



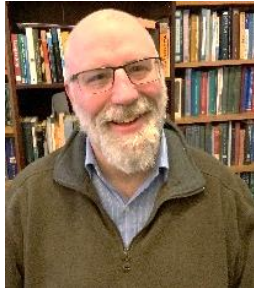
September 2024

WOLFFVILLE BAPTIST CHURCH

At the Heart of the Community with the Community at Heart

From Pastor Scott's Desk

Annie Dillard compares God's grace to a waterfall where pilgrims must come to fill our cups. But often our cups get filled with things that leave less space for God. This is when the challenging questions of Jesus can humble us and put us in a better place to receive God's overflowing grace.



While the Gospels have many examples of people from a great variety of backgrounds and with many motivations coming to Jesus with their questions, the Gospels also affirm that Jesus himself raised questions for his followers to ponder. And the questions of Jesus, if we are brave enough to consider them and take them to heart, can change the way we think about ourselves and our world. Consider, for instance, the question Jesus asked his disciples at Caesarea Philippi; 'Who do you say that I am?' In many ways, the depth of one's Christian life comes down to how we answer and respond to this question.

During Sunday Morning worship in September we will continue to focus on some of the questions that our Lord asked during his ministry. I hope you and your family can attend in person or via live-stream as we humbly ponder the questions of Jesus together.

Save the Date!

Come join our team of volunteers to make this year's Christmas Tea and Sale a truly memorable event. Your time and effort are invaluable to the success of our gathering, and your support will help create a warm and festive atmosphere for all attendees.

We can't wait to work alongside you to spread holiday cheer and make a positive impact in our community. There is a myriad of ways in which you can help – bake a cake, make sandwiches, help with decorations, serve tea, clean-up, etc.

Nov 14: decorating

Nov 15: sandwich making and tables setting

Nov 16: serving the tea, sale and cleanup

More details about volunteer roles and schedules will follow soon but for now, please mark Nov 14-16 on your calendars:

With much appreciation,

Rosemary, President Social & Benevolent Society
rosemary.segado@gmail.com

Welcome

A warm welcome to Ian Hiltz, our newest member. Besides being a faithful attender on Sunday mornings, he has been quite involved in WBC activities including painting our cabin at Kingswood Camp, greeting at the Welcoming Table, and extending a helping hand on many occasions.



WAICC (Wolfville Area Inter-church Council)

Since January 2024 a group has been meeting at WBC to support the unhoused in the Wolfville area. Socks, bus tickets, tents, supported calls for a porta-potty etc., are welcome but not a solution. The Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council has generously offered funds to enhance support to this dire situation. Reasons for housing insecurity are numerous: the current market, existing legislation, a patchwork of jurisdictions, limitations on health and wellness support, and a tendency to leave the most difficult situations to a small not-for-profit sector – in our area that includes Open Arms, The Portal, and several other emerging groups supporting food security etc.



Public Housing is the responsibility of the provincial government. There isn't enough, nor is there a policy to keep families together. Private market rents are governed by provincial legislation. Housing is precarious for far too many.

On behalf of the bi-weekly group I would like to encourage anyone who wishes to be part of the solution to contribute financially, if you can, to WAICC to support related initiatives. Further, I invite anyone interested in this serious issue in



our community to join the bi-weekly meetings and encourage everyone to learn about the housing realities

for so many. Knowledge is the beginning. Solutions will not be easy, they won't be fast, they won't be without controversy – but by starting to focus on this issue as a community I believe we can create a better place than if we don't roll up our sleeves now.

Wendy Donovan, Mayor of Wolfville

How Large is Your Family?

We so often hear of the needs involved in providing good pastoral care to those who make up our church family, but not enough is said of the joys experienced. True, we have those in 7 of the nursing homes from Windsor to Bridgetown, in 4 assisted living residences as well as living alone in their own homes. But do you know that we will soon have 4 centenarians and many more in their 90's? That's a lot of wisdom and history – invaluable and often untapped treasures! It's a lot of life lived, lessons learned, friends made, places seen, faith deepened, questions asked, answers discovered, talents and gifts developed, love and loss experienced.

To spend time with anyone who considers Wolfville Baptist their church, regardless of their age, is such a blessing. Learning about their lives enriches ours, and hours spent are not only a gift but a privilege. From 7 months to 104 years old, members of our church family have lives as varied as our ages, personalities, shapes, colours, and nationalities. Understanding and sharing in the journeys of others, wherever they have led them, enriches us. I have felt my family expanding as I've gotten to know so many dear people and always receive far more from them than I could ever give. Sure, sometimes there is sadness, confusion, pain and struggles but often there is laughter, surprise, appreciation and learning.

We are so blessed to be part of our large, diverse and wonderful church family and I encourage each of you to make the effort and take the time to reach out to someone and make them a part of your family. Just give what you can of yourself and reap the rewards! Visit, send cards, call or email. Make your family a little larger! Please be in touch if you do so I'll know who your new "relatives" are!

