

THE

CALVIN CONNECTION

Your connection to the Calvin Church Community

June

Fri 3rd Presbyterian Church in Canada's General Assembly meets at York University in Ontario (June 3rd-6th)

Sun 5th Communion Service (11:00 a.m.)

Sat 11th Breakfast @ Jim's (8:30 a.m.)

Sun 12th Congregational BBQ (12:00 p.m.)

Sat 18th Bridge (12:00-3:00 p.m.)

Sun 26th Maplestone Service (2:30 p.m.)

As the Season of Pentecost gives way to what's come to be called 'Kingdomtide' - and we pass through the season of summer vacations - the world, and life of the church, seem to slow down. However, amidst the slow down, is the invitation to prayerfully reflect upon our busyness...and where we find God in it.



New Staff Member Hired!

On Sun May 15th the congregation set aside time in its service of worship to reflect together upon enlarging Calvin's staff to include a 'Youth & Young Families Outreach Worker'.

At that meeting, the Session presented a history of this discernment process, a job description, a potential candidate for the position, and a possible remuneration package for the congregations final approval. During that time, the following 4 motions were adopted by the congregation:

1. That Calvin Presbyterian Church employ Erika Flemming as "Christian Youth & Family Outreach Worker" on a contractual basis for a one year period commencing June 2016.

Continued on page 2

Breakfast @ Jim's

You are invited to join us for this monthly tradition of getting together for breakfast at Jim's restaurant on the 2nd Saturday of the every month.

So make plans to join for breakfast on:

Sat. June 11th

@ 8:30 a.m.

at Jim's restaurant
(243 Bedford Highway,
Halifax)

Everyone is invited to come enjoy good food, and great fellowship.

2. That the contract be subject to renewal for up to an additional two year period.

3. That the remuneration for the position be \$18,500.00 In the event that the contract is renewed for an additional term, the remuneration will be subject to review.

4. That the hours of work for this position will average twenty (20) per week.

As of Fri. May 20th we are pleased to announce that a contract has been signed between Erika and the Session, and we look forward to her beginning her ministry here among us in this new capacity effective June 15th 2016!

What follows, is a brief introduction and some background Erika has provided to help us get to know her better.

"Thank you for the opportunity to tell you a little bit about myself. I was born and raised outside of Toronto, Ontario, where I met my husband Scott who is a Maritimer (born in Lower Sackville but grew up in Stratford, PEI). After finishing graduate school in Toronto, we were both eager to move out east, and we have enjoyed living in Halifax for the last four years. During this time our family has also grown and we now have two boys: Henri, 2.5 years, and Callum, 6 months.

I grew up a bookworm and always dreamed of becoming an English Professor! I completed a BA and MA in English Literature with this in mind, but it seems God had other plans. In university, I "accidentally" made friends with several intelligent, thoughtful, and kind individuals who also happened to be Christians, who invited me to church. I've been going ever since. Although I was raised in the Lutheran and Presbyterian Churches, it wasn't until I was a student that I began to take my faith very seriously. I began to consider, in my early 20s, how I was to live if Jesus was truly real and present in the world. After several years, I discerned a call to study Theology at the Toronto School of Theology. During that time I was also invited to intern with the University and Young Adult Ministries at Knox Presbyterian Church in Toronto, and eventually became the Director of University ministries at that church.

Along the way I have also taught Sunday school for the Pentecostal Church, confirmation classes for the Lutheran Church, run an ESL ministry and Children's camp for the Estonian Evangelical Church, and done pastoral work with the CRC Campus Ministry at the University of Toronto. I've enjoyed all of these experiences tremendously, and each has taught me about ministry, leadership, and following Jesus into uncertain



places.

I am truly excited to see where God will bring Calvin during this next chapter. It is wonderful to see this congregation take a step into the "unknown," to trust God to grow Calvin's ministry and reach. I know that the Lord cannot help but answer your prayer. After much careful prayer and discernment, I feel compelled to step in and help Calvin move towards this goal, and may the Lord guide us all as we continue to discern what is next!

