

BEYOND THE PARISH

The Festival of Lights

The Saint John Jewish Historical Museum and Shaarei Zedek Synagogue cordially invites all Saint John and area residents to join us as we celebrate Chanukah, "The Festival of Lights". The menorah lighting ceremony to mark the eighth day of Chanukah will be outside the entrance to the Saint John Jewish Historical Museum/ Shaarei Zedek Synagogue, 91 Leinster Street today, **Sunday, Dec13, 2015 at 5:00 p.m.** Following the candle lighting, join us inside for a programme which will include a presentation of the Chanukah story and songs by the children of the Congregation. Light refreshments, including traditional Chanukah treats, will also be served. Please come and bring your friends. For more information call 633-1833.

Mine Eyes Have Seen the Glory

1. Mine eyes have seen the glory of the coming of the Lord;
he is trampling out the vintage where the grapes of wrath are stored;
he hath loosed the fateful lightning of his terrible swift sword;
his truth is marching on.

Refrain:

Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
Glory, glory, hallelujah!
His truth is marching on.

2. I have seen him in the watch fires of a hundred circling camps,
they have builded him an altar in the evening dews and damps;
I can read his righteous sentence by the dim and flaring lamps;
his day is marching on. **(Refrain)**

3. He has sounded forth the trumpet that shall never call retreat;
he is sifting out the hearts of men before his judgment seat;
O be swift, my soul, to answer him; be jubilant, my feet!
Our God is marching on. **(Refrain)**

4. In the beauty of the lilies Christ was born across the sea,
with a glory in his bosom that transfigures you and me;
as he died to make men holy, let us die to make men free,
while God is marching on. **(Refrain)**

5. He is coming like the glory of the morning on the wave,
he is wisdom to the mighty, he is honor to the brave;
so the world shall be his footstool, and the soul of wrong his slave.
Our God is marching on. **(Refrain)**

PARISH NOTES AND EVENTS

Sunday School Presentation – *The Perfect Gift*

Our SS is offering their annual presentation of their Christmas skit. This year's story is called *The Perfect Gift*. Often it is the children who can best convey the genuine meaning of Christmas. We thank them and their parents for their play today. Please note that there will be SS next Sunday during the service of Lessons & Carols. SS will be then taking a break, resuming on January 17. Also, we are looking for sheep for the Christmas Eve service at 4:30. All young children are invited. No rehearsals. Costumes available. Please call the parish office, 847-1812, to let us know you are coming.

The Cast:

Miss Ingdapoite	Sarah Harrigan
Principal Angel	Simon Oxley
Stable	William Byzkco
Angel	Hunter Mullinger
Shepherd	Ethan Lord
Wise Men	Julian Lord and Caleb Lord
Joseph	Liam McNutt
Mary	Mia Langille
Director	Daniella Haggerty
Assistant to Director	Emilie Harrigan

Some Notes from the December Vestry Meeting

- Robert Taylor, Bruce Cook and Ann Bishop represented the Parish at the Synod meeting in November in Fredericton. They have written an article on their observations in the recent issue of the *Parish Echo*
- The *Mission Within Committee* reported that 4 families attended the *Come to the Table* Advent supper at the end of November. They are now working on St. Paul's Day for late January. Fr. Richard McConnell and Gwen McConnell will be with us for the weekend.
- Vestry approved a \$500 contribution to *Caring for Colin* and \$1000 to the Rector's Discretionary Fund for Christmas family assistance
- The Parish Finance Committee will meet December 10. Steve Palmer reported that expenses are tracking very close to budget. Identifiable Giving is strong, but perhaps a little lighter than expected. Year end offerings are traditionally quite strong and we trust parishioners will rise to the need.
- Vestry wanted to acknowledge the strong spirit of co-operation shown in the parish through the month of November. There was a full schedule of activities: harvest dinner; dedication of heat pumps in the hall; *Sounds for Sigowet Concert*; confirmation with Bishop Edwards; and the ACW Christmas Bazaar. All these events were well attended and supported by parishioners and members of the community.

Decorating the Church

We will be gathering to decorate the church for Christmas after the 10am service of Lessons & Carols on **Dec 20**. All are welcome-especially tall people.

