

## **News from the Pews for Pentecost Sunday, May 28th, 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



*Saint Paul Writing His Epistles, by Valentin de Boulogne (c. 16th century)*

This week in our Wednesday Bible study, we came across an interesting trouble with the biblical text we were looking at. In three of the four Gospels, Mark, Matthew, and John, the story of Jesus feeding the 5000 is immediately followed up by the story of Jesus walking on water. We talked about how we see Jesus' humanity in needing to take time away from the crowds as he often did, time to pray and be with God, and how amazing the transformation of his disciples is. They go from trembling fishermen who think the figure walking across the waves is a ghost to boldly preaching the Gospel as leaders of the church at Pentecost, and that can give us hope that we, too, can be transformed in unexpected ways by God's Spirit. But the question that I found really interesting to look into was about the gospel that DOESN'T have the story of Jesus walking on water: Luke! It is widely thought that Luke and Matthew both used the earlier gospel of Mark for inspiration when writing their own gospels, with most of the text of Mark directly copied over and expanded upon in different ways. But after the feeding of the 5000 in Luke, something odd happens. Luke loses touch with the narrative from Mark, and doesn't record the next few stories, including Jesus walking on water, stories of several healings, and a few of his debates with the Pharisees.

Scholars aren't entirely sure why Luke does this, as there isn't a clear theological or narrative reason for Luke to ignore these stories. I've seen it called the "Great Omission", and as I tried to research reasons for this strange difference between the gospels I came across ideas like this one:

*"Upon coming to Mark 6:45-52, in which Bethsaida is mentioned, [Luke] decided to omit it. Looking away or being distracted, he accidentally focussed on Mark 8:22, where Bethsaida is again mentioned. Thinking he was looking at the first reference to Bethsaida, he began to use the material from Mark again."*

Oops! In a moment, I am transported to Luke's side, because this is a problem I can relate to! Which one of us hasn't accidentally skipped a line while reading or copying something down?

Now, this might not be a satisfying answer to some people, but I find hope in it. Luke was, after all, just a human being. The Gospels were written by human hands, moved by the Spirit to share a message they thought was all-important. Through the ages, God has worked through people, and does amazing things despite our shortcomings.

So if you are the sort of person who makes mistakes, come to our sanctuary and look at the stained glass windows adorned with images of saints like Luke. Remember that they also made mistakes. But what unites us to them is the deeper

message, the truth of the Gospels that inspired them to write so convincingly; we are not perfect, but God's Love is. Saints begin as amateurs, what Good News that is!

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

The current state of our finances has again become more dire. To pay all the end-month and month-start cheques we will again dip into the Line of Credit (LOC) for another \$2,000. This will mean that we have used \$6,000 of our \$10,000 LOC. This is not sustainable.

If you are wondering what I'm not paying, basically those are PCC related charges. There are two things in that category which I should be paying. Those are the stipend related charges – pension and group insurance – which are under federal legislation and which should be paid if at all possible.

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.

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

I think that sometimes we forget that we are a church and what that means to each of us and to our congregation. Basically, we are a group of people who meet, mainly on Sundays, to attend a service. We also run into one another throughout the week, by taking part in the various groups at St. David's, or we call and speak to one another. That is called being part of a community.

The following is a description of a service I attended back on May 7<sup>th</sup> at Lady Cove.

Written Sunday May 7<sup>th</sup> I attended church at Lady Cove. The minister went around before the service and greeted each and every person there. By the time the service started we were all relaxed and chatting with the people in the pews around us. Not unlike St. David's. The service was basically the same, however there was a spot where the minister says "I'd like to wish Beth a happy birthday!" and asked "is there anyone else that you'd like to acknowledge? A birthday,

anniversary, graduation, any special thoughts.” So, the congregation came up with birthdays, a trip to Ottawa to visit grandchildren, a son’s retirement. There being six or seven birthdays, we sang “Happy birthday”.

The sermon was on living stones. There are two ways to build with stone. In the first way, you cut them out to exactly fit where they are laid. Breakage is possible depending on how they’re cut or if they’re not tightly fitted and exactly match the surrounding stones. The second way is to gather many stones and choose the ones which will be going into the building. This is cumbersome in selection and slow to build. You find a hole, choose a stone carefully and see if it fits. The parable was that people are the same. You find someone who seems to fit the gap, maybe with a bit of chipping away at this or that. Or it may be necessary to do a bit of chipping away at the neighbouring “stones”, but heaven help you if you just stuff them into the hole, since the outcome might not be what you want.

The minister ended the service by saying she was going to attend a convocation on May 14<sup>th</sup>. This convocation was for a new minister whom she had mentored for the past five years. That course was a Summer Distance Master Divinity (MDiv) course where classes are taken online over the fall and winter and the summer terms are in person at the Atlantic School of Theology. In five years, the student earns their MDiv all the while serving in a supervised ministry setting.

After the service we continued our chatting back and forth as we each left the church, going out to our respective cars (in the sunshine).

