

The Salt

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



Vol. 15 No. 2, Thanksgiving/Anniversary 2015

110 Years of Faithful Witness

Last year we celebrated our 70th anniversary of when the congregation undertook a major renovation of the building, which included turning the church 90 degrees. This year we mark our 110th anniversary of offering Presbyterian witness here on the corner of Bridge and Squire streets. It was on this corner that Presbyterians erected a two-story building as a place of worship and fellowship. The building, in its original form, was dedicated 19 November 1905.

The dedication of the building in this location offers us a specific date on which to mark our anniversary. What is more difficult to track down is a specific date for when Presbyterians gathered in Sackville (well, middle Sackville) to form a community of faith, but it was in or before 1843.

While our anniversary celebration rests on a date tied to the building we also celebrate the people who have offered faithful witness in this place. As Living Faith reminds us: "The church is Christ together with his people called both to worship and to serve him in all of life" (7.1.1).

In a time when churches are closing or being torn down it has become popular to emphasize that the church is not a building but a people. This is certainly true and a fitting declaration when a building becomes an albatross around the necks of the people maintaining it, or when the building becomes an idol and a hindrance to the mission of God's people. When people become slaves to a building there is a problem.

There have been many times when I have stressed the importance of the church being a people and not a building, but I must admit that we are fortunate that, for the time being, our place of worship serves us in our continued witness and we are not slaves to it. In fact, as one looks over the history of our modest size church the people have rebuilt, turned, transformed, added and improved this place of worship to serve the people in offering a distinctive witness in each generation.

Yes, the church is not a building! Yet from this church house of ours we are able to be the church for the community of Sackville on the corner of Bridge and Squire. From this home of ours we have worshipped God, we have nurtured our young and old in the faith, and we have celebrated the Sacraments that mark our union with Christ and one another. This house serves as a place to pool our resources to support good works and mission in our community, our nation and our world. This house of worship has provided sanctuary for the lost, discouraged, grieving and those going through difficult times, as we have been able to reach out to one another and offer support in this place. So while the church is not a building, this place is not a hindrance as it has been and remains a rather important element in our life and mission.

In the gospels we have the story of when the disciples were upset when a woman used a pricey alabaster jar of oil to anoint Jesus (worship) instead of selling the oil to give the money to the poor (mission).

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St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church

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Our Purpose

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

110 Years of Faithful Witness *continued*

In another story Martha was upset that Mary was not doing more chores (works) because she was receiving instruction from Jesus (study). For the people of God these concerns are not "either/or". They are both/and. Worship and mission, and works and study are part of who we are and what we do. In fact the most important mission of the church is to worship God, because it is through our worship that we learn to walk the ways of our God in our lives hopefully making us more forgiving, generous, and peaceable.



Our yearly budget could be divided into three major groupings that represent our priorities: (1) the worship of God and nurturing of people in the faith, (2) a commitment to supporting work and mission (3) the maintenance of our place of worship where ministry and mission occur within and emanate from.

We are blessed that one of the above is not sacrificed or scrapped in order to maintain another and we are blessed by the sacrificial giving of talents and treasures so we can support all three. We worship, we work and we give to mission work, and we maintain our home in which we get do all three.

This November we will celebrate the people who secured this lot on the corner of Bridge and Squire 110 years ago and offered future generations a sanctuary, a place to call home and a place from which we would continue to offer witness.

Happy Anniversary!!

Rev. Jeffrey Murray

Anniversary Guest Preacher

We will be celebrating our 110th Anniversary on November 15th, marking the time when the original church building on the corner of Bridge and Squire was dedicated for the work of ministry. The Rev. Dr. Cameron Brett will celebrate with us as our guest preacher. Before retiring from fulltime ministry Cameron was the senior minister of St. Andrew's church in downtown Toronto. While serving in Toronto he championed the cause of the homeless and made St. Andrew's a training center for other churches wanting to help homeless people in their communities. His work with the Out the Cold program was recognized by CBC Television's National Magazine, which featured the program in a 1998 documentary. That same year Knox College at the University of Toronto awarded him an honorary Doctor of Divinity degree. During the 1980s Cameron was the minister of Saint Andrew's Church, Fredericton. Today Cameron and his wife Margaret live in Cape Breton along the Bras d'Or Lakes.



Saint Andrew's Presbyterian Church

Income Statement Overview: January 1-August 31, 2015

Total Revenue, all accounts:	\$86,646
Total Expenditures, all accounts:	<u>\$75,501</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$11,145
Total Budget, all accounts:	\$114,974
% of Total Budget spent:	65.67%
% of Year gone by:	66.66%

What looks like a net gain for the year includes money in the Memorial Account which is extra to the running of the church (\$5,075 earmarked for "elevator", and \$700 in a "benevolent fund"). See below:

Breakdown by Account, January 1-August 31, 2015

Operating Account

Revenue:	\$72,735
Expenses:	<u>\$72,646</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$89
Budget (Revenue):	\$110,083
% of Budget raised:	62%

Building & Reserve Account

Revenue:	\$8,464
Expenses:	<u>\$2,855</u>
Net gain /loss:	\$5,609
Budget (Expense):	\$2,250
% of Budget spent:	127%

You can see that the Operating Account is skin tight: an \$89 net gain, but with only 62% of the budget spent. And the B & R account has gone over budget (127%) because of the unexpected roof repairs needed in winter and spring. The "net gain" in B & R will easily be used up by the higher expenses in the last two quarters of the year (at this writing, the 3rd quarter is yet to be closed, and end of quarter "extra" expenses will be about \$3,500 for 3rd, and about \$6,000 for 4th). "Extra" expenses include budgeted expenses (Presbyterian Sharing, Medical and Dental Insurance, donations to Camp Geddie, Open Sky, etc.) and non-budgeted items (PWS&D, AMS, Food Bank), which are paid quarterly.

