



News from the Pews for Sunday, June 25th, 2023

We are pleased to have The Reverend Dr. Ian Wishart leading worship on Sunday morning while Rev. David will be taking the service at St. Matthew's in Grand Falls.

"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



In my yard at home, I have two patches of rhubarb that are coming up nicely. Each year, they are one of the first things to be ready for harvest, and my kids sometimes like to ask me to pick a stem for them to eat raw. Usually though, we end up making a couple of harvests and making something out of it, whether it be strawberry-rhubarb jam, adding rhubarb to some muffins, or something more adventurous, like last year when I made some rhubarb-infused simple syrup (which worked pretty well for making a bright pink pseudo-lemonade).

This rhubarb has been here since we started living in this house, and it's faithfully produced more rhubarb than we can use each year. Knowing this, when we went over to visit some friends this past week, I pulled off a couple stems to give to them so they could enjoy the bounty of the season. They were grateful to receive it, and we talked a bit about how the few stalks I had shared would have cost eight or nine dollars at the grocery store.

As followers of Christ, I think it is an important part of living out our faith for us to consider the blessings that we have and how we can share them with others. Jesus is constantly proclaiming the importance of caring for those who have less, and his words to the rich young ruler who wanted to know how to inherit eternal life are I

think just as difficult for us to hear as they were for him: "Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me."

How hard it is to give up what we have for the sake of others! But perhaps there is encouragement to be found in the rhubarb patch: our generosity and our sharing doesn't have to cost us much. I can share my rhubarb easily, and the ten seconds of harvesting I did may bring many smiles to those who eat the rhubarb muffins it makes.

So may you consider what you have to share with those around you this summer. If you have an abundance of time, remember those who are lonely and give them a phone call. If you have an abundance of berries, gather some up to share with a neighbour. If you have an old barbeque you are replacing, try to find a new home for it rather than throwing it away. These are gifts that cost so little to give, but can make an impact nonetheless.

May we be a church who shares what we have. May we have the wisdom to realize when we have gifts to share that will cost us little, and grow in generosity with these simple things. For as we practice the habit of sharing, it will grow in our hearts without our noticing, and sweeten all the world around us.

"And do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased" (Hebrews 13:16)

Treasurer's Update for this Week

Last week I reported to the Board of Managers (BOM), this week I've reported to Session and next week, it's 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 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 this date we still have \$6,000 available on our line of credit (LOC).
- d) On Tuesday, before writing my report for Session, I spent five (5) hours crunching numbers and using only the income I could depend upon. It anticipated our normal costs plus the auditor's invoice and NO MAJOR PROBLEMS over the summer.
- e) Needless to say, I am always looking at other initiatives, as well.

I would like to thank Session for allowing the funds from the Memorial Fund to be available when they are required. I would also like to sincerely thank all the people involved in the Plant Sale and the WA for their recent hard work and the donations that came from that effort.

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 the 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.

I still will be issuing weekly updates on the state of our finances and perhaps even an article or two on "What would you do for your church"! Have a good summer (now that it has actually started in St. John's)!

The June 25th version of what would you do for your Church?

The activities in the church are starting to wind down as summer approaches.

However, we do have a bunch of things still happening: church every Sunday, someone in the office, various rentals are continuing throughout the summer, the grass is still growing, the plants may need some water and dead-heading, the trees may need a brush cut, and so on.

At you waiting for the rest of it? Last week, since the WA might be looking at a spruce-up before fall's first Bridge Party, what would be your suggestions for a professional cleaning service. Who would you call upon?

Have you noticed the pigeon poop (I tried other names but this was more alliterative) on the front step of the sanctuary? Would anyone be interested in helping dissuade the pigeons by placing a nail bed on the circle over the door?

While the WA is seeking a professional quote for the painting of the hall foyer, we do have three volunteers to do the job. Like to join us?

The church grounds have not had a clean-up now for a while. There are discarded picnic tables, perhaps even a grocery cart or two, and just plain garbage that has blown in from elsewhere and found a home with us. Remember the brush-cut for the trees and hedges and, well our sign seems to have become just a bit overgrown. Warning – that hedge is prickly! If we were to ask for help some day, certainly on a day when the dump is open, could you spare an hour to help out? If many people just did one hour's sweeping, picking up litter, and a number of other small tasks, the church would soon look even more beautiful and welcoming.

Last week, I also mentioned a fall veggie sale. For the plant sale I dropped off almost two hundred Romaine lettuce seedlings. 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. 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.

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...

As we ease in to our long awaited summer, I would like to add to Anne's "what would you do for your church" by asking for volunteers. And when I say volunteers, I mean anyone who would like to take a turn to:

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

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

But please do call the office (709-722-2382) if you have any questions or if you would like a little direction – I would be happy to advise. 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 (June 26 – July 2)

First, a couple of belated anniversary wishes to two very special couples...

Heather and Bob Patey celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary on June 12 and then **Sylvia and Bob Taylor** celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary on June 22, 2023! Two milestone anniversaries for sure with many beautiful memories! Congratulations from everyone here at St. David's and best wishes for many more wonderful years to come.

