



Harbour Views



-Cyndi Garrison



From the Desk of Rev. Sean

Dear Friends,

Typically, I'm not a procrastinator. Well, I am, but not when it comes to fulfilling promises and meeting deadlines. In fact, I'm generally pro-active about that sort of thing, which is why I find myself feeling a bit harried at the moment. Typically, if I was going to write a short reflection like this, I'd have it done it a week ago, but, instead, I've only just sat down at my desk and there's less than forty-eight hours left on the clock.

Maybe its just the season? I don't know about you, but I've always found the Christmas season to be a mad dash to the finish with all the cooking, cleaning wrapping, shopping, decorating, card writing, church services, shopping, caroling, partying, traveling, visiting, and, of course, shopping right up to the very last minute because you somehow managed to forget (again) that we celebrate a major gift giving holiday EVERY December.

And it's exhausting, isn't it? Trying to get the million-and-one things we need to do done so that we'll be ready for Christmas. So much so that when we tell and retell the Christmas story, we project that aura of frenzied activity onto the events that took place in Bethlehem so many years ago.

We imagine the hardship of having to travel from Nazareth to Bethlehem with nothing but a donkey to take part in some stupid census. We imagine Joseph frantically searching the city for an inn to stay at only to come up empty. And then, as if that wasn't enough excitement for one day, Mary gives birth right then and there and is forced to swaddle the child up in whatever fabric happened to be handy and lay him in a manger.

And we think to ourselves, "Boy, I sure am glad I've got things more together than that," and then pause a moment to both admire and pity the way that Jesus came into the world. But what if we got it all wrong? What if these hardships, which we so readily identify with, weren't hardships at all, but rather blessings bestowed on the babe and his family?

Take the journey for example. It's no picnic going from Nazareth to Bethlehem by foot, but it may've been less stressful to be with Joseph's family than Mary's given the delicacy of her situation and it did draw people's attention to the fact that Joseph, humble carpenter though he was, he descended from King David.

Or how about the inn? The running frantically from inn to inn in the middle of the night is a modern-day interpretation of the story as inn's weren't nearly as common as fiction makes them out to be. In fact, they'd probably been there several days before Jesus was born working out which of Joseph's many relatives they were going to stay with.

And, when the baby did come, it wasn't some filthy barnyard they were holed up in, but the family room (which is where peasant families kept their animals in Jesus day) and the manger they placed him in wasn't some trough, but a shallow dug out in the floor which, when you think about it, isn't that different from the dresser drawer many of us got our start in and, once swaddled, just as safe and snug as any crib you'd care to name.

It may not have been extravagant, but all these things were blessings and a sure sign that Jesus was well loved and cared for. He

was surrounded by family. He was somewhere safe and comfortable. And, as Timothy L. Adkins-Jones points out in an article written for the Working Preacher website, what could be more appropriate than "the Bread of Life being born in Bethlehem, the city of bread, in something that is used to feed?"

So maybe we need to take a step back and stop pitying the poverty of Jesus's family and consider instead how amply he was provided for despite the humbleness of his circumstances. To stop imagining Mary's journey to Bethlehem as some grueling cross-country trek followed by a frantic dash around town to find an inn, but rather a quiet time in which Mary and Joseph could talk, relax a bit, and spend time with family as they readied themselves to welcome their son into the world. And, instead, re-examine our own lives in this context, see how greatly blessed we are, and take our frantic preparations for the holidays down a notch or two.

To realize that, like Jesus, we are amply provided for. That we are safe, and warm, and loved. And allow ourselves to find joy in that, to relax a bit, and spend some time with friends and family and just rest a spell after a long and busy year. I know I intend to. Because it's my sincere hope that, if we take this time to rest, relax, and count our blessings, when the New Year comes, we'll be more than ready to tackle its challenges with hope in our hearts, peace in our soul, and with eyes wide open for the many blessings it's sure to bring.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,

Rev. Sean



The Down Home Christmas is Back!

