

The Salt

The Newsletter of the St. Andrew's Church Family,
Sackville NB



Vol. 14 No. 3, Advent 2014

**“The people that walked in darkness have seen a great light:
they that dwell in the land of the shadow of death,
upon them hath the light shined.” Isaiah 9:2**



It was 10:30 p.m. and I was heading to church for the late Christmas Eve service. As I drove I entered into the darkness

of that Christmas Eve night guided by the street-lights and the Christmas lights illuminating the houses of those who had turned in for the night.

All was still and quiet when I pulled up to the church: not a creature was stirring! The air was crisp, the snow was falling gently, and at that hour, when most of the places in town were in darkness, there was the light shining out of the church windows to welcome those who gathered to celebrate the birth of Christ and the meal Jesus gave us.

As I set up for the service I went to the front of the church to light the Advent Candles. It was a brief time to review the season of Advent we had just come through, with each candle representing the ways God offers light to contrast the darkness of our world giving us Hope, Peace, Joy, and Love. Last, but not least, there was the Christ Candle reminding us that Christ is the light of the world shining in darkness.

The contrast between darkness and light is a theme that runs throughout the season from Advent to Epiphany. In the midst of the world's darkness we proclaim the promise of light. Amid

the darkness cast upon those who walk in despair we pray that Hope will shine, amid the horrific acts of violence happening in this world we pray that Peace will dawn, amid the sadness of those who are mourning we pray that Joy's light will burst forth, and amid the shadow of hatred that divides God's people we plead that God's Love will shed light upon us.

Taking the images of darkness and light seriously, the Christian Church in the 4th century began to observe the birth of Christ at the darkest time of the year by selecting December 25th as the Festival day. Although the festival commonly associated with the Winter solstice was pagan in origin, the early Christian church sought to radically transform the festival by reinterpreting the use of light in the pagan observance to proclaim the gospel of Jesus Christ—a light to the world.

Meeting on Christmas Eve when the light of day has been replaced by the darkness of night we are mindful of the darkness in our world that has us cry out for a saviour. In that time of darkness our celebration is filled with the light of Christ and we rejoice: “For God, who commanded the light to shine out of darkness, hath shined in our hearts, to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ” (2 Corinthian 4:6).

May the light of Christ shine upon you this season and always!

Rev. Jeffrey M. Murray

(photo of church taken on 24 December 2013 at 10:44 p.m)

St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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Sackville, NB
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Telephone: (506) 536-1952

Web site: www.sapres.ca

Our Purpose

*To see Christ more clearly,
Love Him more dearly,
Follow Him more nearly,
day by day.*

Nominating Committee

Are you wondering how you might contribute to the life and work of our church family? The Nominating Committee would like to hear from you! We already know of some vacancies that need to be filled, and as we contact individuals whose terms are up this year there may be more:

- Archivist (1-year term)
- Envelope Secretary (1-year term)
- Congregational Life Committee (3-year term)
- Publications Committee (3-year term)

With thanks,

Elizabeth Millar, Barb Jardine, and Lindsay Murray

Church Website

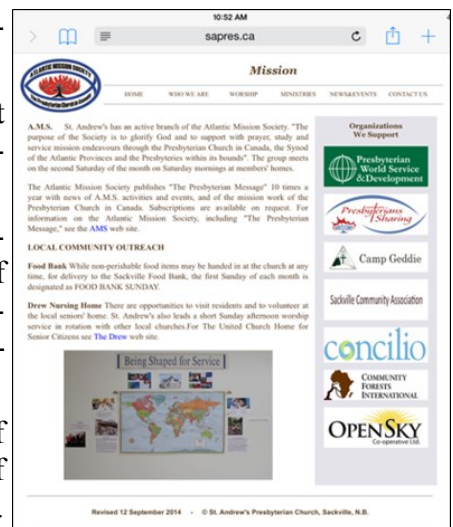
As we enter the Christmas season information about congregational events can be found on the church website.

On the homepage you will find a picture slideshow that contains worship information and upcoming events, such as our Christmas Eve Services.

