

## **News from the Pews for Sunday February 5th, 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, I hope you'll be joining me for lunch after the service at St. David's. After a successful Minister's advent lunch of turkey soup back in December, I wanted to offer lunch again, and so we will be having Chili and cornbread this Sunday following the service.

When I was making the Turkey Soup, I felt a little embarrassed about how simply I made it. The total ingredient list for that soup was Turkey, water, salt, pepper, carrots, onion, and turnip. The veggies were all bought bulk, pre-diced, so other than carving two turkeys and boiling their bones for the stock, there was basically no prep work at all. If someone came to me to say they liked the soup, a piece of me felt like I'd cheated by using such a simple "recipe".

Clearly, that is a foolish way to be thinking, but it is also altogether too common. In our scripture readings for this Sunday, we will hear the prophet Isaiah say:

*"if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday."*

I think that sometimes we can feel embarrassed by doing simple things. Bringing in a few dollars worth of non-perishable food for the weekly cart that goes to the food bank feels too simple to be my answer to the call to establish the Kingdom of God on earth as it is in heaven. We shy away from celebrating our own stumbling attempts at comforting a grieving friend, and our simple gifts and actions are kept private so we don't appear simple ourselves.

But the reading from Isaiah echoes a message found throughout scripture: We are called to simple acts of goodness and humility. If your response to a calling to feed the hungry is to start baking bread, do not be embarrassed by how simply you have taken your instructions! May we serve God with the simple gifts we have to offer, in a spirit of humility and truth.

The chili for this Sunday is also a very simple recipe that I've had with me from my university days. One can of tomatoes, one onion, one can of kidney beans, around 300g of ground beef, some more of those pre-diced carrots, and some chili powder and worcestershire sauce for flavour. I am not the sort of cook who likes recipes with an ingredient list two pages long! I am in my element cooking like this: simple food in huge quantities. I hope you will come and enjoy it!

## **Treasurer's Update for this Week**

By now you should have received an appeal letter. Please give it serious consideration and if you have any questions please contact me, your elder or the minister. We welcome your comments, concerns, thoughts, and ideas.

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 soon.

I am continuing to prepare for the Review Engagement Report, to be prepared by our auditor. I hope to have that completed by the end of this week. The receipts and T4's are complete, everything I had to do has been done.

Heating update: H&R Mechanical was in yesterday (Feb 1<sup>st</sup>) and changed the piping, put in the new actuator and new thermostat. We exchanged stories of our under stage remembrances, me vacuuming out that area years ago and they using a dolly to roll around in there!

In 2022 we got 193 separate eTransfers from 36 different donors totaling \$21,435 with the average donation being \$113.78.

Donations from donors who gave	\$0 - \$50	14
Donations from donors who gave	\$51 - \$200	6
Donations from donors who gave	\$201 - \$500	4
Donations from donors who gave	\$501 and up	12

Last week I was talking about the income received for January 2023. The January 2023 numbers are all in. The comparison between 2022 and 2023 is:

Jan 2022	\$ 10,734	Jan 2023	\$13, 498
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January 2023 was a good month, the only thing is we need that level of donations throughout the year, every month of the year. It no longer surprises me that we get almost 25% of our income from donations in the last six weeks of the year. Last year was no different, we got 23.7% of our donations in the latter weeks of 2022.

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.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations**

**Happy Birthday greetings to Collins Bekoe**, who will be celebrating his birthday on February 6<sup>th</sup>! Collins will be celebrating his birthday with wife, Mavis, and their little boy, Calvin, along with many friends and family – here and abroad. Best wishes Collins from your St. David's family - we hope you have a great day and may there be many more to come!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Effie Chancey** who will be celebrating 97th birthday on February 11th! Effie is fondly remembered by many here at St. David's, especially by many of our Good Companion friends. Effie was married to Harold Chancey. Effie is the sister-in-law to Fred Chancey (d. 2006) and Betty Chancey. Effie is currently living in a retirement home in Clarendville and by all accounts still enjoys good health and many activities. Effie will be celebrating her big day with many friends and family. Happy Birthday, Effie from all your friends here at St. David's! We wish you a great day and all the best for the coming year!

**Happy Birthday to Emily (Em) Dyckson**, who will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, February 5th! Em is a great friend to many here at St. David's and an enthusiastic supporter of many of the activities and functions that happen within our walls. Em will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, near and far, including her sister, Lillian Crawford and all of Lillian's family. Best wishes, Em for a great birthday from all your friends here at St. David's! We'll be thinking of you!

**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**

For the four Sundays in February our Children's ministry will focus upon "bringing the light of love" to our families, friends and community. Theme songs will be "Jesus bids us shine" and "This little light of mine" .... "Shining the light of love every day in every way" will be our mission in February. We will be encouraging our youngsters to reach out to others in love over the next few weeks, by making Valentines for friends in our community who might appreciate receiving a bit of loving sunshine during cold winter days, by offering a hand to those in need via contributions to Bridges to Hope, and by encouraging "random" gifts of kindness during the month ahead at home, at school and wherever there is a need.

