



Summer

Quarterly Newsletter - Summer, 2007

www.stdavids.nf.ca

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The St. David's Connection

Minister's Message

We only ever get to where we need to be with the help that God gives us. Thank you all for being an important part of that help.

When I arrived here some five months ago I was in the midst of working through the final steps to ordination and call within the Presbyterian Church in Canada. I can now happily inform you that as of May 24th 2007 I have been certified by the Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg and will be receiving the diploma of the College and can now seek a call to a church!



Though I would very much like to tell you where I will go from here, today I cannot tell you where this will be. I do assure you that in as much as God has placed me here in His grace, I will go to the church of God's calling with the same assurance at heart that God's provision is sure, and fulfilling. My time in ministry with you has been this, and more than I could have ever expected. You are an encouraging people, who welcome the gifts of many people from many walks of life. As you have accepted me into your service so I have also witnessed the wonderful way that you welcome others in the hospitality that defines your faith as well as your place in the culture of this region.

In these past few months we have experienced some growth in fellowship and in understanding. I think fondly back to our Easter celebrations and the joy and wonder of the Presbyterians of this city gathering at the Lord's Table together, in sharing a meal and a tremendous fellowship. It has been my ongoing goal in preaching, visiting, and casual conversation to be a reminder that each person who has been given the gift of faith in Christ has a part to play in the sharing of that faith with others. The stewardship of this congregation, to itself and its larger community, is something that has blossomed in past years and seasons and has all the potential to bloom in the years to come. It can never be what it was, but in God's grace it can be better.

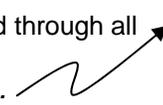
But there are challenges ahead, certainly. As Rev. Dent is faced with the challenges of beginning a ministry here, so you are faced with challenges in bringing him here and receiving him in that ministry. Right now you stand on a plain of mutual anticipation and angst; not all that unlike the time that came before each of your ministers first arrived, or when you first came to be a part of this congregation, began a new program, engaged in outreach in this community, or started a new project. We are faced with challenges like these because 'it builds character', and the character of every Christian is faith.

The *actual* faith of a Christian does not come simply by listening to the right sermons, reading the right devotions, being involved in the right groups, or the right programs, but by taking everything that you hear and learn in the fellowship of this congregation and applying it in your *actual* life. Sometimes we cannot know where our next step will take us, but we press on with faith in God. There are times when the tasks seem too big, or too full of unknowns, but we press on.

May God ever bless and keep you on your journey, in your growth in faith, and through all the challenges and joys you will encounter along the way.

Alexander D. (Sandy) Sutherland

personal note next page . . .



"Now learn this lesson from the fig tree: As soon as its twigs get tender and its leaves come out, you know that summer is near."

Matthew 24:32

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A note from Alexander D. (Sandy) Sutherland

This May marks an interesting anniversary for me as a minister of the Church. It has been twenty-nine years since I was first in the pulpit. I have the photos to prove it.

In May of 1978 Rev. David Sutherland and his wife Irma lived and served at St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church in Grand Falls, Newfoundland. Over the previous winter they welcomed their first child, a son, who was adored by them and the congregation there.

I guess they just wanted me to try it on for size. It fit [I just was not too aware of it then].

On May 13th of this year I preached at St. Matthew's. The pulpit still fit, and this time I had the awareness of it.

Though there have been many moments in my life that have directed me to now seek ordination and call within the Presbyterian Church in Canada, it can be said that the roots of God's ministry in me were watered first at St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church and by the Presbytery of Newfoundland.

I thank you for the prayers and support over these many years



On Thursday, 24 June, Sandy Sutherland received the good news that the Presbytery of Halifax-Lunenburg had re-certified him as a candidate for the ministry. Some weeks earlier, Presbyterian College in Montreal had granted Sandy its diploma conditional on this re-certification. What this means is that he can now send his credentials to churches that are seeking a minister.

What remains for Sandy is an examination by his home Presbytery, likely in early July. If he passes, he can accept a call and be ordained. After this is done, we will have to address him as the Reverend Alexander [Sandy] D. Sutherland. Congratulations Sandy. The congregation prays that God will bless your ministry.

