



Easter!

St. David's Presbyterian Church, 98 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 1R8, (709) 722-2382, stdavids@nfld.com

A Fresh Start

Quarterly Newsletter - Easter, 2008

By Dr. Jonathan Dent

The beauty of Spring and the beauty of Easter are interconnected. Now I know that we tend to get our Spring in Newfoundland a day at a time, rather than a whole season. Nevertheless, we are given glimpses of life as the bulbs begin to come out of the ground, pushing toward the colour of their flowers. We are given blue skies and the reduction of the ice and hardness of winter.

Spring time is meant to be a time of refreshing and of a new start. Just as every new day is a new start at life, so is the Spring season. Easter is also a time like that. We intermingle our Spring ceremonies with our Easter ceremonies with coloured eggs, candies, chocolates and the chickies and bunnies for children of all sizes.

These spring symbols should cause us to reflect on the renewal of life and the promise of life, both in the egg and the empty tomb. The sweets lead us to the sweet truth of Jesus Christ giving himself for us so that we can live spiritually. This promise was given to us at the Cross, when Jesus was tortured to death, to pay the penalty of our sins, so that we can have new life. We can have a fresh start because of Easter. That was the day God showed Jesus to be the Victor over death, and over any sin that we might think can conquer us, but cannot.

Jesus is our fresh start. As we turn to Him anew in this season, we can confront the darkness of our sin and we can hope in the Light which overcomes that sin. The lengthening days (and the early Daylight Savings) remind us that we are in the season of increasing light. Not only must we align ourselves with the light, and the honesty, integrity and accountability which is a hallmark of Christian discipleship, we must call others to the same. "If we walk in the light, as He is in the light we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus, his Son, purifies us from all sin." (1 John 1:7)

Jesus gives us the way to become the people we need to become to give glory to God. He affirms us with his love, and his friendship and an ongoing challenge to keep going deeper with Him in our personal lives, as well as showing His values in our community and culture.

Have a blessed Easter and Easter season. Keep reflecting on all that you have in Christ, and all that you can give in Christ. And we are here, I am here to help.





NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Great News! Viola Duff has just received notification from CNA that she has been selected to receive the Canadian Nurses Association Centennial Award. The Centennial Awards signify a celebration of 100 exceptional Registered Nurses whose personal contributions have made an outstanding and significant impact on the nursing profession. This is quite an honour and I'm sure you will want to join with me in congratulating Viola. Shelly Bauer

An update on daughter Kim from Emir and Steve Andrews: Kim has passed her Board of Veterinary Medicine exam and so will graduate as a fully qualified Veterinarian this spring on completion of her internship at Guelph. She will be joining a clinic in Stratford, Ontario where her husband Craig is a technical director with the Stratford Festival. Eventually they plan to return to "the Rock", but will spend a few years in Stratford first.

Cindy Clouston of this congregation has been welcoming female students from China to share her home for over eight years. They have found a safe and welcoming home here as well as providing assistance to Cindy in her house while they attend MUN or CONA. Cindy refers to them as her "roomies". Recently Cindy received the following note from her much-loved "Chinese sister" Hong. (She was here for two years and many at St.David's will remember her.)

*Dear Cindy
16/12/07
Long time not contact with you. I really miss you and your family very much.
Last year I got the position of professor in medical genetics in my university.
My daughter is 13 years old, she is in middle school.
How are you? and Mom, Dad, Don and Violet? I always think about you.
Wish you all happy New Year!
Love from Hong*

Susan McKenzie, David's youngest sister, will be visiting after Easter. She has plans to scour the beaches for suitable stones for her collection, as well as a visit to Rodrigues Winery to select some of their new wines. Susan renovates old houses in Winnipeg in her spare time, so she enjoys walking around some of the older buildings in St. John's to point out interesting features to her favourite brother.

