

**News from the Pews for Sunday, May 7th, 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**

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Today, on my usual fifteen minute walk into the church, I was listening to "The Current" on CBC radio on my phone. It's a national program with a wide range of content, and I was interested in a story on coffee beans that they were doing. Michelle's worked in cafes for a long time, so the intricacies of roasting and producing a good cup of coffee are an interest I've picked up from long hours sitting at the bar and watching her work a shift.  
I almost turned it off though, when the host started talking about how wonderful this springtime weather has been for most of the country. Clearly, he was not taking St. John's into account! Western Canada may have been sunny and warm, but we've had nothing but rain, drizzle and fog (RDF) for weeks, and there's no sign of it letting up any time soon!  
This is the time of year when I find myself grumbling against my friends and family in other parts of the country, out in their gardens, lounging in the sun, starting up the barbeques, and so on. It is hard to endure day after day of the cold and wet, high of four and low of zero.

But there is one thing I enjoy about this weather: it prepares me for properly enjoying the sunny day when it does come. There's nothing like the end of a long stretch of RDF to get me out exploring, on a hike or just up signal hill to take in the view of the city in the sunshine.

Suffering can be sharp and painful sometimes, but it can also be dull and enduring. There are many stories in scripture of Jesus healing people who have been sitting by the side of the road, blind, lame or paralyzed for years, waiting with quiet desperation for something to change. I can only imagine how they hoped for the fog to lift from their lives, and for the changeless circumstances around them to somehow be reshaped. Then, Christ comes, the Son shines on them, and they leap with joy, dancing and singing and praising God. How excited they are to have the fog that has hung over them finally lift! That's the kind of promise that the Bible is full of; God restores us and makes us whole. Hallelujah!

May we all recognize the fog for the passing event that it is. May it increase our excitement for the newness that is coming, as we anticipate God's goodness with certainty. For God is good, and we can trust that the sun will shine on us again. And when it does, you know I'll be soaking it in with a smile on my face.

**Treasurer’s Update for this Week**

On Sunday April 30th we had the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM). It was not well attended, as in the past five to eight years. The meeting passed the Engagement Review Report (RER) and a 2023 budget containing a $110,000 deficit budget.

Please read the article “What would you do for your church” also in this week’s News from the Pews.

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?**

Since I am a numbers person, I’ll start this week by giving you a few numbers:

Members of this church (congregants) 177 (Note 1)

Adherents 121 (Note 2)

Households 134 (Note 3)

Elders 14

BOM 5 (includes 1 elder)

NOTES:

1. A congregant is someone who has claimed membership in St. David’s and who joined either as a youth by “professing of faith” or who transferred in from another church.
2. An adherent is someone who supports the church but is not a member of the church. I know of someone who was an adherent, my late father. He was on various committees, came to church regularly, supported the church financially and all the while not a member.
3. The households are the number of individual addresses we keep of the families of members and adherents.

I thought I’d take Monday off, but that didn’t exactly happen, so I finished the PCC Statistical Report for 2022. Hence the numbers above.

Looking at the people who attended the ACM, ten of our elders were there with the exception of those who were out of the province or recuperating at home; that elder was the lone person who took part in the ACM through our Zoom link. All the members of the BOM were present and we had seven stalwart members of the St. David’s church community. I certainly appreciate each person who attended, took part in the discussions, shared their perspective on the church and to those who also stayed and helped to clean up afterwards.

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

Last Sunday’s ACM turned out as I expected and not what I had hoped for. Although there was discussion on this congregation, the direction it is heading, tough decisions various groups are making, and what kind of congregation we want. Less than 7.5% of the members and adherents took part.

For those of you who did not read last week’s “What would you do……..”, here’s another shot at it.

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.

Yes, I will keep trying to get some response!

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 would like to share this happy news... we have a new board member, Barbara Ellis!! Barbara joins Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia and Heather Steele-Morrissey to make us a board of six!

As Ken advised, Barbara’s valuable life lessons and experiences with other church congregations, will provide a unique informed perspective.

Other new members are most welcome!

