

News from the Pews for Sunday, May 21st, 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 family and I took a hike out to the suspension bridge at La Manche provincial park. It's a beautiful hike, and one we've made before. La Manche is one of our favorite camping spots in the summer, and this time even Oliver was remembering parts of the hike from last year, pointing out landmarks along the way that reminded him he'd been there before.

We have so much natural beauty to enjoy in this place that we're almost spoiled! You could hike for a hundred days on trails all across the Avalon and see beautiful new landscapes every step of the way. Heck, you can see beautiful views from the comfort of your car, a fact that I remember enjoying immensely when I first moved here with my very pregnant wife.

But for me, there's something special about returning to a familiar view, coming back to a place you've enjoyed before. As I hiked out along the trail in La Manche and saw the familiar landmarks along the way, I thought of all the time that had passed since I'd last visited. Snow, rain, wind and sun had beaten down on this place, trees had kept vigil without a human soul around for miles. The stinging nettles near where Oliver is standing in this picture had died back for the winter, and were now beginning to sprout again in the springtime. This beautiful view had been here, living through the seasons, waiting for us to return to enjoy it again. There is a calm assurance of God's love that I take from moments like this. I live in the most beautiful place in the world, but so often I spend my time looking at mundane things: a screen, the bumper of the car in front of me, the shelves of the supermarket. But no matter how long it takes me, those rocks and trees will be ready to amaze me.

God's love for us lasts. It weathers storms, it is not fazed by our neglect, it does not guilt us for ignoring it. When we are ready, and we turn to God, we find a love without a time limit, familiar yet ever new and surprising.

May you be blessed by the beauty of our province in the springtime this week. May you see the grandeur of all that God has made and may you be filled with the same joy it brings me. May you make time to rest in the joy of the enduring gifts of God in your life, and remember how unchanging God's love for you can be. What Good News that is!

Treasurer's Update for this Week

Since last week's abbreviated update, there have been many things happening: last Sunday was Mother's Day and I think I hugged just about every mother in church or down at the Coffee Time; on Monday we had a Zoom BoM meeting to discuss a motion going to Session; on Tuesday the WA had another successful Bridge Party; also on Tuesday there was a Session meeting; and on Wednesday there was a St David's Futures meeting.

The current state of our finances remains in a semi-sad state. However, Session has ok'ed a request to Presbytery for \$30,000 from the St. Aiden's Fund to pay off the CEBA loan. While that may take some time to come through, I do have hope. Session has also allowed me to use the interest and dividends from our capital account if need be.

If you are wondering what I'm paying, and more importantly, what I'm not paying, here's an outline: I pay our employees (David and Heather) and contractors (Brian and Frank), the CRA, all local suppliers have been paid, and a couple of companies take money directly from our account when their monies are due - Irving (furnace oil), Marsh (insurance), the RBC (all our banking costs), and WHSCC (Workers Comp). The groups I'm not paying are the same as in previous years: PCC (not stipend related charges – pension and group insurance – which are under federal legislation), Synod, and Presbytery. Most years they are the last groups paid and are always paid, somehow. Our Line of Credit (LOC) is still at \$4,000.

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?

What would you do for your church? While some people may be thinking about that, a very few are actively doing things.

This is a tale of several groups: the WA, Plant Sale Group, and Conversation Circle people!

One group has found a way to involve more church members in their activities. And wouldn't you know it, it's the WA! Normally at WA meeting there are a core group of maybe ten ladies. To help out, especially with the Bridge Party (soup, dessert, tea/coffee and an afternoon's bridge game) at least another fifteen people drop by to help. There's a set-up group for the tables, chairs, crockery, and utensils. This week, someone went on-line to ensure we used the correct table setting. Is there a final check on the place settings? Yes, there's a walkabout

checking for shiny cutlery and ensuring the cup handles are turned the right way. Another group of helpers make pots of soup and I do mean pots of soup, at least nine or ten. Need I remind you that there are the basic soups (pea, chicken, beef or turkey) and then the soup de jour, a secret until the day of the party (in a previous column I mentioned a tomato bisque with cheesy croutons). Then there are the dessert people who make three decadent desserts and a specialist who cuts them out for us. For the main action, there's a kitchen crew and a serving crew. Everyone is invited to have a bowl of soup and/or a dessert to thank them and help see them on their various way home or back to work. Any extras, either soup or desserts are packaged for sale at the end of the day. Each party has a clean-up crew for dishes, pots and pans plus and putting away the tables and chairs. Phew! Good job everyone!

Another group who is yet to get fully going are the people helping put together this year's plant sale. First, we're looking for potting gear – pots of all sizes and trays. If you have something in your garage, shed or yard that you'd like to donate, please call the office. We're also looking for cuttings, seedlings, herbs, perennials – and perhaps a loan of some gardening books. Some people have already suggested we may dig up and separate some of their perennials. So, about those holes in your garden, I may not have been fooling around when I said "Gopher holes" after all Newfoundland has no gophers. It does have some gardeners with digging skills! The date has been set and it's on Saturday June 10th starting at 10 am. This group is also looking for help getting gear and plants to sell, and perhaps even helping us with the sale. More later!

