



## **News from the Pews for Sunday February 26th, 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



If there's one thing that parenting teaches you, it's the importance of attitude. This past week, Orson turned 4, and unlike his previous birthdays, this time he understood and had been excited about it for at least a week. He wanted 4 of everything because he would be turning 4, he was keeping track of how many more days until his birthday, and reminded us every night at bedtime that his birthday was coming up. Clearly, he was excited, and we knew that we couldn't let him down when this big day finally arrived.

Here's the reality though; making a 4-year-old's day special doesn't take much. Or, really, it mostly takes the right attitude. What put that smile on his face wasn't the cake (which was actually a pan of brownies that he's been wanting to make with me for a while), although I'm sure it didn't hurt. I think that smile was caused by the extra playtime with Mommy and Daddy, the stories we read together, and the silly jokes we carried on with until the birthday boy wasn't giggling any more, and none of those things cost a cent.

There's pressure on you as a parent to make sure you do celebrations like this "right". No one wants to let their child down, and in the stress of putting on a perfect party its easy to forget that wasting time in the snow on the way to the car can be just as memorable as the destination. The best gift I can give my kids is often paying attention to my own attitude, and learning to relax and let them take the lead for a bit.

As you follow Jesus this week, may you find the strength to turn away from the attitudes that fill our world: anxiety, despair, or anger. May you be flavoured by the fruit of the Spirit, and enjoy every moment that God gives you without letting a bad attitude spoil your day.

*"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, forbearance, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness and self-control. Against such things there is no law." Galatians 5:22-23*

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

Remember, if the number of returns for the Annual Report are slow to come in, I will step in and offer to do one up 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, even with people finding out that the auditor is first in line! I'm adamant that the information for our auditor, get to her as soon as possible.

We have a \$10,000 Line of Credit (LOC) with RBC, which has not been touched to date. That will probably change this week or next. However, we will continue to 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. That's now what I am doing.

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**

You may have heard that we have a small group who are enthusiastically looking forward to expanding our Board of Managers. This group is hoping to get new members to reduce the number of persons who already have other duties at the Church. An orientation session was held this past Thursday evening at the Church. Four people braved the cold and attended.

One of the items spoken about was the family and group member concept. This permits families and other groups to be defined to agree to join as a single board member. The Board simply requests a commitment, the group will have one of its members attend each meeting and report back to all group participants. All group members will receive minutes of meetings directly from the Board.

Keep in mind that based on great technology links allowing us to have email conversations, the Board anticipates only needing quarterly meetings for the purpose of voting on recommendations the Board will be suggesting to Session to be reported to the congregation. At the Board meetings multiple members of a group would be welcomed to attend in person but that group would have 1 vote.

Please consider forming a group to be a member. If this is acceptable to you, please let us know who your group may be. If you have any questions, please give Heather a call at the office 722-2382 or email us at: [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com)

## **New Committee Has Come Together**

Last week the message in the News from the Pews was that the new SD Futures Committee was getting going and its next meeting was happening on February 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The committee did meet Wednesday evening and it's starting to get organized. There are eight members on the SD Futures Committee, though it may be augmented with others, as opportunities or proposals arise.

First Items were: a chair and secretary were nominated and they accepted, review and discussion on mission or mandate, result of actions undertaken by various people since the last meeting, and setting the next meeting date which will be Wednesday March 22<sup>nd</sup>.

The next meeting of Session, it will approve the governance of this committee.

## **What would you do for your Church?**

That's a question I hope many of you are asking yourselves. Some people are actively thinking about it, while others are actively doing things. For example, would you stay up until 2 am filling out government applications for grants? Would you consider joining a renewed Board of Managers? Would you consider joining a committee to do things while NOT attending committee meetings? The answers to the three questions above are: yes, maybe, and yes!

We welcome all types of participation, big and small, from everyone. While the SD Futures Committee needs your help and input, if there are any other things that you'd like, that you'd hope for, that you'd wish to see happen, please let us know. If you're interested in this congregation and its evolution, if you have some ideas, proposals, thoughts, or hopes, please get in touch with the church (call Heather who will take your thoughts/input or please email the church at [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com)).

Meanwhile, a funding opportunity happened this past week. St. David's did apply for a grant under the federal government's \$400 million fund to help groups and communities recover from the Covid epidemic. Active work started on it less than a week before the deadline and the application was submitted a day ahead of the closing date. Many thanks to Janet Calver, Ken Templeton and Anne Calver. While we may or may not get funding as a result, if we don't apply, we certainly won't get any funding.

