



## **News from the Pews for Sunday, April 30th, 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**

As St. David's searches for ways to encourage our community and grow our congregational bonds, I find my mind drawn over and over again to the importance of sharing meals. This Sunday, I'll be making a giant pot of soup for us to share before the congregational meeting, and I hope you'll come and enjoy it with me! I love that shared meals benefit so many people in different ways; for young families it is a welcome relief from the race to get lunch figured out before naptime, for the elderly it is a chance to have home-cooked food with friends and potentially stock up on the leftovers, for students it is a free meal that helps to pinch a few pennies. I'm not the only one at this church who makes meals though, and my picture this week is the bounty of vegetables that I found in the downstairs freezer at the church, left over from some previous meal made by one of our church groups. I will confess, I'm not completely sure who it was, and although our wonderful ad-

min Heather tells me that these veggies might be wanted for a future event (perhaps the next bridge lunch the WA is putting on in mid-May), I'm going to take these veggies and use them in my soup. If anyone from the WA is reading this and wondering where your carrots and turnip went, I'll buy you new veggies, I promise!

When I first found these veggies though, I debated whether I should just leave them be. I recognize the packaging as coming from the freezer section of Pipers, so I could easily just go get my own and not risk rocking the boat and using up someone else's carrots. Perhaps these carrots already had a designated use, and I should just leave them for that.

This Sunday is our annual meeting, where we will be discussing, among other things, our annual budget. This year, our treasurer is predicting a sobering deficit, and in the months to come we will be examining how this church can continue to provide meaningful ministry in the face of operational costs that exceed the money we are raising.

All the same, as I was looking at these bags of carrots, I started thinking about "legacy". We have many gifts in this congregation, some financial, some physical, and many spiritual. What we need to remember is that these gifts have been passed down so that we will use them! There is no award for churches that faithfully maintain their bank accounts up until the day they close and bar their doors. And indeed, to do so would be as foolish as keeping a bag of carrots in the freezer forever without ever using it for making soup.

The real legacy that we have been given is our faith and the tools to exercise it, and the Good News is that nothing will ever be able to take that legacy from us. May we continue to serve Jesus Christ with all that we have been given, searching for new ways to apply the Gospel to the new world around us.

The carrots in the freezer were left there to feed people, and that is what they will be used for. To protect the carrots without ever using them would be untrue to the one who bought them and stored them up in the first place. The freezer may be operating in a deficit, with more veggies going out than coming in, but those veggies were there to fulfill a mission and that is what they will do. They will feed the hungry, and experience tells me that those who see the benefit will be moved in generosity to replenish them.

So may we always ask how we can best use all we have been given for Christ's sake. May you give what has been given to you, and recognize that this is the true

legacy of generosity. For Christ loved us with a love like that, and gave of himself until he had nothing left. What Good News that is!

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

On Sunday April 30<sup>th</sup> we are having the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM), please consider joining us for the meeting after church and a light lunch. The meeting should start at 1 pm. Please read the article "What would you do for your church" also in this week's News from the Pews.

On Saturday April 22<sup>nd</sup> the Board of Managers (BOM) and Session had a meeting where they reviewed the 2023 budget. Any changes coming out of that meeting are now part of the budget which 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 were sent off on Sunday April 23<sup>rd</sup>. If you would like a paper copy, contact the church office.

My thanks to all the people serving on the BOM (we need more people), Session, the Futures group 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.

### **What would you do for your Church?**

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.

This Sunday is our Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) and I have certain ideas how it will turn out, basically the same as in the past three years.

However, I'd like to see a different kind of meeting this year. This is a time to discuss this congregation, the direction it is heading, tough decisions various groups are making, and what kind of congregation we want.

It is tough. Parents and children are busy! Sunday mornings are spent in a cold hockey rink, on a damp soccer field or gym, or in a dance class. Missing a practice regularly can mean you're no longer on the team. We all want healthy active kids, how can that integrate with the church? Can we have a Children's service in some mutual "down time"? That might look like an evening supper, short but lively church service, and some fun and games (indoor soccer, pickleball, chess, etc.). Or even homework help with Grade 2 math.