**“When is Easter? . . .
I’ve always been afraid to ask because I think I’m supposed to know”**



The MOON according to OREOS

The rule has since the Middle Ages been phrased as *Easter is observed on the Sunday after the first full moon on or after the day of the vernal equinox*. However, this does not reflect the actual ecclesiastical rules precisely. One reason for this is that the full moon involved (called the Paschal full moon) is not an astronomical full moon, but an *ecclesiastical* moon. Another difference is that the astronomical vernal equinox is a natural astronomical phenomenon, while the *ecclesiastical* vernal equinox is a fixed March 21. Easter is determined from tables which determine Easter based on the ecclesiastical rules described above, which approximate the astronomical full moon.

In applying the ecclesiastical rules, the various Christian Churches use 21 March as their starting point from which they find the next full moon, etc. However because Eastern Orthodox and Oriental Orthodox Churches use the Julian Calendar as their starting point, while Western Christianity uses the Gregorian Calendar, the end point, the date for Easter, may diverge.

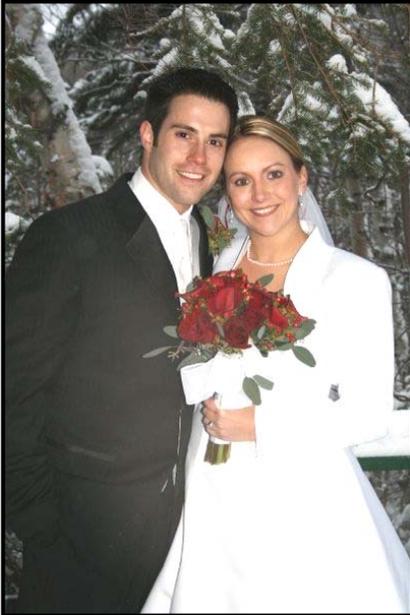
The calculations for the date of Easter are somewhat complicated. In the Western Church, Easter has not fallen on the earliest of the 35 possible dates, March 22, since 1818, and will not do so again until 2285. It will, however, fall on March 23 in 2008, but will not do so again until 2160. Easter last fell on the latest possible date, April 25, in 1943 and will next fall on that date in 2038. However, it will fall on April 24, just one day before this latest possible date, in 2011. The cycle of Easter dates repeats after exactly 5,700,000 years, with April 19 being the most common date, happening 220,400 times, or 3.9% compared to a mean for all dates of 162,857 times, or 2.9%.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

BAPTISM

February 10, 2008 - Aidan James Bailey, son of Richard and Catherine (Bonnell) Bailey; grandson of David and Judy Bonnell and great grandson of Minnie Bonnell.



Many thanks to everyone at St. David's for your prayers and well wishes during the past couple of months. We had a wonderful wedding back in Corner Brook on New Year's Eve. It was a great evening with family and friends, and we even had a couple of unexpected surprises along the way - including a visit from the mummies! We certainly appreciate your thoughts and support.

All our best,
Mike & Katrina Fisher



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 (cereal, tea and coffee in 2006) for their Food Bank and toys for their Toy Lending Library!



RETURNABLE RECYCLABLES

Please place returnable recyclable items into the blue plastic crates in the "new" kitchen. These items can be Juice, water and soft drink bottles (glass or plastic), Juice boxes, pop tins etc. **DO NOT CRUSH** any of these items as the sharp edges are potentially hazardous to the recycling workers.

Also I would be happy to "make house-calls" to collect these items and any other returnable glass bottles that may accumulate from time to time. Just phone 722-6436 and we will arrange a convenient time for a pick-up.

Please note that all the money collected from returnables goes to the AMS and the WA at St. David's.



Thank You.

Jean Bruneau



From the Atlantic Mission Society

One of the strengths of St. David's Auxiliary of the Atlantic Mission Society is the continued support of our approximately forty (40) Associate Members (formerly Home Helpers). Associate members are people who do not attend monthly meetings but support the aims and purpose of the Society and make an annual financial contribution to the work of the local Auxiliary.