Submitted by Susan Feltmate

Last Sunday evening, St. James United in Sambro was aglow with Christmas lights, laughter, and good cheer as several hundred people filled our sanctuary to enjoy the seasonal sounds of Christmas.

The standing-room only audience showed great enthusiasm and support for the wonderful songs and music that was presented by members of our community and in particular, the amazing Combined Choir of Sambro and Harrietsfield Elementary Schools, under the direction of Tara Sampson. Children played a major role in the concert, and it was so amazing to hear these beautiful young voices and talented musicians. Other highlights included inspiring performances of Christmas classics and carols from folks who are new to our community as well as some of our “regulars”, fun Jazz selections from our Ketch Harbour neighbours, sweet sounds of the accordion, and a generous sprinkling of jingling bells....!

Halfway through the 2-hour show, everyone enjoyed an intermission with homemade cookies and treats, hot chocolate and apple cider.

This year’s Down Home Concert was in support of the St. Paul’s Food Bank, and the contributions of food and cash for this worthy cause was very generous, with almost \$1,000 in cash and many bags of food and other items donated.

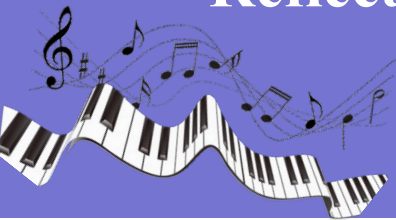
A big thank you to all the performers and organizers and volunteers for making this event such a success. It was wonderful to welcome so many members of our community into our Church for this event, and we want to express our appreciation for their support!



Reflections on the 15th Revd. Trevor Phillips

Memorial Advent Concert

- Olive Phillips



The joyful vibrations of the Christmas Song,” Feliz Navidad “ being piped through the PA System at the Church caused young persons to joyfully dance and sway to the rhythm while clearing the Church pews of the evidence of the activities of the Concert to make it ready for next day’s Sunday Service.

The 25th of November was a time we will remember with gratitude for the amazing Concert we were able to put on that night with the support of so many special persons. The underlying theme in planning was; *“To God Be the Glory.”* This Hymn reflects the sentiment of the Revd. Trevor Phillips whose life and work we were memorializing. He would say to us,” In everything you do give all the Praise and Glory to God. “

We are thankful for the support and hospitality extended to us by our Host, Emmanuel Anglican Church. Their Choir beautifully sang, *“Put your hand in the hand of the Man who stilled the water.”* We enjoyed seeing the dramatic actions the choir members demonstrated as we all sang the beautiful hymn: *“Shine Jesus Shine fill the world with your glory “* It was an invitation for the light of Jesus Christ to come into our hearts, bringing joy and peace, filling our hearts with his love .

Special thanks are due to the Music Team for the excellent Music Program co-produced by Susan Feltmate, Sara Scarfe and the ladies from St James United Church in Sambro. These talented singers also included Jackie Garrison, and Lindy Weilgart, with Susan Feltmate at the piano and Jennifer Moss on the Flute. The audience was inspired by such songs as, *“One Small Child “*, *“I’ve Got Peace like a River “ “ What Child is this,”* The choice of *“On Eagles Wings”* was extra special, it brought back memories of Revd. Phillips and his passion for the words of that Hymn which he repeatedly used to encourage everyone.

“they that wait upon the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings as Eagles, they shall run and not be weary, they shall walk and not faint.” (Isaiah 40: 31)

The familiar Choruses, a signature feature of Revd. Trevor’s Services and Concerts were lead by Susan at the Piano and Sharon Paris leading the congregation in energetic actions to choruses such as; ***“Hallelujah I am so glad to tell, with my soul its well” “Hallelujah, hallelujah, Praise Ye the Lord”, “Its running over, my cup is full and running over” and “I’ve got a joy, joy, deep down in my heart”***

