



THE BURNING BUSH

101 COBURG STREET, SAINT JOHN, N.B. E2L 3J8

GRACE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

PHONE 634-7765 OR FAX 693-3223 OR EMAIL - gracechurchsj@gmail.com
<http://www.gracepresbyterianchurch.ca/> www.facebook.com/Gracesaintjohn

Thanksgiving 2014

MINISTER: THE REV. DR. JOHN CRAWFORD, B.A., M.Div., D.Min.

A wise preacher once addressed an eager congregation at the start of an associate minister's calling to ministry in their church. He spoke of activating the congregation to speak of their faith and do those things in and out of the church that would bring glory to Jesus Christ. He said to those assembled, "The role of the two of us as teachers and pastors is rather like that of coaches in hockey. We are responsible for the training. We teach you the plays, we assign some of the positions; sometimes we try a few new line changes. When you're losing the game, we try to encourage you. When you're doing well, we try to keep you from being overconfident. But always you are the players. You are the athletes for Christ. You are the ones who daily and hourly have to act and speak and think and move - in love. That's why sometimes ministers look as nervous as Scotty Bowman or Emille Francis- because the game is really being played by someone else. And often all we can do is cheer from the bench." - Sunday, May 12, 1974

Obviously the wise preacher was not John Crawford! As I read the rest of that sermon I was taken by some of the recurrent themes of the gospel continue to be pressed home for us to take hold of and practice. One of the greatest losses of the Protestant Church in the last 50 years is our ability to speak clearly about our faith in the context of everyday life. For some reason we have been told that a polite person doesn't speak of religion or politics in public. We have been told that religion is a "personal" matter. Well, religion may be personal but it is also a greater truth that it is public. We worship in public, our teaching, and all our events whether social or didactic in nature (with the exception of Session) are public gatherings. Our Lord taught in public and was crucified in public. His disciples continued to teach, pray, and disciple people in public.

Scotty Bowman is long since retired from coaching the Montreal Canadians and all of those players have since hung up their skates, and some have even been inducted into the hockey hall of fame (in that city which begins its name with a capitol T but shall not be mentioned) and I'm sure as he poured his knowledge and understanding into the players he realized that eventually it was all up to them. Within the church the same remains true in 1974 as it does today: the church must do ministry as a team which is motivated by the love of Christ within each of us. Consider how we can participate in the church and community in such as was so that others may know and follow Christ too.

John Crawford

Church Management Committee

The Church Management Committee meets once per month on the first Tuesday.

We have been busy this year with the plumbing problems on the lower level of the church. There seems to be no end to the number of items that get tossed down the sinks plugging the drain lines. The drain lines have to be either cut open to remove items like steel wool and plastic spoons that somehow manage to end up there, or "snaked" to remove grit that collects in the lines.

The sink in the janitor's room on the lower level has been replaced. The drain from this sink was plugged with sand and grit. Clean out connections have been added to help in removing the grit that collects despite having strainers in the sinks.

Thanks to warmer than normal fall weather to date we have not turned the furnace on. We expect a higher than normal heating bill this winter and will do what we can to keep it as low as possible.

The men of the congregation are planning to hold a spaghetti supper in October and we encourage you to attend.

We contacted Greg Murdock, to design a cabinet to hold the communion items. The cabinet will be placed on the East side wall in the Sanctuary. We asked Greg to incorporate the Rodgerson carving of "John Knox and Robert The Bruce" into the design.

Our struggles continue to keep the church clean on a limited budget.

Laurie Hossack

Books and Blankets

There has been a strong response to this program. We have had 14 young people register since we started 3 weeks ago, and as many as 9 on one day.

We are beginning to look at Remembrance Day early this year. I have started by introducing the children to “codes” and the role some soldiers played during the war time by acting as spys and using codes. Next they will hear about the displacement of people during War Times by beginning with the story of the Dutch Royal Family who came to Canada for safety.

Through various short stories we hope the children will learn some of the less violent but still devastating aspects of war and begin to think about the ways we can work towards a peaceful world. As part of this exercise the children will be writing postcards to veterans at Ridgewood. The Chaplain, John Martin will deliver them. It may be possible for our group to visit these heroes.

Co-Op Kitchen

This group has started their program off with caesar chicken wraps, corn on the cob and a pasta salad as a take-home meal. Each girl also received a bag of apples, ingredients for a green salad and 2 L of milk.

The families (and children in the After School Programs) find September a difficult month financially. Food prices continue to rise. Produce seems especially out of reach of families.

At our next meeting the girls will begin to look at budgeting. They will take turns presenting their individual approaches to saving on groceries, etc. Each has her strengths in this area, and by sharing they will pick up new ideas.

Four of the girls have children in high school. Where they once were able to get lunch at the Boys and Girls Club, they now provide their own. With all the fast food restaurants uptown, of course, the children want to try them out. The challenge is for the parents to share coping methods with the issue and for us all to find lunch ideas the children will be content with while introducing these young people to budgeting ideas as well.

