

The Presbyterian Church of Saint David

At Saint David's

Halifax, NS
Spring 2018

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Greetings from the Interim Moderator:

The Presbyterian Church of St. David has been invited to participate in a pilot project of The Presbyterian Church in Canada calls "New Beginnings." It is an intensive process of evaluation and discernment to see where we are and where God is leading us. It will involve everyone in the congregation over a few months and we will be guided by leadership from Canadian Ministries of The Presbyterian Church in Canada in partnership with the designers of this programme from the Disciples of Christ Church and The Presbyterian Church USA. Because it is a pilot project, Canadian Ministries will cover the costs. Session has agreed that it is a timely opportunity for us as we seek to discern God's will for this congregation in moving toward change in ministry.

New beginnings, whether in the church or community or

in our own lives, offer freedom, challenge, discovery, expansion of one's world, growth. These are not always easy gifts to receive, however desirable. They are disorienting, moving us from the familiar to the unfamiliar. They require adjustment, as we move into new relationships or new circumstances or new territory and we discover that the old thought patterns or behaviours don't work as well or at all. It's not that we forget the past—it has shaped us and we always carry it with us, for better or worse. But the newness turns our attention to the future. The question is not "What have you done?" but "What are you going to do?"

Mark begins the story of Jesus, "the beginning of the good news of Jesus Christ, the Son of God" not with Jesus' birth but with his baptism. With clear echoes of the Genesis creation story, Mark declares that God is doing something utterly new in Jesus Christ but it is related to what God has done from the

beginning. In Jesus, God’s word-made-flesh, the new creation takes shape. Jesus’ baptism is participation in and powerful proclamation of God’s new creation as not only Jesus but all human beings are declared to be the beloved children of God.

This is who we are, then, as we move into the unknown future. Beginning with our baptism, whether in infancy or adulthood, we enter the realm wherein God’s life-force and holy, gracious purpose reign. We are opened up to the reality of resurrection hope and the ultimate triumph of goodness and love.

We are at St. David's embarked upon a new year, a new chapter--a new era perhaps--as we try to figure out what and where God is calling us to be. And whether we are excited at the prospect, or disoriented, glad or sad, anxious or at peace--or some mixture of all those things--we begin with the mysterious, grace-filled fact and assurance that we are baptized members of Christ’s Body, participants in God’s new creation, witnesses to hope. Whatever the present or future brings, we belong to God and to God’s loving and ultimately victorious purpose for all people and the whole creation.

PEACE *Iona*

A THANK YOU

Saint David’s is truly blessed - and gives thanks for the Church School staff and its children under the capable direction of Dr. Susan Lappin.

Susan has 24-years’ experience with the Saint David’s Church School. She displays enthusiasm and empathy towards “her” children and in turn enjoys their enthusiasm. She also feels that there is a stronger sense of being connected to the congregation by being within the same area instead of being sent off to a hall.

The lessons and activities follow the weekly lectionary based on the One Room Church School model which was being used before the demolition of the hall. Elizabeth Cameron helps when needed.

Graeme Hicks as Secretary-Treasurer is a constant in the life of the church School, recording attendance and offerings each week.

Worship & Church Life

Who Said It? (#1)

“Love in its essence is spiritual fire”

- see page 4

At Saint David’s

THE WOMEN’S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL OF HALIFAX METRO -

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER SERVICE

The Women’s Inter-Church Council of Halifax will celebrate the 2018 World Day of Prayer with a service being held at 2:00 p.m. on Friday, March 2 (storm date March 9) at Halifax Christian Church, 51 Farnham Gate Road, Halifax. This year’s World Day of Prayer service is written by the WDP Committee of Suriname, with the theme “All of God’s Creation is Very Good”. Guest speaker, Reverend Diane Parker, retired Anglican minister, will speak on the theme “God’s Creation”.

The World Day of Prayer is an international ecumenical Christian laywomen’s initiative, its motto being “informed prayer and prayerful action”. Christians from more than 170 countries and in 2,000 communities across Canada will gather to pray and celebrate in solidarity with the women of the Republic of Suriname on March 2nd.

