



Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee

5561 Heatherwood Court, Unit 303, Halifax, NS B3K 5N7

July____, 2022

Please share this letter with your Pastor and Deacons or your congregation.

«Treasurer»
«Church_Name»
«Street_Address» «Supplemental_Address»
«City» «Prov» «Postal_Code»

Hospital Chaplaincy Celebrations

Dear members of «Church_Name»,

The last two years have been full of change. COVID-19 has had a dramatic effect on the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy ministry as restrictions were placed on hospitals, new protocols were put in place and medical staff responded to new waves of the pandemic, new variants of the virus kept emerging and precautions also kept changing. However, this also provided an opportunity. God had provided an open door for our chaplains who were considered “*essential workers*” in most hospitals and our ministry has adapted. For this we thank God and celebrate!

As the Halifax Baptist Hospital Chaplaincy Committee, we also had a lot of adjustments to make. We operated mostly with Zoom Meetings and emails. We adjusted work hours for the chaplains and reworked our budgets, but it was possible to maintain the ministry. For this we thank God and celebrate!

Even the members of the local Baptist Churches who so faithfully support this ministry faced the challenges of not meeting in person or only while masked and physically separated. We anticipated that during the pandemic some local churches would have difficulty in continuing their previous level of financial support. And yet, your support has continued. We were pleasantly surprised at both year-end 2020 and year end 2021. In 2020, giving exceeded our reduced budget, which put us in a good position for 2021 when we returned to full ministry. 2021 ended the year with only a \$509 deficit. For your faithfulness we thank God and celebrate!

Other changes have also come. After starting as part-time Chaplain at the Victoria General and IWK Hospitals in January, 2008, the Rev. Adele Crowell took over as full-time Chaplain in 2011, expanding her ministry to include the QEII Infirmary site. Adele has continued as our full-time Chaplain since then and now ready for a well-deserved retirement. Her last day of work was June 2, 2022. Given ongoing COVID-19 concerns, the Hospital Chaplaincy Committee and Adele agreed to have only a small, by-invitation-only retirement celebration



on May 28, 2022. However, for those wishing to send greetings to Adele, we will be pleased to pass them along if you send them to the address at the top of page 1. For Adele's ministry we thank God and celebrate!



But this compassionate ministry will not end with Adele's retirement. Several months ago, when learning of Adele's plans, the Hospital Chaplaincy Committee engaged in a thorough review of the position, updated all the relevant documentation, including the position scope, responsibilities, qualifications and core competencies and undertook a complete re-write of the Personnel Manual for the Chaplain. We also established a Selection Committee, advertised and interviewed. Fortunately, God blessed us with an ideal candidate, well qualified and committed to chaplaincy. We are pleased to announce that the Rev. Joseph Green joined us as the full time Baptist Hospital Chaplain on June 6, 2022, working primarily at the QEII Halifax Infirmary site. In the fall there will be an Induction Service for Joe and we will send you details as plans are finalized. For Joe's coming to our ministry, we thank God and celebrate!

We are also blessed by the continuing ministry of the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse who will continue as our part-time Chaplain, working an average of 12 hours per week primarily at the QEII Victoria General site, the IWK Health Centre and the Nova Scotia Rehabilitation and Arthritis Centre. For Ida's continuing ministry we thank God and celebrate!



Our chaplains are always happy to have someone call them to say that a patient is coming to one of the Halifax hospitals. Contact information for the Chaplains is inside the enclosed brochure. If you would like more of the brochures, or an electronic copy to make your own copies or to post on your church web site, please drop us a line at the address at the top of page 1.

Please share this letter with your pastor, your deacons and your congregation so that they might also be aware of our changes and of our ongoing thanks for your prayerful and financial support of our Hospital Chaplaincy Ministry. For each of you we thank God and celebrate!

May God bless you in your local ministries.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Alan Barkhouse". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Alan Barkhouse, Chair

Members: the Rev. Marlene Knowles, the Rev. Pamela Estey and David Gibson

Chaplains: the Rev. Joe Green and the Rev. Dr. Ida Armstrong-Whitehouse