



News from the Pews for Sunday, April 23rd, 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 I had a routine check-up and dental cleaning at my dentist. It was a moment of personal pride when the dentist came in to do her official inspection and told me "No cavities". All that brushing has paid off! I mean, I know I don't brush after every single meal like they want me to, and my Easter habit of eating a few chocolate eggs here and there throughout the day probably hasn't been helping my teeth (or my waistline), but when the dentist told me I didn't have any cavities I knew I'd gotten away with it. So I went home and had some eggs to celebrate.

Of course, after the inspection for cavities, the cleaning continued. The hygienist asked me (as she poked and prodded at my teeth and gums) "So... how's the flossing going?" And as I swallowed nervously, I could taste the metallic tang of

blood from my tender gums, some of which were receiving a more thorough cleaning than my half-hearted and impatient flossing efforts had given them in weeks.

Now, when I was a kid, I did not like brushing my teeth, and as a consequence I did have some cavities. I remember trips to the dentist where I was less than honest with questions like these. When they asked how often I brushed I'd respond with what they wanted to hear, "I brush three times a day for two minutes each time!" and I'd guarantee them that I was flossing thoroughly between every tooth. After all, at every single checkup they would tell me to brush three times a day, so I knew what the right answer was, and I surely didn't want to embarrass myself by admitting how sporadic or rushed my brushing and flossing habits truly were. As if I wasn't embarrassing myself making those promises through a mouth of cavities!

These days, I'd like to think I'm a little wiser. I've realized that when the hygienist has the mirror in your mouth and they ask how flossing is going, they already know the answer. You can't lie to your dentist, at least, not convincingly. They see the plaque, they see the tenderness of your gums, and they know which teeth you've given up on flossing.

How often do we think we can hide our sins or our shortcomings, or say that everything is fine when the reality is more embarrassing? We all tend to hide our struggles and the ways that we are failing, but Jesus proclaims a different way to his followers. In Christ, weakness is made strong, the hidden is brought to light, and sins are chiseled off, washed away and forgotten. The pew and the dentist's chair have this in common: Lies will do you no good here!

But the Good News remains, that hiding sin (or plaque) is foolishness, because it is better to be restored. God heals us, and makes us new. The struggles that cling to us are not stuck for good, even if we cannot budge them ourselves.

So may you be honest with God and open with your struggles. May you pray at least three times a day, when you rise up, when you lie down, before or after every meal, whatever works best for you. For nothing is hidden from God, and nothing is impossible for God either. You, too, can be restored. That's Good News!

Treasurer's Update for this Week

On Saturday April 22nd the Board of Managers (BOM) and Session had a meeting where they are taking a look at the 2023 budget. Any changes coming out of that meeting are now part of the budget that is now available. The Annual Report including the agenda, minutes of last year's meeting, the reports from the various church groups and outreach programs plus the budget are contained in the report which will (or should) be sent to you on Sunday. The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is set for next Sunday April 30th after church and a light lunch. It is expected to start at roughly 1 pm. It will be held in the hall, please come out and support your church.

I was in town for the latest WA Bridge Party this past Tuesday. I am now allowed to tell you the soup line-up and the various decadent desserts. This was not quite the Kelligrew's Soiree, we didn't have the birch rind, tar twine, or cherry wine – BUT there was vegetable beef soup, Newfoundland pea soup, and the speciality soup was sweet potato-apple. For dessert there was "cut-glass" on a graham wafer base, carrot cake with cream cheese icing decorated with baby carrot gummies, and the piece de resistance was partridgeberry tart with real cream. The WA had seventeen tables for bridge and plenty of food to go around.

One outcome of the work done by a collaboration of our groups is the changes coming to the hall lobby. A new paint job, funded by the WA, posters from some of our groups, "You are welcome here" signs in several languages, a map of the world showing where PWS&D operates and locations from which people attending this church or people in the various groups come. Ideas galore.

My thanks to all the people serving on the BOM (we need more people), Session, the Futures Committee and those who step up and help with the Good Companions, the Bridge parties, and Sunday School.

