



News from the Pews for Sunday January 29th, 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



I had a few people tell me that because I gave my cat Debbie the chance to shine last week, I should give her daughter Janice a turn in the spotlight too, so here she is, in one of the moments from this Christmas season where she stops moving long enough to take a picture of her, wrapping herself up in a beautiful Christmas tree skirt from my grandmother.

Janice is still less than a year old, and the expression pictured on her face here is a common one. I sometimes call her "boggle" because she stares so intently with such big eyes. Debbie teaches me to relax and enjoy the moments in this world God has given me. Janice teaches me to focus on the task at hand.

One of the most common types of commands Jesus gives in scripture is not to be afraid, not to worry about tomorrow, or to trust in God for provision. As Christians, we are called to do our best and trust God for the rest. The world is in God's hands, the victory will be God's, and no matter what difficulties may come our way we know that God will carry us through.

When Janice is sitting next to the window watching a bird on the bird feeder, or when she's flattened herself down, boggle-eyed, preparing to pounce on my toes moving underneath my blanket on the bed, she is entirely focused on the task at hand. When I write my sermon, I get distracted by a hundred things. When I'm playing with my kids, my mind wanders to things I will need to do in a couple hours. When I play, I worry about things I should be working on, and when I'm working I daydream about playing.

There's a line from the comedy show "Parks and Recreation" that, if you'll forgive a bit of crass language, has stuck with me. The gruff Ron Swanson is mentoring his type-A friend Leslie who is trying to do too many things at once, and he says to her "Never half-ass two things. Whole-ass one thing."

Or in the slightly more pulpit-appropriate words of the letter to the Colossians: *"Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for human masters" (Colossians 3:23)*

When you are relaxing like Debbie, commit to it. When you are focusing on a task like Janice, do not allow your attention to be divided in unproductive ways. We do not need to worry about the future, and giving all of our attention to the task at hand, whatever that may be, gives better results and feels better too. May God bless you with focus today, so that you can accomplish all you need to and truly enjoy the rest you have earned at the end of the day. Whatever you are doing, may it have your full attention, so that at every moment you are able to do and be your best. May you give your all to every moment God has given to you. Amen.

Treasurer's Notes

Treasurer's Update for this Week

With the receipts done, I've spent some time preparing the Sage (our accounting package) files for our auditor. It is an ongoing operation which I hope to send off within the next week or so. This week the T4's for the minister and our church administrator are also on my "to do" list.

Sometimes unexpected little things sneak in: Karen Plater from the PCC called me in Lady Cove about cheques which never arrived. We had sent them off as "expedited" mail through Canada Post. Heather sorted out the matter with Canada Post - a processing problem at the York sorting facility. Our cheques went from being MIA on last Friday to their arrival at the PCC this past Monday.

Under the heading "it never ends" we've had heating woes. In early November the circulating pump for the hall was making a major racket which H&R Mechanical managed to correct, although they also said "It's on its way out." I remember saying "It better wait for Christmas to be over!" Then, since late November, we've had no heat on the stage. Heather got inventive, moving one renter to the Armour Room and for the other rental - opening the folding door and turning up the heat in the hall. When H&R checked, we needed a new actuator and we also needed asbestos remediation before work could commence. What with the asbestos company's busy scheduling, Christmas, and New Year's I was only able to get the asbestos remediation done on Friday January 6th. It doesn't end there! The new actuator worked well but did not get on well with the old thermostat. Today (Jan 24th) I've been reassured by H&R that a new thermostat is on its way tomorrow. Meanwhile, were you at church in early January when Coffee Time was held in the lobby outside the offices? Yes, the circulating pump for the hall failed, but waited until January to do so! After discussion with H&R, I asked about and ok'ed air freight. It took almost a week but the heat's back on in the hall.

While our finances are still not good, we do get regular monthly donations through the PAD, on Sundays, from rentals and by etransfers. How do we compare with January 2022?

The total donations in January 2022 were \$10,734. This year with a week to go, donations to date are at \$11,811. We also missed one Sunday with the snowstorm last week. I have high hopes that the total received in January will be good.

Expenses are also up year over year. Previously I've written about fuel. This week I'm highlighting our insurance costs. They have risen 13.2% over last year. We are now paying from \$784 per month, compared to last year's \$693 per month.

Please consider this as you make choices about your donations to the church. Thank you to all those who have made donations and continue to do so.

Update: Today, Jan 27th we received the first invoice from H & R Mechanical. This invoice is for the circulating motor and its install ensuring heat was back on in the hall. Happily, they gave us a 10% discount, the first we have received. The invoice was just under \$2,200. This does not include the other job they are doing, the loss of heat on the stage, for which I expect both an asbestos mitigation invoice plus the actuator and thermostat replacement.

This also means that I am re-calculating who and when we are able to pay our suppliers, our employees and contractors, and our other commitments.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday greetings to Samantha Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on January 30th with family and friends, including her mom and dad, Michele and Geoffrey Hudson, and always proud grandparents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes Samantha from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful year ahead!

