

Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church

Annual Report

For The Period Ending

December 31, 2008

Dedicated To: Rev. Darlene Mae Young (1961-2008)



(Darlene aged 2)

Rev. Darlene Mae Young

The Reverend Darlene Mae Young, Senior Pastor of Safe Harbour MCC passed away on Friday, September 12, 2008. She was 47 years old.

Rev. Darlene was the first and only Pastor of Safe Harbour MCC. She initiated and bonded a strong, all inclusive faith community in the Halifax area that will forever be her legacy.

Born in St. Catherines and raised in Welland, Ontario and Pleasant Bay, Nova Scotia, she attended Mt. Allison University and the Atlantic School of Theology. She was ordained in 1986 and served in ministry in both New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. In 1991 she began her work with the congregation of Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church where she served as Pastor, friend, colleague and involved community leader until her death.

Rev. Darlene will be remembered by all who had the privilege to be touched by her life for her incredible dedication to her family at Safe Harbour. She was a theologian and scholar with a tremendous faith and love of God. She had a balance of passion and compassion that surrounded all who knew her. Her infectious laugh and humour are unforgettable.

We at Safe Harbour had wonderful moments in time with Rev. Darlene and were blessed to share her life.

A line from one of Rev. Darlene's favourite hymns – Rivers - seems to say it well....

“My love for you I sing....my life to you I bring....my all; in all with you my sister of hope, as the love in this life rolls on”

Forever in our minds, hearts and lives....

Rev. Darlene Mae Young

Safe Harbour 2008 Annual Report

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Agenda for the Annual Congregational Business Meeting
of
Safe Harbour - MCC
Sunday, March 22, 2009
at 3115 Veith St.- Veith House



Gathering Together

Opening Scripture and Prayer

Call to Order

Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Appointment of Minute taker and scrutinizers for ballot counting

Acceptance of Agenda



Sharing Our Common Life

Overview of Reports on the Life of our Congregation

Financial Report



Responding to God's Call

Elections for Board of Directors and Lay Delegate

New Business:

Proposed Budget for 2009

The Blessing



Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church

Our Vision

*"Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church
is a Christian community
Promoting; Inclusivity, spiritual growth and social justice"*

Our Mission Statement



*Safe Harbour Metropolitan
Community Church is a Christian
Church which lives its faith actively
by sharing with those who are seeking
God's Message of love through:*

***S**haring our gifts and Talents*

***A**ffirming our sacred sexuality*

***F**ellowship*

***E**ducation*

***H**ealthy Living*

***A**dvocating for Justice*

***R**esource Development*

***B**lessing*

***O**utreach and Evangelism*

***U**nderstanding and Compassion*

***R**e-creation and Transformation*

***M**editation/Membership*

***C**ontribution*

***C**ommitment*

Membership Covenant for Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church

We affirm our faith in God whose love surrounds us and offers us hope for our living.

We affirm our intention to live as people committed to know the full extent of God's love; and to share that love with others in the world, following the example of Jesus the Christ.

In seeking to live out this life of faith, we choose to make Safe Harbour our spiritual home. We align ourselves with the congregations vision and mission, and celebrate and cherish it's values and beliefs.

In desiring to belong to this faith community we offer our unique gifts and skills to the church; that together we may know the joy and welcome of a faith family where we are mutually nurtured, affirmed, and empowered for Christian living, making a difference in our world for God.

We Promise to Sustain the Unity of the Church by:

acting in love towards other members and attenders;

refusing to gossip about others.

prayerfully following the leadership that God has raised up here; not in blind obedience, but in prayerful discernment.

dealing directly with those with whom we disagree, acting maturely to solve problems in the midst of conflict when it may arise.

We Promise to Share in the Responsibility for the Church by:

praying for the growth of the church - that we will grow spiritually, in maturity, in service of others as well as in numbers.

inviting people to worship and welcoming our guests so that they feel at home amongst us.

Giving our time, talents, and treasure to ensure that the church remains a vibrant presence in our communities; promoting inclusivity, spiritual growth and social justice.

We Promise to Serve the Ministry of the Church by:

discovering our gifts and skills, and finding out how to use them in a ministry of service.

seeking to develop a servant's heart and so imitate Jesus the Christ

growing in our discipleship commitment as we follow Jesus.



We Promise to Support the Outreach of the Church by:

attending worship faithfully, living a mature Christian life of service,

giving regularly.

We recognize that in affirming these promises, we will fail in living up to these commitments from time to time. When this happens, we promise to place ourselves in God's mercy and care; seek forgiveness and reconciliation, and pray, that by the power of the Holy Spirit at work within us, that, together, we may be able to become all that God has created us to be - the people of God - the church at Safe Harbour!

Members and Friends of Safe Harbour MCC



Members In Good Standing

<i>Arizzona</i>	<i>Tim Farler</i>	<i>Ronda Moulton</i>
<i>Gary Beazley</i>	<i>Bob Fougere</i>	<i>JoAnn Noakes</i>
<i>Dave Bird</i>	<i>Ann Gorman</i>	<i>Adam Noble</i>
<i>Ross Boutilier</i>	<i>Bruce Hayre</i>	<i>Nicky Perkins</i>
<i>Lee Christopherson</i>	<i>Mun Lei Kai</i>	<i>Sue Perkins</i>
<i>Nancy Cooper</i>	<i>Helen Langille</i>	<i>Kathy Walsh</i>
<i>Angela Croft</i>	<i>JJ Lyon</i>	<i>Sam Wilson</i>
<i>Emma Devost</i>	<i>Jane MacConnell</i>	<i>Emily Wright</i>
<i>Adam Dolliver</i>	<i>Brian Mombourquette</i>	

Non Resident Members

<i>Murray Elliott</i>	<i>Norman Moulton</i>	<i>Eric Rideout</i>
<i>Bruce Goddard</i>	<i>Lorraine Muise</i>	