After School Club

Tuesday afternoons are lively again. The biggest buzz is the Dance Routine that Katie Gunter has started. Most of the girls have joined and are very enthusiastic about the choreography that Katie has arranged for the music. The boys are curious, and a couple of them choose to spend some time sitting quietly at the back of the stage watching the action.

Usually a craft is available for the children to do before Katie arrives but as the dancers gain confidence they are eager to “warm up”.

Those not interested in dancing are kept busy with a variety of sports. We are expecting the arrival of a male high school student volunteer in mid-October. He and his family are interested in the program and he is teacher-recommended. I’m sure the number of boys will increase after his arrival.

All of the children want to know early on what the meal of the day is. We are grateful to have level headed Wendy in charge of the kitchen. At 4:30 p.m. everyone gathers in the kitchen for “the meal”. For a short time quiet descends on the lower level, broken mainly by “Please and Thank You’s” and “can I have another”?

The quiet is short lived though. As soon as the children have eaten, they enjoy their favourite hide and seek games which are accompanied by squeals and peals of laughter which continue until it is time to head home.

Glenda Hossack

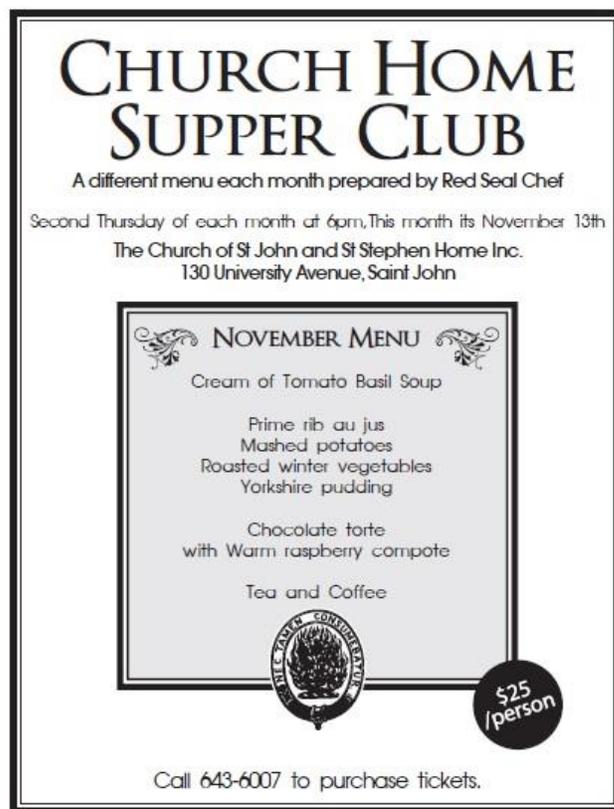
Church Home News

Hello everyone and welcome to the fall! The summer was a busy season for our residents. The home tries to take advantage of the longer days and better weather to get our residents out in the fresh air and as active as possible. The van stayed in heavy use and there were events at the home as well. And just because it's fall doesn't mean they're any less busy. These people have a busier social schedule than I do! They have been out to Lily Lake this week and the autumn colours van rides will be starting soon.

We have a number of fundraisers in place to help provide the residents and the home with necessary items and services. The province funds the care and nutrition of the residents but everything else must be provided by other means in order to ensure that the residents get the best care we can offer. We're not a big home. Our strengths lie in the pastoral care, homey atmosphere and personal care we provide. We have dedicated staff and volunteers that go out of their way to give the residents the care, attention and love they need. The province gives us the basics and it's up to us to find the resources to ensure that comfort is added. To that end, the executive of the home has come up with some great ideas to help raise funds.

We have a Red Seal chef at the home (Ken Small) and he is an amazing cook. Now you can indulge and enjoy a monthly meal created by Ken. The dinners will be held throughout the year on the second Thursday of each month. Come and check out the mouthwatering dishes. We will announce each menu ahead of time so you can get your taste buds ready. The charge is just \$25.00 and we do need to know ahead of time if you will be coming so we can have enough food. We wouldn't want to send anyone away hungry!

Ken is also selling fresh baked rolls. Every Friday for the low, low price of \$3.00 you can take home a dozen of the best tasting rolls. We dare you to only eat one! You can't get them fresher or better!



**CHURCH HOME
SUPPER CLUB**
A different menu each month prepared by Red Seal Chef

Second Thursday of each month at 6pm, This month its November 13th
The Church of St John and St Stephen Home Inc.
130 University Avenue, Saint John

NOVEMBER MENU

Cream of Tomato Basil Soup

Prime rib au jus
Mashed potatoes
Roasted winter vegetables
Yorkshire pudding

Chocolate torte
with Warm raspberry compote

Tea and Coffee

Call 643-6007 to purchase tickets.

