

# Easter 2017

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David, Halifax, NS

## This is my message – for you

I doubt you'll wake early this coming Easter morning with the absolute certainty that God had a personal message for you this Easter Sunday – one that comes specifically to you before the sun peeks over the horizon.

*This is my message for you: Don't be afraid; come and see; go and tell; he is risen; he is going ahead of you; there you will see him. (Matthew 28:5-7)*

That's the angelic message for you this Easter.

There is something about Easter sunrise that touches something deep down inside of us. Here we encounter God's wonder, that feeling of surprise and awe aroused by something strange and unexpected. It's what Mary

Magdalene and the other Mary felt when they learned that Jesus had risen. They departed "quickly from the tomb with fear and great joy" (Matt. 28:8). They were astonished. They went to the tomb expecting to find a dead man in need of embalming. Instead they found an empty tomb. That fact, while strange and unexpected, was wonderful and exciting.

In John Masefield's *Trial of Jesus*, there is a marvelous passage where Longinus, the centurion at the cross, comes back at the end of the day to give Pilate his report. Pilate's wife begs the centurion to tell her more about how Jesus died. When he tells the whole story over, she suddenly asks, "Longinus, do you think He is dead?" "No, ma'am," he says, "I don't." "Then where is

He?" she asks. "Let loose in the world where neither Roman nor Jew will ever stop His truth." That message is still waiting to be read. It was sent to your personal address and simply reads: This is my message for you: Don't be afraid; come and see; go and tell; he is risen; he is going ahead of you; there you will see him.

There are so many folks who need that message forwarded to them marked 'urgent': Don't be afraid – even when all in this world seems dark and drear. Come and see – see the power of God rise on us, on this world, like the dawning sun proclaiming that morning has broken like the first morning. Go and tell – tell it on the mountain, over the hill, everywhere – Jesus Christ is risen. And here is what you really need

to know – he is going ahead of you, always leading – or as the Celts would say:

*Christ with me, Christ before me, Christ behind me, Christ in me, Christ beneath me, Christ above me, Christ on my right, Christ on my left, Christ where I lie, Christ where I sit, Christ where I arise, Christ in the heart of everyone who thinks of me, Christ in the mouth of everyone who speaks to me, Christ in every eye that sees me, Christ in every ear that hears me.*

It is in the sharing of this message that you will see Christ anew, in everyone who now embodies this message of Easter morn. This is my message – for you. So, there she was on that first Easter, Mary, a young woman we have come to know by name, on the move on that hillside up the slopes of the Mount of Olives, bounding as fast as her feet will take her, heading home to tell the others of her news. Can you see her? Listen to

her offer the shortest, sweetest, most powerful Easter sermon ever: "I have seen the Lord." Christ is risen! Christ is risen indeed!

**Kenn Stright**

## Repairing the Southeast Corner

Repairing the brickwork on the SE corner is estimated to cost \$7,500. If you would like to contribute, please make a donation to the Building Fund.

### How?

If you have offering envelopes, enter your donation on the Building Fund line. If you do not have offering envelopes, put your donation in any envelope and write "Building Fund", the amount and your name. If you will not be in church, you can mail your donation to: Saint David's Church, P O Box 36061, RPO Spring Garden Road, Halifax B3J 3S9.

## Session Update

On a bright sunny morning at the end of March, the Saint David's Session gathered to look into the future and make some immediate and short term plans for the church. Session members have taken time lately to think about how the church will live out its intention to be a downtown congregation delivering mission from this site. As the property development has reached the point where we see the ground being excavated, we know, as a group of leaders, that it is important to spend time focusing on keeping the congregation strong.

Over coffee, muffins, and some homemade soup, we joined in a conversation led by Nicole Watkins-Campbell and Barbara MacKeigan. We talked about our mission and vision and discussed ways to reach out to people who may have

gotten out of the habit of regularly attending church. As well, we looked out at who else might want to join Saint David's in worship, in mission, or just for a sense of community. We were able to set some goals for the near future and into the next year.