Memorial Account

This account balance is about \$9,000, of which \$700 is reserved for "Benevolent Fund", and \$5,075 is earmarked for a potential elevator project. These moneys are held in trust for Session-sanctioned use.

Anne Miller, Treasurer

The PAR Program at St. Andrew's — Addendum to Treasurer's Report

The PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program was started at St. Andrew's many years ago, and has helped greatly in maintaining the church's ability to pay its ongoing bills. PAR participants authorize an amount, equal to what they would donate in roughly four weeks, to be taken automatically once a month from their bank account. This transfer occurs on the 20th of each month. Once signed up for the program, the amount you authorize can easily be changed up, down, or cancelled simply by notifying me.

I have PAR applications for the initial sign up, and would be happy to help anyone who is interested. Thank you for considering this option!

Anne Miller

PAR Contact and Treasurer

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." ~ John Wesley

Volunteering at St. Andrew's

Later this fall the Nominating Committee will begin its annual review of the church's committees and contacts to ensure there are enough people to perform the myriad work we do. Would you like to be more involved at St. Andrew's? Please contact one of us to let us know where your talents lie, or where you might like to learn a new one. Also, we'd appreciate hearing from anyone currently on a committee or serving in another role who has decided to step down. That will help us know which vacancies will need filling.



Barb Jardine, Elizabeth Millar & Lindsay Murray

Fruit and Flower Committee

The Fruit and Flower Committee love to share the beauty of God's flowers by placing some each Sunday in St. Andrew's sanctuary, planting the flower bed under the church sign and remembering those who are celebrating joys or experiencing sorrows in their personal lives.

If anyone would like to place memorial bouquets in the sanctuary or know of someone who just might need a touch of colour to brighten their day please contact anyone on the committee.

In God's service,

Carol Sheehan, Donna & Michael Capper, Eileen Smith, Linda Trentini, Mona Meldrum



News From the Pews

Happy 50th wedding anniversary to Linda and Bill Trentini! They celebrated this milestone in early September.

Congratulations to Elizabeth Massarelli and Ross Thomas who were named Sackville's 2015 Citizens of the Year during the opening ceremonies of the town's Fall Fair celebrations.



Camp Geddie

For five days in August I served as the Chaplain at Camp Geddie located outside Merigomish, NS. This was my second year serving in this role. Now while our stay at the camp was lovely, with opportunities for swimming, canoeing and playing dodge ball, the chaplain does have daily responsibilities besides being a “presence.”

Each day begins at the flagpole overlooking the Northumberland Strait. As our national flag is raised we sing ‘O Canada’ then the chaplain leads in prayer, shares a bible reading and presents a question for the campers to meditate on. After meeting with the staff there is bible study with the campers and while the counsellors lead the study the chaplain is present as a resource. In the afternoon the chaplain leads a bible study with the staff, and after supper as the sun sets (and sometimes in the complete dark) we meet at the flagpole to bring the flag down, sing “peace be still” and the chaplain offers a closing prayer for the day.

Aside from the various activities that one gets to enjoy at the camp it was a delight to be among the youth and staff during worship, the bible studies and quiet times as it was a chance to connect and hear their take on biblical stories and the faith.

Camp Geddie is a Synod Camp, which began in the mid-1940s. This camp came into being because the Synod believed that camping was an effective way of doing Christian education. It continues to do so today offering Christian witness to young people from different denominations and even some with no church affiliation.

Our Congregation supports the work of Camp Geddie as it makes an annual donation to the camp. For more information visit: <http://campgeddie.ca>

Rev. Jeffrey Murray



Music at St. Andrew's

On Sunday, September 27th the congregation was treated to the choir's inspiring performance of Joseph M. Martin's "I Trust in the Lord." Thirteen voices filled the sanctuary, their joy in singing matched only by the delight of those who were listening. The choir was led by our new organist and choir director, Branden Olsen, and accompanied by Jaime Hunter on the piano. Both Branden and Jaime are third-year B.Mus. students at Mount Allison: Branden is majoring in Voice and Jaime in Piano. A sincere thank you to all those in the choir from those of us in the pews.



Would you like to join the choir? The next two rehearsals are on October 8th and 15th at 5:45 p.m. All are welcome!

Calendar of Events

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

Sunday 4 October – World Communion Sunday, Food Bank Sunday

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



Monday 5 October

- 3:00 p.m. – Session meeting

Thursday 8 October

- 5:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal

Thursday 15 October

- 5:45 p.m. – Choir rehearsal

Sunday 1 November – All-Saints Day, Food Bank Sunday

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

Wednesday 11 November

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

Sunday 15 November – Anniversary Service

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship
- Guest Minister: Rev. Dr. Cameron Brett

Sunday 29 November – First Sunday of Advent

- 11:00 a.m. – Morning Worship

Deadline for the Advent
 issue of *The Salt*:
Friday, November 20th