Friends of Safe Harbour

<i>Stephen Anthony</i>	<i>Gary LeBlanc</i>	<i>Dave Parlee</i>
<i>Mary Kate Arnold</i>	<i>Elizabeth MacQuaid</i>	<i>Cecil Publicover</i>
<i>Jae Awmack</i>	<i>Vance Maxwell</i>	<i>Marie Reine</i>
<i>John Cunningham</i>	<i>Bill McKinnon</i>	<i>Bill Roberts</i>
<i>Al Foster</i>	<i>Catherine Meade</i>	<i>Ernie Romard</i>
<i>Kirby Geddes</i>	<i>Karen Nieuwland</i>	<i>Maurice Shea</i>
<i>Don Houle</i>	<i>Ron Odgen</i>	<i>Roland Smeltzer</i>
		<i>Jackie Zareski</i>

Congregational Statistics for
Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church
From 2006 - March 2009



Baptisms ***2***

Funerals/Memorial Services ***3***

New Members ***8***

New Friends ***13***

Weddings ***4***



New members Angela Croft and Arizzona Feb. 09 (Rev. J. Paty)

Board of Directors Report-2008



When it comes to reporting on the work that the Board has accomplished this year, it is probably wise to give some kind of outline as to what the issues were, what the priorities were and what we were looking forward to accomplish for Safe Harbour MCC.

At the beginning of the year we were dealing with the whole issue of the space, how it would be best set up and how the church's worship would meet the needs of the congregation. We had some glitches and some very amusing foul ups, but for the most part, we were able to get a sense of who we were and how we worshipped.

One aspect of our worship experience that seemed to be more difficult to bring to meaningful format was the whole issue of the community time after worship. After some prompting from Bob, we did set in place the policy of leaving the clean-up until we had spent some time talking together and spending some quality time getting to know each other better and to make the new-comer feel more welcome and included.

One aspect of our GBLT personality that seemed to be receiving more attention was the experiences and concerns of the Transgendered community. With the stepping forward of some newer members to discuss the issues, as they saw them and as they experienced them, we were having our consciences raised. It was a very positive experience for so many of us and a splendid way of adding to our sense of community. At this point, the talk about the Transgendered Day of Remembrance was starting and while we had been very comfortable with the previous fall's service, we began to talk about what the next service might look like and who it might involve.

As the summer approached, the Pastor's health took another bad turn and after a stay in hospital, she was able to resume her duties but was confined to wheel chair and had to restrict her walking. It was painful for us all, but with Rev. Darlene's incredible sense of humour, she put us all at ease and made as light as she could her restrictions.

Gay Pride Day activities were planned and this year we had the largest contingent of people in the parade; two vehicles, the joyous inclusion of two heterosexual women, and a couple of fellows who had never participated in the parade, at least not marching representing Safe Harbour MCC. Darlene was able to organize a church service, exceptionally diverse and well received with representatives from a very large segment of the local religious community and attended by more people than we expected. Our community table provided information about our church as well as sold bread made for us by Allison Chipman.

And then it happened! In September, after a brief stay in hospital, Darlene's heart finally gave out. There are not words that can adequately express the loss that this brought to the community of Safe Harbour. Darlene was our first and only pastor and had guided us from our first stumbling days at the PWA Coalition board room space to our own space at Bloomfield Centre, to our new, but shared space at Veith House. She guided us through the inevitable hardships and misunderstandings that occur in all human communities and taught us to rejoice at the many small but significant steps and initiatives that we were able to bring to the larger LGBT community. For the Board, I can only say that the coincidence of our Rev. Elder Diane Fisher being on-route to Toronto at that exact time and available to fly to support and encourage us was not coincidence but truly the work of God. To be here, to lead, comfort and to reassure us that we had the support of the broader MCC community, was what we needed at that moment.

On behalf of the Board I wish to include here in the Annual Report a note of deep thanks to Diane for her love and support.

With great difficulty, we as a Board tried to continue on with the various activities that had been part of the planned outreaches for Safe Harbour MCC. It took a great deal of organizing, re-scheduling and re-thinking but we eventually managed to get the barbeque event in the Gottingen Street neighbourhood up and running. It was so frequently delayed and we were in such a mixed up condition after Darlene's death, that there was some concerns about the commitment of our people to this activity. The evidence of our commitment to this initiative can be seen in that almost every member of our church family showed up to reach out to the poor and dispossessed in our community. I am sure that this will continue to be an important ministry and will honour the teaching about community that Joshua Love brought to us.

I will only touch briefly on the Transgendered Day of Remembrance since that event is covered under a separate report but I want to make special mention of the leadership given to the Board and to the church as a whole by Bob Fougere. Bob has long known, both through his work at Capital Health, and with his work with the Youth Project, of the importance of the issues for transgendered folks, and the importance of this issue for our young sisters and brother, We thank you Bob for your leadership.

One of the issues Diane Fisher was able to clarify for the Board was the denominations process for handling the issue of the transition of our church to a new pastoral leader. We were informed that the denomination would be able to assist us, not only with a person or, as it turned out, persons to act as interim leaders and to help us find someone, a year or two from that point, to take over the pastorship of Safe Harbour MCC. During the period from mid September to January we had the assistance and support of Jane McConnell and Joann Noakes as well as J.J. to help through this period and I would like to thank Jane and Joann for their support and assistance.

The final event of the calendar year at Safe Harbour is the annual Christmas dinner. Again we were able, with much assistance and hard slogging, to pull off what is one of the highlights of the LGBT year. The Board made the decision to re-name this event "The Rev. Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner" and that announcement was met with great applause when it was announced at the dinner. One of the great lessons that came out of this event is the realizations that despite great sorrow, we, as a community, are able to meet our commitments and to move on with what we know is important for our community.

