



Sunday August 16 2020

Since Rev. David is on vacation for the month of August, we will be taking some time during this month to enjoy online services from other churches. This is a great opportunity for us to experience other forms of worship, and be enriched by new ideas and practices. This week, Rev. David is recommending a July service from his childhood Youth Leader, now a minister at Knox Presbyterian Church in Oakville, Ontario. It is a dynamic service, with lots of interesting ideas, like a “Pastoral Moment”, and use of an outside professional video as part of the message.

https://youtu.be/GD_Z9IJVgPc?t=1170

Church Office Hours: During August, Rev. Sturtevant will be on vacation and there will be no set office hours. However, Rev. Derek Krunys is covering for David and can be called at 726-5385 should you need to reach out for someone. Alternately, you may contact your elder. The elder’s list is on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer Partnership: The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers a prayer partnership that may form part of a daily devotional, please consider these prayer partnerships:

Sunday, August 16 We pray for everything we work for in our church and community, and everything we hope for in the face of so much change. We pray for the choices we face in our country and community, in our homes and workplaces, and for all the responsibilities we bear in our different roles. We pray for the troubles that weary us, the situations that puzzle us and the uncertainty that surrounds us. Fill us with the strength and hope we need to walk with you, united in your love.

Monday, August 17 We pray for members of the advisory committees that support the work done in the offices of the denomination.

Tuesday, August 18 We pray for the Rev. Rick Warne who serves as the convener of the Students and Colleges Committee for the Presbytery of Hamilton.

Wednesday, August 19 (World Humanitarian Day) We celebrate in prayer as families in Somalia receive necessary nutrition support through a Presbyterian World Service & Development project.

Thursday, August 20 We pray for Cindy Stephenson, convener of the Life and Mission Agency Committee.

Friday, August 21 We pray for all who are sick, that they may find healing; for all who are without homes, that they may find shelter; and for all, God's love and peace.

Saturday, August 22 We pray for the ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Central Alberta.

News from the Pews

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday to Kelsea Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on August 18 with family and friends. Kelsea is the daughter of Tracey and Doug Hudson and grand-daughter of Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes Kelsea from your St. David's family!

Birthday greetings to Kayla Franey who will be celebrating on August 22nd. Kayla is the daughter of Bonita and Ray Franey. Happy Birthday Kayla... hope you have a great day!

If you know of someone who is going to have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming days or weeks, please call or email the church.

What are People Doing?

This past week I had the pleasure of visiting with Bouwina Fogwill. It was one of those super hot days and we both enjoyed simply sitting on her back deck enjoying a glass of iced-tea and having a chat.



Bouwina has had a fascinating life and to this day continues to enjoy life to the fullest.

Born in Holland, Bouwina's young life was greatly influenced by WWII. As soon as she was able to work she did, punching in nine years in a factory. Always looking for adventure, she got in contact with some relatives in the United States (Michigan) and in 1955, off she went. She started doing some night-time studies to help improve her English and it wasn't long before her "auntie" helped her land a job in a near-by hospital which was run by the nuns. Bouwina filled in as secretary for a pathologist and later as a secretary in the laboratory. (There were some funny stories about gallstones, but I'll let you ask her about that!) She also acted as a translator for some of the Dutch patients that were admitted to the hospital and who could not speak English very well. Unfortunately, Bouwina got fired from her job when she tried to help out a co-worker, who in turn confronted a doctor with Bouwina's statement!

It didn't take Bouwina long to make "lemonade out of a lemon". Kay, her sister, was already living in Newfoundland by this time, so Bouwina thought this would be an excellent time to visit her. So off she heads to Newfoundland in November! Air travel back then was always an adventure. Bouwina remembers having her first taste of "corn flakes in a box" for one of the meals on the plane and stopping at every airport between Montreal and St. John's, well actually Gander because St. John's was fogged in. (Yes, she was on the "milk-run"!) They were not in Gander long before they were placed on a train and were off to St. John's.

Once she arrived in St. John's, met up with Kay and got settled, she wanted to work. She helped out at House of Flowers for the Christmas rush and later at Holland Nurseries. It wasn't long before Bouwina applied for a job at the American Base in Pepperrell. (This would be where she would meet her future husband.)

Now there was a question of Bouwina's immigration. She tells a lively story of how she got to stay in Newfoundland and it involves having family here (Kay), having a job and getting a certificate of good conduct from the RCMP! Stay she did though. She continued to work at the American Base until they closed down and although she had several jobs with various private companies including Imperial Oil, Newfoundland Armature Works and Zellars, it was her time working at the Canadian Forces Base that brought her much joy and lasting friendships to this day. It speaks volumes that many of her co-workers still stay in touch with Bouwina on a regular basis and never forget her at Christmas or her birthday. Another indication of how well she was valued by her co-workers is an award that hangs on her wall - the Commanding Officer's Commendation Award. Well deserved indeed!