I look forward to meeting you all very soon!"

Sincerely,
Erika Flemming

The Blue Window



It was such a pleasure to enter our sanctuary Sunday morning (May 15th) and see the blue stained glass window from the Knox building resting above the elevator. For those of us remaining from the amalgamation (we have lost a few since then) it was like seeing an old friend. It finally made the journey from Roome Street in the north end of Halifax.

The Blue Window was installed at Knox when the new sanctuary was completed in 1994. All the members of the congregation during that time were asked to participate in the creation of the stained glass window by submitting a small portrait or picture of themselves to be included in the bottom half of the window. Those pictures were pieced together like a patchwork quilt and the company who created the window, Sattler's Stained Glass Studio Ltd., incorporated all of those images into the glass. The top half of the window is filled with stars and represents the souls who have gone before us. Sadly, some of the faces in the bottom half now reside with those in the top half.

I would like to thank the Property and Maintenance Committee for all of their work, ensuring the "Blue Window" was safely transported and installed in its new home. It warms our hearts to see the faces of our loved ones looking down on us while we continue to worship as a church family.

Blessings,

Debbie Lyver (Clerk of Session)

Some Food Bank Facts

In terms of income:

7% of households helped by food banks live primarily on income from a pension

16% of those assisted earn the majority of their income through work

18% of households receive disability-related income supports

46% of households accessing food banks are on provincial social assistance benefits

In terms of housing:

5% of households accessing food banks are homeless, with the majority of these living temporarily with family or friends

7% own their homes

20% of those assisted live in social housing, with subsidized rents

67% of households helped live in rental housing and pay market-level rents

In terms of family composition:

10% of households accessing food banks are couples without children

44% of those helped are families with children, and nearly half of these are two-parent families;

46% of households assisted are composed of single individuals – a group that continues to grow, having gradually increased from just 30% of the total in 2001

*Stats available at <http://www.feednovascotia.ca/images/HungerCount2015.pdf>

FOOD...for thought

submitted by Jean Dunn

More than one-third of people helped by food banks are children. Ironically, food banks will help over 1.7 million separate individuals this year throughout Canada in every province and territory. The charitable food network today is drastically different from what existed in the 1980's when food banks first started opening their doors. Even more startling is the fact that food bank use is 26% higher than in 2008 before the start of the global financial crisis.

Sharply rising food prices, plant shut downs and increasing food, fuel and electricity costs are a contributing factor. These things affect us all but the most vulnerable in our communities are the ones most impacted.

Food banks and meal programs are run by caring staff and volunteers often located in churches or community centres. These things would not be possible without the support of our communities. Calvin Presbyterian Church can count itself among those who donate food each and every week to the grocery basket which is wheeled up to the front of the church each Sunday along with the Offering plates. For all donations, we are truly grateful, as well as the hands that work diligently to transport the food to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank. Food is always needed and things like: cereal, pasta, canned vegetables, soups and stews as well as canned fruit and bottled juice. How about a cake mix and a can of frosting. There are many children whose birthdays go uncelebrated in the traditional way because their family just can't afford to go out and buy them a birthday cake.

The larger food banks (i.e. Feed Nova Scotia) are well equipped to receive, safely store and distribute large food donations. Their warehouse space includes industrial refrigeration that allows them to accept perishable, non-perishable, frozen and prepared foods from grocery store chains who contribute such items regularly.

So, the next Sunday that you see the grocery basket being wheeled up to the front of the church, ask yourself: "how can I help?" The need continues and does not "diminish" over the summer months, it's a year round operation.

"You can't live a perfect day without doing something for someone who will never be able to repay you".....John Wooden

Calls to Action

Some of the Calls to Action put forward by the Truth & Reconciliation Commission as concrete ways toward healing reconciliation with Canada's indigenous peoples include:

Call 27

We call upon the Federation of Law Societies of Canada to ensure that lawyers receive appropriate cultural competency training, which includes the history and legacy of residential schools, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, Treaties and Aboriginal rights, Indigenous law, and Aboriginal - Crown relations.

