

The St. David's Connection

Quarterly Newsletter



St. David's
Presbyterian
Church

98 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's
Newfoundland
Telephone 722.2382
www.stdavids.nf.ca

2003
SPRING ISSUE

From the Minister ...

Rev. Sandy Wessel

"God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him. You know the message he sent to the people of Israel, preaching peace by Jesus Christ—he is Lord of all. That message spread throughout Judea, beginning in Galilee after the baptism that John announced: how God anointed Jesus of Nazareth with the Holy Spirit and with power; how he went about doing good and healing all who were oppressed by the devil, for God was with him. We are witnesses to all that he did both in Judea and in Jerusalem. They put him to death by hanging him on a tree; but God raised him on the third day and allowed him to appear, not to all the people but to us who were chosen by God as witnesses, and who ate and drank with him after he rose from the dead. He commanded us to preach to the people and to testify that he is the one ordained by God as judge of the living and the dead. All the prophets testify about him that everyone who believes in him receives forgiveness of sins through his name." (Act 10:35b-43).

In this time of armed conflict between two major world views, we are reminded by St. Peter in his address to the Roman Centurion Cornelius that Christ Jesus is the one through whom all true peace is attained. St. Peter held out to Cornelius the olive branch of hope for a lasting peace through Jesus Christ who opened the way into God's presence for all who would

believe in him. By taking the consequences of our sin upon himself, dying and rising again, Christ did for us what we could not do for ourselves – make peace for us with our loving, patient and holy Triune God. Then as a by-product of that personal peace, both Jew and Gentile could now embrace one another as sisters and brothers of the One Triune God and thus be at peace with one another.

In those days, the difference between the world view presented by Peter and the world view espoused and enforced by Rome were every bit at odds as those which are engaged in the current conflict in the Middle East. However through Christ Jesus Peter stated: "God shows no partiality, but in every nation anyone who fears him and does what is right is acceptable to him." Having recognized this fact, in this season of Lent let us look to our own lives to see if we respect God and show it by placing the Lord first in everything we do and say doing what is right and thus acceptable to God; but realizing that we are saved by grace and it is not our own doing. The gift of grace is freely granted to all who believe in Christ Jesus and with that grace comes the peace which passes all understanding.

Would that the whole world shared in this peace!

God bless you and have a joyous Easter Season,

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

BIRTHS

Sophie Kieffe – March 8, 2003,
Daughter of Iris Power and
Barend Kieffe

Liam James Gray Mews – 6 lb.
15 oz., born February 2, 2003 in
Goose Bay, Labrador to Kate Gray
and Donald Mews

DEATHS

Blanche Chancey – March 5, 2003
Frazier Walsh – March 6, 2003
Barend Kieffe – April 1, 2003

BAPTISMS/DEDICATIONS

Jacob Yaw Nayantaki, son of
Andrea (Squires) and Kwaku
Nyantaki, born May 16, 2002.

Aidan Morton Ninomiya, son of
Scott and Melody Morton, born
March 2, 2003.



The Editorial Committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items for this edition of The St. David's Connection and we encourage you to continue to do so. Feel free to drop items or notes off anytime to members of the Newsletter Committee listed below, or leave them in the Church mailbox.

Tonya Bassler	753-3135
Jean Bruneau	722-6436
Lillian Crawford	754-2362
Neil Ellis	722-0992
Judy Rudofsky	726-3184

 Aubrey and Eleanor Bonnell have gone to Vietnam to visit son Steve and wife Denise in Ho Chi Minh City where Steve is director of Client Services for the V. Walter Thompson Ad Agency. Scott is living and working in Manhattan as Director of Business Development for PASSLOGIX.

 David Artiss welcomes into the family a third granddaughter, Laura, (10 lbs. 8 oz.) born to daughter Katie and Mark Kemp in Queensland, Australia.

 An e-mail from Mary Tiessen and Jeffrey Stringer tells us that they are finally settled in Belleville, Ontario. They are attending St. Andrew's in Belleville, but miss St.

