



News from the Pews for Sunday, June 18th, 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...

Happy Father’s Day to all the Dads!!!!



Minister's Message

At this week's board meeting, we welcomed eight new board members. And when I say new, I mean NEW! Our treasurer, Anne, brought in the one-day-old chicks she was looking after for a friend, and the picture I got was almost as cute as they were themselves as they trundled about in their bin learning to eat and drink and warming themselves under their lamp.

There are some minister's messages where I begin with a scripture or a spiritual idea and try to find a picture that matches. This isn't one of those. But as I think about how to turn a theological point out of a cute picture of a baby chick, I'm reminded of a tale I've heard about one of the greatest Reformed theologians of the 20th century, Karl Barth. In a question and answer time with students at the university of Chicago, Barth was asked if he could summarize his life's work and theology in a single sentence. His reply? "Jesus loves me, this I know, for the Bible tells me so."

I've always loved that story, because it resonates with the idea that sometimes the best theology can also be the simplest. Perhaps it can be a worthy Minister's message to just show you how beautiful and precious God's creation can be in the simple form of a little fuzzy chick. After all, nothing I write will make you smile more than that picture, nor could I hope to tell you how amazing God's creation is any more clearly than that little chick told it to me as I held her in my hand and felt her flap her tiny wings and peck gently at my finger to see if it was food.

Remember that God's lessons are often simple. In a world that is complicated, sometimes a simple lesson is what is needed most. Lessons like being kind to those around you, even when you don't have to be. Like being generous with what you have. Like making thankfulness something that you do on purpose. Just because something is simple, or a lesson you learned in Sunday School, doesn't make it any less precious. Think back on those simplest lessons of the faith and meditate on them this week, and you will not go wrong.

"He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?" (Micah 6:8)

-David

Treasurer's Update for this Week

Last week's update included a visual update on the current state of our finances, and I've been asked to bring one to you on a quarterly or monthly basis.

Last week I reported to the Board of Managers (BOM) and this week I'll be reporting to 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 is where we are now:

- a) the PCC has been paid the outstanding payments related to the minister's pension and group insurance.
- b) we have received a notice from Irving Oil that our furnace oil will increase by \$0.1738 per liter plus HST starting July 1st or really \$0.19987 per liter. That means roughly \$911 more since we use, on average 4558.3 litres of oil from July to November each year.
- c) we are running "hot" in our use of furnace oil this year, I expect to owe an additional \$611 at the end of our 12-month equal payment plan.
- d) we will use the full line of credit before August 1st.

I am seeking approval from Session for using the **interest** from the Memorial Fund. I am always looking at other initiatives, as well.

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.

The June 18th version of what would you do for your Church?

The activities in the church are starting to wind down as summer approaches. Yes, there is a "but", some of the WA ladies are already thinking ahead to September - "perhaps we could get a professional cleaning crew in to give the kitchens a good cleaning". So. Do you know of anyone interested in the job? Who is your go-to cleaner?

Meanwhile the last Bridge Party before summer was held on Tuesday June 13th. There were twenty-two tables of bridge players who enjoyed the soup, rolls, and one of the three excellent desserts. Lillian did such an extremely good job explaining the background for the "Choir" soup that it was the selection of the day! Thanks to the members of the set-up crew, the kitchen crew and servers, and the cleanup crew. They were a hardworking bunch! With fall only a summer (?) away, many "tables" have already signed up for the full year starting in September. So, in a very few short months we'll be looking for volunteers to cook soup, serve, set-up and take-down, come join us!

Last Saturday, our “hardy” group of gardeners and their helpers were thankful for the covered breezeway where the plants were safely stored out of the wind and rain. There were so many plants and veggies, that there was only a three foot (one metre) gap down the middle. (The sturdier plants were sitting out front!) There was an equally “hardy” bunch of buyers, who stayed in their cars and waited for the sale to open. Several were return customers from previous years. Neighbours pitched in; One of mine dropped by leaving with two house plants, Kathy MacKay’s neighbour, who always joins us for the plant sale, was on hand and bought along hot homemade raisin tea buns. One of my friends called, was sold six plants, paid by e-transfer, and later dropped by to pick them up. E-transfers are wonderful! When there was room for a trolley with tea, coffee and goodies – people got a lift with a hot cuppa. Afterwards the group gathered in the Armour Room for a more comfortable cup of tea and more goodies. I’d like to thank everyone who contributed plants, identified them, priced them, explained what this plant liked, how much sun it wanted, and then cleaned up afterwards. The plants sold themselves! Many thanks to everyone involved.

So where to go from here? I brought along almost two hundred Romaine lettuce seedlings. Others donated tomato plants, onion sets, and herbs. That got me thinking. 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.

