



At Saint David's

Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

June 2012

IMAGINE

We are to be blessed this fall with a return visit of John Bell, one of the foremost hymnists of the 21st century and an inspiration to all who hear him speak. The last weekend of September will have John in a speaking role here at Saint David's. Instead of the expected leadership in congregational singing, John will be leading a weekend called "Imagine" and here he will challenge us to imagine what worship in the future will look like.

Are you disappointed that John will be concentrating on the speaking aspect? Don't worry. He will join us for worship at 9 am and 11 am on September 30 and the focus will be on music and congregational singing.

The Synod of the Atlantic Provinces through the programming committee is initiating this spectacular event that will bring folks from across Atlantic Canada to our facilities here at the Presbyterian Church of Saint David.

And we will host them royally! Our Mission and Outreach Committee will use the opportunity to again promote mission in our midst, serving lunch to all the participants on Saturday, and using the proceeds for the Halifax Refugee Clinic, which has become a focus for the work of the committee.

The folks from the Lenten Chowder luncheon will get into the act as well, serving the Sunday lunch to all for this special event.

And you have a part to play as well as we open our hearts to warmly welcome all those who come. This is one in a series of events that help support of the ministry of Saint David's following in the footsteps of fundraising at Lent and Christmas. We thank all who help in this way.

So this one event highlights the mission and ministry of the congregation in a number of ways as mission is promoted, ministry is funded and people are welcomed into the life of our congregation for this special event. And you have a part to play as well as we open our hearts to warmly welcome all those who come.

Oh, and don't forget - you too can register and be part of the event as a participant! Details are found in this newsletter!

"The Program Committee of the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces is hosting a lecture series, "Imagine" with presenter, John Bell of the Iona Community on September 28-30th, at the Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS. Cost is \$75. John will present lectures on the topics of "The Pre-requisite Called Community", "The Engaged Spirituality of Jesus", and "The Imagination as a Resource for Faith". As well, he will be providing music leadership in morning worship at the Church of Saint David.

Registration deadline is September 1, 2012.

Kenn Stright

In Memoriam

Rev. Dr. John Pace died in Halifax on May 21, 2012. Born in Belfast, Northern Ireland on May 7, 1928, he was the son of Jack & Lily Pace. In 1947, he emigrated by boat, arriving in New York and then taking the train to Hamilton, Ontario. After engaging in a variety of businesses, he studied at McMaster University and graduated in 1961 with a BA.

He entered Knox College that fall and graduated with a Bachelor of Divinity degree in 1964. After he was ordained, he served as a minister at St. James, Preville, St. Paul's, Hamilton & St. Paul's, Ingersoll. After working in the health services field in Ontario, he moved to Nova Scotia and worked as a counsellor with Nova Scotia Drug Dependency.

On April 1, 1976, he was inducted as the minister of The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax where he served until retirement in 1998; subsequently, he was given the title of Minister Emeritus of that congregation. In May 1993, Knox College, Toronto granted him the honorary degree of Doctor of Divinity.

John and Margaret (nee Logan) were married on June 2, 1951. He is survived by Margaret, son, Derek and daughter, Diane Pace (Rob Sutherland) and three grandchildren: Cavan, Keiren, and Kailie. A service, conducted by the Presbytery of Halifax & Lunenburg, was held at The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, on Friday, May 25 at 3:00 p.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Camp Geddie c/o the Presbyterian Church of St. David.

Thank You

John Wamboldt recently indicated his intention not to continue as Superintendent and Teacher of the Saint David Church School. After approximately 15 years of caring and mentoring our young people, he is well deserving of his upcoming retirement. As a former Church School parent and colleague, I want to personally wish John well and to thank him for the many, many hours he has devoted to our children.

My son, John, was in John's first class at Saint David's. Over the years John became a friend to all who passed through his classroom - he would call each and everyone on their birthdays - no matter how old they became - he continued to speak to them as a genuine friend - his caring devotion to our children and his dedicated commitment to the Church School programme will be long remembered - John - thank you for being a friend and mentor to the junior members of our congregation.

Anne Sommerville

Saint David's Church School News

Sunday, June 3 will be the last day of classes until the fall. Our thanks go to everyone who participated. Some taught, some gave, some prayed, some helped the teachers. It was all necessary.

Even though there are no regular classes, summer at Saint David's is always a joy. If you are in the city, please continue to bring the family each week. You'll be glad you did.

John Wamboldt

Summer Schedule:

July 15 – Rev. Suk ho Lee preaching

July 22 & August 19 - Rev. Kenn Stright

July 29, Aug. 5 & 12 Kenn in Trinidad and away

Aug 26- TBA

Last 9 a.m. service on June 10 until mid-September

“Pray always and do not lose heart”

In Luke 18:1-8 we read Jesus’ parable about a judge and a widow. The widow has suffered some injustice, and so she goes to the judge to seek redress. The judge is not a God-fearing man and has little respect for others, so he refuses her. But the widow is persistent and returns to him, again and again, asking for justice. Finally, the judge gives in and grants her request, not because he is compassionate, but to stop her from pestering him. Jesus’ interpretation of the story is – if such an unmerciful judge will eventually grant justice, how much more so will God grant justice to those who call on him.