Each year’s service of prayer and song is prepared by women of a different country. Recent programmes have come from the Philippines, Cuba, the Bahamas, Egypt, France, Malaysia. The Republic of Suriname is

named after the Surinen tribe, one of the indigenous peoples of the land.

Please join us and invite your friends and family. A reception will follow the service.
All Are Welcomed

Anne Sommerville
Presbyterian
Representative, WICC

Who said it? (#2)

“Our scientific power has outrun our spiritual power. We have guided missiles and misguided men.”
- see page 4

Organ Update

Although you can't hear or see it – yet – much work has been done on the organ during the autumn months. Many of the pipes have been removed, cleaned and retuned on the south side of the church. The north side will begin soon. However the biggest news is that work has begun on reconstruction of the console.

The console is that large box that hides the organist from view and contains the keyboards, foot pedals and stops. If you haven't had a

close up look at the console – please do!

You will see four separate keyboards (called manuals) each of which can be programmed to play different sections of the organ.

When Hill Norman and Beard rebuilt the organ in the 1960s they built an entirely new console of white oak, but because of their layout of the manuals and stop boards, it was much higher than the old Casavant console.

While playing, the organist has no free hands to conduct, and must sometimes direct the choir with head and eye movements only. The large console makes this difficult to do.

Our organ builder Colin Walsh has found the old Casavant console from 1928. It has been stored away for all these years, and he will rebuild it to suit the new renovations. It will be six inches lower than the present console, making for much improved visibility, not just for the organist and choir, but also for the congregation—we will finally be able to see the organist!

Mac Mackay
Maintenance Convenor

ANNUAL MEN'S SOUP CONTEST - MARCH 4, 2018

St. David's annual and successful men's soup contest continues in 2018. Each contestant will provide his speciality for lunch which will be followed by the Annual General Meeting. Contributions of sandwiches, rolls, and sweets are always appreciated. Gary Smith is coordinating the contest this year, so if there is any man out there who would like to prepare a soup for this fun occasion, please speak with Gary. The winner receives the coveted silver ladle to use for a year!

Who said it? (#3)

“We are not human beings having a spiritual experience. We are spiritual beings having a human experience.”
- see page 4

New Maintainers

Last fall Session approved a new maintenance contract with Greenwood Lane Inc to manage the property. Our primary contact is Lloyd Kerslake, who tends to the building daily, while looking after several other nearby properties. When he is not available Mike Poole steps in. Both have done very good work in the few

months that they have been on the job.

If you are in the building Monday to Friday and need assistance, feel free to call **Lloyd Kerslake 499-7968**. Any other time (24/7) call **Mac Mackay** *Maintenance Convenor* 471-9312.

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. There will another issue before summer.

Mac Mackay
Editor in Chief
macmackay@ns.sympatico.ca

Who said it?

1. Lucius Annaeus Seneca (4BC-65AD) Roman Stoic philosopher.
2. Martin Luther King Jr. (1929-1968)
3. Pierre Teilhard de Chardin, SJ (1881-1955) Jesuit priest, philosopher and paleontologist.

MILESTONES

Deaths:

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to several of our congregational families on the death of loved ones.

Rev. Iona MacLean on the death of her cousin, Rev. Ian MacLeod of Cape Breton.

Gwen Larsen on the death of her sister Gail Herbin, in Wolfville, February 2.

Kay Foxton and Jim Osmond/Judi Henderson on the death of Tommie Foxton February 7, brother-in-law and uncle.

We also note with sadness the passing of Clary Anderson, February 7, husband of the late Marjorie Anderson, long time alto soloist in our choir.

"Blessed are they who die in the Lord"

Congratulations:

Maysan Al Saghrji on becoming a Permanent Resident.

Thanks:

Claudia Saoud and Ray Whitley for their tireless support and friendship for the Saghrji family since their arrival as Syrian refugees.

WOMEN'S INTER-CHURCH COUNCIL UPDATES

2018 is an exciting milestone for the Women's InterChurch Council as this organization turns 100 this year.

The WICC originally grew out of interdenominational women coming together in unity to pray and to have a voice in social justice. As local events grew, women from Canada and the United States co-developed and distributed material abroad to their partners to support a growing 'Day of Prayer'. Today World Day of Prayer is held on the first Friday of March.