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. 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 30th. Rev. David will be serving his amazing Turkey soup ~ donations of sweets to share, would be appreciated. **The ACM will begin at 1:00pm.**

Sunday School

Who do you suppose was on the road to Emmaus and what were they talking about? Come find out and join them on their journey as we continue through the Easter season.

Upcoming Events and Activities

AMS

Mission Awareness Sunday is next Sunday, April 30th. An information letter has been mailed out to the congregation with a donation envelope attached. You may also find the small size brown envelopes in the Pews or in the Narthex. Thank you.

Bible Study

“Sandwich and Scriptures”, St. David’s 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 27th**.

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.

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries

First, a big apology to the Taylor family. Last week, we sent birthday greetings to Sylvia Taylor and said that she would be celebrating on the 22nd with her family - which is all correct. However, I mistakenly called her son, David, and of course his name is John!! My mistake... my brain was obviously not engaged! We all hope you enjoyed a wonderful birthday, Sylvia, and best wishes from everyone here at St. David's!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Hans Rollmann who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends on April 28th. Hans and the entire Rollmann family have been an important part of our Church community for many years. All your friends here at St. David's wish you a very Happy Birthday, Hans! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more yet to come! Best wishes!

Happy Birthday to Laura Bruneau who will be celebrating her birthday on April 26th! Even though Laura is living in Ontario right now, we know her family – including mom and dad, Mary and Steve Bruneau, brother, David, aunts, uncles and cousins and proud grand-mother, Jean Bruneau – will be celebrating right along with her. Your St. David's family will be thinking of you Laura! Have a great day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Judy Barnes who will be celebrating her special day on April 27th! Through the years, Judy has been a great supporter of St. David's, especially her work with WA events and with our Christmas sales, morning coffees and afternoon teas. Judy and her family will always be in our thoughts and prayers. We hope your birthday is very special, Judy, and know that we will be thinking of you. Best wishes always!

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.

Bridges to Hope:



Weekly “Flyer” Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – April 20-26, 2023

Sobeys: Hunt’s Thick & Rich Pasta Sauce – \$0.99

Compliments Pasta - \$0.99

Dominion: Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99

Walmart: Clover Leaf Tuna - \$0.97

Lawtons: Kraft Dinner - \$0.97 **

** Two days only – April 22/23

* 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 23rd, 2023



In Malawi, poor, overused soil and low rainfall have made it difficult for Elena to farm her fields. As a single mother, Elena is the breadwinner of her family. A healthy crop yield is essential to her livelihood and being able to provide for them, so **Elena decided to participate in a Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported project, which taught farmers conservation agriculture techniques to conserve and improve their soil and better retain moisture.** “My yields improved immediately in the second season. I plan to extend the cultivation area with the manure application and hope to have a good crop stand. This will increase access to food for my family and to financial resources to cater to other basic household needs,” said Elena. Today, she teaches fellow farmers in her community about the benefits of conservation agriculture.

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.

News From Penny and Stewart

We got this note from Penny just the other day and she wanted to share it with her friends back at St. David's...

Stewart and I are just leaving Belleville now by train on our way back to Toronto to stay with Allison. We have spent the last few days visiting Ted and Darlene. It was so much fun reconnecting and laughing about times gone by.

When we arrived for two days it was hot and sunny and now it is very chilly NL weather. We had no big plan to visit the Thompson's but just hopped on Via rail and found our way to Belleville, think they were thrilled to have the visit. Both well, getting older like us all but engaged with the community and still remember the congregation of St David's fondly and say a warm hello to everyone there.



Not one but two Magnolia trees in the backyard!



WA Hosted Bridge Party – April 18, 2023

The WA hosted another bridge party this past week and once again, it was a fabulous afternoon for everyone who participated. The bridge players love our relaxed atmosphere and comfortable venue but it might be the food that they enjoy the most! The WA ladies offer a choice of 1 of 3 homemade soups with rolls followed by 1 of 3 delectable desserts. All in all, it's a fun time. After lunch and some lively chit-chat, the players settle down for their bridge game for the rest of the afternoon.

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteer to make these afternoons a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all!

Here are just a few of the pictures from Tuesday thanks to Judy Cumby. Thanks so much Judy for allowing us to share in the fun afternoon through your pictures!



