



News from the Pews for the Fourth Sunday of Lent, March 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...

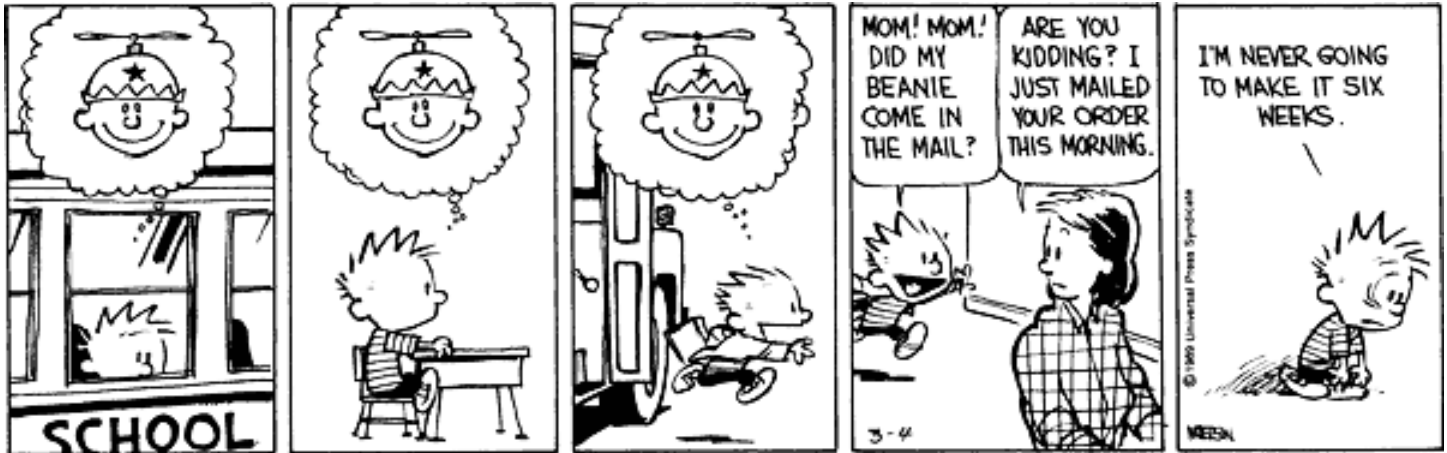
Important Message!!! Please be advised...

Phone Scam:

We’d like to warn you about a scam involving the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Please be aware of a phone scam using PWS&D’s name. The caller will ask for a donation to PWS&D and ask for your banking information.

PWS&D (and the Presbyterian Church in Canada) do not solicit funds over the phone, demanding that banking information be shared. Please be careful and do not fall prey to people using PWS&D’s (or the PCC’s) names in fraudulent attempts to solicit funds. Should you ever be in doubt, hang up and call our office at 722-2382. We will report it to the PCC National office. Thank you.

Minister's Message^T



When I was a kid, I remember reading my Dad's Calvin and Hobbes comic collection, and I remember this particular series of comics quite fondly. In it, Calvin's favorite breakfast cereal (Chocolate-Frosted Sugar Bombs) puts on a promotion, and offers a free propeller beanie to any child who can mail in four coupons. Calvin manages to eat all the cereal and sends in the coupons, but then he has to face a six week shipping time before his beanie finally arrives, and for those whole six weeks he thinks of nothing but the joy of receiving his beanie and being able to turn it on and soar around the neighbourhood like a helicopter.

Michelle is finally home, after her flight being delayed by more than a week. As you can no doubt imagine, all three of us Sturtevant boys have been a little bit like Calvin, dreaming of the time when Mommy will get home. We started calling her more frequently, but it can't compare to the real thing, and when Michelle came into the boy's room on Friday morning to help the kids get dressed, you could tell how excited they were to see her for real.

None of us like waiting. It is painful to see the thing you lack, to have to endure being without something precious when you really want it now.

But as a quotation from one of my kid's favorite books says, "Thus we never see the true state of our condition till it is illustrated to us by its contraries, nor know how to value what we enjoy, but by the want of it." (Alright, it's *originally* a quote by Daniel Defoe from Robinson Crusoe) It is a great joy to have Michelle back, and we are rejoicing in her presence more than we would be if she had just stayed home the last two weeks.