**Sunday School**

Which way is The Way? The children will explore how Jesus explained that He is The Way, and enjoy activities that point them in the right direction on their way. Hmmmm… come and see! 

**Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday to Jean Collins** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 12th with family and friends, near and far! Sharing Jean’s special day will be her husband, Clayton, and daughters, Janet, Jennifer and Jacqueline, along with their families. We know they will make it a very festive day. Happy Birthday, Jean from your St. David’s family and best wishes for a great day and a wonderful year to come!

**Happy Birthday to Andrea Crosbie** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 10th! Andrea’s family and her many friends, including those at Kenny's Pond Retirement Home, will be celebrating with her and making sure she has a memorable birthday. All your friends here at St. David’s wish you a wonderful day Andrea, and best wishes!

**Happy Birthday wishes go to Jessie Crosbie** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 14th! Jessie will be celebrating her big day with family and friends including her mom and dad, Ellen Dinn and Paul Crosbie, and sister, Emma, along with a very special aunt – Andrea! Your St. David’s family wishes you a very Happy Birthday Jessie and best wishes for the coming year!

**Happy Birthday to Benjamin den Otter Versteeg**, who will be 18 on May 10th. Benjamin and his family – Lori-Kim, Andy and Marijke – are living in Ontario now, and we know they, along with his grand-mother, Dini den Otter and other family and friends will be celebrating his big day with him, regardless of distance. Everyone here at St. David’s sends along birthday greetings Benjamin! We hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Julia Bassler** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 12th! Julia will be sharing her special day with her mom and dad, Sarah and Paul Bassler, brothers, Timothy and Alexander, aunts, uncles and cousins and many friends. Your St. David’s family wishes you a wonderful, full-filled birthday Julia!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Harriet Offia** who will be celebrating her birthday on May 13th, with family and friends, including her mom, Nnenna and sister, Nnene! Best wishes Harriet from your St. David's family. We hope you have a terrific day full of fun and special surprises!

**Happy Birthday wishes go to Jeremy Hicks**, who will be celebrating his birthday on May 8th! Jeremy will be celebrating with his mom and dad, Susan and Fraser Hicks, his brother, Gregory, and his grand-mother, Shirley Fraize – along with other family members and friends! Best wishes, Gregory, from everyone here at St. David’s! Have a wonderful birthday!

**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.**

**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.

**Upcoming Events and Activities**

**The W.A.**

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

**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](http://gmail.com/" \t "_blank).

**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 may be a Plant Sale in St. David’s future... 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), etc. And 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!!

**(Please check next week’s News from the Pews for updates re date & time.)**

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

**Bridges to Hope:**



**Weekly “Flyer” Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – May 4 – 10, 2023**

Colemans: Primo Pasta – 4/$5.00

Pipers: Club Supreme Jam - $1.99

Walmart: Quaker Chewy or Dipps Bars - $1.97

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

Lawtons: Clover Leaf Tuna – 4/$6.00 \*\*

Cheez Whiz - $3.79 \*\*

**\*\* Two days only – May 6/7, 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.

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 7th, 2023**

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**In Guatemala, Amalia López Pérez de Coronado is a member of a women’s group that engages in discussions about oppression, marginalization and violence against women. With the support of Presbyterian World Service & Development and local partner, AMMID, the group hosts workshops that promote women’s empowerment by teaching women about their rights, including their right to participate in decision-making structures at both the community and municipal levels. Through these workshops, Amalia has gained a sense of confidence that has allowed her to participate fully and freely in many different organizations. She’s also inspired other women in her community to do the same. Expressing her gratitude for the organizations that make these initiatives possible, Amalia affirmed, “I am grateful to AMMID for supporting women**

**Icebergs anyone??**

**On Friday, April 28th, Olive and Charlie Goobie took a little roadtrip to Ferryland to view the icebergs and along the way they made some new**

**friends.**

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**Look how large this iceberg is!!! Hard to ‘fathom’ (couldn’t resist!) that 90% of an iceberg size is below the surface of the ocean!! Amazing!!**

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