



News from the Pews for Sunday July 30th 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 Presbyterian Church in Canada, and of course Special Events happening at St. David’s.

Special Announcement...

For the month of July we welcome 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 the St. Andrews congregation to St. David’s!

Minister's Message



This spring was long, cold, and wet for us here in St. John's. A month ago, it felt like we would never escape the cold and dreary springtime, but then summer arrived with a vengeance to prove us wrong. It has been hot and humid, and like many of you, I've been feeling the effects of a heat that feels inescapably oppressive for Newfoundlanders used to cooler and windier weather. It doesn't help that so few places here have air conditioning, including my home! At least the church

building, with its cool concrete walls, has kept me comfortable here in my office during the day.

But finally, the weather feels like it is starting to cool off. I was lying in bed last night with the window open, and felt a cool breeze blow across me, enough for me to pull up the blanket for the first time in quite a few nights. Out of curiosity, I checked my phone to see what the temperature was now that it felt cooler, and saw that it was 21 degrees outside. "Twenty one?" I thought, "That's impossible, it feels much cooler than that!" After all, in the wintertime my house stays colder than 21 and it feels comfortable, so how could this objectively warm breeze feel so cool today?

Of course, this is a common experience. We all get used to the temperature around us and learn to adapt. Visit the tropics in the wintertime, and you can identify the locals by their long sleeves and pants amongst the tourists in their shorts and t-shirts. As this hot weather has gone on, we've become accustomed to the heat, and it takes a sudden blast of cold air to remind me of what the weather should be.

We can learn to live with many difficult things, and sometimes that ability to become comfortable isn't a good thing. The heat may be manageable for us, but the heat is impacting more than just us. The waters of the Grand Banks off the coast of Newfoundland are more than five degrees

Celsius warmer than usual for this time of year, which is a massive change for the delicate marine ecosystems there, and has climate scientists worried about the impact these warmer waters might have on the hurricane season this year. The heat is a real problem, it's all around us, but we can so easily learn to forget it.

Scripture teaches us that this is the same sort of problem that we have when we face sin. Although God has designed us to pursue justice and peace, to love our neighbours and act as servants of all, we can so easily become used to other ways of doing things.

What have you grown used to that you know you really shouldn't? Do you carry bitterness in your heart, just because you're used to it by now? Are there relationships that have grown strained and empty of love that you should be investing in? Have you learned to hold back from helping your neighbours? Do you bring your worries and hopes to God in prayer?

We can so easily become used to things being not the way they should be. This goes for sin in our lives just as much as for the weather. Fortunately, changing our lives is much easier than changing the weather. May God give you the wisdom to notice that which you have grown used to, and the courage to try to make a change. For God promises new life, life that is changed and restored in ways that we had forgotten could be possible. What Good News that is!

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

Treasurer's Report

This report will sound much like last week's! 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 are coming our way: the concert series (Brian Way and Friends) started this week with a concert by Larry Foley and Sandy Morris and we have signed a rental agreement with a local production company whose TV series is Hudson and Rex.

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.

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!

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!

We are looking for volunteers to help out in the fall, so if you are interested, please reach out to Rev. David.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations (July 31 – August 6)

Happy Birthday to Emma Crosbie who will be celebrating her birthday on July 31st. Emma will be celebrating with family and friends, including her mom and dad, Ellen Dinn and Paul Crosbie, and special Aunt, Andrea

Crosbie! From everyone here at St. David's, best wishes Emma and we hope you enjoy your special day!

Happy Birthday to Ken Templeton who is celebrating his birthday on July 31st! Ken is a long-time member of St. David's Church and plays a very active and enthusiastic role in our congregation – Session, Board, and behind the scenes with many events, committees and projects. Ken will be celebrating his birthday with his wife, Sue, children, Alex, Michael and Karen and their families. Best wishes Ken from everyone here at St. David's and we hope there are many more birthdays to come!

Happy Birthday to Lillian Crawford who will be celebrating with her family and friends on August 1st ! Lillian is an Elder at St. David's and is very active in every aspect of our Church life including Session, Synod, WA, AMS, Good Companions, Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) Group, and Bridges to Hope. Lillian will be celebrating her birthday with her husband, Harry, and all her children and their families - near and far. Happy Birthday Lillian from your St. David's family! We hope you have a great day and may there be many more to come!

Birthday greetings to Bradley Greeley who will be celebrating on August 4th. Bradley is the son of Mildred and Darrin Greeley (grandson of Olive and Ralph Melendy). From everyone here at St. David's, a very Happy Birthday Brad!

