



News from the Pews for the Second Sunday of Lent, March 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, my hands were too full to take the picture that I wanted to put in my message. I was playing fetch with my dog Ozzy, and couldn't juggle the phone and ball successfully. So, I will submit this old picture of Ozzy ready to go on an adventure as my "dog picture tax" for telling a story about him.

You see, we have a long hallway in our house that you can see from the living room, perfect for tossing a soft ball down so our little dog can chase it and get some exercise without worrying about the snow and ice outside. Ozzy is one of those dogs who will chase the ball as many times as you are willing to throw it, and our favorite game is trying to get him to do backflips by lobbing it at just the right height over his head. He's a great catcher, and chases the ball down with incredible focus and energy. As soon as he has it, he turns and runs right back to your feet and.... well, like so many dogs, the next step is a real struggle for Ozzy. You can see how much he loves the game, and how much he wants you to throw the ball again. He will bring the ball right over to your lap, lower it down to prepare to drop it, and... and... and...

Ozzy struggles to let the ball go. Even though it is in his best interest to drop it so I can throw it again, he just can't open his jaw to let it fall away from him. Even though he knows that holding onto it will stop the game, even though his pleading eyes look at me and say "please, please, throw this ball for me!", we spend a lot of our "fetch" time with me just waiting for him to drop the ball so we can have fun again.

Sin can lead us to do the same kind of thing. Many of us know someone who is struggling with some kind of addiction, and it can be so hard to watch someone you care about unable to take the most basic steps for their own happiness. Too often, we cling to traditions, to ideas, to practices, well after they have ceased serving us and now we find ourselves serving them.

This Sunday, we will be hearing about the Christian concept of being "born again". This is Good News! In Christ, we can let go of what we cling to, because we know that when we do, we can claim the new life in Christ that we long for. May you recognize when and what you need to let go, and may God bless you with an even greater joy.

Treasurer's Update for this Week

Annual reports are now due! Remember, if the reports are slow to come in, I will offer to do up one for you or your group. A decision on the date for the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be made at the next Session meeting (scheduled for March 14th).

All the information our auditor needs to prepare our Review Engagement Report (RER), has been sent along to her. The RER is used for many things: It is included as a report for our AGM; It is sent to the PCC as part of our annual statistical and financial report; It is sent to the Federal Government and becomes part of our profile for the Canada Revenue Agency's (CRA) List of Charities.

Our \$10,000 Line of Credit (LOC) with RBC is expected to be used this month for the first time in a long time, however, some invoices and commitments will not be paid when due. Salaries, contracts, and local invoices will continue to be paid when possible.

The results of the appeal letter are beginning to show some results. For example, this week we received a letter from one of our members who is not able to come to church often but still wants to help us out. The letter also added a comment about one of the things that started during COVID-19 that was appreciated, the book club.

While our finances are still not good, we do get regular monthly donations through the PAD, on Sundays, from increasing rentals and by e-Transfers. 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.

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

What would you do for your Church? And did you know.....

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.

We welcome all types of participation, big and small, from everyone. I'm renewing my call: if there are any things that you'd like, or hope, to see happen, if you see a need we can undertake, or if you would just like to talk about our finances or the church and its outreach programs, please get in touch! We'd welcome your ideas, proposals, thoughts, or hopes.

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.

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 at stdavids@nfld.com.

A sincere thank you to Music Director, Brian Way, vocalist, Jennifer Waterman Fleming and guest drummer, Scott Mansfield for their music contribution to the Contemporary Service last Sunday, February 26th.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Belated Happy Birthday wishes to Sam Johnson, who celebrated his birthday on February 15th with his daughter, Monica, son in-law, Mike and grand-son, Ben, along with many other family and friends near and far. Sam has been a good friend to St. David's over the years and has made some lasting friendships with members of our Church family. We hope you had a wonderful birthday Sam and may there be many

Happy Birthday greetings to Jean Mullooney who is having a birthday on March 12th. Jean will be celebrating her special day with husband, Bob, and her three sons (Robert Jr., James and David) and their families, and her brother Dave Carmichael and his wife, Pat. Jean has always played an active role in the life of St. David's and she continues to help out when she can. Best wishes Jean from your St. David's family! We hope you have a lovely day... we'll be thinking of you!