I believe the Kingdom of God is like that. In this life, we suffer much, and we wait for justice and goodness to come in power. We lose those we love, we watch our bodies fail, and we endure the want of many things. But our faith is that God is greater than the want, and every desire of our hearts will be satisfied with goodness. We will love the peace that comes because we have endured conflict. We will love health because we have been sick. We will love strength because of our weakness.

So may God bless you as you wait, and may you have faith. The Light shines in the darkness, and the darkness will never overcome it. Goodness will fly to you, even if the flight seems delayed. And that is Good News.

Treasurer's Update for this Week

I've been reminding everyone about the Annual reports being due. I've started writing the Treasurer's Report. This week I'm going to describe the use of our Line of Credit (LOC) and the sinking fund.

What is the sinking fund? In 2021 I started moving money into a sinking fund intending its use to be to pay off the \$30,000 federal CEBA loan. It is basically an interest earning savings account.

At the start of 2022 there was just over \$12,000 in that account. We also have a \$10,000 LOC and on Jan 1st 2022, the full LOC was available for use.

LOC use in 2022 Things changed rapidly though. On Jan 13th 2022 the bank used \$8,000 of the LOC, allowing us to keep cashing cheques. On Feb 2nd, they used the last \$2,000 of our LOC.

Sinking Fund use in 2022 After that point and only as required, I would move money from the sinking fund account over to the checking account. That happened seven times between January 14th and May 30th of 2022. Each time as more donations (envelopes, E-transfers or the PAD) were received, I would replenish the sinking fund.

We received a \$42,000 grant from the St. Aiden's Fund on June 17th 2022. The sinking fund was replenished and the LOC was paid off in full. The LOC was not used for the remainder of 2022.

However, last December I did take the full \$12,000 out of the sinking fund to allow us to pay all our outstanding 2022 commitments and bills.

2023 usage of the sinking fund and the LOC

The only money left in the sinking fund is the \$80.49 interest we earned. And as I said last week our LOC was used for the first time at the start of March this year. We are at the point where some invoices and commitments will not be paid when due. Salaries, contracts, and local invoices will continue to be paid when possible. While our finances are still not good, we do get regular monthly donations (PAD, on Sundays, E-transfers) and from increasing rentals. 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.

Did you know that as a registered charity: and a non-profit, we are required to complete an annual report complete with a full audited financial statement. It is due six months after our normal yearend. In our case it's due at the end of June each year. Once completed, it is available on-line, along with the reports of all charities across Canada. It contains a description of who we are, what we do, and a summary financial picture, with a more detailed financial statement at another level of detail.

From The Board of Managers

We are hoping to expand the number of members to reduce the number of persons who already have other duties at the Church.

One of the ways we are hoping to do this is to embrace the family and group member concept. This permits families and other groups to agree to join as a single board member. The Board simply requests a commitment that 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. The benefit of a “group membership” is many more hands are available to share the work.

In the past, one of the less desirable aspects of being on the Board was the long and frequent meetings. We are seriously trying to change this... great technology links allowing us to have email conversations. As a result, the Board anticipates only needing quarterly meetings for the purpose of voting on recommendations the Board will be suggesting to Session to then 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 only 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

Sunday School

I once was blind but now I see.... The children are invited to learn about Jesus who restored sight to a man born blind. This week's lesson will include activities surrounding the gifts of our senses.

Our Lenten mission continues too: please remember your contributions to the food cart for Bridges to Hope.

A Note from our Sunday School

You may recall that a couple of Sundays ago the Sunday School invited Jody Williams, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope, to come and have a talk with the children and explain to them about food banks and food hampers. The result was that the children packed 1100 Tetley teabags into smaller bags as their contribution to the hampers!

This past Sunday, Sue and the children created thank-you cards for Jody (see below). Lillian made sure the cards were delivered to Jody!

Another little gesture showing the power of "The Light of Love".



Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday greetings to Elizabeth Thistle who will be celebrating her birthday on March 23rd! Elizabeth is now living in the Mountain View Retirement Home in Corner Brook, but she still has a number of good friends at St. David's who think of her often and stay in touch via phone and Canada Post. We know her daughter, Margo, and her family and all the staff and residents at Mountain View Retirement Home will ensure that Elizabeth enjoys a wonderful birthday – including cake and candles! Best wishes Elizabeth from your St. David's family.... we'll be thinking of you!