Sharon Paris MCEE, welcomed Revd. Bert Chestnut from Emmanuel Anglican Church who in turn welcomed everyone and proceeded with the call to Worship. Revd. Sean Handcock spoke of his Pastoral work at St James Church in Sambro and gave an interesting message on the meaning of Advent. The Scripture reading of the season was done by Joshua Paris declaring the message. *“His Name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, Mighty God, Prince of Peace,”*

As the Concert progressed various individuals shared their musical talents. Owen Lee, a very talented singer and musician from Emmanuel Baptist Church played the piano and sang while leading the congregation in vibrant Praise and Worship songs. His young ten-year old son joined in and amazed the audience with his powerful singing voice. The rendition of *“How Great is Our God”* was especially powerful and the congregation participated in singing.

The liturgical dance done by Sydnie Paris to the tune of *“Holy Spirit you are welcome in this place “*was especially heart-warming. It brought tears to the eyes of many persons and it was an invitation for the Holy Spirit’s touch our lives.



Con't - Reflections on the 15th Revd. Trevor Phillips Memorial Advent Concert by Olive Phillips

Ms. Terri Mann, Director of Legacy Giving at Dalhousie University was our Guest Speaker. She recounted the history of how the Revd. Trevor Phillips Memorial Scholarship came to be established and spoke of the many students who have been helped since its inception. Sharing the good news that the Scholarship Fund has grown sufficiently to allow for the awarding of two Scholarships each year instead of one, this was a very welcome announcement.

The Nova Dream Drummers lead by Dr. Henry Bishop stole the show. At the beginning he launched a newly recorded song which he wrote and set to the background of powerful beating of drums. He gave a testimony explaining how the song came to be written and titled. "If God brings you to it, He will bring you through it"

He also gave tribute to Revd. Phillips who impacted his life in a powerful way during his youth. As the drumming session continued each of the drummers showcased his or her special talents and the audience was completely enthralled and mesmerised by the compelling rhythmic beat and vibrations. Before long the congregation was standing and swaying, moving to the beat while enjoying the spiritual experience of praising the Lord with drums. There was total audience participation, everyone rocking and swaying in joyful abandon, a sight to behold.

The final participant of the night was Dr. Afua Cooper from Dalhousie University who honoured Revd. Phillips by reading a Poem she wrote from her new Book titled, The Halifax Explosion.

After the Vote of thanks by Olive Phillips the congregation sang the hymns, "Joy to the World" and "Let there be Peace on Earth".

Following the Benediction by Revd. Sean, the Candle Lighting Ceremony began, and everyone moved from the pews to form a ring along the walls of the Church. Holding lighted candles aloft they swayed and sang along

to the music of the song "Go Light your Candle, Go light your World"

We give special thanks to many persons without whom this Concert would not have been possible:

Sharon Parid, EMCEE. - Christopher Rhoden, coordinating and sound production - Byron Veinot, acquisition of Music equipment - Leonardo Rhoden, videotaping - Marc Paris, videotaping - Hyacinth and Stephanie Rhoden, Clea Kindred and Jeff, Assistants.

The Purpose of the annual Revd. Trevor Phillips Memorial Concert:

- Spreading God's Love to everyone, reminding us about the power of Forgiveness.
- Restoring community fellowship and working to spread Peace and Love.
- Feeding the hungry, collect Food for the Food Bank.
- Raise funds for Revd. Trevor Phillips Scholarship Fund at Dalhousie University.

To Make a Gift to the Revd. Trevor Philips Scholarship Fund visit:

<https://alumniapps2.dal.ca/giving/?gift=index.php>

NOTE: Click Specify funding area and start typing Reverend - it will auto populate

Make a Gift

Your gift will enhance the learning experience for Dalhousie students, advance ground-breaking research and deepen your impact on the community.

