



## **News from the Pews for Sunday January 15<sup>th</sup> 2023**

“News from the Pews”, is a revised version of the previous newsletter that will contain stories, pictures and happenings from, by and for the members of the congregation. It will also contain the “Minister’s Message”, Birthdays and Anniversaries, a Treasurer’s Update, special requests from Bridges to Hope, and of course Special Events happening at St. David’s. Also, from time to time, there will be archival pictures, trivia and stories.

We hope you enjoy...

## Minister's Message



*"Snow Day", St. John's Newfoundland, by Christopher Peet*

This week we had our first snow day of the year, with schools across the city closed down early in preparation for the forecasted storm that blew in on Tuesday. I got the e-mail Thursday evening, as the decision was apparently made early to give parents time to adjust their schedules. I got out my big snow shovel from the shed and put it next to the door in readiness, so I wouldn't have to wade through waist-deep snow and clear space to open the door once the snow had piled up.

I barely needed to bother. Tuesday came, and dropped what I estimate to be maybe ten centimeters of snow on my driveway. For those of us who had to shovel, we rejoiced, and for the little ones who wanted to see the whole world buried in snow, it was a bit of a letdown.

I often feel like the first snowfall of the season is over-hyped. We've been waiting for snow for months, and perhaps there's something of the gambler's fallacy in all this; no real snow in December simply *\*must\** mean that it's all just piling up in the sky to fall on our heads in January!

We tremble in fear and wait for the big storm in early January, but by February we've gotten used to it and aren't so sensational about it.

We're always more afraid of things that are unfamiliar. We haven't had snow for a few months, so we worry more. The first snow breaks our some of our routines and forces us to drive differently, walk differently, and dress differently. The second snow just means a little shovelling, and then back to what we were doing before.

In the bible, God's people are constantly being led to do new things, or to leave the world they knew behind and follow Jesus in a new way. The disciples left their fishing careers to follow a wandering rabbi, Saul was blinded and converted to the religion he had been persecuting, Amos the prophet was called from tending sheep and Moses went from Pharaoh's house to the wilderness and back again. What fear they must have felt, contemplating the changes that lay ahead of them! But the Good News is that God will be with us through the changes that come. The snow that once seemed so worrisome will become second nature. The details will work out, and we will find new reasons to rejoice in the new season that has come to us. God is faithful through the storm, and very often when we look back, we will realize we were foolish to be afraid in the first place.

So may you be bold in this new year. Our lives change like the seasons, and whatever may come, God will be with us. When you see something on the horizon, do not be afraid. God is faithful through the storm, and in a new world, we will be given new life. Hallelujah!

## **Treasurer's Notes**

This week was spent in preparation of the files for Ian Bruneau, our Envelope Secretary, for the issuance of the 2022 receipts. That file is being handed off to Ian by the end of this week.

The data provides a host of information on what money was donated, who donated, and where it went. Here some of the disbursements:

Presbyterian Sharing - \$9,615.75 which exceeded our defined allotment of \$9,432.00. Of this total, we received \$6,944.80 via PAD, another \$2,441.95 through donations recorded on Sundays and we got \$299 via e-transfers.

We also received donations for: Bridges to Hope (\$475.00) plus an estimated \$7,400 in food donations, John Chol (\$1,000), Ukraine (\$255.00), the Ada Barnes House (\$200), General Protestant Cemetery (\$50) and PWS&D (\$5). I should note here that the loose collection on Easter Sunday, PWS&D Sunday and Christmas Eve all go to PWS&D which would normally be more than \$5.

Internally, donations were made to the WA, AMS, Wheels to Worship (WTW), the Coffee Time fund, and Christmas hampers. The Special Appeal donations amounted to \$3,700 in specifically directed giving, other donations to this cause may have been received and not have been directed to the actual appeal.

Again, I would sincerely like to thank all those who contribute to our church in so many ways, not just monetarily. Thanks to everyone who contributed to the Special Appeal and to those who have made the decision to up their monthly donations. It's never too late to make a donation!

## **Condolences**

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the family of Carole Gibbons who passed away on January 2, 2023 after a short illness. Carole was predeceased by her parents, Fred and Ruby Penney, longtime members of St. David's, and her daughter, Janice Walsh, brother Derek and husband, Val Gibbons. Leaving to mourn, her devoted partner for many years, Eric Connolly, brother Ian, and other family members. In accordance with Carole's wishes, there was no visitation and no funeral service. There was a private interment at Mount Pleasant Cemetery. A celebration of her life will be held at a later date. Our thoughts and prayers are with Carole's family and friends. (Please visit Barrett's Funeral Home for more information.)

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations**

**Happy Birthday greetings to Samuel Venth** who will be celebrating his 6th birthday on January 18<sup>th</sup> with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Kirsty Gillies and Robert Venth (currently living in Germany) and proud grandparents, Penny and Stewart Gillies. Best wishes Samuel from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Allison Gillies** who will be celebrating her birthday on January 22nd! Allison is currently living in Ontario, but will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends far and wide, including her mom and day, Penny and Stewart Gillies and her siblings, Kirsty Venth and Joanna Lo, and their families. Best wishes Allison from all your friends here at St. David's!

**Happy Birthday to Ed Vanderkloet who has a birthday on January 20th!** Ed will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his children, Abigail and Jacob. Congratulations Ed, from your St. David's family and best wishes for a great day!