We have two volunteer painters to help paint the hall foyer and we are looking for a couple more to joint the party. If you have never painted before, please don’t let that stop you. Please call Heather at (709) 722-2382 and let her know if you’re interested.

The lighting in the sanctuary came up in the last Board of Managers (BOM) meeting on June 13th. Many of the lower lights are LED’s and appear to be “white”. The upper ones are varied and hence a yellowish look helped by the color of the walls and ceiling. At the BOM meeting we continued the discussions. We should be able to identify and get brighter lights, find a better way to change them, even bringing in a scissors lift system. That might be useful in doing some other work. Details to follow.

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, 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, we'd welcome your thoughts, concerns, and suggestions, please contact the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com.

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!

Sunday School

This Sunday, June 18, the summer kicks off with our friends from St. Andrew's at Sunshine Rotary Park for an open air worship service, weather permitting, or if rainy, in the Lodge there, followed by a BBQ picnic! Please join us!

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!



The Annual St. Andrews and St. David's Picnic - Sunday, June 18th!!!

Please plan to attend the annual joint congregational picnic with our sister church, The Kirk, this **Sunday, June 18th at 11:00am ~ Rotary Sunshine Park, Thorburn Road.**

The Sunday service and picnic will go ahead rain (inside) **OR** shine (outside)!

The picnic: burgers will be provided and people are encouraged to bring either a side dish (salad, casserole, etc) or dessert as this is a potluck. Please bring your own plates and cutlery. Tea & coffee will be provided.

Should the weather allow... please feel free to bring your outside "camp" chairs.

Every year we look forward to spending time with our friends from St. Andrew's .

See you there!!

Birthdays and Anniversaries (June 19 through June 25)

Happy Birthday wishes to David Carmichael who will be celebrating his big day on June 25th with family and friends, near and far. Dave is a long-time member of the Church and a retired elder and he and his family have always been ready to help out with all our fund-raisers, events and group activities. Helping him celebrate on the 25th will be his wife, Pat, and daughters, Jill, Judy, Janet and Joy and their families. Best wishes Dave from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful day and many more birthdays to come!

Happy Birthday to Penny Gillies who will be celebrating her birthday on June 19th with family and friends, near and far, including husband, Stewart, and their daughters and their families. Penny is a much-loved elder here at St. David's and is involved in many aspects of our Church life including the AMS, the Prayer Shawl Group, the WA, and a volunteer with the Good Companions. She is one of the main people responsible for keeping our grass and flowers in top-notch shape and for organizing our annual Plant Sale. Needless to say, she is a dear friend to many! Happy Birthday, Penny from everyone here at St. David's and best wishes for a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Emily Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on June 24th. Emily is the daughter of Tracey and Douglas Hudson and grand-daughter of Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a very Happy Birthday, Emily and we hope you have a great day!

Happy Anniversary to Sarah and Wesley King who will be celebrating their 7th wedding anniversary on June 25th! Congratulations and best wishes to you both from all your friends here at St. David's and we wish you many years of happiness ahead!

Just a word of congratulations to all our 2023 graduates – from Kindergarten through to University. Your accomplishments are a great thing to celebrate. Congratulations to each and every one of you as you continue to explore and seek your path in life! Please feel free to share your graduation pictures with us – we would love to share your accomplishments with all your friends here at St. David's!

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

WA

The WA will be holding their last meeting before summer break this **Tuesday, June 20th at 10:00am**. Please come and join us for morning coffee and discussion. (Note the change in start time - thank you.)

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.

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.

Bridges to Hope:

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – June 15 – 21, 2023

No Frills: Vienna Sausages - \$0.99
 Hereford Corned Beef - \$2.97
Walmart: Crest Toothpaste - \$0.88
Dominion: Cheez Whiz - \$3.99
Shoppers Drug Mart: Peanut Butter - \$3.99
Sobeys: Kraft Dinner – 12 pack - \$9.88 (\$0.82/pkg)
Lawtons: Clover Leaf Tuna – 4/\$5.50

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.

Newfoundland Presbyterial Atlantic Mission Society - June 12, 2023

On Monday, June 11, 2023, the 58th Annual Meeting of the Newfoundland Presbyterial Atlantic Mission Society (AMS) took place at St. Andrew's (The Kirk). The meeting was attended by members from both St. Andrew's and St. David's. The theme this year was "Christmas in June".

It was a lovely afternoon, spent with our friends from St. Andrew's. The afternoon began with a brief service. The business part of the meeting followed and this gave each AMS group the chance to recap their year's activities and to detail their plans for the coming year. These are very busy groups!

