

## Life and Work – January 3, 2021

**We gratefully acknowledge a donation** to Bridges to Hope from Sight Restored band in celebration of Douglas Matthews' graduation from The Atlantic Police Academy, Holland College, PEI. Douglas will serve with the Royal Newfoundland Constabulary (RNC). Congratulations Douglas!

**We gratefully acknowledge the following donations to the** Bethany Danielle Pike Memorial Camp Fund:

\*in loving memory of Bethany Pike from Fred & Pam Earle.

\*in loving memory of Bethany from Kyle Winter.

**We offer our condolences** to Robert, Barry and Reg Mullett on the passing of their beloved father, Herb Mullett, on December 27. A private family service was held on December 30, live streamed on Barrett's Funeral Home website.

### A Message from SuAn:

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

"For everything there is a season, a time for every purpose under heaven: a time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to harvest..... a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing...."

My time in the role of office secretary/administrator at St. James has come to an end after a span of 7 years, which my brother (Michael James) feels to be very biblical. There is sadness on leaving a job I had come to love, yet happiness at the thought of trying something new, whatever that may be, just knowing that life is unfolding exactly as it should.

In those 7 years as secretary, I have listened to and kept your secrets; as administrator, I have recorded your life changes, and as a fellow human being I have chatted with you about this and that, just only to connect on that level of Consciousness which recognizes itself in another being. St. James calls it the passing of the peace; it is the meaning of the Hindi greeting: "namaste."

Much could be said about those 7 years, so I'll just sum it up in a tribute that illustrates the spirit of St. James that I have come to know and love:

Philip Saunders was the first person I met when I began my new job at St. James back in 2013. He was helping out with the Kiwanis festival at the time, and little did I know how often our paths would cross in the coming years.

I got to know him as Phil, a pure soul with a kind and generous heart who was a friend to everyone he met. He was a staunch supporter and elder of the church, but not just on Sundays. He loved to visit during the week and hang out with whomever was in the building, finding his joy in the company of friends in faith.

His commitment to God never wavered. Every Thursday morning, he would give me a call to see if Sunday's bulletin was ready for him to proof read. He became a part of the editing group, with him and I spending many a morning discussing English grammar - the decline of the adverb, the beauty of the

comma - and no morning was without a story, a chuckle and a wonder at life.

A testament to his devotion was that on the first Sunday he failed to attend the Worship Service, folks were convinced they had seen him “just now, maybe in the parking lot, maybe in the Auditorium.” He passed away on September 17. I know how pleased he would be that Robin has taken on the Memory Tree and Hymn Sing, both a huge part of his offering to God.

The whole world appears to be in a state of flux; it is a good time for change - whether that be the decision to exercise a bit more, or something deeper, such as a belief that needs to be examined in the light of 2020's demands. Change is the nature of life, but as friends in faith, in our practice, we are able to discover and embrace the changeless Being that lies in our hearts.

We find the harmony in the chaos: chaos abounds, yet harmony continues; the storm rages and the tree bends.

I thank each and every one of you with whom I have had the great pleasure of meeting, and know that you stay on the ‘sunny side’, as our Guitar Group so well reminds us.

At this time of no embracing, I hold you all in my heart and send you “Good Wishes for the Twelve Days of Christmas” from The Legend of the Christmas Prayer by Brian Morgan.

I wish you a beautiful day,  
SuAn