



# The St. David's Connection

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## MINISTER'S MESSAGE

### Happy Thanksgiving!

By Dr. Jonathan Dent

What? Isn't it a bit early to be talking about Thanksgiving? After all, it is barely Fall and October is still coming...but wait. I described to the congregation in the Summer that I was on a one man mission to increase the length of the Thanksgiving season.

I figured since Halloween costumes, candies, decorations and lights were beginning to appear in the stores this year in early August, I might be allowed to prolong Thanksgiving. While I do not encourage prolonging the dark holiday associated with death and horror, I do encourage making the Thanksgiving season as long as possible. So a number of us agreed that Thanksgiving should take place between the wild blueberry harvest here in Newfoundland starting in late August and continue up until the Monday in October that we usually celebrate with turkey and the trimmings.

I am thankful to God for arriving safely here with my family. I am thankful to the congregation and to the Session and Board for making sure we could be moved and travel here. We are thankful for the beautiful weather (at least the past ten weeks have been very nice, I have been here in other seasons). We are thankful for the kindness and concern of many of you for our settling in.

Settling in takes time, but we are getting used to our new home with Stacy at Gonzaga in grade 12 and Alexandra at MUN in her second year. God has been very gracious to Lynn and me as we have many relatives here in the city and long time friends.

In many ways, we have come home. And in the midst of being home, we now can take up the many challenges that face the Church in these days. I hope to work alongside many other churches and church leaders. I hope to bring creativity, music, technology, and fun to this wonderful place. I also will continue to visit, to care for those in crisis, to love and find adventure in many parts of this city and province.

We have friends at St. Andrew's and across the body of Christ in this place. I want to particularly thank God for (the Rev.) Dave Sutherland and his son Sandy Sutherland (soon to be the Rev.) for all that they have done here as Acting Moderator, Interim Moderator and Interim Minister, respectively. They have done much with you and helped in wonderful ways. Dave and Sandy will always be friends here. There is much more to say but I will leave it for another space and another time. Let us continue to look to God for our future together. *Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us, to him be glory in the church and in Christ Jesus throughout all generations, for ever and ever! Amen. (Ephesians 3:20)*



Reverend Dr. Jonathan and Lynn Dent



Matthew 18:13

“And if he finds it, I tell you the truth, he is happier about that one sheep than about the ninety-nine that did not wander off. “

Contents	Page
News from the Pews	2
Announcements	3
Refugee Committee	4
J. McLean Award	5
AMS & Bible Society	6
Tribute to Iain Bruce	7



## NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Congratulations are extended to Eric and Valerie Bullock who celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary September 7th, 2007.



As academic 'summer' came to an end, Cameron McKay, son of Donald & Kathy McKay, returned to McGill University and his final year of studies in the Master of Library and Information Science programme. That same week, his brother Neil, completed a Master's degree in Combinatoric Game Theory at Dalhousie University in Halifax. Neil will continue his studies at Dalhousie in pursuit of a Ph.D. in the same area of mathematics.

Ted and Darlene Thompson returned to St. John's to help prepare for the wedding of their elder son, Eric, to Shelley Dawe, formerly of Blaketown, NL. Thursday evening after the rehearsal, Kathy and Donald McKay hosted a supper for the wedding party and their significant others. The Reverend Mr. Thompson officiated at his son's wedding which was held at St. David's on Saturday afternoon, the 22nd of September. That night, a dessert reception was held in Blaketown. Later that weekend, Eric and Shelley Thompson left for New York City where they planned to spend some time before and after a honeymoon cruise to warmer parts of the world.

Eric's brother Duncan Thompson left St. John's late on Sunday evening headed for his home in Kingston, Ontario. Unlike other days when a late arrival would be a mere inconvenience, Duncan's Ph.D. comprehensive examination was scheduled for early Monday morning. Ted was pleased to report that Duncan successfully passed his examination and now can focus on completing his research in polymer engineering. Ted and Darlene safely returned to Uxbridge, Ontario where Ted is minister at St. Andrew's-Chalmers Presbyterian Church.

Heather Noseworthy, granddaughter of David & Elizabeth Thistle received her Bachelor of Nursing degree from the University of New Brunswick on May 17, 2007 and her RN in June. She is working in the Labour/Delivery Room at the hospital in Fredericton. On August 18, 2007, she married Danny Neville at First United Church in Corner Brook.

We are happy to report that Frances Steele is now comfortably settled in at Agnes Pratt Home, Topsail Road, St. John's.

