



June 2024

WOLFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

In the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart

From Pastor Scott's Desk

Many of us remember singing the catchy song about Zacchaeus, the short tax-collector described in Luke 19: *Zacchaeus was a wee little man and a wee little man was he. He climbed up in a sycamore tree for the Lord he wanted to see.*



Jesus was passing through Jericho when he encountered Zacchaeus, a chief tax-collector whose job had made him wealthy. Zacchaeus wanted to see Jesus but was prevented from doing so because of the crowd. Luke 19:4 reads: "So he [Zacchaeus] ran ahead and climbed a sycamore tree to see him [Jesus], because he was going to pass that way." Jesus then called Zacchaeus down from the tree and visited the tax collector's home much to the shock of those who witnessed this event.

This passage teaches us something about our human nature, our tendency to judge others, and the importance of God's grace. But what stands out to me is the fact that Zacchaeus had impediments working against him. He was short in stature, There was a crowd in front of him preventing him from seeing Jesus, he was disliked because of his job. But Zacchaeus was determined to see Jesus, and for this reason he seized the moment while he had it. Perhaps he knew that he might not have another opportunity to see and respond to Jesus again. Zacchaeus didn't let the opportunity pass him by.

We too, can learn from Zacchaeus by seizing the moment and responding to Christ. May this Newsletter be both informative and inspiring. May it help us to see, celebrate and respond to the Christ we love and serve.

Blessings for the Spring and Summer,
Pastor Scott

We're Moving On Up!

On June 5th, 2024 our church made a bold and progressive decision. A large majority of those in attendance of this church meeting voted, with a giant leap of faith , towards the call of making WBC a truly ACCESSIBLE space of worship and community for all. We will pioneer our way through this audacious project with a firm belief that God is calling us towards becoming "the heart of the community" where ALL are able to fully participate in every aspect of what this historic building's faith filled worshipers and care takers offer. We will do it with a lot of hard work (which will surely be incredibly character building!) and a surety that we are working for the God that we all love and serve.

We face a challenge in that our operating budget is in a deficit position but we do have bequests that will cover us AND provide a healthy start on our Accessibility Project. There is still a long way to go though. Wonderful supporters at the meeting pledged to work really hard. It would be amazing if everyone would prayerfully consider how they could join in and push this historic undertaking forward.

Could YOU jump in with us, in whatever individual way that God speaks to your heart? Please prayerfully consider making a financial gift above your regular offering for the ongoing expenses of ministry to our community and members. This could be done through the enclosed envelope or by e-transfer to donatewolfvillebaptist@gmail.com

Kathryn Himsl (member of Board of Management)

Extending a Warm Welcome!

People are moving into the area and we want to extend a warm invitation and deeper hospitality. Becoming a Welcoming Church Committee has found many creative ways to fulfill this mission. We offer a Newcomers Lunch on the last Sunday of each month following the worship service, hosting up to 70 people. We have welcomed grandmothers, retired people, new babies, Acadia students and professors.

Newcomers enrich our lives in many ways – sharing their culture with us, getting involved in the music programs, helping with church committees and activities, and giving back Christian love to the church! One person got help starting a new business and others have made new friends and learned to cook new food. Children and adults needing practice in English can attend one of three weekly classes.

Newcomers are helping newcomers! Some of our new friends have returned to their home countries and have been blessed with visits from their new Wolfville friends. - Jean Leung



A Breath of Fresh Air!

Outdoor Adventurers walked, hiked and explored about once a month this past season. As well, we have been hosted for tea and crumpets following a few of our walks. It is a time of fresh-air exhilaration, quiet conversation and most of all, communing with nature, with one another, and most importantly, the Holy Spirit.

We have walked various terrain and trails over the years. When we walk the beaches, there is something for everyone, whether it is a fast pace with the doggies, exploring rocks and Geology with Rob Raeside, or sitting on a log enjoying the view. Our last two walks this year were the Wolfville Woodlands Trail in April and the Wolfville Watershed Ravine loop in May. We have completed our hikes for the summer, but will start up again in September. All ages, stages and doggies are welcome.



We are so thankful for this place where we live, the diversity of people who live here and the ability to explore it. My heart is full of gratitude for this opportunity to share time together in the great outdoors. See you in the Fall! Peace and love, Beth Crosby

Men's Breakfast Club

The Men's Breakfast Club originated in the fall of 1996 at St. Andrew's United Church in Wolfville. The gatherings ceased after the closure of the building in 2012. The Club was restarted several years later by several St. Andrew's members who had started attending services at Wolfville Baptist Church.