\$25/person

We will be selling raffle tickets on a beautiful queen-sized wool Hudson's Bay blanket. You remember how cold it was last winter. Buy a ticket and maybe you will be the lucky one fully prepared for winter!

Also, Hamish Murdoch and his merry band of bundlers will be selling magnificent bunches of kindling to help you start your winter fires. All proceeds will go to the garden fund.

John McAvity, the son of former resident and artist Catherine McAvity, has donated several pieces of her artwork. He chose the suitable abstract watercolours and helped pick the right spot to hang them. They are gorgeous and are hanging on the wall just outside the first floor activities room. Please stop by and admire the art when you come for a visit. He has also graciously donated some pieces to be used in future fund raising activities so stay tuned for your chance to win!

On October 4th the 1st Annual Clayton Memorial Run was held in Grand Bay. Clayton Clark was a young father who worked at our home and was part of the home family. He died suddenly in February leaving a 3 year-old daughter, Ellie. The run was organized to help raise money for her education. Staff from the home participated and remembered this fine and loving man.

As always, we love volunteers. If you have any spare time (even a Sunday morning to help bring residents to the church service) you will be very welcome. If you have a hobby or a secret talent please consider sharing it with our residents. They are a very curious bunch!

Janet Soper

Christian Education

Sunday school classes began on September 15th. To date we have 9 children enrolled. We are using a new program this year that has been created for churches with smaller Sunday school numbers. The program we are using is "One Room Sunday School". It was also decided that because of lower attendance numbers last year that the 2 classes would be combined this year into one class. This multi-age class is perfect for the new program. Each class begins with a welcoming activity, a prayer, reading of a Bible story or lesson, discussion and questions about the reading, activities that go along with the lesson, and a final prayer. The activities that the children participate in are based on their ages and/or reading levels. At times there are 2 activities happening at the same time based on these levels. Non-readers may be colouring a picture based on the day's story while those children who are able to read may be working on a matching activity. We will be preparing for the Christmas pageant as we get closer to the Christmas season.

Youth Group will begin on Oct 19th after Sunday service. The plan is to meet once a month for Christian fellowship. We are planning on having the meetings at a different home each month. There will be a number of social activities planned as well. The youth will help plan the events and what they discuss at their meetings.

We can always use more teachers and helpers in our weekly classes. If you are interested please contact Denise McGill at dmcgill@bellaliant.net or 674-0198.

Denise McGill

Congregation News

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR ORGANIST

Claire Driscoll has completed all the musical requirements for the Associate of the Royal Conservatory of Toronto (ARCT) course. As well as 2 years of piano studies, Claire also completed several written exams and a final piano performance exam. Claire will receive her diploma at the convocation ceremony in Toronto on February 1st, 2015.

Announcements

SPAGHETTI DINNER – Come join us for a Spaghetti dinner and entertainment on **Saturday, October 18th at 6pm** in MacLaren Hall. Dinner includes spaghetti, beans, Caesar salad. Entertainment at 7pm will be Men and Music. Free will offering.

FOOD BANK - Thank you to all our members who have continued loyally to bring clean jars and basic food items for the Community Food Basket. The support of our church is very much appreciated. For information, speak to Ian McCoy, Hamish or Anne Murdoch.

RAFFLE - A queen size Hudson's Bay blanket will be raffled in aid of our Nursing Home. Tickets will be available soon from Heather Hatfield, Janet Soper, members of the Nursing Home Board or Anne Murdoch. There's nothing so warm as one of these blankets! Hope to be the winner!

GARDENERS NEEDED - It's time to put the Church Home gardens to bed for the winter. Daffodil bulbs have been purchased and we hope to plant them during the week of Oct. 6 – 11. If that's not possible we may have to plant during the week of Oct 20 – 25. There are 30 or more Chrysanthemum plants to put in as soon as possible. If you can help with any of these jobs, please let us know. Speak to Heather Hatfield or Anne Murdoch.

CHURCH HOME SUPPER CLUB – **Second Thursday of each month at 6pm** at the Church of St. John & St. Stephen Nursing Home. A different menu each month prepared by Red Seal Chef. \$25 per person. Call 643-6007 to purchase tickets.

WORKSHOP - to be held at Atlantic School of Theology, Halifax NS, **October 23-24**. The workshop is sponsored by the AST alumni association but is open to all. The theme of the workshop is "The Church and the Other, Reorienting Ourselves in a Disorienting World and will be led by Lawrence DeWolfe. Presbyterians have enjoyed past workshops. For more information see the poster on the bulletin board or go to **<http://www.astheology.ns.ca/alumni/ASTIAAWorkshops.html>**

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The deadline for the Advent issue of THE BURNING BUSH will be November 23rd. Please contact me at 849-8934 or nancyhossack@hotmail.com to submit articles at any time up to that date. Please pass along news of graduations, anniversaries, or things that the congregation would be interested in reading about.

- Nancy Hossack

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