Finally, we had the incredible experience of meeting, getting to know and care for our first interim leader, Rev. Jennifer Paty. She brought to us a great sense of understanding of our needs and wants and was able to provide a wonderful sense of continuity to Safe Harbour. Her style, her humour and her wisdom were all wonderful gifts and we thank God, her and Amy for the time she was able to spend with us.

As a Board, we look forward to the next phase of our journey that will be led for us by the Rev. Bob Bond. While off to a bit of a rocky start, I know that this is more a matter of style and not substance and that we as a community will be brought to a new and improved understanding of God's call for us to be the church in Halifax as we go forward.

Thank you all for your support in this past difficult year and I look forward to us reaching out and beyond in the future.

Respectfully submitted:

J. J. Lyon, Vice Moderator of the Board of Safe Harbour MCC

Safe Harbour Board of Directors–

David Bird

Bob Fougere

Helen Langille

J.J. Lyon, Vice Moderator

Jane MacConnell

Adam Noble

Lay Delegate Report-2008



In October 2008, after the resignation of our Lay Delegate Nancy Cooper, the Board of Directors appointed me as interim Lay Delegate until the next Annual Congregation Meeting.

During this time I represented the church in Toronto attending a day conference held at MCC Toronto lead by Reverend Elder Diane Fisher on church communication. Reverend Brent Hawkes and MCC Toronto have offered huge support to our Canadian churches.

I plan to offer myself at our general Annual Meeting as a possible Lay Delegate and learn the skills to represent Safe Harbour.



Rev. Elder Diane Fisher

Respectfully Submitted:

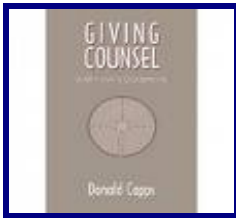
Gary Beazley

Lay Pastoral Care Report -2008



Entering my fourth year as lay-pastor care assistant with Safe Harbour Metropolitan Community Church, I ask myself where has the time gone. I have been answering Gods 'call for four years now and it seems like only yesterday. When we do Gods works time holds no meaning to me.

During the past year Rev. Darlene and I had continued to discuss and interact with all pastoral care concerns of our community, we had studied and referred to the book Giving Counsel –A Ministers Guide Book.



I continue to do hospital visitations and home visits. Serving Holy Communion to sick and shut in persons, as I continue to learn more computer skills I plan to take on-line Pastoral Care Courses.

I will continue to grow in this ministry with the help of God, church, people, and its leaders, I feel strongly God continues to call me to offer my gifts of caring and listening.

Respectfully Submitted:

By Gary Beazley

Lay-Pastoral Care Assistant

PRIDE -2008



Safe Harbour MCC celebrated PRIDE week with two major events this year. The first was the 3rd Interfaith PRIDE Service. This was sponsored and organized by Safe Harbour. The service was held under a tent at the Garrison Grounds on Saturday, July 26. Participants in the service were many, with most corners of the faith community represented. We had Pastors/Lay Clergy from the Catholic, Universalist Unitarian, United, Anglican, Baptist, MCC and other denominations and the foggy, early morning event was very well attended. Seldom does Safe Harbour sponsor an event that draws such a wide cross section of the greater community. From politicians and their families to people walking down the street that heard music and wandered in, there was standing room only by the end. Rev. Darlene opened and closed the service, and the other participants offered readings, prayers, thoughts and poems in between. Those who had attended previous Interfaith PRIDE Services felt that this was the best attended yet.



The second event was the PRIDE Parade which closely followed the Interfaith Pride Service. Attendance in this years' Parade was a record for Safe Harbour. We had 11 participants and 2 vehicles, all of them clean and shiny and brightly decorated (the walkers, too). Rev. Darlene drove the lead vehicle with her stereo blasting a jazzy rendition of "This Little Light Of Mine" and "We Are Marching/Siyahamba" from speakers tied to the roof of the Tracker. She was followed closely by Jane MacConnell's minivan from which passengers sang at the top of their lungs to Rev. Darlene's music.

For first-time Parade participants, it was an inspiring experience to be their representing Safe Harbour and singing praises to God.





Manna for Health Report – 2008

2008 was Manna's 12th year of operation.

Our volunteers, Sam Wilson, Helen Langille, Dave Bird, John Cunningham, and Emily Wright continued with the same duties they covered in 2007, and we are happy to welcome Cecil Publicover now to our group of volunteers.

Helen and Dave take care of clients at the Manna office, and do all the grocery shopping for Manna.

Sam, John, and Cecil receive the deliveries from Feed Nova Scotia. (Feed Nova Scotia delivers a food order to us every second Monday, but we purchase meat, and other items as needed.)

Emily acts as liaison between Manna and Feed Nova Scotia, doing any required paperwork.

Several other volunteers are glad to help out when needed throughout the year, particularly during Christmas hamper time.

Sam keeps all the books for Manna, and provides monthly financial reports, as well as purchasing bus tickets to be given out to clients who need assistance with transportation after picking up their orders. Manna is open to clients every Wednesday, and they are permitted to receive assistance every second week, but by appointment only.

Again this year, deliveries are down to one or two a week, now that the criteria for getting delivery are more strict, and these are done by Dave, with Sam going along to assist when the orders are heavy. The majority of deliveries are to long-standing clients who access Manna regularly. Delivery drivers receive \$3.25 per delivery, and \$1.20 return bridge fare for deliveries to Dartmouth; however, these payments are returned to Manna as donations.

For the time being, Manna will stay at the Bloomfield Center, though as a security measure we no longer leave any confidential papers in the office.