Generally, the group now meets once a month from September to May. Its purpose is simply to meet for good food and conversation. There is no fixed agenda, and all men are welcome to join the fellowship. A free will offering at each gathering may be used to cover expenses of the meal, or at the cooks' discretion, be deposited into an account of the Royal Bank in Wolfville. The balance is usually donated once a year to a charitable organization decided upon by the members of the group. - Darren Booth



Fun and Creative Ways to Serve

The Social & Benevolent Society (S&B) serves our community in hospitality and compassion through a variety of activities. Since January 2024, we have organized three funeral receptions to support grieving families. In April, we hosted a provincial food handling course, sponsoring 15 participants who earned their certificates. In May, we were honored to host the reception for the Acadia Divinity College Commissioning Service, celebrating with over 200 guests.



The highlight of each year is our community Christmas Tea. There are many ways in which people contribute: decorating, baking cakes, making sandwiches, serving guests, or joining the cleanup crew. Funds raised by this event enhance the church kitchens and support organisations such as the Canadian Bible Society and Concilio Prison Ministry. As well, we send greeting cards to celebrate achievements, offer encouragement and express gratitude.



Through these acts of kindness, we embody togetherness, empathy, and dedication to others, making meaningful impacts on individuals and the broader community. Join us in this ministry of care and making a difference in our community. For information on how to get involved, contact Rosemary Segado at 902-679-8785 or by e-mail at Rosemary.Segado@gmail.com

This is our Music!

It has been a delight to work with so many musicians and singers new to our community! We strive to make our choir and ensembles

welcoming to anyone who loves making music regardless of age, cultural background, musical preference and experience. It is indeed the diversity of our music and musicians that makes the music at Wolfville Baptist so special.

The musical highlights of this year included our Christmas Celtic cantata "A Tapestry of Light" directed by Ari Snyder who stepped in during my leave of absence last fall. We have also been fortunate to have Luke Steeves and Rosanne McClare share their gift of leadership in a contemporary style of music, both in our Sunday morning services and for the mid-week evening service. Another special addition to our musical roster is Eunhoun Kim who plays piano and organ, as well joining us on flute whenever needed.

Of course the core of our music program is our two choirs. The sanctuary ensemble meets on Thursday evening in preparation for the Sunday morning worship service, and kidzQuire meets Friday afternoons in preparation for a monthly presentation and our musical "Say What".



Thanks to Gisèle Caron for the superb managerial skills she brings to our kidzQuire, and to Cathy Murimboh, Gale Colpitts and Rosemary Segado for their creativity and imagination for costumes, props and scenery... we are so blessed to have such a wealth of talent among us.

Stay tuned for special dates regarding a special hymn sing, monthly Taize services, a Christmas cantata, and other musical opportunities for us all to enjoy and deepen our sense of wonder, beauty and truth through God's generous gift of music.

Heather Price:
Director of Music

Camp Intermission

What do you get when you put six 10-13 year old girls in a van and take them on a 4 hour trip? Lots of laughter, storytelling, yummy ice-cream and a messy van!



In May, six of our girls traveled with Gisèle to Moncton to attend Camp Intermission. Camp Intermission is a camp for girls run simultaneously with Atlantic Baptist Women's interMISSION Conference and hosted at Crandall University. They slept in the residence (although we are not sure the word "slept" would be accurate!), enjoyed good cafeteria food, creative worship, games, a campfire, storytelling, and spent time with incredible women of faith. They explored what it meant to be empowered by God's love, learned what it meant to be called by God and explored their own sense of God's calling. They left feeling challenged and blessed – Gisèle Caron

EDGE Unlimited (Youth Group)

EDGE Unlimited has been meeting weekly since September 2023. Youth in grades 6 -10 participate in fun activities, devotions, and snacks.

Highlights of our year included a digital scavenger hunt where we had to run around Wolfville and take pictures and videos of our team with items from a list; and a progressive supper where we were traveled to four homes for an evening of food, fun and fellowship. It was a great opportunity to get to know some of our "older" church family. Thanks to Don & Gale, Clarence & Eveline, Scott & Kerry and Steven & Jodi for great food and conversation!



In May six youths travelled to Moncton with Pastors Scott and Ruth, Grace Han and Daniella Kozera to attend One Conference in Moncton. One Con is 3,000 teens and their leaders from all over the Maritimes gathered for 24 hours of worship, teaching, prayer times, concerts, giant inflatable games and amusements, and as much noise as possible. The entire youth group worked hard to fundraise about \$1200. Thanks to everyone who donated to the trip. – Ruth Tonn



Summer Ministries

Welcome to our summer students Kaitlyn Lightfoot (returning from last year) and Brady Cox. They bring lots of experience to programs for children. We look forward to an exciting summer of community ministry and Vacation Bible Camp.



Our camps begin July 2nd and run each Monday – Thursday from 9 - 12 until August 8th. Children can register for one week or all the weeks.–The cost for camp is \$25 per family per week. Scholarships are available.–Vacation Bible Camp is the week of August 12-16, from 9 - 11:45. There is no cost for this camp.

Volunteers are necessary for the success of these camps. If you have a free morning or a particular skill you are willing to teach children, sign-up sheets are in the vestry, or you can speak with Rev Ruth.

