Welcome to Fort Massey! A special welcome and thank you to our Sunday Church School leading in our White Gift Service under the direction of Sancia Knorr. We are delighted to have all visitors joining us today; please sign our Guest Book. If you’re looking for a church home, you may fill out a Welcome Card (found with the guest book) leaving it with the guest book. Please join us after the Service for Coffee & Conversation.

Thank you to Peter & Stephanie Coulthard for organizing the greening of our sanctuary.

2016 Offering Envelopes are available in the Tobin St. lobby. Please contact our Chief Steward, Ruth MacKenzie @ raem@ns.sympatico.ca OR 902.477.5365 or, if you have any questions about weekly envelopes. After last winter, you may want to consider the advantages of PAR.

2016 Canadian Church Calendars for sale during C&C. $10.

‘Gifts with Vision’ Catalogues are available in the lobbies.

Tellers. Volunteers are needed to assist in counting the Sunday offerings.

Year of Caring. A $100 donation to the Brunswick Street Mission will provide a breakfast to someone living on the street 100 times a year. This gift will be acknowledged with a pewter lapel pin and a gift card that would make a wonderful Christmas gift to person who has everything. Call 902.423.4605 OR check out the web site at www.brunswickstreetmission.org.

Assistance needed. The minister is looking for help in transporting the White Gift food to Brunswick Street Mission on Tuesday morning at 10.

Weekly @ the fort: Tue: 7, Yoga; Wed: 7:30, Choir; Thu: 10:30, Spirit Connectors; Fri: 9:30, Yoga

Men’s Breakfast. Fri, Dec 18, 9:30 AM, Athens on Quinpool.

Advent–Christmas Services @ the fort, 10:30 AM. Dec 20 Advent Four; Dec 24 - 7 PM Christmas Eve Service; Dec 27 Readings & Carols; Jan 3 New Year’s Communion.

Mission to Seafarers Boxes/Bags are due Dec 20.

It’s baby shower time! Next Sunday, Dec 20th, we will welcome new babies into the life of our church family during C&C. Financial donations can be made through your offering envelope marking it “Baby Shower”.
The choir of the Presbyterian Church of Saint David will present a service of Lessons and Carols at 4:00 pm on Sunday, December 20th. Saint David’s Organist and Music Director Tristan Cleveland-Thompson has assembled a group of extremely talented choristers for this annual celebration. A freewill offering will be taken to be directed toward Refugee sponsorship and support.

Concert. St. John’s United Church (Halifax) Choir and Handbell Ringers present “O Holy Night” on Sunday, Dec. 20 – 7p.m. in the Lilian Piercey Concert Hall, 6199 Chebucto Road. Music for Advent and Christmas will be presented and a reception will follow. Admission $10. All welcome.

Door Fund. Give a special gift to Fort Massey this year (Anniversary or Christmas) for the purchase of new Tobin St. doors. We’ll be warmer, safer, richer and more environmentally friendly. Mark it DOORS on your envelope.

36th Halifax Scout Group Annual Christmas Tree Sale: The 36th Halifax Scout Group is selling fresh, locally-grown, Musquodoboit Valley balsam fir trees to support our Scouts and their activities. Trees are available in two sizes: Small 5 1/2–7 feet ($35) and Large 8 or 9 feet ($40). Please see Jake or Simon Janson for more info.

Spirit Connectors. In lieu of our annual Christmas lunch we are inviting all this who have been part of the Thursday morning group to give to the Refugee Fund this year.

Atlantic School of Theology Grad Student, Mary Lynne Whyte, is looking for adult volunteers age 21 and up to participate in her Grad Research Project. If you have experienced a powerful ‘word’ encounter, either positive or negative, in a church setting, Mary Lynne would like to meet with you in a public place, to do a one-on-one interview consisting of six questions. It is confidential. The project would be more fully explained prior to the interview. If you are interested, please contact Mary Lynne at harpandvoice@hotmail.com. Your participation would be greatly appreciated.

Thank you to all those helped and supported the Refugee Breakfast.

