



News from the Pews for Sunday July 9th 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 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 past Sunday, we had the joy of celebrating a baptism in our service. After the service, the family asked if they could take some pictures gathered around the baptismal font, and I was happy to take part in that. As we each found our positions, the little boy of the hour was happy and active in his mom's arms, with his little legs kicking up and down like pistons, and a lucky kick or two managed to get his toes into the water of the font. The new sensation of water on his feet was clearly exciting and fun for him, and he redoubled his efforts to dip a toe in the waters and splash it about. I could tell his parents were a little worried about this, but I encouraged them and him to play with the water. So many people have stories of growing up with church being a place where we must sit still and revere the sanctity of the decorations in the sanctuary, but I don't think that is really what God desires from our worship spaces and the symbols and tools we use in worship. The idea of "holiness" in our faith is ancient, dating back to the Old Testament, and it describes objects, places, or people that are set apart from other uses for a specific purpose. In the biblical context, this purpose is God's glory, but the word used is more general than that. In a sense, you could even call a toothbrush "holy" because it is set apart from usual household jobs for one special time and purpose.

The water in that font had been set apart from other uses, I had filled the bowl with water to represent the love of God, poured out in plenty to affirm God's love for the littlest one in our worship. So when his toes dipped into it and the sensation brought him joy, I thought it would hardly be proper to stop him from enjoying it! God's love, like the water, is meant to be enjoyed, to be savoured, to be splashed around and to bring smiles to the souls around you.

My prayer is that everyone who worships with us will feel that worship is a time and place set apart for our enjoyment of God, for us to smile at the love of God and to sing in happiness together. May we not think that things that are holy should never be touched, but understand the purpose and mission they are set apart for. May that which is holy bring us closer to God, not distance us from Him. For God loves us, and does not remain separate or too holy for our lives. What Good News that is!

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

Treasurer's Report

If you've been reading these reports for a while, you'll know that I'm not sure how many times I can dire in association with our finances. Having said that I do 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 \$110,000 deficit to a greater or lesser extent.

This week we received some really good news, Presbytery had granted us \$30,000 from the St. Aiden's Fund. Based on Presbytery's decision, the PPC cut the cheque and on Thursday July 6th we received it. It was deposited in the bank that afternoon. I'd like to sincerely thank all those who were involved in helping us get that grant.

Next week you will get an updated spreadsheet (picture) of our finances.

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 and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.

The July 9th 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!

You will soon hear about a series of concerts to be held over the summer and into the fall. It is lead by our own Brian Way and includes some of his many musical friends. The concerts will range from Newfoundland-traditional, melodic-pop, classic country and pop-rock, show and musical theatre hits, and other themes. Stay tuned for more information and the line-up of great guests in this "Brian and Friends Concert" series.

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.

Session Report

The June meeting was the last before summer, they are currently scheduled to meet again in September. Session passed several motions to help stabilize our finances during their last meeting.

Board of Managers

The Board consists of Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Nnenna Ofia, 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 (July 10 - July 16)

Belated Happy Birthday greetings to Villo Matyas who had her 2nd birthday on July 2nd! Villo is the daughter of Annamaria Imre and Csongor, and Isti's little sister. We know Villo's family, near and far, made her birthday a very special one. Best wishes Villo from your St. David's family and all our love!

Happy Birthday wishes to John Hammond who will be celebrating his birthday on July 16th with family and friends, including his wife, Vickie and her family. Everyone here at St. David's hopes you have a wonderful birthday, John, and best wishes for the coming year!

Happy Birthday to Alyssa Drake who will be celebrating her birthday on July 14th with family and friends! Alyssa is the daughter of Lynn and Craig Drake. Your St. David's family sends along best wishes and we hope you have a great birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings on July 16th to Colin Brockerville! Colin will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, near and far, including his mom, Jacqueline Brockerville, aunts, Jennifer (Critch) and Janet (Starkes) and their families, and proud grand-parents, Jean and Clayton Collins. Have a wonderful birthday Colin from your St. David's family. Best wishes!

Happy Birthday to Solomon Hamid who will be celebrating his 5th birthday with family and friends on July 16th! Solomon will be enjoying his big day with his mom and dad, Rukiya Yusuf and Thomas Hamid, big brother, Shemsadin and little sister, Beli, along with other family and friends. Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled day Solomon! All our love! (Solomon

and his family have recently moved to Alberta to pursue new opportunities there. We wish them all the best as they begin a new chapter in their lives! Keep in touch!)

Happy Birthday greetings to Leo Johnson who will be celebrating his 4th birthday on July 15th! Leo is the son of Samantha Hudson and Cecil Johnson and big brother to Daley. Also joining in the festivities will be his grandparents, Michele and Geoffrey Hudson and of course proud great-grandparents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson! Best wishes on your birthday, Leo, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have lots of fun!

Happy Anniversary wishes to Evelyn and Nowell Melendy who will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on July 10th! Nowell and Evelyn will be celebrating this special day with family and friends, including Nowell's siblings, Marilyn Reardon, Mildred Greeley and Gerry Melendy and their families, not to mention many good friends. Congratulations to you both from all your friends here at St. David's and best wishes for all the years ahead!

Upcoming Events and Notices

Summer Concert Series

We are pleased and excited to announce the start of the "Brian Way and Friends Concert Series". The first concert takes place on Thursday July 20th at 8 pm at the church hall. It is **An Evening of Country and Traditional Favorites featuring Larry Foley, Sandy Morris and Brian Way**. Tickets are \$25 and are available from the office, by calling (709) 722-2382 or emailing us at stdavids@nfld.com. More info to come!

Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – July 6 – July 12

No Frills: Campbell's Soup \$0.99
Clover Leaf Tuna \$0.99
Walmart: Clover Leaf Tuna \$0.97
Dominion: Graves Apple Juice \$0.99
Sobeys: KD Kraft Dinner 4/\$5.00
Colemans: Primo Pasta 4/\$5.00
Jade Mandarin Oranges 5/\$5.00
Lawtons: Heinz Tomato Soup 2/\$1.50

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 Couple of Pictures - The Beginnings of Summer

(From Janet and Brian)

Life slows down a bit during the summer and we are enjoying our garden and just taking advantage of the beautiful summer days to enjoy nature.

One of the things we've noticed are the birds - so many of them all of a sudden it seems. Our garden seems to be on a main flight-path for different birds coming and going. They are a constant source of pleasure and fun to watch. A couple of weeks ago, we discovered a robin's nest securely nestled in the branches of a yew tree just outside our backdoor. We are pleased to report that there are now 3 newly hatched baby robins vying for their parents' attention! We try to give the new family lots of space and privacy but we keep a close eye on them from a distance just to make sure all is well. You might have to look closely at the pictures below, but we hope you can make out their little yellow beaks!



Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday, July 9th 2023

With support from Presbyterians Sharing, Action Refuges Montreal provides hope and assistance to refugees through social programming, sponsorship, and raising awareness of refugee rights. The organization runs the popular “Twinning Program” that matches newly arrived refugee women with women living in Montreal. Through regular meetings and group activities, the “twins” create bonds of friendship and solidarity. The program helps to reduce isolation and overcome barriers that the women face in their day-to-day lives. Who are the people in your community that could benefit from having someone come alongside them in a supportive and empowering way?