

The Salt

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



Vol. 17 No. 1, Easter 2017

“Visions of Paradise”

On Ash Wednesday, a colleague handed me a short work to read by the late Robert D. Crouse, who was a Patristic and Medieval Scholar at the University of King's College in Halifax. Crouse's book, entitled *Images of Pilgrimage: Paradise and Wilderness in Christian Spirituality*, ended up being a suitable piece to read for Lent given that the season is a type of pilgrimage through the wilderness to prepare us for celebrating the joy of God's salvation.

In this work, Crouse brings the images of paradise and wilderness together. The Israelites' time in the wilderness reflects this coming together of paradise and wilderness as they experienced a complex mixture of curse and blessing, wounding and healing, a time of want and fulfilment. All of it was to prepare them to enter the promised land.

Like the Israelites, our lives are often a complex mixture of wilderness and paradise, and yet in this mix of life, through the challenges, uncertainties, and doubts, the people of God are called to see God, to see paradise, in the wilderness – to even see in the challenges and setbacks a part of God's work to refine our faith and prepare us to receive God's promises.

Crouse writes: “Certainly the wilderness – the confusions of the world in which we live, uncertainties within the church, confusion within our own souls – ... presents us with problems and dilemmas, and it is surely not very easy to ‘count it all joy’, and discern and celebrate the lineaments of paradise within it.”

In our struggles and amid the flaws and errors of this world, we can relate to the Israelites who often struggled to see God, and God's providence at work, while in the wilderness. Yet, even in the wilderness and even in the horror of the cross God is there and fragments of paradise are presented.

This is what make the events of Holy Week a mental challenge. We move from the excitement of Palm Sunday and are plunged into the darkness of Gethsemane. A night of sharing a joyful feast ends in betrayal and on the cross God is crucified. Before the disciples encountered the risen Lord on Easter morning, even they struggled to see God in the darkness of the cross. Yet, through the cross we are made friends of God. We are reconciled and the love of heaven touches this world even in the cross of Jesus.

As we journey along the lines of darkness and light, despair and hope, sadness and joy this season may we come to count the joys of God's providence in such wilderness times recalling the love of God who sent his son into the world to save us.

Happy Easter!!

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.*

Happy Anniversary!

It hardly seems possible, but it has been a decade since Rev. Murray's ordination and induction as our minister on February 28, 2007. Thank you, Jeff, for your faithful leadership, inspiring sermons, patience, and good cheer—we are very blessed to have you in our pulpit!



News from Session

On the first Sunday in February the Session extended a right hand of fellowship to three new elders. We welcome Donna Capper, Laura Snyder, and Terrlynn Allen to this office of service in Christ's Church.

Donna Capper became a member of St. Andrew's on January 11, 2012. She has been involved with the Sackville Refugee Response Coalition Steering Committee and has participated in several Habitat for Humanity building projects around the world.

Laura Snyder, who joined the church on April 5, 2015, has been active with the music support committee at St. Andrew's, the choir, and has been our organist on numerous occasions. Laura also serves on the Library and Archives Committee.

Terrlynn Allen began attending St. Andrew's following the closure of the St. James' Church in Port Elgin, becoming a member at St. Andrew's on May 2, 2016. At St. James' she served as an elder and offered her leadership in teaching Sunday school. Terrlynn continues to keep in touch with many of the members and adherents of St. James'. She is also active with the Port Elgin District Voluntary Action Council (PEDVAC) and is involved with its teaching kitchen program.



Thank You

During the service of ordination and admission to the office of eldership at St. Andrew's we expressed our sincere appreciation to Sylvia Harris for her service as our Clerk of Session. Sylvia resigned this position in anticipation of a move to Fredericton in the near future. Her service to Christ in this congregation along with her organization, dedication, and neatly and correctly kept notes are going to be missed!

At this time, we are without a clerk and for a short interim period, elders are serving in turn as acting clerk for a meeting. When a new clerk is called, the name will be announced during worship and added to the directory on the bulletin to inform the congregation.

Atlantic Mission Society and Ladies Aid Auxiliary

Women of St. Andrew's meet at the church at 10:00 am on the second Saturday of each month from September to June. Men are also welcome, so please join us if you are curious or wanting to become a member. It has been a blessing to have our new elevator.

Once again the people of Sackville gathered on the first Friday of March for the World Day of Prayer service. This year it was written by the women of the Philippines and was entitled, "Am I Being Unfair to You?" The theme was based on Matthew 20:1-16, the story of the Labourers in the Vineyard, where the labourers are paid for a full day's work regardless of the time of day they were hired. Did you know the Philippines is a country consisting of an archipelago of 7,107 islands? Our host church was St. Ann's in Westcock, just outside of town. It was a pleasure to be in, "the old grey church in the wood" that is celebrating its 200th Anniversary this year.

Mission Awareness Sunday will take place on Sunday, April 30th, and our AMS will be taking part in the service. The theme is "Disciples of Christ."

At each meeting we have a time of study. The subjects have come from the "Stories of Mission, Sowing Seeds of Hope" in *The Presbyterian Message* published each month. Some examples are, "The Kenora Fellowship Centre" and "Co-operative Ministry."