Aubrey & Eleanor Bonnell were delighted to have visits from both sons and their families this summer. Steve, his wife Denise and their son, Evan arrived from Bangkok mid-July for a three week visit with their families. They have now moved to Jakarta, Indonesia where Steve is Managing Director of an international advertising firm. Scott, his wife Kaena and their son, York, arrived from New York City for a short visit while Steve and family were here. This was the first visit to Newfoundland for York, who was born on March 1, 2007. He was welcomed warmly by his Newfoundland relatives, and was happy to meet his only great-grandmother, Minnie Bonnell.

The Peaches had a full house for most of the summer! Lori and her children – Phoebe, Jack and Lily were here for six weeks. They also had David, Rebecca, Benjamin and newest granddaughter, Olivia Lana, born July 7, 2007. Jim, and his son Billy, also visited. Billy has been invited to attend Largo High School in Florida for his Grade 12 to play football. Billy's Mom and sister Mallory will spend the school year with him in Florida.

McLeans: Christine once again competed in the St. John's Regatta. Jackson completed the gold medal level of the Duke of Edinburgh award program while Emily successfully completed the bronze level.

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**The date of Thursday, November 1st, has been set for a Homecoming Event (Session sponsored) which will include a meal (6:00 P. M.) and entertainment. Admission is free! Invitations will be sent to everyone in the congregation. The distaff members of Session have formed an organizing committee but assistance will be needed from all Elders and their spouses for follow-up phone calls, provision of food, serving, cleanup, etc. Further details can be obtained from any of the female Elders, with final arrangements being confirmed at our October Session Meeting.**





**ANNOUNCEMENTS**

**BIRTHS/ BAPTISMS:**

Jayden Peter Brinson, son of Landen and Sarah (Ross) Brinson – Born October 28, 2006; baptized May 20, 2007.



**MARRIAGES:**

Jason William Howell and Elaine Cunningham – July 21, 2007

Eric William Thompson and Shelley Diane Dawe – September 22, 2007

**DEATHS:** Iain Anthony Fyvie Bruce – July 10, 2007 (tribute on p 7)



**Formal Induction for Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent Sept 16<sup>th</sup>, 2007**



**Award Announcement**

Special Awards 2006 - 2007 6/12/2007  
**DIANA JOHNSON AWARD** This award has been instituted by the Johnson Family in memory of Diana, a 1998 graduate of Gonzaga. The award is open to a Grade 11 or Grade 12 student. The award will consist of a certificate and perpetual plaque and a \$500.00 cash award. The family has guaranteed the award for a ten year period. This award is given to a student who has shown the greatest progress during the school year, in scholastic results and general personal improvement.

The winner is **Michael McKenzie**



**Recycling** – St. David's has an account at Evergreen Recycling if you'd like to donate your recyclable beverage containers! There are boxes in the church entrance for:

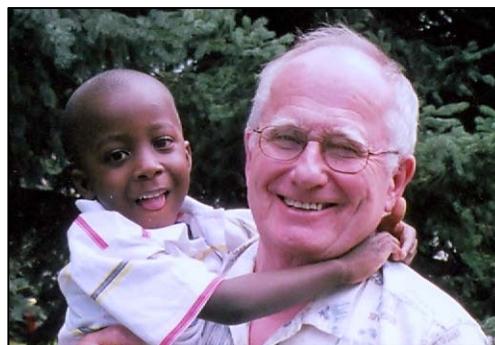
- **Grocery Tapes** – Dominion or Sobeys cash register tapes (used for fruit baskets and food hampers at Christmas)!
- **Magazines** – Distributed by volunteers to the library at H. M. Penitentiary
- **Canadian Tire Money** – Used to purchase small maintenance items, such as light bulbs, batteries, etc.
- **Bridges to Hope** – Items for their Food Bank and toys for their Toy Lending Library!





**News from the Refugee Ministries Committee**

John and Viola Duff were glad to be able to have a visit with Leo Massaquoi and his family in Winnipeg as we were travelling west in July towards a family reunion in Saskatchewan. Leo and Esther kindly invited us for lunch, and collaborated with Leo's Mom and sister Melrose to prepare and serve a very special and delicious feast. They gave us a beautiful multi-colored African bedspread and pillowcases that we will treasure as a remembrance of our friendship. They wanted to express thanks and send warm greetings to members of the St. David's committee and people of the congregation for all that became possible as we worked together to reunite this family in Canada. Leo, Esther, and Kugbe were living with Leo's mother in Winnipeg. Kugbe is chattering in English and definitely an active and growing boy, full of smiles and generous with hugs. Esther Banda has been working about 30 hours a week as a nurse's aide, and preparing for the next opportunity to take the English test that is pre-requisite to her writing her Canadian RN's. While we were talking to Esther, we mentioned that we had been reading a book: Ishmael Beah, *A Long Way Gone: Memoirs of a Boy Soldier*. The author tells the story of his experience in the civil war in Sierra Leone, having to flee his home and family and eventually being recruited as a child soldier by government forces, and then rescued from that role by UNICEF and brought to a rehabilitation centre. He mentions that a kind and patient nurse, named Esther, had tried to help the boys be healed of their many physical and emotional wounds. We thought it quite a coincidence that the nurse in the story was named Esther, and were astounded when Esther told us that she was that nurse, and that the author had been in touch with her and given her a copy of the book. After her time working in the rehabilitation centre, she went on to help her people by working in the refugee camp in the Gambia, where she met Leo. What patience and humility she must have, having played such an outstanding role as a member of the nursing profession in Sierra Leone, and the Gambia, working through the snail-like process of qualifying herself to practice her profession in Canada. Leo completed his



