



## **News from the Pews for Transfiguration Sunday February 19th, 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 find myself unable to use the illustration I wanted for my Message. That's because this week, what I wanted to share with you was a sound! It's the sound I heard when I was standing outside my front door looking out at all that snow that I'd been shoveling for the last few days, and it is a happy sound. I went looking for the source, and found this little hole in the snow next to my neighbour's house. The snow on his roof is melting, you see, and drip-drip-dripping down into a pile of snow. Little by little, it is melting away, and I know that little by little, every bit of snow I shoveled will also melt away.

I am glad to know that the snow will always melt. No matter how big the storm is, how slippery my driveway becomes, or how precise my parking has to be between the snowbanks in my driveway so that there's room to open the doors, I know that it won't last. Today is a longer day than yesterday, and tomorrow will be longer still. I believe in Spring, so I don't mind the snow.

This was just another little reminder for me today of the hope that we can have in God's promises. The snow may come and bury us, but it will not last. We may have to work to clear it away, but soon no trace of it will remain. Like snow, the evil in this world can sometimes be dumped on our heads, smothering us, aggravating us, or even frightening us. Just as snow is a reality of living in Newfoundland, so evil is a reality of living in this world. We must put our backs into clearing away both! But as we work, don't forget to listen for the drip-drip-drip of the inevitable outcome. Spring is coming, with its promise of new and abundant life. Winter can scream and blow, but its days are numbered. And if your arms are as tired as mine are from shoveling, that is Good News indeed!

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

The number of returns for the Annual Report are slow to come in, so like always, I will offer to do up one for you. But it may not be the one you would wish to see! The Annual Congregational Meeting is not far off, a decision from Session is expected at their next meeting.

I am continuing to prepare for the Review Engagement Report (RER), to be prepared by our auditor. Other things continue to intervene and slow me down, but people are finding out that the auditor is first in line. That will continue until she has all the information she needs, to prepare the RER. .

We have a \$10,000 Line of Credit (LOC) with RBC, which has not been touched to date. However, we do owe money, mainly to the PCC, for various charges, or commitments. Given that the only thing left is the LOC or choosing which bills to pay.

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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 7:30pm. Contact the office either by email [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com) or phone 722-2382.

## **New Committee Coming Together**

Last year the Session formed a Radical Change Committee, with the mandate to be: "To consider and explore any and all changes to St David's Church with a view towards improving sustainability; and reporting the findings back to Session for broader consideration." The changes which we thought may be under consideration were: • Broader NGO partnerships that increase use of SD facilities and increase SD contribution to the life of these organizations. • Increased rental

and lease efforts for existing church Hall, Sanctuary and Properties. • Mergers and/or partnerships with other churches. • Property acquisition and /or disposal and / or reuse for alternate purpose. • Rebranding of Church, Community-based, multi- denominational, or otherwise blended.

That was last year, this year a new committee is gathering speed. This one is called the St. David's (SD) Futures Committee. **The first meeting was held on Jan 31<sup>st</sup> and a second one** was scheduled for last Wednesday. The notice for the meeting was late going out and we had a snow-storm and many were still shovelling. The meeting has been moved to **Wednesday coming, Feb 22<sup>nd</sup>**.

This committee needs your help and input. We're looking for participants who are interested in this congregation and its evolution. It was launched by Steve Bruneau and we are hoping to get a chair, secretary, discuss a mandate, and eventually have an open discussion on and airing of proposals.

Meanwhile, various people are looking at opportunities including applying to the federal government's \$400 million fund to help groups and communities recover from the Covid epidemic. A discussion was being had on Friday with United Way about a proposed project for the church. The treasurer will be applying to the St. Aiden's Fund for \$30,000 grant to pay off the CEBA loan/grant, which is due on December 31<sup>st</sup> 2023.

These are Steve's words at the launch: "It is important that we all consider the wide-ranging interests and emotions that are at play here. Not everyone is equally informed, or equally invested or interested. There are traditions and loyalties, and there are social trends and economic realities."

**There is another meeting this coming Wednesday at 7:30 pm. If you are interested in how St. David's moves forward, if you have any thoughts, concerns, suggestions or want to be part of the discussion, please contact the church at 722-2382.**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations**

**Belated Happy Birthday greetings to Nnenna Offia** who celebrated her birthday on February 18th! We're sure that Nnenna's family, including her 2 daughters, Nnene and Harriet, made her birthday a special one. Nnenna and her family have been a wonderful addition to our Church family since their arrival. From all your friends here at St. David's, Nnenna, best wishes for a great year ahead!

**Happy Birthday to Chelsea Critch** who will be celebrating with her family and friends, near and far, on February 22<sup>nd</sup>. Chelsea is the daughter of Jennifer Critch, and grand-daughter of Jean and Clayton Collins. Best wishes Chelsea from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Gregory Hicks.** Greg will be celebrating his birthday on February 27<sup>th</sup> with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Susan and Frazer Hicks and his proud grand-mother, Shirley Fraize. We hope you have a great birthday, Greg!

**Happy Birthday to Stephen Bonnell** who will be celebrating his birthday on February 20th! Stephen will be celebrating his special day with family and friends, far and wide, including his wife, Denise, and their children, his mom and dad, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell, his brother, Scott and his family, along with many aunts, uncles and cousins. Best wishes Steve from all your friends here at St. David's and we wish you a wonderful year ahead!

