



# Fort Massey Star

AUTUMN - THANKSGIVING - 2011

[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

## From the Pastor's Desk...

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### Scripture Reading: Psalm 100

In regions of Mexico hot springs and cold springs are found side by side. Because of the convenience of this natural phenomenon the women often bring their laundry, boil their clothes in the hot springs, and rinse them in the cold springs. A tourist watching this procedure

commented to his guide "They must think Mother Nature is generous to freely supply such ample clean hot and cold water." The guide replied "No senior. There is much grumbling because she supplies no soap."

Think of how often we look at life from ungrateful eyes; and how often we grumble about a small thing when overall life is going well. Thanksgiving is already here. Some people are pausing not just for football and turkey but to ask whether there is an attitude of thanks in their daily living, an attitude of gratitude. There is a website for gratitude which

claims "Our international nonprofit organization provides resources for living in the gentle power of gratefulness, which restores courage, reconciles relationships, and heals our Earth." Some of the resources on the site are Christian and some are from other faiths. Some are even from those without faith who still feel a need to live in thanksgiving.

Some people are now keeping gratitude journals. They take the time to write down for a few minutes each day a short list of things for which they are grateful. Someone who has written about such a practice notes, "By acknowledging what is working in our lives, we set in motion an ancient spiritual law - the more you have and are grateful for, the more will be given to you."

The Psalmist would not have looked up 'Gratitude dot org' on the internet, but he understood gratitude.

***Enter His gates with thanksgiving; His courts with praise. Give thanks to him and bless his name, for the Lord is good and His love is everlasting; His faithfulness endures to all generations.***

Throughout the history of our faith there have been people of faith who have written about the need for thanks. We need only look at our hymns like 'Count your many blessings, name them one by one' and a more modern hymn 'Our God is an awesome God'. Different words but the same underlying emotion. Gratitude.

Thanksgiving reminds us that we are a people called to gratitude, to a way of living and being which means that we count our blessings and live with our adversity. We go forward from this day with a new attitude, seeing the glass half full even when our inclination is to see it half empty. Happy Thanksgiving!

~Rev. Trent

## Upcoming UCW Events

Our **'Annual Harvest Tea'** is on Saturday, October 15th, 2 - 4 pm. Special music with Kevin Roberts & friend. There will be a Bake Table. Freewill offering.

The **'Christmas Tea & Sale'** is on Saturday, November 19th, 10:30 am to 12:30 pm. As usual, we serve brown & raisin

bread with cheese, sweet breads and cookies. Our sale tables include Silent Auction, Pantry, Jewellery, Christmas, New-to-You and Crafts. Tickets are \$5 at the door or during Coffee & Conversation on Sundays.

Our **'Christmas Luncheon'** will be held at a restaurant this year. The restaurant and date is undecided.

Submitted by Irene Parks



*"So now we head off to college basketball games to watch Beatrice play for the University of Kings; to concerts with Tristan as assistant conductor and singer with Camerata Singers..."*

## From the Manse - Fall 2011

Channel surfing is fun but as most of you know, you can look at channel after channel and find nothing that appeals. So most evenings if the TV is on at the manse, there is a DVD in the player. First we discovered that Video Difference has a wonderful collection but you can begin to spend too much on rentals. So then we discovered that the library has most of the same DVDs. They are not on the shelf but you can go online and log into their system and request. Then you wait.

Our favourite show this summer was Downton Abbey. And just as we finished it, we discovered that it is on Vision TV this fall on Wednesday evenings. It is like "Upstairs, Downstairs" and they are currently filming the second sea-

son. So we will all have to wait for the next installments. But with a large cast and a budget of a million dollars an episode, it is well done. If you missed the first few episodes, Vision usually starts over and shows it again or you can wait for it through the library. We also enjoyed the 2010 version of Upstairs Downstairs - a few episodes with some of the same cast from the original series.