Master's degree in Education -- Counseling Psychology -- at the end of April, and at the time of our visit was actively engaged in the search for a position in his chosen specialty. Let's continue to remember this family in our prayers. The extended Colombian family our committee had been working with, Juan Lopez, Ana Meneses, and four of their adult children together with spouses and families, decided to move to Calgary late last year. We are glad to report that the Rev. Murdo Marple, minister of Knox Presbyterian Church in Calgary, has met with the family and will continue the work of helping them find a way to bring Soraida Lopez, her husband, human rights worker Ivan Madero, and their two children, to Canada from Spain, the country of refuge that had been afforded them on an urgent basis when they were in great danger in Colombia. Please remember these friends in your prayers also.

**BRIDGES TO HOPE**



One of the ways St. David's supports the work of Bridges to Hope Food Aid Centre is contributing non-perishable food items. A box for that purpose is located at the entrance to the Church and everyone is encouraged to bring items each Sunday. The food is picked up during the following week.

If you are wondering what you can contribute/bring, Bridges to Hope have suggested that, for 2007, St. David's people provide items from the following list Peanut butter, jam, baking supplies, (baking powder, baking soda, cake mixes, pancake mix, other baking items – no flour please), personal care items such as soap, toilet tissue, toothpaste, etc. Any other non-perishable food items are always welcome but Bridges to Hope has come to rely on the items on the suggested list being provided by St. David's. Bridges to Hope is most appreciative of the continued support of St. David's.



## Synapse award for Dr. John McLean

Dr. John H. McLean, professor of anatomy and neuroscience at Memorial University, is the first person to receive the Canadian Institutes of Health Research (CIHR) Synapse Award – Individual Researcher. The award, which is worth \$5,000, recognizes the efforts of a health researcher who has made exceptional efforts to promote health research among Canada's high school students. Through mentorship, the winner regularly motivates youth to consider both the value of health research as well as career opportunities that exist within various scientific fields. The winner is nominated by someone who understands his/her direct scientific contributions to young people, and is chosen by the members of the CIHR Youth Outreach Advisory Board. Dr. McLean has encouraged youth to develop an interest in neuroscience through the organization of two primary competitions: Brain Storm and Brain Art. As an oral challenge, Brain Storm tests a student's knowledge of facts related to the brain. Brain Art acts as an artistic challenge and allows a student to creatively represent the brain using hand-drawn paint or ink. "All health researchers should get involved in generating interest in science amongst young Canadians," says Dr. Alan Bernstein, President of CIHR. "Dr. McLean's direct, personal engagement has inspired graduate students to act as scientific mentors and encouraged high school students to consider health research as a career possibility. Conveying the exciting benefits of health research is essential if we are going to awaken young people to the potential for science to change their lives." CIHR's Synapse – Youth Connection initiative acts as a meeting place, a scientific junction that brings together health researchers and young students. More than 2,000 CIHR-funded health researchers from across the country have already signed up to become CIHR Synapse mentors. Synapse, in collaborative partnership with national science outreach organizations, connects these mentors with high school students through hands-on training experience that will help create the next generation of Canadian health researchers. "Dr. McLean is a wonderful example of a basic scientist who reaches outside the laboratory to spread knowledge and enthusiasm about his area of expertise," said Dr. James Rourke, dean of Medicine at Memorial University. "For the last seven years he has volunteered his time to get local high school students excited about the brain. Under his guidance, the Brain Storm competition has grown from the first small event with seven students from two high schools to this year's province-wide event. As well as encouraging high school students, Dr. McLean also encourages graduate students in neuroscience to channel their energy into this worthwhile outreach event."