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Bouwina Fogwill who will be celebrating her 93rd birthday on March 25th with family and friends here in St. John's and far away! Bouwina holds a special place in our hearts and is a great friend to many here at St. David's. Bouwina's three children – Frank, Bill and Margaret – along with her grand-children and of course her sister, Kay Korpel, are a big part of her life as well. Bouwina is an enthusiastic bowler with Good Companions, the former Treasurer for the AMS for many years and our leader and mentor for the Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) Group. Always an inspiration and a treasured friend! Your St. David's family sends you best wishes and much love – and may you have a wonderful birthday with many more 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.

Upcoming Events and Activities

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!).

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 postponed St. Paddy's Day dinner has been rescheduled for this Thursday, March 23rd, and will be served at 12:30. It will be followed by the regular activities.

Fellowship Lunch – March 19th

Please be advised that the Fellowship lunch that was scheduled for today has been postponed. A new date will be announced soon. Thank you for your understanding.

Muffin Making Mondays

Looking for volunteers to make muffins for Bridges to Hope...

On Monday mornings here in the church kitchen, volunteers gather to make muffins, to offer a little something sweet as an addition to the food hampers at Bridges to Hope.

Please consider giving a couple of hours of your time to assist ~ all supplies are provided. Call Heather in the office to put your name on the sign up sheet.

Bridges to Hope:



Weekly “Flyer” Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope

Sobeys: French’s Mustard - \$1.99

Heinz Beans or Pasta – 4/\$4.88

Dominion: Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.49

No Name Evaporated Milk - \$0.99 ***

Lawtons: Kraft Cheez Whiz - \$3.97

Shoppers: Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.99

*** Members’ Price, i.e. with PC Optimum Points Card

* Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **MARCH is 1L Juice**. Of course, other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!



Applause

ST. JOHN'S

You are invited to the
City of St. John's Applause
Civic Awards

Tuesday, March 28
7 p.m. for
Awards Presentation at 7:30 p.m.

St. John's Convention Centre
50 New Gower Street

RSVP by **March 23, 2023**

Please RSVP by email to:
communications@stjohns.ca

ST. JOHN'S

Please note: The St. John's Applause Awards presentation will be streamed live at: **watch.ntv.ca**

As well, an edited highlight show of the awards presentation will broadcast on NTV at a later date.

Special Announcement!!!

Congratulations to Eleanor Bonnell on her nomination for the City of St. John's, Volunteer Award!!!

“It is wonderful to see so many individuals like yourself making such a positive, meaningful, and lasting impact on our community. As an award nominee you, your nominator and a guest are invited to attend the City of St. John's, Applause Awards.”

CFUW St. John's BIG Used Book Sale

We are collecting gently used books for the sale from March 2 to March 22, 11 a.m. - 3 p.m., 7 days a week!

Collection site: the former Bouclair store (between the Golden Phoenix Restaurant and Globo shoes, Avalon Mall Parking lot.)

We **DO ACCEPT** fiction and non-fiction in good condition, for all ages and interests.

We **DO NOT** take encyclopedias, textbooks, Readers Digest condensed books, magazines, outdated technology manuals, and VHS tapes.

SALE DAYS: March 30th 1:00-9:00 pm., March 31st 10:00 am - 9:00 pm., and April 1st 10:00 am -1:00 pm (Half price day)

Masks are required at the sale

The book sale funds CFUW scholarships and community outreach projects.

Thank you for your interest and support!

MASTERWORKS 4: THE ARMED MAN

A descent into war, moments of reflection, and the hope of peace in a new millennium – this is Karl Jenkins' incredible mass dedicated to the victims of the Kosovo crisis, *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*. In addition to extracts from the Ordinary of the Mass, the text incorporates words from other religious and historical sources, including the Islamic call to prayer, the Bible, and the Mahabharata. Join the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra under the direction of Marc David together with the Philharmonic Choir of the NSO for this moving and important work. Soloists include Krista Howe-Croke, soprano; Abra Whitney, alto; Jeffrey Taylor, tenor; and Colin Mackey, baritone.

Masterworks 4 takes place on Friday March 24, 2023 at the Arts & Culture Centre St. John's, and is presented by Wedgwood Insurance. Tickets are available at the ACC Box Office (729-3900), online at www.artsandculturecentre.com, and at the door.