David's! Levi started Junior kindergarten and is doing well, as is Amy! Their new address is 120 Hastings Drive, Belleville, Ontario, K8N 1J5, Phone No. (613) 771-9318.

 Congratulations to Catherine Picco and Donald Dinn who were engaged on February 7, 2003. They will be married in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia on May 31, 2003. Best wishes for a long and happy life together from the whole St. David's church family.

 St. David's will have a YAR (Young Adult Representative) at the 2003 General Assembly in Ontario in June, in the person of Blake Rudofsky.

With Easter almost upon us, the AMS would like to ask again for the congregation's support for our Guatemalan Development project. St. David's AMS has promised to contribute \$1,500/year for 2 years towards a self-help initiative undertaken by the Association of Mayan Presbyterians in Guatemala – the women members of

these Presbyterians have in the past encountered serious discrimination both because they are women in a male-dominated society and because they are minority group aboriginal people.

Through Presbyterians Sharing, some excellent work has already been done among Mayan women by our church's mission partners (Ken & Kennis Kim, Rev. Fernando Cascante) to raise awareness about gender injustice, exploitation at work in foreign owned "sweat shops" and the Christian basis for genuine equality and human rights. Since 1988 the women themselves have gained the

Continues on page 3



Check out St. David's
on the Web @
www.stdavids.nf.ca

... continued from page 2

confidence to organize (the Association of Mayan Presbyterians) into a number of co-operatives to work in 3 main areas: preventative health care, basic literacy and socio-economic development.

Our AMS group has chosen to help the Mayan women in their socio-economic development efforts by contributing to the employment of a travelling agricultural & small business development person who will visit frequently with something like 20 groups in a rural area of Guatemala. This person's job will be to advise local groups of women in setting up and maintaining small scale business enterprises such as raising chickens, turkeys, rabbits, etc. or marketing handicrafts.

Last year, assisted by the congregation's generosity, we were able to send a cheque for \$1,500. This year we

Lent containers, to be filled at home throughout Lent and returned on Easter Sunday.



If you've had a few "forgetful days" during Lent or even if you didn't remember to start filling a "Loonies for Lent" container, there is still time (just!!) to catch up before Easter Sunday. You can get another container if necessary from any member of the AMS or from the church office, "no questions asked". Please include your name and envelope number with your container(s) so that we can credit your givings for tax purposes.

Thank you so much for your generous help with this worthwhile project to make a small difference in Guatemala.

would like to enlist your support through the use of the **Loonies for**

Welcome to Stephen Candow

We are delighted to welcome Stephen Candow as our new Organist/Choir Director. For many of us, particularly the choir members, it's actually "welcome back" because Stephen has been here before, both as relief organist and at least once as choir director in the pursuit of credit towards his music degree at MUN. Hopefully this latter sojourn with our choir contributed (or at least wasn't a hindrance!) to his attainment of his degree.

In 1998, Stephen graduated from MUN with two degrees, one in Music and the other in Music Education. Prior to that, in 1996, he had already become a Colleague of the Royal Canadian College of Organists.

In 2002, he was awarded a Master of Music degree in Organ Performance from the University of Toronto. In August of that same year, he took a further course in organ study at the Goteburg International Organ Academy in Sweden.

Stephen has also held many positions related to organ, including:

- Assistant Organist, Metropolitan United Church, Toronto (1999-2002);
- Guinness Organ Scholar, Christ Church Cathedral, Dublin, Ireland (1998-1999);
- Organist/Director of Music, St. Michael and All Angels Parish, St. John's (1993-1998);
- Summer Relief Organist/Organ Scholar, Anglican Cathedral of St. John the Baptist, St. John's (1990-

1993);

- Summer Relief Organist, St. David's Presbyterian Church, St. John's (1991-1993).

He has also fulfilled many accompanist roles, including rehearsal accompanist to the Toronto Mendelssohn Youth Choir and to the Toronto Metropolitan Festival Choir.