Happy Birthday to Pearle Clouston who will be celebrating her birthday on March 11th! Pearle will be celebrating her special day with family and friends, including her daughter, her nieces and nephews, and her many close friends and neighbours. Pearle has been an important part of our Church family for many years and continues to support and help out whenever she can (making delicious homemade soup for the Bridge Parties and recently joining our Prayer Shawl knitters group (aka the Knit-Wits!)). Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Ian Steneker who is celebrating his birthday on March 12th! Ian will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Jane and Rob Steneker and proud grand-father, Hugh Cumming (former Board member and Session elder). We wish Ian a wonderful day spent with family and friends!

Birthday greetings go out to Katherine Hancock who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends on March 9th. Katherine is the daughter of Roxanne and David Hancock and the grand-daughter of Evelyn and Nowell Melendy, and the grand-niece of Marilyn Reardon and Mildred Greeley. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a very Happy Birthday Katherine... hope it's a great one!

Happy Birthday to Gracie Wood who will be celebrating her birthday on March 7th! Gracie and Joss are long-time members of St. David's and very dear to many. They have been, and continue to be, involved with many of the groups and activities here at the Church. Gracie was an enthusiastic member of the AMS, the WA, the Quilting Group, and the choir for many years and was a great supporter and worker for many of the events – Church sales, afternoon teas, morning coffees, dinners, garage sales, hampers (especially the fruit baskets), and special commemorative events involving the Choir. A big Happy Birthday from your St. David's family! We know you and Joss will celebrate your birthday in fine style and we wish you many more birthdays to come! Much love from everyone!

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 (cont.)

Last Sunday, our Sunday School children brought "The Light of Love" to many people. Sue Templeton, together with Lillian Crawford (representing the AMS) invited Jody Williams, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope, to talk to our Sunday School children about food banks and food hampers.

Jody did just that! The children asked a lot of questions, as only children can, and then, with Lillian and Sue's guidance and instruction proceeded to pack 1100 Tetley tea bags into smaller bags (10 teabags each) - ready for individual hampers. Oh and did I mention that each bag had a little heart attached!

A simple gesture but one that clearly shows the power of "The Light of Love".



Jody Williams, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope



Lillian giving instructions



1100 Tea Bags to GO



Hard at Work



Lots of help



Yasmin helps Dean



Harriet takes a quick break



Dean packs a bag



All Done!!!!

Thank you Janet for these wonderful pictures of Sunday School friends coming together to work on this very special “Light of Love” Project.

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!).

The next Bible Study is Wednesday, March 8th 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 9th.**

AMS – March 12th

Did you know there are roughly 1000 Ukrainian People still living in hotels around St. John's... would you like to find out how we may be able to help?

One possible way is to assist with language skills. Please join us for a little lunch **after worship on Sunday, March 12th** to learn about this idea and how we may be able to offer some assistance. Thank you.

Fellowship Lunch – March 19th

A special invitation to everyone from Rev. Sturtevant...

There will be a Fellowship Lunch – **March 19th following the service.** All are welcome ~ on the menu: Homemade Turkey Soup!!

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.

Good Companions Celebrate

Our Good Companions are always in the mood to celebrate – especially birthdays! On the last Thursday of every month, we celebrate all those who had a birthday during that month. For February, we had two members – Charlie Goobie and Christina Baird Duncan. Christina got the honour of blowing out the candles and everyone got to enjoy a piece of cake!

Cheers!!



Bridge Luncheon/Party

The third in a series of five Bridge Lunches has been announced and will be held **Tuesday, March 7th**, 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**" March 2 – 9, 2023 - Useful items for Bridges To Hope:

Walmart –	Primo Pasta or Pasta Sauce - \$0.97
Dominion –	Graves Apple Juice - \$1.25
Lawtons –	Clover Leaf Tuna - 4/\$6.00
	KD (Kraft Dinner) - \$0.97

Bridges to Hope Benefit Concert

A Songwriters Circle Benefit Show in support of Bridges to Hope will take place on Thursday, March 16th 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, or by calling 709-722-9225.

News From Barbara Ellis

We were delighted to receive a little note from Barbara Ellis – all the way from Florida – this past week!

Barbara is enjoying the warmth from the Florida sunshine and from all her wonderful friends down there. Here's part of her note and a beautiful picture we want to share with you.

I had a wonderful day from church in am, out to lunch with one of my church friends and visitors and phone calls all afternoon. Lynn contacted a friend of hers down here and she came with cake and flowers from them as we chatted on messenger so they all got to enjoy the time with me. The internet is great for keeping in contact. Blessings, Barbara



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.

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.