In the past, Associate Members saved money for this purpose in "mite boxes" - small white coin collection boxes. The mite boxes were collected once a year, usually in November. As mite boxes are no longer available, the Auxiliary decided to replace them with another suitable container. An idea was hatched to give each Associate Member a small "piggy bank" in which to gather their coins. This grew into having the "piggies" **painted**, and culminated with a "pig painting" event at the home of Sheena Findlay on Saturday, February 16, 2008, where AMS members gathered for breakfast, and then proceeded to paint forty-two (42) piggy banks.

Under the direction of Debbie Wells, a gifted craftsperson, novice and experienced painters lovingly applied three coats of various shades of blue paint to the banks and then added a simple coloured polka dot pattern to each. Having left the piggy banks on her table to dry completely, Sheena Findlay embellished some of them with hearts, flowers, spectacles, gold highlights and labels. As the pictures attest, they turned out really well and we had great fun!

The "piggies" have now been distributed to our Associate Members and we look forward to their return later in the year! If you are interested in becoming an Associate Member, please speak to Elisabeth Berghuis or call her at 726-0162. If you are interested in learning more about AMS, please join us at our regular monthly meeting time - 7:30 P. M. on the second Tuesday of each month in the Armour Room.



From the Women's Auxiliary

As you all know, the black chairs in the Church Hall are "on their last legs" and, as a new project, the W. A. is undertaking their replacement.

From the photo, you will see that we have selected an attractive chair that is comfortable, sturdy, durable, and stackable. Although available in several colours, we have decided to go with all "blue" chairs. We need at least 120 chairs, with each chair costing approximately \$40 (tax included).

This is a costly venture and raising the necessary funds will require some creativity and ingenuity.

One suggested way to help in this effort would be to "cover the cost of a chair" by making a donation through the Church (eligible for tax receipt) or directly to St. David's Women's Auxiliary. Other fundraising suggestions are being considered and will be communicated as we move forward.

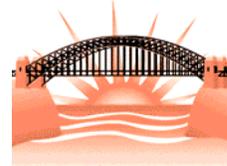
The generosity of St. David's congregation is well recognized and will ensure that our goal will be achieved! Thank you for your support.





BRIDGES TO HOPE

Although Bridges to Hope have moved to their new location at 39 Cookstown Road which gives them more space, and fewer stairs to climb, the demand for non-perishable food items has not diminished. Any and all contributions are appreciated but St. David's congregation has been asked to consider providing specific items, such as Peanut Butter (500 ml), jam, baking supplies (baking powder, baking soda, pancake mix, raisins, walnuts, dates, chocolate chips, cake mixes, etc. – NO FLOUR, PLEASE). Why not make adding something for the Food Box part of your weekly routine in preparing for Sunday worship; the same way you remember to bring your offering!, Items placed in the Food Box in the narthex are picked up on a weekly basis. Monetary donations can also be made through St. David's Church.



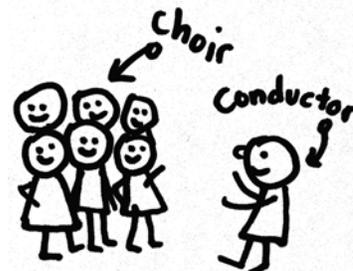
ST. DAVID'S CHOIR NOTES

Over the past weeks, St. David's Choir has been busily preparing for the Lenten and Easter Seasons. With numerous services to prepare for, we have been able to add new pieces to our repertoire. There are a couple pieces that have worked well for our choir, one in particular the set of Two Simple Songs for Lent featuring Come, Let Us Return to the Lord, and May We Have the Mind of Christ. Both pieces are composed with rich harmonies and highly reflective texts. As a result the two "simple" pieces create something that sounds much more complex to the ear, but are both fulfilling works for any choir and congregation.

We hope you enjoy the choral selections presented by the choir over the Lenten and Easter seasons.

