



CONNECTIONS

A Newsletter for St. James United Church • 197 Main Street, Antigonish, NS

By the Outreach & Communications Committee

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Easter 2017

*With great power the apostles gave their
testimony to the resurrection
of the Lord Jesus, and great grace was upon
them all.*

~ Acts 4:33

Dear Friends in Christ,

Christ has Risen! The disciples, who saw Jesus die on Good Friday, begin to proclaim this startling and surprising message on Easter. The claim that Jesus is alive doesn't come from wishful thinking or from a denial that the horror of the cross never happened but instead the followers of Jesus share this good news because they discover that the tomb is empty and then, more importantly, they encounter the risen Lord.

The disciples see Jesus near his grave, on the road to their homes, in the Upper Room where they gather to pray, and even while out fishing. These experiences do not simply change their sorrow to joy and despair to hope but also transform who the disciples are as people of God. They now understand that death has given way to life and through Jesus they can share in the promise of the resurrection. So they go into the world and proclaim that God has broken the power of death and through the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus offers us forgiveness and new life.

This Easter as we gather to hear again the story of that wonderful day and to rejoice at what God has done for us through Christ, let us share the good news that endings can change to beginnings, fear to hope, and grief to celebration. For Jesus is alive and through God's love and grace we are invited to share

with the world the promise of the resurrection and all that it means. The tomb is empty and forgiveness and mercy are ours now and always- which is more than enough reason to shout our Hallelujahs once again!

May God bless us this Easter season and fill our hearts with the hope and peace of the gospel message.

*Yours in Christ's Service,
The Rev. Peter A. Smith*

Services Holy Week & Easter



April 9, 2017 Palm Sunday.

10:30 am We wave our palms and shout our Hosanna's as Jesus enters Jerusalem and we consider the events which follow as we celebrate the Lord's Supper.

April 13, 2017 Maundy Thursday

7:00 pm in the Hall. Come gather around the Table as together we remember and share the events in the Upper Room.

April 14, 2017 Good Friday

10:30 am As disciples of Jesus, we experience through story and song the emotions, events, and meaning of the crucifixion.

April 16, 2017 Easter Sunday

6:30 am on the Bethany grounds. As the sun rises, our voices and prayers blend to give thanks for the Resurrection. A pancake breakfast will follow back in the church hall hosted by the Men's Club.

10:30 am Easter Sunday service

St. James Youth Group

The Youth Group has been growing in reputation and size in our monthly meetings this year. We have regular attendees from 5 local churches: St. James, St. Paul's, Full Gospel, Grace Community Church, and St. Ninian's, some who do not attend church, and a Syrian Muslim who enjoys being with other youth who strive to live out their faith. We have had up to 22 youth ranging from grades 7-12. At the 1st meeting in September the youth, through an Amazing Race-style activity, chose the events, topics, and food they would like to see at Youth Group this year! We have made blueberry & apple crisp for the Hot Meal program while acting out Matthew 25 to understand why the Hot Meal program is faith in action. We had a great night playing games with 20 L'Arche guests and their house leaders. We also had an inspiring visit from Alexandria Benson, a recent grad of Dr. J from Grace Community Church who just spent 5 months with Youth With a Mission working with refugees in Greece. We are really looking forward

to seeing several of the regular attendees perform in the Jesus Christ Superstar production in March, after having explored why Jesus is indeed a Superstar. We are super excited to welcome the "Three Wise Men" of science: Doug Hunter, Randy Lauff, and Peter Poole to our Faith & Science event on Earth Day. By opening the doors and providing funds for food and some supplies St. James has allowed this group to grow and flourish. Many church leaders and parents from other congregations have stepped up and helped out in many ways, working to support our amazing youth!

Antigonish Youth Group 2017 Schedule

All meetings are held Saturdays, 7:00-9:00 ish in the St. James Hall Note New Date for Feb.

FEBRUARY 25 • Why is Jesus a Super Star? What is so amazing about Grace?

MARCH 25 • Attend Jesus Christ Super Star!

APRIL 22 • Faith & Science, the how and the why!

