



News from the Pews for Sunday, May 14th, 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



Well, I promised that I'd be out enjoying the sun if it started shining, and this week it started shining! To take advantage of the good weather, Oliver and I headed down to a new city of St. John's feature after school. Next to the dog park at Quidi Vidi lake is a brand new "pump track", a twisted track designed for bicycles, skateboards and scooters. It has lots of hills and steep turns, and is made so that if you have the technique of "pumping" your body up and down as you crest the hills, you will not need to pedal to continue circling the track. We had a great time, and we've been back a few times already this week!

Granted, the first visit was a bit intimidating. The hills are deceptively high, and to get the speed you need to get over them is scary for a five-year-old like Oliver. Luckily, it wasn't too busy when we got there, so a young kid taking his time and running out of steam halfway along the track didn't run the risk of being mowed down by a biker following behind him. We did get a good amount of time on the

track all by ourselves, which was great.

But then, some other kids showed up. I'd guess they were in their early teens, boisterously having fun on their bikes, and old enough that they had no adult chaperone around. They had mouths like truckers, and as I stood watch over Oliver on the other side of the track slowly pattering about on his scooter, I thought that maybe we'd have to abandon the track to these newcomers. I didn't want him getting squashed beneath their wheels or risk them being mean to him for being small and slow.

All that evaporated pretty quickly though, once the kids noticed Oliver. They cheered him on when he was pushing his speed limits and encouraged him for his efforts when he had to climb back up the hills. They were always extra cautious when they were passing him, without me saying a word, and eventually they continued on around the lake, laughing and impressing Oliver at how easily and quickly they were riding their bikes.

As a parent, it is easy to see every stranger as a threat to my child. It's easy for us to see an unknown person and assume the worst about them. I remember this getting worse at the start of the pandemic, noticing myself being more afraid of strangers than ever since they might be carrying a dreaded virus.

But as followers of Christ, we should see everyone we meet as, in the words of my old Pastoral Care professor, "Children of God, First Class". Watching those older kids show such gentleness and kindness to Oliver reminded me of how important it is to give strangers the benefit of grace, even if they are a little strange, a little loud, or a little crass.

May you recognize God's love resting on the people you encounter every day: your cashier at the grocery store, the man who walks his dog past your house, your neighbours and co-workers. All those around us are Children of God, First Class, and we should treat them with the same love and kindness that Jesus shows to us. God's love can flow to us from the most unexpected people, what Good News that is!

Treasurer's Update for this Week

It hardly seems like a week has passed and if you ever worked for Newfoundland and Labrador Computer Services (NLCS) pronounced knuckles, you'd hear that once a year at the Christmas party only it was a year, not a week.

In a week several things have happened, we're rolling full speed ahead with a Plant Sale, more info to come.

The Board of Managers (BOM) is creating a motion to ask for a grant from the St. Aiden's Fund. We don't know the outcome yet and we may well not know for some time, but we keep you informed of our progress.

I've been speaking with the National Office on which things have to be paid each month due to federal legislation and I am trying to meet their expectations.

The good news is that we haven't touched the Line of Credit (LOC) since April 3rd and we have the PAD arriving next Monday.

There may not be a "What would you do for your church" this week because it's sunny outdoors for all of us!

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

As mentioned last week, the BOM is now a Board of six: Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia, Barbara Ellis and Heather Steele-Morrissey. We are still hoping to add to this number – so if you are curious about what is involved, please contact any member of the Board to discuss. We would be pleased to hear from you. Thank you!

Sunday School

Do you feel that? Do you see that tree moving? The wind moves all around us and we can not see it but we know it's there. We feel it and we see it's effects. The Holy Spirit is all around us. Through other's actions we can see the Holy Spirit. How can we show God's love to others with the Holy Spirit's help?

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Dean King who will be turning 4 on May 19th! Dean will be celebrating his big day with his family and friends, near and far. Dean is the son of Sarah and Wesley King, and a cherished member of our St. David's family. We wish you a wonderful day Dean – 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.

Upcoming Events and Activities

A VERY SPECIAL SAVE THE DATE . . .

The TSO end-of-season Concert!!

Every year, we at St. David's have the great pleasure of being invited to attend this concert.

The concert will be held on Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. There will be a reception serving light refreshments in the church hall following the performance and all are welcome.

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.

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 18th.**

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.

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.