### Editors Footnote:

*I looked up Synapse and . . .*

*"Synapses allow nerve cells to communicate with one another through axons and dendrites, converting electrical impulses into chemical signals."*

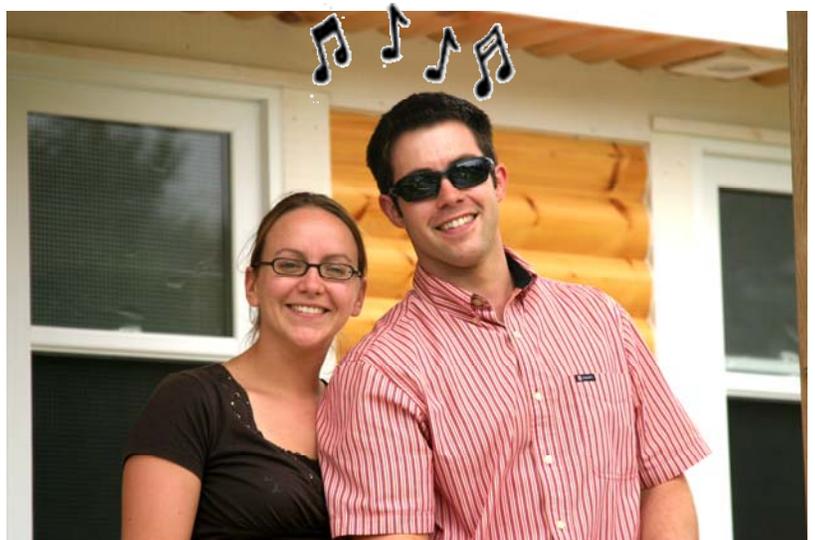
*hokey dokey?*

**Congratulations John, Well Done!**

## St. David's Choir Notes

### Welcome In music and faith,

After our usual summer hiatus, St. David's Choir is now back in session for the Fall season. With Thanksgiving being only weeks away and Advent just around the corner, the choir is busily preparing for a new season of song. We always welcome new members to the group, so please do not hesitate to join us for weekly fellowship and music making. The Choir rehearses every Thursday evening at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in joining please contact Mike Fisher (368-3046 or [mike.d.fisher@gmail.com](mailto:mike.d.fisher@gmail.com)) or any member of the choir. **Mike Fisher**





### Canadian Bible Society, NL District

At the Annual General Meeting of the NL District of the Canadian Bible Society in April, Sylvia Hudson was named to the Board of Directors for a 2- year term. Sylvia is also St. David's congregational representative to the NL District of the Canadian Bible Society. Also, in June, Reverend John Duff assumed the responsibility of Chairman of the Board of Directors of the NL District of the C.B.S. St. David's is pleased to support the work of this organization and it is noted that the NL District is one of the oldest members of the Society dating back to the 1800s.

Annual Meeting

### Atlantic Mission Society

September 21 -23, 2007

Saint John, New Brunswick

Four delegates from the Newfoundland Presbyterial had the privilege of attending the Annual Meeting of the AMS General Society - two from St Andrews, Jennifer Whitfield and Judy Pinksen, and two from St David's, Lillian Crawford and Sheena Findlay. Apart from some travel hiccups due to fog in Halifax, we had a great time of learning, business, and fellowship.

We had an excellent Friday evening of music ministry from Rev. Glen Soderholm which really set the atmosphere for our conference theme, "Rejoicing with the Saints". Saturday was a mixture of working on the business of AMS, an interesting talk given by the Rev. Dr. Ron Wallace from International Ministries on the changing response of the Presbyterian Church in Canada to a changing world situation, and then an evening dinner with much laughter and relaxing music by a definitely "Sixties" revival group, led by the son of our retiring president. Sunday saw us in morning worship with Dr.Wallace preaching from his experiences in India, before our departure.

The meeting was hosted jointly by auxiliaries from the three Presbyterian congregations in Saint John, with events held at each of the three churches, namely St. Columba (meetings), St. Stephen and St. John (banquet), and St. Matthew's (Sunday worship service). For all of us it was a refreshing 'time out' and a good opportunity to exchange ideas with people from other AMS auxiliaries in Atlantic Canada.



#### RECIPE FOR SCRIPTURE CAKE

- | 4-1/2 c. flour *I Kings 4:22*
- | 2 c. sugar *Jeremiah 6:20*
- | 2 c. chopped figs *Solomon 2:13*
- | 2 Tbsp. honey *Judges 14:8*
- | 6 eggs *Isaiah 10:14*
- | 2 tsp. baking powder *I Corinthians 5:6*
- | 4 tsp. cinnamon
- | 1-1/2 c. butter *Psalms 55:21*
- | 2 c. raisins *II Samuel 16:1*
- | Pinch salt *Luke 14:34*
- | 1/2 c. milk *Judges 14:8*
- | 2 tsp. allspice *Chronicles 9:9*
- | 2 c. almonds *Numbers 17:8*



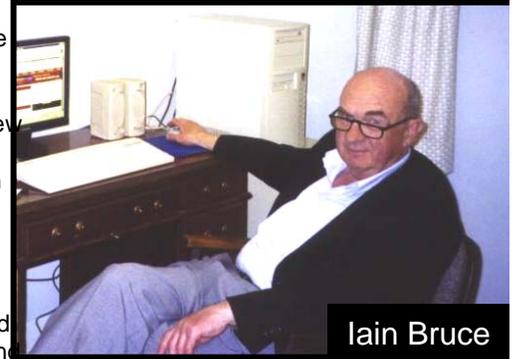
Method: After following directions in *Proverbs 23:14*, pour batter into well greased loaf pan. Bake at 325 degrees for 50 minutes. Cool and slice.