Aidan Bailey will be celebrating his birthday on August 4th. Aidan is the son of Catherine and Richard Bailey (grandson of Judy and Dave Bonnell). Happy Birthday Aidan! Hope it's a great one!

Happy Birthday to Ryan Brockerville who will be celebrating his birthday on August 2nd! Ryan is the son of Jacqueline and Maxwell Brockerville and grandson of Jeannie and Clayton Collins. Best wishes Ryan from everyone here at St. David's! Hope you have a great day!

Congratulations to Sarah and Paul Bassler who will be celebrating their 19th wedding anniversary on August 1st! Your St. David's family wishes you many more years of happiness. We hope you enjoy the occasion with family and friends! Best wishes always!

Happy Wedding Anniversary to Sue and Ken Templeton who will be celebrating their 47th wedding anniversary on July 31st! Congratulations from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you enjoy your special day, shared with family and friends, and that there are many more wonderful ahead for you both!

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.

The July 30th 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 suggest that you take a look at the flora at the front of the church, especially the roses! They are just gorgeous and the smell, it's worth wandering over to a look. My thanks to everyone who continues 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

Over the past little while our hall foyer is looking better and much more inviting. It is now more welcoming than ever with the new posters and our "Welcome" signs. Please take a couple of minutes and check it out and see if you can figure out what languages were used!

Would you like to attend one of our concerts with Brian's Friends?

The first concert was this past Wednesday, with Brian's friends Larry Foley and Sandy Morris. **It was a success and more to come further down – maybe.** Our next concert, with guests Karla Pilgrim and Dominic Green, is set for Thursday August 10th at 8 pm. This concert will feature a variety of styles, everything from gospel to rock. Tickets will be available next week, please contact the office. Our line-up is changing slightly, the third concert in late August will feature tenor David Pomeroy and soprano Melanie Jardine, for a concert with classical overtones. We are working on a line-up

of concerts into the fall, please stay tuned. Yes, we may have special guests for some seasonal events too.

Would you like to congratulate Rev. Dr. Jonathan Dent on his retirement?

Several weeks ago, we included the letter from Linda Clarke from Grace Church, in Orleans, Ontario about Johnathan's retirement. If you're in the Ottawa area, you are invited to join them on September 9th.

We will be looking at ways in which we can send along congratulations to Jonathan for his retirement. We do 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.

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.

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. Yesterday, the PCC sent out it's "Latest News from the PCC: Summer Edition and it includes an article of particular interest to members of our congregation who are Indigenous.

The Rev. Mary Fontaine, is Cree from Metabases and is the founder and executive director of Hummingbird Ministries, an Indigenous-led healing and reconciling ministry of the Presbytery of Westminster in British Columbia. Rev. Fontaine is also Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, and she participated in the site selection ceremony of the National Residential Schools Monument on Parliament Hill on June 20, 2023. Call to Action #81 of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada states that “We call upon the federal government, in collaboration with Survivors and their organizations, and other parties to the Settlement Agreement, to commission and install a publicly accessible, highly visible, Residential Schools National Monument in the city of Ottawa to honour Survivors and all the children who were lost to their families and communities.” Speakers at the ceremony included residential school Survivors as well as the Governor General of Canada, Her Excellency the Right Honorable Mary Simon. The Moderator was accompanied by the Rev. Dr. Karen Dimock, Minister of St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Church, Ottawa, and the Rev. Victor Kim, Principal Clerk of the PCC.

For more information and to see the pictures of the Governor General of Canada and the Rev. Mary Fontaine the Moderator of the 2023 General Assembly, please

visit: <https://www.canada.ca/en/canadian-heritage/services/art-monuments/upcoming-projects/residential-school.html>

St. David’s Upcoming Events and Notices

Summer Concert Series

We are pleased and excited to announce the next events in the “Brian Way and Friends Concert Series”. Our next two concerts are:

An Evening with Karla Pilgrim with Dominic Green on violin and Brian Way with Karla performing classic and contemporary country, some gospel selections and pop and rock music. This concert is Thursday August 10th at 8 pm in the church hall, 98 Elizabeth Ave.

An Evening of Classical Music with tenor David Pomeroy and soprano Melanie Jardine This concert is scheduled for the last week of August, so keep a night open!

The concert with Ronaldo Hutton-MacDonald and Peter MacDonald had to be cancelled due to vacation schedules in August and their very heavy work schedule from September onwards. However, Brian is working on another concert featuring some of our best musical theatre musicians. Stay tuned!

