

# The Salt

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Church Family,  
Sackville NB  
Vol. 18 No. 1, Easter 2018



## THIS WILL BE A FIRST FOR ME!

Celebrating Easter on April Fools' Day!! I promise no pranks are in the works. Nevertheless, the timing is odd to have April Fools land on the day we declare something so bold as "Christ is Risen"!

**YET**, when Mary Magdalene, Joanna, Mary the mother of James and other women told the apostles of their visit to the tomb where they met two men in dazzling clothes who proclaimed that Jesus was not there but had risen, for the apostles "these words seemed to them an idle tale" (*Luke 24:11*).

**INDEED**, news of the empty tomb and the risen Lord would have struck the Apostles as a rather inappropriate April Fools' joke given the profound guilt they would have felt for running away from Jesus at the critical hour of his arrest and especially for Peter given his denial of Jesus. The tale would also be thoughtless given that the disciples were weighed down with grief for losing their Rabbi and friend. Just imagine three days after losing a loved one to have a visit from someone who told you that the person was alive again – it would be rather insensitive and disrespectful.

**AS THIS MYSTERY** of the resurrection lands on, of all days, April Fools' Day, my mind turns to the absurdity and foolishness of the message we proclaim of the cross and in that bold declaration – "Christ is Risen! He is Risen indeed!"

**AN APRIL FOOLS' PRANK** is intended to catch someone off guard, to 'trip' someone up in a yarn – the purpose of which is to have a laugh at the fooled person's expense. Where Easter's message and the cross bear a resemblance to April Fools is that element of catching one off guard or by surprise.

**IN THE FIRST CHAPTER** of his letter to the church in Corinth, Paul writes of how "the message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing." He goes on to describe the proclamation of the cross as both foolishness and a stumbling block – yet in this message is expressed the power and wisdom of God that challenges and unsettles our world.

**THE FOOLISHNESS** can be found in the manner in which the power of God is revealed through the one who bears shame, humiliation and rejection. It flips notions of power upside-down. It is foolish that God, creator of the universe, would address oppression and sin by becoming weak. It is foolish for the King of kings to become a suffering servant. It is foolish that God would forgive those who denied, mocked, and crucified him.

**ASIDE FROM THE ENIGMATIC** appearances of Jesus on Easter, the way that the first disciples *experienced* resurrection was by way of forgiveness and of healing their guilt and failure. They also experienced resurrection in the way that the risen Lord entrusted the continuing ministry of Jesus with them despite their weakness and failure. The experience also gave them the courage to face the powers of the world knowing that they did not need to be strong or wise or perfect but willing to give of themselves for others.

May the surprise of Easter's message challenge and bless you!

*Rev. Jeffrey Murray*



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**Our Purpose**

*To see Christ more clearly,*

*Love him more dearly,*

*Follow Him more nearly,*

*day by day*

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**CLERK'S CORNER**

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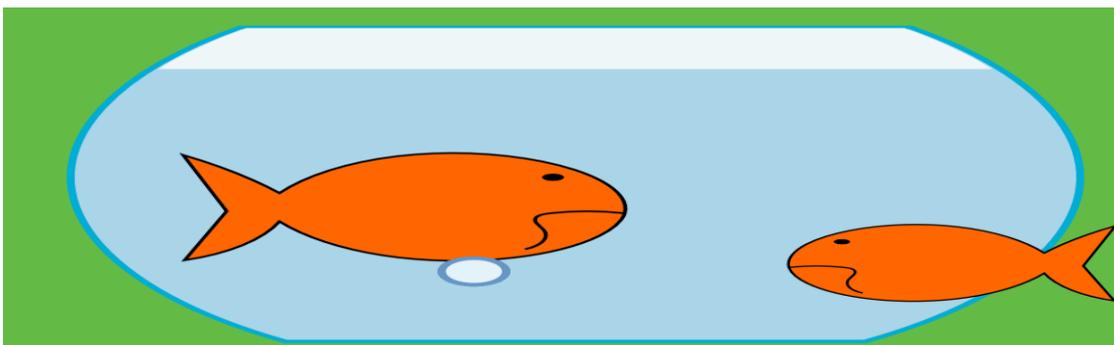
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**GREETINGS FROM THE CLERK'S CORNER!**

IT'S ALWAYS A JOY to welcome new members to St. Andrew's. On Sunday January 14, we welcomed Helen and Gordon Amos to membership, by transfer from another church. Helen also made her debut as a reader and greeter during that service.

IN FEBRUARY, I HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO ATTEND A MEETING OF THE SOCIAL INCLUSION NETWORK. This is a group of representatives from local churches and other organizations (such as Daybreak), who are working on ways to collaborate on addressing the needs of the most vulnerable in our community. At the meeting I attended, we were joined by Janet Plume-Petley, from the New Brunswick Department of Social Development. She explained the services provided by the province to those who need income and employment assistance. She also explained the processes in place for assessing needs, and for tailoring the services to address those needs. The information on current rates of income assistance (\$537/month for a single person, or \$880 for a family with 1 child, for example) was a sobering reminder that the government's "safety net" doesn't even cover the basic necessities of life. Caring community support is also required to fill the gaps, and to help the most vulnerable among us find life-sustaining help in their time of need. "Teach us to care for people, for all – not just for some, to love them as we find them or as they may become." (Fred Kaan, verse 2 of Hymn 632, *The Book of Praise*)

*Laura Snyder*, Clerk of Session



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## ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY (AMS) AND LADIES AID AUXILIARY

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WOMEN OF ST. ANDREW'S continue to meet on the second Saturday morning of each month (10 o'clock a.m. from September to June) at St. Andrew's. The purpose of the Atlantic Mission Society is to glorify God and to support with prayer, study and service mission endeavours through the Presbyterian Church in Canada.

