



The Salt Newsletter

Easter Edition



“Longest Lent ever..”

I thought Lent was only supposed to last for 40 days. That was the length of time Jesus spent in the wilderness after which he was attended to by the angels. Surely we can handle 40 days of fasting, of some difficult self-examination, of maybe giving something up.

And then finally we can break the Lenten fast and celebrate all that Easter entails - resurrection, new life, and freedom.

Last year Lent took a unique turn as we entered our own kind of wilderness called a lockdown. Back then we had hoped that our collective 14 day house arrest would come to an end and we would be back in the church for Palm Sunday at the earliest or for Easter at the latest. But that did not happen and our “Lenten” journey of giving up more than we anticipated continued.

A year later we are back in Lent and not much as changed. It is as though Lent got extended from 40 days to more than 400 days forcing us to give up much our social lives among other things.

Now as stated above, Lent is 40 days from Ash Wednesday. But if you pull out your calendars and start counting the days from Ash Wednesday to Easter you will actually get 46 days and that is because there are 6 Sundays. Each Sunday is counted in the season, e.g. 5th Sunday *in* Lent, marking a break *in* the fast. Sunday is a day of rest *in* Lent because every Sunday is the day of resurrection or a small ‘e’ easter.

Although the pandemic may feel like the longest Lenten fast ever, we have had these moments, pauses, from the lock downs and social isolation. We might call this moments “yellow” or “social bubbles”, or anything that reminds us of pre-pandemic days and offer a foretaste of post-pandemic days.

This year our Easter celebrations are again modified and restricted because of COVID rules but we still carry on with our celebrations of the Good News of Jesus’ Resurrection to remind us that new life is ahead of us.

I wish you many blessings this Easter!

Rev. Jeffrey M. Murray

Holy Week & Easter

Apr. 1 - 7p.m. Maundy Thursday

Apr. 2 - Good Friday

Apr. 4 - 11a.m. Easter Holy Communion

Clerk's Corner

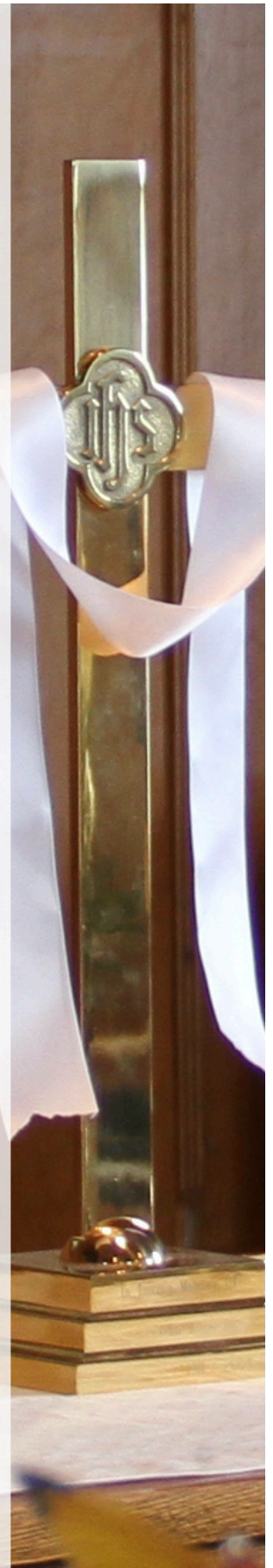
One of my tasks as Clerk of Session is to submit our church's annual statistical report to the PCC, which includes a question about average attendance at weekly worship services. In past years this has been relatively simple: record a headcount during each service, then compute the average for the year. This year, however, the PCC has also asked us for estimated attendance at online services. This is more challenging, especially since the usage data provided by Facebook seems to be all about counting 3-second and 15-second views of videos, and is of little help for measuring meaningful participation in church services! Following tips from others struggling with the same question, I was able to come up with a formula to estimate how many devices might have accessed a service for long enough to count as participation -- but how many people were watching those devices?