**Interpreted:** Cream butter and sugar, beat in eggs one at a time, add flour, baking powder and salt. Mix altogether with milk. Stir in honey, add spices. Stir until well blended. Add raisins, figs and almonds. Pour in loaf pan and bake. Cool, slice, keeps well in fridge and freezer.



## Tribute to Iain Bruce by John Widdowson

We are here today to celebrate the life of Iain Bruce—a full life, and a life fulfilled, a life of dedication to his academic profession, of which he and his family can certainly be justly proud. Born 70 years ago in Edinburgh, he moved with his family to my home town of Sheffield, where in 1947 his father was appointed Lecturer in Charge of the new department of Biblical History and Literature, and became the first Professor of the subject there in 1955. Following his education at King Edward VII Grammar School in the city, Iain went up to Gonville and Caius College Cambridge, graduating with a BA with Honours in Classics in 1958, and an MA in 1962. He then moved on to the University of Sheffield, completing his Diploma in Education in 1959, and his Ph.D. in 1963. It so happened that his future wife, Pam, was also completing her Diploma in Education in 1959. They met, and moved to the south coast where Iain was appointed an Assistant Master at Worthing High School for Boys. They were married in 1960, and Iain continued with his Ph.D. research while working full time as a teacher.



Iain Bruce

In 1963 they came to Newfoundland when Iain was appointed Assistant Professor of Classics. He was promoted to Associate Professor in 1968, a post crosslisted with History in 1969, becoming Professor in 1974, and ultimately Head of the Department of Classics from 2000 until his retirement in 2002.

I first came to know Iain when he was the Secretary of the Senate at Memorial University—an unenviable responsibility which he shouldered with typical calmness, efficiency, and a due sense of propriety, having taken over the position from the former Head of the Department of Classics, Jack Ashley. His experience of university affairs and administration during his Secretaryship—at a time when the number of teaching staff in the University and the Senate was so small that everyone knew each other, whatever department they were in—proved to be an excellent grounding for his later administrative work in the Faculty of Arts, the University, and the wider community. He was appointed Assistant Dean of Arts in 1971, and as Acting Dean in 1972. He became Dean of Arts in 1974 and served in that onerous position until 1983. Although he never actually sought this appointment, it was one in which he excelled, bringing to bear all his knowledge, skills, and experience in facing up to the formidable challenges of this demanding post. His balanced and objective approach in weighing opposing views in difficult situations was allied with a strong ethical stance, an unwavering sense of fairness and justice in decision making, an essential humanity, and quietly persuasive diplomacy in the negotiation process.

Iain Bruce dedicated most of his working life to the service of Memorial University, both as a respected teacher and an exceptional administrator. Over the years his many colleagues and countless students have benefitted from his advice, encouragement and support. His many publications, and the remarkable variety of courses he taught, span an extraordinarily wide range of classical and historical topics. He was a member of the Classical Association, the Society for the Promotion of Hellenic Studies, the Cambridge Philological Society, and the Classical Association of Canada, serving for several years on the Association's Council. He was elected to the Senate in 1969 and remained a member for some 14 years. During his long career at Memorial he served on some 40 committees, around half of which he chaired.

His administrative experience and his renowned talents as a negotiator led to a parallel career path in the public sphere in the field of arbitration. From 1977 he was a member of the Newfoundland and Labrador Panel of Labour Arbitration Board Chairmen, and presided over no fewer than 168 arbitrations across the province.

But there is of course another Iain, the devoted husband, father, and grandfather, the man his family know and love. The man, too, whose dry sense of humour was matched by his warm and ready smile and the infectious laugh which lit up the room and put everyone at ease. And how he loved sport, and especially soccer. He enjoyed playing football himself in his younger days—just imagine for a moment Iain as a goalkeeper! He was a keen Manchester United supporter, and still a fan, like me, of Sheffield United. And of course he enjoyed watching the teams in the Scottish Cup and following their progress each season. He liked baseball too, and, as his grandson Stuart knows, there is still a cricket bat in the house from the days when they played cricket together. But one of Iain's best kept secrets is that he was a Cambridge Blue in the sport of water polo. When he was younger he spent many enjoyable days at his grandfather's farm in Scotland and, after he came to Newfoundland, one of his hobbies was his interest in aeroplanes and aviation—a relaxing contrast to the pressures of his everyday work.