On this past Wednesday I dropped by a relative’s house, chatted about many things and learned that there’s a United Church Women’s (UCW) garage sale on Thursday. Gently used clothing and shoes, housewares, and books were being welcomed and to be dropped off at the small community center at 7 pm, so I promptly went home to gather several items for the sale. Yes, the UCW and our WA have a lot in common!

Getting back to St. David’s and again speaking of the chance meeting I had with a woman at the last Bridge Party, who said “This is my church.” Many years ago she attended this church, had kids, and played the piano for the Sunday School. She still kept a card from Rev. Jim Armour congratulating her on the birth of her

daughter. I'd like to know if anyone has any ideas on 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](mailto: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!

**We are delighted to have the musical talents of Miranda MacDonald and Douglas White, who are joining Brian for the Contemporary Service this morning. Welcome!**

### **Sunday School**

On this Pentecost Sunday the children will learn about and celebrate the gift of the Holy Spirit with special symbols of the breath of God and tongues of fire.  

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday to Isaak Bonnell** who will be celebrating his 15<sup>th</sup> birthday on June 3<sup>rd</sup>! Even though Isaak and his family currently live in Glenview (a suburb of Chicago), we know he will be celebrating his big day with family and friends, near and far, including his mom and dad, Denise and Steve Bonnell, his brother, Evan, and very proud grand-parents, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Happy Birthday Isaak from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful birthday and a great year to come!

**A very Happy Birthday to June Bowden** who will be celebrating her birthday on June 4<sup>th</sup>! June is a former Good Companions and a dear friend to many here at St. David's. June keeps in touch with the St. David's news via our weekly bulletin and is a great supporter of our weekly Bridges to Hope appeal. June will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends here in St. John's. Happy Birthday June from all your friends here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful birthday and may there be many more to come!

**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**

### **AMS**

**There will be an AMS meeting today in the Armour Room following the service. Please join us for the fellowship meeting and a light lunch.**

### **WA**

**The WA will be meeting this Tuesday, May 30<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Armour Room. Please join us for the meeting and lunch.**

## **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! **(Last session is May 31<sup>st</sup>.)**

## **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, June 1st.**

## **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).

## **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.



## Prayer Shawl Knitters

### ADVANCE NOTICE:

The Prayer Shawl Knitting Group will hold their last meeting before breaking for the Summer months on **Tuesday, June 6<sup>th</sup> at The Fogwill Residence: 217 Portugal Cove Road.**

Please plan to come for: **Coffee Time from 10:00am to 12:00noon and then stay for lunch!**

### Upcoming Plant Sale !!

There will be a Plant Sale at St. David's !!! **Saturday, June 10<sup>th</sup> 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.

We have had a lot of positive feedback to the news of a Plant Sale!!! SO please do continue to spread the word!!

**Starting Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup>, we will start receiving hardier plants that we can leave outdoors in the covered area just outside the Tower door ~ this area is often referred to as the "Breezeway". Please be sure to identify and label your plants so we know how to group them and are able to give that info to the purchaser. Thank you.**

**We would be delighted to accept any tender plants, such as vegetables and annuals on Saturday morning prior to the start of the sale – preferably, around 9:00am. Again, please have these plants identified and labelled. Thank you!**

## **Bridges to Hope:**

### **Weekly “Flyer” Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – May 25 – 31, 2023**

No Frills: Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.29

Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.99

Dominion: No Name Flaked Tuna - \$1.29

Colemans: Jacob’s Cream Crackers – 2/\$3.00

Walmart: Ritz Crackers – 3/\$7.00

Sobeys: Kraft Peanut Butter – \$5.77

Campbell’s Soups – 4/\$5.00

Pipers: Tropic Isle Mandarin Orange Segments - \$1.09

**Bridges To Hope** are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **JUNE** is **personal care items** – *shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, etc.* 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 5<sup>th</sup> 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](http://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  
**47<sup>th</sup> Annual Kirk Lobster Dinner!**

Will be held on:

**Wednesday, June 7<sup>th</sup> and Thursday, June 8<sup>th</sup> 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)***

## Emad's New Hobby Farm

Many of you know about our friendly farmer, Emad Nahhat, who has turned our rocky, weed-infested Church property into a thriving garden. Steve Bruneau and other friends have been working with Emad to acquire the necessary permits that would allow Emad to farm a little hobby-farm in Logy Bay-Middle Cove-Outer Cove. There were a few bumps along the way and a lot of red tape to work through, but Steve got the great news just this week that everything is in place and that Emad has the green light to go!

Below are a couple of pictures that say it all. We wish Emad all the best and we know his hobby-farm is going to be a source of some wonderful produce!!



**Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development**  
**Sunday, May 28th, 2023**



**With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Two Rivers Church in Guelph, Ontario, is exploring new and creative ways of being the church. This ministry is made up of “living rooms,” where people gather together in homes for meals and conversations that draw them deeper into friendship and spiritual formation in Christ. Recently celebrating 10 years of ministry, Two Rivers Church has grown to include six living rooms where the congregation meets together. At the same time, community engagement has expanded to include community gardening projects, neighbourhood cycling events, prayer walks, church retreats and an interactive “Stations of the Cross” walk through downtown Guelph during Holy Week.**