To get a better idea of who was watching our services, I started by going through the services on Facebook and compiling a list of people who had added a "like" or a comment on a video. This was not the complete picture, of course. Even I didn't make the list, since I don't generally do Facebook "likes"! Other members of Session helped flesh out the list with feedback they had received about our online services. I was thus able to identify 36 households that have participated in online services on a fairly regular basis, and another 14 visitors from outside the congregation who joined us at least once -- still not a complete list, but a good representative sample that I could work with for my counting task!

One of the joys in this process of getting to know our "online congregation" was the discovery of those joining us from afar -- including members who have moved on, and friends and relatives of our local congregants. Two of our active online participants asked to be considered for membership, and in January the Session voted to welcome Donna Capper and Betty Torrance as members. Donna and her husband Michael now live in Ontario. Betty, mother of the late Dr. David Torrance, joins us online from southern California. In a year of church closures, distanced seating plans, and limitations on singing, we have, nevertheless, been blessed in unexpected ways.

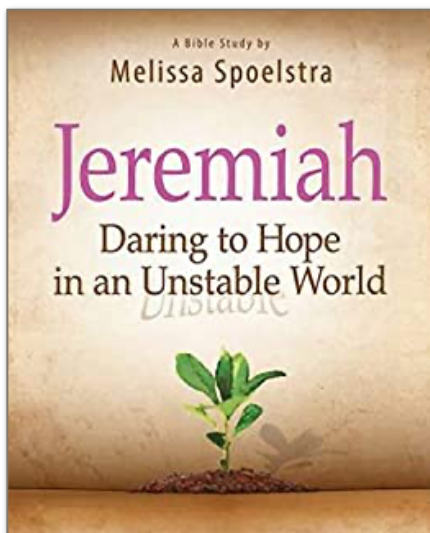
March 22 marks the one-year anniversary of our first online service. Little did we know then that this would be such a long, difficult year of isolation, stress, and sorrow for so many. As we cautiously reintroduce a little hymn-singing to our services, and keep looking for new ways to fit people in at a safe 2-metre distance, let us hope and pray for a time when our church can be open again to all who would enter!

Laura Snyder, Clerk of Session



Ladies' Bible Study

Greetings from the Ladies' Bible Study. As noted in the Annual Report 2020 our group continues with the study: **Jeremiah: Daring to Hope in Unstable World. By Melissa Spoelstra.** We unfortunately missed a number of meetings while in the recent red and orange phases of COVID-19. However, with the help of Charlie Scobie we participated in two Zoom meetings. It was great to see each other face to face again. Now that we are back in the yellow phase we have met twice at a member's home and will continue meeting 'in person' while we remain in the yellow. Our Jeremiah study has been very helpful to us in this time of pandemic and we continue to spend time each week with Jeremiah and listen to him or as he says "Ask me and I will tell you remarkable secrets you do not know about things to come." Jer. 33:3. By Linda Trentini on behalf of Barbara Jardine, Beth Cockburn-Savoie and Jean Scobie.



Teddies for Tragedies

We were unable to decorate the church with teddy bears this year, but we were able to send over 300 bears to "Teddies for Tragedies".

As there were so many, the postmistress said there would be a \$100 charge, but because she was unable to help make teddybears, she would pay the \$100.

Half an hour later as she was packing them into the rail containers a correctional officer came in to buy stamps on his way to work at Dorchester Penitentiary. He saw all the bears and couldn't believe it! When he was told they were all knitted by volunteers, he helped pack them and gave \$50 towards the \$100 !

Even in a pandemic we still see acts of kindness, especially from our knitters Jean Scobie, Eileen Smith, Terrlynn Allen and yours truly. Nita Robinson makes beautiful hand made bags in which to put each teddybear.

Many, many thanks. You are truly special, and God bless.

Blessings,
Julie Comeau
Co-ordinator

Saint Andrews Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-February 28, 2021

Budget Revenue, Main & B&R:	\$24,177
Budget Expenditures, Main & B&R:	<u>\$17,180</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$6,937
Total Budget, Main & B&R:	\$102,500
% of Total Budget spent:	16.76%
% of Year gone by:	16.67%

The very healthy financial picture above is due to 1) good response to Vision 2020 last year, 2) generous expense reduction by our minister, and 3) additional generous donations received this quarter. That the above two percentages are so close is a very good sign!