Jennifer Longley,
Pastoral Care
902-681-8239
jlongley@gmail.com



The Role of a Deacon

At Wolfville Baptist Church, Deacons are helpers to the Pastors, dedicated to enhancing the spiritual well-being of our congregation. Beyond their visible role in serving communion each month, much of their important work happens quietly and behind the scenes. Here's a glimpse into what they do:

- **Listening to New Members and Baptism Candidates:** Deacons take the time to get to know people who are preparing for baptism or membership. They listen to personal faith stories, helping individuals feel more connected to the church family.
- **Offering Emergency Help:** Whether it's food, rent, heating, medical costs, or other urgent needs, Deacons are there to support those in crisis. They work closely with local groups like the Wolfville Area Inter-Church Council (WAICC) and the St. Vincent de Paul Society to provide as much help as possible, always keeping requests confidential.
- **Caring for Church Members:** Deacons make sure our church family is cared for, especially those who can't attend services in person. They deliver recordings of worship services, and, during Christmas, they spread joy by preparing and delivering gift bags to about 50 individuals, keeping everyone connected to the church community.

Feel free to get in touch with a Deacon! You can chat with one of them after our Sunday morning worship service, or if you prefer, you can email one of the co-chairs directly:

Eveline eveline.deschiffart@acadiu.ca

Michael jeffreng@outlook.com



Front (L-R): Mark Crosby, Joanna McGrath, Nancy Robertson, Luke Steeves. Back (L-R): Michael Jeffrey, Helen Chan, Gale Colpitts, Eveline DeSchiffart, Peter MacKay.

Messy Science Day

Messy Science Day is a community outreach program that offers fun-filled science-themed activities for kids in Gr. P-5. It is typically held three times a year, and since its inception in 2018, it has been immensely popular, with an average attendance of around 50 children. We recently switched from a full-day schedule to two ½-day sessions, allowing us to accommodate more children.



The children rotate through stations led by volunteer scientists from our church family, the local community, and Acadia University. All stations facilitate experiential learning through hands-on activities. Popular activities have included designing and building catapults and hydraulic arms, exploring the properties of fluorescence and magnetism, experimenting with slimy polymers and goopy colloids, as well as holding live snakes and dissecting owl pellets! The kids are also served a snack, which always includes liquid nitrogen ice cream!

Usually around a dozen teens volunteer as group leaders or station helpers. It is wonderful to see the youth from our church and community engaged and enjoying the wonder of science along with the children! Although Biblical teaching is not a component, having the program led by Christians demonstrates the compatibility between science and faith.

None of this would be possible without a fabulous team of volunteers who supervise the children, lead and assist with stations, manage registration, and help in the kitchen. The next Messy Science Day (our 13th!) will be Monday, Nov. 11th. If you would like to volunteer, we would love to have you join us! please contact Cathy Murimboh or Kerry Kindred-Barnes.

Wolfville Baptist Church 2024 Summer Ministry Highlights



Lots of baking!

This summer, as the 2024 Summer Ministry Assistants at Wolfville Baptist Church, we had the wonderful opportunity to plan, facilitate, and assist with a variety of programs, including the weekly summer program, EDGE kids on Sunday mornings, EDGE youth events, and Vacation Bible Camp.

Our summer program, held weekday mornings from July 2 to August 8, welcomed 43 children over the course of the season. Some attended for just one week, while others joined us for all six weeks, with an average of 13 children participating each week. The program featured activities centered on themes of recreation, life skills, creativity, and outreach, including highlights like geocaching with a hidden treasure chest, baking, stained glass painting, and a memorable visit to L'Arche Homefires.



A fan-favourite activity: candle making at L'Arche!



Music Day - actions got a little silly!

On Sunday mornings, from June 30 to August 18, EDGE kids enjoyed engaging activities during our worship services. Activities included songs, games, and crafts, all with the purpose of reinforcing each week's Bible lessons while praising God's name.

We also hosted two EDGE youth events: a trip to Ross Farm (July 27) and a movie night (August 9) with 8 and 6 participants, respectively. Although we had to cancel the planned tubing event due to low water levels in the Gaspereau River, both remaining activities were a hit.

Vacation Bible Camp, held from August 12 to August 16, was another highlight, with 27 children participating in the morning sessions. The theme was "oceans" as we dove into friendship with God. With stations such as the Imagination Station, Reef Rec, Sticky Scripture, and Deep Bible Adventures, we were able to share God's love in an engaging manner.



Messy Science courtesy of Thomas!

We are deeply thankful for the chance to serve and grow within the Wolfville Baptist Church community this summer. The experience has been enriching both personally and professionally.

With gratitude,

Brady Cox and Kaitlyn Lightfoot

2024 Summer Ministry Assistants



Painting a beautiful mural at L'Arche!