If you know of, or come across, any opportunities where funds (grants) are available for everything from upgrading the heating system, our electrical system, or branching out with new low-price rental housing, please let us know.

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 or email us.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations**

**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 greetings to Kyle Sampson** who will be celebrating his birthday on the March 2<sup>nd</sup>! Kyle is a longtime member and supporter of St. David's and was Chair of the Board of Managers for many years. Kyle will be celebrating his big day with his wife, Sonia and two sons, Tyler and Barrett. Best wishes Kyle from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday. We'll be thinking of you!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Jean Bruneau** who will be celebrating her birthday on the 3<sup>rd</sup> of March! Jean is a longtime member and supporter of St. David's and all our events and initiatives. Over the years Jean has played an important role in the life and fellowship of our congregation. Jean holds a special place in our St. David's family. She has served on the Board of Managers, edited and published our St. David's newsletter for many years, ensured we all did our part with recycling, and up until COVID-19, was an active and enthusiastic member of our Good Companions group. Jean will be celebrating her birthday quietly with her family – sons, Stephen and Ian and their families, including her many grand-children, near and far. Best wishes Jean from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday. We'll be thinking of you!

**Also celebrating her birthday this coming week, on March 4<sup>th</sup>, is Edith Peach!** Edith and her family have a long history with St. David's and continue to be a big part of our Church family even to this day. Edith is a long-time supporter and member of the WA (Women's Auxiliary) and has been a great worker-bee at many of our sales, dinners and afternoon teas. As a Church Trustee, Edith has always been there to provide guidance and encouragement. Edith will be celebrating her birthday with her family – Heather, Lori, David and Jim and their families – here in St. John's and far away, along with many good friends. Best wishes Edith from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more birthdays to come!

**Happy Birthday to Judy Woolridge** who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, near and far, on March 4<sup>th</sup>! Many of us know Judy from the days when she was our Church Administrator. Judy has always been a great supporter of St. David's and has helped out with many events and gatherings over the years. Judy is still our representative on the General Protestant Cemetery Committee. Best wishes Judy 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 Note from our Sunday School**

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

This week we are honoured to welcome Jody Williams as our guest at Sunday School. Jody and members of our Atlantic Mission Society will explain to our children how our church helps to facilitate the outreach of Bridges to Hope, which provides food and personal care products to those in need in our community. It is our hope that the children will learn more about their important work and how we can add our support, bringing “the light of love” through participating in reaching out.

We invite you to join the children this Sunday in providing donations of non-perishable food items in addition to the children’s hand-packed donations for Bridges to Hope.

Children: if you can count to ten, please come and discover how easy it is to help add your “love and light” to food hampers for your hungry neighbours in our community! Let’s meet together to put our hearts and hands to work!

## **Upcoming Events and Activities**

### **The WA**

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

### **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, March 1st at 12:30pm**



## 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, March 2nd.**

## 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 Number of tables, 20 max.

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

## **Bridges to Hope:**

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

Walmart – Kraft Dinner (KD) – 12 pack - \$9.97 (\$0.83/box)

Dominion – Oceans Light Tuna - \$1.49

Sobeys – Lantic Sugar - \$1.89

No Frills – Maple Leaf Vienna Sausages - \$0.77

Colemans – Heinz Beans or Pasta – 3/\$4.00

Robin Hood Flour – 7 lb. bag - \$4.99

Pipers – Heinz Ketchup - \$1.25

Colgate Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.99

Lawtons – Compliments Apple Juice – 4/\$5.50

## **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.

## Pancake Supper

This past Tuesday, February 21, was Pancake Supper night. Pancake Supper has always been a great little tradition here at St. David's and due to COVID19 we had to put a stop to it for a couple of years. Well, it's back and more fun than ever.

We had some excellent pancake chefs in the kitchen – Stewart Gillies, Leith Quinton and David Sturtevant, not to mention our (Halliday) sausage gurus – Janet Aitken, Sue and Ken Templeton and Penny Gillies. They did a terrific job, evidenced by the speed at which all the pancakes and sausages were devoured! Forgot to mention that we had ice-cream for dessert! Yum!!

Many thanks to everyone who helped out with set-up, prep and cleanup. It was great to have you there!

Here are a few pictures from the Pancake Supper. Hope you enjoy!





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

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

## **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.