MAY 13 • The Game of Life: Real life questions and answers!

JUNE 10 • Closing Barbeque & games, canoeing, etc. at the Penner's Place



St. James Sunday School

On Sunday mornings our Sunday School is a beehive of activity. Whether we have 2 or 16 children in attendance our time together is always busy but joyfully spent. From the moment the children gather for children's time with Rev. Peter until the end of our time together upstairs the children wholeheartedly join in the lesson for the day.

The joy and enthusiasm the children bring is truly a blessing for us all. For a special Lenten project the children decorated boxes and they are encouraged to put a dime a day in the boxes for the 40 days of Lent. At the end of the season of Lent the offering received will be given to the local food bank.

We are learning a song for Easter and look forward to sharing this with the congregation.

As always we thank the congregation for all their love and support.

Methuselah

Methuselah ate what he found on his plate
and never, as people do now
Did he note the amount of the calorie count;
he ate it because it was chow.
He wasn't disturbed as at dinner he sat
devouring a roast or a pie
to think it was lacking in granular fat
or a couple of vitamins shy
He cheerfully chewed each specials of food
unmindful of troubles or fears
least his helm might be hurt
By some fancy dessert
and he lived over nine hundred years.

from Muriel Kennedy

Christian Education Opportunities

As the last pile of snow trickles to a puddle, why not think of some possible options for exploring faith? Each summer there is a week at the Berwick United Church Camp that is a time honoured venue for families, couples and singles.

Further away, but guaranteeing a week of full immersion into spiritual, intellectual, cultural and recreational adventure is Chauttaqua. The 4th week, July 10-14, is Crisis of Faith? Their description offers: "For decades Chauttaqua Institution has brought people of different faiths -and no faith - together for civil, enlightening dialogue. Building on that work, we dive even deeper into questions of identity, religion, and community...in this week we look to the possibilities. What impacts do shifting religious

norms mean for other aspects of public life? How are churches reinventing themselves as moral centres of the communities they serve? "For more, see the full magazine in the parlour where the other activities are included. Or go to their website ciweb.org

On May 10-11, 2017 the Atlantic School of Theology is holding a Symposium on the topic of Care for the Stranger: An Interfaith Symposium. From their description: "How does your tradition view, define and support the 'strangers' in our midst and within the societal context?" The symposium will discuss this topic under three general headings: scripture, theology and pastoral care. The symposium will begin at 9am on May 10th and conclude in the afternoon of May 11th. Details will follow so check the bulletin board or go to astheology.ns.ca

These are just a few of the events to think about. Check with the church office about financial support for attending any of them.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

As this is the 150th year of Confederation a Congregational Meeting in 1867 might be of interest.

Presbyterian Church Antigonish April 27, 1867

A meeting of the Presbyterian Congregation of this place was held this day in the Church agreeable to notice proclaimed from the Church the past two Sabbath days by the Minister. Rev. Mr. Grant, Moderator to the Session was appointed to the Chair after which the meeting was opened by prayer and the object of the meeting stated.

Moved by Robert Trotter Esq. and seconded by Mr. James Burnside and passed that the time had not yet come for this Congregation to give one a call to be their minister

Moved as an amendment by Robt. N Henry Esq. Junior and seconded that the time is now come to give one a call to be their minister and lost.

Moved by Joseph Dewar, seconded and passed that the Congregation apply to Presbytery for a supply of preaching and that the Presbytery be asked to send us two or more Probationers from among those who were already here preaching during the winter and spring.

Moved by Adam Kirk seconded by Mr. Joseph Dewar and passed that Mr. Murray be one of the Probationers to be applied for from Presbytery to supply the Congregation.

Moved by James Willkie seconded by Robt. Henry that Mr. Sinclair be applied for to Presbytery to supply Congregation with preaching.

Moved, seconded and passed that Robert Trotter Esq., Clerk of Session be appointed by the meeting to correspond with the Presbytery in reference to said supply of preaching.

Moved by Robert Trotter Esq. and seconded and passed that the Trustees let the Manse and grounds on terms that the lessee give up and quit the premises in one month after notice.