Call 41

We call upon the federal government to investigate the causes of, and remedies for, the disproportionate victimization of Aboriginal women and girls.

Call 59

We call upon churches to develop ongoing education strategies to ensure that their respective congregations learn about their church's role in colonization and in residential schools, and why apologies are necessary.

Healing & Reconciliation: an ongoing journey

submitted by Carol MacLennan

In my 3.5 years of being a Local Leader for Healing and Reconciliation on behalf of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, one of the most rewarding aspects has been learning more about our indigenous neighbours. I've attended a host of public events that have provided valuable information about the history and culture of our first peoples. Dorene Bernard who spoke with us on Healing and Reconciliation Sunday (May 22nd), spoke informally during coffee time about two-eyed seeing. The information below is taken from a draft version of a book written by Cape Breton University staff. It gives valuable insight into how different world views can be combined to the benefit of all.

Integrative Science and Two-Eyed Seeing: Enriching the Discussion Framework for Healthy Communities (authors' final revised draft; submitted Jan 2012) for forthcoming book: "Beyond Intractability: convergence and opportunity at the interface environmental, health and social issues" edited by: Lars K. Hallstrom, Nicholas Guehlstorf, and Margot Parkes. UBC Press. Cheryl Bartlett – Cape Breton University Murdena Marshall – Eskasoni First Nation and Cape Breton University (retired) Albert Marshall – Eskasoni First Nation Marilyn Iwama – Cape Breton University and University of Northern British Columbia. <http://www.integrativescience.ca/>

“Albert explains that for Integrative Science, Two-Eyed Seeing refers to learning to see from one eye with the strengths of Indigenous knowledges and ways of knowing, and from the other eye with the strengths of Western knowledges and ways of knowing, and to using both these eyes together, for the benefit of all. Two-Eyed Seeing adamantly, respectfully, and passionately asks that we bring together our different ways of knowing to motivate people, Aboriginal and non-Aboriginal alike, to use all our understandings so we can leave the world a better place and not compromise the opportunities for our youth (in the sense of Seven Generations) through our own inaction. More recently, on the basis of several year's experience in explaining the principle, Albert adds:

Two-Eyed Seeing is hard to convey to academics as it does not fit into any particular subject area or discipline. Rather, it is about life: what you do, what kind of responsibilities you have, how you should live while on Earth ... i.e., a guiding principle that covers all aspects of our lives: social, economic, environmental, etc. The advantage of Two-Eyed Seeing is that you are always fine tuning your mind into different places at once, you are always looking for another perspective and better way of doing things.” In



A Special Thank You:

In purchasing a CSA approved wood stove for their cabin at Miller Lake, the 44th Halifax Cub Pack and Beaver Colony at Calvin had been hoping to offset the cost of the purchase through donations. The original hope was to offset ½ the cost of the stove (approx. \$500). To date, a total of \$634 has been received. A special thank you to all those who contributed toward this cause!

Contribute Your News:

Help keep people informed. Share your faith story, an experience of God's, or your groups plans and activities with the congregation!

putting forward Two-Eyed Seeing, Elder Albert has passionate concerns for the well-being and future of Aboriginal peoples and Indigenous knowledges, as is evident when he states what happens in its absence: "When you force people to abandon their ways of knowing, their ways of seeing the world, you literally destroy their spirit and once that spirit is destroyed it is very, very difficult to embrace anything – academically or through sports or through arts or through anything – because that person is never complete. But to create a complete picture of a person, their spirit, their physical being, their emotions, and their intellectual being ... all have to be intact and work in a very harmonious way."

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The Calvin Connection is a publication of Calvin Presbyterian Church aimed at keeping the community informed of events in and around the life of the church.

All ministry teams within the congregation are encouraged to submit information for publication, and those groups or individuals wishing to contribute are encourage to have submissions into the office via email no later than the 25th of the month.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, rejoice! Strive for full restoration, **encourage** one another, be of one mind, live in peace. And the God of love and peace will be with you."

~ 2 Corinthians 3:11