

NEWS

Have I Got e-  *for You!*



News from the Communities in and around the
Old Barns and Hilden United Churches



No 1

November 2015

Welcome Message from the Diversity In Action Committee

Approximately one year ago, our Pastoral Charge voted unanimously to become an Affirming Pastoral Charge. The Affirming Committee, which worked diligently toward this end result, was then dis-banded and a new committee, Diversity In Action, was formed to begin carrying out some of the ideas and suggestions of the Affirming Committee.

The Diversity In Action committee, with members the Reverend Ian Harrison, Glenda MacDonald (Hilden), Jenna Waugh (Old Barns) and Barb Miller (Old Barns), meets every couple of months to discuss ways in which we can open our doors, and our minds and hearts, to reach out to all who may be looking for a spiritual connection, with the invitation that “You are welcome here.”

This newsletter will, hopefully, be one of the ways in which we are able to do that. The plan is to produce this Newsletter four times a year. If Rev. Ian’s usual Seasonal letters at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas coincide with the newsletter, you will receive it then, otherwise, they will be sent to you separately. Each issue will include any current event dates in the church or community, of which we are made aware. We encourage you, our readers, to submit items of news and interest. You can email your articles/submissions to:

secretary@cliftonpastoralcharge.ca

with the subject line indicating that it is an item for the newsletter. It is requested that you type your submission of dates/news into the body of the email or send as a .doc or .docx attachment.

Last spring we were able to visit and talk with members of a local Lesbian, Gay, Bi-sexual, Transgender, Queer (LGBTQ) group and share information about our United Church, and in particular Clifton Pastoral Charge, regarding what it means to be designated as an Affirming congregation. We were very well received and found the discussion and questions from these young people engaging and enlightening.

The concept of Diversity encompasses acceptance and respect. It means understanding that each individual is unique, and recognizing our individual differences. Perhaps our action, then, is to simply ‘Be’ in the present moment as we interact with those around us, offering an open mind, a compassionate heart, and a respectful attitude, when exploring different ideas. As we continue on this journey of recognizing and exploring diversity in our midst, we invite you to express your ideas for new adventures and experiences.

Old Barns Events

Musical Evening

Wednesday, November 25
7 – 9 p.m.

Hosted by the Clifton Community Seniors Assoc.
Come and enjoy! No charge and lunch provided.
Everyone welcome – see you there.

UCW Annual Christmas Party and Pot Luck

For all women of the Old Barns Church
Community and the Hilden UCW:

Wednesday, December 2
6:00 for 6:30

Christmas Centerpieces

Clifton 4-H group is selling Christmas
Centerpieces again this year for \$15. Orders
may be placed through any 4-H member or
Jane Blackburn.

Also, anyone whom can help make them on
Saturday morning Dec 5th
would be appreciated.

Old Barns Progressive Club

Monday, December 7
6:00 p.m.

at the home of Kathie Chisholm
Pot Luck supper.
Bring a wrapped gift for the Exchange!
Ladies of the community invited.

Clifton District Federation of Agriculture Annual Christmas Party

Monday, December 14
7:00 p.m.

at the Old Barns School
Cost per person \$5.00 plus food for the Pot
Luck Table – hot dish, salad, dessert
Make sure your name is on your dish.

Hilden Events

Thank You

The Hilden United church November 7th
Turkey Dinner Fundraiser was a success!
We wish to express our thanks and
appreciation for the tremendous support we
received from our congregational members
and the community. Without your generous
support our Turkey Dinner would not be a
success. ~ from the Board of Stewards

Cards and Games, Anyone?

Interested in playing cards and/or board
games? Join us at the Hilden church hall on
the following dates:

November 25 at 10 a.m.

December 4 at 7 p.m.

December 16 at 10 a.m.

A light lunch is served. Free will offering is
accepted if you wish. Everyone is welcome.