Iain will be remembered by all who knew him as a quiet, somewhat reserved, and modest man, scrupulously fair and honest in his dealings with others—a man of great personal integrity, clear-sightedness, and sound judgement. Throughout his long career at Memorial, he always had the best interests of his department, the faculty and the university at heart—all of which he served so faithfully for so many years.

Thanks to the medical assistance he received, and to the unflinching support of his wife and family, Iain was able to be with us for six whole years after the onset of his illness—an illness which he faced with characteristic calm and fortitude—determined to make the most of each day as it came in spite of the inevitable reduction in his quality of life, especially during recent months.

We shall all remember him as a man of principle, of patience, and understanding—a congenial colleague who was always ready to help and advise. We shall think of him with both admiration and affection, and for me he will be, as he always was, a true friend.

I am sure that I speak for all who knew him, in saying that our thoughts and prayers are with Pam, with Helen and Peter and their families, and with each and every member of Iain's family, including his sister, Sheila in Australia, and others who are unable to be with us, in the hope that, with the support of their friends and colleagues gathered here today, they will draw strength from Iain's life and achievements, and from the assurance that he will live on in his children and grandchildren, and in the memories of all who were privileged to know him.



In May 2007, Shirley (Chancey) Fraize completed a three-year term as Provincial President of the Women's Institute. Shirley, acting as Delegation Leader, with four other voting delegates and one non-voting person (Margaret), travelled to the 2007 International Conference for WI in Turku, Finland. Following the Conference, Margaret and Shirley, together with their husbands, traveled to a number of countries in Europe, details of which are contained in the following article.

TRIP TO EUROPE

We set out on our big adventure on May 30th - leaving for London via Halifax, and then on to Finland via British Airways. We had a short stop in Helsinki on our way to the ancient city of Turku where we spent the next two weeks.



FINLAND Turku is the oldest city in Finland, having recently celebrated its 775th anniversary. Political equality has been a reality since 1906 when Finland became the first city in Europe to grant women the right to both suffrage and to be electoral candidates. Last year they celebrated 100 years of having this right! The country is led by the first woman president, and eight of the eighteen ministers in the current government are women.



In Turku there is an 800 year old castle which, together with the brick cathedral and the craftsmen settlement of Luostarinmaki, were the only buildings saved when fire raged through the historic city in 1827. Half an hour drive from Turku, we visited the beautiful seaside resort of Naantali. The town owes its birth to the building of the convent of St. Brigitta in 1443. Unfortunately, the convent and church were closed when we visited, but we were able to visit the President of Finland's summer residence called Kulturanta, and its beautiful gardens.

ENGLAND On June 13th we left Turku to arrive once again in London, where we toured the City on a hop-on, hop-off bus and visited the sites of Trafalgar Square, Houses of Parliament, The London Eye, Tower Bridge, Westminster Abbey, Buckingham Palace and the other normal attractions. In the evening we went to see the play "Les Miserables" and enjoyed a dinner cruise on the Thames.



BELGIUM We left London and headed to "the White Cliffs of Dover" where we boarded a ferry across the English channel to Calais, France and then on to Brussels, Belgium, where we enjoyed the sights of that famous City where many world meetings have been held.

GERMANY We traveled on to Germany where we boarded a steamer for a leisurely cruise up the mighty Rhine. What a beautiful day it was - brilliant sunshine. We spent the whole afternoon on deck admiring the sights on shore - the numerous hilltop castles, half-timbered wine villages and terraced vineyards. We ended the cruise at the legendary Lorelei Rock. After leaving the boat, we traveled on to the lovely town of Boppard.



This town is largely responsible for the Lorelei Valley being awarded world cultural heritage status by UNESCO in 2002. From here we traveled on to Wurzburg, a baroque city famed for its cathedral, bridges, palace and gardens. After Wurzburg, we stopped in Nuremberg - once Germany's most beautiful city - an ancient city still showing its medieval walls with rampart walks and an 11th century castle. Much later Nuremberg was famous for its 1945 trials of the Nazi leaders and war criminals. Here, also, was a monument surrounded by a gate with a ring of steel attached. It is said this ring has no beginning and no ending and will bring good luck to anyone who touches it.