Also, did you know the Hub is up and running? It is described as follows at the website below: "The Hub" is an online space for women to share their Reformed faith and how it relates to their daily lives. It is a place to create relationships with women who identify themselves as Presbyterian." <http://womenshub.ca>

May you be "Rooted in Love," this Spring. This is the theme of the National Presbyterian Women's Gathering that takes place May 19-22nd in Richmond Hill, ON. It sounds like good advice.

Deborah Stewart
AMS Secretary



Different Ways of Giving to St. Andrew's

How times have changed! During a recent presbytery visit to a congregation, Pre-Authorized Remittance (PAR) came up in the discussion. As the board members and the treasurer talked about PAR, one of the elders on the visitation team made a surprising remark, which indicated that times have certainly changed. He commented that when the offering is taken up on Sunday, "it is so nice to see the offering plate pass by so many people! It means they are on PAR." An offering plate passing by many people and few gifts in it would not have been regarded as good news a number of years ago!!

Yes, the times are changing and the ways we give have changed. Some people are on PAR, and some who have envelopes do not give weekly, but, having decided on their yearly or monthly giving to the church, put their offering on the plate once a month. Beyond this there are several other methods of giving that some may use periodically (e.g. gifts of Publicly Traded Securities, Annuities, Bequests, etc.).

In all the ways we give, we support and participate in the mission of God, locally and globally supporting our continued witness here in Sackville.

Praise God from whom all blessings flow!



Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-January 31, 2017

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$9,648
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$12,900</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$3,252)
Total Budget, all accounts:	\$119,690
% of Total Budget spent:	10.77%
% of Year gone by:	8.33%

It is "early days" in the New Year here: the Synod and Presbytery dues are paid in full for the year, which partially accounts for the percent spent being higher than the percent of year gone by.

Breakdown by Account, January 1-January 31, 2017

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$8,800
Expenses:	<u>\$12,123</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$3,323)
Budget (Revenue):	\$109,690
% of Budget raised:	8%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$848
Expenses:	<u>\$777</u>
Net gain/loss:	\$71
Budget (Expense):	\$10,000
% of Budget spent:	8.48%

These two accounts are on track for percent of budget raised at this point. The manse incurred an unexpected expense in January (new clothes washer), so that the excess in B & R is less than usual.

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.

Note: Because I was away for much of March, this report is not as up to date as usual (February has been closed, but I do not yet have the report). Nicely, my new Assistant Treasurer, Darya Tower, is taking over the cheque writing part of this job, so that part could continue even while I was away. March 31st marks the end of the first quarter of the financial year, and this always means extra moneys will be sent out from the church's accounts: Presbyterian Sharing, PWS&D, and AMS. Let us keep our witness in this place alive by consistent giving, in whatever form you choose (see page 3).

Anne Miller
Treasurer

From the Library

Gary Smalley and John Trent, *Leaving the Light On: Building the Memories That Will Draw Your Kids Home* (Sisters, OR: Multnomah Press, 1995).

What kind of home do you want your children to look back on years from now? Are you turning on lights of love and laughter and shared dreams in your children's memories....lights that will tug at their thoughts and warm their hearts down the sometimes dark, sometimes winding road of life? In the pages that follow you will find more than a dozen time-tested concepts which can help you build a close-knit family. With God's help...you can have the lightest, brightest home in the neighbourhood.

Douglas Wood, *Old Turtle* (Duluth, MN: Pfeifer-Hamilton, 1992).

This story tells of the gift of wisdom and hope we get from knowing God and seeing him in one another. It tells of an argument that began slowly at first among the creatures of the earth about who God was until it got so loud that Old Turtle put a stop to it by telling them that God is all that we dream of, all that we seek, all that we come from and all that we can find. Then the people came. They forgot that they were a message of love, and a prayer from the earth and they too began to argue and hurt each other and the earth until God through nature began to speak to them. Once they listened, they began to hear and see God in one another and in the beauty of the earth.

Beth Cockburn-Savoie

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 9 April – Palm Sunday – Liturgy of Palms & of Passion

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Thursday 13 April – Maundy Thursday

- 7:00 p.m. – Refreshments
- 7:30 p.m. – Sacrament of Holy Communion

Friday 14 April – Good Friday

- 11:00 a.m. – Good Friday Service

Sunday 16 April – Easter Sunday

- 6:28 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service
- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
- Sacrament of Holy Communion



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Mount Allison
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Opening of the
Centenary
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Presents

The Mount Allison University Choral Society
Dr. Greg Burton, conductor

in

Music Sacred and Profane

Sunday, April 2, 3:00 pm
Trinity St. Stephen's United Church
Amherst, Nova Scotia

including

Gabriel Fauré *Requiem*
Robert Fleming *Mass of St. Thomas*
Eric Whitacre *Seal Lullaby*
Songs of Newfoundland and Cape Breton

Featuring

The Tesla Quartet
The Mount Allison University Brass Quintet
Jennifer Del Motte, organist
Jaime Hunter, pianist