

At Saint David's

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Happy
Thanksgiving



More than Enough

Archbishop Dom Helder Camara of Recife, Brazil, once said, "When I give bread to the hungry I am called a saint, but when I ask why the people are hungry, I am called a communist."

KAIROS is the Canadian Ecumenical Justice Initiative - a church-based social justice movement encouraging faithful ecumenical response to the call to "do justice, and to love kindness and to walk humbly with your God" (Micah 6:8).

We believe that

- Poverty in the midst of plenty is a fundamental injustice and contrary to God's desire for humankind.
- Poverty in Canada and globally is not inevitable and is not acceptable.
- The elimination of poverty and hunger must be the priority of all levels of

government.

The scriptures take us to an uncomfortable place - to the place where our prosperity and the poverty of the world meet and kiss... and it isn't by accident that this Thanksgiving day begins the week to end poverty and neither is it an accident that within this coming week we celebrate both World Food Day on the 16th and The United Nations International Day for the Eradication of Poverty on the 17th.

Walter Brueggemann wrote in the Christian Century an article entitled, **'The liturgy of abundance, the myth of scarcity'**, and does a much better job than I've done in placing before you the providence of God in the face of the lie that we live on an impoverished planet. He writes, "We have a love affair with **'more'** - and we will never have enough. Consumerism is not just a marketing strategy. It has become

a demonic spiritual force among us, ..." He concludes his comments (and his denunciation of our life and lifestyle) with the observation, "... the creation is infused with the Creator's generosity, and we can find practices, procedures and institutions that allow that generosity to work. Like the rich young man in Mark 10, we all have many possessions (**more than enough**). Sharing our abundance may, as Jesus says, be impossible for mortals, but nothing is impossible for God. None of us knows what risks God's spirit may empower us to take. There are two ways to enter any day. One say, 'Good Lord, its morning!' The other says, 'Good morning, Lord'. The difference is cultivating an attitude of gratitude.

Kenn Stright

Fellowship of the Least Coin

Apart from being involved with organizations- the Elizabeth Fry Society, the Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority), and Phoenix House, the WICC undertakes two major events each year - the annual Fall Rally which includes the Fellowship of the Least Coin and the World Day of Prayer in the spring.

The upcoming Fall Rally is taking place on Monday, October 19 at 7:00pm at Edgewood-Oxford United Church, 3055 Connaught Avenue. The theme of the service is "Fishers of Humankind". Speaker is Maggie Whittingham-Lamont, Seafarer Coordinator of the Halifax Mission to Seafarers. A free-will offering will be received for the Mission to Seamen. Reception to follow the service. All Are Welcome!

The Fellowship of the Least Coin is an annual, world-wide, ecumenical prayer event for peace, justice, and reconciliation held each October

**Anne Sommerville
(Women's Inter-
Church Council of
Halifax
representative)**

Our Mission – David's Place –September 27

With Thanksgiving just two weeks away and today being Presbyterians Sharing Sunday, it is an ideal time to reflect on our mission of David's Place.

David's Place **is** a community!

One where our guests are welcomed with a smile, served a healthy meal and offered caring friendship.

Our numbers are up - we now average approximately 50 people every Friday.

Sadly, it is more difficult now for our guests to meet their own needs.

Food prices have increased, donations to food banks have decreased, health challenges persist, and the cooler weather is upon us necessitating turning on the heat, all on a **very** limited income.

I had the privilege of hearing Stephen Lewis and Romeo Dallaire speak about ending the use of child soldiers. I want to share a quote of Gen Dallaire's.

"We are all human beings. Not one of us is

more human than the other. Be sensitive to humanity". It is simple statement but yet, profoundly moving.

Immediately our friends at DP sprang to mind. We all deserve to be healthy, safe, sheltered, and treated with dignity and respect. Our vulnerable DP friends are no different.

You have lovingly supported David's Place since its inception and the DP community thanks you.

We hope that you can continue in your generosity to help sustain this congregational mission outreach.

We need:

Non-perishable food

A Letter from a Friend of David's Place

Dear Folks:

I come to your church every Friday for lunch. I truly look forward to it. I am on a fixed income and live in low-cost housing. I don't have a lot of dollars.

You people are the kindest, nicest, most thoughtful people I have ever met. I feel so at Home in your Beautiful church. I just want you to know how much I appreciate what you do!

I am leaving this bag of clothes (I washed them) to give to the folks that come on Friday. It's not much, but hope it helps someone who needs them.