Dr. A.A. den Otter

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

John and Claire Martin celebrated two great events in April. They were joined in Costa Rica by son Richard from Ottawa and daughter Jennifer, husband Kim and two children from Toronto, to see son Christopher joined in marriage to Dana Lee Friend. The ceremony took place on the beach in the rain! Nothing could dampen the welcome of the Martins to Dana. We hope the Magistrate is right when he said it was a very good sign to have tears and rain at a wedding. Christopher and Dana had both!



Picture: L-R: Richard, Dana Lee, Christopher, Jennifer

The second celebration was for John's 85th birthday.

He felt truly blessed to have his children and grandchildren around him for this happy occasion.

Dana and Christopher live in Morgantown, West Virginia where Christopher is an associate Professor of Medicine at W.V.U. and Dana teaches Nursing and is working toward a Nurse Practitioner degree.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

FLOWER SERVICES

Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Extension - Monday, July 9th - 7:00 P. M.

General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road – Monday, August 6th – 7:00 P. M.

In the event of inclement weather, the services will be moved ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.

This applies to both services.

Baptism– Jayden Peter Brinson, son of Landen & Sarah Brinson. – May 20, 2007

Death - Amelia (Millie) Forsey Hood – April 15, 2007

LOOKING AHEAD

.....to July 15, 2007
Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent
will conduct his first
service as our minister!



MISSION CAPSULE TAIWAN

Our gifts to *Presbyterians Sharing ...*
support Louise Gamble as she works in partnership
with the Presbyterian Church of Taiwan as an English
Teacher at the Presbyterian Bible College in Hsinchu.
Louise began her work in September of 2006.



After two rather hectic months, April and May, **St. David's Women's Auxiliary** is winding down another successful year, its last event being the "Theme Tea" on May 26, 2007. The Annual Flipper Dinner on April 26th was hailed as "the best ever" with a capacity crowd enjoying the traditional Newfoundland delicacy. Likewise, the Garage Sale on May 12th proved once again that "one man's cast-off is another man's treasure". While these and several smaller fundraisers allow the W. A. to make a substantial contribution to St. David's coffers annually, the fun and fellowship shared while working together carries no price tag and could not happen without the co-operation and generous support of the whole St. David's congregation. Thank you!

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY

Earlier this year, St. David's AMS started a Prayer Shawl Ministry. Approximately ten women participate by either knitting or crocheting prayer shawls to be distributed to anyone who might derive comfort from these articles. Once a month, some of the women meet to review progress and suggest names of persons to whom a shawl could be given. Others knit or crochet at home. As of early May, three shawls had been delivered, six were on hand, with that number expected to double before the end of summer.

If you would like to join the group, suggest a name of someone who would appreciate such a shawl or make a contribution to the cost of supplies, please contact Bouwina Fogwill at 726-453



In addition to your regular church offerings, there are several other ways you can support outreach projects at St. David's:

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 Sobey's 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 (peanut butter, jam, baking supplies) for their Food Bank and toys for their Toy Lending Library!



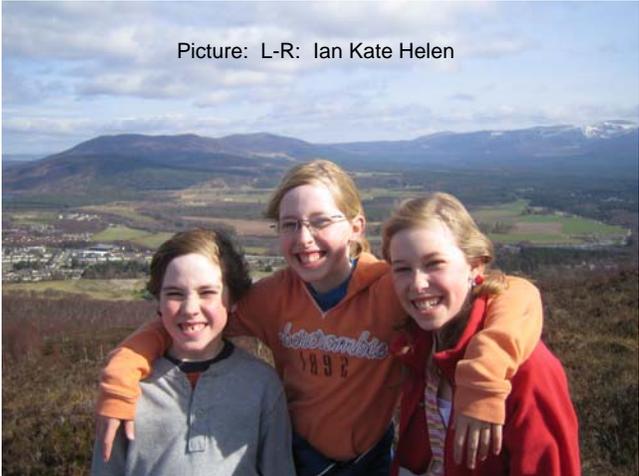
They broke out the fatted Haggis !

As noted in the Spring Newsletter, my daughter April (Kennedy) and I visited Scotland over Easter to join in a Clan Cumming family re-union to celebrate my much, much older brother David's 80th birthday and to visit my daughter Jane, husband Rob, and the grand children, Kate, Helen and Ian (the Stenekers) who moved to Aberdeen last August.