Bouwina's career was obviously very important to her but equally important to her was, and is, her family and Church. Bouwina's three children (Frank, Bill and Margaret) and her grandchildren are a big part of her life as is her sister, Kay. Bouwina is an enthusiastic bowler with the Good Companions group, the Treasurer for the AMS and our leader and mentor for the Prayer Shawl (knitter's) group.

Thank-you Bouwina for a wonderful afternoon! I look forward to our next chat!

A few weeks ago we heard about the death of “Babs” Parsons and in the August 2nd bulletin there was a picture Valera Parsons as part of the Senior Choir (1975). This led to my asking Barbara Clancy, one of Valera and Lal’s daughters, to tell us a little bit about her family. The Parsons family were a big part of our congregation and supported St. David’s in numerous ways. Many of us have wonderful memories of Valera and Lal and for those of you who never had the pleasure of meeting them, we hope this story from Barbara gives you some insight into just how special they were to St. David’s, to their family and to many others here in Newfoundland. It’s a legacy we all cherish.

Lal and Valera Parsons

Lamont Marcy (Lal) Parsons was born in Harbour Grace on August 12, 1919, the third son of Reuben Taylor (R.T.) Parsons (photographer, shopkeeper, and undertaker) and Gertrude Churchill Parsons. He was baptized on November 9, 1919, at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church in Harbour Grace. After he finished school at the age of 15, he went whaling with the Newfoundland Whaling Company.

When war broke out in 1939 he followed the family tradition of service to God and Country and joined the RCAF, training as a fighter pilot. His mother’s two brothers, Max and Ern Churchill, were both members of the RNR First 500, Max being #4 and Ern #281. His aunt, Maisie Parsons, served



overseas as a VAD nurse in WWI, his uncle Dr. William H. Parsons was a medical officer, and his uncle Alexander Parsons was also a member of the RNR during WWI, #585.

Lal joined the RCAF in Halifax on May 17, 1940, and trained in Windsor, ON, and Saskatoon, SK. He served in Canada at Dartmouth, Sydney, Torbay, Halifax, and Rockcliffe. He flew patrols out of the RCAF Station Torbay. He served overseas from June 1943 to July 1944 and served as a pilot trainer and fighter pilot with Fleet Air Arm, Fighter Command, II Group of the RAF, Tactical Air Force, and the Norwegian Fighter Wing. He was “struck off strength” on December 1944 and repatriated to the RCAF Depot at Rockcliffe on medical grounds. He attained the rank of Squadron Leader.

Post-war Lal worked with Crosbie and Company from 1945 – 1958 and was appointed Commissioner of the Newfoundland Division of the Canadian Red Cross from 1958 – 1961. In 1961 Lal formed his own company, General Dealers Limited and Automotive Enterprises Limited, which operated muffler shops, a carwash, and service stations in St. John’s and Harbour Grace. He retired in 1975.



Florence Valera Richards was born in Carbonear on March 8, 1924, daughter of Wallace John Richards (telegrapher / sales) and Nina Taylor Richards. She grew up in Carbonear and, for a while, Bay Roberts before the family moved to St. John’s because of her father’s work. She graduated from Bishop Spencer College in 1940. While a teenager in Carbonear, she met Lal at a dance. They courted for several years and even through the times when Lal was stationed overseas. They were married in St. Thomas’ Anglican Church on February 8, 1945. They had their first daughter, Barbara, in 1948, and their second daughter, Brenda, in 1954.

The Parsons family first came to St. David's in the late 1950's. Their good friend and neighbour, Afton Clouston, invited them to attend a service and they were very happy to see so many familiar and friendly faces among the congregation and were warmly welcomed to St. David's by all they met. They returned the following Sunday because Brenda had enjoyed the Sunday School and she was concerned that the teacher would forget her name. The Parsons family had found their church home. As the years passed, Lal and Valera became valued and contributing members of the congregation of St. David's.

Lal and Valera participated in church and various community activities with great enthusiasm. Valera was a member of St. David's church choir and the Women's Auxiliary, volunteered with Meals on Wheels, the Hoyles Home, the General Hospital, Spencer Club, and as a volunteer driver for the Canadian Cancer Society. She was a talented seamstress, sewing clothes for herself, including hats and coats, and making various items such as curtains for the home. She enjoyed weekly bridge games with her bridge club and bowled with friends on a regular basis. Valera was also an excellent knitter, a wonderful cook, and enjoyed doing paint-by-number pictures.

Lal was also very active in community organizations, especially those involving the RCAF. He was Past Chair Newfoundland Provincial Committee of the Air Cadet League of Canada, Past President of 150 Wing RCAF Association, member of the Canadian Fighter Pilots Association, and a member of the 125 (Newfoundland) RAF Association. He was Past President of the St. John's Lions Club, and Past Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Newfoundland Division of the Canadian Corps of Commissionaires. He was named Honourary President of the Newfoundland Division of the Red Cross and in 1988 he was awarded the Order of the Red Cross. He also served as Chair of the Building Committee for St. David's Church hall. His hobbies were fishing, hunting, gardening, and aviation history, especially the flights that landed at and took off from the Harbor Grace airport in the early days of trans-Atlantic aviation.

