

News from the Pews for Sunday, July 23rd, 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



"But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, self-control; against such things there is no law." (Galatians 5:22-23)

This week, I found myself reflecting on the nature of patience. It may seem obvious to those who have been parents, but being a parent to two high-energy boys makes patience less of a concept and more of a daily necessity. In big ways and small, I have a hundred opportunities for patience in my day. My children are old enough to tell jokes, but not old enough to come up with new jokes, so the same stories are told again and again. Most of the requests I make of my children, like "Don't play in the kitchen please, I'm trying to cook in here" seem to stay in their heads for only the shortest of moments before they are forgotten in the eagerness of playtime. They make the same messes day after day, and the necessary work of trying to teach them to clean those messes up themselves takes infinitely longer than just cleaning them myself.

Oftentimes, we think of patience as waiting, like someone sitting and watching the grains of sand fall through an hourglass until eventually the waiting is over, the patience has paid off, and whatever comes next can happen. But in my experience, that is not what patience is really like. Patience is a choice, it is an action. Patience isn't just sitting and waiting, it is choosing to set aside my own demands for the next five minutes and allowing my plans to be changed. Patience is biting my tongue and letting my child finish telling me his long-winded excuse for why pick-

ing up his socks is too difficult for him. Patience is setting aside the response I am waiting to make and letting him finish his meandering speech even when I know what he is taking so long to say before he is done saying it. To respond with patience takes effort and maturity, and it is a challenge I too often fail.

May you exercise patience with those around you this week. When the opportunity comes for you to react with frustration or anger, may you choose to hold back and spend the time a gentler path takes instead. Jesus spent his time listening to fools and children, and valued showing love more than interrupting with wisdom. And take heart, for God is patient with us. When you turn to God in prayer to confess your sins, God will not interrupt your prayer with an exasperated "Finally, you've started being good!" God will listen to us with love, even though he knows what we have to say before we say it. What Good news that is, and I hope that this week I will reflect that character of Patience more and more!

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

Treasurer's Report

This summer is moving along, our finances are not great, however we are hanging in there. It still takes some managing and I continue to report monthly to our 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 new \$80,000 deficit to a greater or lesser extent.

There are several opportunities which may be coming our way, the concert series (Brian Way and Friends) and a possible new rental, a local production company.

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 23rd 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, since the posters and the "Welcome" signs have arrived! See if you can figure out what languages were used!

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! The heat this past week has done absolutely nothing for my weeds, but the lettuce is wilting. My thanks to everyone who continues to ensure the church looks bright, fresh, and inviting.

The concerts are a go and dates for the first two are finalized! The "Brian Way and Friends" concerts starts off on Wednesday July 26th with Brian playing with Larry Foley and Sandy Morris, its poster should be up for all to see.

The second concert, featuring Karla Pilgrim and Dominic Green, is set for Thursday August 10th at 8pm. Karla will have some gospel selections in the set list. Later concerts will feature Ronalda Hutton-MacDonald and Peter MacDonald, followed by one with Bob MacDonald and another featuring Amanda Dawe and Darrin Martin. We hope to have the full line-up available in the next little while. I have not given up on having some other events for seasonal occasions.

In next week's News from the Pews Are you planning a summer vacation in Ottawa? You may be interested in an email we've received from the Grace Church in Orleans. Check out the announcement and invitation below.

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 and then they called a special meeting for the past Tuesday. Their next scheduled meeting is in September.

Board of Managers

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

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!

A note from the Church Office...

I will be away the week of July 24th and will return to the office on Tuesday, August 1st. If you have any inquiries or items of mention, please call or email the church office, as messages and emails will be checked regularly.

Thank you!

Heather 😊

Birthdays and Anniversaries (July 24 - July 30)

First a correction to a previous birthday announcement for Leo Johnson.

Happy (belated) Birthday greetings to Leo Johnson who celebrated his 4th birthday on July 15th! Leo is the son of Samantha and Cecil Johnson and big brother to Daley. Also joining in the festivities were his grand-parents, Doug and Tracy Hudson and of course proud great-grand-parents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson! Best wishes on your birthday, Leo, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you had lots of fun!

Happy belated Wedding Anniversary wishes to Judy and Mike Callahan who celebrated 31 years of marriage on July 18th! Although a bit late in sending congratulations, we know Judy's family - children, Caileigh and Ben, sisters, Joy, Jill, Janet and their families and of course, Judy's mom and dad, Patsy and Dave Carmichael - along with other family and friends made it a special day for them both. Best wishes from your St. David's family and we wish you many years of happiness to come! (Caileigh was good enough to send along a beautiful picture of her mom and dad on their wedding day and you'll see it below!)