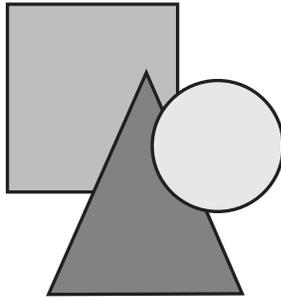
He has been teaching music since 1998 in a variety of locations, including Galway and Dublin in Ireland, and Toronto.

Currently he is teaching in the school at Upper Island Cove to which he commutes every day.



Congregation members receive Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II

Commemorative medals are struck from time to time to mark important anniversaries and great occasions. In keeping with this tradition, the Golden Jubilee medal of Queen Elizabeth II commemorated the fiftieth anniversary of Her Majesty's reign as Queen of Canada. The medal was awarded to Canadians who have made a significant contribution to their fellow citizens, their community or to Canada. In order to have a list of recipients that represents all regions of Canada, various organizations were invited to propose the names of candidates: the federal, provincial and territorial levels of government; national professional, educational and cultural organizations; the military; the Royal Canadian Mounted Police; veterans' groups, sports associations, and philanthropic and charitable bodies.

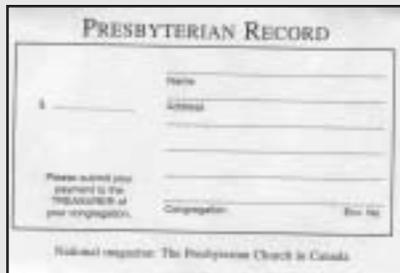


Approximately 46,000 medals were awarded. The medal, shown in the photo above, carries a contemporary effigy of The Queen on the front. The back features a stylized maple leaf with CANADA at the bottom and the years 1952 and 2002 on the left and right of the Royal Cypher and Crown. The medal is worn suspended from a broad royal-blue ribbon, with red outer stripes, double white stripes with a red central stripe. The Commemorative Medal for the Golden Jubilee of Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II is part of the Canadian Honours System established in 1967. We are pleased to note that two members of the St. David's congregation were honoured as part of this program. **Stephen Andrews** accepted the Golden Jubilee medal from Lieutenant Governor Ed Roberts along with 29 others in a

ceremony at Government House on December 16, 2002. Steve was recognized for service to education in Newfoundland and Labrador over the past nineteen years. During that time Steve served as a member and then president of the Vanier School PTA, was elected a member and then Vice-Chair and Chair of the Avalon Consolidated School Board, was appointed a member of the Interim Avalon East School Board, was elected to and served as Vice-Chair of the Avalon East School Board subsequent to the constitutional change to the management of education in the province and was recently re-elected to the Board again. **Andy den Otter** received the Queen's Golden Jubilee Medal in a similar ceremony on March 28, 2003. Dr. den Otter is the first lay elder to be Moderator of the Presbytery of Newfoundland and Labrador, and received the honour for his work in this capacity. Congratulations, Andy, and thanks for a job well done!

St. David's subscribes to The Presbyterian Record, the national magazine of The Presbyterian Church in Canada, under the "Every Home Plan" which means that a copy of the publication is mailed to all families in our congregation.

The annual subscription rate for 2003 is \$12.00, an increase from \$9.00 in 2002. With about 170 families, our total cost for 2003 is \$2,040. In the past, a special envelope was included in the box of Offering Envelopes so



that anyone wishing to pay for their subscription could do so. This envelope was inadvertently not included with the 2002 and 2003 envelopes. Also, with more people using the pre-authorized debit option

for their contributions, thus not using envelopes, we received only \$355 in 2002 towards the cost of the Record (\$1505.00)

This publication is an important link to Church activities at the national and international level and providing it to all St. David's families will continue.

Envelopes are available at the Church Office if you would like to assist in the recovery of this cash outlay.