We know the conversation has just begun. We will ask you to join us at the end of May to capture even more ideas and plans together

***Barbara MacKeigan***

**Transitions**

Verity Caskey  
Maplestone  
245 Main Avenue

Janette Guy  
6th Floor  
St. Vincent's Nursing Home

Janet MacQuarrie  
285B Lupin Hills  
Ivany Place

Gloria Mader  
4th Floor  
5266 Green Street

Shirley Moir  
Suite 321  
Parkland at the Gardens

**David's Place**



When the last newsletter was going to print in December. David's Place was gearing up for its Christmas dinner. With the help of our dedicated regular volunteers and several generous cooks in the congregation, we were able to feed all our guests, regular volunteers, guest volunteers, and the archeologists. We prepared for 75 and fed over 100. It was an amazing morning. The picture of Johannah and one of our outside volunteers, Mike McPhee, shows our wonderful meal.

Throughout the winter we continued to be here each

week, despite the weather, to provide a hearty lunch for our guests. Kenn also puts on the coffee pot, makes hot chocolate and tea, and cooks eggs for our early arrivals, some of whom are here as soon as he unlocks the door at 7 a.m. As we look ahead to the Summer (let's hope spring arrives soon!) we will once again be hosting four barbecues --Victoria Day, Canada Day, Natal Day, and Labour Day. These were very popular last year and we anticipate that chef Mike and his grill will be in high demand again this year.

Feed Nova Scotia continues to come each

week and provide us with what they are able in the way of fresh produce, bread, sweets, and prepared meals. We are most grateful for their support, the Watson Fund, and the donations that the congregation gives on the second Sunday of each month and throughout the year. We are pleased to note that Sobey's is partnering with FNS to donate food that is past its best before date, but still perfectly safe to eat. This will benefit so many folks who rely on food banks across the region, and will greatly reduce food waste, which is a growing concern.

One of our long-time volunteers, Betty MacDonald, moved to Toronto in 2015 to be near her family. She celebrated her 90th birthday the end of November, and her son Jim included as part of his present for her a donation to David's Place. Betty's job was to be the liaison between the servers and the folks filling the plates. Jim thought that we might use some of the money to buy a "Betty" apron. Gwen Larsen, who has been filling that role, models the new



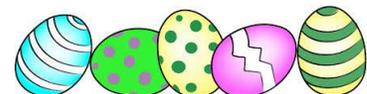
apron. Recently two more volunteers have gotten similar aprons with their own names and "David's Place" embroidered on the front. As time goes on more volunteers may also have their personalized David's Place aprons.

We have always said that David's Place is a community of friends. We opted not to have a social time for the volunteers at Christmas and thought about Valentine's Day. When that hit an unexpected snag, we looked around for another date and are now planning to get together over dinner in mid-May. While our Friday mornings are fun, they can be very busy with very little time to just catch up on each other's news. We feel it is important to just relax and enjoy each other's company once in awhile, and this will be a fine

opportunity to do so in a cozy setting at the home of Barbara and Gary Smith.

In the near future we will be visited by the folks at the Universalist Unitarian Church who have started a program of their own and would like to see how David's Place operates and what we do. We are always open to visits. Last summer we entertained- and even fed- a large number of tourists from the cruise ships. We hope to see more this year. If at any time, you have any questions about David's Place please just ask. Better yet, drop in on a Friday and see what your mission to the community around us, and further afield through Metro, is accomplishing.

**Valerie Macdonald**



## Women's InterChurch Council News

The WICC celebrated World Day of Prayer 2017 by holding a service on March 3 at Fairview United Church. World Day of Prayer is a global, ecumenical service observed by women from more than 170 countries whereby Christian women from many traditions around the world worship and pray "together" on the first Friday of each March. Each year the service is written by women of a particular country describing their lives of continuous struggle for economic justice but also presenting stories with an underlying hope. This year's service was prepared by women from the Philippines with the theme "Am I Being Unfair to You". On one day, worldwide congregations focus on the same words and special message spoken

from one community - an amazing experience.