Gift Type

One-time gift Monthly pledge Pledge annually

e-Transfer Dal Payroll deduction

Gift Amount

\$25 \$50 \$100 \$500 Other

DIRECT YOUR GIFT

Browse all funding areas Specify a funding area

In the field below, type the area you want to support in the provided box to see a list of designated options (eg. law, basketball, research)

Still can't find what you're looking for? That's okay, just leave where you'd like to designate your gift in the box below and click proceed, or call us and leave a message with your contact information.

Search by keyword

Dalhousie University - Area of Greatest Impact - Reverend Trevor Phillips Scholarship

I would also like to fund another area.

I would like to dedicate my gift

Next

MY THOUGHTS

-Doug Garrison

I am lying around recovering from having a kidney stone removed and thinking of how time has passed. I don't recover like I did as a kid. Here are two photos taken just under 60 years apart. The first was taken in 1954 by our Aunt Helen. She posed us under the tree in our front yard.

The two boys are my brother, David, on the left and myself on the right. As you can see, we all had a cute stage. Note David's "cowlick" as our parents called it. The grass is tall enough to assume we had our birthdays, so David was two and I was three.

Two horse chestnut trees were planted to flank the old Sambro Hotel which the Smith family of Sambro owned. The hotel was torn down by Art Smith in the late 1930s or early forties. It sat right where our childhood home is, which is now owned by our nephew Chad. The right front corner of the house is sitting on the right front corner of the hotel foundation. The right tree is what we see today, the left tree was removed long ago.

Behind the tree is Ben Smith's Barn. The hill where it sat is still called Bens Hill. The shed over my head was Billy Gray's. He and his wife Lil's house is the dark one on the right. It burned down about 20 years ago. The white house was George and Lita Kirks. It got moved back during road improvements and now is the lower portion of the house where the post office is.

In the more recent photo, the tree has grown. So have David and I, although he is not that much taller than me. His wife, Sharon, took the picture and I think she wanted David to be taller. The limbs of the tree hang lower, much like my eyebrows, and not much can be seen behind us.



1954



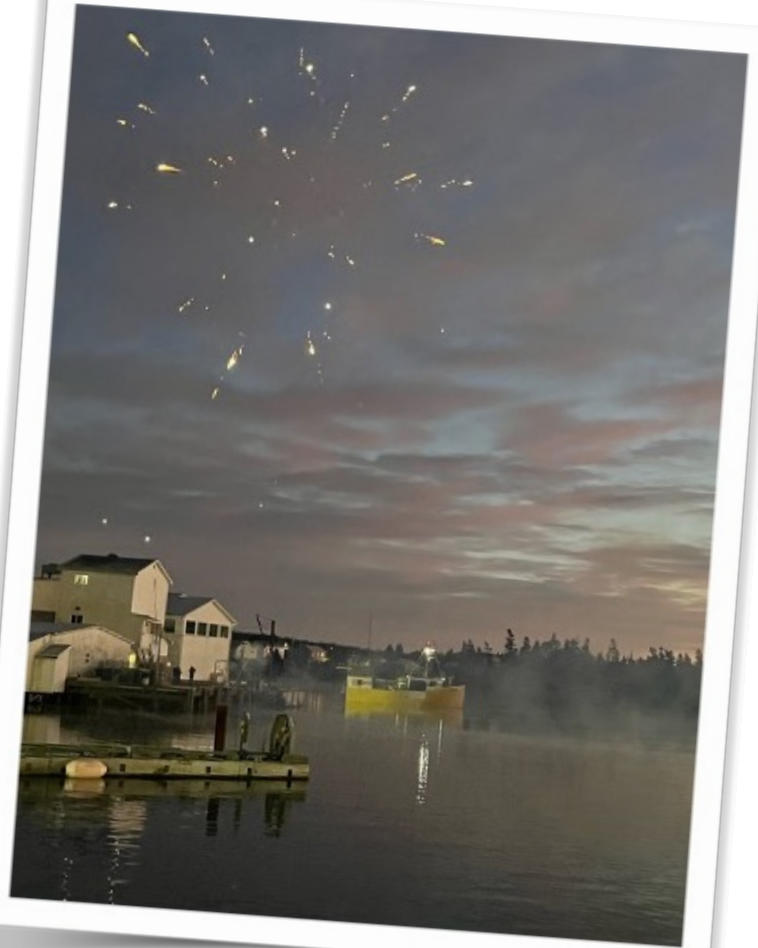
2023

Dump Day

-Cyndi Garrison

Traditionally, Dump Day is the last Monday of November (depending on weather), but this year it came a day earlier on November 26. The lobster fisherman ready their boats, loading on traps and bait the day before.