The number of Christmas hampers requested by clients in 2008 was 32; however, only 27 were claimed. Of these 27, 6 were delivered and 21 were picked up by the clients. The turkeys not given out with the hampers are being given out (while they last) to new clients on their first visit. The supplies for the hampers were provided by Feed Nova Scotia, and included potatoes, onions, carrots, one other vegetable, apples, cranberry sauce, and chocolates. Feed Nova Scotia did not supply turkeys this year, but sent a small chicken for each hamper. We wanted to provide a turkey to all who had requested a hamper, as this is what had been done in the past. Therefore, the required turkeys were purchased with Manna's funds, quite a large and unexpected expense. As usual, to each hamper we added a 24-pack of toilet tissue and other items. This year they included cookies, more chocolate, stuffing, homemade bread baked by Alison Chipman, household cleaning items, toiletries, hats, mitts and/or scarves, and other stocking stuffers. Safe Harbour's White Gift

Service in December provided many items for use by Manna, and we thank the congregation for their generosity.

Six new clients were added to our books in 2008, bringing the total to 108. Only 54 of these are active clients. Thirty-three of these access Manna regularly, while the rest come in only a few times during the year. At Christmas, it was noted that of the hampers going out, 17 were to males and 10 to females. In past years the male to female ratio has been much higher.

We hear from many of our clients that they enjoy respect and consideration at Manna that they have not received at any other food bank. While we regret their experiences elsewhere, we are very pleased that they get this reception with us, and hope this will always continue.

Fundraising is the major source of revenue for Manna, and donations are always most welcome. Recyclables we still turn in for cash, but as of the end of September, 2008, Sobeys no longer accepts their receipts for cash. Thanks to all those who had been saving them for Manna, as we were able to get several hundred dollars over the years from that fundraising program.

Now that the economy is in a downturn, we will probably have more people than ever who need to turn to us for help; fundraising and donations will be even more important. Thank you to everyone who supported Manna in any way over the past year; with your support we will be there for those who need us in 2009.

Respectfully submitted: [Emily M. Wright](#)



The Manna for Health volunteers and spouses – Helen Langille, John Cunningham, Sam Wilson, Dave Bird, Cecil Publicover, Emily Wright and Colin Wright (Emily's husband) enjoying a scrumptious Christmas 2008 thank-you dinner courtesy of Sam Wilson and Bob Fougere.

Emergency Aid Report -2008



The Emergency Aid ministries of Safe Harbour MCC comprise a number of different elements.

Among our activities are:

- The “first Sunday of the month” Emergency Aid offering, used to offer support to those who call upon us for special assistance.
- Through Manna, we supply groceries to individuals and families who may have a special need or crisis, outside the Manna mandate.
- The “White Gift” service supports Manna through the donation of items to supplement the Christmas Hampers offered to Manna clients. This gift ministry considerably enhances the composition of our hampers.
- The “Water Ministry” supplies bottled water to the AIDS Coalition of Nova Scotia.
- Special offerings were received to be used to support the Eastern European Initiative and the Easter Global Justice ministries of UFMCC.
- We continue to support the denomination with a 15% tithing level, 2% above the required level; this 2% is directed to the Eastern European Initiative.

Thank you for being the helping hands of Christ in our world!

Respectfully submitted:
Sam Wilson

INWARD MINISTRY REPORT -2008



More new people were welcomed to Safe Harbour in 2008, and we continue to keep in touch with many friends who have moved from our congregation.

Nearly 310 cards were sent in 2008; most were for Easter and Christmas, with 79 for birthdays and 21 for anniversaries. We also sent get well, sympathy, thinking of you, thank you, wedding, and congratulations cards.

If anyone would like to be on our mailing list of Safe Harbour members, adherents, and friends, just give your contact information to any Board Member. Changes in information may also be passed along. It is always disappointing when cards are returned because the recipient has moved without our knowing.

I really appreciate those of you who let me know of happenings in the lives of our people, whether it is illness, loss of a loved one, or something to celebrate, so that appropriate cards can be sent.

Looking forward to another year, I thank you for permitting me to serve with this ministry in 2008, and hope you will afford me the privilege of continuing it in 2009.



Respectfully submitted: **Emily M. Wright**



Report on The Rev. Darlene Young Memorial Christmas Dinner -2008



Saturday December 13, 2008 Safe Harbour MCC held its 18th Annual Community Christmas Dinner at Saint John's United Church. This was our last year at this location due to church closure. We will miss the people of Saint John's United and this excellent location.

We served approximately 200 hundred dinners this year with many take out meals being taken home to shut-ins and needy persons.

Again we divided up the work and had team captains co-ordinate the various jobs such as shopping, cooking, food preparation, set-up, tear-down, clean-up, and decorating.

Once again we had huge support from the outside Community and Congregation (we even had two children help set-up this year).

Special thanks to our friends at Bedford United, once again for their continued support. Thank you to Janet and Serge for their expertise in co-coordinating the kitchen activities. Thank you to Doug and Dave from *Menz Bar* for their continued support in providing all the vegetables for this year's dinner.

In Reverend Darlene Young's absence Jane McConnell and J.J. were our Masters of Ceremony. In memory of Reverend Darlene we renamed this church outreach event to the "Reverend Darlene Young Memorial Community Christmas Dinner."

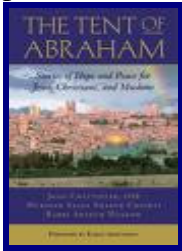
Bob and I have been in conversation and are checking out new possible locations for next year's dinner.

Respectfully Submitted: Gary Beazley

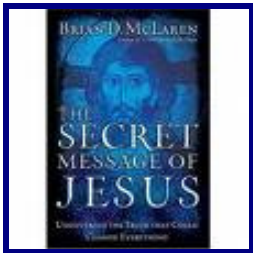


Education Programs-2008

There were three book studies offered in 2008 and between 5 and 8 people participated in each study. Each of these consisted of weekly readings and gatherings, and often lively discussions around items/issues of particular interest within each week's assignment. Everyone had an opportunity to share their own understandings and experiences as they related to that and other topics. Keeping a safe and supportive environment was always of utmost importance and each person was able to attend with the knowledge that what was discussed was held sacred.

