

# Fort Massey Church

Spiritual Seekers **United** in Community

5303 Tobin Street, Halifax, NS B3H 1S3

Office: 902-423-4294 [ftmassey@eastlink.ca](mailto:ftmassey@eastlink.ca)

Minister: 902-333-3123 [minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com)

[www.fortmasseychurch.com](http://www.fortmasseychurch.com)

Ministers: All of us by the grace of God

Clergy: Rev. Beth Hayward

Music Director: Jenny Trites

Office Administrator: Tamara Mugford

Sexton: Emily Kiley Lawlor

Church School: Sancia Knorr, Nursery: Lilli Knorr

Section Leads: Laura Johnston, Lisa Thornhill

Greeters: Janson Family

Liturgical Assistant: John Gillis, Scripture Reader: Diane Gillis

Coffee & Conversation: Diane Gillis, John Gillis

When God  
Changes Her  
Mind

Jonah 3:1-5,10

**Epiphany 3**

**January 21, 2024, 10:30 a.m.**

Service recorded and posted online @ FMC Facebook & Web Page



## HERITAGE MOMENT *By Barry Cahill*

We have the Order of Fort Massey to honour those of our members who have conspicuously distinguished themselves in service to the congregation. What of those who became famous for their actions in the wider world? A case in point is the African explorer, William Grant Stairs (1863-1892), who attended Fort Massey Academy and grew up in Fort Massey Church. Having joined the British Army (Royal Engineers), he accompanied Henry Morton Stanley's expedition into Equatorial Africa in July 1887 to rescue Emin Pasha.

*\* Indicates rise in body or spirit  
(please stand or remain sitting according to your comfort.)*

### Prelude

**Introit:** "A Light Is Gleaming" (*refrain*) VU 82

### Welcome, Land Acknowledgement & Call to Worship

### Lighting of the Christ Candle

**\*Hymn:** "God of the Bible" *verses 1-2, 4-5* MV 28

### Announcements

**Passing the Peace** One: The peace of Christ be with you.  
**All: And also with you.**

### Time for the Young and Young at Heart

**\*Hymn:** "Teach Me God to Wonder" VU 299

### Offering

Response: "What Can I Do?" MV 191

**Scripture:** Jonah 3:1-5, 10

*Offered as wisdom for the journey.  
May we walk in its light.*

**Ministry of Music:** "In My Wrestling and In My Doubts"

**Sermon:** "When God Changes Her Mind"

**Hymn:** "Come and Find the Quiet Centre" VU 374

### Prayers of the People

#### Lord's Prayer

**Hymn:** "Will You Come and Follow Me" VU 567

### \*Blessing and Sending Forth

**\*Sung Blessing:** "May the Peace of God Be Your Peace" MV 222

### Postlude

**Rev. Beth is away sick today and is on Study Leave until January 27; thank you very much to those in leadership today. Should any pastoral emergencies arise, please contact her and she will arrange for appropriate care.**

# Notices

## *Happy birthday to Diane Gillis on January 24*

Blessings and our best wishes to all who are celebrating birthdays, anniversaries or other milestones this week.

## *Sympathies are extended to Blair Landry and family on the passing of his mother Adeline Landry*

If you're walking through some difficulty this week: grief, anxiety, challenge, we hold you in prayer.

**The 2023 tax receipts have been completed and they may be picked up in the Tobin Street lobby.**

**The AGM of the congregation has been set for Sunday, March 17, with a storm date of March 24.**

**All Annual Reports (e-copies please), with the exception of the financial statements, are due to the church office by no later than February 21. (Earlier is always appreciated.) The published Annual Report will be ready by March 3.**

**Please note that there will be a planned closure of Tobin Street by Nova Scotia Power tomorrow.**

### **Brunswick Street Mission – “Stock-a-Shelf” – This Month’s Focus: Peanut Butter**

#### Items that are always welcome:

diapers (all sizes, including adult)	garbage bags
menstrual products	instant coffee
toiletry items (shampoo, body wash, deodorant)	baking supplies (sugar, butter, flour, salt)
dental hygiene (toothpaste, brush, floss)	empty egg cartons



#### Items also welcome for the un-housed:

peanut butter  
Stag pop-top chili  
Boost energy drinks  
protein bars (like Atkins)  
Hot Rods

#### Items also welcome for the housed:

cake mix & canned icing (*people get free mix and icing for their birthday*)  
rice of all kinds (big bags welcome, we just repackage)  
canned tuna

### **Hope Cottage**

The sign-up sheet dates for the Hope Cottage Casserole Deliveries for 2024 are: February 1, March 28, May 23, July 18, September 12 & November 7. We delivered 15+ casseroles each time in 2023 and after speaking with the folks at Hope Cottage they can definitely continue to use 15-20 casseroles each hot meal day. This link below has the sign-up sheet for all the dates in 2024. Please enter your name under the date that works best for you. If you have any troubles, please let Teresa Orser know.