Breakdown by Account, January 1-February 28, 2021

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$13,201
Expenses:	<u>\$14,677</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$1,441)
Budget 2019:	\$88,300
% of Budget raised:	15%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$10,881
Expenses:	\$2503
Net gain /loss:	\$8,378
Budget 2020:	\$12,000
% of Budget raised:	91%

The Operating Account shows a slight deficit, but it is easily covered by the gain in the B & R Account. B & R revenue is "unnaturally" high, due to the aforementioned generous donation!

Memorial Account

The Memorial Account has a balance of about \$12,000 now, of which \$1,345 is, at present, the amount reserved for the Benevolent Fund. The rest of the funds in the account are held in trust for Session-sanctioned use. This account was given a boost by a generous donation from Betty Torrance upon the passing of her son, David Torrance.

Extra to Budget In-come and Out-go*As of February 28, 2021*

In-come:

Presbyterian Sharing \$455
 PWS&D \$225
 AMS \$175
 Sackville Food Bank
 SRRC

Out-go:

These amounts, plus those that come in in March, will be sent to their respective missions at the end of the first quarter (March 31). The total for missions so far is \$855.

*Anne Miller, Treasurer****Worship in the Yellow Phase***

St. Andrew's is limited by the size of our facility and therefore numbers are determined by how many can be accommodated to ensure two metres of physical distancing between individuals, household bubbles, and/or those in your steady group of 15.

If you would like to attend services in person, you are invited to email [Mary Bogaard](#) weekly to book your pew. Please let us know by no later than Saturday noon, in order that seating can be arrangement for Sunday. We might have space Sunday mornings for individuals who "drop in", but to ensure a spot and to help with arrangements you are encouraged to email in advance. Also, let us know if you are attending with those who are in your steady group of 15 as this will also help with seating arrangements.

<i>Red Phase</i>	<i>Orange Phase</i>	<i>Updated - Yellow Phase</i>	<i>Green Phase</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Church closed to all groups - virtual services only - virtual meetings only 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person worship numbers are limited by 2 metre physical distancing between individuals, household bubbles, and/or your steady group of 10. - Those attending may reserve a seating before Sunday - Masks mandatory - live-streamed services - church closed to all groups - virtual meetings only - no choir rehearsals 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In-person worship limited to space available with 2 metre physical distancing between individuals, household bubbles, and/or your steady group of 15. - live-streamed services - church groups may meet at church, mask wearing mandatory, 2 metre physical distancing - virtual meetings encouraged - choir rehearsals and recordings following protocols in place 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Return to Life and Work of the church pre-COVID-19.

Food Bank

In February flooding forced the Sackville Food Bank out of their location on Willow Lane and they eventually found temporary housing on Bridge Street where the Black Duck Cafe was once located.

This story was covered by CBC News reporter Tory Weldon featuring some of the Food Bank Volunteers including Kevin Hick. You can find the story here:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/new-brunswick/sackville-food-bank-new-home-1.5924594>

Because of the damage the flooding caused the Food Bank has made an appeal for some items (list included below). You may bring donations for the Food Bank on the first Sunday of the Month, which will be Easter Sunday.



Food Bank Needs

- Things for kids' lunches -- granola bars, cups of fruit, small cups of yogurt, tuna, peanut butter and jam, etc.
- Cereal
- crackers, cookies
- pancake mix and syrup
- baking needs (flour, sugar, shortening, baking powder, salt, etc.)
- Canned and fresh fruit
- canned tuna and meats
- cans of baked beans
- cans of soup (especially tomato)
- pasta and pasta meals (KD)
- spaghetti sauce and canned tomatoes
- rice and rice meals
- instant coffee, regular coffee, and tea bags
- children's diapers (all sizes from newborn to pull-ups)
- baby wet wipes
- toilet paper and facial tissue
- sanitary products
- dish and laundry detergents
- hand soap
- toothpaste and toothbrushes
- deodorant
- shampoo