



News from the Pews for Sunday February 12th, 2023

“News from the Pews”, contains stories, pictures and happenings from, by and for the members of the congregation. It also contains 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

This week, many of you have no doubt heard about the earthquakes that have struck Turkey and Syria. This earthquake has caused immense suffering for the people living there, as poor infrastructure after long years of conflict in the area slows responses, and cold winter weather sets in.

Disasters like this reach us even here in St. John's. You may remember our Syrian friend Emad, who grew a great crop of vegetables in the unused area beside our church this summer, and even erected some greenhouses to increase his yields. Emad and his family came here as refugees from Syria, and have relatives living in the affected area. Here is a link to a CBC article in which Emad's daughters Jamila and Safa are interviewed about what is going on in Syria:

<https://www.cbc.ca/news/canada/newfoundland-labrador/syria-turkey-earthquake-nl-1.6741579>

From the earliest days of this crisis, our church is responding. Here is a note and some pictures of ongoing relief efforts from the Presbyterian World Service and Development (PWS&D) arm of the Presbyterian Church in Canada:

Already struggling to overcome political, economic and health crises, Syrians are now faced with the catastrophic effects of a 7.8 earthquake that struck southeast Türkiye and northern Syria on February 6. Our partner, the National Evangelical Synod of Syria and Lebanon (NESSL) is responding to the disaster as best it can. NESSL's General Secretary, the Rev. Joseph Kassab, says that there is an immediate and desperate need for emergency funds to cover the costs associated with blankets, mattresses, fuel for generators for heating, medical supplies, diapers, and baby formula. In a message from Aleppo, the Rev. Ibrahim Nseir says that people had no warning and time to leave their homes. Many are in shock and don't know what to do, given the extent of the disaster and living through such a traumatic event. Presbyterian World Relief & Development (PWS&D) can help quickly through its partners at ACT Alliance, whose members are on the ground and have started distributing warm food and canned goods to people affected by the disaster.*

For more on the earthquake and responses from our partners working in Syria, see the Middle East Council of Churches (MECC) website (<https://www.mecc.org/mecc/2023/2/8/sbdve13tc8thb1span389r470ctbjk-cj656>) and view a video (<https://www.mecc.org/mecc/2023/2/9/syria-is-in-distress-due-to-the-earthquake-that-hit-it>) in which Safir Salim , a member of the MECC relief team in Aleppo, describes the first moments after the earthquake when they took refuge in the Salesian Church, hoping that it would provide shelter for them.

**Why Türkiye and not Turkey? The country has requested that it be known as Türkiye and not Turkey. We operate on the principle that we identify people and countries by the names they have requested.*



Treasurer's Update for this Week

The time has come to start compiling the Annual Report for 2022. Some work is already in progress. I have received one financial report from one of our groups. Heather will start sending our requests for group reports at the latest by Monday. This also means that the Annual Congregational Meeting is not far off.

I am continuing to prepare for the Review Engagement Report, to be prepared by our auditor. I hope to have that passed off to the auditor by Monday.

We have a \$10,000 Line of Credit (LOC) with RBC, not many charities and non-profits have access to that type of asset. In 2021 we had used \$8,000 of the LOC by January 13th and on February 3rd we used the last \$2,000. To continue paying people and our suppliers, I would move money from the sinking fund to the current account and move it back when able to do so.

This year, I had to move the entire \$12,000 from the sinking fund to the current account back on December 5th 2022. So the only thing left is the LOC or choosing which bills to pay. I am holding out on the LOC until it is absolutely necessary. While our finances are still not good, we do get regular monthly donations through the PAD, on Sundays, from rentals and by eTransfers. 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.

From The Board of Managers

DUTY CALLS...

The Board of Managers is responsible for maintaining the buildings and the financial administration of the church. New ideas and different perspectives are needed. Our oil costs are rising, we need to consider energy alternatives. St. David's is attracting community-based activities, we need to explore new links to mission opportunities.

At some point in your life St. David's, or other churches like it, has been an important influence in your spiritual development. Maybe it is time to give back. You may have served before, that experience would be informative now. Here is an opportunity to grow in your faith, by getting to know better the congregation and its church.

Please consider helping the church with important operational decisions impacting our future. We need your help. Join the Board. For more information we will be holding an orientation at the church on Thursday, February 23rd, 7:30pm. Contact the office either by email stdavids@nfld.com or phone 722-2382.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Nabil Shalaby who celebrated his birthday on February 5th! Nabil is a long-time member of St. David's. We know that Tanya, Christina and Nadia made it a very special day for him and that he celebrated his birthday with family and friends near and far. Best wishes Nabil from your St. David's family and we wish you all the best in the coming year!