The website continues to be updated giving you access to Sunday bulletins, *The Salt* newsletter and other information about the life of the congregation. Some new features on the website include sermon recordings and information about giving (PAR: Pre-Authorized Remittance forms can now be downloaded from this page).

In looking ahead to the annual meeting the "Missions" page of the website includes links for the various organizations we support if you wish to find out more information about them and the work they do.

Check out our Website at: [**sapres.ca**](http://sapres.ca)



Clerk's Corner

The congregation mourns, along with Mitchell and Eileen, the recent passing of Mitch's mother, Helen Smith at the age of 101. She was a dearly loved member of our church family and will be sorely missed. It was a privilege to have known her. We shall keep the Smith family in our prayers.

We extend our sincere sympathy to Elizabeth Millar in the loss of her father. It was always a pleasure to chat with Michael and Dorothy when they came to visit Elizabeth and worshipped with us. We will give Elizabeth our prayerful support and remember her mother and sisters as well.

We are concerned to hear that Linda Trentini's brother, Paul, is very ill and suffering from cancer. He has had some procedures, and chemotherapy has begun. Linda is very grateful for all our prayers, love and support. She has gone to California to spend some time with Paul and his wife, Kathleen. We shall continue to keep them in our prayers.

We welcome a new young worshipper, as Matt and Nancy Mahoney became proud parents of a baby boy this past summer. His name is Cian (pronounced kee-an), and he is a little brother for Finn and Calli. We look forward to his baptism soon.

We are saddened to hear that the congregation of St. James, Port Elgin, is unable to continue. Its dissolution took place at the meeting of the Presbytery of New Brunswick on Wednesday, November 26, 2014. In order to allow members of the St. James congregation to address the Presbytery, we were asked to host this meeting here at St. Andrew's. The meeting began at 10:00 a.m., with worship led by Rev. Murray, and then continued into the afternoon, with a break for lunch. Thanks to all of you who contributed to the bountiful lunch meal and also to snacks for hungry travelers when the presbyters arrived.

As usual, time is running faster than we can keep up with, and Christmas activities will soon be upon us! The AMS annual Craft and Bake Sale is taking place today, White Gift Sunday will be held on December 7th, and we look forward to our Christmas Pot Luck Supper at St. Ann's, Westcock, on December 14th. You will read more details about these events throughout this edition of The Salt.

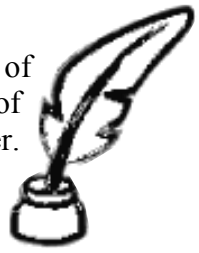
Being very much aware of changes in the Christian church and the context in which it ministers, a series of workshops has been organized by the Evangelism, Social Action, and Mission Committee of our Presbytery. The first in the series, called "Visioning for the Future", will consist of three identical workshops to be held in different locations within the Presbytery. They are at Calvin Church, Miramichi on December 4th, Knox Church, Harvey Station on December 5th, and Crandall University, Moncton on December 6th. This last one begins at 9:30 a.m. and goes to 4:30 p.m., with lunch provided. The facilitators will be Rev. Dr. Dale Woods, Principal of Presbyterian College, and Rev. Dr. Victor Gavino, Coordinator of the Leadership Centre of Presbyterian College.

All of us who are involved in congregations within the Presbytery of New Brunswick, whether ministers, elders, members or adherents, are urged to attend the nearest workshop. There is no cost to us in attending, so please plan to come and have your say in what ministry may look like in the future at St. Andrew's and generally. Please let me know if you plan to attend, and I will coordinate rides. There will be two more sets of three workshops taking place in the New Year.

In Christ's service,

Sylvia Harris

Clerk of Session



Church Directory



The 2015 Church Directory will be printed early in the New Year. If you are not in it yet and would like to be, or if your listing needs updating please let us know. Elizabeth can be reached at 364-2386 or by email at emillar@mta.ca.

Elizabeth Millar, Julie Comeau, and Mona Meldrum

Save Your Postage Stamps

As Christmas card sending and receiving will soon be with us, the AMS asks that you please save the stamps on cards/ letters or parcels you receive and pass them onto any of our members.



