

The St. David's Connection

Spring and Summer

www.stdavids.nf.ca

May 2017

Newsletter 2017

St. David's Presbyterian Church, 98 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, Newfoundland,
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Message from the minister

"Come from Away"



Rev. David Sturtevant



After wandering in the wilderness for forty years, the Israelites were finally able to enter the promised land. Moses had just died, and Joshua was their new leader. When he came to the Jordan river, the Lord instructed him to have the priests carry the ark into the river, and as they did, the river dried up to let the people walk across. Joshua chose twelve men, one from each tribe, to take a large stone from the middle of the riverbed and place them at their new camp on the far bank. These stones were to serve as a reminder of the miraculous work of God that had brought them to this new land. Michelle and I flew to Newfoundland to start a new life here at the beginning of March. As we came over from the mainland, even though the strait of Belle Isle did not dry up to let us walk across, I was nevertheless struck by the wonderful work God has done to bring us out here to St. David's in St. John's. We have settled in well, and we would love to get to know you better. Please feel free to call or ask for a visit! There are many times in life when we are faced with rivers that must be crossed, with a new life in unfamiliar territory. Often that can be intimidating. The Israelites had spent forty years on one side of the river; they knew its hills and valleys, they knew how to live there. But God was with them as they crossed over, and God was with them in the new land they came to. God has certainly been with me and my family here in our new home. We have been shown the very best of Newfoundland hospitality. This is a new land for us, and with our first baby due at the end of July, we will have another new adventure very soon. Many of us may have new situations to adjust to this spring, but God will be with us just as God has been with us throughout all our lives. May we climb boldly onto the new bank of the river.

"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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News from the Pews

Bonnell's in the Downhome!



Representing NL in NYC

My children, York (9) and Nea (7) Bonnell, created and staffed a booth at their school's International night in NYC. I am originally from St. John's and their grandparents, Aubrey and Eleanor Bonnell, sent a wonderful care package filled with Jam Jams, Peppermint Nobs and issues of *Downhome* magazine. The event was a great success.

Scott Bonnell
New York City, NY, USA

What a great way to celebrate their heritage so far from home! Thanks for sharing this with us, Scott.

12 March 2017 1-888-588-6353



"Jimmy Steele, grandson of James Steele, an elder of the congregation, was in Newfoundland over the Easter weekend to visit his Grandfather. The visit was to mark the occasion of Jimmy's graduation from the Haskayne School of Business - University of Calgary with his Bachelor of Commerce (Accounting). Jimmy plans to fulfil the requirements for his CPA designation. Congratulations Jimmy!!!!"



Compassion, in all kinds of weather

There are a few songs about religion — and the lack of it: perhaps the most famous is the one sung by R.E.M.

In dire straits, I went to a church, listened, prayed and asked for help. This was some time ago, but someone listened.

To this day, someone still listens. The church in question is St. Andrew's at Queens Road and Long's Hill in St. John's. The minister is a big man, a gentle giant with a kind heart and an open mind.

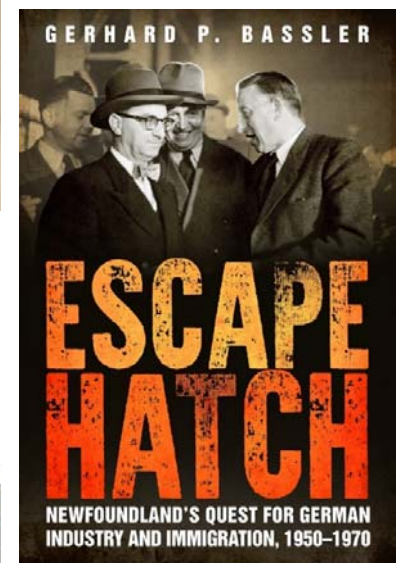
I was overwhelmed recently after the Category 2 hurricane, when its eye grazed St. John's. It blew off several shingles from this church's roof. Days later, I asked this church for help. Once again, opens arms met my request.

Once home, I looked out my window and noticed the roof and its missing shingles. I'd no idea till then of the damage done.

The long and the short of it is, compassion is out there. And, in this day and age, that is a god-send.

Mike Ince
St. John's

Great Book by our very own Gerhard Bassler — congrats Gerhard!



**Want to know all the other ministers that served our Congregation?
Go to youtube and type "the dissenters way"**

Stay Connected with St. David's here:

<https://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns/>

<http://stdavids.nf.ca/>

St. David's Presbyterian Church
Worshipping God and Serving Our Neighbours in Christian Love



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Baptisms, Marriages, Births, Deaths:



Baptism of Aiden Donald Craig, son of Tanya O'Brien Christopher Craig April 9, 2017



Angus Bruneau, Dec 12, 1935 – Feb 19, 2017



Sincere congratulations to our newly inducted minister David Sturtevant and thanks to our interim moderator Rev Derek Krunys!



