

The Salt

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



Vol. 15 No. 3, Advent 2015

Christ the Newborn Refugee

Since the first call for donations to sponsor a refugee family or families in Sackville, this congregation has been generous in its support. As both the minister of this congregation and representative on the Sackville Refugee Response Coalition (SRRC), I am grateful for your contributions and for the initiative of our Sunday School to make this part of their Advent project.

As some of my attention has been on the work of the SRRC there is one Christmas carol that has been playing in my mind. It is the Coventry Carol. The carol tells one part of the Christmas story found in Matthew's gospel. It is the story that follows the visit from the Wise Men in which the newborn Jesus and his family flee for their lives to Egypt. The family was warned in a dream that King Herod was searching for the child in order to kill him. It is after the family's flight to Egypt that we come to the horrific account of the massacre of innocence—the Coventry Carol sings a lament for the children who were slaughtered.

This part of the story is never included in a children's Christmas pageant and I think we can understand why. It would be rather disturbing to add a tragic ending to a story that is intended to leave us with a sense of hope on Christmas Eve. Nevertheless, the tragic story is an important element in the message that the church aims to tell at Christmas, because it emphasizes that God entered the heartache and suffering that shrouds our world in darkness. The Christian saviour was born in the midst of poverty, political oppression and acts of

terror and the gospels do not hide this fact under a festive veneer.

As the SRRC has been working hard toward sponsoring a refugee family or families in cooperation with the churches of Sackville, there has been some anxiety over welcoming others into our community. Unfortunately, some responses to this effort have been xenophobic and hateful.

In the midst of the world's stories of fear, terrorism, war, and of refugees searching for safety, however, the story of Jesus as a refugee is an important one to tell. Like many Syrian children today, Jesus spent his early childhood as a refugee. Like many Syrians today, Jesus' family was not fleeing from the threat of some foreign power—in fear of the 'other'—but was fleeing from their *own* country and from the threat that came from an oppressive power within their *own* homeland.

One of the things that Matthew's gospel aims to do is to challenge his readers to see God, to see Christ, in the hungry, the thirsty, the sick, the prisoner, the poor and in the refugee.

As we celebrate the coming of Christ into our world this season, may we remember that Christ comes to offer hope to a broken world and light to a world in darkness. May we share that light of hope this season with our family and with the stranger who seeks refuge in a place like Sackville.

May the light of Christ fill us all with hope!

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.*

Clerk's Corner

What a joyful time we had on Sunday, November 15, 2015, as we celebrated the 110th Anniversary of our witness here on the corner of Bridge and Squire Streets! We were inspired by Dr. Cameron Brett's sermon, and we remembered with gratitude the saints of the Lord who served St. Andrew's so faithfully over all those years. There was a display of historic photographs set up in the Dykeman Room, where several of us enjoyed a delightful stroll down memory lane. We also had a great time reminiscing during Coffee and Conversation, and, of course, the Anniversary cake was beautiful as well as delicious! As we look forward, all of us will continue to contribute by dedicating our time, talents, and financial resources to keep St. Andrew's an active and viable congregation.

The Presbyterian Church in Canada is undertaking a period of discernment on the subject of human sexuality. To help us in our discussions, church offices have provided a study guide, which is available online. If you would like the link to it, please speak to Jeff or to me. There will be decisions made regarding the inclusion of LGBTQ persons into the ministry of Word and Sacraments at the 142nd General Assembly in June, 2016.

Moved by the plight of Syrians fleeing their war-torn homeland, a meeting was held of interest-



ed people to get a sense if sponsoring a refugee family was something we wanted to commit to. There was a great feeling that this should be explored. It was noted that several church denominations, including ours, already have agreements in place with Immigration Canada to sponsor refugee families. Therefore, applications will go through the churches. A steering committee was formed, called the Sackville Refugee Response Coalition (SRRC), which includes Rev. Murray, representing St. Andrew's, as well as Donna Capper, who has years of experience in refugee work with Immigration Canada.

The first step is to raise a minimum of \$30,000, cash-in-hand, for a family of four. If more is raised, we may be able to apply for a larger family or a second family. Although the applications will go through the churches, this is very much a Sackville community effort, which involves people from all walks of life, giving their particular expertise, and it includes people from Mount Allison University. St. Andrew's is now collecting funds for the SRRC under the "Other" section of the church envelope and marked "SRRC." It is encouraging to see the support as donations are coming in, as well as the offers to help by many people who see welcoming the stranger as a calling to which they want to respond.