For many years now we have been part of the group entitled "Used Stamps for the Leprosy Mission." Last year this group raised over \$15,000 for the cause.

All you need to do is carefully cut out the stamps from the envelopes received, leaving $\frac{1}{4}$ inch of envelope around them, bring them in, and we'll send them on.

Thank you to Michael Capper for his recent contribution of two large boxes of old letters and stamps. He saved them from the garbage outside a local office and presented them to Pauline Atkinson who is now "gainfully employed" cutting out the stamps!

AMS members will be happy to receive your stamps any time during the year or they can be left at the church in an envelope marked "Stamps for the Leprosy Mission."

Atlantic Mission Society

Our November meeting was held at the home of Pauline Atkinson with eleven members present. Sylvia Harris conducted the meeting and introduced an overview of our study, "Making Connections: A Journey Toward Healing and Reconciliation."

It has been our custom at this time of year to disburse monies and it was agreed to give donations to the Sackville Food Bank and the Sackville Christmas Cheer. Also, donations to St. Andrew's Memorial Fund and the AMS Memorial in memory of our dear friend, Helen Smith, were well accepted. Other financial donations were to the two men's projects through our mission society which are Teen Challenge and books for the Theology Library in Malawi.

Our Craft and Bake Sale will be held on November 30th after the Sunday church service with hot apple cider and cookies being served. Monies raised will be in support of our foster child, Vatimeton Mint Alliyin of West Africa.

Our December Christmas meeting will be held on December 13th at the home of Eileen Smith. As always, we welcome anyone interested in the work of missions whether here at home or abroad. For more information, please contact our president, Hannah McNally, at 536-2424, or any other member of our group.



Eileen Smith
AMS Treasurer

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-October 31, 2014

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$ 98,650
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$ 96,810</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$ 1,840
Total Budget, all accounts:	\$ 118,939
% of Total Budget spent:	81%
% of Year gone by:	83%

These figures are in order for a small **net gain** at this point in the year. The final months of the year have some unique expenses, so we should be able to come out even.

Breakdown by Account, January 1-October 31, 2014

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$ 81,262
Expenses:	<u>\$ 85,540</u>
Net gain/loss :	- \$ 4,278
Budget (Revenue):	\$ 112,739
% of Budget raised:	76%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$ 11,472
Expenses:	<u>\$ 5,134</u>
Net gain/loss :	\$ 6,338
Budget (Expense):	\$ 5,200
% of Budget spent:	99%

Donations to the Operating Account have picked up in the last two months, so I have been able to pay back the last debenture for the kitchen project—very good news indeed.

Memorial Account

This account has received donations totalling \$200 in this calendar year. The new handrails up to the pulpit stage (\$1,385) and a new digital projector (\$905) have been purchased out of this account. This account is also the repository for “special” benevolent funds, and has spent \$50 of that this year. The net loss on the account for the year to date is \$2,139.

Anne Miller
Treasurer

Food Bank

The first Sunday of each month is “Food Bank Sunday.” Among the most needed items are:

- Canned Vegetables & Canned Fruit
- Soup – especially tomato and/or chicken soups
- Baked Beans
- Spaghetti Sauce & Pasta – dried spaghetti, macaroni
- Hot/Cold Cereals
- Canned Sandwich Meats such as ham salad, tuna or chicken salad
- Boxes of macaroni & cheese
- Lunch Box Items – juice boxes, sandwich spreads, cups of fruit, cups of applesauce
- Baby Food – cooked vegetables, fruit
- Peanut Butter
- In Season – Fresh Vegetables



Christmas Cheer White Gifts

White Gift Sunday is December 7th this year, with contributions going to support the efforts of the Sackville Christmas Cheer Committee who want to ensure a bright and happy Christmas for needy families in our community. Gift bags are distributed to children from newborn to 12 years of age, and suggestions include:



Newborn to 2: sleepwear, soft washable toys, bath towels and wash cloths, under-shirts, bedding, baby articles (soap, shampoo, etc.), socks, receiving blankets.