Moved by John A. Thompson and seconded that the former business of the meeting today be recinded which was lost on a vote been taken, seventeen for the motion, twenty-four against.

On motion to adjourn, the Moderator concluded with prayer.

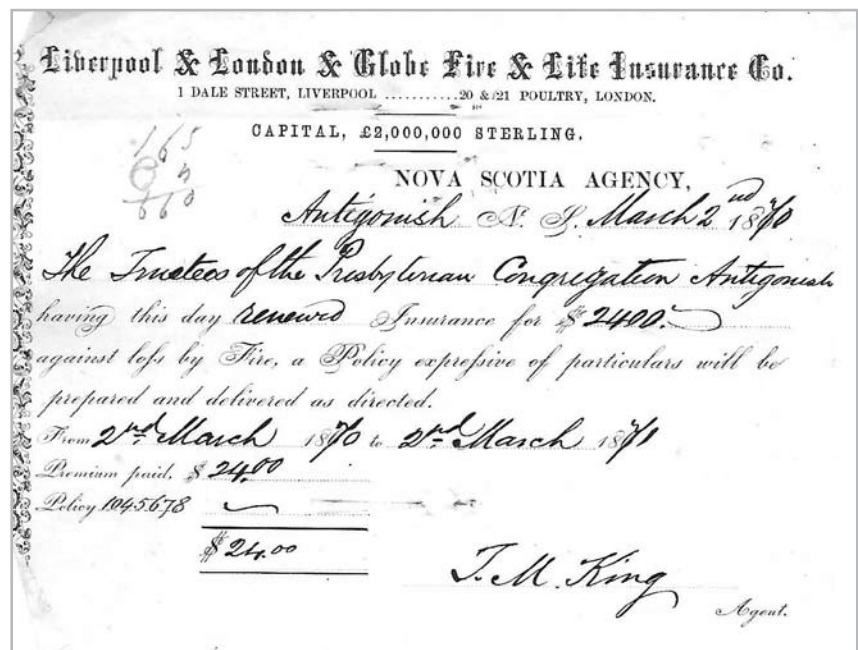
Kenneth Grant, Chairman

One of the Probationers must have made a good impression as we see below:

Vestry of the Presbyterian Church November 5th, 1867

The Session having met in this place and being constituted by the Rev. Kenneth Grant acting as Moderator. Members present Messers Burnside, McDonald, Grant, Trotter and R. MacDonald from Cape George Session. The Moderator introduced the Rev. James Daniel Murray to the Session as their Moderator which been done and Mr. Murray having taken the chair It was resolved that John Mc Donald be appointed Presbytery elder for the ensuing year and the meeting adjourned.

R. Trotter S. Clerk



Someone to Know . . .

Hello St. James friends!

My name is Chad and I have been enjoying Sunday services for about three years now. As a recent transplant to this beautiful town, there could be no greater welcome than the sense of belonging to an inclusive church community like ours provides. I truly feel at home here.

I feel blessed to have been able to meet and get to know so many friendly fellow worshippers. Unfortunately, our congregation is too big for me to have yet made the acquaintance of everyone (what a problem to have!) - this remains something for me to work on.

I am proud that St. James United is a progressive church, and one that does not remain silent in the face of the pressing moral issues of our time, be they environmental crises, social justice and civil rights for all people, or war and military occupation, among many. I believe that dedicating yourself to the benefit of those in need, regardless of everything but our common humanity, is the most Christlike we can be. We have many among us who are truly inspiring for the work they do.

For about a year now, I have been working to fill the big shoes of Gord Morrison, our former custodian. I have been recently appointed to the position on a permanent basis. I find that there is lots to do



throughout the week, both in regular maintenance and enough wear and tear on the building to keep things interesting. It really is a pleasure to keep this old place looking its best, and it's nice that my work never seems to go unnoticed! I also appreciate being told of areas needing attention, as it's hard to see everything at once.

If I don't know you yet, I look forward to it soon.. until then!