And apologies to **Nadia Shalaby**. I incorrectly announced that her birthday was on the 5th, but actually it's on the 16th of February. Nabil and Nadia celebrated their birthdays together last Sunday (5th) with their family. We hope you have a wonderful birthday Nadia and best wishes for the coming year!

Happy Birthday to Valda Morrissey who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on February 14th – Valentine's Day! Valda will no doubt be over the moon as her son Fred is home to celebrate this special day with her. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday, Valda, and may there be many more!

Happy Birthday to Alexander Bruneau who will be celebrating his birthday on February 14th! Alexander will be celebrating his big day with family and friends including his mom and dad – Jill and Ian Bruneau, siblings, Samantha and Timothy, aunts, uncles and cousins and of course, his grandmother, Jean Bruneau. Best wishes for a great day, Alexander from everyone here at St. David's!

Happy Birthday to Lila Quinton who will be celebrating her 1st birthday on February 14! Lila is the daughter of Melissa Smallwood and Josh Quinton. Lila will be celebrating this special day with her mom and dad, big brother, Ethan, proud grandparents, Becky and Leith Quinton, aunts, uncles and cousins and all her little friends. Much love Lila from your St. David's family and we hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings to Jackson McLean, who will be celebrating his birthday on Tuesday, February 15th, with family and friends – near and far! Jackson is the son of Christine and John McLean, who are currently living in Nova Scotia. Best wishes Jackson from your St. David's family - we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Christina Duncan (Baird) who will be celebrating her birthday on February 16th! Christina has recently returned to Newfoundland and Labrador and St. David's after living in Scotland for many years – and we are delighted to have her back! Christina is rejoining several church groups and is becoming one of our most enthusiastic carpet bowlers with the Good Companions! Christina will be celebrating her birthday with her son, Kenneth, and his wife, along with countless other friends near and far. Best wishes, Christina, from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful birthday and all the best for the coming year!

Birthday greetings to Junup Chol who will be celebrating his 17th birthday on February 16th. Junup is the son of John Chol and Nyayalyal Gang-Luai. (John and Nyayalyal are former members of St. David's and are still in close contact with many members of the congregation.) Best wishes Junup for a wonderful birthday from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a great day!

Happy Birthday to a very special little boy, Orson Sturtevant, who will be celebrating his 4th birthday on February 19th! Orson will be celebrating his special day with his parents, Michelle and David Sturtevant, big brother, Oliver, his grandparents and aunts and uncles in Ontario, and lots of other friends near and far. Let's not forget Ozzie, Debbie, Janice and all the other little pets who will be there for all the fun! Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled day Orson. Much love from everyone!

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 Note from our Sunday School

Sunday School - The Light of Love

As Sue Templeton explained in last week's News From the Pews, the Children's Ministry for February, will focus on "... bringing the light of love" to our families, friends and community. This past Sunday, the children made a number of beautiful valentines that will be given to those in our community who, as Sue says, "...might appreciate receiving a bit of loving sunshine during cold winter days." Who wouldn't want to receive a lovely handmade valentine, from one of our Sunday School children!



If you would like to find out what is involved to assist with Sunday School, please contact Heather at the church office or Sue Templeton anytime ... Or, please join us one Sunday as our guest to observe the children's program in action! Our sign up sheet for the New Year has been posted! Please sign up for any Sunday that will work for you. It is appreciated. Thank you!

Re-cycling

Reduce Reuse Recycle! Yes, St. David's still has an account with Evergreen Recycling! If you would like to donate the proceeds of your recyclables, just enter the Church phone number 722-2382 when you are making a drop-off. Our account will automatically be credited.

Upcoming Events

AMS Meeting – TODAY!!!

Are you tired of the winter: snow, ice, rain... Come to AMS for some comfort and joy!! We are meeting today after the service and coffee hour. All are welcome.

Prayer Shawl Knitters

Normally the Prayer Shawl Knitting group meet in the morning of the first Tuesday in the month but this month we are doing something special!!

The first meeting of 2023 for this group will be held this **Tuesday, February 14th at 10:00am** ~ Valentine's Day!! No experience necessary ~ all are welcome to join in with this very friendly group of knitters!

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. **The next date is: Thursday, Feb 16th.**

Save the date!!!

Shrove Tuesday falls on February 21st ... and that means Pancake Supper!!!

