



## **News from the Pews for Sunday, July 2nd, 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...

## **Special Announcement...**

For the month of July we will be welcoming 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



This is my cat Debbie bringing me a present today. Michelle and I lost both our cats last year to unrelated illnesses, and for us, bringing Debbie and her daughter Janice into our home has been part of the healing process. It's been a lot of fun getting to know these new animals and learning about their own particular quirks and personalities. One example of Debbie's uniqueness is shown in this picture: Debbie likes to provide for us. Oftentimes, if Michelle and I are watching TV in the evening, we'll hear Debbie start up meowing from across the house, gradually getting closer as we listen.

Eventually she'll come into view, holding something in her mouth which she will bring and drop at our feet. It's usually something small and soft, like this eyepatch from Michelle's travel sleep mask that used to be on her dresser until Debbie chose to bring it to us as an offering.

We always have a bit of a giggle when we hear her start up with her "I have a present for you" meowing. It's an instinctual thing for her, cat mothers in the wild will bring back a fresh kill for their helpless kittens and meow to let them know supper is served. Debbie is looking out for us, trying to help, and we always act appreciative of whatever she brings us because we take it as a sign of cat love. The gift itself doesn't matter, it's the thought that counts.

*Psalm 50:*

*9 I have no need of a bull from your stall  
or of goats from your pens,*

*10 for every animal of the forest is mine,  
and the cattle on a thousand hills.*

*11 I know every bird in the mountains,  
and the insects in the fields are mine.*

*12 If I were hungry I would not tell you,  
for the world is mine, and all that is in it.*

*13 Do I eat the flesh of bulls  
or drink the blood of goats?*

*14 "Sacrifice thank offerings to God,  
fulfill your vows to the Most High,*

*15 and call on me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you will honor me."*

As I reflect on the offerings Debbie brings me, I was reminded of this Psalm, and how it describes God's need of the offerings we have to give Him. Bringing offerings and putting in effort isn't important only because of the power of our gifts. Just as I don't really need Debbie to provide for me, God doesn't really need us to provide for Him! But the act of giving is a sign of love, and if I can feel the love my cat has when she is bringing me a soft toy, be sure that God loves you much more for whatever offerings you are able to give.

May you recognize the value in giving gifts this week, and see the value of the gift reaches beyond how much it costs or how desperate the need is. We are called to be a generous people, showing the world what caring for others means and sharing God's gifts with those who don't expect it. For God shares his love and gifts with us in abundance, and lightens our lives in unexpected ways. Let us give what we can as a sign of our love. May giving be a part of who we are. That's how we can be more Christlike this week!

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

This week I reported to the Futures Committee and now Session and the BOM are in summer mode. Each of these groups are involved in moving this congregation towards a better financial future. While that work is in progress, I am managing the \$110,000 deficit to a greater or lesser extent. Repeating from last week on where we are now:

- a) Session has approved my use of the interest and dividends from the Memorial Fund.
- b) Session has also approved a loan, repayable when we are able, from the Memorial Fund. This loan would only be used as a last resort when all other options have been exhausted. It will be created in our accounting system as an account payable, the same as the loans from the PCC and the federal CEBA program.
- c) As of today, Friday June 30<sup>th</sup> we still have \$6,000 available on our line of credit (LOC).
- d) After much number crunching and provided we only have normal expenditures with NO MAJOR PROBLEMS over the summer, we will get by.
- e) Needless to say, I am always looking out for other sources of income while reducing our expenses.

I would like to sincerely thank Session for allowing the funds from the Memorial Fund to be available should they be required.

I would also like to remind people that we are still open over the summer, even though many of us will be at our cabins or summer homes. By the way, I have a newly found appreciation for e-transfers, especially at our Plant Sale.

Please consider St. David's this summer and my thanks for your regular monthly donations (PAD, on Sundays, E-transfers) and from the summertime rentals.