Lal and Valera enjoyed travelling, taking several cruises in the Caribbean. For many years they drove to Florida and back, leaving in February and returning in May, visiting family and friends from Nova Scotia to North Carolina along the way.

They loved to entertain whether it be a dinner party or a special celebration of an anniversary, birthday, visitors from away, or holiday. Friends and strangers alike were always welcomed. A party at the Parsons home was a guarantee of good food, good music, good company, and a good time!

Sadly, Valera became ill and passed away on August 2, 1982, at the age of 58. In his eulogy, the Rev. J.S.S. Armour said of her: "A handsome woman, of striking appearance and innate dignity; behind the quiet reserve was a woman of great warmth and generosity. She was one of those rare and wonderful people who seemed never to change. Whatever the circumstances, she was always the same Valera."

Lal remarried many years later to Alice (Babs) Butt and they were married for 14 years. Lal passed away at the age of 82 on April 1, 2002. The Rev. John Duff memorialized him by saying: "His loyalties were based on that fundamental respect which acts for good to all the others, whether the others be younger or older, richer or poorer, stronger or weaker than he himself was. His sense of calling to do good for others was as immediate as the person next to him and as large as the cause for which men and women offered themselves in their country's service in times of war."

Lal and Valera are buried in St. Andrew's Presbyterian Cemetery in Harbour Grace.

Apologies

The continuation of the Chancey family story from last week is still missing a few pictures. Stay tuned!

An Archival Moment

Elizabeth Thistle was kind enough to pass along this photo from September 2010 on the occasion when she and Claire Martin “retired” from the choir. Thank-you Elizabeth for sharing the picture with us!

Here’s this week’s time to remember:



Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: A 1541 Bible belongs to a St. David's family whose relatives obtained it back in 1713. What family is this?

The answer is: The Bible came into the family of David Artiss.

This week the question is: Who was the caretaker at the Queen's Road church, a decorated soldier from World War I?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: What is the farm where church picnics were held on Nagle's Hill? Whose family farm was it?

The answer is: In the 1930's and early 1940's, the picnic The farm was right at the bottom of Nagles's Hill just across from the sliding hill at Long Pond and the picnics were held roughly where the North Bank Lodge now sits. The farm belonged to the William A. Barnes family.

This week the question is: Where was Glendale, the site of several Sunday School picnics in the 1930's and early 1940's?

Do you have any ideas for some church trivia? Email or call the church!

Offerings While COVID-19 keeps us from church each Sunday, please consider other ways to keep up your weekly donations. For those of you who are not on PAD, please consider signing up. Simply email the church and we will put you in touch with Ian Bruneau, our Envelope Secretary. He will answer any questions you may have. Alternately, you can donate via e-transfer to stdavidsnfld@gmail.com. Using your bank's comment section, you can specify information like your envelope number and how you would like your money distributed; to Current, Presbyterian Sharing, or any of our outreach programs. You may also donate through Canada Helps. You may also mail your donation, drop it off at the church, or call the church and someone would be pleased to pick it up for you.

How can we help you at this time? Do you need any help getting groceries, having something picked up, or having something dropped off (like this bulletin or the minister's weekly sermons)? Would you just like to have a chat with the minister or your elder? Please call the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

Ideas to keep in touch Do you have any ideas how we can keep in touch with one another or what you'd like to see us do over the next period of time while we're all under orders to stay safely distant from one another? Call and let us know! Please keep in touch!

Web Site We'd like you to visit our web site, which is the place to find past services and any number of interesting things. The Sunday services are found on the web site and the text of the sermon is also available in the comment section. Our web site is stdavids.nf.ca

Once there, choose ministries and look for the service you'd like to see or hear. There are 584 services on-line too listen to or see.

How to reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant Cell phone: 699-3661

Church Office: (709) 722-2382

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – Kay Scott

Bible Study Group – Sheena Findlay

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Board of Managers – Kyle Sampson

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Carmichael

Food For Thought (University and Early Career) – The Rollmanns

Session: the elders are:

Lillian Crawford

Jim Steele

Ken Templeton

Sue Templeton

Janet Calver

Kathy McKay

Penny Gillies

Steve Bruneau

Ian Bruneau

Aubrey Bonnell

Board of Managers: the members of the Board are:

Kyle Sampson

Ken Templeton

Ed Vanderkloet

Tanya Shalaby

Steve Bruneau

Allison Crawford

Andrea Crosbie

Sandra Perry

Treasurer:

Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary:

Ian Bruneau