The "Clan Gathering" was a memorable affair, so much so that plans are well underway to repeat the performance for his 90th!!

On the drive up to Aberdeen, I spent three days with Christina Baird (now Duncan) and her husband Ian, at their farm just north of Dundee. Christina is looking very well has clearly adjusted to the life of a "Gentleman Farmer's" wife. She has become very much involved in the "local scene" and she was soon to be ordained as an Elder in the village church and I was sorry that I could not be there to share the joy of that experience with her. Christina asked me to pass on her best wishes to all her many friends at St. David's, especially the choir.

Jane, Rob and the grand-kids are now well established in a lovely home in the village of Kingswells, just west of Aberdeen and although they miss family and friends here in Newfoundland, they seem to have adjusted very well and Jane, as you might expect, has involved herself in many church and village groups. The children all attend the International School in Aberdeen and are rubbing shoulders with children from all over the world. The school held a "Nations Day" where the children marched behind their respective country's flag and there were 40 flags flying! The children from each country also chose a song that best represented their particular country to be sung in class. You'll never guess the one chosen for Canada " I'se da Bye" Jane said she didn't know whether to laugh or cry, so she did both!! Thankfully, she wasn't asked to explain " maggoty fish" to Ian's class.



Picture: L-R: Ian Kate Helen



All in all, it was a wonderful visit. By the way, if any of you are thinking of visiting Britain in the near future, take plenty of money!

Regards, Hugh Cumming

Hugh Enthusiastically Receives Sunday School Attendance Certificate on Presentation Sunday.

Community Mediation Services



Melody & Scott Morton-Ninomiya
Tel. (709) 722-5040 Fax. (709) 722-5035
E-mail: cms@nfld.net Website: www.cmservices.org



Address to a Haggis
by Robert Burns

Ye Pow'rs, wha mak mankind your care,
And dish them out their bill o fare,
Auld Scotland wants nae skinking ware
That jaups in luggies:
But, if ye wish her gratefu prayer,
Gie hugh a Haggis!



**Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador
Newfoundland and Labrador Book Awards**



***Vikings to U-Boats: The German Experience
in Newfoundland and Labrador***

By Gerhard P. Bassler



Gerhard Bassler's original work succeeds in dispelling what he calls the myth of Newfoundland and Labrador's purely British heritage. He does it with a tone of regret for what might have been, if not for two World Wars. It was German-speaking Moravian missionaries in Labrador who first created a written form for Inuktitut. German technology imported from Lunenburg influenced dory design in Newfoundland. Roman Catholic Bishop Fleming went to Hamburg to find an architect for his new Basilica in St. John's.

There were many more cultural and commercial contributions but Bassler points out that in this "closed society," Germans were always regarded as foreign. That is, until the events of two wars made things worse. Germans, even those who had done missionary service in Labrador for decades, were classed as potentially dangerous enemy aliens. The cloud of suspicion caused government authorities to deny Jewish refugees fleeing the Third Reich safe haven in Newfoundland. They had the same enemy, but they were too German to be welcome here.

Bassler describes a small but vibrant German community, doing business, marrying, holding public office, and now gone. What lingers in Newfoundland is a stereotype created by wartime propaganda and faint traces of German presence in family names and Labrador Inuit who can still count in German.

Reprinted from Press Release April 18, 2007 – Writers' Alliance of Newfoundland & Labrador



Presentation Sunday and Dini Den Otter retirement as Sunday School Administrator



DISCOVERY DAYS 2007

Approximately 40 full-time attendees and another 20+ part-time attendees had a wonderful experience at the AMS Discovery Days in Truro, Nova Scotia on the weekend of May 4, 5 and 6, 2007. The weather was somewhat mixed, but our time of fellowship and learning was excellent.

Our Moderator, Wilma Welsh, in spite of being very recently discharged from hospital after treatment for a serious bout of lung and chest infection, was able to be with us both Friday night and Saturday, and both of her presentations were immensely appreciated by everybody.

