



## **News from the Pews for the Fifth Sunday of Lent, March 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...

## **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



Oliver loves setting timers. If he asks "How long until supper?" and I answer "About fifteen minutes", he will set a timer for 15 minutes and expect supper as soon as it goes off. As much as I love knowing that he is learning to tell time and get a sense of how long one, five, or ten minutes really is, I must confess that more often than not I wish he wouldn't set those dang timers!

After all, my answers are usually guesses, and sometimes when I say I need a ten minute break from playing piggyback, I actually want a little bit more than ten minutes. "wait just a minute" doesn't always mean "wait exactly sixty seconds". Even Oliver has picked up on this, and sometimes he asks me "Is it going to be a short ten minutes, or a looong ten minutes?"

This week in our Wednesday bible study group, we studied some of the stories of Jesus seeking time alone to pray. Jesus' ministry was busy, and he was often surrounded by crowds of grasping hands as the poor and the needy reached out to him for healing, for food, and for wisdom. Often, Jesus takes a time out, and steps back from all the claims on his time to wander off up a mountain for a few hours of prayer, before coming back down to re-engage with his disciples and the crowds.

We reflected on how hard it can be to set aside time like that, and as part of our meeting we took five minutes to sit in silent prayer together. And let me tell you, it was a long five minutes! I can waste five minutes scrolling social media on my phone in the blink of an eye, even the shortest TV shows are five times as long and I can easily sit through... well, let's just say "more than one" episode of a good show without struggling! But sitting in silence for five minutes, wondering what I have to say to God and what God might have to say to me, in Oliver's words, that's a "loooong five minutes".

But as I sat in that time, the first thing I noticed was that the knuckle I'd hurt a couple days ago wasn't paining me anymore. I gave thanks for that. I noticed that after the time I'd spent sick a couple weeks ago, now I could breathe easily and felt healthy, and I gave thanks for that. I realized how rare it is for us to take even five long minutes to just rest and pray.

So my challenge for you is to set yourself a timer for five minutes, and pray. Perhaps you will be led to pray a prayer of adoration, praising God for the beauty of creation or wondering at God's character and care. Perhaps you will pray a prayer of confession, and open up to God about your shortcomings, your failures, and laying bare to God those things you do not have the strength to share with anyone else. Perhaps you will pray a prayer of thanksgiving, and praise God for the particular gifts that have come to you that you have not yet said thank you for. Perhaps you will pray a prayer of intercession, and lay before God all that needs God's help in your life and in the world. Or perhaps you will pray a mixture of "all of the above"! There is no right or wrong way to pray. But find five whole minutes of stillness and quiet, and open your heart to God. It may feel like a long five minutes, but by God's grace, the impact on your day may last much longer.

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

I've been reminding everyone about the Annual reports being due. I have the budget done and am busily making pie charts to show what are income and expenses look like.

While the budget is what it is, we have several groups engaged in doing their best for St. David's: Session, the new Board of Managers (more are welcome!) and the St. David's Future Committee.

This week you'll only get a short report since I was in town for the SD Future Committee and for the Good Companions St. Patrick's Day turkey dinner. Also called the "Spring is Sprung" dinner since the flowers on the table were "spring" and all the green (everything from the green peas, decorations, green candies and even dessert) was for St. Patrick.

Our Line of Credit (LOC) still stands at \$2,000 used and I am continuing to pay every invoice that I can, 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.

### **Please note:**

**The date for the ACM has been decided ~ it will be held on Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>, following the service. Please plan to attend.**

### **Sunday School**

Thank you to the children who continue to bring food items to the trolley for Bridges to Hope during the Lenten season.

This Sunday and next Sunday (Palm Sunday) the children will be learning more about Jesus and his final journey toward Jerusalem.

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Belated Happy Birthday greetings to Miraero Shin** who celebrated her birthday with family and friends – near and far – on March 15<sup>th</sup>! In pre-COVID times, she sang in our choir. Miraero's sister, Wojuro, lives here in St. John's as well. Miraero and Wojuro's parents still live in Korea but stay in touch regularly. Best wishes Miraero from your St. David's family! We hope you had a wonderful birthday!