Happy Birthday to Violet Aylward who will be celebrating her birthday on June 28th! Violet is a long-time and much loved member of St. David's. Violet is a great supporter of our Church and through her participation in the WA has helped out with the many suppers, afternoon teas and dinners that have been held in our hall throughout the years. Violet will be celebrating her big day with her family and friends, near and far. Best wishes Violet from everyone here at St. David's!

As most of you know, **Janet Calver** is the person who creates the birthday & anniversary announcements every week for the News from the Pews... But I just **had to sneak this one in so everyone will know, it is time to wish Janet a very happy birthday for June 29th!!!** No doubt Janet will be marking the day with her husband, Brian, sister Anne, along with many friends and family from across the miles. Janet your St. David's family wishes you much love and many blessings on your day and always!!!

Birthday wishes go out to Aubrey Bonnell who will be celebrating his birthday on June 30th! Aubrey is an elder at St. David's and a long-time member of our Church family. Aubrey is a great worker and supporter of our Church and always has a steady and reassuring presence in all Church-related discussions. Aubrey will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends near and far, including his wife, Eleanor, sons, Steve and Scott (both currently living in the United States) and their families, and brothers, Dave, Chris and Paul and their families. Happy Birthday, Aubrey from everyone here at St. David's and best wishes for the year ahead!

Happy Birthday to Don McKay, who will be celebrating his birthday on June 30th! Don is long-time supporter of St. David's. He has given his time and expertise to many initiatives within our Church and has held several different positions on the Board of Mangers throughout the years. He was a participant and supporter of the Church choir and is always ready to lend a hand when needed. Don will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his wife, Kathy, and children (all currently living away) – Kirsten, Cameron and Neil and their families. Best wishes, Don for a wonderful birthday from all your friends here at St. David's!

Happy Birthday to Jenny Griffioen who will be celebrating her birthday on July 2nd with family and friends near and far! Jenny is an important part of our Church family. She is a much respected elder on Session and a major contributor to our services and events through her many musical gifts – playing the organ and/or piano (many times on short notice!) and in pre-COVID times, participating in the choir – singing and directing. She has been a great help with many of our events and is always willing to lend a hand. Happy Birthday Jenny from your St. David's family and we all wish you a wonderful day!

Happy Anniversary wishes to Joy and Kevin MacDonald who will be celebrating their 18th wedding anniversary on July 2nd with family and friends, here and abroad. Joy is the daughter of Patsy and Dave Carmichael. Joy and Kevin are currently living in New Brunswick. Best wishes and congratulations to you both from everyone here at St. David's. We wish you many wonderful years to come!

And best wishes 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.

Good Companions – Season Closing Luncheon and Celebration

On Thursday, June 15, the Good Companions and Friends got together to celebrate the season closing. We can hardly believe that June is here and that we are breaking for the Summer! We had a great turnout and we were delighted that many friends of our Good Companions were able to join us.

As a special treat, Mike Gillan agreed to cater our meal and what a job he did! Mike started off with freshly baked bread (using his own sourdough starter) and butter almost too pretty to eat. That was followed by baked chicken with a rosemary cream sauce, green beans, carrots and rice. (Are you hungry yet?) Everyone saved room for dessert of course. No one could resist the decadent pineapple raisin carrot cake. Many thanks Mike for making this day a very special treat for everyone! We hope you can share your cooking skills with us soon!!

So after such a delicious dinner the only thing to do was clear away the dinner tables and set up for carpet bowling and bridge/cards. We were thrilled that some of our guests stayed and took part in the activities and we hope to see everyone back again in September!

A special thank-you to all those who helped make this a memorable day: our set-up and take-down crews, chef Mike, clean-up crew, kitchen worker-bees, floral decorator, and really everyone who just pitches in when they see something that needs to be done! You are such a blessing!

Our Good Companions are an inspiration to all of us who have the honour of helping out. They celebrate each day and enjoy their time together to the fullest. The photos below say it all – there's nothing better than being together and sharing a smile and a laugh or two with your friends!

We hope you enjoy the pictures below.











Upcoming Events and Activities

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](mailto:ernstrollmann12@gmail.com).

Bridges to Hope:

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – June 22 – 28, 2023

Walmart: Canada Red Pasta Sauce - \$1.47

Heinz Picnic Pack (Ketchup/Mustard/Relish) - \$3.77

Dominion: Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99

Colemans: Jade Fruit Cocktail – 4/\$5.00

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.

Thank you to the Sunday school children and volunteers for the lovely sunflower plant! It has popped a second bloom and there are six more getting ready! A very cheery addition to our kitchen window until the days are warmer outside!

Blessings!

Sue 😊



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 25th, 2023



Orphaned as a teenager, Fouzia was adopted by her aunt and uncle, whom she came to live with in Kabul, Afghanistan. After the Taliban took control, the family fled to Pakistan, where they could scarcely find work as they lacked the necessary legal documents. They were then selected for a food assistance project supported by Presbyterian World Service & Development. Through the project, Fouzia’s family received assistance to help ensure that they are able to meet their food needs while her uncle and aunt look for a source of income in Pakistan, providing a sense of relief in the face of great uncertainty. “With funds received, my aunt bought food items so that we have sufficient meals every day,” said Fouzia.