In Sambro, for the last few years the occasion is marked with fireworks, each year becoming more and more spectacular.



I set my alarm for 6:45 to watch the boats leave the harbour but I am awakened by fireworks before my alarm has a chance to go off. A crowd gathers on the government wharf and along the shore to send off the lobster fleet.

At 7:00 sharp the boats head out the harbour to their setting spots, hoping for a good one before others set their gear there. Wishing all the lobster fisherman a prosperous and safe 2023/24 season.

Report on Parkhill and Beyond UCW Christmas Potluck

- Olive Phillips

On the night of December 8th, 2023, fifteen very excited and happy persons whose bonds of friendship go far back to the early years as members of the Parkhill United Church met at the home of Olive Phillips. Our get together presented a wonderful opportunity for us to meet in person as a group, to celebrate over a scrumptious meal, share humour, give thanks for another year that we are able to meet and greet each other. We reveled in the significance of the Christmas season and sang many favourite Christmas Carols to the accompaniment of our accomplished pianist Jennifer at the Piano.

Newcomers welcomed in our midst included Revd. Sean Hancock who blessed the gathering, his wife Kathy and their two children, Ben and Ally as well as Tanya a very vibrant addition to our group which we call PBUCW, Parkhill and Beyond UCW. After the meal everyone moved from the table to the living room and joined in the wonderful fellowship of music and singing.

The sound of the lusty voices of Hugh, Byron and Errol filled the room with powerful bass vibrations as the ladies chimed in with their sweet high-pitched voices. The harmony was remarkable and the smiling faces and the sense of joy and celebration among our group members was palpable. Little booklets with words of some special Christmas Carols provided by Marilyn reminded us of the link to Simpsons Store of ancient history when large Christmas Concerts were held in the streets of Halifax and people dressed in elegant long skirts and bonnets sang from these booklets.

We began with singing the Carol titled *Winter Wonderland*, followed by *Go Tell it on the Mountain*, *Hark the Herald Angels Sing*, *Joy to the World*, *Mary's Boy Child*, *Christians, Awake*, *O Come all Ye Faithful*, *The First Noel*, *Rockin' Around the Christmas Tree*, *Frosty the Snowman* and a few other chosen songs. We ended the evening with *Have Yourself a Merry Little Christmas*.

It was good to be together again just praising the Lord. Sheila, Regine, Dale, Olive and Faith were beaming with contentment and joy, and we all agreed that this was a wonderful evening of joyful celebration.



Events in the Community

-Pat Thomas



There was a Service on Remembrance Day at the Cenotaph in the Sambro Cemetery conducted by Rev Sean Handcock. Over 100 people attended, several in Military Uniforms and many more proudly wearing their medals. Others in Coastguard and Fireman Uniforms were in attendance Pat Devenish (retired Navy) and Penny Henneberry (active Reservist) read the names .



Once gain the Lobster-trap Tree was erected by Todd Henneberry, members of his family, the crew of his boat and other fishermen and friends in the Community. The next weekend a tree lighting was held with over 200 people attending. SACA provided hot chocolate and candy canes, Diana (Mishoos) provided cookies and there were lots of oohs and ahs when the lights were lit. Since then, the Tree has been decorated with many buoys, many in memory of loved ones have been placed on the tree. Many thanks to Diana and Esper of Mishoos for having the Tree, providing the electricity and for all their help.

