now been repaired.

Some of the radiators in the balconies were war surplus, and you can find identical radiators in the crew quarters of HMCS

Sackville

Answers to Who Said It:

1. (St.) Augustine
2. Dwight L. Moody
(an American evangelist of the late 1800s)
3. Mother Teresa.

THANKS

Thanks to all the contributors to this newsletter. If you have something you would like to share about life at Saint David's please e-mail me any time. We hope to have next issue out before Easter.

Mac Mackay

Editor in Chief

macmackay@ns.sympatico.ca

HOSTS, READERS and GREETERS

Saint David's is always looking for volunteers!

Hosts are needed for our after service refreshments. Would you like to read one of the lessons at the 11 am service?

Do you like to be welcomed at the door when you arrive for a service at Saint David's?

Have you ever considered being one of those greeters?

You get to share your love of attending Saint David's with those arriving and is a way of living

Our Vision:

***A Worshipping,
Sharing,
Welcoming Community***

.