A wee party for Sheena's 80th!



PAYS: Presbyterian Atlantic Youth Synod on May 20-22, 2017. Arrival time May 20, 12 pm at Miramichi Valley Bible Camp, 104 Enclosure Park Rd., Derby Junction, NB. Theme speaker is Youth Pastor Geoff MacLean, The Point Church. Cost is \$30.00. This event is open to Presbyterian Youth Grade 7 and up and their friends. For more information, contact Rev. Glen Sampson at gsampson3@gmail.com or 506-546-4645.

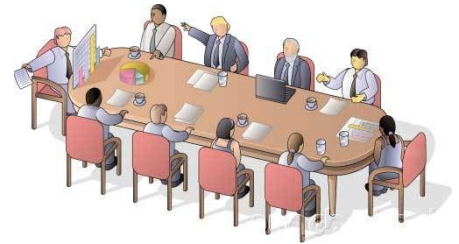


*GARAGE AND PLANT SALE: * We have a combined Garage and Plant Sale coming up on June 10th. There will be more information available in the upcoming bulletins!



PASTORAL CARE: For Pastoral care, please call Rev. Sturtevant at 722-2382 or 699-3661.

Notes from Board of Managers and the Womens Auxiliary



Hello all! Why the Board and the WA – both groups work for this church in various ways and each cares about it. As a member of both groups, it only made sense to show how the two work together.

The past couple of months have been busy with the arrival of our new minister – David Sturtevant, the Annual Congregational Meeting and many WA activities most of which seem to be centered around eating. By now David is pretty sure that one facet of St. David's outreach is food-related. The WA provided lunch for David's first Sunday with us allowing us to meet and greet David and Michelle. Then there was the Board's event – the ACM with a lead-up involving the production of the Annual Report, the review of last year's finances, preparation of this year's budget which lead up to the actual ACM and of course a "light" lunch before the meeting. The WA was involved in the lunch provided after David's induction service. This luncheon allowed us to express our recognition of the role Derek Krunys played as interim moderator. Flowers were presented to Michelle and Yasmin. Then the food moved to the "wild side" with the WA's free-range, wild and boneless moose smorgasbord. David also had opportunities to meet with the various groups who meet in the Armour Room and you guessed it, food or at the very least tea or coffee was part of the get-together.

The Board and WA also worked together when the WA were washing up from a lunch and noticed rusty hot water. The Board was notified and had our plumbers do a quick install of a hot water boiler for the two kitchens. In an aside, in Newfoundland connections are all around us, our plumber came to day care in our hall with "Mother Goose" pre-school. The WA also noted the state of the faucets in the woman's washroom and were going to get new ones installed, the Board stepped up and called our plumbers. We now have those new faucets, plus some new fittings, connections and pipes were also installed.

The WA would like to thank the Good Companions who gave the WA a new cabinet for our china cups and saucers. Anne Calver bought a freezer for the moose and moved all the moose to one location; her neighbours are happy to have their freezer space back! The Newfoundland Horticultural Society bought a new cabinet for their library and moved it to the collection (not storage) room. This allowed the de-cluttering of the hall porch and the WA subsequently had it painted and replaced the soiled ceiling tiles.

Coming up, the WA planned their spring Theme Tea for May 6th, the theme for 2017 was "fun and games" with a surprise guest. The WA bridge party is planned for June 6th. Working with the Gardening group, there is to be a combined Plant and Garage Sale June 10th. The gardening group plant sale is scheduled for 9 am and the garage sale for 10 am. There is some discussion on the sponsor(s) for the garage sale, but rumour has it that it is a "Lilly-Anne" sale. Please keep an eye to the bulletins for announcement events. (continued --- >

In case of emergency, St. David's has an Automated External Defibrillator (AED)! It is located on the wall just outside the Church Office



The Board's maintenance work will continue this summer and fall. We would like to thank Andy Versteeg for installing the railings at the front of the church and for adding another wheelchair accessible seat on the left hand side of the sanctuary. There was damage done to the asphalt and grass at the front of the church and this will be fixed by our snow-clearing contractor. The Keifte tree needs some help to repair some damage and to trim back the maple tree shading it and not allowing it to grow. The Board would like to acknowledge the work of our gardeners and those who help them with mowing the lawns. It's a joy to see the beautiful flowers blooming. We do ask that if you see anything that you would like to see replaced, painted, scrubbed or that you feel needs a trip to the dump (waste management facility) contact any member of the Board.