Notes from the Board

John McLean

At the annual general meeting (AGM) of the church, a new Board was elected. Actually, the Board only lost members from last year who moved away (Freda Denness, Mary Theissen, Lambert van Sittert) and Megan Goobie who finished a one year term as youth representative for the Board. We thank all of them for their efforts and wish them the best. We are pleased to welcome new members- Cynthia Clouston, Hazel Gamble and Hugh Cumming.

Further to the AGM, the Board proposed a balanced budget for 2003 which was accepted by the members of the church. The balance will be a challenge to meet since it is projected that income will need to increase approximately 5% over that received in 2002.

The Board was very pleased to receive proceeds of over \$5000 from the successful Suzuki/St.David's Benefit concert which took place at the Arts & Culture Centre in February. This benefit concert required a great deal of planning by many dedicated people of St. David's and those associated with the Suzuki program. We are very grateful for their efforts. We are also very grateful to receive a donation of \$500 from the Community Mediation Services who held a fundraiser in the church hall on March 1.

Many projects initiated by the Board have been completed over the past year (eg. Photo directory, Memorial tree of life, signage for the church). If you have new ideas for the Innovations committee of the Board, please let us know. If you would like to

purchase a photo directory of church members (\$10 colour, \$2 B & W), please let Judy at the church office know.

Tentative plans by the Board for this year include renovating the church washrooms and fixing a leak around the church steeple. This leak problem has proven to be difficult to fix due to the design of the steeple and roof.. Another tentative plan is to have a summer student hired to perform various tasks around the church. This would be mostly paid for by the federal government as part of the Summer Career Placement program.



News from the Youth Group

Joy Carmichael

The Youth Group has been busy this year both within and outside the church. Current events within the church include an ongoing Bible study series with a focus on racism. Plans for an upcoming Youth Service on May 11, (Mother's Day) and a 30 hour Famine in late May to raise awareness and monies for third world countries, are in hand. Scott, Melody and Joy, welcome suggestions from both youth and members of the congregation, for additional service, mission and social events. Your input is very welcome.



SAINTS, SINNERS AND SCOTS

By J.S.S. Armour

A History of The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul, Montreal.

This eagerly awaited history, written by Dr. J.S.S. Armour, Minister Emeritus, traces the history of The church of St. Andrew and St. Paul from the founding of St. Andrew's in 1803. This vividly written and lavishly

illustrated book is a window on Scottish Montreal through the 19th Century and into the present "Three ministers and a third century"!

The price of the book is \$39.99 each (tax included), plus shipping and handling of \$4.00 per book. Details of how you can order a copy are available at the Church Office (722-2382).

First Annual Fundraiser Dinner a Success!

Scott Morton Ninomiya

The first annual Community Mediation Services fund-raiser supper was a great success. Approximately eighty-five people joined us here at St. David's on Saturday, March 1 to hear speaker Anne Marie Hagan share her personal story of forgiveness and healing. Anne Marie was just 19 years old when she witnessed her father being brutally murdered with an axe in the family home. The amazing part of the story is that with the passage of time she eventually came to forgive the man who took her father's life.

Anne Marie began her speech by telling us she would take us on a journey. What a journey it was! She wove together moments of heart-wrenching terror and personal triumph. She urged us to see the man who murdered her father through compassionate eyes. Then just as she brought us to the point of tears, her irrepressible wit shone through and made us laugh. Anne Marie has a positive outlook on life to say the least.

Throughout her story, which she told so masterfully, Anne Marie offered words of wisdom, learned from a life of adversity. She offered insight on the slow but steady movement toward forgiveness that took place in her own heart. She spoke poignantly about the time she met with the man who took her father's life when he became eligible for release from the Waterford hospital. "His mother died when he was four, he was in the orphanage until he was 18, he was diagnosed with mental illness at 20 and committed murder at 31. He then spent 18 years locked up in the Waterford Hospital. This was his first chance and maybe his only chance." That realization was a turning point for Anne Marie. She spoke a great deal about how her love for her nephews and nieces helped her to

move toward forgiveness. "It's much harder to condemn when I put it on your doorstep - what if [the murder was committed by] your son, your daughter, your niece? Now it's a different story."