In Christ's service,

Sylvia Harris

Clerk of Session

Merry Christmas from *The Salt*

The deadline for the Easter issue of *The Salt* is **Friday, March 4, 2016**. Wishing you all the best for Christmas and a happy and healthy New Year,

Julie Comeau, Mona Meldrum & Elizabeth Millar

Atlantic Mission Society

The AMS & Women's Aid Group met on September 12, 2015 and October 3, 2015, at members' homes, beginning at 10:00 a.m.

In September, Bertha Fillmore and Sylvia Harris attended the Annual Meeting of the Atlantic Mission Society in Stellarton, NS, which was hosted by Pictou Presbyterial. The guest speaker was Rev. Major Charles Deogratias, Senior Chaplain at Camp Gagetown, who led worship here on July 12th.

The St. John Presbyterial Fall Rally was held at our St. Andrew's on Saturday, October 24, 2015, with representatives attending from Moncton and Saint John. We finished the business in the morning and enjoyed lunch together before we dispersed for our homes.

It is the turn of the St. John Presbyterial to host next year's AMS Annual Meeting, and our President, Rosemary Smith, put together a committee to organize it. Sylvia Harris and Beth Cockburn-Savoie are the representatives of our auxiliary on this committee.

This fall, we were able to make donations to Open Sky and the PWS&D Refugee Fund in the amount of \$250.00 each.

Our annual Craft and Bake Sale will take place on Sunday, November 29th, following morning worship. The purpose of this sale is to raise funds to support our World Vision sponsored child, Vatimetou Mint Alliyin of West Africa. Hot apple cider and ginger snaps will be served.

We are actively looking for new members from our congregation who are interested in the church's mission. You may speak to Sylvia Harris, Debbie Stewart, or Eileen Smith, either at church or at home.

You would be very welcome to attend our next meeting, which will be held on Friday, December 11, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. at the home of Eileen Smith. The December meeting takes the form of a pot-luck lunch and, while there is usually a very short business meeting, we share Christmas readings and enjoy a social time together.

Debbie Stewart

AMS Secretary



Board of Managers

The Board can now report on several projects which have taken place during Spring/Summer/Fall of 2015:



- A microwave and a new stove were purchased using funds donated by the AMS.
- A new electrical outlet was installed on the outside of the church, adjacent to the rear entrance, providing easier access to power for the electric lawnmower.
- Electrical lighting was upgraded in the church (basement) hall, including an emergency light in the downstairs washroom.
- Options for a possible elevator connecting the levels of the main entrance, the sanctuary, and the church hall are being considered, and are under discussion within the Board and the Session.

The Board wishes to thank all those who contributed to lawn mowing during the summer months, and to those who assisted Michael Capper's efforts with the garden.

Art Miller

Board Chair

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-October 31, 2015

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$ 106,541
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$ 93,053</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$ 13,488
Total Budget, all accounts:	\$ 114,974
% of Total Budget spent:	80.93%
% of Year gone by:	83.33%

What looks like a nice net gain for the year includes money sitting in the Memorial Account which is extra to the running of the church (\$5,125 earmarked for "elevator", and \$700 in a "benevolent fund").

Breakdown by Account, January 1-October 31, 2015

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$ 85,370
Expenses:	<u>\$ 84,609</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$ 761
Budget (Revenue):	\$ 112,024
% of Budget raised:	76%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$ 9,988
Expenses:	<u>\$ 3,361</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$ 6,627
Budget (Expense):	\$ 2,250
% of Budget spent:	149%

The money in these two accounts runs the church. To date in 2015, our average monthly donations to these accounts have been \$9,535, and our average monthly expenses for the same will be \$9,220. This leaves us about \$300 "in the black", on average, each month for the two accounts. Not much "wiggle room" here!

Memorial Account

This account balance stands at about \$9,000, of which \$700 is reserved for "Benevolent Fund", and \$5,125 is earmarked for a potential elevator project. These moneys are held in trust for Session-sanctioned use.

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 6th 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, while those aged 12 to 14 will be given gift certificates for local businesses. Gift suggestions include:



Newborn to 2: sleepwear, soft washable toys, bath towels and wash cloths, undershirts, 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.