Chad Brazier

How to Access the Archives

From the Archives has been one of the most widely-read features of Connections. Because there is such great interest in our extensive collection of archival documents, St. James United is pleased to announce that Marlene Groenenberg has agreed to look after

and organize the archival material, and one of the rooms on the 2nd floor of the C E Building has been set aside for the archives. This will give us an opportunity to display the archival material as well as to do any research on the history of the church and/or descendants.

Speak to either Marlene or Rev. Peter for information about gaining access to this room.

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

African Heritage Month

St. James is grateful to have the contributions of the Brass Quintet to offer their gifts to the congregation. Here we have Rev. Peter and choir director Sheila Davison with our 'fabulous five'.

Brent MacQuarrie:	Trumpet
David Prince:	Tuba
Fred Davison:	Trombone
Christine Templeman:	Cornet
Bob MacMillan:	E-flat horn



*Family and Friends
Gathered to Wish
Laura & Mary
A Happy 85th Birthday!*





ST. JAMES HOLY BAPTISM

Feb. 12, 2017

*Emmett James Justin Sarty: Father
Chiristopher Sindair, Jillian Sarty*

Feb. 19, 2017

*Benjamin Lyndan MacLeod
Samson: Father Christopher
Samson, Mother Bethany
Theuerkauf*

Spiritual Enrichment Fund

The Spiritual Enrichment Fund provides financial support for new experiences related to Christian growth. It provides financial support to individuals and/or families who wish to attend church-sponsored events. The general aim of this fund is to stimulate more involvement and interest in enriching our faith by providing access to experiences and resources outside our church and congregation.

Grants from the fund are intended for those who attend St. James United Church, Antigonish. The fund will be applied to registration fees but may also be used to cover other costs related to the event.

Events and organizations that might be of interest are as follows: Workshops at Tatamagouche Centre, Arthur Kidston Memorial Camp, Berwick United Church Camp, Sherbrook Lake Camp

Application forms are available at the church office. For more information, contact Ida Sarty at idasarty@st.jamesuc.com

Under the Hemlocks: Berwick Camp

Last year St James was lucky to have Sharon Whitmee give the congregation an idea about why she and her family keep returning each summer to Berwick Church Camp in Berwick, N.S.. With slides and anecdotes we learned how music, games, campfires, ice cream socials, crafts, water fun, sports, bookclub and knitting club blend with vacation bible school and daily worship. Babysitting services in your own cabin or camper are also offered.

People either camp or stay in cabins. There is a shuttle service around the campground that can be pre-booked. Young people look forward to beach dodge ball, soccer, or soccer baseball. Also trivia night is held in the youth centre.

A five-page description of this camp hangs on the bulletin board, so please explore it at your leisure. Support is available through the Spiritual Endowment Fund to ease financial concerns.

Berwick promises a breath of fresh air under the hemlocks. It isn't too early to think/dream about going! Their website is: www.berwickcamp.org



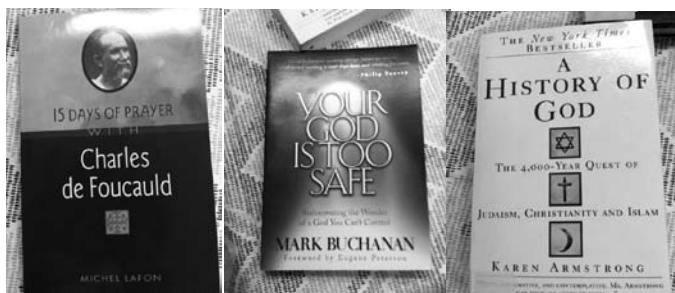
Emmett James Justin Sarty



Benjamin Lyndan MacLeod Samson

The Church Library

Every year the St. James United Church Library adds several new titles to its already expansive selection. Although Connections has been unable to recruit anyone to review these books it would be gratifying to see more members of the congregation browsing the stacks. The following titles are among those that have been acquired over the past twelve months.



International Pot Luck Dinner

On Sunday Feb 19th over 100 people gathered in the hall for an Indian-themed evening that included various dances as well as interesting Did You Know questions about this enormous and culturally rich country. Guests upheld the tradition of bringing food as their contribution so that there was enough food for everyone. Children of all ages joined in the dancing at the end.