As this special event in our church calendar has been cancelled for two straight years, we are glad to announce that it is back. Please join us at 5:30pm on Tuesday, Feb. 21st for yummy pancakes and Halliday's sausages followed by ice cream!!! See you there!

The WA

The WA are looking for 5 small folding TV tables. If you have any that you are not using and would like to donate to the WA, we would be most thankful.

Bridges to Hope:

"Two good buys" for the week of February 10th to 15th, 2023 - Items useful to Bridges To Hope:

Walmart - Campbell's Soup - \$0.97

Sobeys - Catelli Pasta or Garden Select Pasta Sauce - 2/\$3.00

Please Note:

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and **the item for FEBRUARY is Canned Beans**. Of course, other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

Bridges to Hope Benefit Concert

A Songwriters Circle Benefit Show in support of Bridges to Hope will take place on Thursday, March 16th at 7 pm at Gower Street United Church. The show will feature Alan Doyle, Rachel Cousins, Kelly McMichael and Nick Earle. Tickets are \$35 and can be purchased through the Bridges to Hope web site at www.bridgestohope.ca, or by calling 709-722-9225.

The annual report for Bridges to Hope

Copies of the Bridges to Hope Annual report are available in the Narthex and at the church office. Alternatively, a copy of the report can be emailed to you - please email the office: stdavids@nfld.com with your request.

Bridge Luncheon/Party

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

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

Fellowship Lunch – February 5, 2023

The second Fellowship Lunch was held on February 5th. Chief chef was Rev. Sturtevant, who served a terrific chili with homemade cornbread, followed by ice-cream for dessert. With lots of help from Heather, our super Administrator, and other volunteers, the lunch was a great success. A big "Thank-you" to all! And special thanks to Steve Bruneau who provided some post-lunch entertainment for the kids... hard to say who had more fun!!

Rev. Sturtevant is already looking forward to the next Fellowship Lunch – March 19th!

Here are a few pictures from last Sunday....



“Insider” information...

The WA are a lively group

This article was actually written for last week’s News from the Pews, but could NOT be used because it gave away the menu and the “special” soup.

The WA women work hard but also thoroughly enjoy their meetings, which are full of good food and plenty of chatter, laughter, and general enjoyment everyone exhibits in planning their events. There is a light lunch. Of course, it’s varied and invariably healthy, but with great goodies! Each month there is a short devotion and then it’s on to business. After the minutes from the last meeting and their financial update, the main focus this last meeting, was planning for the next Bridge Party. What kind of soup? Pea soup, always! Then the “standard” fare, the choices are turkey, chicken, or beef served alternately. This time it’s chicken with pasta. There is always a special soup or, the piece de resistance, in elegance and taste, i.e. fancy. Various recipes were handed around and a lively discussion ensued. What did the bridge players think of the last speciality soup? Was any left to be sold? No, all gone! Ahhhh! Good. What to choose next? The decision was lively, funny, and in the end a tomato soup was chosen – pretty basic right? No, no, no. It needed a name and look, to satisfy the most discerning “Tomato Bisque with Cheesy Croutons”. Then for the desserts, the pina colada dessert last time just disappeared! So the choices have to be tasty, colorful, delicious, and we’re not mentioning calories! Three desserts were chosen after some discussion and more laughter while the last of the goodies disappeared as everyone contemplated the future desserts and the decorative touches needed to finish off each one. Half strawberries cut appropriately because Valentines Day is only around the corner! On the day, all three soups were hot, delicious and along with the desserts prepared the bridge players for an enjoyable afternoon of bridge.

The WA also had a great lunch, got the Bridge Party fully organized, and had fun doing so before departing to work, home, or to the hall to try out pickleball!

WA Hosted Bridge Party – February 7, 2023

The WA hosted another bridge party this past week and it was a great afternoon for all those who participated. The bridge players not only enjoy the spacious venue with a relaxed atmosphere but also the FOOD! The WA ladies offer a choice of homemade soups with rolls followed by delectable desserts. All in all, it's a fun time. After lunch and some lively chit-chat, the players settle down for their bridge game for the rest of the afternoon.

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteer to make these afternoons a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our cooks and bakers, our kitchen staff and servers, our dessert "plater" and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you!

Here are just a few of the pictures from Tuesday....





Update on Pickle-Ball ...

Leonard Lye (president of the Newfoundland Pickleball Association) is holding an Introduction to Pickleball Clinic in the hall on Monday, February 13th from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Spots are still available to participate or as a spectator ~ come see what all the excitement is all about!!

Please call Heather in the office at 722-2382 to sign up!!