News From the Pews

Art and Anne Miller welcomed twin grandsons Achille, at 7lbs 2 oz. and Aurèle, at 5lbs. 6 oz., on November 15! They are now at home with Jennifer, Jacob, and big brother Élias (age 4) in Trois Rivières, Quebec.



Social Committee

While it may seem like manna from heaven, the food provided during our Coffee and Conversations, Christmas Potluck, and other events actually comes from members of our own congregation. The Social Committee members have telephone lists which they take turns calling to ask for contributions. Please contact any member of the committee if you would like your name added to, or removed from, a list (see next page).

The Committee follows a few guiding principles. They consider the food that is offered, and try to make choices that conform to our church's mission of the gospel, of justice in the world and that are friendly to the environment. So, they choose fair trade coffee and tea and, regarding juice, they try to provide beverages that are locally made, such as Belliveau's Cider.

Among us (and often among our guests) there are a few people who have food preferences and needs (vegetarian, dairy-free, gluten-free), and though there may not be many individuals involved, Committee members want to be hospitable and make sure that each time we have food there is at least one savory and one sweet of which everyone can partake. Also, they like to be realistic about how much is needed, so that there is enough, but not so much that people are taking home food they went to the trouble of preparing for others.

Foods and Amounts

This list is for a "typical" Coffee and Conversation:

- 4 loaves of sandwiches/wraps or equivalent savory food, such as small quiches, deviled eggs, etc. (one of these should be vegetarian, and even gluten-free if possible)
- 2 boxes rice crisps, or other gluten-free crackers
- 1 package of cheese, cubed
- 3 bags of grapes
- 1 dish of other fruit: ex: cubed fresh pineapple, etc.
- 2 plates of sweets, one of which ought to be both gluten- and dairy-free

Beverages

- 2 litres of cider or juice
- 1 litre of milk for coffee and tea
- ½ litre of cream
- 36 cups of free-trade coffee
- 2 pots of free-trade tea



Social Committee Telephone Lists

List A: Mary Bogaard

1. Pauline Atkinson
2. Florence Cole
3. Nita Robinson
4. Heidi Griffin
5. Barb Clayton & Brian Neilson
6. Eileen & Mitch Smith

List B: Barb Clarke

1. Bertha & Dick Fillmore
2. Elizabeth Craig & David Torrance
3. Sylvia Harris
4. Lindsay & Jeffrey Murray
5. Vivien & Cecil Hicks
6. Margaret & Alex Whitla

List C: Alice Folkins

1. Mona & Kirk Meldrum
2. Elizabeth Millar

3. Donna & Michael Capper
4. Sharon & Paul Griffin
5. Elizabeth Massarelli & Ross Thomas
6. Amanda Marlin McClellan



List D: Debbie Stewart

1. Carol Sheehan
2. Wanda Severns
3. Barb Jardine
4. Anne & Art Miller
5. Anneke Houtsma

List E: Beth Cockburn-Savoie

1. Michelle Cameron & Ryan Wiens
2. Linda Trentini
3. Nancy & Matt Mahoney
4. Darya & Travis Tower
5. Marianne & Claude Gautreau

Quotable Quotes

An inconvenience is an adventure wrongly considered. ~Gilbert K. Chesterton

Everything you've ever wanted is on the other side of fear. ~George Addair

Anger is an acid that can do more harm to the vessel in which it's stored than to anything on which it's poured. ~Mark Twain

Faith is taking the first step even when you don't see the whole staircase. ~Martin Luther King, Jr.

The man on top of the mountain didn't fall there. ~Vince Lombardi

Life becomes easier when you learn to accept an apology you never got. ~Robert Brault

Courage does not always roar. Sometimes it is a quiet voice at the end of the day, saying "I will try again tomorrow." ~Mary Anne Radmacher

A person who never made a mistake never tried anything new. ~Albert Einstein

Waste no time arguing what a good man should be. Be one. ~Marcus Aurelius

Do not spoil what you have by desiring what you do not. ~Epicurus



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 29 November – First Sunday of Advent

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



Thursday 3 December

- 5:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal

Sunday 6 December – Second Sunday of Advent and White Gift Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Monday 7 December

- 3:00 p.m. – Meeting of Session

Thursday 10 December

- 5:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal

Sunday 13 December – Third Sunday of Advent

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

Sunday 20 December – Fourth Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Thursday 24 December – Christmas Eve

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



Sunday 27 December – First Sunday of Christmas

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Sunday 3 January – Second Sunday of Christmas

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Clip Art Credits

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