**Happy Birthday greetings to a very special friend to many here at St. David's, Sheena Findlay, who will be celebrating her special day on March 29<sup>th</sup>.** Sheena has been a faithful and much loved member of St. David's for many years and continues to offer her insight, gentle guidance and support to many of us through one-on-one chats or through group activities. Sheena was an Elder for many years and continues to be involved with the AMS, actively participating in the group's missionary and spiritual initiatives. Sheena is an avid supporter and organizer for the weekly Bible Study group and always encourages thought provoking discussion. Needless to say, Sheena is an important member of our St. David's family! Love and best wishes Sheena from everyone here at St. David's! Have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday wishes go out to Max Burness** who will be celebrating his 18<sup>th</sup> birthday on March 29<sup>th</sup> along with his mom and dad, Heather and Brad Burness, his sister, Sophie, and proud grandmother, Edith Peach. We wish Max a wonderful day spent with family and friends!

**Happy Birthday to Jana Kearsy** who will be celebrating her birthday with her husband and children and other family and friends on March 27th! Jana is the daughter of Judy (Kearsy) Woolridge, our former, former Church Administrator. Best wishes Jana from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a great day!

**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.**

## **Special Announcement**

The Fogwill Family would like to invite the Congregation to a birthday celebration for their Mother, Bouwina this Sunday, March 26<sup>th</sup>, immediately following the service.

Please join Bouwina, her family and friends for refreshments to celebrate this special day! All are welcome.

## **Upcoming Events and Activities**

### **WA**

The WA will be holding their monthly meeting this coming Tuesday, March 28<sup>th</sup> at noon. There will be a light lunch followed by the meeting.

### **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 next date for Good Companions is: **Thursday, March 30<sup>th</sup>**.

**Please see a little further in this News from the Pews for a wonderful update on the St. Paddy's Day Turkey dinner... lots of pictures too!!!**

## **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: Chef Boyardee Ravioli - \$0.88

Dominion: Ocean’s Light Tuna - \$0.99

Lawtons: Kraft Dinner - \$0.97

Heinz Tomato Soup – 2/\$1.20

Walmart: Campbell’s Soup – \$0.97

Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.97

\* 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!



## **Good Companions – Paddy's Day and Spring Joint Celebration!**

On Thursday, March 23, the Good Companions and Friends got together to celebrate Paddy's Day and Spring! We had to cancel our dinner from the week before due to a snowstorm and even the weather this past Thursday was questionable early in the morning. But soon the sun started to shine and we knew things would work out. And did they ever! We had a wonderful turnout – our regular Good Companions - along with some old and new friends. The turkey dinner was enjoyed by all and after the tables were cleared and put away, it was on to bowling and bridge/cards.

The amazing thing about Good Companions is the way they celebrate each day and enjoy their time together to the fullest. The photos below say it all – there's nothing better than being together and sharing a smile and a laugh or two with your friends! Many thanks to Judy Cumby who took these photos. They are terrific!







And a special thanks to all those who helped make this a special day: our set-up and take-down crews, chefs, bakers, clean-up crew, kitchen worker-bees, floral decorator, and really everyone who just pitches in when they see something that needs to be done! You are such a blessing!

## **CFUW St. John's BIG Used Book Sale**

The **CFUW St. John's Big Used Book Sale** will take place on Thursday, March 30th (1pm - 9 pm), Friday, March 31st (10am - 9 pm), and Saturday, April 1st (10 am - 1 pm All remaining books will be 1/2 price on Saturday!!).

Location: the former Bouclair site at the Avalon Mall - between the Golden Phoenix restaurant and Globo Shoes. The site is wheelchair accessible.

Profits go to fund scholarships for women and community outreach programs. All sales are CASH ONLY.

Thank you for your 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](http://www.artsandculturecentre.com), and at the door.