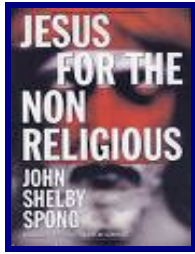


The first study centered around the book The Tent of Abraham: Stories of Hope and Peace for Jews, Christians and Muslims by Joan Chittister, Murshid Saadi Shakur Chishti and Rabbi Arthur Waskow. The three coauthors, representing the three major Western faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam), explain each religion's basis for a monotheistic multifaith movement by delving into ancient stories. Waskow, a rabbi, offers intellectual perspective on the Abrahamic story, explaining symbolic themes of Judaism. Catholic sister and popular writer Chittister describes the Middle East conflict with compelling anecdotes from her own firsthand experience in founding an Israeli-Palestinian women's group. Finally, Sufi writer Chishti discusses the spiritual content and opinions related to Islam. The authors explore provocative questions, such as which son Abraham meant to sacrifice (Isaac, ancestor of the Jews, or Ishmael, ancestor of the Muslims) and the nature of the relationship between Sarah and Hagar: were they devoted friends, lovers, rivals or simply property of Abraham? Evoking the "open tent" policy of Abraham, who welcomed all visitors to his home despite social mores, the coauthors air all options.



The second in our series of studies was The Secret Message of Jesus: Uncovering The Truth That Could Change Everything by Brian D. McLaren. This Pastor and bestselling author explores Jesus' teaching in this book, placing it in its Jewish context, analyzing its tenets and expression, and trying to work out how it should be lived today. McLaren starts with the assumption that the church may not have accurately understood Jesus' "secret message" (hidden "as a treasure one must seek in order to find"). He revisits the gospel material from a fresh—and at times radical—perspective. The church has focused on salvation as a means to "heaven after you die" for too long, according to McLaren; we should take Jesus at his word when he says "the kingdom of God is here now," and work to assist that kingdom by being peacemakers and loving others. McLaren does an excellent job of capturing Jesus' quiet, revolutionary style—the prophet who spoke in parables, who didn't want people to talk about his miracles, who challenged established Jewish thought, and paradoxically found ultimate fulfillment and victory

through death. This book was perfect for those of us who want to have a better understanding of Jesus.



Our final frontier this year was Jesus for the Non-Religious by John Shelby Spong. Spong, the iconoclastic retired Episcopal Bishop of Newark, NJ details in this impassioned work both his "deep commitment to Jesus of Nazareth" and his "deep alienation from the traditional symbols" that surround Jesus. For Spong, scholarship on the Bible and a modern scientific worldview demonstrate that traditional teachings like the Trinity and prayer for divine intervention must be debunked as the mythological trappings of a primitive worldview. These are so much "religion," which was devised by our evolutionary forebears to head off existential anxiety in the face of death. What's left? The power of the "Christ experience," in which Jesus transcends tribal notions of the deity and reaches out to all people. Spong says Jesus had such great "energy" and "integrity" about him that his followers inflated to the point of describing him as a deity masquerading in human form; however, we can still get at the historical origin of these myths by returning to Jesus' humanity, especially his Jewishness.

Thanks to all those who took part in these studies. 2009 promises to be equally as exciting as we continue to explore the world of the written word.

Respectfully submitted:

Jane MacConnell

Liturgy Committee Report -2008



Members: left to right- J.J. Lyon, JoAnn Noakes, (Rev. J. Paty), Jane MacConnell, Gary LeBlanc and



(Michelle Kyle – Toronto, Ontario)

Over the last 6 months the liturgy committee has been focus on fine tuning the music ministry. Michelle continues to email us music each week from her home in Toronto. Gary then adds the lyrics, which has helped us be more confident to sing along, we are also including some more contemporary songs to help us to leave our service on a positive note. We are also grateful that Gary's new job is allowing him to add his lifetime of music ministry experience to our services, ensuring that the music is in sync with the readings each Sunday.

Any comments or suggestions are welcomed; just speak to any of us after service on Sunday.

Respectfully submitted:
JoAnn Noakes, for the Liturgy Committee.

Special Events -2008



(Bishop and Mrs. Spong)

Safe Harbour MCC's visit with Rt. Rev. Bishop John Shelby Spong (ret.) Saturday, June 7 and Sunday, June 8, 2008

Spearheaded by our forward-thinking Pastor Rev. Darlene, Safe Harbour seemed to be in the right place at the right time to sponsor an evening with Retired Episcopal Bishop, Rt. Rev. John Shelby Spong. This was a bit of a stretch for Safe Harbour as the event was quite pricey considering renting a venue, hotel and travel expenses, and also because Spong is such a controversial sort. With the sponsorship of several close friends of Safe Harbour, Spong's visit became not only a great success, but the talk of the town! The lecture was attended by people from all over the province.

The following passage from Bishop Spong's press release describes a bit of what his lecture was about and why he has been viewed by some in the religious community as a heretic: Probably North America's best-known spokesperson for an open, scholarly and inclusive Christianity, Bishop Spong has achieved an almost legendary reputation. Now the retired Episcopalian Bishop from Newark, New Jersey, has written many scholarly books about religion questioning some of foundational tenets of Christianity. His latest book paints a strikingly new and different portrait of Jesus of Nazareth – Jesus for the Non-Religious, published by Harper Collins Canada. In it Spong challenges much of the traditional understanding of the Jesus of history: from his miraculous birth to a virgin and the account of his cosmic ascension into the sky at the end of his life as well as other doctrinal supernatural events. Bishop Spong proposes a new way of understanding the divinity of Christ: it's not what you believe, it's how you live your life. Traditional Christians who still cling to dated concepts of the past will not be comfortable with the 'Progressive Christianity' Spong espouses.