This year the WICC was very fortunate in having women from the Filipino Association of Nova Scotia participate in the programme. In beautiful native dress these gracious women presented the Filipino story in words written by women of their home country. The haunting voice of Phoebe as she sang 'The Lord's Prayer' in her native language was spellbinding.

Following the service the WICC, congregation, and the Filipino Association shared in a potluck meal and took time to view the display set up by the Association which included the Filipino flag and intricate artwork created with seashells. Vice-Council Elizabeth Eustaquio-Domomdon (the Philippine Consulate General in Halifax) attended the service with her son and contributed springrolls,

a Filipino favourite, to the meal. Also on the table was the contribution of homemade Filipino rolls. It all disappeared very quickly.

WICC is grateful for the time and thoughtful effort the Filipino Association took in planning this programme, attending several meetings. The day was a moving experience of coming together and getting to know each other.

Last year's programme was written by the women of Cuba. Next year's programme is being written by the women of Australia. While World Day of Prayer is written by women and has been attended by women for generations, men are welcome and do attend this service.

**Anne Sommerville**  
**One of Five Presbyterian**  
**Representatives**  
**WICC**

## Thank You!

Santa brought Lisa her scroll  
saw and space at the market

He brought Dax a little truck  
and a little place to park it.

Mom has the tools to make  
her own wares. Her son has  
some toys and he knows that  
we care.

Robyn has business cards  
and can now ply her trade. If  
you need a tile layer, call her  
right away.

Ryan will graduate from  
college in June, with faith  
that a job will follow quite  
soon.

His four kids have clothes  
and some hope to be  
sure. And mom is quite  
happy they are no longer all  
on the floor.

Patricia feels not quite so  
alone anymore. Full time at  
Dal and at Mickey D's  
too... she's grateful to know  
that her son has new shoes.

Melody works hard as a  
cleaner for others and she's  
happy to share that there is  
food in her cupboard.

Dana's doing his best all  
alone with two girls. He has  
dishes and sheets and some  
pink for their curls. He is  
working hard and is well on  
his way. Thanks for helping  
Santa Claus find them  
Christmas Day.

For Joe and Nancy there isn't  
much we could do. We'll  
keep trying to find him some  
work somewhere new.  
But they did awake to  
find gifts and a turkey  
too. And all of that is thanks  
to you.

Thanks for all that you do.

Thank you all  
the McCormicks and  
Haldanes too. These elves  
with the stockings have  
hearts kind and true.

Thank you to all the Angels  
who take home little tags

And return to the church  
with so many full bags.

Thank you, wrappers and  
drivers and shoppers galore.

Thank you, donors, sponsors,  
and all who do more.

Thank you one and all, from  
size small to size big. Thank  
you to everyone who helps  
with this gig.

Thank you for being angels of  
Love, Hope, Joy and Peace.

### ***The Minnikin and Schmidt Family***

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#### **Elder's Biography**

Susan is a native Haligonian  
who grew up attending  
Calvin Presbyterian Church.

She completed high school,  
trained as a lab technologist  
and worked at the IWK while  
obtaining her Bachelor's  
degree from Dalhousie. She  
then attended Dal Medical  
School and after resident's  
training set up practice in  
Lower Sackville. In 1986 she  
began attending Saint  
David's and transferred her  
membership that same year.  
In 1987 she was married at  
Saint David's and is the  
mother of two daughters and  
a son. During her time at  
Saint David's she was a  
member of the auxiliary and  
has taught Sunday School off  
and (on mainly on) for the  
past 24 years. This fall she  
was elected as an elder.

Susan's interest in children  
and their faith journey is a  
major driving force in the  
decision to accept the  
position of elder. Her hope is  
to engage the youth of the  
church and work towards a  
vibrant future at Saint  
David's. She also feels that  
the beautiful building that  
has been entrusted to us is a  
large part of our  
responsibility to the  
community. She wishes to  
become more involved in the  
outreach missions.



