



## **News from the Pews for Sunday, August 13th, 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, News from the PCC 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**

Rev. David Sturtevant

Minister at St. David's Presbyterian

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This is David's second week of study leave and he starts four weeks of vacation next week.

Did you know that each year, we budget \$600 for study leave. This can be used to attend courses, sign up for webinars, and purchase study guides or books.

This is the first time David has taken study leave since he became our minister back in March 2017. This, in fact, is his sabbatical.

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

### **Treasurer's Report**

The month of July was a very good month for us, we took in just over \$1,350 more than we spent. We took in \$48,200 and spent \$46,850, including the \$30,000 which we used to pay off the CEBA loan. We still owe money, some \$19,000, mainly to the PCC (\$15,400). We are hanging in there, and for that I am grateful.

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.**

## **Session Report**

The June meeting was the last before summer. Session did have one special meeting over the summer, their next scheduled meeting is in September.

## **Board of Managers**

The Board consists of Ken Templeton, Anne Calver, Jill Bruneau, Neena 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!

## **The August 13<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.

We have a hardy group of gardeners who take care of the lawns and flowers each week. My thanks to them and to the other people who continue to ensure the church looks bright, fresh, and inviting.

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

## **You are Welcome Here**

Many people rent our facility and we do get to speak with a bunch of really nice people from all over. The Regatta always means the church smells wonderful for a couple of days and last week was no different. One of our renters is a lady who uses our kitchen each year to prepare the food for the big day. (Think African food!) She is willing to cook and serve us a meal sometime. I have been assured that once we taste her beans/plantain/yams, we will never again eat Heinz! Also, one of the Eritreans who attended the baby baptism celebration a couple of weeks ago would also, if asked, like to prepare a meal for us. Yes! We may reach out to these ladies in the Fall.

And finally, may your gardens grow really well, may there be a plentiful harvest of the wild berries (hint – the blueberries are already ripe in some places) 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).

## **News from the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC)**

The PCC issues the Connection four (4) times a year. It is available on-line and we get several hard copies which are found on the ledge outside Rev. Sturtevant's office. A couple of weeks ago, the PCC sent out its "Latest News from the PCC: Summer Edition". It's a rainy day, so some investigation ensued.

Of the seventy-three webinars currently available, one which drew my attention was "Restarting – For Congregations That are in Decline But Open to Significant Change". While I did not take the two-and-a-half-hour-long webinar, I'd like to remind you of our Futures Committee.

The St. David's Futures Committee was established by the Session on March 21, 2023. Its mandate is to consider and explore any and all changes which are or may be required, recommended, suggested or considered useful or desirable to St. David's Church to improve our sustainability.

## **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 (August 14 – August 20)**

**Charlotte Aubrey-Bassler** will be celebrating her 15<sup>th</sup> birthday with her family and friends on August 15<sup>th</sup>. Happy Birthday Charlotte from everyone here at St. David's! Charlotte is the daughter of Christine and Kris Aubrey-Bassler. Best wishes for a wonderful day Charlotte!

**Happy Birthday to Kelsea Hudson** who will be celebrating her birthday on August 18<sup>th</sup> with family and friends. Kelsea is the daughter of Tracey and Doug Hudson and grand-daughter of Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes Kelsea from your St. David's family!

**Happy anniversary to Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell who will be celebrating their 55th wedding anniversary on August 14th!** They will be sharing this special day with family and friends - here and abroad. Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's and may there be many more years of happiness 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.**

## **St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices**

### **The Doggie (Rex) is coming to help solve a mystery**

We are pleased to announce that the TV show Hudson and Rex will be using our building for four days from Sunday August 13<sup>th</sup> to Wednesday August 16<sup>th</sup> for shooting part of that series. On Sunday and Monday, the construction crew will be coming in to transform our hall into a set for the show. **Tuesday they will be shooting their scenes and we are asked to keep our parking lot clear all day since there will be comings and goings.** On Wednesday they will be transforming our hall back into itself! They are also going to tune one of our pianos!

As an aside, did you realize that our vegetable stand (which stood in as a flower stand during the Plant Sale) was here today, gone today and back the next day? It will also feature on a show sometime in the coming year. Look out for it! (Yes, we got paid for it, along with a sizable cheque for the use of our hall.)