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. More info and the dates to come!

Bridges to Hope

The Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – July 27 – August 2

Colemans - Jade Mandarin Oranges or Favorite Mushrooms – 4/\$5.00

No Frills - Barilla Pasta or Catelli Sauce - \$1.25

Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99

Holiday Luncheon Meat - \$2.29

Lawtons - Colgate Toothpaste - \$0.99

Clover Leaf Tuna – 4/\$5.50 (2 days only July 29 and 30)

Scotties Tissues – 3/\$3.99

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.

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.

Please note:

In the event of inclement weather, the service will move ahead to 7 P.M. the next evening.

Features with Pictures

Some Pictures from Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell's Country Place

Last week, we shared some pictures from the MUN Botanical Garden. This week, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell have a beautiful picture to share. It was taken at the their country place. They have a large area of beautiful Lady Slippers which apparently started off as one plant. There's something to be said for letting nature "do its own thing"!



Concert Series - First Concert (July 26, 2023)

This past week, the first (of what we hope will be many) concerts took place at St. David's Church Hall. The idea for these concerts came from Brain Way, our Musical Director. I think we can all agree that Brian has a great musical talent and we are blessed to have him lead our music every Sunday

morning. But Brian also has many friends in the music community who are more than willing to help out "a buddy".

This past week, we were delighted to have 2 icons of the Newfoundland and Labrador music scene join Brian on stage - Sandy Morris and Larry Foley! It was a memorable evening for everyone who attended. The music, the friendship and the relaxed and welcoming atmosphere made for a magical moment.

If you were not able to make this concert, stayed tuned for more concerts coming up in August and we hope the Fall!

Below are just a few of the pictures from the concert on Wednesday evening... Many thanks to Allison and Steve who captured the moments!



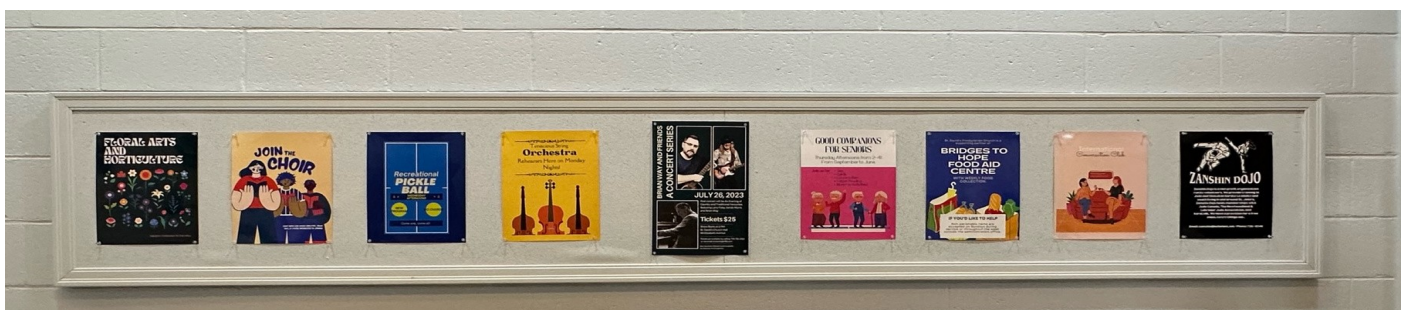


New Posters and Welcoming Signs

Another great addition to our Church Hall's lower entrance were the new posters and greetings that arrived mid-week. Allison and Anne posted them on Wednesday. They add such a welcoming touch to everyone who visits the Church! The welcoming signs are in different languages to reflect the various groups that hold different activities in our Church Hall. (What languages do you see?) The posters highlight just some of the many groups

that use our Hall throughout the year. We encourage you to drop by and have a closer look!

Thanks again to Allison and Steve for these pictures!



Mission Moment – Presbyterian World Service & Development Sunday, July 30th 2023

Nadhifa, a single mother of seven in Somalia, had to relocate with her two oldest daughters and one-year-old son, Hamza, to a camp for internally displaced people after the drought caused her to lose her livelihood. She left her other four children behind with relatives, fearing for their survival. Nadhifa and her three children journeyed to the Dollow district to seek humanitarian assistance. During screening at the camp, Hamza was diagnosed with severe acute malnutrition. With the support of PWS&D, Hamza received treatment and recovered after a few weeks. In addition, Nadhifa participated in the infant and young child feeding community information session, where she gained valuable nutrition knowledge. “I feel relieved that my son’s health has improved, and I can now search for



work to provide food for my children,” she shared.