In music and faith,

Mike Fisher



Community Mediation Services Update

In January, we said goodbye to our Executive Director, Scott Morton-Ninomiya, when he assumed a new role as Manager of Adult Alternative Justice with the provincial government. We welcomed Leslie Brown as our new Executive Director in late February. Leslie has a Bachelor of Social Work and is currently a part time student at Royal Roads University in British Columbia where she is completing a Master of Arts, Conflict Analysis and Management with a concentration in Communities and Schools. Scott and Leslie attended a Mennonite Central Committee meeting in Winnipeg, late February during the transition process.

On March 7th, Community Mediation Services held the Fifth Annual Dinner Theatre with Spirit of Newfoundland. This continues to be our biggest fundraiser of the year and a special thank-you to all who sold tickets and/or attended the event.

Our Annual General Meeting will be held at St. David's Church on Tuesday, May 13, 12:00-1:00pm.



Community Mediation Services

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



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry was started as part of the Atlantic Mission Society in 2007, with the first meeting of about ten (10) knitters being held in February, 2007. In just one year, the group has completed twenty-nine (29) shawls, twenty-two (22) of which have been given away

The prayer shawl ministry meets once a month for fellowship and coffee. As a group, we pray for the shawls and for the people who receive them. We have a fun and relaxing time at our meetings!

Bouwina Fogwill



Francis and Jim Steele

**St. David's Group Home Limited
operating as**

The Ada Barnes reception House

The Association for New Canadians the tenant of our home has provided us with the following report of the persons who stayed at the reception house in 2007.

Reception House Report					
January - December 2007					
Month	No in Family		Total	Country of Origin	Length of Stay
	Adults	Children			
January	1	2	3	Liberia	16
	1		1	Ethiopia	15
	1		1	Sudan	14
February	1	2	3	Eritrea	6
March	4		4	Serbia & Montenegro	12
	2	2	4	Serbia & Montenegro	12
	2		2	Colombia	8
	2	2	4	Colombia	13
	2	1	3	Colombia	8
	1		1	Colombia	8
	1		1	Ethiopia	12
May	1		1	Ethiopia	12
	1		1	Palestine	15
	1		1	Palestine	23
June	2	4	6	Sudan	15
	2	1	3	Serbia & Montenegro	6
	2		2	Serbia & Montenegro	6
July	1		1	Uganda	13
	1		1	Uganda	13
	2	2	4	Burmese Karen	13
	2	2	4	Burmese Karen	13
	2	3	5	Burmese Karen	12
August	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	2	2	4	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
	1		1	Burmese Karen	12
September	1		1	Bangladesh	15
	1		1	Bangladesh	10
October	3	3	6	Iraq	6
	1		1	Sudan	8
	1		1	Congo, D. Republic	9
	1		1	Sudan	6
	1		1	Sudan	6
	1		1	Sudan	6
	1		1	Sudan	6
	1		1	Iraq	16
	1		1	Eritrea	13
	1		1	Afghanistan	5
November	2	6	8	Serbia	21
	1		1	Iraq	22
	1	2	3	Iraq	10
	1		1	Iraq	10
	2	4	6	Serbia	13
December	1		1	Sudan	12
	2	6	8	Iraq	10
	2	5	7	Serbia	13
Total	64	49	113		512

Reporting on behalf of the Ada Barnes House: Stephen Bruneau, January 2008

The lighter side – Church Signs



UNDER SAME
MGMT OVER
2000 YEARS



PRAYER - WIRELESS
ACCESS TO GOD WITH
NO ROAMING FEE.

