



## **News from the Pews for Sunday July 16<sup>th</sup> 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.

## **Special Announcement...**

For the month of July we welcome members from our sister church, St. Andrew’s, to worship with us on Sundays! This has been a longstanding tradition that our two churches worship together during the summer months. We welcome our St. Andrews family to St. David’s!

## Minister's Message



Some of you may recognize this week's picture as coming from what some might consider to be not a very spiritual place: the Robin Hood Bay garbage disposal facility right here in St. John's! This week, we managed to make good on a project that has been on our to-do list since last fall when we bought the house we had been renting, cleaning out the shed.

The shed started out full of a mess of tools, toys, camping gear, patio furniture, boxes of screws, and gardening gear. Some of it was ours, but some had been there when we started renting. For example, when we moved in, we had a patio set for four people and discovered another set for six in the shed. So, we started using the bigger set and put ours in the shed in case we moved and needed it again. Kids toys got picked up from the yard so the lawnmower wouldn't hit them and thrown in the shed. Old tools and equipment that had been in the shed when we arrived had stayed there. The rust on them made me suspect they would never be usable again, but it seemed better to keep them than risk the ire of the landlord if we moved out and they found things missing.

But after buying the house, it became our shed. It was almost a pleasure to pull everything out and fill up a trailer with things to go to the dump or to charity! And now, after a few days of work, the shed is finally all cleared out and only holds the things we actually want in there.

Truly, it was an exercise in the joy of letting things go. I am prone to holding onto things “just in case”, but even I could see the benefit of letting go as the space emptied out and the shelves became usable again. Old rusty cans of paint can go, and in exchange I get that shelf back. How strange it is, to feel relief at watching a trailer full of your own stuff go to the dump, but that is the state my shed was in!

*“Get rid of all bitterness, rage and anger, brawling and slander, along with every form of malice. Be kind and compassionate to one another, forgiving each other, just as in Christ God forgave you.” (Ephesians 4:31–32)*

The Christian faith involves a fair bit of learning to let go of things. Sometimes, we cling to things because they seem valuable to us, and it can be hard to accept new changes. We cling to things that we ought to realize serve no purpose, like the bitterness, rage and anger that Paul writes about in this passage from Ephesians, without realizing that we would be happier if we let them go.

May God help us all learn to let go of the things in our lives and in our hearts that do not serve us anymore. May we let go of grudges and gripes and move on to find happiness. May we let go of old dreams to make way for new ones. May we make a fearless inventory of our own hearts and have the wisdom to know what we would be better off without.

For our God is the God of new beginnings and second lives, and God has plans to use us for good in this world. That’s Good News! By God’s grace, we can all find new things to celebrate. Even the most tired among us can be surprised by the new gifts of God!

But Lord, if you have new gifts for me, please hang onto them for a little while. For now, my shed is empty and clean, and I’d like to enjoy it for a while before I start filling it up again!

Rev. David Sturtevant

## **Treasurer's Report, Session and Board of Managers (BoM) Updates**

### **Treasurer's Report**

Late last week we received the \$30,000 grant from the St. Aiden's Fund, Lillian deposited it into our account. I looked at the account and then checked with our account manager to see if there were any holds. So early the next morning (0545 hours Saturday July 8th before going fishing) I moved \$30,000 into the CEBA Visa account. From now on, I'll talk about an \$80K (eighty thousand dollar) deficit which is better than that \$110k one.

So, if you've been reading these reports for a while, our outlook is less dire, however it will still take some managing. I report monthly to three groups: Board of Managers (BOM), Session and the Futures Committee. These groups are involved in moving this congregation towards a better financial future. While that work is in progress, I am managing the new \$80,000 deficit to a greater or lesser extent.

Last week I promised an updated spreadsheet (picture) of our finances, after the month- start for July and including the mid-month payments (our staff and contractors, the CRA and PCC benefits and pensions, and our insurance.

