

The Salt

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



Vol. 16 No. 1, Easter 2016

“Making Space Within”

The Passion and Resurrection of Jesus reveals the extraordinary love of God, which is capable of taking us into fellowship with the divine. The life of Jesus especially reveals this love in his willingness to create a welcoming space for others who have been pushed out of fellowship with the community. However, as God is capable of making space within God's self for humanity, humanity had difficulty making space for God's Son as we crucified him.

The basis of God's capacity to make space for us is love, whereas the foundation of our incapacity to make space for God or for “the other” is often fear. Fear of what the other might do, fear of how the other might change us, fear of losing a solidified identity. Yet, despite humanity's rejection of God in Christ, Jesus offered this fear-filled humanity forgiveness and he bequeathed the church with a ministry of reconciliation—which is perhaps a ministry of making space for each other.

Forgiveness and reconciliation have greater repercussions beyond saying sorry for wrongdoings and the offering of words of forgiveness. This ministry is a costly activity that demands adjustment and sacrifice in order to make space for those with whom we need to be reconciled.

What is interesting about many of the gospel stories in which Jesus welcomes and eats with sinners is that the righteous (the blameless), assume that there is no requirement on their part to adjust, to sacrifice, or to make space for those whom Jesus welcomed, healed and loved. They are unable

to see that should they make such a sacrifice, or make space for the other, their lives could be richer and more in tune with God's commandment to love one another.

To love is to risk welcoming the stranger and trusting that God will make our lives richer as a result. Reconciliation and forgiveness are often about creating space for others and for the stranger by vouchsafing their difference as opposed to feeling threatened by their presence.

To be a welcoming church can be costly and risky as it often requires those of us “on the inside” to make adjustments. In one sense we could look at the Elevator Project through the lens of Reconciliation. The project does come with some risk (the financial cost and maintenance) and it demands that we literally make space within our walls to make our house of worship accessible. For the elevator project to go through we still wait to hear about funding from a grant. Yet, despite the cost and the space the lift will take up, I think we will gain more in the end as this project presents us with the opportunity to be transformed for the better as we come to be a more accessible place of worship and ministry for those who currently have difficulty entering and sharing in the joy of worship and fellowship at St. Andrew's.

This is perhaps one small, yet important, expression of loving others as God loves 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.

Clerk's Corner

Although the New Year is well under way, I am looking back to Christmas, 2015. We did something new then by holding a Christmas Day service as well as the two services on Christmas Eve. The family service on Christmas Eve was well-attended and featured a pageant. It was as well-organized as it could be when preparing and performing with a group of children of varying ages. It had a spontaneity to it that was delightful! Thanks to Elizabeth Craig, her helpers, and the children who took part for an altogether joyful experience! The late night communion and the Christmas Day services, while attended by a small number, were both beautiful and deeply meaningful. Thank you, Rev. Jeff!



Just recently, St. Andrew's once again took part in the World Day of Prayer service, held at Middle Sackville Baptist Church. It was written by women of Cuba, and the theme was "Receive children, receive me." A good number from our church attended, and it was a lovely clear evening. Some of us enjoyed a time of fellowship over supper at Pizza Delight before the service. The service next year will take place at St. Ann's Anglican Church, Westcock. The date is set as the first Friday in March, but it sometimes has to be changed because of a snowstorm.

Our A.M.S. will take part in Mission Awareness Sunday on April 24, 2016, with the theme "Reaching Out in Love."

Now, in the season of Lent and especially during our Holy Week services on Maundy Thursday and Good Friday,* we think again of the betrayal, denial and trials of Jesus that led to his death on the cross. We put ourselves in his place and try to understand his feelings through it all. What dedication and obedience to his father's will! And what love for sinful humanity! We are grateful to know that Jesus's story did not end there, but can look beyond his death to the glory of his resurrection on Easter morning. As we celebrate his rising again in our early service and later partake in the wonder and mystery of Holy Communion, we know again the joy of our salvation and rededicate our lives to him as his present-day disciples, to love and serve him all our days.

Yours in Christ's service,

Sylvia Harris

Clerk of Session

**Editor's Note: Please see the next page, and the Calendar of Events on the back page, for the dates and times of our Holy Week services and activities.*

Easter at St. Andrew's

Maundy Thursday Dessert and Communion Service—March 24th

This begins at 7:00 p.m. with a time of refreshments and fellowship. People who come are asked to bring desserts to share and we provide decaf coffee, tea, juice, etc. The Maundy Thursday communion service follows at 7:30 with everyone sitting in a candle-lit circle. Candles are extinguished after each Bible reading and worshippers leave in silence.

Good Friday Service—March 25th

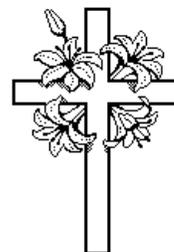
This service begins at 11:00 a.m.

Easter Sunrise Service and Pancake Breakfast—March 27th

Our start time is 7:00 a.m. for the Sunrise Service, followed by a pancake breakfast. All the food items that are needed are listed on the sign-up sheet in the Narthex. The Social Committee provides the hot and cold drinks.

