

MORE REPORTS!

ST. ANDREW'S:

There was a 'Longest Night of the Year' service held on Sunday, 21 December. On Christmas eve there were well-attended services held at St. Andrew's, Greenwich, and the Covenant Church. A Pentecostal group is worshipping in St. Andrew's Church Hall.

WOLFFVILLE UNITED BAPTIST:

The congregation is looking for a new minister, and approved in November a description of the specific context such a person would fill. Major repairs have been made to the north and west exterior walls of the building which presented a great challenge to the congregation financially. Happily, an anonymous donor of the congregation has given the needed resources to meet that challenge. A new Church Directory with photographs is being produced. It is being produced 'in house' with a digital camera, and the images stored in a data base.

RELIGIOUS SOCIETY OF FRIENDS (QUAKERS):

The bi-weekly meetings for worship and sharing continue. These are aimed at participation by providing an informal environment for sharing personal journeys. Workshops on 'Experiential Quakerism' have also been held. These centre on meeting for worship, spiritual discernment, community and faith into action.

PORT WILLIAMS UNITED BAPTIST:

The congregation has been rejoicing in the settlement of their new minister, the Rev'd. David Ogilvie. He has come from First Baptist Church, Regina, Saskatchewan, to take up service in Port Williams, succeeding the Rev'd. Hedley Hopkins. The congregation has been growing and participating in a number of community events.

MANNING MEMORIAL CHAPEL:

The Christmas season is a quiet one for a university chapel, but the students returned to classes on 5 January. The new chapel choir, formed by students of all faculties, has been a wonderful addition to the chapel's worship. It is led by John Scott and they sing at each Sunday service. Mr. Joe Foy will speak at the Sunday evening service (7:00 o'clock), 11 January, and Mr. Jesse Zink on 18 January. The Passion Play will be presented 30, 31 March and 1, 2 April at 7:30 p.m.

Website!

Visit the WAICC website at
<http://www.waicc.org>

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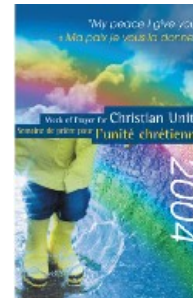
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WEEK OF PRAYER APPROACHES

The annual Week of Prayer for Christian Unity will be held in Wolfville at the traditional time. It will be observed by our churches from 19 to 25 January. Each member of all our congregations are heartily encouraged to attend one or any number of these services so that a sense of Christian fellowship might glow from us.



This year there will be the usual noon-hour services at the various churches. Each is invited to bring

The services will be held:

Monday, 19 Jan.: St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church
Tuesday, 20 Jan.: St. John's Anglican Church
Wednesday, 21 Jan.: St. Andrew's United Church
Thursday, 22 Jan.: Manning Memorial Chapel
Friday, 23 Jan.: Port Williams United Baptist Church

a bag lunch, if you wish. Beverages will be provided. At noon, there will be a 15 minute service of prayer for Christian Unity. This will be followed by 'The Question' when the congregation will retire to have lunch and discuss its relevance to today's Christian. The major Sunday service will be held at 7:30 p.m. in the Wolfville United Baptist Church. The speakers will be Dr. John Churchill and Dr. David Watt on 'Peace and Reconciliation in Angola', which is a project of the Inter-Church Council. The offering will be dedicated to the reconciliation ministry of Dr. Joao Matwawana in Angola through the Angolan Council of Churches.

Everyone is asked to give prayerful support to this year's Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. It is vital to our Christian statement to the world.

ANGOLAN PRAYER AND SUCCESS

The Ministries Committee of the Inter-Church Council has enthusiastically adopted a world mission project, the peace and reconciliation development. It is being assisted by Dr. Joao Matwawana. He is presently in Angola conducting public workshops under the sponsorship of the Angolan Council of Churches for peace and reconciliation in that strife-torn nation.

Angola has been divided for many years because of a revolution which has destroyed much of that country's infrastructure and mutual trust. Happily, a solution has been found, and somewhat under the model which was used in South Africa, this former Portuguese colony is struggling to heal these deep wounds.

Dr. Matwawana, well-known in the Wolfville area (he is a graduate of Acadia, and was interim minister in Port Williams Baptist Church), former chaplain of the correctional institution in Halifax County, has accepted the invitation by the Angolan Council to return to his native land to facilitate reconciliation.

Almost miraculously, the state has received the Church's work whole-heartedly. They have opened public buildings, including the Legislatures, to workshops and other meetings so the healing might begin. Dr. Matwawana has initiated conciliation, and has even visited rebel leaders — not without personal danger to himself. He goes completely on his faith in God and this is what he has been asked to do.

The Inter-church Council heard of this whilst Dr. Matwawana was interim minister at Port Williams, and has since taken up a special collection (mainly those \$155 rebate cheques from the government) and has sent approximately \$800 to the cause. The offering at the Week of Prayer Sunday Service will be added to this.

We had hoped that Dr. Matwawana would be able to speak at the Sunday service, but he had to return to Angola when an opportunity presented itself. We have two people to take his place: Dr. John Churchill, and Dr. David Watt, who are well-informed about this project.



Drs. Churchill and Watt

PROJECTS GO WELL

It was reported at the last meeting of the Inter-Church Council Executive that several of our projects and events went very well. They include:

- The collecting of books for school in Chile. Teachers from Chile were in the area in the Fall and were pleased to take them back to their schools.
- The Inter-Church Housing reception for its Founders was a success and it pointed out the importance of this project begun by WAICC.

- Hennigar's Market had volunteered to sell Christmas trees and present the profit to our Christmas and Emergency Relief Fund.
- Letters went to approximately 250 people asking for contributions to the Christmas and Emergency Relief Fund. Response has been excellent.
- The annual Advent Service at the University was a wonderful experience of ecumenical worship. The offering was given to the Christmas and Emergency Relief Fund.



- The Ministries Committee conducted a conference with the cooperation of the Town of Wolfville regarding local social services, and it was a great success. Margaret Burton is the Chair.
- The 'Festival of Hymns' was held this year on 7 November and was a success. There was a larger congregation, and the offering was donated to the Christmas and Emergency Relief Fund.



- Milk is being provided to local schools through the love-gift of an anonymous donor to the Inter-Church Council.

CHURCHES REPORT!

We are glad to hear the reports of our congregations:

ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI:

Sister Valerie Coleman led a very successful retreat on the theme of 'giving thanks.' About 35 people were involved. A children's pageant was organized, and the choir is expanding its repertoire. The congregation is helping to organize a programme, planned for 11 March at St. Joseph's, Kentville, to raise funds to help a refugee family who are facing financial difficulties.

ST. JOHN'S:

Advent III was focused on 'Love in Action.' Children visited the local nursing homes with Christmas baskets and a video of their service held two weeks previously. On 20 December a 'Longest Night of the Year' service was held in the church for those who find it a 'dark time.' On Sunday, 21 December the children helped to lead a service called 'hanging of the greens' with a focus on the meaning of various Christmas symbols. A service of Lessons and Carols for Christmas was held on 28 December. The ACW prepared Christmas baskets for the Waterville Correctional Centre.