



News from the Pews for Sunday January 22nd, 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



Last year, both of our cats died, and we made the choice after the first passed to adopt two more cats. This picture is Debbie, and she lives with us and her energetic and snuggly kitten Janice (who we also adopted). Debbie came to us a little thin, but she has clearly adapted well to home life, and plumped up with remarkable speed. So quickly, that we've put her on weight control food so she doesn't turn into a total butterball. Thankfully, she seems just as eager for this new food as ever.

Debbie enjoys the simple things: her food, a warm place to nap, and scratches on the back of the neck. As you can see, she feels quite comfortable committing fully to a nap, belly up, even with all the chaos of children and other animals running around. Every cat owner can likely attest to the reality that cats seem to generally think that your home exists for their enjoyment. Every cushion is theirs for a nap, every crinkly thing is theirs to play with, and every person sitting or lying down is theirs to demand pets from.

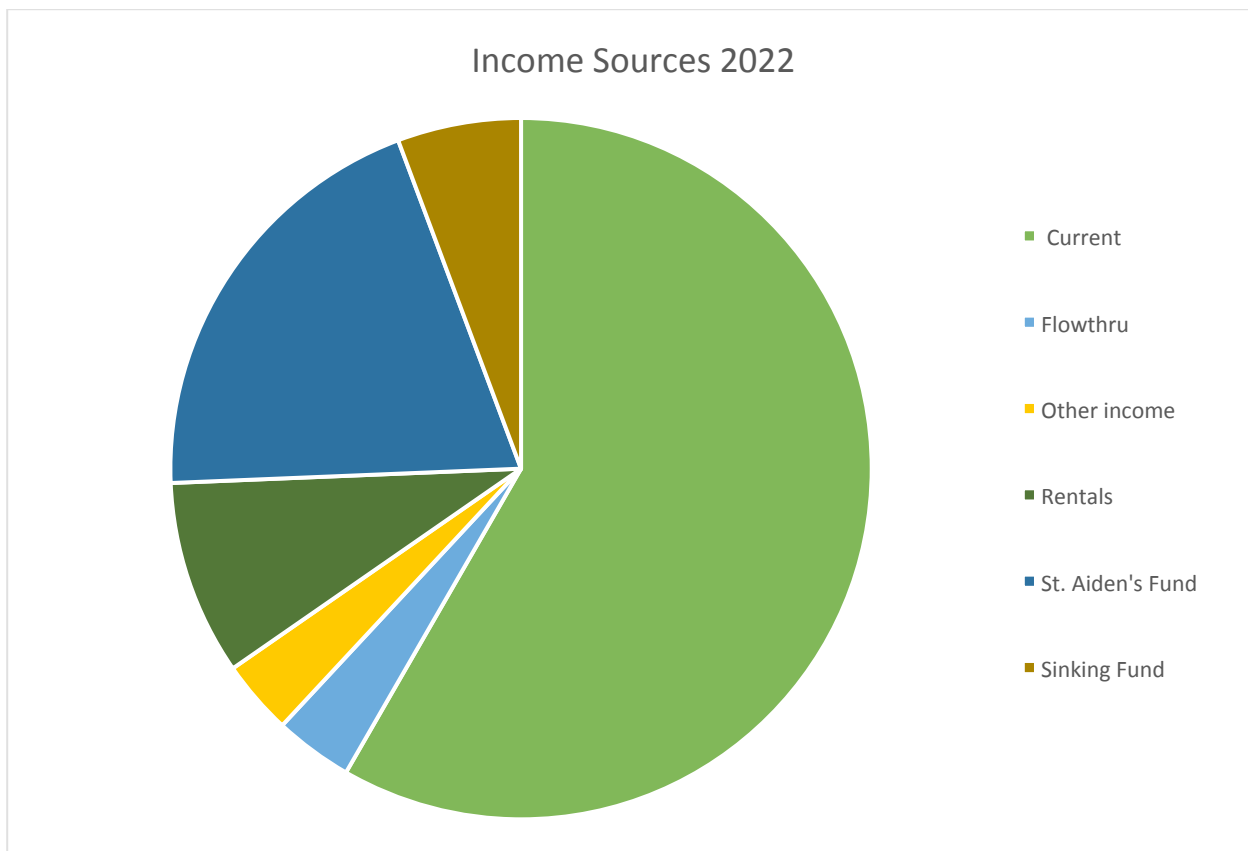
As I watch Debbie relax and enjoy the good things she has in her house, I'm reminded of our own place in creation. It is a part of our faith that the world was made to be enjoyed. God made all the good world and put us in it to enjoy it. Now, this idea has historically led us to decisions that have exploited creation, leading to inequality, climate change, and human suffering. But we should never forget that God really wants us to enjoy our lives and the world we live in.