Midsomer Murder and Inspector Morse have been our murder mystery favourites this summer. Both are British and as the plot twists and turns, we try to guess "who dun it". Walking through the streets of Oxford with Morse or through the small villages with Barnaby are good escapism on a cold and

rainy summer evening.

On the night stand has been The Book of Negroes. But it has finally been returned to the library - well worth the read. And our favourite movie of the summer was "The Help".

So now we head off to college basketball games to watch Beatrice play for the University of Kings; to concerts with Tristan as assistant conductor and singer with Camerata Singers; and back to bridge lessons hoping to learn how to keep score and to remember what we learned last year. And if you attend Bette MacDonald's comedy show in December at the Cohn, and you hear a familiar laugh from the audience, yes, that will be your minister enjoying every minute of it - again.

# How To Stop Rumours

Mildred, the church gossip, and self-appointed monitor of the church's morals, kept sticking her nose into other people's business. Several members did not approve of her extracurricular activities but feared her enough to maintain their silence.

She made a mistake, however, when she accused Bill, a new member of being an

alcoholic after she saw his old pickup parked in front of the town's only bar one afternoon.

She emphatically told Bill (and several others) that every one seeing it there **WOULD KNOW WHAT HE WAS DOING!**

Bill, a man of few words, stared at her for a moment and just turned and walked

away. He didn't explain, defend or deny. He said nothing.

Later that evening, Bill quietly parked his pickup in front of Mildred's house...walked home...and left it there all night. (You gotta love Bill!)

**Submitted by Jean Brown**



## A Special Remembrance

ATTENTION...Please join me in remembering yet another great icon of the entertainment community.

The Pillsbury Doughboy died yesterday of a yeast infection and trauma complications from repeated pokes to the belly. He was 71.

Doughboy was survived by his wife, Play Dough; three children, John Dough, Jane Dough and Dosie Dough; plus they had one in the oven. The funeral was held at 3:50 for about 20 minutes.

**Submitted by Joan Hyslop, resident at Northwood's**

**Ivany Place, located off Hammonds Plains Road**



## Spirit Connectors Book Selections

**Harvey Cox's book, *The Future of Faith***

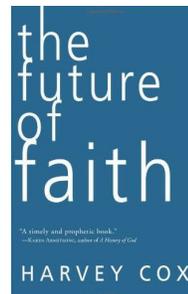
and

**Barbara Brown Taylor's book, *An Altar in the World***

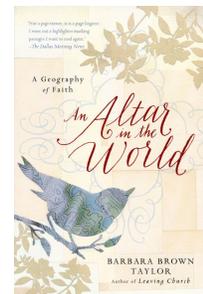
two books this fall/winter on Thursdays at 10:30 am, beginning October 13, 2011.

These books can be purchased or ordered at any bookstore, or on-line, and are available in paperback.

Our Spirit Connectors group will be reading these



**Fall**



**Winter**



**PHANTOMS of the PIPES XIV**

**The Royal Canadian College of Organists Halifax Centre**

P R E S E N T S

**PHANTOMS of the PIPES XIV**

**The Scariest show in Town**

**featuring some of the scariest people!**

FORT MASSEY CHURCH Queen & Tobin, near South, Halifax, NS 423-4294

MC - Dr. Walter H. Kemp

**SATURDAY, 7:30 PM, OCTOBER 29, 2011**

Admission: \$10, \$5 (seniors), Children free, \$15 family

**Holy Humour**

A minister parked his car in a no-parking zone in a large city because he was short of time and couldn't find a space with a meter.

Then he put a note under the windshield wiper that read: "I have circled the block 10 times. If I don't park here, I'll miss my appointment. Forgive us our trespasses."

When he returned, he found a citation from a police officer along with this note "I've circled this block for 10 years.. If I don't give you a ticket I'll lose my job. Lead us not into temptation."