We are now expecting future good luck! We then made a short stop in Pilsen, the world's beer capital and continued on to Prague, the capital of the Czech Republic. We knew this area as Czechoslovakia, but now has been split into two Republics. We also had to change our currency here as they use the Crown. Prague is a beautiful city with its Gothic and baroque architecture. Here we visited such landmarks as the National Theatre, Charles Bridge and the old Town Hall with the Astronomical Clock. We were also shown a Jewish church where the names of the victims of the prison camps are inscribed. In the evening we visited the Strahov monastery where we enjoyed a spectacular view over the whole of Prague and the Moldau River. We then continued on to a typical Czech Pub where the famous Prague dark beer was served. Our evening ended at the Krizikova Fountains, a well-known outdoor spectacle where the fountains and the sound of the cascading water is synchronized with music and lights. We were spellbound by this sight! There is also a Skoda car factory in Prague and there were lots of them around the City!



AUSTRIA. In Vienna we visited the State Opera, Parliament, and the Town Hall. We strolled through Heroes' Square to view the Hofburg and St. Stephen's Cathedral. In the evening we passed by the Schonbrunn Palace where Barbra Streisand was performing, but we were on our way to the famous Kursalon one of the birthplaces of the Viennese Waltz. This was a performance by a thirteen piece orchestra and operetta singers performing a programme of some of the most famous melodies of the Strauss family, including the Blue Danube Waltz. Free champagne (or orange juice!) was served during the intermission.



ITALY. The next day we left for Venice, visiting Velden in the lakeland area of Worthesee. I love Venice! We enjoyed an evening boat ride along the Giudecca Canal seeing the Bridge of Sighs, which links the Doges' Palace to the prison, St. Mark's Basilica and other landmarks lit up. We walked to St. Mark's Square before dinner at one of the many restaurants in the Square. We returned again the next day, but it was hot with crowds of people enjoying the area and making purchases from the many vendors. Also, the numerous pigeons had returned! During the five days we spent in Italy, the temperature hovered around the 38 degree mark.



(tour continued)





### TRIP TO EUROPE (continued)

The gondola rides were welcomed and there was a side trip to the picturesque fishing island of Burano. You can see the lacemakers at work and who can resist the tablecloths. We went for a walk in the many side "streets" and spent some time in the large park at the very end of Venice. There are 118 islands in the lagoon, and there are 200 canals and 400 bridges. It seemed like we crossed them all on our way to the park! This is where the luxurious yachts were anchored and we were in awe of the size of them. We were told that Venice is sinking (or the tides are rising) and the Cathedral in the Square is flooded numerous times each year. We also visited a Venetian glassblower who demonstrated the art and, of course, purchases were made! Who can resist the beautiful work!

Then on to Rome. We had a local guide as we toured the Roman Forum and the Colosseum. There was a person at the very top of the Colosseum protesting some cause which we later learned was the high cost of apartments in Rome. I don't know how he expected us to read his sign, he was barely a tiny figure to those below. We also toured the Vatican Museums to see the priceless art and tapestry gallery, before seeing Michelangelo's amazing ceiling in the Sistine Chapel. We walked the Spanish Steps and, of course, threw our three coins in the Trevi Fountain so that we would some day return to Rome. We were in St. Peter's Square at 12:00 noon on Sunday and were among those blessed by the Pope when he appeared in the window of his apartment overlooking the Square.

Then on to Florence where we had a local guide outlining the local highlights: the Piazza Santa Croce, Piazza Signoria, the Palazzo Vecchio and the Piazza del Duomo and its cathedral with the Giotto Campanile and the magnificent East Door of the Baptistry known as the "Gate to Paradise." We also visited a leather factory in Florence, where the claim was that "this is the place to buy leather!"

**SWITZERLAND:** We traveled to the Italian-speaking side of Lugano and took a break to stroll along the lakeside promenade and then climbed toward the St. Gotthard tunnel to emerge on the German speaking side of Switzerland to Lucerne. This is a beautiful city amid its snow-capped Alps surrounded by the beautiful Lake Lucerne. Here is Chapel Bridge, a beautiful covered wooden bridge, over which we strolled to the beautiful Jesuit Church. While we were there, a movie was being filmed on the shore and we viewed the whole thing from the covered bridge. We also visited the Lion Monument - a sculpture of a dying lion hewn out of a limestone cliff to commemorate those heroic Swiss Guards of Louis XVI, who died at the Battle of the Tuileries. There was also a cable car ride to 10,000 foot summit of Mount Titlis (foggy at the top!), but we enjoyed the cruise on the fjord-like lake and, of course, one friend we met purchased a Swiss watch for his son, which the whole family took turns wearing!



**FRANCE:** The next country we visited was France and, of course, Paris. The traffic was crazy, with cars, motor bikes, and scooters everywhere! We saw the local sights, the Eiffel Tower, the Sorbonne, Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysees. We did not visit the Moulon Rouge during this visit having been before, but opted for a nighttime tour of Paris.