She also shared the wonderful consequences of forgiveness for her, "Forgiveness is simple, really. It's not easy, but it's simple when you get down to it. I forgave him and I got my life back."

Anne Marie's wisdom is tempered by humility. "I'm not a martyr, or a saint," she says "I'm just an ordinary person who has been blessed enough to see first hand the healing power of forgiveness".

By the time the journey was complete, the people who had gathered to hear Anne Marie wiped away tears as they rose for a long standing ovation. The effect of Anne Marie's message was multiplied even further by the presence of a CBC news team. Reporter Azzo Rezori composed a

short but meaningful piece which aired in the news hour the following Monday evening.

On the fund-raising side, the event brought in almost \$1600 in total. Of that amount, \$200 of this was donated to Canadian Mental Health Association (CMHA) at Anne Marie's request. Moyra Buchan, director of CMHA was on hand to hear the speech and accept the donation in person. A \$500 share of the profits was to given to St David's Presbyterian Church in recognition of all the support they have given to CMS in the form of volunteers and free facilities.

Finally, a special thanks needs to be said to the large and dedicated battery of volunteers (many of whom were from St. David's!) who produced a wonderful meal and stuck with us till the end to clean up. We could not have accomplished this success without their help.



"Raising a bow for the spirit"

Dave Rudofsky

Sometime during the spring of 2001, Jennifer Johnson and Catherine Whitehead mused over lunch - "could we plan a larger concert than our annual event at St. David's to recognise the church's contribution to the STEP program"? It was still a dream in 2002, as there was no available space at the Arts and Culture Centre but in 2003 it became a reality. For eleven years or so, the STEP students have been using the sanctuary for their weekly practices. The warmth of the facility and its ambience has been an enriching experience for the STEP students and has helped to make their progress in the program very rewarding. In order for the group to demonstrate their appreciation, they have performed an annual benefit concert at St. David's, to raise funds for the church. This has been very successful and well attended but the size of the sanctuary restricts the capacity of the audience. As a result, the concept of "Raising a bow for the spirit" was born. Actually, in those early days, the name had not been decided but it was felt that the concept itself was worth exploring.

During the early meetings in 2002, there was much concern about our ability to pull it off. The cost of renting the facility alone was over \$3000, without the added costs associated with such a large undertaking. Undaunted, we decided to accept the challenge and set up a number of committees to take on the significant tasks involved. The committee met monthly and the in the following months, sub-committees were established to handle the Program, Finance and ticket sales, Publicity and St. David's/STEP liaison. A budget was established for the event and the train began its journey! We were still very concerned about selling enough tickets and then there was the issue of weather in February - what if we were forced to cancel? Gradually we put our fears behind us and rose to the

challenge. A big help was the agreement with the Arts and Culture Centre to allow us to set up an "accounts receivable" and sell tickets in advance. As Fall was approaching, we saw several opportunities to sell tickets at various STEP and St. David's events, as well as at Christmas. In addition, the significant number of families involved in the STEP program would allow us the sell tickets to family members well in advance of the concert. A big milestone was achieved when we had sold about 350 tickets by Christmas. At least we knew that we had reached the break-even point and covered our cost of the event. We all breathed a sigh of relief. Now it was possible to make a profit, the question was "how much"? We were still somewhat nervous but thanks to the many committed volunteers the numbers began to climb and by the time the first week of February rolled around, ticket sales were approaching the 600 mark. As Friday the 7th was approaching, we were praying for good weather and attendance. Our final ticket count was 688. We did it, a 70% audience attendance rate! In all, we raised approximately \$7,500, of which \$5,500 came to St. David's and just under \$2,000 was given to STEP.