*"I was in Grade 10 in '42, I was 15, I was dying to go to school," she said.*

**QEH Time Capsule Holds Historic Artifacts**

A time capsule from the old Queen Elizabeth High School was cracked open for the first time in 70 years. There was a lot of curiosity about the tiny old box, not much bigger than a phone book.

It was discovered last month among the debris at the QEH demolition site. It was found tucked away in the cornerstone of the old school.

QEH opened in September 1942. It closed in 2007 after 65 years of use, and Citadel High School opened nearby.

Former QEH students from the early 1940s were in attendance.

Jean Brown, who graduated from QEH in 1945,

said she couldn't wait to go to the new school.

"I was in Grade 10 in '42, I was 15, I was dying to go to school," she said. "And I remember my dad teased me all summer saying, 'It's going to be turned into a hospital, there's a war on.'"

students mingled with the elderly QEH grads as they read the old newspapers, dominated by headlines about the Second World War.

The demolition of QEH began last October but there have been numerous delays, including a dispute with a contractor. It is scheduled for completion by late September or early October.



Among the artifacts were newspapers from September 1941, a Canadian nickel and a board of school commissioners report showing teachers annual salaries ranging from \$1,200 to \$1,500.

Today's high school

**Submitted by Ruth MacKenzie. Taken from a CBC news article. Jean Brown is a member of Fort Massey United Church.**



## Dr. Mina MacKenzie Memorial Trust Fund



*This picture is from the Boys Hostel in Ratlam, taken in July 2010.*

The Outreach Committee of Fort Massey would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the Dr. Mina MacKenzie Memorial Trust Fund – an organization striving to equip underprivileged children with the tools they need to become self-supporting productive members of their communities. This year the Trust Fund is supporting more than 140 children in India with health and education expenses, food, clothing and shelter. Dr. Mina MacKenzie was originally from Pictou and worked for many years as a missionary in India. Currently, the Trust Fund is being run by one of Dr. MacKenzie's adopted daughters, Sarina Bayer. Sarina's husband, William Bayer, one of the founders of the Trust Fund,

passed away in early 2011, but his drive, inspiration and determination that made the Trust Fund grow is the foundation for those now taking the lead to help the children who need our support.

This year, through several generous donations, the Trust Fund also funded several special projects including: assisting with the care and upkeep of AIDS patients; supporting the Leprosy Mission in Allahabad U.P.; and a scholarship for a B.Sc. Nursing student at the R.D. College in Ujjain.

Over the past 20 years, many of the children supported by the Trust Fund have graduated high school, found good jobs and became self-supporting and productive members of their community including supporting other members of their family. This has only been made possible by the generous donations made by people like you.

An urgent appeal is being made this year to raise \$25,000 to repair a roof at a boy's hostel in Ratlam, MP., India that was partially collapsed during heavy mon-

soon rains. Until the roof is repaired, the children have been temporarily moved. To prevent them from being exposed to cold conditions that may result in flu and pneumonia, the Trust Fund needs to secure funding to complete the repair prior to the winter season.

The Outreach Committee would like you to consider making a valuable contribution to the work of this special Trust Fund, perhaps as a special Christmas gift. Examples of how your donation will be put to use are: \$25 (school uniform); \$50 (room and board for 2 months); \$100 (medical treatments); and \$300 (full sponsorship of a child for 1 year!).

Donations can be mailed to: Dr. Mina MacKenzie Memorial Trust Fund, 3490 Cawthra Road, Mississauga, Ontario, L5A 2Y1.

Please consider supporting this important Trust Fund to carry on the work in succeeding in breaking the cycle of poverty these beautiful children are currently facing.