Exercise Classes

Are you aged 50+ ? Join us at the Hilden
Fire Hall on:

Tuesdays and Thursdays

9:15 a.m. to 10:15 a.m.

Craft Fair & Bake Sale

Sponsored by the Hilden Garden Club will
be held at the Fire Hall on:

Saturday November 21

8:30 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Baby Band

A social time for pre-schoolers and their
caregivers, is held at the Hilden Church Hall
on alternate Friday mornings

November 27 and December 11

9:30 – 10:30 a.m.

For further information, call Jane at:

902-897-7333

Christmas Tree Lighting

Friday, November 27

At the church hall

7:00 p.m.

Cookies, hot chocolate, carol singing, a visit
from Santa.

Hilden Events, continued

Hilden School Christmas Concert

Thursday, December 10

7:00 p.m.

Hilden Garden Club

Meets at the Fire Hall on:

third Monday of each month

7:30 p.m.

New members are welcome.

Volunteers Needed

The Hilden Fire Brigade is always recruiting new volunteers. For more information call:

902 895 4422

or visit hildenfire.ca

New Members Welcome

The Hilden Fire Brigade Auxiliary is seeking new members. The group meets on

second Tuesday of each month

7:30 p.m.

Winnie the Pooh-isms

People who don't Think probably don't have Brains; rather, they have grey fluff that's blown into their heads by mistake.

When trying to ignore a knock at your door, don't yell out, "No!" when someone asks, "Is anybody at home?"

Sometimes a boat is a boat, and sometimes it's more of an Accident. It depends on whether you're on top of it or underneath.

Advent Facts

- A time of expectant waiting and preparation for the celebration of Christmas
- From the Latin word "adventus" meaning "coming"
- Starts on the Sunday that falls between November 27th and December 3rd
- Started perhaps in the year 480 but maybe even earlier
- Liturgical colour is either violet or blue which represents "Hope"
- Advent candles are usually violet or blue for the first - Hope, second - Peace, and fourth - Love, Sundays with a rose candle being used to celebrate Joy on the third Sunday.

O Come, O Come, Emmanuel

O come, O come, Emmanuel
And ransom captive Israel
That mourns in lowly exile here
Until the Son of God appear.
Rejoice! Rejoice! Emmanuel shall come to thee, O Israel.

An Advent Prayer

God of all wisdom,
Our hearts yearn for the warmth of your love,
And our minds search for the light of your Word.
Increase our longing for Christ our Saviour,
And strengthen us to grow in love,
That at the dawn of his coming
We may rejoice in his presence
And welcome the light of his truth.
That we ask in the name of Jesus Christ.
Amen

Advent and Christmas Events

First Sunday of Advent ~ Hope

November 29

Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Hilden

11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Second Sunday of Advent ~ Peace

December 6

Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Old Barns

11:00 a.m. in Hilden

A Blue Christmas Service

December 9

Worship Time:

7:00 p.m. in Old Barns

Third Sunday of Advent ~ Joy

December 13

White Gift Presentation

Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Hilden

11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Fourth Sunday of Advent ~ Love

December 20

Lessons and Carols Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Hilden

11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Old Barns Youth Drama

Presentation

"The Christmas Angel"

Tuesday, December 22

Wednesday, December 23

7:00 p.m.

Free will offering

Christmas Eve Services

Thursday, December 24

Worship Services:

7:00 p.m. in Hilden

9:00 p.m. in Old Barns

Second Day of Christmas

Sunday, December 27

Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Hilden

11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Ninth Day of Christmas

Sunday, January 3

Worship Services:

9:30 a.m. in Hilden

11:00 a.m. in Old Barns

Twelfth Day of Christmas

Wednesday, January 6

Time to take down the Christmas trimmings!

*Just a little thought of the
Christmas to come.*

To all of you from Brian!

From "**Good King Wenceslas**"

"In his master's steps he trod
Where the snow lay dinted
Heat was in the very sod
Which the Saint had printed
Therefore, Christian men, be sure
Wealth or rank possessing
Ye who now will bless the poor
Shall yourselves find blessing."

