



## **News from the Pews for Sunday, April 16th, 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



In my office at the church is one narrow window, facing north with a view of nothing but the side of the hill that runs along behind the church. Usually it is a view of weeds and tree saplings, with the occasional shopping cart appearing mysteriously overnight. But in the springtime, I keep vigil for the patch of flowers I've pictured here. It's a little bunch of snowdrops, my favorite flower.

Seeing those little hanging white blossoms gives me a smile for days. The piles of snow are still around, taller than I am, melted and frozen over and over into hard and frozen mountains that I can walk on top of without breaking the crust. Winter never seems to want to let us go, but seeing the snowdrops at Eastertime always reminds me of the inexorable coming of warmer days. For all the cold winds and freezing drizzle, amidst mountains of ice, this little delicate white flower is grow-

ing. More than that, it is winning. Each day, the snow melts but the plants grow. This little flower is victorious over the walls of ice around it.

Early in the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus proclaims a set of blessings known as the Beatitudes, including "Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth." Jesus teaches us ways of love and meekness, of caring for enemies and suffering for the ungrateful. It is not an easy path, and it is hard to trust in God's promises that meekness and love are the path to victory, especially in a world that can so often seem cold and hard.

But the snowdrops remind me that strength isn't everything. In the months to come, the plants will inherit the earth around us, the meek and delicate will overtake the ice. May we trust that in the same way, deeds of love and kindness, even if they feel delicate and insubstantial, will have victory over the whole world. New life is springing forth, and the ice shall not overcome it. Good News indeed!

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

The new Board of Managers (BOM) have been having a look at the 2023 budget. The BOM members' comments were considered and integrated into the latest version. That budget, Version 1.1, went to Session on Tuesday. We will have a future meeting (BOM and Session) to discuss it fully.

Our St. David's Futures Committee (SDFC) and Session met this past week, both continue to work diligently on your behalf.

The WA are continuing to work hard and smartly to fundraise. Their next Bridge Party is this coming Tuesday.

One outcome of the work done by a collaboration of these groups will be changes coming to the hall lobby. With a new group coming, the hall entrance needed help. I met with a member of the SDFC and ideas flowed. It will begin with a new paint job, funded by the WA. The plans for the hall's lobby are a work in progress, starting with the movement of the recycling area and new posters.

Remember that new group? Starting this week, we have WW, formerly Weight Watchers, using the hall for their meetings. WW moved in last weekend, accompanied by their chairs. Thanks to Ian and Steve Bruneau for helping with that move.

My thanks to all the people serving on these groups.

While our finances are 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.

## **Board of Managers**

At the present time there are five members on the BOM: Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia and Heather Steele-Morrissey. At the moment, as Anne mentioned above, the Board is busy working on the 2023 Budget and all that entails. If you have any items of concern, any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out to us, we would be very pleased to hear from you.

And if you think that you might be interested in being part of the BOM, we would love to hear from you. New members are most welcome!

## **\*\* The date for the ACM has been announced: Sunday, April 30th**

The Annual Congregational Meeting is scheduled for Sunday afternoon, April 30<sup>th</sup>. Rev. David will be serving his amazing Turkey soup ~ donations of sweets to share would be appreciated. **The ACM will begin at 1:00pm.**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday wishes to Rachel Barnes** who will be celebrating her big day on April 17<sup>th</sup> with family and friends, near and far. Rachel is the daughter of Derek and Patricia Barnes and the niece of Glenn and Martha Barnes. Rachel's grand-parents were long time members of St. David's – Mary and Ralph William (Bill) Barnes. We hope you have a wonderful birthday Rachel!

**Happy Birthday greetings go out to Marijke den Otter** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with family (Lori Kim, Andy, Benjamin and Dini) and friends, near and far! Even though Marijke is living in Ontario now, she will always be a part of our Church family. Happy Birthday, Marijke and best wishes from everyone here at St. David's!