Current Hot Topics in Social Justice

Well, unfortunately there's never any end to the need for social justice discussions and action. But what are the "hot" topics going to be in 2017? Locally? Globally?

Locally, your Social Justice Committee hopes to continue working on RAP! (Reduce Antigonish Plastics!). We are heartened to see Wal-Mart starting to charge a 5¢ fee for plastic bags. It encourages us to remember to bring our cloth bags in from our vehicles and actually use them – preferably at all our local merchants! Things we hope you'll see this year include petitions to politicians at all levels expressing our concern about plastic use and asking them to support anti-plastic efforts. And perhaps letter campaigns to local merchants requesting reduction of plastic use (bags and packaging) and local restaurants requesting reduction of plastic use and specifically making straws available "on demand", not as a standard handout. Perhaps here at St James we could reduce our use of plastic wrap ...

Globally Islamophobia is, for obvious reasons, hot! Our federal politicians have been considering passage of Motion #103, proposed by MP Iqra Khalid calling on Parliament to condemn all forms of systemic racism and religious discrimination, among them Islamophobia. The motion also called for studies on how to address the problem of religious discrimination in Canada, and how to combat religious discrimination (including Islamophobia.) Note that Ms Khalid received thousands of death threats, sexist comments and Islamophobic remarks after introducing the motion. Canada recently suffered its second worst terrorist attack – on Muslims peacefully praying at their mosque in Ste Foy, PQ. While the majority of Canadians showed sincere sympathy and support of Muslims, there has unfortunately been a concurrent spike of anti-Islamic graffiti, bomb threats and other incidents. Let's show Muslims here in Antigonish that they, and their right to worship, are supported and encouraged by our congregation. Let's let our politicians at all levels know that Islamophobia is not an acceptable Canadian value.

Another topic that should be hot is the ongoing Israeli/Palestinian situation. Despite worldwide protests

and the United Nation's condemnation – the Israeli government continues to expropriate Palestinian land, build houses on it and move in settlers. Many people seem to feel that any stance against these actions automatically means you must be anti-Semitic. But it's interesting to note that there are multiple Israeli groups protesting their own government's treatment of Palestinians – Breaking the Silence Israel (former Israeli military members), Jewish Voice for Peace, B'Tselem and the Israeli Committee Against House Demolitions. And there are countless other groups actively protesting against the illegal settlement of Palestinian territory: Canadians for Justice and Peace in the Middle East, Independent Jewish Voices-Canada, the United Church based United Network for Justice and Peace in Palestine and Israel, etc. Food for thought. Let's keep an open mind and educate ourselves on potentially controversial topics.

Another interesting initiative comes to us from our Roman Catholic friends – specifically another Social Justice group – spearheaded by Terry O'Toole from Maryvale. They are hoping to stimulate a renewal of "Sabbath keeping". So far it's mostly individual action, but there is potential for group involvement. The gist of their Sabbath plan (quoting largely from Terry here) is to set aside the last Sunday of the month to allow ourselves and our planet to recover from the week by changing directions and "ramping down": outside of an emergency, leave the car in the driveway; do no shopping (that one day when we take consumerism out of our lives); turn off all electronics (gasp!!); spend time in silence with nature and sea; cut no trees; have a nap; read an escape book; do some gardening/build a snow fort; burn no garbage; use no alcohol, substances or cigarettes; eat lightly, no big meal preparation, avoid meats; do stretching and meditating; while out walking, skating, cycling, skateboarding, snowshoeing, x-country skiing, wheel-chairing, beachcombing ... bring a bag and pick up some litter. The ultimate aim is to reduce sensory overload and the compulsion to be "busy". By the end of the day we should feel some ease, and creation, should be a little bit cleaner.

As always, the members of your Social Justice Committee (Michèle Ashby, Anne Camozzi, Barbara DeMarsh, Marilyn Gerriets, Hope Graham, Judy Jowett, Muriel Kennedy or Rev Peter Smith) welcome your comments and encourage you to speak to us about any issues you think we need to be considering. Better yet, we welcome new members!