**Submitted by  
Ian MacDonald**

*“Dr. Mina MacKenzie was originally from Pictou and worked for many years as a missionary in India.”*



## Did You Know?

Americans did not invent Thanksgiving. It began in Canada. Frobisher's celebration in 1578 was 43 years before the pilgrims gave thanks in 1621 for the boun-

ty that ended a year of hardships and death. Abraham Lincoln established the date for the US as the last Thursday in November. In 1941, US Congress set the Nation-

al Holiday as the fourth Thursday in November. Frobisher and early colonists, giving thanks for safe passage, as well as pilgrim celebrations in the US that

began the traditions of turkeys, pumpkin pies, and the gathering of family and friends.

# Hardships of Life

Recently I agreed to drive our Uzbek refugee friend, Khursunoi to the bottle exchange. She works faithfully at collecting recyclables which she sorts, counts and packs into bags; labelling each with a tag bearing the tally. We usually make one trip each week to the depot with my car packed to the roof and she receives around \$70 - \$80 for her efforts. That morning, as I drove up to her usual loading spot, I realized her pile of waiting bags was smaller than usual. She told me in her limited English "young man" took 3 bags while she was inside getting more from her storage unit, "I run but he NOT stop!" so he got away. This has happened at least two other times in the past year.

Because I was there with the car, we decided to make the trip with the remaining bags. As we were leaving her driveway Khursunoi indicated she'd like me to drive over to the Mitchell Street recycling depot. It's only a couple blocks from her apartment but she's not allowed to use it because she argued with them in the past over what she felt were discrepancies in their counting. She wanted to check for her "young man." Sure enough, as we drove past the line of collectors waiting their turn inside she recognized her bags. In an instant she was out of the car and taking her bags from a pile beside two young men.

The scene quickly erupted into yelling and swearing as the two fellows tugged on "their" bags. They were pale

and thin, perhaps in their late 20s - probably desperate for a bit of cash. They yelled they couldn't understand what she was saying. "Is she calling us thieves?" At this point I got out of the car to intervene. I was afraid someone might get hurt (or that someone might call the police). First I got Khursunoi into the car then I told the two fellows, "My friend counts and labels each bag. The three bags she just retrieved from you bear her labels. We're not calling you thieves, we're just saying someone took three of her bags this morning and now she's taking them back. Good-bye."

As quickly as I could I repacked the car and left. As we drove through town to Clifton Street depot, Khursunoi and I were, at first, upset and a bit frightened. In a few minutes we were angry that someone could so easily walk off with all her hours of hard work, but then we realized that this had indeed been a GOOD DAY because she had successfully overcome her initial bad luck.

I've shared this story to illustrate some of the reality of the hardships of life for those in our city who, for various reasons, don't have the resources to live a normal life. Khursunoi is fortunate because she qualifies for subsidized housing and she is, at 74 years of age, still healthy and able to do the strenuous work of pushing heavy carts along our streets, winter and summer. All the money she earns from these collections gets sent to her family who remain in former

USSR to supplement their meager wages. She is truly a remarkable lady.

Our Outreach committee is helping in her efforts to have her daughter and two granddaughters move to Canada. The application for their immigration is almost ready to be sent off to Ottawa.

*Submitted by Sally DeWolf*

## What to do With the Leftover Turkey



### Colourful Turkey Pasta Salad

- 2 cups uncooked tri-colour spiral pasta
- 1 cup chopped cooked turkey
- 1 cup chopped celery
- 1 medium red onion, chopped
- 1 medium green pepper, chopped
- 1 package (1 ounce) ranch dressing mix
- 1 cup sour cream
- 1 cup Miracle Whip
- 1 teaspoon garlic salt
- 1/2 cup slivered almonds
- 1 teaspoon paprika
- Tomato wedges, optional

Cook pasta according to package directions; drain and rinse in cold water. Place in a 2-1/2-qt. salad bowl. Add turkey, celery, onion and green pepper; toss to combine. Combine dressing mix, sour cream, Miracle Whip and garlic salt. Add to pasta mixture and mix well. Sprinkle with almonds and paprika. Garnish with tomato wedges, if desired. Makes 6-8 servings. Enjoy! *Submitted by Holly MacIntosh*