*May the blessings of Christmas
be with you and yours
this Christmas and always!*

Duke of Edinburgh Award Recipient - Therese McCurdy

On November 2nd, 2015, Therese McCurdy received the Gold Award of Achievement through the Duke of Edinburgh program at a special ceremony held at the Halifax Library, presented by Prince Edward, the Earl of Wessex.

The Duke of Edinburgh award is an International program designed as a personal challenge for person(s) aged 14-24. It is a balanced, non-competitive program of voluntary activities, which encourages personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility, and service to community.

In Canada, the program has been operating since 1963, and Nova Scotia since 1972, with the Governor General as the national chair. Presently, more than 3,500 participants are registered in the province. In the past, Cobequid Educational Centre had a number of students active in the Duke of Edinburgh program, but Therese has been an independent participant in both grade 10 and grade 11.

Participants follow a self-directed program that challenges them to achieve their personal best in four areas:

- [Bronze; Silver] physical recreation, community service, skill development, and outdoor expeditions;
- [Gold] Previous four, plus a fifth component – a residential project, which is a 5 day, 4-night planned project.

What did Therese do to accomplish this challenge?

- Musical abilities with piano, and violin/fiddle
- Curling, Skiing, Yoga
- Helped younger students with life skills, teaching Can-Skate, and Drama at the Old Barns United Church
- Attended SHAD at Carleton University, Ottawa, Ontario
- Independently kayaking and hiking in Cape Chignecto
- Four-day kayaking and outdoor experiences in Kejimikujik National Park

Well done Therese! We are so pleased you have achieved this prestigious award. We wish you continued success and adventure!

CONGRATULATIONS!



"All That Glitters Is Not Gold"

by: Brian Hagell

Shubenacadie was a great place to be a kid, especially in the early 60's. The Cuban Missile Crisis was in full swing, television was something for Sunday night. The Ed Sullivan Show with that mouse character and there was always someone spinning plates or chairs. Everyone played outside from morning till night it seemed. Home was a place where you slept and ate.

Fortunately, most parents had no idea what you were up to. During this time of my life, I loved to wander off to new places and discover things I had never seen before.

On one of these adventures, I explored the "clay pit" where clay had been taken out of the ground, sent to Lantz Brick Yard and processed into bricks. On this particular day, I noticed rocks of a golden colour lying about on the ground. Everywhere I looked it seemed there were clusters of this golden rock. Now even at that youthful age I had, somewhere, somehow picked up the idea that gold was a very valuable item. Perhaps it was from the old westerns where the bad guys were chasing the stagecoach with its strong box loaded with gold dust.

But there in front of me, just lying on the ground were chunks of gold waiting for me to pick them up and become rich. Heck! I was well passed the dust part. I was into the gold chunks the size of your fist! All sizes just waiting to be taken by the first lucky one to come along and that apparently just happened to be me.

So, after stuffing my pockets, arms and hands full, I proceeded home imagining that all my troubles and those of my family were now over. We were now rich. We would never want again!

Oh! How quickly dreams can fade. How quickly reality sets in destroying our "picture perfect postcard" of the mind, dulling the glitter.

I found out the hard way and at such a young age that "All That Glitters Is Not Gold". My Father explained to me that it was

not gold but "fool's gold"; a mocking combination of iron and sulphur. Nothing more. It was not gold and I had been fooled! As a consolation prize, it was explained to me that I was certainly not the first one to be fooled by Fool's Gold nor would I be the last.

Since then I have had my fair share of disappointments of glittering objects not turning out to be gold or anything close. Perhaps you have had a similar experience in your life when things just didn't turn out the way you had planned them. No doubt there is a lesson to learn from experiences such as this one.

Some of us learn faster than others and are able to avoid the pitfalls of being bedazzled by the glitter. Others take longer in discovering the wisdom of the old adages.