Sincerely,
Bob M.

items for the food bank table

Toiletries: toothpaste, individually packaged toothbrushes, dental floss, toilet tissue, individual packets of Kleenex

Outerwear: gloves, mittens, hats, scarves, and warm socks

To share in community, to serve with **love and compassion** as Jesus taught us teaches us just how relevant our faith is in today's world, right here on Pizza Corner.

We can all participate... a little or a lot...with donations, volunteered time and talents, and especially with prayer.

Thank you.

Grafton Street Methodist Church Recovers From the Halifax Disaster

Several Halifax churches suffered extensive damage as a result of the December 1917 explosion in Halifax Harbour. Four were destroyed, including Grove Presbyterian and Kaye Street Methodist, while others, such as St John's Presbyterian on Brunswick Street, were left beyond repair. Many members and adherents lost their lives. Clergy and people alike looked to the Halifax Relief Commission, established by the federal government in January 1918, to finance repair or rebuilding. The commission's higher priority, however, was to rehabilitate individual surviving victims of the disaster, not organizations whose infrastructure had suffered, and there were competing demands for compensation from many private bodies other than churches. Though the commission's funds were large – ultimately \$27 million – they were also limited and not eligible for any increase in the principal. What follows is a stenographic report of a conference between church and commission. It took an entire year before the commission and Grafton Street Methodist came to a meeting of minds. A full and final settlement on terms favourable to the church was reached in October 1919, the commission having in the interim converted its

\$5,000 interest-bearing loan into a grant.

CONFERENCE Sept. 12th, 1918 3:30 pm
Representatives of Grafton Street Methodist Church Present:
Mr. T.S. Rogers [Chair, Halifax Relief Commission; a Baptist]
Mr. F. H. Oxley [Board of Stewards?]
Mr. A.S. Rogers [Minister, Grafton Street Methodist]
Mr. Melvin [Trustee?]

Mr. Oxley:
The object of our visit today is with regard to the Grafton Street Methodist Church. First of all, as to the appraisements. I believe the estimates were forwarded on the 20th April, the appraisal being \$18,500, damage.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
This estimate was not on our behalf. Mr. Flinn made an appraisal for us. Brookfield [contractor] made your appraisal. We do not pay any attention to other estimates.

Mr. Oxley:
You send your own appraisers.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
\$14,355 is our appraisal against your appraisal of \$18,500.

Mr. A.S. Rogers:
That includes \$1200 for school, which brings it down to about \$16,600 against what Mr. Flinn has appraised it at \$14,355 for the church.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
The School [church hall] has been settled for, which leaves \$14,355 for the church.

Mr. Oxley:
I was speaking of the whole amount. The other day we had -- of course you will understand, we have to keep the place in repair. We received bills amounting to \$2400.00 which we sent in to you with the idea that you would look them over and treat us generously but we got a reply --.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
Where did you get this idea?

Mr. Oxley:
From the generous way in which the other churches had been treated. I got a reply to my letter of August 17, dated Sept. 3rd (read letter of Sept. 3rd). I know from outside sources that you are helping some of the other churches.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
Yes, we have helped the Africville [sic: African] Methodist Episcopal [Zion Church] for instance.*

Mr. A.S. Rogers:
Many of the churches we know of have been given grants.

Mr. T.S. Rogers:
What about St. Joseph's [Roman Catholic]?

Chairman:
It is impossible for us to establish any policy for churches that will not leave us open to criticism. It is very difficult to compare

Presbyterian Record

At the Congregational meeting it was decided to affirm the recommendation that we discontinue participation in the Every Home Plan. Thus, over the summer your subscription came to an end unless you signed up for a personal one with the national office. However, the church did purchase four subscriptions which will be available in the sanctuary for borrowing--either for yourself or possibly someone is not able to get to church and would enjoy reading an issue. Perhaps you would be interested in sponsoring a subscription for our ministry to shut-ins. The cost would be \$28.19 for a year.

PRESBYTERIANS SHARING

"Saint David's contribution to Presbyterians Sharing received up to September 30 is \$16,325. This is 74 per cent of our \$22,000 target amount for this year. Many thanks to everyone who contributed. Three months to go.

your case with others. We sent to your church for a statement asking you to let us know your resources.

Mr. Oxley:

I suppose that was attended to.

Mr. Rogers:

There was information given.

Mr. Oxley:

Was it not attended to, Mr. (A.S.) Rogers?

There was information sent in.