ONCE AGAIN THE PEOPLE OF SACKVILLE gathered on the first Friday of March for the World Day of Prayer service. This year the gathering took place at 2 o'clock p.m. at the Sackville United Church. The study was written by the women of Suriname in South America and was entitled, "All God's Creation is Very Good". The scripture was Genesis 1 and the service took the form of a bible study. The following paragraph is taken from the study:

*"As women in Suriname, we believe that the Christian faith community can make a great contribution to the preservation of a livable, healthy and safe environment. The future of the Earth for the next generation matters to us. We see this as one of the key elements of the Christian faith. We are reminded of the relationship between God and Creation, and God and humanity. It is about having respect for every living thing."*

SOMETHING WE HAVE IN COMMON WITH SURINAME is the endangered Leatherback Turtle which nests on the coasts of that country and travels to feed off our Atlantic coast where it finds its favourite food, jellyfish.



Leatherback Turtle

The group would especially like to thank Alice Folkins who donated two quilts for the twin girls born to the Syrian family, who were sponsored by the Sackville Refugee Response Coalition SRRC. The parents were very happy to receive them.

AS SPRING ARRIVES we are looking forward to participating in Mission Awareness Sunday in April. Also, the AMS has a conference, known as *Discovery Days*, which takes place on Friday, April 27 to April 28, 2018, in Truro NS at the Glengarry Best Western. The website for the AMS is <http://pccweb.ca/ams/>.

PLEASE REMEMBER that we generally dine out or have a pot luck meal for our last meeting in June. All are welcome to join us.

*Deborah Stewart*  
Secretary, AMS



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## SAINT ANDREWS PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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### Income Statement Overview: January 1 - February 28, 2018

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$18,391
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$24,900</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$6,509)
Total Budget, all accounts	\$121,881
% of Total Budget spent:	20.42%
% of Year gone by:	16.66%

Expenses are running ahead of revenue early in the year.  
See below for breakdown by account.

### Breakdown by Account, January 1-February 28, 2018

#### Operating Account

Revenue:	\$16,507
Expenses:	<u>\$20,576</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$4,069)
Budget (Revenue):	\$110,531
% of Budget raised:	14%

#### Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$1,839
Expenses:	\$4,324
Net gain/loss:	(\$2,485)
Budget (Expense):	\$12,000
% of Budget raised:	15%

The “percent of budget raised” for each of these accounts is less than the “percent of year gone by”, which explains the deficits in both at this early point in the year. The deficit in Operating is partly caused by the one-time yearly expenses of Synod and Presbytery dues. The deficit in B & R is due to the needed manse bathroom renovation, which was completed in January. We do still owe \$5000 on the elevator.

#### Memorial Account

This account has a balance of under \$5,000, of which \$700 is reserved for the Benevolent Fund. The rest of the funds in the account are held in trust for Session-sanctioned use.

*Anne Miller,*  
Treasurer

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## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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Every first Sunday

Every Monday

Every Thursday

Every second Saturday

11:00 a.m. Food Bank Sunday

7:00 p.m. Ladies' Study Group

9:30 a.m. Parents and Tots

10:00 a.m. Atlantic Mission Society

### Sunday, March 25

9:30 a.m.

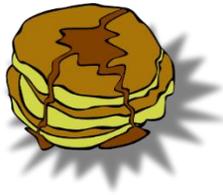
11:00 a.m.

### Palm Sunday – Liturgy of Palms & of Passion

Final Lent Study Discussion

Service of Palm & Passion with Procession of  
Palms at the beginning of the Service

### Thursday, March 29



### Maunday Thursday

7:30 p.m. Sacrament of Holy Communion

### Friday, March 30

11:00 a.m.

### Good Friday

Good Friday Service

### Sunday, April 1

6:57 a.m.

11:00 a.m.

### Easter Sunday

Easter Sunrise Service

Sacrament of Holy Communion



### CHOIR REHEARSALS FOR APRIL

### Wednesday, March 28

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Wednesday, April 4

7:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.

### Sunday, April 8

10:00 a.m.



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#### Clip Art Credits

P. 1 clipartkid.com, p. 2 Goldfishes in a bowl insert- clipartist.net; p. 3 patchworksisters.blogspot.com; p. 5 pancakes  
clker.com – vector clip art online; Daffodils6Tp6pkrcac -dreamstime.com;

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ST. ANDREW'S RECEIVES a number of copies of *The Presbyterian Connection*.

COPIES OF THE SPRING 2018 NEWSPAPER and a few previous issues can be found in the narthex.

*THE PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION* NEWSPAPER STRIVES TO UNITE Presbyterians from across the country through stories, reflections, interviews and articles, allowing us to share and develop our faith. The newspaper is informative, educational—and fun!

*THE PRESBYTERIAN CONNECTION* is distributed four times per year, free of charge. The goal of the newspaper is to further equip leaders, connect congregations and missions, facilitate communication and highlight denominational work—strengthening our denominational ties across the country.

YOU CAN ALSO FIND CURRENT AND PREVIOUS ISSUES HERE:  
<http://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-connection/>

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