Easter Sunday Holy Communion Service—March 27th

This service begins at 11:00 a.m.



Becoming a Member of St. Andrew's

Today when we think of membership it often corresponds with having certain benefits, discounts or services. We have our shopping memberships, our gym memberships, etc. However, membership in a church is different as it expresses our commitment to serving God through the church and with that comes the ability to exercise certain rights and privileges within The Presbyterian Church in Canada.



Why should I become a member?

The Bible reveals to us that our God is a covenant-making God. Membership is a way of expressing our commitment to God and to the church, the people of God. When we become members we confess faith in God and commit ourselves to a covenant with God and, at the same time, with each other.

What's the difference between being a member or an adherent of a congregation?

They are very similar, and adherents are often as dedicated to the ministry of the congregation as members—sometimes even more so. However, members promise to live in a covenantal community with God and one another. There are also times in the life of the congregation when it does make a difference. When parents wish to have their child baptized at least one parent should be a member of the church. Only a member can be ordained an elder or vote for an elder. Only members can sign a call for a minister (although adherents do have the opportunity to sign a concurrence to a call).

How can I become a member?

There are three ways to become a member: by Profession of Faith, Certificate of Transfer from another Church in which one was a member, or by Resolution of Session if a certificate of transfer is not possible.

The above information is very brief and may lead to more questions than answers. If you have any questions about the Presbyterian Church or about membership, Jeff will be happy to talk with you.

Board of Managers: Elevator Project

As of March 13th, the Elevator Project has received pledged and donated funds totalling \$26,750. Since our \$60,000 budget for the Elevator Project includes \$35,000 from within the Church, and a hoped-for grant from the McBain/Barker fund of The Presbyterian Church in Canada of \$25,000 (maximum), we will need to obtain additional pledges of at least \$8,000.

The anonymous straw vote taken at the Annual Meeting indicated strong support for the Elevator Project, with an indication of financial support in excess of \$35,000.

Pledges will be gratefully accepted until April 1st.



Art Miller

Board Chair

Atlantic Mission Society

A good group of women and men experienced a break from our cold winter weather by travelling to a tropical island during the 2016 World Day of Prayer Service. “Receive Children, Receive Me,” was hosted by Middle Sackville Baptist Church on March 4th. It always amazes me to think of how people all over this earth gather each year on the first Friday of March to worship and pray with the same service. This year the program was written by the women of Cuba. The following words of Ruth Mariet Trueba Castro, carry us with hope and joy from Winter to Easter:



“We open the door to the childhood within us and Jesus enters
As light transcends the stained glass windows
It is made flesh in the games of laughter...”

We were fortunate to have many gather before the service to dine out. Dessert wasn’t needed as our hosts provided lovely sustenance following the service.

The motto of the World Day of Prayer movement is “Informed Prayer and Prayerful Action.” Through our participation in the World Day of Prayer, we affirm that prayer and action are inseparable and that both have immeasurable influence on the world.

A Mission Awareness Sunday service, “Learning and Reaching Out Together with Love,” is being planned for April 24, 2016. We look forward to sharing with the congregation the work being done.

All are welcome to join any meeting, generally on the second Saturday morning of each month from September to June as we study and support missions. At our meetings we encourage participation in the roll call by sharing scripture.

“Let the little children come to me; do not stop them; for it is to such as these that the kingdom of God belongs” (Mark 11:14).

For more information you can visit the AMS webpage <http://www.ams.pccatlantic.ca> where you can find such things as, the purpose of the Society which is, “to glorify God and to support with prayer, study and service mission endeavours through The Presbyterian Church in Canada.”

Deborah Stewart

AMS Secretary

Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-February 29, 2016

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$20,140
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$21,467</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$1,357)
Total Budget, all accounts:	\$117,547
% of Total Budget spent:	18.25%
% of Year gone by:	8.33%

The net loss after two months is largely explained by the two substantial once-a-year dues we must pay to the Synod and the Presbytery. But \$1,300 of the total is also in "pass-through" accounts, like PWS&D and SRRC, which are unbudgeted and cannot be used to run the church.

Breakdown by Account, January 1-February 29, 2016

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$18,935
Expenses:	<u>\$21,617</u>
Net gain/loss:	(\$2,232)
Budget (Revenue):	\$112,547
% of Budget raised:	19%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$1,205
Expenses:	<u>\$300</u>
Net gain/loss:	\$905
Budget (Expense):	\$5,000
% of Budget spent:	6%

The money in these two accounts, minus the pass-throughs mentioned above, run the church. From the accounts above, you can see that the net gain in B & R does not totally cover the net loss in Operating. Please maintain or raise your total donation to these two accounts, with emphasis on "Local."

Memorial Account

This account balance stands at about \$18,225, of which \$700 is reserved for "Benevolent Fund", \$5,225 is earmarked for the now approved elevator project, and \$8,020 for SRRC. The rest of the funds in the account (\$4,280) are held in trust for Session-sanctioned use.