Happy Birthday to David Bruneau who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, near and far, on July 25th! David is the son of Mary and Stephen Bruneau. From everyone here at St. David's, best wishes for a great birthday with many more to come!

Birthday wishes go out to Michael McKenzie who will be having a birthday on July 28th! Michael is the son of Cynthia and David McKenzie and has two younger siblings – Stephen and Catherine. Best wishes Michael from your St. David's family! We hope you enjoy your birthday with family and friends and all the best for the coming year.

Happy Birthday to Benjamin Porter who will be celebrating his 11th birthday on July 27th! Benjamin is the son of Katie Berghuis and Daniel Porter and has a younger brother, Jack. (Benjamin is the great-grandson of Elisabeth (d. 2016) and Peter Berghuis (d. 1996)). Happy Birthday Benjamin from your St. David's family! We hope you have a fun-filled day!

Happy Birthday wishes go to Calvin Crosbie who will be celebrating his 8th birthday on July 25th! Calvin is the son of Jill Slater and Thomas Crosbie and grand-nephew of Andrea Crosbie. Although Calvin and his family do not live here in Newfoundland, all of us here at St. David's wish him a wonderful, fun-filled birthday!

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Sarah Small and Gordon Stockwell who will be celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary on July 30th! Sarah and Gordon, along with their little boy, Charles, are living in Clarendville. For many years, both Sarah and Gordon were an important part of our musical ministry here at St. David's and we are always thrilled when they come this way and get to say "Hello". Best wishes on your big day from your St. David's family!

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.

Jonathan Dent is retiring and Grace Church sent us an emailed invitation

Last week we included the letter from Linda Clarke from Grace Church, in Orleans, Ontario about Jonathan's retirement. If you're in the Ottawa area, you are invited to join them, however we will be looking at ways in which we can send along congratulations to Jonathan on September 9th. We'll extend an invitation for **"Messages for Jonathan and Lynn"**. If you would like to send along congratulations, add your name to a card, or take part in a YouTube greeting, please contact the church. If you have any ideas on what we may do, give the office a call. We would welcome suggestions from Session and the BOM.

Bridges to Hope:

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope: July 20 – July 26, 2023

Sobeys: Hunt's Thick & Rich Pasta Sauce/Catelli Pasta – 4/\$5.00

Walmart: Barilla Pasta - \$1.27

Mario's Corned Beef or Ham - \$2.77

Colemans: Kraft Dinner – 12 pack - \$8.99

Royale Bathroom Tissue – 6 double roll - \$2.99

No Frills: Ocean's Flaked Light Tuna - \$0.99

Green Giant Vegetables - \$1.39

No Name Baked Beans - \$0.99

Lawtons: **Graves Apple Juice - \$0.88 ***

***2 days only – July 22 & 23/2023**

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.

The General Protest Cemetery Trustee Board Announcement

The date for the last Memorial Service is:

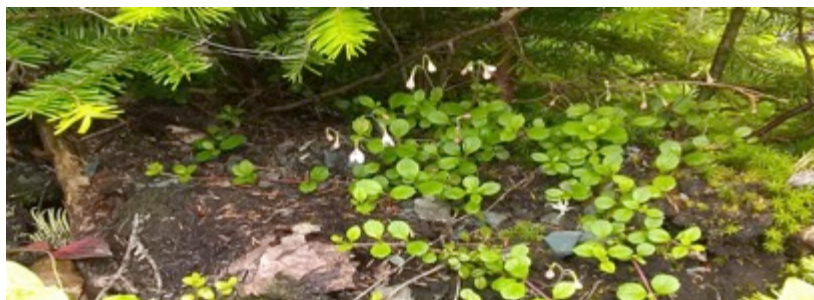
***Memorial Gardens Cemetery, 25 Beaumont Hamel Way**

*** Monday, July 31, 2023 at 7 P.M.**

Some Pictures from the Botanical Gardens

(From Janet and Brian)

Last week, we dropped by the MUN Botanical Gardens for a little walk along some of the trails. There is always something new in bloom and we were lucky enough to see a Twin Flower, a Lady's Slipper and a Cracker Berry. What a treat!



Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development **Sunday, July 23rd, 2023**



The PCC's partnership with Theological Education by Extension in Malawi began 45 years ago when the Rev. Charles Scott helped establish a lay training program at the request of the Church of Central Africa Presbyterian in Blantyre Synod and other churches. The distance learning program is open to anyone who wants to study the Bible and theology. It has opened doors for women and working church leaders who want to deepen their biblical and theological knowledge and be better equipped to serve. During these challenging times, the Rev. Chimwemwe Mitengo, Executive Director, is thankful for the PCC's continued partnership and support through Presbyterians Sharing.