Projected Monthly expenditures for 2023														annual budget totals
Colors	paid			part paid			not paid			no color - not due yet				
Month	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	Annual Totals	Comment
<b>Employment</b>														
church CRA pmts													5400.00	CCP and EI
David Sturtevant													47400.00	stipend
Housing & utilities													28300.00	housing & utlities
Medical & Dental													4900.00	due in full Dec 31
Heather Morrissey													19000.00	inc CCP, EI, tax, retro
Brian Way													18400.00	no HST
Frank Fogwill													6800.00	inc HST + supplies
Supply Minister													1300.00	budget estimate
Supply Vocalist													600.00	budget estimate
<b>Total Employment</b>													136041.00	annual budget
<b>Administration</b>														
PCC loan													7050.00	due quartery
Accountant													3250.00	estimated for August
LOC Int/Pmts													420.00	auto if ful LOC
RBC Charges													1500.00	auto pmts monthly
Office Supplies													3000.00	on budget to date
<b>Total Admin</b>													26435.00	annual budget
<b>Commitments</b>														
Presbytery													1500.00	paid in full by year end
Synod													2700.00	paid in full by year end
Pension allotment													4200.00	paid in full by year end
Wheels Worship													69.44	current charges to date
CEBA													30000.00	paid
Memorial Fund													2730.00	from 2022
Cemetery Fund													1000.00	normally paid in Sept
Xmas Hampers													2000.00	budget expectations
<b>Total Commit</b>													45578.00	annual budget
<b>Property</b>														
Building Expense													8708.37	current charges to date

Equipment < \$5K																0.00	current charges to date
Maintenance																658.70	current charges to date
Janitor Supplies																119.84	current charges to date
Snow Clearing																11010.00	budget expectations
Insurance																7845.40	auto pmts 15th monthly
Lift Inspection																379.80	paid for 2023
Fire Monitoring																348.60	paid for 2023
Organ Tuning																450.00	invoice for pmt in July
Furnace Oil																31873.00	projected to year end
Lights																3800.00	on budget to date
Phone/internet																2250.00	on budget to date
Water Tax																650.00	paid quarterly
Benefit Concert																500.00	possible concerts
<b>Total Property</b>																84415.00	annual budget
<b>Flowthroughs</b>																	
Pres Sharing																8100.00	projected to yearend
BTH																580.00	to be paid in July
AMS																95.00	to be paid in July
WA																200.00	paid as received
<b>Total Flow-throughs</b>																8975.00	what comes in goes out
<b>Other Expenses</b>																	
Coffee																43.00	actuals to date
Worship Band																450.00	actuals to date
Health & Safety																100.00	budget for AHD system
<b>Total Other</b>																1875.00	annual budget
<b>Budget</b>																302455.13	Total budget
<b>Total Todate</b>																303319.00	over budget (flow-thrus)

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 who are continuing to donate to your church through your envelopes on Sunday mornings, by e-transfers, or through your monthly PAD contributions. My thanks go out to elders and friends who happily and

gladly pick-up envelopes from those not able to get out and help by dropping them off at the church office.

**By the way, the sole email address we are using to accept donations is [stdavidsnfld@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsnfld@gmail.com) and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.**

## **The July 16<sup>th</sup> version of What Would you do for your Church?**

During the summer, activities at the church wind down, somewhat. So this is more about what we have done and continue to do.

Throughout the summer: we have church every Sunday, someone will be in the office, various rentals are continuing, and a few new ones are starting, the grass is still growing, the plants may need some water and dead-heading, the trees and hedges may need a brush cut, and so on.

While the three main meetings (Session, BOM, and Futures) have concluded for the summer, they retain the ability to meet if, and when, necessary.

The hall foyer is now offering a warm fresh welcome with its beautiful pale blue, “Iceberg” color. More changes will come in the next little while when we add the posters and the “Welcome” signs in nine languages.

We have a hardy group of gardeners who take care of the lawns and flowers each week. My thanks to them and remember rain helps the grass and those pesky weeds grow greener! My thanks everyone!