The older teens and young adults have different interests. I'm also going to drop in the young families here too. I strongly suspect that it is our environment (me too) and what's happening with it now and what their futures (and their kids) will look like. Yes, it can be a scary outlook with wilder weather and uncertainty in pretty much everything. That leads to how to maintain a basic wellness, how we operate successfully in stressful times. Can we make changes individually and as a group? I'd certainly like to think so.

What kind of environmental changes can we, our congregation, make: electrify our oil furnace, place solar panels on our south facing roof, plant local shrubs and groundcover replacing grass to help improve our environment for the birds and pollinating insects. Maybe it's having a "Clean-up Day" when we tackle the plastic and other junk that gathers. It could be helping our Syrian farmer while learning how we can grow some of our own food. Does that mean we may have a Plant Sale (perennials and vegetables) this year? Quite possibly.

Getting back to nature (as happened in the 1960's, not that I partook in that!) is part of an overall wellness. Getting your hands dirty: growing vegetables, fruit trees and berry bushes. Learning that blueberries don't come from Dominion or Sobeys! You can find them on the hills around us and they're free. Having a small flock of chickens (eggs), goats (milk and cheese), bees (honey), and not killing off wasps and hornets who help pollinate fruit trees. That is what we can do.

At some point, wellness creeps in. That comprises family, friends, teams, and this little congregation. Getting back to more simple things, actually talking with one another, playing games together, enjoying seeing others enjoy what they're doing. Our seniors know how to have fun and enjoy life. They are members of a knitting group, were part of a quilting group, are definitely part of Good Companions, attend AMS and Bible study groups. They also come to church on a regular basis and, if they are not able for any reason, they enjoy the visits of their elders and other members of the congregation. Some have a supply of Pepsi on hand!

The members of St. David's are partaking in some or many activities that promote the environment and overall wellness. There're Conversation Circles where one or two of our people sit down and have a conversation with Ukrainians, so they better their ability to speak English. There's a group now playing pickleball every Wednesday afternoon. We have a vibrant and noisy Good Companions group, who says seniors are quiet and sedentary?

I, for one, am preparing for a Plant Sale. One or two people did say last Saturday that they had plants that could be dug! Notes have been taken, those holes in your garden, well St. John's does not have gophers.

We do 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.

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](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com).

## **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. 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 Annual Congregational Meeting is this Sunday afternoon, April 30<sup>th</sup>, at 1:00pm.**

After the AMS Mission Awareness Service, Rev. David will be serving his amazing Turkey soup ~ donations of sweets to share, would be appreciated.

**AMS - Mission Awareness Sunday is this Sunday, April 30<sup>th</sup>**

A very sincere thank you to the AMS for leading worship on Sunday.

The Theme, "From the Darkness Comes Light" will be felt throughout the service, from the Call to Worship, Prayers, Contemporary Songs & Hymns to the Children's time, Scripture Readings, Sermon and Offerings.

An AMS Mission Awareness 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.

**Sunday School**

As it is Mission Awareness Sunday, our activities on Sunday school will focus on what missions are, who are involved and how we can help! The children are invited to join in as we explore being "On a Mission".

**Childcare during Annual Congregational Meeting:**

Quiet games, puzzles, storybooks and toys will be available in the Armour Room for children while adults attend the meeting after lunch. Please contact Sue Templeton if you are willing and available to provide some supervision and care for the children. Please call her (709-726-9511) or the church office if you are able to assist!

## Upcoming Events and Activities

### Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their monthly meeting this **Tuesday, May 2nd at 10:00am**. No experience of knitting is required ~ please join this friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

### W.A.

The WA will be meeting at **11:30am on Tuesday, May 9<sup>th</sup>**. Please note the change in time. There will be a light lunch followed by a meeting discussion. All are welcome.