May you find as much to enjoy in your world as my cat Debbie finds in hers. May you take time to find joy in God's world, whether it focusing on enjoying a cup of tea, setting down your worries and having a bubble bath, the sounds of nature, the smell of a candle, or gazing out at the stark and beautiful landscapes of our fair province in January. May you love God by intentionally enjoying God's gifts and giving thanks for them.

Treasurer's Notes

Treasurer's Update

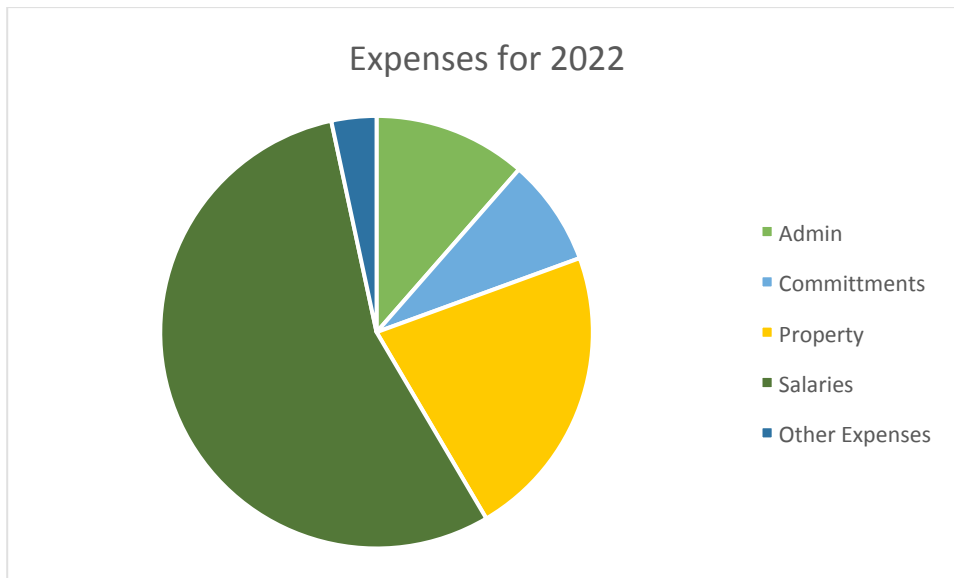
The chart shows our 2022 income. The main categories are "Current" including all our donations made by PAD, envelopes and e-transfers, including Presbyterian Sharing. "Special" are mainly the HST rebates. "Flow thrus" are monies for groups or other charities: Bridges to Hope, AMS, and the Memorial Fund. The other categories are self explanatory: "Rentals", "St. Aiden's Fund", and our "Sinking Fund".



Percentage wise over 58% came from our donations. However, 20% was from the St. Aiden’s Fund and 6% came from the sinking fund. Rentals made up 9% of our income, while the special income (3.6%) and flow throughs (3.4%) made up the remainder.