**What does that mean for us?** We may have to have coffee in the reception area outside the offices this Sunday. Heather and Janet A. will be serving tea/coffee and goodies. The office will be open during the week as usual, please come in using the Tower Door. **We do ask that you do not use the parking lot on Tuesday.**

### **Summer Concert Series**

**An Evening of Classical Music with tenor David Pomeroy and soprano Melanie Jardine.**

This concert is scheduled for **Wednesday, August 30th at 8pm**, in the church hall. And we are thrilled to announce that Noelle Slaney will be joining this evening's performance. Welcome back Noelle!

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!

## **Bridges to Hope:**

### **Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – August 10 – 16, 2023**

Sobeys: Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.99

Shoppers Drug Mart: Colgate Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.88

No Frills: Carnation Evaporated Milk - \$1.25

Lawtons: Kraft Dinner - \$0.97

**Heinz Tomato Soup - \$0.77 \***

Walmart: Lancia Pasta - \$1.57

\* With Scene card

**Bridges To Hope** are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **AUGUST is Kid's snacks – applesauce, granola bars, juice boxes, 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.

## **Bridges To Hope - Bag to School 2023**

We have the wonderful opportunity to make a difference in the lives of young students in our community through Bridges to Hope's Bag to School Program, which we have supported for over a decade. Due to the extreme demand and rising costs to provide essential school supplies and equip these children for a successful academic year, they need to raise over \$25,000 this year. Let's come together as a church family to empower these students and demonstrate the true spirit of compassion and care. You can donate directly at [www.bridgestohope.ca](http://www.bridgestohope.ca)

Thank you and have a good weekend,

**Jody Williams**

Executive Director

Bridges to Hope Food Aid Center

## Update on our Zoom and YouTube Links

For those of you who view our services on-line via Zoom or YouTube, you may have noticed several things in the past two weeks. We have a new camera operating remotely. It's situated up on the wall of the gallery above the clock and "Boy, does it work well!" We've gotten at least one email saying how great the picture is and the sound has also improved. The camera's settings allow us to have five predefined views (minister's lectern, reader's lectern, front of church view, baptismal font, and church steps) and we can possibly have more "set" views – like the Christmas tree, the plaque for November 11<sup>th</sup> service, the stained-glass windows, the Memorial Tree or make subtle changes like those. The sound has also improved since it "thinks" about where the sound is coming from (we do have five operational mikes) and it dampens the other mikes = improved sound. The camera has a great zoom feature allowing the operator to zoom onto the person reading the Bible, or speaking with the kids, etc. . The laptop is set-up for the next six weeks, having both the Zoom and six YouTube addresses ready to roll. Using this camera, we can now also record funerals and perhaps, weddings.

By the time you will have read this, David has been busy training people in its use and we will have at least five people who are able to operate the camera.



## **Concert Series - Second Concert (August 10, 2023)**

This past week, the second "Brian Way and Friends" concert took place at St. David's Church Hall. Brian's "friends" this week were Karla Pilgrim and Dominic Greene. What a tremendous evening! There were lots of old favourite country and western tunes, some songs written by Karla and some gospel songs to round things off. Dominic and Brian - both gifted musicians - provided beautiful harmonies throughout the evening.

All those in attendance thoroughly enjoyed the evening if the enthusiastic applause was any indication. We hope to see them again soon!

Brian's 3rd concert date is already set - Wednesday, August 30th - and it's going to be one definitely worth coming to see. Stay tuned for more details!

Below is a picture of our talented performers - Karla, Brian and Dominic.



**Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development**  
**Sunday, August 13th, 2023**



Palestinians living in the Occupied Territories know that Ecumenical Accompaniers (EAs) don't have much power to stop the occupation. But they are grateful for the protective presence of EAs at checkpoints, refugee camps, schools and remote villages where shepherds watch their flocks. In response to an appeal from local church leaders, the World Council of Churches created the Ecumenical Accompaniment Program in Palestine and Israel in 2002. Supported by Presbyterians Sharing, the Rev. Jeanie Lee recently served three months in Bethlehem, witnessing life under occupation, monitoring human rights violations, and listening to stories of Palestinians to share with Canadians upon her return.