Today was Wednesday and that means two things: Conversation Circle and pickleball. The Conversation Circle is a group of Ukrainians who drop by from 11 to noon for a chat in English. It's usually one on one. The language barrier gets less and less, the Ukrainians have a time out from their normal schedule, and as a definite plus, two of them are helping out with the Good Companions group on Thursday. Today's pickleball saw only four players but they got plenty of exercise. Normally with more players, you get a chance to sit out and take a rest, not so today, everyone got a great workout.

Turning contemplative, what can we do to involve more people in our church? Yesterday I met a lady who said "This is my church." I asked her name, and she

asked me mine. We had a chat. Many years ago, she was a member of this church, had kids, and played the piano for the Sunday School. She still has a card from Rev. Jim Armour congratulating her on the birth of her daughter. I would have liked to chat longer, but we were at the door and we both went our separate ways. How can we reach the people who say we are their home church and bring them home again?

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.


Board of Managers

The BOM is now a Board of seven!!

Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia, Barbara Ellis, Heather Steele-Morrissey and Keegan Allen. We are delighted that Keegan has volunteered to be on the Board of Managers ~ welcome Keegan!

As mentioned before, 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

This week the children will learn about the Ascension of Jesus and participate in activities in the hall to remember this lesson. 

Thank you!

Birthdays and Anniversaries

Happy Birthday to Laura Barnes who is celebrating her birthday on May 24th! Laura will be sharing her special day with her mom and dad, Martha and Glenn Barnes, her brother, Nathan and his wife, Jamilia, along with many other family and friends, near and far. Best wishes, Laura, from everyone here at St. David's!

Happy 11th Birthday to Emma Ryan who will be celebrating her birthday on May 23rd with family and friends! Emma is the daughter of Aimee Reardon and granddaughter of Marilyn Reardon (Melendy). Happy Birthday Emma from your St. David's family. We hope you have lots of fun and wonderful surprises!

Birthday greetings to Lesley Stuckless who is celebrating her birthday on May 28th! Leslie will be celebrating her birthday with her mom, Lorna Stuckless, and daughter, Marcella, along with many other family and friends. Best wishes, Leslie, from all your friends here at St. David's! We'll be thinking of you.

Happy Birthday greetings to Monica McNeill, who will be celebrating her birthday on May 26th! Monica was our previous Church Administrator and as such has made many lasting friendships with people at St. David's. Monica will be celebrating her birthday with her husband, Mike, son, Ben, and her father, Sam Johnson, along with many other family and friends, near and far. Best wishes Monica from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day and enjoy many more to come!

Happy Birthday to Kathryn Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on May 26th. Sharing her special day will be her mom and dad, Sylvia and Dave Hudson, and her siblings, Doug and Geoff and their families. Happy Birthday Kathryn from all the folks here at St. David's and best wishes for the coming year!

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 next Wednesday, May 24th at 7:30pm in the Sanctuary. There will be a reception serving light refreshments 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 25th.**

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 18 – 24, 2023

Dominion: Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99

Ivory Bar Soap – (10x90g or 6x104g) - \$2.99

Colemans: Jello - \$0.88

Cheez Whiz - \$3.97

Walmart: Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.97

Sobeys: Clover Leaf Tuna – 3/\$4.98

Shoppers Drug Mart: No Name Paper Towels (2) - \$0.99

Lawtons: Compliments Mustard - \$1.99

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.

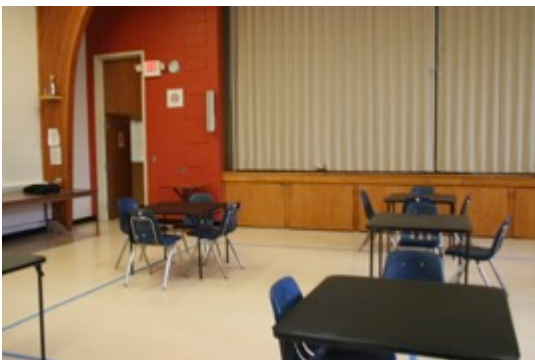
Tell your friends, tell your family, tell your neighbours, tell your colleagues!
Spread the word, share the joy of this Amazing Event & get your orders in!
Sincerely, *The Lobster Dinner Team, St. Andrew's Church (The Kirk)*

WA Hosted Bridge Party – May 16, 2023

The WA hosted another well-attended bridge party this past week and once again, everyone enjoyed themselves. Not only do the loyal bridge players like our relaxed atmosphere and comfortable venue but we think they enjoy the food more! 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 this past Tuesday.



Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development
Sunday, May 21st, 2023



When Esther was 13 years old, she got her period for the first time— just one day before the Malawi national primary school examinations, which would determine whether she would be admitted to secondary school. Esther was instructed by the older women in her village to not leave home and remain indoors for the next seven days in adherence with village customs. Caroline, an outreach volunteer for girls’ rights, learned about Esther’s situation and enlisted the help of the village’s chief to speak with Esther’s parents about letting her leave home isolation to write the exam. Esther was permitted to write her exam, allowing her to advance to secondary school. With Presbyterian World Service & Development’s support, local partners are raising awareness about the importance of girls’ education for a successful future.