Children (2 to 6 years): socks, underwear, tights, small stuffed animals, picture books, dolls and accessories, dress-up jewellery, warm winter clothing (mitts, hats), sleepwear, puzzles, playdough, colouring books and crayons, small snow shovels, small cars and trucks, Lego, blocks, games.

Girls (6 to 12 years): tights, gloves, stocking hats, underwear, sleepwear, stuffed toys, stickers and sticker books, colouring books and crayons, markers, books, puzzles, jewellery, craft kits, games, make-up kits, hair accessories, Barbie dolls and accessories, sweatshirts, fast food coupons, fleece throws, movie passes, crazy carpets.

Boys (6 to 12 years): socks, underwear, sleepwear, baseball caps, games, books, sweatshirts, movie passes, fast food coupons, hockey cards, crazy carpets, fleece throws, warm winter clothing, waterproof gloves.

Gifts should be unwrapped, but donations of wrapping paper are welcome. Please note: CDs, DVDs, videos and video games are not recommended as families may not have the equipment necessary to play them. They also may have limited living space. Please include batteries for any items requiring them.

Note of Thanks

We would like to thank members of our church family for their caring and thoughtfulness during our recent bereavement. Mom Smith was a wonderful person and we will all miss her.

Mitch and Eileen Smith

St. James' Presbyterian Church, Port Elgin



On Sunday, October 5th, the congregation of St. James' Presbyterian Church, Port Elgin, held its final service, which included five baptisms and a celebration of Holy Communion. Rev. Murray and a few members of St. Andrew's were among the many who attended.

During the Presbytery Meeting of November 26th the court moved to dissolve the congregation.

The closure of this congregation effectively terminates one of our debts, which was to pay for Port Elgin's portion of the manse on West Avenue, which was jointly owned from 1967 to 2002. This year's payment was made prior to the congregation's official closure date, yet the session of St. James' kindly returned the cheque. We are grateful for this generous act.

Although our relationship with St. James' since 2002 has been more or less the negotiation of buying their portion of the manse and paying this debt, St. Andrew's connection with St. James' began formally in 1939 when the two congregations became part of a three-point charge with St. James' Dorchester, which closed in 1968. Although the congregations were officially linked in 1939 they have a connection that dates to the early to mid-1800s when Dr. Alexander Clarke established congregations in Little Shemogue, Goose River and in Amherst along with a number of "preaching stations"—Port Elgin and Sackville being among them.

When the congregations came together in 1939, Port Elgin was one of the stronger points within the

charge and the manse was located there. However, in the 1960s the population of Port Elgin declined and during the ministry of the Rev. Dr. Arthur Van Seters (1965-1968), the difficult decision was made to move the manse from Port Elgin to Sackville.

In 1967 the congregation commissioned Mr. Ralph Dykeman to build the manse and it was completed later that year. As the population in Port Elgin and consequently the support for the congregation continued to decline, the Presbytery of Saint John severed the link between St. Andrew's and St. James' in 2002.

Despite the challenges mentioned above the determined congregation of St. James' strove hard to continue its witness in Port Elgin even in the years leading up to its closure. It should be noted that the congregation made history in 1970 when the congregation elected Mrs. Eleanor Goodwin to the office of ruling elder. Mrs. Goodwin was the first woman to be ordained an elder of the Presbyterian Church in New Brunswick.

In recent years the congregation's witness was lived out in a number of ways. Most notably, the people of St. James' sought to continually anchor themselves in the word of God through Sunday worship and in an ecumenical Bible Study. Also, in keeping with the church's namesake, they demonstrated what it means to be "doers of the word, and not merely hearers" as they developed a relationship with the Westmorland Institution and once a month the inmates and the Chaplain participated in worship services at St. James'.

At this time of dissolution of the St. James' congregation, we celebrate their witness and offer our prayers for the members and adherents as they transition toward a new church home remembering the words of our Saviour: "I am the resurrection and the life. Those who believe in me, even though they die, will live..."

I truly believe that if we keep telling the Christmas story, singing the Christmas songs, and living the Christmas spirit, we can bring joy and happiness and peace to this world.”