Following the business meeting there was a delicious afternoon tea. Next was a "bring-and-buy" sale featuring a lot of homemade goodies. The final event of the afternoon was a guest speaker, Bruce Templeton, who appropriately talked about "Finding St. Nicholas Back in Time". It was a "magical talk"!

Plant Sale - June 10, 2023... UPDATE

On Saturday, June 10th, the St. David's Plant Sale was back in fine style after missing a year due to COVID. As usual for the last few weeks, the weather was "damp", but never let it be said that a little rain affects an enthusiastic gardener!

For well over a week, Penny Gillies and her "team" were scouring potential perennial beds, digging up plants, re-potting them, and then labelling and pricing all the donations - all in the worst kind of RDF (Rain-Drizzle-Fog) conditions. By Saturday, the "team" had collected a tremendous number of plants and seedlings, trees and bushes, herbs and fruit trees, AND an amazing number of beautiful house plants! The only question was would anyone show up to buy the plants?

Well, that question was answered pretty quickly! By 10:01, we had our first customers and within minutes, the covered breezeway was blocked with people trying to find the perfect plant(s) for their gardens. What a time! it was so much fun and everyone had such a good time - from the beginner gardener to the experienced ones (who could tell us the names of unknown plants!)

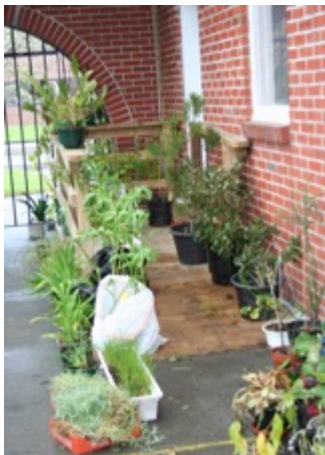
All in all, it was a tremendous morning for everyone involved. A big thank-you to everyone, especially those who donated plants - both outdoor and indoor plants - and who gave of their time to share their love of gardening with others. And thanks to Steve Bruneau for the use of that beautiful vegetable cart for the occasion!

Below are just some of the pictures from Saturday. Hope you enjoy them!

Our Team



Our Flowers





Our Happy Customers





WA Hosted Bridge Party – June 13, 2023

The WA hosted the last bridge party for the season this past week. They will be taking a break for the summer and hope to start up the bridge parties again in September. Once again, it was a great day for everyone involved. There was a record number of tables but everyone was accommodated. Added to the relaxed atmosphere, comfortable venue and yummy food, the WA gave away two beautiful gift baskets as a way of saying "thank-you" to the bridge players for making this a very successful year.

As was usual, the WA ladies offered a choice of 1 of 3 homemade soups with rolls followed by 1 of 3 delectable desserts. After lunch and some lively chit-chat, the players settled down for their bridge game for the rest of the afternoon.

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteer to make these afternoons a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all so much! We hope you enjoy your summer!

Here are just a few of the pictures from this past Tuesday. And many thanks to Judy Cumby for taking some of these pictures!



This week the church office received this letter from the Hamid Family. Sad news for us but exciting news for them. We wish them love, happiness and safe travels!

Dear St.David's church families and friends,

It is our pleasure to be a family member of this Church. We appreciate all the work and caring this Church Ministry, its elders and the whole members have for our family throughout the years since we first joined it in 2014. We always feel loved, caring and supportive.

It's also Beli's Birthday yesterday which she turns 3 years old.

Apart from that, we would like to remind the Church leadership and its congregations that we are leaving the Province in June 27, 2023 moving to Edmonton, Alberta.

We, therefore, ask for your prayers for our flight.

Thank you for always putting us into your consideration, prayers and thoughts throughout difficult times of Pandemic, Christmas etc. We have so many things to remember about you.

We also ask that the Church leaders may connect us to St.David's Presbyterian Church or other Presbyterian Churches in Edmonton so that we can continue our Church services there.

We will physically miss you, but Spirituality we will always be close to you in our hearts, thoughts and prayers.

May God's love bind us together.

With love,

Rukiya, Shemsadin, Solomon, Beli and Thomas Hamid
709-330-1225



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, June 18th, 2023



Winnipeg Inner City Missions (WICM) is an outreach ministry supported by gifts to Presbyterians Sharing that welcomes and embraces all people living in downtown Winnipeg, Manitoba. WICM works towards healing and reconciliation and provides temporary housing, employment services, as well as programming for children and youth. The staff and volunteers of WICM work tirelessly to provide a safe, inclusive space that inspires lifelong learning and building social and personal well-being for all people in the community. WICM recently welcomed Beverly Burkard as its new executive director. Beverly is a welcome addition to WICM, bringing with her an extensive background working with charitable and non-profit organizations, including Sage Journey, Agape Table and Red Road Lodge.