**Happy Birthday to Cassidy Quinton** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Helping her celebrate will be her family, including her mom and dad – Becky and Leith Quinton – brothers, Josh and Luke and their families, along with many great friends, near and far. Best wishes Cassidy from your St. David's family. We hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Kurt Aubrey-Bassler** who will be 13 years old on April 22<sup>nd</sup>! Kurt will be celebrating his big day with mom and dad, Christine and Kris, sisters, Maggie and Charlotte, aunts, uncles and cousins, not to mention, lots of friends. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday Kurt! We hope you have a great day!

**Happy Birthday wishes to Sylvia Taylor** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with family and friends, including husband, Bob, and children Heather (Patey) and David along with their families. Best wishes, Sylvia, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Charles Stockwell** who will be celebrating his 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with family and friends! Charles is the son of Gordon and Sarah Stockwell. Gordon was our organist for many years here at St. David's and both Sarah and Gordon sang with the choir and delighted us with their musical talents. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday Charles and we know you'll have lots of fun!

**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.**

## Sunday School

“I believe!”

The children will hear the story of Thomas and will participate in activities to explore his journey of faith from doubt to belief. Come join us as we continue to celebrate the Easter season.

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### AMS

Please note, the April meeting of the AMS will be held today following worship in the Armour Room. All are welcome to join us for a light lunch and fellowship.

### Bible Study

“Sandwich and Scriptures”, St. David’s Bible Study has resumed after a short Easter break. Bible Study gathers in the Armour Room on **Wednesdays at 12:30 pm** ~ so bring your lunch and we will make the tea (or coffee!), we would be delighted to have you join us!

### 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, April 20th.**

### Food For Thought

The Food for Thought fellowship, prayer, and discussion group for young adults holds weekly meetings by Zoom. For information contact Ernst Rollmann at [ernstrollmann12@gmail.com](mailto:ernstrollmann12@gmail.com).

## Conversation Club

A new venture for St. David's is taking place on **Wednesday mornings from 11:00am to 12noon...** Members and friends helping our new Ukrainian neighbours learn English. For more information on how you can help, please contact Kathy McKay or Heather in the office. Thank you!

## Bridges to Hope:



### **Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – April 13-19, 2023**

Sobeys: Aylmer Tomatoes or Compliments Pasta Sauce – 2/\$3.00

Dominion: Kraft Peanut Butter – 750g-1K - \$5.99 \*\*

Colemans: Mr. Noodles – 2/\$1.00

Walmart: Lancia Pasta - \$1.27

Canada Red Pasta Sauce - \$1.27

Lawtons: Clover Leaf Tuna – 4/\$5.50

Shoppers Drug Mart: Crest/Colgate Toothpaste - \$0.88

\*\* PC Optimum member price

\* Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **APRIL** is **Canned Pasta – Ravioli, SpaghettiOs, etc.** Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated

## Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development

Sunday, April 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023



Supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, the PCC's New Beginnings program facilitates a renewal process that helps congregations discern God's call for their future and create a plan to move forward. With the help of the program, the rural congregation of St. James Presbyterian Church, North Yarmouth, in southwestern Ontario successfully brought their church community closer together and found new ways to reach out to their neighbours, such as through a partnership with a local charity called Harvest Bowl, which collects vegetables that would otherwise be thrown away and repurposes the ingredients to create dry soup mixes for distribution to food banks and shelters.





Here is a rare picture of Janet Calver in front of the camera... I say rare because she is usually the one behind it snapping most of the great pics you see in our News from the Pews.

And what is she up to in the picture you ask?? Well she is preparing the dressing to accompany the turkey dinner for the Good Companions St. Paddy's Day lunch. Hardly a day goes by that she doesn't come into the church. Janet is always helping with something... I can't think of a single activity at St. David's that she isn't involved in: Visiting, Knitting group, WA, AMS, Good Companions, Session, Futures Committee, Sunday School, Conversation Club... (I am sure I'm forgetting something!!)

You couldn't find a more cheerful, kind, caring and helpful person than Janet... aren't we the lucky ones to call her **ours!!**

**Thank you Janet for all you do.**

**With sincerest gratitude from your St. David's Family.**



## **Spring is Sprung**

The beautiful Crocus out in front of the church

(Picture taken by Janet Calver!)