Anne Miller

Treasurer



New Organist

We'd like to extend a warm welcome to Johanna Goldenberg, our new organist who began in December. A graduate of Mount Allison, but most recently of Nova Scotia, Johanna is delighted to be back in Sackville and playing for us each Sunday morning. She is currently on contract as a music teacher in Moncton, and looking forward to directing members of her school's choir at the Johnny Reid concert on March 28th. Welcome Johanna!

Note of Thanks

A sincere "Thank You!" goes to Eileen Smith (baker extraordinaire) and the children of our Church School (note writers) for the delicious cookies and thoughtful notes we received as we left worship one cold February morning. Your kindness was greatly appreciated!



Church Directory Updates

Does your contact information in the Church Directory need correcting, updating, or adding? We're currently preparing a "Directory Updates" sheet to be inserted in the 2016 Directory that was published in December. Please send any changes to Julie, Mona, or Elizabeth by March 31st.



Teddies for Tragedies

During morning worship on September 6, 2015 we dedicated more than 100 teddies that were made by members of the Atlantic Mission Society and some recruits from the community.

This ministry of care and outreach was established in 1985. It distributes cuddly, hand-made teddies and their bags to children all over the world who are dealing with wars, sickness, the loss of family members, and for some, all of the above. Medical personnel, teachers, and other caring professionals who meet with the children and their families personally deliver these teddies.

We would love to have another 100 teddies to dedicate this September! If you'd like to contribute your knitting skills, time, money, or supplies to this endeavor please contact me.

Blessings,
Julie Comeau



Pictured with the teddies are two of the faithful knitters, Nita and Julie.

Easter Quotations

“The message of Easter is not that Jesus is alive, it is so much more. The message of Easter is that Jesus has risen.” ~ Colin Smith

“The great gift of Easter is hope - Christian hope which makes us have that confidence in God, in his ultimate triumph, and in his goodness and love, which nothing can shake.” ~ Basil Hume

“Easter is meant to be a symbol of hope, renewal, and new life.” ~ Janine di Giovanni

Sackville Refugee Response Coalition Update

Sackville is ready to welcome refugee families! With the generous support of the community, including the donations received through St. Andrew's, we have reached our financial goals. In addition to the financial support, the community has offered household furnishings, clothing and volunteer time to ensure that we are prepared to make a new home for Syrian refugee families here in Sackville.



St. Andrew's is a member of the coalition and we will be one of the congregations submitting an application to sponsor a family. We are currently in the queue with our national church offices to match a case with our request to sponsor a family of up to 6 persons.

Now the question that is on the mind of many at this point is: where are the families? Given that there are several government sponsored refugees being settled temporarily in hotels and given that other communities seem to have already welcomed their families, one wonders, Why not us? What's the delay?

Since the Fall, the SRRC steering committee and various subcommittees have been working hard to prepare ourselves to welcome families, and the three churches submitting applications are in the queue. However, we must wait for cases (namely Syrian-BVOR cases) to be circulated so that our applications can be completed and families welcomed.

Unfortunately, the government-sponsored refugees that we hear about in the news and the kind of sponsorship that SRRC is able to do (BVOR*) are completely separate processes for sponsoring refugees in Canada. Furthermore, since setting out to do this work there have been periods of time (sometimes a month long) in which BVOR cases are not being circulated by Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship Canada (IRCC). This delay has created a bit of a backlog in the system, delaying the process. SRRC has corresponded with our Member of Parliament and the Minister of Immigration, Refugees and Citizenship to encourage some movement in this process given our readiness through our community's generosity. Again, Sackville is ready. We have furnished accommodations, and over 120 active volunteers including those who are able to offer translation service, language training, trauma counselling and medical services.

As this is being written, sponsorship agreement holders are meeting with government officials to get an update regarding the circulation of new Syrian BVOR cases and so we hope for some movement in the coming weeks.

* *The Blended Visa Office Referred Initiative (BVOR) is designed to resettle refugees identified by the United Nations High Commission for Refugees and submitted to Canadian visa offices abroad. Through this "blended" program, both the government and sponsors (covered under Sponsorship Agreements like that of The Presbyterian Church in Canada) contribute to the financial support of the refugees over a one-year period.*

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 20 March – Palm Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Thursday 24 March – Maundy Thursday

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

Friday 25 March – Good Friday

- 11:00 a.m. – Good Friday Service

Sunday 27 March – Easter Sunday

- 7:00 a.m. – Easter Sunrise Service and Breakfast at the Church
- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
– Sacrament of Holy Communion



Sunday 3 April – Food Bank Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Monday 11 April

- 3:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Wednesday 27 April

- 7:00 p.m. – Board of Managers Meeting

Sunday 1 May – Food Bank Sunday

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Monday 2 May

- 3:00 p.m. – Session Meeting

Sunday 15 May – Pentecost

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
– Sacrament of Holy Communion

Mark Your Calendars!

The Church School Picnic
will take place on:

Sunday, June 12



Clip Art Credits

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