Wilma spoke with deep compassion and great passion about mission today in the PCC. She has a very laid back style, and spoke from the heart about the importance of partnership in mission in today's world, the role of women in the church and particularly in mission, both in Canada and elsewhere. Many of us were very moved by her stories from Taiwan, with aboriginal peoples there, as well as her recounting of the many areas of work with aboriginal people here in Canada... again stressing the modern approach of partnership with different groups. It was obvious that she was speaking of what she knows firsthand from a lifetime's experience, and that healing/reconciliation were not just 'buzzwords' for her, but deeply held convictions.

On Saturday Wilma responded really helpfully to the 'Questions for the Moderator', which had been generated in our small groups, and -sick or not- showed how well she could think on her feet on the concerns and issues raised.

On Saturday afternoon we heard from Rev. Joe Reed, on the work he is now doing in Nicaragua with a new non-governmental organization there (SHEAF) and learned of another way of "doing mission". This presentation was followed by five workshops of which we could, alas, take only two!! These were... Microcredit in Mission (Rev. Carol Smith), Sing a new song to the Lord (Cheryl Weeks, Chris MacDonald), Keeping your Auxiliary Alive (Debbie Stewart), Celtic Spirituality (Rev Kenn Stright), Prayer.. Conversations with God (Mary MacLeod, Sheila MacLeod). These workshops were very well attended and enjoyed, and we appreciated the time, skills and preparation of all of our leaders; many of the issues raised in the workshops continued to be discussed at coffee or supper.

Later in the evening we had an entertaining and informative skit/ talk from Sarah MacLeod and Thomas Woodbury from St. James Truro youth group concerning their recent experiences in Belize. We had an opportunity then to show our acting ability as well as Bible Knowledge in a fun time of group charades.... who will forget Hilda Proctor as Bathsheba, Audrey Cameron as the tree of Knowledge, Findlay and Adams as Jezebel and Ahab!!!

On Sunday morning we were ably led by the Cape Breton Presbyterial in morning worship. Sheila Macleod left us with a strong message reminding usas Wilma Welsh had already stressed on Friday ... that Mission is not an optionwe are each called to witness, share and serve wherever God leads us. We were left to think about two questions: 1) do we have something to "say" .. are we currently living the gospel of Christ, and therefore have something from personal experience to pass on? and 2) do we go to God to get the courage to speak?

We were all sad to leave because we had had a good time of learning ... from God, from each other ... and the opportunity to talk with each other informally was a major part of the learning and encouragement. Another highlight was the inspiring music throughout the weekend led by Cheryl Weeks and Chris MacDonald ...what a difference good singing to the Lord makes!! Our thanks to all who helped to organize the weekend, and to Elizabeth MacLaren who so graciously handled registration and so much more.

Sheena Findlay, Convenor, Education Committee
Atlantic Mission Society

Relaxing after Discovery Days weekend:
E. Berghuis, C. Picco, L. Crawford, S. Findlay

The Annual Meeting of the Newfoundland Presbyterial of the Atlantic Mission Society takes place on Tuesday, June 12, 2007 at St. Andrew's Church Hall. The meeting starts at 4 PM, followed by supper at 6 PM, with guest speaker.





“Planes, Canes and Automobiles” – The Gillies’ Travel Log



We have just returned from a superb trip to the UK to celebrate our niece's wedding in Aberdeenshire, my mother's 90th birthday in the Lake District with a final week in Berlin to visit daughter Kirsty who teaches music in Berlin International School. So despite still being on crutches we set off as planned albeit taking the longer route via Toronto because of foggy Atlantic Canada.

Niece Kim and groom Iain's wedding took place on a Spring afternoon in my big sis's home and garden lush with lilacs and rhododendrons and spectacular Spring flowers (with a few curious lambs peeping over the stone wall at the bottom of the garden). In true British style, large fancy hats and kilts seemed to be the order of the day. The Victoria Hall in Ellon was the scene of the wedding ceilidh, the guests being served stovies, oatcakes and beets and ending the evening with soups and butteries (a local salty, flaky roll, not to worry about the cholesterol levels). Stewart danced with abandon and was unable to walk for the next week. We made quite the pair lurching along.