Next Refugee meeting. Sunday, January 10th, 2016, at St. Matthew’s Church Gym, Barrington St.
WARNING! To enter into the life of this people of God is to encounter Christ’s soul challenging, life-changing, radicalizing love. Will you join us? Do you dare?

T. D. Cleveland-Thompson, Pastor
Daniel MacDonald, Student Minister
Simon Abbott, Director of Music
John Walter, Assistant Organist
Kevin Robarts, Flutist
Richard & Carol Robinson, Sextons
Kathy Cochrane, Office Administrator
Elliott Prouty, Head Usher
Alison McDonald, Clerk of Session
Alasdair Sinclair, Clerk Emeritus
Nancy E. Riggs, Treasurer
Ruth MacKenzie, Chief Steward
Alan Hayman, Sr. Trustee
Sancia Knorr, Church School
Elaine Janson, Nursery

5303 Tobin St. Halifax NS  B3H 1S3
902.423.4294   ftmassey@eastlink.ca
www.fortmasseychurch.com

3rd Sunday of Advent
White Gift Sunday
December 13, 2015
10:30 AM
The Sunday Gathering

* indicates standing for those who are able; silent reflection begins with the Prelude

PRELUDE       A selection of *Tientos* — Antonio de Cabezón

SILENT REFLECTION  Trinity Bell is rung. Community Candle is lit.

INTROIT       “How the world longs for your birth”
               — Music by Johann Walther, harm. J.S. Bach

GATHERING WORDS

*OPENING HYMN   Hark the Glad Sound

THE PEACE       *The peace of Christ be with you. And also with you.*

WELCOME

TIME WITH THE SUNDAY’S COOL CROWD

*ADVENT CANDLE LIGHTING*  

ANTHEM       O Ancient Love — Michael Joncas

CHURCH SCHOOL CHRISTMAS DRAMA  New Star

THE NOTICES

MINUTE FOR MISSION  “Rendez-vous” – *Sally DeWolf*

OFFERINGS  Offertory: Hope is a star that shines in the night  
           White Gifts are collected and presented

*         Response: Joy is a song that welcomes the dawn
           Offering is brought forward

PRAYER & PRAYER OF JESUS  

*CLOSING HYMN*  

Hail to God’s Own Anointed
Alternate tune: Ellacombe (VU 123)

*PARTING WORDS*  

Amen. May it be so.

POSTLUDE       Fugue on *Ad Dominum cum tribularer* – Antonio de Cabezón

Please be seated after the ministers have left the nave of the sanctuary; after which you may rise and exit, or remain for part or all of the Postlude.
Fort Massey, St. Matthew’s & St. David’s Refugee Committee: Three churches have banded together to sponsor a refugee family. We will need to raise $30,000.00 to support our family for a year. A volunteer group met last week to begin writing the application. Through a local family and their contacts we have a specific family in mind to sponsor. We would like to invite everyone to support our fund-raising campaign. In order to begin the fundraising at each of the three participating churches the Fundraising Committee proposes three possibilities: (1) mark your special contribution to your church “for refugees;” (2) consider making a contribution to the refugee fund in lieu of Christmas gifts, either from you or to you; (3) Sign a pledge card available during the coffee hour for a monthly amount for one year. Information and gift cards will be available after the Service.

A second meeting of the full sponsorship committee on January 10th at St. Matthew’s United Church which will begin as soon after 12 noon as we can. The meeting will take place in the gymnasium. On the agenda of that meeting, among other things, will be the following items.

- Establishing an executive committee representative of the constituent churches and friends who make up the committee.
- Organizing working groups to plan for and carry out the different aspects of the project. This is an important starting point as it will enable us to fill out the “Settlement Plan” forms. The settlement plan is an essential aspect of the application to sponsor a refugee family.
- A discussion of the fund raising goal. Perhaps an additional $15,000 – $20,000 that would be a contribution to the United Nations Refugee Agency. The work to sponsor one family is vitally important, but we also need to remember there are millions of refugees who will not be invited to live in Canada. They need our assistance too.