Mr. Rogers (Chairman)

We have had to draw the line between North and South end churches. Most of the churches in the south end received less injury than those in the north end and therefore we have directed the churches in the south end not to press their claims on us at the present time until we find out where we are. There are some churches that will have to struggle along. There are some that we have given to, of course, and we have been generous. More particularly to churches that require some money to keep the place from further destruction. Park St. Church [Presbyterian] and Trinity Church [Church of England] for instance. Where it is absolutely necessary that they should receive assistance, and in cases where we have been convinced that they had to have aid. The South End churches we have not assisted except in one or two cases. We

have not paid one cent to St. Mary's [Roman Catholic] nor have they asked for anything. Our difficulty is that our fund is not large enough to meet all the losses. We have thrown the care of school houses back on the city absolutely. We have thrown all the industrial property back on the owners. We have thrown all the business community back on their own resources. We have asked these men to finance themselves. If we had known how our funds were going to be we would have drawn a different line with regard to churches. We are going to ask the Grafton [Street] Methodist Church to do this unless you are not in a position to finance yourselves.

Mr. Oxley:

You may not know it, but I am quite clear in stating that Grafton [Street] Church is financed by ten men. Others are of course helping, but that is the condition today and I think nobody will contradict me.

Chairman:

Are you in as bad a condition as the Brunswick [Street Methodist] Church?

Mr. Oxley:

We have always paid our bills. Even supposing you do not grant us anything like our claim \$14,000. We have had to spend \$2500 on absolutely

necessary repairs and we must now have the roof repaired which will cost us a couple of thousand more.

Mr. A.S. Rogers:

More than that Mr. Oxley.

Mr. Oxley:

Well it is all shattered. I do not know if it – Mr. Brookfield [contractor] told us a few days ago that it was canted but did not alarm us at all about it. All the roof is up, but a certain amount of that roof that even if you do not give us a grant, must be fixed before the snow comes.

Chairman:

Have you no plastering?

Mr. Oxley:

Yes, but we are not worrying about that. If you can give us a temporary grant---

Chairman:

You have spent \$2500. How much will it take to fix the roof?

Mr. Oxley:

The roof requires all the slates taken off and new ones put on. What do you say a fair value of re-slating with ---.

Chairman:

That is necessary to be done this fall in order to preserve your church from destruction. A couple of thousand more.

Mr. A.S. Rogers:

I think that would keep it in order for the time being until you have had time to consider the stand ---.

Chairman:

We have had time to consider that now, from the reports of the heads

of our departments, which are being furnished us at our request. If I had known what I know today, with regard to churches, I would have said that I could not look at them. Of course, you are not going to suffer, because you have delayed your request.

Mr. A.S. Rogers

I see what you mean.

Chairman:

Is there one Methodist Church in the city which cannot do its financing?

Mr. Oxley:

We have not a cent of debt on the property and there is no question about it that we can raise a mortgage on it.

Chairman:

I advise you not to do that.

Mr. A.S. Rogers:

We have had \$3000 or \$4000 on it.

Mr. Oxley:

We are just paying it off. We are not making ourselves out as paupers, but as I told you, it depends on ten people and when I tell you this I am sure I am not depleting the value of the others.

Chairman:

You have just as much wealth in Grafton St. Church as the Cathedral [Church of All Saints].

Oxley: We have not as large a congregation.

A.S. Rogers:

We are in the same position as Brunswick Street.

Chairman:

We drew an arbitrary line across the south end, but it is apt to be unjust.

Mr. Oxley:

All I can say is we will pray for you if you do the decent thing if you give us enough to tide us over.

Chairman:

I want you to realize the difficulty of our position.

Mr. Oxley:

We have no assistance for months and it is hard to make it come out right.

Chairman:

We will consider this matter and we will ask you to accept from us, if you will, an advance of \$5000 in all to cover these bills and what you need to protect your church. We are not in a position at present to give you a grant, but at the request of your trustees we will loan it to you for a time until we know if there are to be more funds placed in your hands. If I had known four months ago what I know today, I would have had to say to all the churches along with yours: I have no right in view of what I know today to make you a grant, but we can loan you the money. We will not ask for it for many months, perhaps not ever. If I am mistaken and things

turn out differently, this loan may be turned into a grant.

Melvin:

Any interest on it?

Chairman:

If it is a loan it will bear interest of course.

Chairman:

There will be no interest if we turn it into a grant at a later date. I will see that you are in the same position as any other church, when we come to the conclusion regarding churches.

Mr. Oxley:

I think it a very fair proposition. It tides us over for immediate difficulties.

Chairman:

We have done so with two other churches. We have told them that we would not make a grant and we thought then that we were not in just as difficult a situation as we are now.