As well WICC has been the Canadian partner of the Fellowship of the Least Coin (October) since the 1970s, a prayer movement focused on social justice and solidarity. Donations received from both these services go towards groups helping women confronted with injustice. In 2016 the Fellowship of the Least Coin alone raised \$75,000.

Locally, the Halifax-Metro WICC partners with groups that include Elizabeth Fry, Coverdale, Phoenix House, Atlantic Provinces Special Education Authority

(APSEA).

It is under the umbrella of the WICC that Saint David's supports the Snack Programme for Phoenix House, providing healthy snacks for youth who use Phoenix House facilities. Local Presbyterian Churches are annually contacted in March or April.

Anne Sommerville
WICC Presbyterian
Representative

Who are they?

Do you remember the answers to the question in the last newsletter?

Question 1 – Who are the six figures in the Rose Window?

Answer - from the top centre: praying angel, then clockwise, St. Matthew, St. John, St. Paul, St. Luke, St. Mark.

Does the angel have a name?

Question 2 – Do you see something odd about the Rose Window?

Answer – the window is set in the wall about 2 degrees off level, it is lower at the right side than the left. Why do you think that is?

Our Stained Glass Window

Visitors often remark on the beauty of our stained glass windows. When we tell them that the building was built in 1869 they think the windows are that old too – but they are not.

All ten of our decorative stained glass windows were added after 1925 when the Presbyterian Church of Saint David was formed. Maybe we have grown accustomed to our windows, but they are worth a second look if you have not studied them closely.

Each tells an important biblical story, illustrates a parable or sends a message. Although they are very representational, there are also many sacred symbols in the windows. These symbols are usually quite stylized, and may not be immediately identifiable.

There is one window that I find especially interesting. It is called Christ At The Door, and it is located on the north side of the church, nearest to the front.

A number of Victorian era artists illustrated this particular theme, believed to be based on the text:

“Listen, I am standing at the door knocking. If you hear my voice and open the door I will come in and eat with you”

Revelation 3:20

If you look closely at the door you will see that it has no handle, and can only be opened from the inside. It is also a very heavy door, and to hear a voice, you would need to be listening for it.

Jesus is carrying a lantern. Does that mean he can find your door at any time, or that he may come calling at any time?

Questions for next time:

Can you give each of the nine windows a name? (We already know the names of two of them: the Rose Window, and Christ Knocking on the Door.)

Can you find the ninth stained glass window and why is it different?

Who made the windows?

A longer term project

To record the names of the families who donated the windows and learn a bit more about them. Interested in helping?

Annual Meeting

Plan to attend the Annual Meeting of the Congregation following the service on March 4.

It is not a long meeting and it is a great opportunity to find out what is going on at St. David's and what is planned for the coming year!

The printed report will be available well before the meeting.

Did you know?

Saint David's had three church halls?

The first church hall was a free standing building located in the far northwest corner of the property. Not many of our members can remember the building, because it was condemned and torn down about 1949. It was a two storey wood frame structure and housed the Sunday School. (It also had the only plumbing on the site.)

A new church hall, that was mostly a gym, was built in 1950.

The third hall was really an addition to the 1960 building and contained the parlor, office, minister's

office and Sunday School class rooms.

Although these buildings are gone now do have some souvenirs.

The corner stone of the 1950s hall has been preserved and will be installed in the new building along with the ceremonial silver trowel used to lay the stone.

The land occupied by the Memorial Library was the Poorhouse cemetery for many years, but it was grassed over and came to be known as Grafton Park.

That name still applies to the small triangle of land in front of the former library, but is rarely used anymore. The former Board of Trustees of Saint David's registered the name. We have now given the rights to the name to the developers of the new apartment building on our land, and it will be called Grafton Park Apartments.

The name Grafton Park was given to a ship?

The ship was built for the Canadian government in 1944 by the United Shipyard in Montreal and lasted until 1967.

At Saint David's

Flowers

"Flowers are the sweetest things God ever made and forgot to put a soul into."

Henry Ward Beecher (1813-1887) clergyman, orator, abolitionist. (Brother of Harriet Beecher Stowe, author of *Uncle Tom's Cabin*.)

Thank you to our flower committee for placing flowers in the church every Sunday.

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?

Have you ever considered being one of our Sunday morning 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***

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