### 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, May 4th**.

### 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).

**\*\* Please see the bulletin board in the Tower Door Foyer for Events happening in our Community!!!**



## **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 Penny Gillies, or Heather in the office. Thank you

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**A very Happy Birthday to our own Janet Aitken** who will be celebrating with her family and friends on May 7<sup>th</sup>! Janet's mom and dad, Cyril and Effie Barnes, played a significant role in the history of our Congregation. Janet continues the tradition by being very active in our Church's life through the WA (Treasurer), the Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) Group, Bridges to Hope (regular Muffin-Making assistant) and Sunday Coffee duties, just to name a few. Janet is a great supporter of all the events and activities that take place here at St. David's and always helps keep us organized and on track. We're sure that her husband, Paul, and her brother, Douglas (now living in England) and their families will make her birthday a special day. Happy Birthday Janet from your family here at St. David's! We wish you all the best!

**Happy Birthday to Luke St. Croix** who will be celebrating his 17<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 3<sup>rd</sup>! Luke will be celebrating with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Susan and Frank St. Croix, siblings, Samantha, Ash and Matthew, aunts, uncles and cousins and of course, his proud grand-mother, Barbara Ellis. Happy Birthday Luke! Your St. David's family wish you a wonderful birthday! Enjoy!

**Happy Birthday to Gregory Hudson** who has a birthday coming up on May 1<sup>st</sup>! Gregory will be celebrating his big day with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Michele and Geoffrey Hudson, brother, Matthew, and of course proud grand-parents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes, Gregory, from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

**Happy Birthday to Claire Goobie**, who will be celebrating her birthday with her son, Xander, her husband Matthew and of course Mom & Dad, family and friends on May 7<sup>th</sup>. Claire is the daughter of Olive and Charles Goobie. Best wishes, Claire from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Catherine Bailey** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 3rd! Catherine will be sharing her special day with her husband, Richard, and children Sophie and Aiden, along with her sister Karen and her family, her mom and dad, Judy and Dave Bonnell and her aunt and uncle, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Best wishes Catherine from everyone here at St. David's! We wish you all the best and have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Jack Porter** who will be celebrating his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on May 1<sup>st</sup>! Jack will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Katie Berghuis and Daniel Porter and younger brother, Benjamin. (Jack is the great grand-son of the late Elisabeth and Peter Berghuis.) Best wishes, Jack from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a great day!

**Happy Anniversary to Scott and Kaena Bonnell** who will be celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary on May 6<sup>th</sup>! Scott is the son of Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Even though Scott and Kaena are living in the States now, we know your family and friends, near and far, will be thinking of you both on your special day. Best wishes, Scott and Kaena, from all your friends here at St. David's!

**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 27-May 3, 2023**

Sobeys: Kraft Dinner (KD) – 12/\$9.97 (\$0.83 each)

Walmart: Heinz Canned Beans or Pasta - \$1.00

No Frills: Oceans Light Tuna - \$0.99

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

Lawtons: Maple Leaf Flakes of Ham – 8/\$12.00\*\*

Heinz Tomato Soup – 4/\$3.00 \*\*

\*\* Two days only – April 29/30, 2023

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **MAY** is **Pasta Sauce**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

**Bridges To Hope are also in need of cat food (hard & soft).** They don't need dog food as they have a steady supply from the Doghouse store downtown.

## **Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development**

**Sunday, April 30th, 2023**



***When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we express our faith, proclaiming God's love, hope and grace through the decisions we make and the actions we take. Together, we support congregations, theological colleges, camps, presbyteries, synods and specialized ministries as they nurture disciples and share our faith. We help leaders explore new models of ministry, and we help people experiencing barriers to traditional social engagement overcome them in innovative ways. Through mission staff and grants, we accompany international mission partners. We live out God's call for justice by collaborating with ecumenical and interfaith partners to speak out against injustice, advocate for human rights and care for creation around the world. God does remarkable things with the gifts we give.***

## **Conversation Club meets Good Companions!!!**

Iryna Fedorenko and Eugene Holovin started coming to Conversation Club on Wednesday mornings to practise their english with our volunteers. This past Wednesday, April 26<sup>th</sup>, they asked if there was anything they could do to return the kindness and help us ... well one thing lead to another and here they are volunteering at Good Companions!