This week, we are pleased to announce a series of concerts to take place over the next couple of months, we are calling it the “Brian Way and Friends” concerts and boy does Brian have some great friends! The first concert features Brian playing with Larry Foley and Sandy Morris. This concert’s date has changed and will be revealed in next week’s News. Please see the BIG announcement further down in this News from the Pews. And that’s just the first concert, others will feature Karla Pilgrim and Dominic Green, Rolando Hutton-MacDonald and Peter MacDonald and possibly other concerts into the fall and at seasonal times.

Are you planning a summer vacation in Ottawa? You may be interested in an email we've received from the Grace Church in Orleans. Check out the announcement and invitation below.

May your gardens grow really well, may there be a plentiful harvest of the wild berries and , if you're lucky enough to get to go fishing (cod – I mean), may you have tight lines!

I 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, want, 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, and hopes. If you are interested in how St. David's moves forward, please contact the church at 722-2382 or email us at [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com).

## **Session Report**

The June meeting was the last before summer, they are currently scheduled to meet again this coming week.

## **Board of Managers**

The Board consists of Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia, Barbara Ellis, Heather Steele-Morrissey and Keegan Allen. The June meeting was also their last before summer, although if required, virtual meetings may occur as the situation warrants.

The Board is hoping to add new members as a family group or individuals, please get in touch with any member of the Board if you are interested. We would be pleased to hear from you!

## **Sunday School**

During the summer, children will worship with their families, and while classes will pause, we hope to provide a special bulletin for the children each Sunday. We hope all the children, their families and our volunteers have a happy, healthy summer with sunny days, safe travels, plenty of rest and all kinds of summer fun!

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations (July 17 - July 23)**

Happy Birthday to Joss Wood who will be celebrating his birthday on July 17<sup>th</sup>! Joss is a longtime member of St. David's. Joss played an active role in the life of our congregation and was an elder for many years before retiring from Session. Both Joss and his wife, Grace, continue to support and take a keen interest in Church activities and events. Best wishes, Joss, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day with many more birthdays to come!

Happy Birthday greetings on July 22<sup>nd</sup> to Brad Burness! Brad will be celebrating his birthday with his family and friends, including wife, Heather and children, Sophie and Max, mother, Brenda Burness and favourite mother-in-law, Edith Peach. Best wishes for a wonderful birthday, Brad, from everyone here at St. David's and may there be many more!

Happy Birthday to Nathan Barnes! Nathan will be celebrating his birthday on July 23<sup>rd</sup>! Nathan will be celebrating his special day with his family and friends, including his wife, Jamilia, mom and dad, Martha and Glenn Barnes

and sister, Laura. Best wishes Nathan from your St. David's family and from all of us to you – enjoy your day!

Happy Birthday to Luke Rudofsky who is having a birthday on July 19<sup>th</sup>! Luke is the son of Michael and Rebecca Rudofsky, brother of Matthew, and grand-son of Judy and Dave Rudofsky. Best wishes Luke from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you enjoy your day and may there be many more birthdays 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 Notices**

### **Summer Concert Series**

We are pleased and excited to announce the start of the "Brian Way and Friends Concert Series". There are three concerts identified:

**An Evening of Country and Traditional Favorites featuring Larry Foley, Sandy Morris and Brian Way** with well known country classics and some Canadian and American traditional favorites.

**An Evening with Karla Pilgrim with Dominic Green on violin and Brian Way** with Karla performing classic and contemporary country and some pop and rock music.

**An Evening of Musical Theatre with Ronalda Hutton-MacDonald, Peter MacDonald and Brian Way** with a blend of musical theatre and war-time songs.

More concerts have been proposed and details will be forthcoming. Tickets for the concerts are \$25 and will be available from the office, by calling (709) 722-2382 or emailing us at [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com). More info and the dates to come!

## **Jonathan Dent is retiring and Grace Church sent us an emailed invitation**

I'm Linda Clarke from Grace Church, Orleans, Ontario. As you may be aware, he is retiring on September 1st.