Pastor: John A. Donald churchsigngenerator.com



WORSHIP 11:00AM BIBLE STUDY 9:45AM
SIGN MAKER ON VACATION
COME INSIDE FOR MESSAGE

PHONE 753-4937 WWW.PACIFICVIEWBAPTIST.COM LARRY HUDSON Pastor



From Presbytery

The Presbytery of Newfoundland last met on 19 January and dealt mainly with the usual routine administrative matters. Among the various reports Presbytery discussed was one that indicated Katherine Burgess, of Wabush, was making good progress in her studies at Presbyterian College. Presbytery also discussed the advantages and disadvantages of having the General Assembly meet every two instead of one year and reached the consensus that one year was still the preferred option.

Presbytery spent some time discussing the St. Aiden's fund. Currently administered by the church offices in Toronto, this trust fund originated with the dissolution of a proposed congregation in east St. John's. Benevolent neglect has allowed the trust to grow over the past forty years to several hundred thousand dollars. Presbyters concurred that the time has come to develop a mandate and guidelines for making wise use of the monies.

Lastly, Presbytery noted that St. Matthew's held a thank-you dinner for Rev. Ian Wishart, who served that congregation as interim moderator for some 19 years. In that time, Mr. Wishart drove to Grand Falls-Windsor to conduct a worship service every third week, except in the summer months. Rev. David Sutherland was named as his replacement and has met with the session of St. Matthew's to lay plans for the coming years.

Andy A. den Otter Moderator

"The Presbyterian Record"

For many years now, St. David's has subscribed to the **Every Home Plan** for *The Presbyterian Record* which means that each month a copy is mailed to each family on our congregational roll. If the magazine is distributed to 80% of the families on the congregational roll, the annual cost of this plan is approximately \$2,400.00 (\$17.62 per magazine). The Church attempts to recover this cash outlay through individual donations, usually on a Sunday designated as Presbyterian Record Sunday when envelopes are made available for that purpose. Unfortunately, our recovery rate has not been good, with less than 1/3 of the annual cost being received in recent years.

The expiry date of our subscription is March 1st of each year so the Every Home Plan will continue for 2008. **For 2009**, Session is suggesting we move to individual subscriptions, with those people wanting to subscribe to the publication ordering and paying for the subscription individually. The yearly cost of an individual subscription is currently \$24.00.

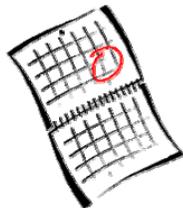
Before making the final decision, **we would like your opinion** and ask that you complete the short survey below, returning it either by mailing it to the Church Office, giving it to your Elder on his next visit, or putting it in the collection plate at Sunday worship.



If you are currently receiving the magazine but wish to discontinue, you may do so by advising Janet Calver (Phone # 745-1343) and she will adjust the subscription list accordingly. Complete, detach and return

- Do you currently receive The Presbyterian Record? Yes _____ No _____.
- Do you read it? Yes _____ No _____
- Should the Every Home Plan be continued? Yes _____ No _____
- Would you subscribe on an individual basis? Yes _____ No _____

UPCOMING W.A. EVENTS:



- Flipper Dinner – Wednesday, April 23, 2008
- Garage Sale – Saturday, May 10, 2008
- Afternoon Tea ("Theme" Tea) – Saturday, May 24, 2008

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.

Newsletter Committee:

- | | |
|------------------|----------|
| Jean Bruneau | 722-6436 |
| Lillian Crawford | 754-2362 |
| John McLean | 754-2616 |
| Steve Bruneau | 722-6542 |

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

In addition, sermons and bulletins are posted regularly




Welcome to
St. David's
 Presbyterian Church
Founded 1775

98 Elizabeth Avenue
 St. John's Newfoundland Canada
 Phone: 709 722 2382
 Email: stdavids@nfld.com
 Www.stdavids.nf.ca

Regular WORSHIP HOURS are
SUNDAY at 11:00 AM



PRESBYTERIAN RECORD

Name _____

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Congregation _____

Please submit your payment to the TREASURER of your congregation.

National magazine: The Presbyterian Church in Canada

Detach and return Presbyterian Record survey questions opposite side