As most of you know, the show was a great success thanks to the additional support from the STEP dancers, Anita Best and Sandy Morris, The "Celli Peppers", Jonathan Monro, the Quintessential Vocal Ensemble and Susan Quinn, The Newfoundland Symphony Youth Orchestra and Peter Gardner, Lynn Kuo, the Newfoundland Sinfonia, the STEP orchestra and St. David's Church Choir and last but not

least, our MC Krysta Rudofsky who kept it all together.

It is always dangerous thanking everyone for fear of leaving someone out. However, I do want to thank the entire organising committee that consisted of - Ken Templeton and Dave Rudofsky, Finance/Ticket sales. Catherine Fitch, Marie Wadden, Christine Gray, and Penny Gillies, Publicity. Kathy McKay, Catherine Whitehead. Sue Templeton and Jennifer Johnson, Program Committee. Colette Philips, St David's/STEP liaison and STEP ticket sales. Finally, Cheryl March for the printed program development and production. Thanks must also go to the volunteers from St David's and the Youth Group who spent hours backstage making things happen. I would also like to thank the program advertisers and sponsors who gave generously to bolster the finances and of course, to you parents and supporters, and all the dedicated ticket sellers, without whose support and participation it could not have happened.

St. David's cherishes the relationship that we have nurtured with STEP. It has been a wonderful joint venture. STEP has felt that the use of the Sanctuary has contributed to the growth and development of their students, while at the same time St. David's sees the relationship as one of outreach into the community. Together we have been able to promote the STEP program and St. David's Presbyterian Church and we hope that this will continue be a long standing relationship with positive momentum to benefit us all.

ANNUAL GARAGE SALE

Saturday, May 3, 2003 - 10 A. M.

WATCH YOUR MAILBOX FOR FURTHER DETAILS!

PRESBYTERIANS AID THE PEOPLE OF BADGER

Ian S. Wishart

On Saturday, February 15, 2003, a flash flood drove ice onto the streets of Badger, Newfoundland, a village about 30 kilometres west of Grand Falls-Windsor. Badger is located on a bend in the Exploits River at a place where two smaller rivers flow into it. All three streams were blocked with ice and soon the town was awash, and water entering the homes, sheds, shops, and public buildings was soon freezing into place, resulting in untold destruction. The flood hit after 9:00 A. M., and at 11:00 A. M., Emergency Measures ordered the town evacuated. Most of the people headed for Grand Falls-Windsor where many were accommodated in the old Carmelite House, a former senior

citizens residence which has been empty for more than a year. In Grand Falls the Salvation Army stepped forward to manage the hostel, the Red Cross issued an appeal for funds, and both provincial and federal governments instituted emergency relief procedures.

Newfoundland Presbyterians responded quickly. The local congregation, St. Matthew's, a small group of a few families, contributed \$500 to the Radiothon on the local radio station. In St. John's, Rev. Sandy Wessel of St. David's Church proposed a local initiative. St. David's and St. Andrew's congregations appealed for bedding, clothes and food. On Saturday, February 22nd, Rev. Ian Wishart,

Interim Moderator for St. Matthew's, borrowed a large Jeep from Rev. David Sutherland of St. Andrew's and loaded it to the roof. On Sunday morning at St. Matthew's the choir seats were stacked with bags and boxes, and after church, members of the congregation took them all to Carmelite House. A further shipment of parcels was sent from St. John's later in the week.

At Sandy Wessel's request an appeal was made by Presbyterian World Service and Development on behalf of the victims of the icy flood. Many of the people have lost everything below the ice, and some will never be able to return.



The Jeep is Full!

L-R: Rev. Ian Wishart, Frances Steele, Rev. Sandy Wessel, Rev. David Sutherland, Fred Chancey, Jim Steele



Contributions to Badger Flood Relief



Members of St. Matthew's congregation, Grand Falls-Windsor



SCHEDULE OF SERVICES

Holy Week

Monday – Thursday	April 14-17, 2003		7 P.M.
Good Friday	April 18, 2003	St. David's St. Andrew's	11 A. M. 7 P.M.
Easter Sunday	April 20, 2003	Holy Communion	9 A. M. & 11 A. M.