ST JAMES MEMORIAL TREE

Submitted by Barb Reyno

St James memorial tree is a special way to remember family members and friends that are no longer with us.

On December 1st we gather around the tree, and it is lit all in blue lights, carols are sung, prayers are said and then there is hot chocolate & cookies.

As we move toward Christmas Day, folks purchase bulbs in memory of their loved ones, the tree turns from blue to white.

Once the tree has completely turned to all white lights, take a moment on a quiet still night to stand by the tree and see that each white bulb shines to honor and remember somebody's or perhaps your loved ones. It is amazing.

On December 9th, Lunch With Santa was held in the Church Hall. This was a SACA event and kids had a Hot Dog Lunch, Christmas tattoos, decorated Christmas Tree cookies and had a visit with Santa.

There was also a table raising funds for Dolly Parton's Imagination Library, a book gifting program that mails free, high-quality books to children from birth to age five.

www.imaginationlibrary.com/ca/

There was a good turnout to this fun event .

-Pat Thomas



Events in the Community

-Pat Thomas

We had the Gingerbread Tea, Cakewalk and Auction on Nov 18th. A large crowd attended for the delicious gingerbread, great cakes and wonderful prize lots. Approximately \$2000 was raised.

On Dec 1st the Annual Memorial Tree Lighting took place at St. James with a few dozen people attending, enjoying the carol singing and hot chocolate and homemade cookies afterwards in the Hall. Our beautiful blue tree will change to white as the bulbs are purchased in memory of a loved one.

The Church elves decorated the Sanctuary, and the Hanging of the Greens was held on the First Sunday of Advent. There are some lovely new decorations this year. The Wreaths hanging on the windows were made by a few of the Church ladies and look very nice. A new addition this year is the Angel tree where folks can put a name of a loved one on an angel and place it on the tree. Many people took place in the Greening service recognizing the symbols of the season.

The second Sunday of Advent, on Dec 10th was the White Gift and Mitten Tree Service. Folks were very generous, and our Tree was beautiful decorated with mittens, hats, socks, toys and food. It is a very popular Service and Rev Sean told us all about Santa Claus in his message and was very informative. I think many of us learned a few new facts about Santa.

Down Home Christmas returned for the first time since COVID and the Church was full to the brim. The entertainment was excellent. We were delighted to see performers return, new performers and many children from the School Choir and many children do individual performances. There certainly are many talented folks in the area. There were many donations for the food bank and also a monetary donation was collected as well. All donations go to St Paul's Resource Center and will help people in the local community. Thank You to everyone for their generous donations.



It's been a busy time at the Church and in the Community and thanks to all who participated in any way.

CHERRY BALLS

Susan Feltmate

Ingredients

- 1 ¼ cup icing sugar
- 1 ¼ cup coconut
- ¼ cup butter
- 1 tsp almond flavoring
- 1 cup glazed or bottled cherries (halved)
- 1 cup graham cracker crumbs

Directions

- ✓ Combine the first four ingredients and roll into balls
- ✓ Push cherry into center of each ball, and roll them in graham crumbs
- ✓ Store in an airtight container in the refrigerator



Recipe

Susan's Simply Scrumptious Shortbreads

Ingredients

- 1 cup butter
- ½ cup icing sugar
- ½ cup cornstarch
- 1 cup white flour

Instruction

- ✓ Combine the first three ingredients, add flour and blend well.
- ✓ Shape mixture into 1 inch round balls and press one half of glazed green or red cherry in the center of each cookie.
- ✓ Bake on a cookie sheet (lined with parchment paper or tin foil) at 300 F for 20-25 minutes until edges are slightly browned

Or, if you love chocolate..... roll out mixture and cut into 2-inch rounds and bake as above. When cool, dip half of each shortbread into melted chocolate chips.

Craft Corner



PAPER
STAR

Submitted by Ashton Hennigar-Shah

How to make a paper star:

<https://www.youtube.com/shorts/AmlupYyiwF8>