The Board would like to extend an invitation to anyone or any family who would like to get involved. We currently have two family groups on the Board and would like to have more. This involvement can be anything from agreeing to join the Board, to helping out on Sunday mornings by counting the offerings or greeting people at the door, by monitoring the sound system during services, by working on any of our initiatives or projects, or by joining one of our committees. You would be very welcome, please contact any member of the Board.

The Board would like to thank and acknowledge the work and dedication of the WA and the other groups who make this church their home

MOOSE was on the MENU at 6 PM on Saturday, April 22, 2017!

Not your traditional Moose Dinner but a smorgasbord of Moose, presented in a variety of delicious ways, and served Buffet style. Choices such as Braised Moose in Rum Sauce, Honey Garlic Moose, Curried Moose, Choir Soup (with Moose), Hungarian Moose, Moose sausages (regular, apple and maple), and others. A variety of desserts were also offered and, of course, Chocolate ***Mousse*** was on the menu! A great time had by all in attendance, the food was excellent. Thank you to the big effort by the WA and especially Anne Calver – Thanks Anne!



Prayer or relief?
Or both?





March Knitting Projects

News from Tonya Bassler: "Bouwina was teaching Janet Calver to knit today. I told Janet this was a win-win. Earlier penny Gillis learned knitting in our group. So you don't need to be proficient when you join! "



Atlantic Mission Society

Instead of a regular meeting on March 12, 2017, St. David's AMS hosted an intergenerational event to increase awareness about Bridges To Hope Food Aid Centre.

Heather Elliott, Executive Director of Bridges To Hope, was invited to speak to the children of the Church School about why people would need to go to a food bank, how it works, etc. She gave a lovely presentation illustrating very clearly the difference between an "empty" cereal bowl and a "full" bowl of cereal!

At Coffee Time that day, members of the congregation were invited to help the children "break down" tea bags, sugar, pasta and apples into the "portions" that clients of Bridges To Hope receive in a food hamper. The food so portioned was added to our weekly contribution to Bridges To Hope.

Most of you know, but some may not, that Bridges To Hope is sponsored by nine United Church congregations and the two Presbyterian congregations in the St. John's/Mount Pearl area. In 2016, more than 9,000 people were served through the Food Aid Centre alone, in addition to those helped through the Bag to School and Christmas Hamper programs.

We encourage everyone to support Bridges To Hope by continue to contribute non-perishable food items each week! Cash donations are always appreciated as well and are used to purchase fresh fruit and vegetables to be included in the food hampers. Thank you for your support!

Atlantic Mission Society

Event hosted by AMS to increase awareness about Bridges To Hope Food Aid Centre.

The fun and informative event touched Sunday School lessons, worship service and coffee time.



GENEROSITY INSPIRES GENEROSITY

At one of St. David's recent funeral receptions, a visitor remarked on the lovely china cups laid out at the kitchen wicket. He went on to say that his mother had quite a few and he'd like to donate them to us. Time went by and, then, out of the blue, he arrived at the Church with more than 100 china cups and saucers, several china mugs and several tiered cake plates. Such a generous gift from, at that point, an anonymous donor! Part 1 of the generosity cycle!

Our detectives went to work and tracked down the donor, Mr. Clyde Hodder, who was connected to the Osmond family of which Elizabeth Berghuis was a member.

So we have these cups, saucers, etc. but where do we put them? Our cupboards were already full!

Part 2 of the generosity cycle – In appreciation of a turkey dinner on St. Patrick's Day, the Good Companions presented the W. A. with a cheque to cover the cost of a cabinet to house the china! Some research took place and an appropriate cabinet was purchased and delivered to the Church Hall, **UNASSEMBLED!** Who's going to put it together?

Part 3 – Another generous gesture - Janet Calver and Brian Gamberg offered to put the cabinet together and spent several hours doing just that!

So now, after three examples of generosity, we have a lovely new cabinet, full of beautiful cups, saucers, mugs and cake plates, and it all started with an observation and a casual comment!

Thank you to all who played a part in this story!

"Generosity is the most natural outward expression of an inner attitude of compassion and loving-kindness."

— [Dalai Lama XIV](#)





Summer services will be shared with St. Andrews as follows:

Month of July - Combined congregations worship at St. David's 11AM

Month of August - Combined congregations worship at St. Andrew's 11AM



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

In addition, sermons and bulletins are posted regularly as are audio recordings of most services!