## **The July 2<sup>nd</sup> version of What Would you do for your Church?**

Since the activities in the church winding down as summer approaches, 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.

Last Sunday the Ukrainian group who were here for "Conversations in English" cooked a feast. It was mainly for the volunteers who spoke with them each Wednesday and included some people from Elim Pentecostal who also worked with them. The meal was delicious, a variety of Ukrainian dishes including freshly made bread, borscht, perogies, and cheesecake. Our thanks to them and we hope to continue our relationship. Please read on to see the full story and pictures which is later in this issue.

After hearing for a month or more about the sprucing up of the hall foyer, part of its has happened. This past Thursday the foyer was painted, it is now a fresh and beautiful pale blue, "Iceberg" color. Drop by and take a look. We are now ready for the posters and the "You are welcome here" signs in nine languages.

Last week I spoke of a clean-up drive for the church property and Wednesday evening a group got together. My thanks to Ken and Sue Templeton, Penny Gillies,

and Heather Steele Morrissey who deadheaded flowers, trimmed back the roses and hedges, plucked those pesky and well growing weeds. On Tuesday Janet Calver and Brian Gamberg dropped by to trim our thorny hedge and “do” the grass. Thanks everyone.

I’ve been talking about a “maybe” fall veggie sale. After I dropped off almost two hundred Romaine lettuce seedlings plus some other plants for our Plant Sale. I have other things growing and while I like Caesar salad, I might not be able to keep up with the #%@\*& lettuce. I’m still thinking while the grapes are forming nicely. At harvest time would you like to partake in a veggie or fruit sale? It could be “bring and buy”, bring, or simply buy. Let’s see how the growing season gets on.

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).

Many thanks for reading all this and please consider taking a moment or two to call us and let us know what you’re thinking, proposing, and hoping for our church.

## **Board of Managers**

Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Offia, Barbara Ellis, Heather Steele-Morrissey and Keegan Allen.

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!

## **A note from the Church Office...**

**I will be taking the next couple of weeks off to have a “stay-cation”. Haha!! Hope to do some hiking and get caught up on some odd jobs. If you have any inquiries or items of mention, please continue to call or email the church office, as messages and emails will be checked regularly.**

Please don't forget the volunteer opportunities to help during the summer...

- prepare and serve the coffee and tea for coffee hour after the service
- mow the lawn (possibly weekly)

Either of these endeavours would be a great project for a family to do together!

I have a sign up sheet on the kitchen door for coffee hour and one for mowing on the bulletin board in the Tower entrance.

Thank you ever so much for considering.

Heather ☺

## **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. Wishing all the children, their families and our wonderful volunteers, many blessings of sunshine, rest, safety in travel and summer fun!



## **Birthdays and Anniversaries (July 3 - July 9)**

**Happy Birthday to David Artiss** who will be celebrating his birthday on July 5th! David and his wife, Grace, are long-time members and faithful supporters of St. David's. David will be sharing this special day with his wife, Grace, and other family and friends, near and far. Best wishes David from your St. David's family! We know Grace – and Caspar - and all your family and friends will make this a special day for you!

**Happy Birthday to Mildred Greeley** who will be celebrating her birthday on July 6<sup>th</sup>! Mildred will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, including her husband, Darrin, and children Bradley and Andrea and their families, and her siblings, Marilyn Reardon, Gerry Melendy and Nowell Melendy and their families. Happy Birthday Mildred from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day... best wishes for the coming year!

**Happy Birthday to Samantha St. Croix** who will be celebrating her birthday on July 7<sup>th</sup>! Samantha is the daughter of Susan and Frank St. Croix and grand-daughter of Barbara Ellis. Susan will be celebrating with her family and friends, near and far. Best wishes Susan, from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

**Happy Birthday greetings go out to Lucy Pike** who is having her 13<sup>th</sup> birthday on July 5<sup>th</sup>! Lucy will be celebrating her big day with her mom and dad, Krysta and Keith Pike, sister, Mila, proud grand-parents, Judy and Dave Rudofsky, and many other family and friends here in Newfoundland and abroad. Best wishes Lucy for a wonderful birthday!