We are having a retirement party for him and Lynn on September 9th at the church. There will be a dinner, time of worship and some short tributes from colleagues and friends. I want to let you know that if anyone of your congregation or Session would like to send a video or written message we would be happy to share them at the event. As well, if anyone is in the area on vacation you would be welcome to join us. The tickets will be \$25 each and will be available through our website or by e-transfer. The email address of the church administrator is [admin@graceorleans.ca](mailto:admin@graceorleans.ca).

Hoping you have a good summer.

Linda

Given that invitation, we'll extend an invitation for **"Messages for Jonathan and Lynn"**. If you would like to send along congratulations, add your name to a card, or take part in a YouTube greeting, please contact the church. If you have any ideas on what we may do, give the office a call. We would welcome suggestions from Session and the BOM.

## **Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – July 13 – July 19**

Walmart - Great Value Pasta - \$0.99

Dominion - Ocean's Light Tuna - \$1.29

Colemans - Favourite Canned Fruit – various – 3/\$5.00

No Frills - No Name Sliced Mushrooms - \$0.88

No Name Yellow Prepared Mustard - \$1.25

Unico Pasta Sauce - \$1.69

Shoppers Drug Mart – Colgate Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.99

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **JULY** is **dry pasta** (macaroni, spaghetti, rotini, 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.

## **General Protestant Cemetery Trustee Board Announcement**

The dates for the Memorial Services are as follows:

- \*General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road

- \* Monday, July 17, 2023 at 7 P.M.

- \*Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 25 Beaumont Hamel Way

- \* Monday, July 31, 2023 at 7 P.M.

Please note:

In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.

## A Beautiful Find at The Rooms

(From Janet and Brian)

On a recent visit to The Rooms, we came across a beautiful new display just outside the Archives (Level 3), displaying some vintage wedding dresses and other wedding-related items. When we started to read the description of each dress, we were delighted to discover that one of the featured couples had a very close connection to Mildred and Darrin Greeley! They were Darrin's mom and dad! When I ran into Mildred at the Avalon Mall, she confirmed that yes, indeed the dress belonged to Darrin's mom.

Below is a picture of Myrtle Greeley's wedding dress and the actual writeup about Myrtle and Thomas. If you ever get the chance to visit the Rooms over the Summer, pop by and have a closer look at the wedding dress.



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### Thomas and Myrtle (née MacDonald) Greeley

Originally from Tilton, Conception Bay, Thomas Greeley met Myrtle MacDonald when he was teaching on Burnt Islands on the southwest coast of the Island of Newfoundland. The couple were married at St. George's Anglican Church and held their reception at the church hall on May 1, 1963. Myrtle purchased her cocktail-length dress with lace overlay at StyleMart in Port aux Basques. After two years of teaching, Thomas became the manager of the FPI fish plant. He and Myrtle moved to Toronto in 1965, and then returned to Newfoundland in 1974 with their three sons, Kevin, Wade and Darrin.

## Some Rhododendrons Around Town

(From Janet and Brian)

Everyone knows that this summer has been a spectacular one for the rhododendrons. We have been admiring them whenever we go for a walk. Below are just a few of the pictures we've taken. Hope you enjoy!



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

### **Sunday, July 16<sup>th</sup> 2023**

After their summer crop failed and they lost their agricultural loan, Moolo and his wife Babbri, who live in Pakistan, were in financial trouble and were going hungry. Given the gravity of their situation, they managed to receive food assistance from PWS&D's partner in their community. The amount received was sufficient to cover some other basic needs and meant that the elderly couple could use their small savings to provide daily medication to their son Chandan, who has epilepsy. With their remaining savings, Moolo hoped to open a small store, but his eyesight was deteriorating. Babbri stepped up and opened the store herself, remarking, "It is because of this aid that we are not under debt, or we would have sold our goats to pay for food. But we are not in debt and still have our goats!"