**Happy Birthday wishes go out to a dear friend of many here at St. David's, Barbara Ellis,** who is celebrating her big day on February 26<sup>th</sup>! Barbara will be celebrating with numerous family and friends, near and far. Barbara has 3 daughters (Lynn, Susan and Fiona who all live in St. John's or close by with their families) and 1 son (Neil who currently resides in Ontario). Besides her "St. David's Family", Barbara has many wonderful friends in Florida. Barbara has been – and continues to be – involved with many Church groups and activities over the years, including Sunday School, the Brownies, Girl Guides, Pathfinders, Rangers, CGIT, the WMS/AMS, the WA, Good Companions, Bible Study and the Board of Managers. Best wishes, Barbara from all your friends here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more!

**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 Donation has been made to St. David's in memory of Eric Cumby from Kathleen Scott and the Cumby Family.**

### **A Note from our Sunday School**

#### **Sunday School - The Light of Love**

Thank you to the children and helpers who made beautiful Valentines to share with the Good Companions group and with those who find it difficult to leave their homes to join us at worship.

This Sunday, February 19, the children continue exploring being a "light of love" with activities based upon the story of The Transfiguration.

On the last Sunday this month, February 26th, a special guest will be welcomed by the Sunday school and the children will participate in a community outreach project during our time together! Curious? Please plan to join us! See you then!

#### **Good Companions and Special Valentines from the Sunday School**

The children from the Sunday School made a number of beautiful valentines that were given to our Good Companions and to others in our congregation who, for one reason or another, cannot get out to Church on a regular basis. Needless to say, all our Good Companions were thrilled with their valentines! Thank-you to Sue and to all the children for sharing their love! Here are a few pictures from the Good Companions Valentine Party, held on February 9th. The "party" did not get in the way of enthusiastic games of carpet bowling and bridge though! And notice that everyone was wearing RED!!





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!

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### 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 was supposed to be held on Tuesday, February 14<sup>th</sup> at 10:00am ~ Valentine's Day!! But instead we had to postpone because "mother nature" had other ideas... a snow storm!!!

**It has been rescheduled for this coming Tuesday, February 21<sup>st</sup> at 10:00am.** No experience necessary ~ all are welcome to join in with this very friendly group of knitters!

## **Annual Pancake Supper**

Shrove Tuesday falls on February 21<sup>st</sup> and that means Pancake Supper is this Tuesday!!! **Please join us at 5:30pm on Tuesday, (Feb. 21<sup>st</sup>)** for yummy pancakes and Halliday's sausages followed by ice cream!!! See you there!

## **Bible Study**

Our long standing Bible Study, under the guidance of Sheena Findlay, has resumed for 2023 and we are trying something new, "Sandwich and Scriptures"! Bible Study meets in the Armour Room on Wednesdays at 12:30 pm ~ so bring your lunch and we will make the tea (or coffee!). This session's topic; "Daily relationships: Navigating the day to day. Where do we look in the Bible?"

**The next Bible Study is Wednesday, February, 22<sup>nd</sup> at 12:30pm**

## **SD Futures Committee Meeting**

Meeting on Wednesday, February 22<sup>nd</sup> at 7:30pm via Zoom

## **BOM Meeting**

Meeting on Thursday, February 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm in the Armour Room.

## **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 23<sup>rd</sup>.**

## **The WA**

The next meeting of the WA is **Tuesday, February 28<sup>th</sup>, at 12:00noon.**

## **Bridge Luncheon/Party**

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

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

## **Fellowship Lunch – March 19th, 2023**

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

## **Bridges to Hope:**

**Weekly “Specials”** which are useful items for Bridges To Hope:

Walmart – Campbell’s Soup - \$0.97

Ritz Crackers – 3/\$7.00

Quaker Oatmeal – 3/\$8.00

Dominion – Heinz Beans or Pasta – 3/\$6.00

Sobeys – Campbell’s Soup – 4/\$5.00

No Frills – Carnation milk - \$1.25

Graves Apples Juice - \$0.99

Cloverleaf Tuna - \$1.39

Colemans – Kraft Dinner – 12/\$8.99

## **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 16<sup>th</sup> 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](http://www.bridgestohope.ca), or by calling 709-722-9225.

## **Pickle-Ball Training Session**

The first |"official" pickle-ball clinic was held in the Church Hall on February 13th. By all accounts, it was a great workout and a lot of fun for the participants. Many thanks to Leonard Lye, president of the Newfoundland Pickleball Association who held the clinic. It's never too late to join in the fun if you are interested. Just contact Heather at the Church Office and she will put you in touch with the right person.

And thanks to Kathy McKay who took a picture of the Monday's coach and participants!



## **Public Service Announcement**

Members of the Association of Chartered Professional Accountants of Newfoundland and Labrador are once again offering free income tax services to senior citizens and low income residents of St. John's, Mount Pearl and surrounding areas.

For more information or to arrange an appointment, please call Heather in the office for details.

## **And final for this week's edition of News from the Pews...**

A snow day is always appreciated by working folk and their little friends! Here is a picture of Addie, who was so pleased that Heather (church admin.) could spend the entire day with her. Now if she could just figure out how to turn off the iPad she would be the centre of attention – that would be pure bliss!