A Conversation with Judith Shaw



Judith and I sat down in the Parlour so that she could satisfy my curiosity about venturing onto the ship HOPE. But before she entered this subject, she wanted to stress that she hadn't done anything out of this world. The wisdom she gained from her parents guided her to realize that you just have to take time to see the good all around us! Judy said her parents always modelled the art of finding the beauty and humour in everyday life. This instilled in her independence and a curiosity about life. In reflecting on these qualities later, she found this helped her when working on the ship HOPE. She has great admiration for the volunteers here for serving in the many events at St. James and in the community. Judith says this first off, that there is much to do in every community, indeed right under our noses. You don't have to sail off on a ship to find what is right around us.

With that said, we delved into where she directed her clinical expertise and talents as a graduate of nursing school back in the 1960s. With a BSc in Nursing and just in her 20s, she was drawn to serving aboard a former US WWII hospital ship that was given to Dr. William B Walsh, MD. by President Dwight D. Eisenhower. Thus began the Project HOPE, which means HELP OPPORTUNITIES FOR PEOPLE EVERYWHERE. It had a staff of over 125 with medical volunteers like Judith serving both on the ship and



in the ports and neighbouring countryside. Eleven voyages were completed, which visited Indonesia, Vietnam, Peru, Ecuador, Guinea, Nicaragua, Columbia, Ceylon (Sri Lanka), Tunisia, Jamaica, and Brazil. The ship would ply the oceans, sometimes going by the longest routes because the Suez Canal was closed.

For her voyage the ship left Philadelphia and sailed to Colombo, Sri Lanka. Judy spoke of how for 40 days they were crammed into tight quarters and experiencing at times dramatic hurricane conditions. She gives credit to her seafaring Nova Scotia grandfather for not being seasick when the tower-like walls of waves came crashing down. A Sri Lankan volunteer gave language and culture instructions during the voyage..

The huge range of volunteers, including highly qualified doctors and nurses, were what made it possible to take anything on. For example, a critically ill Peace Corp worker in a non responsive Stage 3 hepatic coma was at death's door. The renowned hepatologist Dr. Charles Trey, was flown to Bombay where a complete exchange transfusion of fresh blood was carried out before he was airlifted to the ship. Fresh blood was collected from Peace Corp and HOPE volunteers while the patient had continuous care. Within 24 hours he went from death's door to becoming aware and then in 3 weeks, being discharged for convalescence. Incredibly after going through all

this, the worker wanted to return to Bombay to finish the job he had begun. Judy says everywhere there were miracles such as this.

The underlying absolute priority was in educating and collaborating with the local medical facilities with Doctor to Doctor educational exchanges. Many of the doctors were on rotation, or a 2 month rotation, which allowed continuous high level input from around the world.

The ship HOPE served not only patients that came to the ship ,but at the local hospitals and other facilities as well as the Leprosarium (Leprosy) and public health clinics. Sometimes it meant going way up into the mountains to the ancient city of Kandy, site of the old kingdom. She remembers how at the

Temple of the Tooth (Buddha's tooth) ceremonies would include highly decorated elephants, because, of course, along with the very hard work, the medical staff would occasionally have time off. There was great camaraderie with chances to round up bicycles or head to northern India, or a houseboat on Dal Lake in Srinagar, or to a crowded city like Bombay or Calcutta. Back onboard HOPE, one very funny image served patients, staff ,and crew. That was the Iron Cow, a machine that not only desalinated water but made milk and ice cream!

Of course all the volunteers knew they were taking risks by making this one-year commitment. Sadly a young teen, the daughter of a volunteer doctor and his wife, died on board while the ship was in Sri Lanka. The family donated her organs to Sri Lankans in need of organ transplants.

Judith sees this early adventure as formative in her life. She embarked upon another HOPE mission to Jamaica as well, and worked later in Korea and Australia. As I listened to her describing this experience I felt that surely groups at St. James would be interested in hearing more.

And for this writer, if there are other intrepid volunteers or adventurers who are willing to share their experiences, please let me know. We are all the better for it.