**PHOENIX HOUSE SNACK PROGRAMME**

Thanks to everyone who supported the Healthy Phoenix Snack Programme, a programme coordinated by Phoenix House and the Halifax Women's InterChurch Council. This particular programme provides healthy, substantial, snacks while, at the same time, offering guidance and help to those who drop into Phoenix House on a weekly basis.... so many, many thanks for your involvement in this outreach.

**Anne Sommerville**

**Andrew Lappin's Award-Winning Roasted Pepper Soup**

3 lb. red bell peppers, cut into 1-inch-wide strips  
 2 lb. ripe plum tomatoes, seeded and cut into 1-inch pieces



3 medium carrots, cut into 1-inch pieces  
 1 large yellow onion, cut into 8 wedges  
 1 large red onion, cut into 8 wedges  
 6 large fresh basil leaves, torn  
 4 sprigs fresh thyme  
 1 tsp. sweet Hungarian paprika  
 1/4 tsp. cayenne; more to taste  
 Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper  
 6 Tbs. extra-virgin olive oil  
 3 cups vegetable broth (reduced salt if store-bought)  
 1/4 cup heavy cream

1-1/2 Tbs. red wine vinegar

Position a rack in the center of the oven and heat the oven to 450°F. In a large roasting pan, toss the peppers, tomatoes, carrots, onions, basil, and thyme with the paprika, cayenne, 1 tsp. of salt, a few grinds of pepper, and 6 the oil. Roast the vegetables, turning them every 15 minutes or so, until tender and browned in spots, about 45 minutes. Put one-third of the vegetables in a blender with 1 cup of the broth.

Purée until very smooth, about 2 minutes. Strain through a medium-mesh sieve set over a 4-quart saucepan, using a silicone spatula to press all the liquid through; discard any solids.

Repeat with the remaining vegetables (including any liquid from the pan) and broth in two more batches. Stir in the cream and bring to a simmer over medium-low heat. Stir in the vinegar and gently simmer for 5 minutes. Season to taste with salt and cayenne.

### **Helen M. Watson Fund**

The Helen M. Watson Fund of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David: Applications for financial assistance from the Helen M. Watson Fund will be received prior to April 30, 2017. This fund produces income to be used "exclusively for local missionary work in Nova Scotia". If you have any questions, please contact Mac Fyfe (902) 425-3844, Mac Mackay- (902) 422-5481 or Johannah Roberts (902) 457-2836. Application Form and Guidelines Document, may be obtained from the Church Office (902) 423-1944, E-Mail.stdavids.office@ns.sympatico.ca or from the Web site, after April 1.

## **UPDATES**

Saint David's has had an active 2017 Outreach winter programme.

Funds for the healthy Snack Programme were collected for the Phoenix House Drop-In Centre. This is an inter-denominational year-round event and April is the designated month for contributions from the metro Presbyterian churches.

-On Sunday, March 19th Saint David's and Friends prepared and served 16 shepherd's pies to approximately 250 guests at the Sunday Suppers programme held at Saint Andrew's Church hall.

Saint David's is actively involved with the Out of the Cold shelter programme which takes place December 1 - April 30 at St. Matthew's. Saint David's prepared and delivered 15 lunches on the first Saturday night of each month. As well, Saint David's provides substantial financial support toward this programme through The Helen M. Watson Fund, a fund set up specifically for local and regional mission outreach.

Saint David's drop-in centre, David's Place, continues on a weekly basis, each Friday throughout the year.

### **Music**

Saint David's has been very fortunate and grateful to have Freeman Dryden as our interim organist since January. Freeman studied under Larry MacLean and has enjoyed being able to play "Larry's organ" once again. In his three months with us Freeman has put together a men's choir and recently invited the Vesuvius Chamber Choir as a guest choir on Palm Sunday. We shall miss Freeman as he prepares to leave for British Columbia. With thanks.