Such is life.

Old Barns Food Bank Pictures



A vintage Potato Digger from days long gone in our community was repaired and rejuvenated for this year's harvest of potatoes.



Some of the volunteers of the Old Barns Men's Club / Knights of Columbus Food Bank Garden Project 2015



Rev. Ian's Christmas Letter

As I compose this letter, attempting to capture a sentiment and feeling of Christmas, it occurs to me that preparations for the holiday season seem to get underway earlier and earlier every year. We see this in the stores and the malls, where simultaneously as we are observing one occasion, we're reminded to make way for another. It's enough to make any of us feel overloaded, even if we may have decided long ago to reduce the length of our shopping lists and already cramped schedules. Yet when I reflect on what Christmas means for me at its heart, with its virtues of good-will, sharing, generosity, and reaching out to the downtrodden, the world would feel rather empty of meaning and hope if such things were only on our minds and hearts at a certain, scheduled time of year. Many a song and a carol has expressed the wish for that Christmas feeling and all its hallmarks to be part of us and the way we live all the time. If Christmas itself feels like a sudden inconvenience, something to get through rather than embrace, maybe there remains something in the story of the Christ child yet to transform us, something wondrous we have not yet heard, something mysterious that has not yet enthralled us, something incredible that can have the power to stay with us during the in-between times as well as the moments of celebration. Maybe there can be room for the way we 'do' Christmas to be changed, so we are able to receive it with delight and anticipation, a true life-giving gift!

Like any holiday season, there will be those this time of year who are able to welcome it warmly and others of us who because of what has happened or is ongoing in our lives will find it difficult to rejoice or feel like celebrating. Each year, in recognition of these feelings and circumstances, we offer a service of remembrance, of quiet reflection, of candle-lighting, for those who are grieving, feeling lonely, seeking hope. On **Wednesday, December 9th in Old Barns**, all are invited to this year's **Blue Christmas service**, and even if 'blue' may not fit your own description, may we come together to support one another in all we are feeling, showing we are a community who cares for one another in all times and all seasons.

You will find other Advent and Christmas Dates on page 4 of the newsletter.



sisters of spirit

**15 exceptional women share their
life's passion to help make Your
Christmas season more meaningful**

**receive provocative, inspiring messages
& heart-warming devotions through Advent
by phenomenal sisters of spirit:**

Angel Forrest . Two Time Canadian Blues Artist and Songwriter Of The Year
Katy Hutchison . Professional Speaker And Restorative Justice Advocate
Ivy Beckwith . Faith Formation Team Leader At The United Church of Christ
Joanna Jepson . Author and First Chaplain to the London College Of Fashion
Erika Kulnys . Musician and Mental Health Advocate
Jordan Cantwell . Moderator Of The United Church Of Canada
Val Lieske . Artistic Director Of The Fire Exit Theatre
Karen Soria . First Female Rabbi To Serve In The U.S. Marines & Canadian Forces
Marcia Cope Fleischmann . Baptist Minister & Double Lung Transplant Recipient
Nancy Sleeth . Author and Co-Founder of Blessed Earth, a Christian nonprofit
Claudia Medina . Award Winning Canadian Film Maker
Sister Sue Mosteller . Former Leader of the International Federation Of L'Arche
Julia Corrente . National Team Bobsleigh Athlete and Olympic Hopeful
Kimberly Knight . Minister Of Digital Community at United Church Of Christ
Wenda Salomons . Acclaimed Visual Artist Working In Photo-Based Media

give yourself a gift of spirit

Join the *Sisters Of Spirit* Facebook event today

Or get all of the devotions in an e-document by emailing sistersofspiritunite@gmail.com

Sisters Of Spirit is a Benefit Event for the Skylight Festival

Your \$10 donation (or whatever you can afford) will not only feed your spirit but also help keep the conversation about faith, peace, justice and arts alive. Read more and donate at:

www.sistersofspiritunite.com