Fran Wittgens

Bell Choir News

As we walk towards the spring, the bell choir is busy preparing for the Easter season. We are planning to play two traditional hymns on Palm Sunday: Crown Him with Many Crowns and All Glory, Laud, and Honour.

A small group of our players participated in the Theatre Antigonish production of Eurydice by Sarah Ruhl over this past week. It was a really different experience, melding the music with live theatre. We were lucky enough to have Ryan Billington, one of our players, compose the music to go along with the



play. Thanks to Theatre Antigonish for giving us this opportunity to showcase the bells in this unique setting.

Look for our bell quartet to play in the Antigonish Chorale Ensemble Spring Concert. We plan to finish up the year with the choir playing a jazzy rendition of Down by the Riverside.

To the Rescue

When the weather is poor and the choir is unable to practice, we are fortunate to have as many willing pinch-hitters as we do who step in to fill the gap. Thank you to everyone who contributes to our Sunday services. We appreciate everything that you do.



Thank You

On behalf of our entire family I would like to thank the congregation of St. James United Church for their heartfelt prayers and best wishes for my grandsons Noah Gordon, 3 ½, and Benjamin Sampson, 16 months, who have N.D.I., a rare kidney disorder.

The extra support of the prayer group and the prayer shawl group (who sent prayer shawls to the mothers and grandmothers) were greatly appreciated. The prayer shawls are still being used; in fact Noah still sleeps with Breanna's prayer shawl.

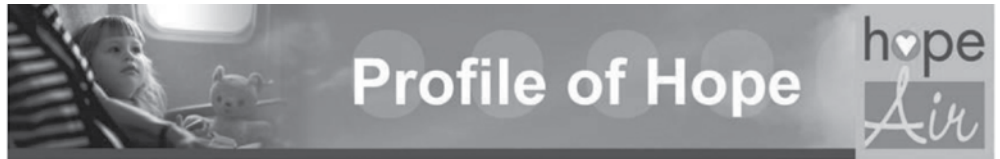
Noah, who lives with his family in Grand Prairie, Alberta, is now full of energy and keeps his two older sisters (Gracie and Abby) on the go while teaching his baby brother (Gabriel) the tricks of the trade.

Benjamin has come through a challenging first year and he is now learning to eat and walk. As witnessed at his christening he is full of smiles and very vocal. He is especially adored by his big brother Samuel.

Your ongoing prayers and support are appreciated as this condition is a life long journey.

Many blessing during this wonderful Easter season,

Diane Theuerkauf



Hope Air provides glimmer of hope to family

Just a flu bug – or that's what everyone thought at first. But when five-month-old Noah became seriously ill on the way to Calgary, it meant an unexpected stop at the Children's Hospital, and a diagnosis of a rare kidney disorder.

It was an enormous shock to the family. Fortunately, Hope Air was there to help by covering the flight home to Grande Prairie for Noah and his mom Breanna. The rest of the family – dad and two girls aged 3 and 5 – was able to drive back, knowing that Noah and Breanna would be taken care of. "It was such a godsend," said Breanna. "It's at least an eight-hour drive in the best of conditions, and it would have been so painful for Noah because of the procedures he had undergone."

Just over a year later, complications meant another trip to Calgary. It was an overwhelming thought. Noah's diagnosis had brought many unexpected expenses for the family, and a flight would be yet another burden. On the other hand, driving on winter roads with three small children, with frequent stops for medical needs and other necessities, was a formidable and dangerous prospect. "I would have been white-knuckled all the way, with one eye on the rear view mirror to make sure everyone was ok," said Breanna. And it would have meant a painful journey home for Noah, because the car seat buckles would press directly on his newly inserted G-tube.



Once again, Hope Air was able to help with a free flight, which made all the difference for the family. "It's hard to express what this meant to us," said Breanna. "To think that there are people out there who don't even know you, who are willing to help you – it gives you a glimmer of hope when there's so much darkness around you and things don't seem fair. Hope Air was amazing. It was as if they gave us a light, and said 'Here's one thing we can help you with. It will be ok – we'll get you there.' We are extremely grateful."

– Written by Volunteer writer Nancy Shelford



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