Lots to celebrate in the Artiss's home! **Happy Anniversary to Grace and David Artiss**, who will be celebrating 34 years of marriage on July 8<sup>th</sup>! Grace and David will be celebrating their special day with family and friends near and far. Congratulations to you both from all your friends here at St. David's! We wish you many more years of happiness.

**Happy Anniversary wishes to Patsy and David Carmichael** who will be celebrating their 61st wedding anniversary on July 5<sup>th</sup> with family and friends, here and abroad! Best wishes and congratulations from your St. David's family. We wish you many wonderful years yet to come!

**Happy Anniversary wishes to Grace and Joss Wood** who will be celebrating their wedding anniversary on July 6<sup>th</sup>! Grace and Joss were married in 1959, 64 years ago! Warmest wishes from everyone here at St. David's on your special day. We'll be thinking of you both!



**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.**

### **Bridges to Hope:**

**Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – June 29 – July 5, 2023:**

No Frills: Heinz Beans or Pasta - \$0.99

Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.88

Walmart: Kraft Dinner – 12 pack - \$11.97

Pipers: Tropic Isle Mandarin Orange Segments - \$1.09

Colemans: Jello - \$0.88

Sobeys: Lantic Sugar - \$1.79

**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.**

## **Dinner with the Ukrainians - June 25, 2023**

On Sunday, June 25th, a very special dinner was held in our Church Hall. hosted by our Ukrainian friends. Over the past couple of months, a group of volunteers - from our Church and from the community at large - came together every Wednesday morning from 11:00 to noon, to sit and chat with some of the Ukrainians who have been calling Holiday Inn their temporary home.

Over that period of time, friendships have been formed. We've shared conversations about hiking, gardening, shopping, fashion, fishing, the English language, about their likes and dislikes, and sometimes their fears and worries. Their determination to conquer the English language, to find work and to become independent was truly inspirational for everyone involved.

The Dinner was their way of saying "thank-you" to all the volunteers. And as an added bonus, it gave them the opportunity to get in a kitchen again and prepare a traditional Ukrainian meal - something they have not been able to do for many months! Penny Gillies, with some financial help from the AMS, worked with them and organized the grocery shopping trips - but the menu was all their doing.

We were delighted to be joined by some of the volunteers from Elim Pentecostal Tabernacle who had also held an evening program for conversational English for the Ukrainians. It was Rev. Fred Penney, from Elim, who gave the blessing before our dinner.

What a feast they prepared! The pictures below will give you some indication of the delicious dishes we enjoyed. It was soooooo good! There was a lot of love that went into the preparation and serving of the meal and we hope that they will feel comfortable in using our Hall again for future events and celebrations!

After the meal, Penny encouraged all the "chefs" and servers to come together for a well-deserved bow and a "Thank-you" from us! This was followed by a deeply emotional singing of the Ukrainian national anthem.

All in all, a magical evening for everyone.







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

The dates for the Memorial Services are as follows:

### **\*Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Extension**

**\* Monday, July 3, 2023 at 7 P.M.**

### **\*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.**

## **Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development** **Sunday, July 2nd, 2023**



The earthquake experience is unlike any other,” shared D, a 68-year-old retiree. When a powerful earthquake struck the border region between northern Syria and southeast Türkiye, the damage and loss were overwhelming. The earthquake caused widespread displacement, with many people fleeing their homes for fear of aftershocks and further collapses. At the time, the Syrian population was already profoundly impacted by the persisting war and the country’s economic collapse. PWS&D responded through our partners to provide temporary shelter, much-needed mattresses, blankets, hygiene kits, hot meals and psychological support to affected families. In addition, with Canadian Foodgrains Bank, our partners are providing monthly food rations to those most affected.