~ Norman Vincent Peale

Note of Thanks

I would like to express my heartfelt appreciation for the prayers, rides to the airport, food, and many messages of support and sympathy I received during my father's illness and in the weeks following his funeral. I feel blessed to have such a caring church family.

Elizabeth Millar

Teddies for Tragedies

This is a ministry of care and outreach, which was established in 1985. It distributes these cuddly, hand-made Teddies and their bags to children all over the world who are dealing with wars, sickness, loss of family, and for some, all of the above. These Teddies are personally delivered by medical personnel, teachers and other caring professionals, who meet with the children and their families, if any. The Teddies have been made by people in the Presbyterian churches of St. Andrew's, Sackville, NB, and Greenbrier and Alexandra in Brantford, Ontario. They were taken to Puslinch Presbyterian Church on Oct. 18th for the Teddies tea party, where they arrive from across Canada. From there they will travel to where they can bring smiles to the suffering faces of little children.

We need more knitters or sewers for the bags! There are only three of us—Nita Robinson, Jean Scobie and myself. I would be delighted to drop off some wool, stuffing and a pattern, or material for the bags. All of these necessities have either been donated or money has been donated in order to replenish them. If you are unable to sew or knit, perhaps you would be able to give a monetary donation if you so wish, in order that this ministry of care and outreach may continue.

We have also partnered with Samaritan's Purse, so a Teddy is placed in each Christmas Cheer box at Christmas. Please contact Julie Comeau at 758-0192, or Rev. Jeff Murray at 536-3311.

Blessings, and thank you so much,

Julie Comeau



Calendar of Events

Every first Sunday	11:00 a.m.	– Food Bank Sunday
Every Monday	7:00 p.m.	– Ladies' Study Group
Every Thursday	9:30 a.m.	– Parents and Tots
Every second Saturday	10:00 a.m.	– Atlantic Mission Society

Sunday 30 November – First Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Rev. Jeffrey Murray
– Sacrament of Holy Communion
- 12:00 p.m. – AMS Craft and Bake Sale



Sunday 7 December – Second Sunday of Advent and White Gift Sunday

- 9:00 a.m. – Study: Being Presbyterian in the Church Today
- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Rev. Jeffrey Murray
– Sacrament of Holy Baptism
- 3:00 p.m. – Service at the Drew Nursing Home

Monday 8 December

- 3:00 p.m. – Meeting of Session

Sunday 14 December – Third Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Rev. Jeffrey Murray
- 5:00 p.m. – Potluck Dinner at St. Ann's Church, Westcock

Sunday 21 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Rev. Jeffrey Murray



Wednesday 24 December – Christmas Eve

- 5:30 p.m. – Family Christmas Service
- 11:15 p.m. – Christmas Eve Service
– Sacrament of Holy Communion

Sunday 28 December – First Sunday after Christmas

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship – Rev. Jeffrey Murray

Merry Christmas From *The Salt*

The members of the Publications Committee would like to wish you and yours a Christmas of love, hope, joy, and peace, and a happy and blessed New Year. The next issue will be out in time for Lent/Easter. If you have any comments or suggestions about our church newsletter, or you would like to join our committee please get in touch.

Elizabeth, Julie, and Mona

Christmas Word Search



A C J O S E P H S C F F M M A N G E R H
 P G H W E J N A M O J A W I S E M E N O
 R D L O O O P L W A N I Y J V K W M N L
 I H C G I Y L L G B E T H L E H E M K Y
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 G S H E P H E R D S P M E V C A T T L E

Angels
 Bethlehem
 Camels
 Candles
 Carols
 Cattle
 Census
 Choirs
 Christ
 Christmas
 Donkey

East
 Emmanuel
 Faithful
 Frankincense
 Gifts
 Gold
 Hallelujah
 Harps
 Herod
 Holy Night
 Hope

Innkeeper
 Jesus
 Joseph
 Joy
 King
 Love
 Manger
 Mary
 Messiah
 Myrrh
 Nativity

Nowell
 Peace
 Prince of Peace
 Rejoice
 Saviour
 Sheep
 Shepherds
 Son
 Stable
 Star
 Wisemen