Happy Birthday to Charlie Goobie who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends – near and far – on February 3rd! Charlie and Olive are long-standing members of St. David's and are very supportive of all the events and activities here at our Church, including Good Companions and the Christmas Hampers Project. Let's not forget Charlie's skill with carpet bowling! A special Happy Birthday wish from all the Good Companions and best wishes from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings to Fraser Myles, who will be celebrating his birthday on February 3rd with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Joan and Wayne Myles and sister, Nicole. Best wishes Fraser from your St. David's family and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Nadia Shalaby, who will be celebrating her birthday on February 5th with family and friends, including her mom and dad, Tanya and Nabil Shalaby and sister, Christina. Best wishes Nadia for a great birthday and wonderful year to come!

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

WA Meeting

The first WA meeting of 2023 will be held this Tuesday, January 31st at 12:00 noon. A light lunch will be served.

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!

Bridges to Hope

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

Clover Leaf Tuna at Walmart - \$0.97

Heinz Tomato Soup at Colemans - \$0.99

Cheez Whiz at Lawtons – \$3.47

Jacob's Cream Crackers at Pipers – 3/\$5.00

As demand on our services continues to rise, we are looking for volunteers to join our team. The available shifts are:

- Tuesday, 10am-1pm

- Wednesday, 10am-1pm

Duties include packing food hampers, stocking shelves, and other prep tasks. If you are interested in joining the team, please fill out the application form at <https://www.bridgestohope.ca/volunteer>.

If your business, school, or group would like to host a food drive in support of our pantry, please reach out to us at info@bridgestohope.ca

WA Bridge Party – January 24, 2023

The WA hosted its first Bridge Party of the year on Tuesday, January 24th. There was an enthusiastic group of bridge players who filled the Church Hall. They enjoyed a delicious luncheon with homemade soups and decadent desserts followed by a wonderful afternoon of bridge.

Many thanks to all the ladies who worked hard to make this a success: setup and take-down crews, cooks (the soups were yummy), dessert makers (those desserts were soooo good!), servers, and of course, all those who joined us for a wonderful afternoon!

Upcoming Events

Bridge Luncheon/Party

The second in a series of five Bridge Lunches has been announced and will be held Tuesday, February 7th, 2023. Here are the details:

Date & Time:	Tuesday, February 7th, 2023 – Lunch at 12:30 p.m. with Bridge to follow
Menu:	Choice of (1) Pea soup, (2) To be announced 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).

Good News About A Good Friend

Steve Bruneau also sent along a link about a "good-news story" that has a direct connection to our Friendly Farmer who has transformed our rocky Church property into an amazing garden. Many of you know of or have actually met, Emad Mustafa Nahhat. Emad is an inspiration for all gardeners. His enthusiasm, work ethic and warm personality have touched many of us and he has obviously passed along these traits to his daughter, Jamila Nahhat. Jamila has won Fry Family Foundation scholarship that will be an immense help toward pursuing her continuing education at Memorial University of Newfoundland Labrador. Congratulation and continuing best wishes to Jamila and her family! And thanks Steve for letting us know - such wonderful news!

Here is the link for the CBC article:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/jamila-nahhat-scholarship-nurshing-english-syria-1.6718125>

This week's story from the Treasurer...

This week I had a nice chat with Sheena Findlay. We talked chickens, of course, and what our flocks ate or are eating. Growing up her family always had hens and with her father being a fisherman and having a fish shop, their hens got fed some fish. My flock also like raw cod and the discussion was about whether the eggs taste fishy. Mine don't because my hens do not eat enough codfish. Sheena had to admit that sometimes their eggs did taste a bit fishy, so she tried several ways to lessen the taste. One way was to give the hens sour cream, which only caused her father to wonder what was going on with the hens' eggs tasting less fishy.

Here are a couple of mine getting some winter sun!



Pickle-Ball Anyone???

Thanks to Steve Bruneau's initiative, St David's Hall can now be used to play pickleball! Such a great idea and a wonderful opportunity! Here's a little note from Steve that explains how it came to be and how we might proceed. If you have any questions, contact either Heather at the Church Office or Steve Bruneau directly. (See phone number and emails at the end of News From the Pews.)

The inaugural game was played on snowy Sunday. My friend Leonard Lye is the president of the Newfoundland Pickleball association – does tons of volunteer stuff to promote the game. He sold me the kit - there is a net system which is self-supporting and the paddles and balls are the remainder. The works are under the stage on top of the lightbulb boxes. Packs up like a tent. Leonard has offered a free start-up clinic for us if desired.

.... I have been led to believe that the sport is very popular right now and that court-time is hard to come by. It may be that the Hall can be rented for play, either by groups for exclusive use, or for drop-in by booking. Or, perhaps it might just be left as an option for any group wishing to rent the hall, or just as a recreational activity for us church members. There are implications of course, management of the equipment, building entry, insurance etc. So I am under no illusion that it is a trivial discussion. For now – there is no expectation that we need to do anything! I am happy to simply have it for ourselves to have a bit of fun.

I learned from Leonard that members of the Pickleball Association are insured when playing the game where ever they may be. Membership costs \$16 per year so this is a fairly obvious pathway, provided we read the policy and it makes sense.

Here's the link to pickleball

NL <https://secure.pickleballcanada.org/club/pickleball-newfoundland-and-labrador/6/>

Meantime, without getting too far ahead – let me encourage you to investigate the game and equipment. I dare say the rules and game play can be figured out quickly on the internet, we might want to stick a sheet on the cork board describing these things for folks new to the game.

Have fun and reflect on ways we might use the game and facility productively!



Steve.