Mr. Oxley:

If the question is asked as to what they have given us just us three keep that entirely to ourselves.

Chairman:

You could use your own judgement. We have endeavoured to make an impartial study of the situation.

Mr. Oxley:

I was thoroughly taken by surprise when I learned that the five million that was proposed that the Americans send had never gone through.

A.S. Rogers:

We have to have our own appraisements from our own men. Mr. Brookfield [contractor] would know it.

Chairman:

We have to have our own appraisal so that we will know that one church is placed on the same basis as another. No church has had full restoration from us. The churches that we would want to restore receive 60 per cent. That is the poor churches. The south end churches are the rich ones in public minds.

Chairman:

The churches that enlist my sympathy, if I am to go by sympathy are those which were absolutely destroyed. If I am going to be generous these are the people I will be generous to. If I have to take money from you to give it to Kaye Street, I will have no hesitation in doing so.

Mr. Oxley:

What have they lost \$500,000?

Mr. Melvin:

Did I understand that your men were going to make repairs?

Chairman:

No. We do not touch church property at all.

Mr. A.S. Rogers:

Some churches did not suffer as much as we did. The First Baptist for instance. Their loss would be about \$2000.00.

Chairman:

Where we are making grants on a basis of 60%, churches that have been damaged to the extent of \$2000.00 would receive \$1500.00. Relatively they are all being treated the same.

A.S. Rogers:

All we get now is a loan of \$5000.

Chairman:

Mr. Melvin, you may never have to pay a cent of interest. We may be able to turn it into a grant. If we do not give you a cent you will have to borrow money anyway to fix your church.

Mr. Oxley:

I do not like the tone of this letter. (Referring to letter dated Sept. 3rd).

Chairman:

I did not write it, but it sets forth our policy all right.

Mr. Oxley:

I could [have] said it in a different way.

*This church stood for over a century in the heart of Halifax's historic original Black community in the North Suburbs, at the southwestern corner of Falkland and Gottingen Streets.

Barry Cahill is writing a history of the Halifax Relief Commission. He gratefully acknowledges Tina Marsman for transcribing the document, which is among commission records held by the Nova Scotia Archives.

Transitions

Marriages:

Catherine McLeod and
Mark Reardon

Deaths:

Bill Foxton
John Davison
Marjorie Anderson

Committal:

Olive Clark - July 20

***Blessed are they who die
in the Lord***

Congratulations:

Joanne and Peter Pronych
on their 50th wedding
anniversary

Coffee Hosts Needed

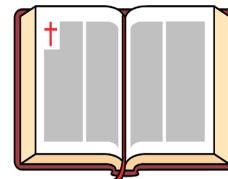


There are Sundays
available – see Val to
sign up



It's not too early to start
thinking about our
Christmas families –
once again Paula
Minnikin is looking after
this ministry for us.

A Great Game for Everyone!



***Bible Puzzle - There are 30 Books of the Bible in the Following
Paragraph. Can You Find Them?***

This is a most remarkable puzzle. It was found by a gentleman in an airplane seat pocket, on a flight from Los Angeles to Honolulu, keeping him occupied for hours. He enjoyed it so much he passed it on to some friends. One friend from Illinois worked on this while fishing from his john boat. Another friend studied it while playing his banjo. Elaine Taylor, a columnist friend, was so intrigued by it she mentioned it in her weekly newspaper column. Another friend judges the job of solving the puzzle so involving, she brews a cup of tea to help her nerves. There will be some names that are really easy to spot. That's a fact. Some people, however, will soon find themselves in a jam. Especially since the book names are not necessarily capitalized. Truthfully, from answers we get, we are forced to admit it usually takes a minister or scholar to see some of them at the worst. Research has shown that something in our genes is responsible for the difficulty we have in seeing the books in the paragraph. During a recent fund raising event, which featured this puzzle, the Alpha Delta Phi lemonade booth set a new sales record. The local paper, The Chronicle, surveyed over 200 patrons who reported that this puzzle was one of the most difficult they had ever seen. As Daniel Humana humbly puts it, "the books are all right here in plain view hidden from sight". Those able to find all of them will hear great lamentations from those who have to be shown. One revelation that may help is that books like Timothy and Samuel may occur without their numbers. Also, keep in mind, that punctuation and spaces in the middle are normal. A chipper attitude will help you compete really well against those who claim to know the answers. Remember, there is no need for a mad exodus. There really are 30 books of the Bible lurking somewhere in the paragraph, waiting to be found!

Submitted by Anne Sommerville