We left Paris by train to travel to Amiens, France. We used this beautiful small town with its beautiful cathedrals as our base for the next few days. Amiens Notre Dame Cathedral is France's largest Gothic edifice at 145 metres long and 70 metres wide and has the loftiest nave in France. It could hold two cathedrals the size of Notre Dame de Paris and was listed as UNESCO's Word Heritage Site in 1981 for its outstanding architecture. We rented a car and followed our map to **Beaumont Hamel** for the July 1st Ceremony. This was an emotional experience as we toured the trenches and graves and stood by the "Danger Tree." It was an experience to view the Caribou monument high on the hill, where the ceremony was held, said to face the Caribou in Bowring Park in St. John's. The Director of Beaumont Hamel is the sister of a friend of mine and it was very impressive to see her direct the proceedings. After the ceremony and the wreaths were laid, we attended a reception. The next day we traveled to **Vimy Ridge** to visit the visitors' centre, the trenches, and the graves. It was amazing to see the short space between the German and Canadian Trenches. We also visited the newly restored Canadian National Monument. This Memorial was originally dedicated on in 1936 by King Edward VIII and rededicated by Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II in April 2007. The Vimy Memorial bears the names of some 11,285 Canadian Soldiers, who were posted as "Missing or presumed dead" in France during World War I. As we read the names we were caught in a rain storm and got soaked to the skin in the downpour!

Finally, we traveled back to Paris for our return flight to London and home. However, we were delayed in Paris due to being unable to travel to Terminal 4 at Heathrow due to the car bombings in London. We were able to fly out of Paris a day later and were glad to return to St. John's after just over five weeks "on the road."

It was a wonderful trip, but the highlight, of course, was the time spent at Beaumont Hamel and Vimy Ridge!

Vimy  
Monument

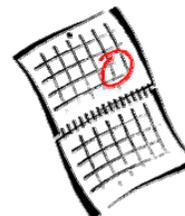


Caribou  
memorial  
Beaumont  
Hamel

**NOTICE**

**Calendar of Events:**

- Sunday, October 7, 2007 – Holy Communion – 9 AM & 11 AM
- Monday, October 8, 2007 – Intersivarsity Christian Fellowship Thanksgiving Dinner for international students
- Tuesday, October 9, 2007 – AMS Meeting – 7:30 P. M.
- Tuesday, October 23, 2007 – Session Meeting
- Tuesday, October 30, 2007 – W. A. Meeting
- Saturday, November 17, 2007 – W. A. Afternoon Tea & Sale
- Sunday, December 2, 2007 – Choir Brunch

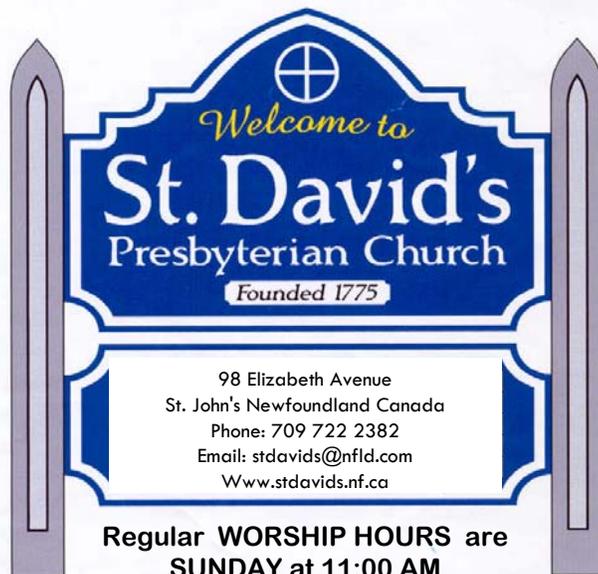


Weekly scheduled activities:

- Thursday 2:00 P. M. – Good Companions
- 7:30 P. M. – Choir Practice
- Friday – 12:00 Noon – Bible Study

**Good Companions**

Senior members of the community are invited to meet other seniors at St. David's Church, Elizabeth Avenue on Thursday afternoons. The Good Companions welcome anyone interested in carpet bowling, bridge and cards for friendship and fellowship. Refreshments are served and transportation can be arranged if living in town for a weekly fee of \$1. For more information contact Kathleen Scott at 753-5925 or cell 341 - 0224.



We encourage you to view the Newsletter in color on the St. David's website.

[www.stdavids.nf.ca](http://www.stdavids.nf.ca)

In addition, sermons and bulletins are posted regularly

The editorial committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items to this edition of our St. David's Connection newsletter. Please feel free to drop items or notes off any time to members of the newsletter committee listed, or, leave them in the church mailbox.

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