Upcoming Plant Sale !!

There will be a Plant Sale at St. David's !!! **Saturday, June 10th at 10:00am**

But we will need help... if you would like to help out, we do have a wish list ~ items on that list include:

Pots and containers, people to dig-up, separate and transplant (plants), share seedlings (should you have any started) and plants from your garden, etc. And of course we will need people to help out at the Plant Sale itself.

If you would like to learn more about: what to plant – when to plant – and how to plant... please get in touch with the church... you may find yourself involved!!

Bridges to Hope:



Weekly “Flyer” Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – May 11 – 17, 2023

Dominion: No Name Canned Milk - \$1.00 **

Cheerios - \$4.00 ** ** Member's pricing with Optimum card

Colemans: Favorite Mandarin Oranges – 4/\$5.00

Walmart: Peek Frean Cookies - \$2.97

Sobeys: Hunt's Pasta Sauce - \$2/\$3.00

Catelli Pasta – 2/\$3.00

Lantic white sugar - \$1.79

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.

Please note:

The Bridges to Hope AGM will take place on Monday, June 5th at 7 pm. The meeting will be held at St. James United Church in the auditorium. All are welcome to attend.



Thank you for your ongoing support of Bridges to Hope! Your generosity made a significant difference in the lives of vulnerable children, families, and seniors in St. John's and the Metro Region.

We're excited to announce our May "Make it Monthly" campaign to grow our Sustainers Circle: a dedicated group of supporters committed to reducing hunger through convenient and impactful monthly giving. With your help, we can provide essential and healthy food to over 1000 people in need each month, turning hunger into hope.

As a past donor, we believe you share our passion for fighting hunger and empowering our community. By joining our

Sustainers Circle, you can make an even more significant impact:

- Your monthly gifts allow us to budget for fresh fruits and vegetables, healthy snacks for kids, homemade bread and soups, and other nutritious foods.
- Scheduled donations help you budget your contributions and ensure we can provide healthy food throughout the year, even in lean months.
- Monthly giving reduces administration costs, meaning more money goes directly to purchasing food.
- Enjoy hassle-free automatic deductions, easy account management, and receive an annual gift statement for tax preparation.

We know how to leverage your dollar. Check out what impact your kindness will have:

- **\$10/month: Feed a family of 4 for 4 days**
- **\$20/month: Provide 4 kids with healthy snacks**
- **\$50/month: Pay for 100 bowls of homemade soup**
- **\$100/month: Provide fresh fruits and vegetables to 50 people**

We invite you to join the Sustainers Circle today and help us turn hunger into hope! Visit bridgestohope.ca/sustainers-circle to learn more about the program or enroll.

Throughout May, we'll share impact stories and more information about the Sustainers Circle via email and our social media channels. Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), and [Instagram](#) to stay updated!

Thank you for considering monthly giving and being a vital part of the Bridges to Hope community.

With gratitude,

Jody Williams

Executive Director, Bridges to Hope

St. Andrew's Church is thrilled to announce that the
47th Annual Kirk Lobster Dinner!

Will be held on:

Wednesday, June 7th and Thursday, June 8th 2023

As past supporters of this great event, we are reaching out to you first to let you know!

We would love to add you to our list again for this year.

As always, each *Signature* Kirk Lobster Dinner Box will include:

2 full cooked and split lobsters,
3 freshly made salads,
dinner rolls,
homemade dessert,
condiments,
and a "refreshment".

Take-Out Boxes will be \$75.00 Each!

We hope that we can count on your generous support once again this year.

To place your order, or if you have any questions,
please reply to this email address or call 726-5385.

Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your neighbours, tell your colleagues!

Spread the word, share the joy of this Amazing Event & get your orders in!

Sincerely,

The Lobster Dinner Team, St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk)

Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development
Sunday, May 14th, 2023

One of the pressing problems in Malawi is the lack of health-care workers. With only 600 doctors to look after a population of 19 million, Presbyterians Sharing is doing what it can to help fill this sizable gap by supporting Moses Silungwe as he pursues a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery at Levy Mwanawasa Medical University in Zambia, which is a six-year program. His dream of becoming a general surgeon began when he was working as a senior clinician at the David Gordon Memorial Hospital, where he was later appointed acting head of the hospital's clinical department. Moses is grateful and excited to pursue his dream of becoming a doctor and serving the people of Malawi.