Jesus’ parable about the persistent widow has much to teach those of us engaged in the work of public justice and advocacy.

1. Jesus’ parable teaches that it is good and right to seek justice where injustice has been committed. Scripture insists that God is a God of justice; God longs to offer justice to the victims of injustice. As God’s people, we are called to be about the work of justice too.

2. The parable demonstrates that seeking justice is ultimately about people. The focus of the parable is not the injustice committed – we do not even know what wrong was done. The focus is on the widow, a particularly vulnerable person in her society. Justice-making is not about an abstract concept or theory, or even the latest burning issue. Recently, I helped to organize a seminar on global justice with university students from across Canada. We talked at length about many troubling issues. Later on, one student reflected that the most significant experience of the seminar was not the presentations and discussions, but sharing lunch with a destitute man that he met on the street. Jesus’ parable reminds us that our advocacy for justice must be rooted in relationships with real people who are hurting.

3. The parable calls justice-seekers to persistence. When I think of the persistence of the widow, I am reminded of a U.S. colleague of mine, Titus Peachey. Thirty years ago Titus and his partner Linda were serving with MCC in Laos. They learned of the millions of cluster bombs dropped by U.S. bombers on

Laos in the 1970s, and how the bomb fragments continued to kill and harm the Lao people years later. Titus made cluster bombs his cause and began to work doggedly and persistently with others to eradicate cluster bombs. In 2008 an international cluster bomb convention was signed and in 2010 it came into force. The work is not over – right now Titus is working to get the U.S. to sign on to the convention. But much has been accomplished through the persistence of folks like Titus.

4. The parable invites justice-seekers to humility and confession. I suspect that, if we could place ourselves into the story, most of us would like to become advocates for the widow. But I think at times we are more like the uncaring judge. Perhaps because our lives are so removed from the poor, we have lost true compassion for those who suffer. Perhaps because we think we know what justice looks like, we forget to listen to others. Perhaps because we are complicit in systems that oppress some people while enriching others, we are more of the problem than the solution. The parable invites us to self-reflection, to humility and to confession.

5. The parable reminds us to pray always and not lose heart. Seeking justice is a daunting task. The inequities of our world are so staggering and the structures of oppression so entrenched, that true change seems impossible. We grow weary, we lose heart and we are tempted to give up. A woman in a displaced persons camp in eastern Congo recently said to a colleague of mine, “We are weeping tears. We are afraid the church will get tired of helping us.”

In such a context Jesus reminds us to pray. When we live prayerfully we become centred on God, and we are reminded that justice-making is not about us but about God’s own persistent patient way of redemption. As God’s children, we are called to seek justice and to act justly, but it is God who will ultimately redeem all creation. When we pray always, we learn to entrust all of life to the One who is truth, compassion, mercy and justice. When we live our lives in that prayerful spirit, we will not lose heart.

Esther Epp-Tiessen

- *a special reflection by KAIROS Companion Esther Epp-Tiessen on the power of prayer and perseverance.*

Transitions

Deaths:

Margaret Shears

Bill Fong

Rev. Dr. John Pace

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

Congratulations to:

Kathryn Blaikie and Jessica Boone on their upcoming graduation from Sir John A. MacDonald High School. Kathryn is class valedictorian and will be attending Queens University in the fall to study for her Bachelor of Science. Jessica will be at Acadia pursuing a Bachelor of Commerce.

Bridget Lappin, on her upcoming graduation from the University of Kent, with a degree in dance. She will be continuing her studies in Bern Switzerland

Sarah Macdonald, on her graduation from Saint Mary's University, with her Bachelor of Arts. She will be attending Mount Saint Vincent University in the fall to study Education.

Simon McCormick, on his graduation from Dalhousie, with his Bachelor of Commerce. Simon is planning to take a year off before continuing his studies.

John Sommerville, on his graduation from Dalhousie, with his Master of Resource and Environmental Management. He is currently working for the Nature Conservancy of Canada in Ontario.

Siobhan Shears, on her graduation from Dalhousie, with a Masters in Public Administration. She will be presented with the 2012 IPAC award for academic excellence for fulltime students in a special ceremony at Government House this month.

Adam Skinner on being chosen to represent Nova Scotia in the national youth honour choir. Adam is spending the summer singing in Great Britain.

Registration Form

IMAGINE

AN INSPIRATIONAL &
EDUCATIONAL LECTURE SERIES

WITH

JOHN BELL

SEPTEMBER 28-30, 2012

PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH OF SAINT DAVID
HALIFAX, NS

Please complete this form and send it, with your \$75 registration fee (student: \$55) to:

Valerie Burke
50 White Road

Enfield, NS

B2T 1L4

Telephone number: 902-883-5507

Email: v.f@burkemail.ca

Cheques may be made payable to: "Synod of the Atlantic Provinces"

Name:

Mailing Address:

Postal Code:

Phone:

Email Address:

Food Allergies:

Lunches Requested:

Saturday Lunch: _____

Sunday Lunch: _____

Please register by September 1, 2012

Sponsored by:

The Synod of the Atlantic Provinces,
The Presbyterian Church in Canada