**Happy Birthday to our own Kay Scott** who will be celebrating her birthday on January 17<sup>th</sup> with family and friends near and far. Kay is a long-time member of St. David's and is very active in every aspect of our Church life. She is a great supporter of many of our Church groups including Good Companions, Prayer Shawl (Knitter's Group), AMS, WA, and Bridges to Hope. Kay is a great friend to many, not only here at St. David's, but also to the residents in Elizabeth Towers. Your St. David's family wish you a wonderful birthday Kay and all our love!

**Happy Anniversary greetings to Lori-Kim den Otter and Andy Versteeg** who will be celebrating their 18<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on January 17<sup>th</sup>. Even though Lori-Kim and Andy now live in Ontario, they are fondly remembered by many within our congregation. Best wishes Lori-Kim and Andy on your anniversary from all your friends here at St. David's and we wish you many more years of happiness!

**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**

### **Update for the Winter Coat Appeal**

During the month of December we were collecting gently used winter coats. The winter coats have been donated to The Salvation Army Wiseman's Centre for distribution. Our sincere appreciation to all of you who donated to this special appeal. Thank you!

### **This week's news, stories, and pictures**

As treasurer I get to chat with a bunch of people and this week one of those people was Diane Hodder. Diane now lives in a small community which is home to her mother's family – the Ploughmans. We chatted about a visit Lillian, Em (Lillian's sister - Emily) and I made to her home several years ago now. I caught up on Diane's rug hooking, and people we knew from work (NLCS). Diane is going through the family pictures: the Ploughmans, the Hodders, and the St. David's family. She's been looking at pictures from the church picnics held at the Barnes Farm on Nagles Hill with potato sack and three-legged races and yes, pictures of flipper dinners where there was a Hodder table. We had a nice chat and there may well be some brown eggs being taken on a short drive to her lovely home.

## **John Molgaard Receives Award**

On December 20, 2022, John Molgaard received the Dean's Award for Outstanding Contribution to the Faculty from Interim Dean, Dr. Octavia Dobre. This award recognizes an exceptional contribution to the Faculty of Engineering and Applied Science by an individual associated with the Faculty.

Congratulations John! Well deserved.



## **Thank-You to the Sunday School Children**

As we go about our busy weeks, we sometimes forget that there are some in our congregation that, for various reasons, are not able to get out to Church very often. They still love to keep in touch with their Church family – and the bulletin and News From the Pews articles are a great way to do that. For Christmas, we wanted to do something a bit special for our seniors just to let them know that we miss them and that we are thinking of them.

In December, the same day as the hampers were delivered, we put together a number of gift bags and delivered them to many of our senior members. The gift bags contained many small "treasures" including homemade baked goods, knitted dish cloths and, compliments of the AMS, a 2023 Presbyterian Church calendar – all lovingly made or donated.

Also included in the gift bags were Christmas cards. These were not just any Christmas cards. Each was made by our Sunday School children over the course of 3 weeks and each was individually decorated and signed! These little gift bags made such a difference to those who received them. The cards were especially treasured and enjoyed. So a big thank-you to all our children who lovingly crafted each card....you made such a difference to so many!

And a big thank-you to Sue Templeton who guides the Sunday School Program with her love and faith. She inspires us all!

## **Bridges to Hope**

For 2023, Bridges To Hope will suggest a specific food item to be contributed by members of supporting churches on **the first Sunday of each month**. Of course, this item, and other non-perishable food items, can be given any other Sunday as well. These items are staples in the food hampers distributed and will go a long way to ensuring that hampers can be filled. **For the month of January, we are suggesting canned meat/fish.**

Thank you for your support!



## **"Flyer specials" this week on items useful to Bridges To Hope:**

Great Value tuna at Walmart - \$0.97

Great Value Mac & Cheese at Walmart - \$0.77

Heinz Tomato Sauce at Pipers - \$0.99

Favorite canned fruit at Colemans – 4/\$5

Green Giant canned vegetables at Sobeys - \$0.99

## **Upcoming Events**

We have received a **revised schedule for VOWR**. It will be as follows:

There will be three services from St. David's broadcast in the next few months, so please circle these dates on your calendars. Those services are:

Jan 22<sup>nd</sup>

March 5<sup>th</sup> and

April 16th

The VOWR services are each Sunday evening at 7 pm. If you would like to know the full schedule of church services, please contact the church office and a copy will be sent out to you.

## **Good Companions ~ the revised start date is Thursday, January 19<sup>th</sup>**

If you would like to try your hand at carpet-bowling, join a game of Bridge or 120's, maybe a friendly game of scrabble ... please join us on Thursday afternoons **from 2:00 to 4:00pm** in the Church Hall and Armour Room. Call Heather in the office at 722-2382 and she will put you on the list of attendees ~ we look forward to welcoming you back!

## **Bridge Luncheon**

Save the date...

The first in a series of five Bridge Lunches has been announced and will be held Tuesday, January 24th, 2023. Here are the details:

Date & Time:	Tuesday, January 24, 2023 – Lunch at 12:30 p.m. with Bridge to follow
Menu:	Choice of (1) Pea soup, (2) Vegetable Beef soup or (3) “Specialty soup” Rolls, Dessert, Tea/Coffee
Cost:	\$15.00 per person
Reservations:	Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance! Number Number of tables, 20 max.

To reserve a table, please call Lillian at 754-2362 or Heather at the Church Office (722-2382).