The following is the chart showing expenses for 2022, comprised of “Admin” or administrative expenses such as office supplies, bank charges, loan repayments, (PCC and LOC), and accountant fees. Our “Commitments” are to Presbytery, Synod, Presbyterian Sharing, General Protestant Cemetery, and our Christmas hampers. The “Property” charges are for heat, light, maintenance and equipment purchases, snow clearing, insurance, and various inspections and monitoring. A large part is spent on “Salaries” for the minister (stipend, housing and utilities, and medical/dental insurance), church administrator, music director and janitor. It also includes our congregational pension amount and payment to supply ministers, supply organists, and musicians who take part in special services.

The “Other Expenses” consist mainly of the flow throughs and some small payments for coffee time, Sunday School supplies, and charges related to the contemporary services.



As you can see the majority of our expenses fall into two categories: Salaries at 55% and Property at 22%. The remainder range from 11% for Admin, 9 % for Commitments and 3% for the other expenses.

In the January 8th bulletin I wrote that “I was concerned that there would be insufficient funds to pay all our bills for 2022 and took that message to Session. An appeal was announced and although we did not meet the full “ask”, we were able to pay all 2022 salaries, bills and donations to others (Presbyterian Sharing, Bridges to Hope, PWS&D, Ukraine support, ANC House, AMS and the WA). However, we will be in the same state come February when we will have to dip into our Line of Credit (LOC) to pay our people, suppliers and the PCC.”

While the appeal did bring in some \$3,700 in specifically designated donations, there were other donations that may have been given to us but simply without the designation “Special appeal”.

Simply put: What is going on with our finances? Like everyone else our expenses are rising and our income is shrinking.

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 givings. It's never too late to make a donation! Thank you all.

This week's story from the Treasurer...

Last week, I spoke with an "almost" neighbour living about 20 minutes away. This week I went looking for some information from our previous treasurer, Steve Andrews. Steve and his wife, Helen, are living in Toronto. Apparently a treasurer does not fall far from the tree, as Steve is helping out the Treasurer of the church his wife attends. He's been reviewing that church's Draft budget for 2023. After telling Steve I got Covid for my birthday, Steve said he tested positive over Thanksgiving with only very mild symptoms. They continue to take care and we wish them well.

Birth Announcements

Xander Charles Rogers arrived on January 2nd at 6:47am weighting 7lbs. 1oz. He is the son of Claire Goobie and Matthew Rogers and the grandson of Charlie and Olive Goobie. Mom and baby are doing well and Dad is taking good care of his little family.

Congratulations to Jamilya and Nathan Barnes on the birth of their daughter, Charlie Bette Ali, on January 15, 2023! This is the first grandchild for Martha and Glenn Barnes and of course, Laura is now an aunt! Best wishes to the family from everyone here at St. David's and all our love to Charlie.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Sandra Perry, currently living in Ontario, who will be celebrating her birthday on the 29th of January. Her sister, Beth, will be helping her mark the special day from here in St. John's. Your St. David's family sends along birthday wishes Sandra and we 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

A Special Friend to All

Last week, we sent along birthday wishes to Kay Scott, a special friend to many not only here at St. David's but most certainly, well beyond our doors. We wanted to share this beautiful picture of Kay, taken by Judy Cumby, as they shared a birthday dinner to mark her special day! Thanks for being an inspiration to us all Kay! (And thanks, Judy for taking this picture!)



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 Peanut Butter at Walmart - \$3.77

Great Value Mac & Cheese at Walmart - \$0.77

Heinz Tomato Soup at Lawtons - \$2/\$1.20

Compliments Apple Juice at Lawtons – 4/\$5

Heinz Beans or Pasta at Lawtons – 4/\$5

No Name Peanut Butter at Shoppers Drug Mart - \$2.99

Colgate Toothpaste or Toothbrush at Shoppers - \$0.99

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!

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 22nd

March 5th 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

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

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).

UPDATE!!! 17 of our tables are booked which is terrific news but we are short a few tables... if anyone has a card table they could loan us for the day it would be very much appreciated. Please contact Heather in the office or Lillian to advise. (See numbers above.)