Held at the Bella Rose Arts Centre in Halifax, attendance was near four hundred. Many comments overheard while attendees were leaving included things such as "that's exactly what we need", "I can't wait for him to come back" and "I wish so-and-so had been here to hear that lecture".

The highlight for some came on Sunday, June 8 when Bishop Spong was the guest speaker at our regular Sunday morning worship service. He and his wife, Christine, graciously attended service and Bishop Spong delivered a message that was similar to that of the night before; it's not what you believe, it's how you live your life. The service was followed by a wonderful lunch provided by loving hands and was enjoyed by all.

A special thank you to those of you who were our very generous sponsors as well as those who gave so much of their precious time to make this event a rousing success. You shall remain nameless, but surely not forgotten...

Respectfully Submitted:
Jane MacConnell



Community Barbeque Report -2008



Joanne Noakes, Dave Bird, and myself, co-coordinated our 2nd Annual Community Barbeque, held on October 18, 2008 at Saint Georges Anglican Church, on Brunswick Street.

We received huge support for this event from our church congregation. Doug and Dave from *Menz Bar* generously supplied all hot-dogs, and hamburgers for this event. The barbeque served over 200 hamburgers and hot-dogs.

We had conversations with the community regarding their needs, and how we can be of help. Bob Fougere was able to share our message with a Baptist minister.

This community was most appreciative for our kindness and help.



Respectfully Submitted:

Gary Beazley

St. Georges Round Church

Transgendered Day of Remembrance -2008



As a start to this report, let me say that I have no information as to what our partners in the event were using as the basis for this presentation except in the most general way. The two pieces that they were using as a focus were the Plaque Project and a book that they had published that gave voice to the experiences of young transgendered persons.

After some discussion and debate at the Board level, it was decided to take what had been a Safe Harbour led event, with input from interested parties, and take the memorial aspect out into the community to the Youth Project, which has a large interest in the issues for young persons who identify themselves as being transgendered.



It was a most informative evening. The Plaque Project honoured people in the community that had made significant contribution to the well-being of young people who are on a difficult journey and who do not always receive any real support from the professionals that they turn to for advice and support. As a result, when they do find people who are supportive and encouraging of the journey, they respond with great love and emotion. I was particularly moved by the introduction of a woman who was introduced as the person who has started the support group for families of Transgendered Persons.

Our own contribution, beyond the incredibly large representation from our faith family was supplied by Regina Lohnes, who spoke of her personal journey and was accompanied at the event by her daughter. It was this family connection on another level that broadened the experience for us all. When it came time for the spiritual component for the event, I chose to use the quote of Jesus speaking to His disciples, where he asked them, "Did you not know that I love you?" This seemed to strike a chord with several people who told me after the service that they had never heard those words in the church that they had attended.

I was struck by the similarities of this part of our community and the experiences that came out of the Gay and Lesbian revolution of the sixties. We had to find a language; we had to find way of communication that was quite specific to our concerns and not mere co-opting of sexist expressions from the heterosexual experience. Just as our own language was a bit silly at first, but eventually became truly clear and concise at voicing our own reality, so too will the Trans community come into its own reality and truth. We join them on this journey and honour the trip into their own reality that they presently are experiencing.

Respectfully submitted:

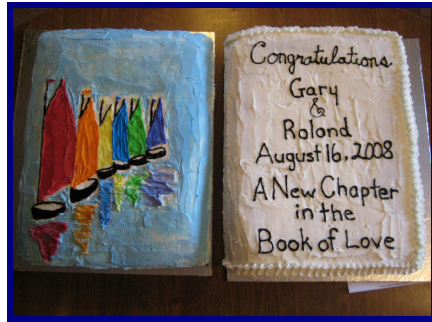
J. J. Lyon





Safe Harbour Weddings-2008

Gary Le Blanc and Roland Smeltzer were married by Rev. Darlene Young at their home in West Dover in August, 2008. The weather that day was hit and miss but nothing could undo the wonderful time had by all and the happiness we felt for Gary and Roland.



Blessing of the Rings



Wedding Party



Pensive Moment

Safe Harbour Salutes All Our Volunteers -2008



Worship Leaders
Greeters
Musicians
Readers
Acolytes
Worship Space Organizers
Administrative Assistants
Communion Servers
Lay Pastoral Caregivers
Refreshment Providers
Social Time Coordinators
Web Page Managers
Advertising and Public Relations
Liaisons in Community Organizations
Planning Committees
Manna for Health
Christmas Dinner
Inward Ministry
Fundraising
PRIDE
Lay Delegate
Board of Directors



FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

SAFE HARBOUR M C C

FINANCIAL REPORT - GENERAL FUND

FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31

2007	2008											
ACTUAL	General				Special Proj				ACTUAL	Rev Young		NSRAP
TOTAL	Operating	Aid	Travel	Fund	TOTAL	BUDGET	Mem Fund	Educ Fund				
1,895	Opening balance, January 1				2,787			415	3,202	3,202		872
Receipts												
31,424	Offerings	- Regular	27,010					27,010	31,200			
1,428		- Emer Aid		1,517				1,517	2,500			
939		- Conf Travel			100			100	1,500			
4,511	Donations in kind		1,719	174	2,163			4,056	3,000			
60	Fundraising	- Regular	635					635	100			
508		- Conf Travel			556			556	600			
2,221	Other donations / receipts		2,070			600		2,670	2,000			
	Church rental											
	Special Projects Fund					70		70	2,000			
407	Christmas dinner (net)		1,047					1,047	600			
	Transfers		-1,500	1,500						6,197		
	Rev D M Young Memorial Fund											
41,498			30,981	1,691	4,319	670		37,661	43,500	6,197		
Disbursements												
Core Expenses												
3,600	Pastor's honoraria		2,700					2,700	3,600			
	Clerical support		600					600	600			
4,036	Rent - worship space		2,400					2,400	2,400			
6,000	Office rent		4,878					4,878	6,500			
1,621	Music ministry		3,519					3,519	4,000			
1,369	Telephone and internet		1,893					1,893	1,500			
1,475	Insurance		1,367					1,367	1,500			
3,184	Supplies and postage		1,870					1,870	3,700			
112	Bank service charges		207					207	200			
1,116	Advertising (Community support)		275					275	1,500			
4,696	UFMCC tithes		4,956					4,956	5,400			
316	Miscellaneous		418					418	500			
27,525			25,083					25,083	31,400			
Non-core Expenses												
1,915	Other honoraria and gifts		2,019					2,019	2,500			
1,592	Inward ministry		2,347					2,347	2,000			
124	Inward ministry - PRIDE		25					25	300			
6,336	Conference travel				2,466			2,466				
2,348	Emergency aid			1,375				1,375	2,500			
	Outreach min - Spong net		-1,656					-1,656	500			
	Transfer to Memorial Fund		1,656					1,656		-1,656		
343	Water ministry - ACNS		240					240	400			
153	Youth ministry											
-590	Social ministry											
550	Other outreach ministries		829					829	500			
310	Retreat & congregational meetings								300			
	Rev D M Young Memorial Fund									7,853		
40,606			30,543	1,375	2,466			34,384	40,400	6,197		
892	Receipts less Disbursements		438	316	1,853	670		3,277	3,100			
2,787	Closing balance, December 31		3,225	316	1,853	1,085		6,479	6,302	0		872
NOTE: the Housing Fund became the Special Projects Fund as at December 1, 2008												
Comprised of :												
	Bank Account							11,023.94		.00		871.67
	HST Rebate Receivable							454.85				
	Interm Pastor Expenses Advance							-5,000.00				
								6,478.79		.00		871.67
APPROVED:												
	J.J Lyon, Vice-Moderator											

SAFE HARBOUR M C C**REGULAR OFFERING STATISTICS - 2008**

Month	Wk #	Act Off/Wk	Avg Wk Off/Mon	Total Actual Off/Mon	Total Budget Off/Mon	Total Actual Off/YTD	Total Budget Off/YTD	Overage (Shortage)
Jan	1	672						
	2	455						
	3	no serv						
	4	775	476	1,902	2,400	1,902	2,400	-498
Feb	1	475						
	2	511						
	3	336						
	4	700	506	2,022	2,400	3,924	4,800	-876
Mar	1	285						
	2	520						
	3	762						
	4	470						
	5	510	509	2,547	3,000	6,471	7,800	-1,329
Apr	1	420						
	2	665						
	3	628						
	4	284	499	1,997	2,400	8,468	10,200	-1,732
May	1	523						
	2	1,405						
	3	1,085						
	4	641	914	3,654	2,400	12,122	12,600	-478
Jun	1	685						
	2	1025						
	3	319						
	4	700						
	5	295	605	3,024	3,000	15,146	15,600	-454
Jul	1	485						
	2	627						
	3	386						
	4	834	583	2,332	2,400	17,478	18,000	-522
Aug	1	290						
	2	205						
	3	485						
	4	555						
	5	165	340	1,700	3,000	19,178	21,000	-1,822
Sep	1	230						
	2	675						
	3	400						
	4	637	486	1,942	2,400	21,120	23,400	-2,280
Oct	1	424						
	2	147						
	3	341						
	4	620	383	1,532	2,400	22,652	25,800	-3,148
Nov	1	275						
	2	299						
	3	562						
	4	300						
	5	630	413	2,066	3,000	24,718	28,800	-4,082
Dec	1	380						
	2	556						
	3	570						
	4	786	523	2,292	2,400	27,010	31,200	-4,190

SAFE HARBOUR M C C

OTHER DONATIONS SUMMARY - 2008

Honorarium donations	1,450.00
Bible Study	280.00
Memorial donations	340.00

TOTAL	<u>2,070.00</u>
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SAFE HARBOUR M C C

CHRISTMAS DINNER REPORT

	<u>2008</u>	<u>2007</u>
Receipts		
Offerings	945.00	650.00
"At Door" / Other Donations	675.74	694.16
Raffle Tickets - 50/50	320.00	441.00
In Kind Donations	84.70	26.51
	<u>2,025.44</u>	<u>1,811.67</u>
Expenditures		
Hall/Kitchen Rental	210.00	210.00
Food and Supplies	528.82	613.58
Raffle Tickets - 50/50 Prizes	160.00	221.00
Raffle Tickets - 50/50 Proceeds to Manna	80.00	110.00
Gifts		250.00
	<u>978.82</u>	<u>1,404.58</u>
Receipts in Excess of Expenditures	<u>1,046.62</u>	<u>407.09</u>

SAFE HARBOUR M C C

FINANCIAL REPORT

BISHOP J S SPONG VISIT - June 7 - 8, 2008

						<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
REVENUE							
	Lecture tickets sales						
	Cash	194		3,880.00			
	Credit card	101		2,020.00			
	Complementary	6		0.00	5,900.00	5,400	
	Total attendees	301					
	Sponsorships				1,000.00	1,000	
	Donations				860.00		
	In kind donations				169.59		
					7,929.59	6,400	
EXPENSES							
	Bishop Spong expenses						
	Lecture fee	USD	3,000				
	Church service honorarium		300				
	Limousine - Newark, NJ		100				
	Total	USD	3,400		3,535.02	3,300	
	Theatre rental				931.88	799	
	Advertising				502.68	} 1,065	
	Publicity				378.20		
	Dinner - 7 persons				257.78	} 511	
	Hotel, incl lunch & breakfast				277.95		
	Church reception				230.81	} 533	
	Credit card processing fees				120.89		
	Miscellaneous				37.88		
					6,273.09	6,208	
REVENUE LESS EXPENSES - NET REVENUE						1,656.50	192