One would assume that the 90th birthday bash for mum might be a more sedate affair but once you fill the village hall with friends and family, serve some champagne, it was anything but. The matriarch's granddaughters and recent groom served a delicious luncheon and entertained with music and anecdotes concerning their grandma. Kim and Iain eventually drove Mum home in the Mini Cooper convertible, with balloons flying from the back, steadfastly ignoring all protestations as they toured the village back and forth. I believe Pat Melhuish's birthday is still the talk in the pews of St. Kentigern's Church and, of course, the local shop.

Not wishing to return home just yet, we boarded an Easy Jet flight for Berlin to see Kirsty. What a fascinating city it is: full of historical landmarks like the Brandenburg Gate, Check Point Charlie, the Reichstag, the Holocaust Memorial all interspersed with beautiful new architecture. We enjoyed people watching from the streetside cafes, sipping our drinks and eating Kuchen - really to give me a boost to tackle the 82 steps to and from Kirsty's apartment. She lives in Schoneberg where there is a bountiful weekly farmers' market which at this time of the year was bursting with fresh asparagus, strawberries, cherries and the usual cheeses, olives, sausage and foods of all kinds. But all good things must end and we headed for home again.

A couple of days later, after having the OK from the Orthopaedic surgeon to walk with a stick instead of crutches, I decided to attend daughter Allison's convocation from King's College, Halifax where she was graduating as a journalist. How wonderful it was to be met at the airport by Catherine Picco and her friend Alice (sister of Zena Bleeker) so after catching up on all the chat we were off to the convocation. Despite a very drizzly day the graduands processed to the Catholic Cathedral led by a piper or two. High heels, shirts and ties, umbrellas and garbage bags doubling as rain gear completed the picture. As we sat there listening to the beautiful organ, watching the proceedings, I could not help but reflect over the last few exciting weeks. My mother, now 90, had experienced many of life's riches and obstacles too, nursing in London during the WW, being a nanny to many children, taking her driving test in later life again and again until she passed and being part of the local communities wherever she lived, and here was a new generation of graduates, teachers, scientists, journalists and the rest ready to embark on the next phase of life too. Who knows where in the next 60 or so years.

Anyway we are home now and glad to be back in our own beds with familiar tastes and sounds of home.

Penny Gillies

Sycamore is a name applied at various times and places to three very different types of trees, but with somewhat similar leaf forms.

The sycamore (or sycomore) of the Bible is a species of fig, *Ficus sycomorus*, the sycamore fig or fig-mulberry, native to the Middle East and eastern Africa.

The sycamore of Britain and Ireland is a European maple tree, *Acer pseudoplatanus*, also called Sycamore Maple.

The sycamores of North America are members of the genus *Platanus*. There are several species, including the American sycamore, and the California sycamore

The twig on the newsletter cover – can you guess what type of sycamore it is from? . .

These are the fruit of the Sycamore Fig – the type of tree that **Zacchaeus** climbed to see Jesus in Jerusalem



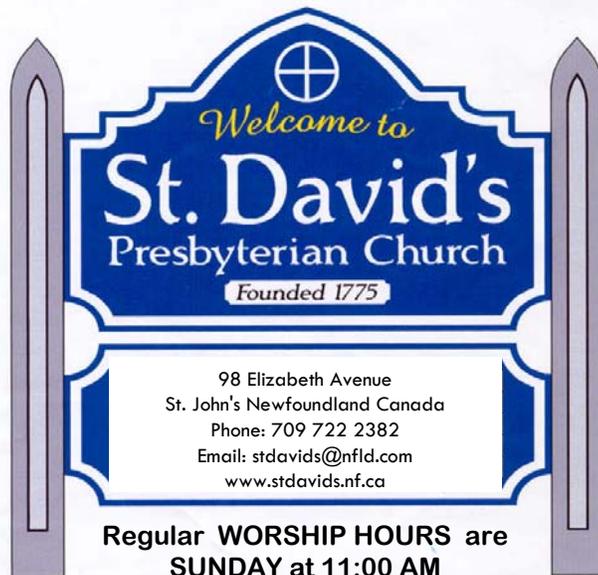
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SERVICES AT ST. DAVID'S

June 3, 2007 – Holy Communion – 11 AM
June 10, 2007 – Joint Church Picnic with St. Andrews – 11 AM – Rotary
Sunshine Park



Want it in **COLOUR?**

This newsletter is online
at www.stdavids.nf.ca

with colour pics, etc.

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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