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**

### **PWS&D Sunday & the Minister's Chili Lunch**

PWS&D and the Minister's Chili lunch, will be served following this Sunday's service (**Feb 5<sup>th</sup>**) in the hall. All are welcome!

## **Bridge Luncheon/Party**

The second in a series of five Bridge Lunches has been announced and will be held **Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**, 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) Chicken 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 of tables, 20 max.

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

## **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! **The next date is; Thursday, Feb 9<sup>th</sup>.**

## **AMS Meeting**

The first AMS meeting of 2023 will be held next **Sunday, February 12th** following the coffee-hour. A light lunch will be served.

## 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 on **Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am** ~ Valentine's Day!! No experience necessary ~ all are welcome to join in with this very friendly group of knitters!

## Bridges to Hope:

**"Flyer specials" – Week of February 3 - 8, 2023 - Items useful to Bridges To Hope:**

At Walmart: Nutella - \$1.97

Great Value Peanut Butter - \$3.77

At Colemans: Favorite Mandarin Oranges – 3/\$4.00

Cheez Whiz - \$3.97

At Pipers: Jacob Cream Crackers – 3/\$5.00

At Sobey's: Kraft Dinner or KD Cups - \$0.97

At Lawtons: Heinz Tomato Soup – 2/\$1.20

**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!

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](mailto:info@bridgestohope.ca)

## **From The Archives**

Well, here we are, February 2023 and getting close to Valentine's Day. This week, we have some pictures from a Good Companion outing that took place back in 2002. In honour of it being Valentine's Day, all the members went out to lunch at the College of North Atlantic. Those were the days when the culinary students and those taking cooking courses at the College, got hands-on practice and experience by preparing meals for the general public. Recognize anyone?

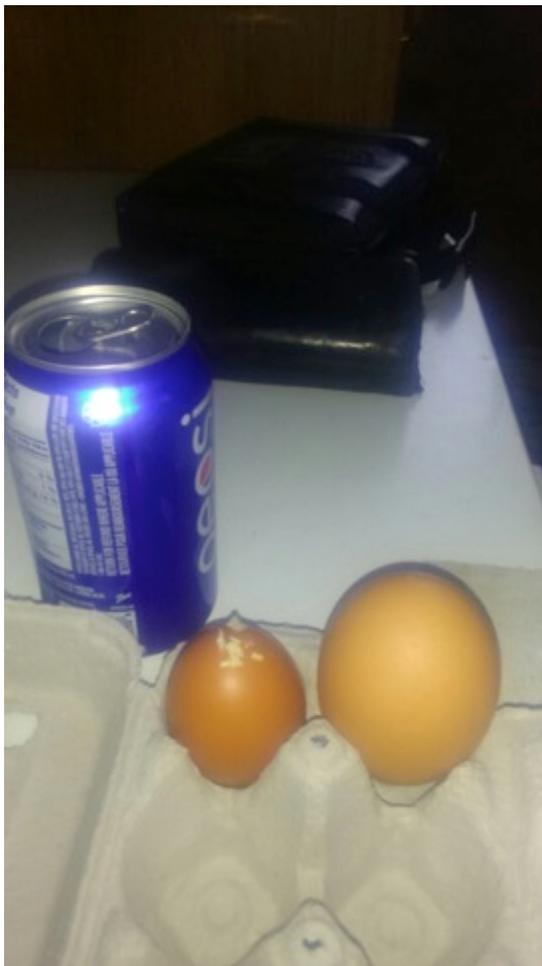


These lovely pictures were in a (Good Companions) photo album that Kay Scott passed over to the archives... Thank you Kay!



## The News from the Flock (Anne's chickens)

Last week there was some louder squawking than normal in the morning and I thought "What are they doing now?" Laying eggs, of course, or noisily expecting treats as there were nine eggs already in evidence. I did not expect the size of the egg I picked out of the coop and understanding dawned, yup – another LARGE egg. This is the biggest one yet. One of the flock is laying extra large size eggs, most only millimeters smaller than this one. Extra treats all around!



## Update on Pickle-Ball ...

Last week we told you about Steve Bruneau's initiative to bring Pickleball to St. David's ~ well, thanks to great response from the congregation, Leonard Lye (president of the Newfoundland Pickleball Association) will hold an Introduction to Pickleball Clinic here in the hall on Monday, February 13<sup>th</sup>, in the afternoon from 1:00 to 4:00pm. Please call Heather in the office at 722-2382 to sign up!!

As a reminder to what was posted in last week's News from the Pews, I'm including the little note from Steve, that explains how it came to be and how we might proceed. If you have any questions, contact either me (Heather) at the Church Office or Steve Bruneau directly.

*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.*