SAFE HARBOUR M C C**OTHER OUTREACH MINISTRIES - 2008**

				<u>NET COST</u>
Rev Elder Diane Fisher Visit - Jan 11-14				
Food Costs				
	Friday reception & Saturday workshop snacks	156.07		
	Saturday workshop lunch	51.53		
	Saturday evening dinner	268.36		
	Monday evening social	<u>90.05</u>	566.01	
Donations			<u>60.00</u>	506.01
Mother of Peace Orphanage				108.27
Rev Dhladhla Rehabilitation Costs				108.27
Community Barbecue				
Donations		65.58		
Donations in kind		<u>140.23</u>	205.81	
Facility rental		100.00		
Food costs		<u>214.84</u>	<u>314.84</u>	109.03
Transgender Day of Remembrance				
Donations in kind			45.17	
Food costs			<u>42.57</u>	-2.60
Excess of Expenses over Revenues				<u>828.98</u>

MCCTRAVEL2008

SAFE HARBOUR
M C C

CONFERENCE TRAVEL FUND -
2008

SUB - REGIONAL CONFERENCE
EXPENSES

TORONTO ONTARIO - NOVEMBER 21 - 23, 2008

THREE ATTENDEES

	<u>Expenses</u>	<u>In Kind Donations</u>	<u>Net Cash Cost</u>	
Registration	75.00	50.00	25.00	
Hotels (incl below)	340.51	340.51	0.00	
Airfares and Hotel	1,618.56	1,465.16	153.40	
Airport Transfers/Taxis/Parking	72.00	67.00	5.00	
Per Diem	360.00	240.00	120.00	
Other			0.00	
Totals	<u>2,466.07</u>	<u>2,162.67</u>	<u>303.40</u>	303.40

Funding Sources

Fund Balance, January 1, 2008

Offerings 100.00

Fundraising 556.00

From General Operating Fund 1,500.00 2,156.00

Fund Balance, December 31, 2008 1,852.60

<u>SAFE HARBOUR M C C</u>				
<u>FINANCIAL REPORT - MANNA FUND</u>				
<u>FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31</u>				
<u>2007</u>			<u>2008</u>	<u>2008</u>
<u>ACTUAL</u>			<u>ACTUAL</u>	<u>BUDGET</u>
7,304	Opening balance, January 1		7,655	7,655
	Receipts			
1,050		Offerings	1,410	600
2,872		AIDS Walk	1,382	2,500
1,500		ISCANS	520	600
114		Shows		200
108		Sobeys receipt refunds	190	200
933		Donations in kind	1,204	800
483		Fundraising	422	500
812		Other donations	743	1,000
7,872			5,871	6,400
	Disbursements			
562		Rent	533	500
4,769		Grocery purchases	6,426	6,500
674		Christmas hampers	1,287	400
546		Telephone	553	600
323		Miscellaneous	301	300
295		Delivery costs	271	400
352		Bus Tickets	384	300
		Insurance	330	
7,521			10,085	9,000
351	Receipts less Disbursements		-4,214	-2,600
7,655	Closing balance, December 31		3,441	5,055
	Comprised of:			
		Bank Account	2,835.45	
		HST Rebate Receivable	155.84	
		Grocery Purchase Advances	450.00	
			3,441.29	
	APPROVED:			
	J J Lyon, Vice-Moderator		R C Fougere, Treasurer	

MANNA FOR HEALTH**FUNDRAISING ANALYSIS - 2008****BRUCE HAYRE**

	SHOW BLUE <u>MOON</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
<u>PROCEEDS</u>		
12-07	96.00	
12-21	96.00	
	<u>192.00</u>	<u>192.00</u>

COSTS

12-07	14.76	
12-21	10.92	
	<u>25.68</u>	<u>25.68</u>

<u>NET PROCEEDS</u>	<u>166.32</u>	<u>166.32</u>
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<u>TOTALS - BRUCE HAYRE</u>	FUNDRAISING	166.32
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OTHER FUNDRAISING

PRIDE - Bread & Other Sales	176.00
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Christmast Dinner 50/50 proceeds	80.00
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TOTAL	FUNDRAISING	<u>422.32</u>
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MANNA For HEALTH

OTHER DONATIONS - 2008

United Way	207.00
Tightrope	75.00
Frank Magazine (Wayves photo use)	100.00
Memorial Donations	200.00
Bedford United Church	100.00
Staff & Friends - QEII VG 5A	61.00
TOTAL	<u>743.00</u>

SAFE HARBOUR M C C

ATTENDANCE STATISTICS - 2008

Source: Tithe Reports

					2 0 0 7		
Month	# of Weeks	First Time Attendees	Total Attendance	Avg Attend /Week	# Wks	Total Attend	Avg Attend / Week
Jan	3	5	77	25.67	4	91	22.75
Feb	4	1	81	20.25	4	88	22.00
Mar	5	4	109	21.80	4	122	30.50
Apr	4	2	63	15.75	5	147	29.40
May	4	1	61	15.25	4	88	22.00
Jun	5	34	125	25.00	4	104	26.00
Jul	4	(Spong 31) 11	101	25.25	5	109	21.80
Aug	5	1	79	15.80	4	100	25.00
Sep	4	7	85	21.25	4	85	21.25
Oct	4	3	80	20.00	4	75	18.75
Nov	5	5	101	20.20	4	70	17.50
Dec	4	8	116	29.00	5	109	21.80
TOTALS	51	82	1078	21.14	51	1188	23.29

2007	YEAR				23.29	per week	
2006	YEAR				24.49	per week	
2005	YEAR				24.41	per service	excl T Perry serv 22.71
2004	YEAR				18.35	per service	
2003	YEAR				20.00	per service	
2002	YEAR				24.20	per service	
2001	YEAR				22.70	per service	
2000	YEAR				19.70	per service	
1999	YEAR				20.30	per service	