Caring for Colin Appeal

We are delighted to report that the Caring for Colin appeal has reached its goal of \$200,000. The Province of New Brunswick has affirmed that they will be contributing to the financial need of the family. St. Paul's has contributed \$3500 to the appeal. Exact numbers have not been released as yet by the Diocese. The Ranson family is overwhelmed by the generosity of people, churches and organizations and are now announcing that they are no longer in need of additional funding. Thanks be to God, that this little boy is going to receive the help he needs. The surgery is scheduled for March of 2016, in Texas.

Mr. Lyman Spear

We are all stunned by the news of the sudden death of Lyman. He was worshipping with us last Sunday in church, as well as at the funeral for Lynne Golding. He died at home on Thursday morning. Our hearts and love go to dear Maxine and all their family. Funeral services will be held from St. Paul's Church, Monday, December 14 at 1:00pm

White Gift Sunday

We are collecting toys and games today for deserving families in our area at Christmas. The KV Fire Fighters collect and distribute the toys, along with a full Christmas dinner. If you would like to make a financial contribution, please mark your envelope **White Gift**. Thank you all, so very much.

Mission Beyond the Parish

MB met this week to distribute their funds at the end of the year. Their funds come through their yard sale, the harvest and pancake suppers, donations, change for change, Sigowet concert, and from the Vestry. The following awards were made:

Safe Harbour	\$3000 (part of a 3 year parish pledge)
PWRDF	\$2000
KV Food Bank	\$1375
KV Fire Fighters	\$1000
Romero House	\$1000
St. Luke's Outreach	\$1000
E. Fry Society	\$1000
Central SJ Ministry	\$1000 (Rev. Chandras)
Bobby's Hospice	\$500
St. Jude's Cathedral	\$500
Total	\$12,375

For the Sigowet School in Africa, we have received \$2233 for the completion of the dining hall, from St. Paul's Endowment. We have 35 students presently under sponsorship. The total needed for them to continue for another year is \$13,000. At the moment we have only \$10,000 for sponsorships. We are hoping that we will be able to reach \$13,000 by the end of the year.

Christmas Memorial Flowers

Anyone who wishes to make a donation towards Christmas flowers in the church in memory of a loved one is asked to please call the church office at 847-1812

Church Finances & Individual Giving Statistics

The Finance Committee met to assess the current years outlook and begin planning for the 2016 Budget. If receipts and patterns of giving are similar to previous years, the parish financial situation for 2015 looks to be in good shape. Although we did not send out reports to parishioners this year showing previous year's and year to date giving, individual reporting is available at the office upon request. If you would like a report of your giving for 2014 and year to date 2015, please call the office at 847-1812 or email stpaulsrothesay@nb.aibn.com.

Local Support for Syrian Refugees

Jim Stokes-Rees dropped by the office this week to bring to our attention a clothing drive that is going on in the Saint John area for Syrian Refugees. For full details about local financial, clothing and furniture drives please go to ymcaneewcomers.com

- click on Syrian refugee response on the first screen
- click on donate on the second screen,
- on the third screen click on the donation category for which you want information.

Details for the clothing drive that Jim mentioned can be found there. For those who "don't do the internet", there is a paper copy of the information on the bulletin board in the lobby

Christmas Giving Opportunities

Hestia House is the women's and families' emergency shelter in the Saint John area. They have a request for lounging style pyjamas and slippers for women and children, sizes small, medium & large, children's DVD's and children's VHS tapes. **Romero House** is looking for used, clean, warm winter clothing. Long winter coats, boots, gloves, scarves, socks, blankets, sleeping bags etc. are all appreciated. There are baskets in the parish lobby and we will be collecting items up until **Sunday, Dec 20**. Thank you for your support.

Alzheimer's Awareness Café – Today, 2 – 4 p.m.

The second Alzheimer's Café will take place here at St. Paul's this afternoon. The Café is similar to other ones in the Saint John area. It is not a fund-raising event, but a gathering for people with Alzheimer's, their families and care-givers, to have an opportunity to be together in support of one another. Perhaps you know someone who could benefit from this. Why not bring them along?

**Please be sure to pick up your 2016 Offering Envelopes
and your Advent/Christmas edition of The Echo
They are available in the church lobby.**