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1RGfg9bcU1XBmdDKNXyxi-C3BAcCd4AchHEpRDUOA8/edit#gid=0>

A special welcome to all who are worshipping here for the first time. We strive to notice you and make you feel welcome.

Do let us know if we fall short of our aspiration. We know that stepping into a new church can be daunting.

If, after you leave, you find questions, curiosities, or insights arising, you are most welcome to reach out to our minister

Rev. Beth ([minister@fortmasseychurch.com](mailto:minister@fortmasseychurch.com)).

Please feel comfortable to sit, stand, stretch, move for your own self-care and comfort.

Our services are generally an hour in length. When the Postlude begins, please feel free to get up and chat.

We offer a pretty great coffee hour. Following the service, make your way to the front of the church and down the stairs and you'll be greeted by warm hospitality and terrific snacks!

### ***Why do we encourage name tags be worn?***

In a spirit of **radical welcome**, we encourage **everybody** to wear a name tag today.

**Name tags** help us recognize and remember each other. They are a small gesture appreciated by those learning many names at once; those who are deaf or hard of hearing; or those who struggle to match names with faces.

If you are **comfortable** doing so, consider adding your **pronouns**. Sharing **pronouns** is a signal that we welcome those of **all genders** and we appreciate knowing how to speak of each other **respectfully**.

### **Thank You for Your Financial Support**

We thank you for your financial support of Fort Massey. Whether using e-transfer to [fmchurch@eastlink.ca](mailto:fmchurch@eastlink.ca), PAR, cheque or envelopes, all are so appreciated. Donations may also be made through the following online charity donation websites: CanadaHelps - <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/charities/fort-massey-united-church/> or Charitable Impact: <https://my.charitableimpact.com/charities/fort-massey-united-church>. In the sanctuary, donations can be made as you leave after worship. Offering plates are located by the font, if exiting to Tobin Street, or in the aisle as you exit into the Queen Street lobby.

### **Fort Massey Vision Statement**

At Fort Massey, we live into being a vibrant and evolving community where tradition is honoured, change is embraced, and injustice is challenged, where everyone is welcomed, needed, valued and belongs. Following Jesus' example of expansive love, we aim to provide a safe, nurturing environment where everyone is free to be themselves. We celebrate and encourage people of every age, health situation, race, sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression, family configuration, background, ability, interest, culture, economic circumstance and faith journey into the full participation and leadership of ministries in the life and work of Fort Massey United Church.

**Welcome to Fort Massey.** We extend a special welcome to those who are single, married, divorced, widowed, straight, gay, confused, well-heeled or down at heel. We especially welcome wailing babies and excited toddlers. We welcome you whether you can sing like Pavarotti or just growl quietly to yourself. You're welcome here if you're 'just browsing', just woken up or just got out of prison. We don't care if you're more Christian than the Moderator of the United Church of Canada or haven't been to church since Christmas ten years ago. We extend a special welcome to those who are over 60 but not grown up yet, and to teenagers who are growing up too fast. We welcome keep-fit mums, hockey dads, starving artists, tree-huggers, latte-sippers, vegetarians, junk-food eaters. We welcome those who are in recovery or still addicted. We welcome you if you're having problems, are down in the dumps or don't like 'organized religion.' (We're not that keen on it either!) We offer a welcome to those who think the earth is flat, work too hard, don't work, can't spell, or are here because granny is visiting and wanted to come to the ol' Kirk. We welcome those who are inked, pierced, both or neither. We offer a special welcome to those who could use a prayer right now, had religion shoved down their throat as kids or got lost on the Armdale roundabout and wound up here by mistake. We welcome pilgrims, tourists, seekers, doubters... and you!

*(adapted and used with permission, Coventry Cathedral, England)*