



News from the Pews for Sunday October 15, 2023

“News from the Pews”, contains stories, pictures and happenings from, by and for the members of the congregation. It also contains Birthdays and Anniversaries, a Treasurer’s Update, News from other Church Groups, Boards and Committees, special requests from Bridges to Hope, News from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, 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



Source: UN Ocha, 2023

BBC

As many of you know, war has broken out in Israel. Thousands have died, thousands of rockets have been fired into urban areas, and hopes for a peaceful solution between the people of Israel and Palestine seem further away than ever. I am reminded of the women I wrote about in an earlier Message this year, who gave a presentation at the General Assembly as representatives of a group made up of mothers on either side of this long conflict united in their grief over losing loved ones to the war.

This conflict has always felt grey to me, as two groups war over a patch of land they have been fighting over since biblical times. There are clear injustices, but no clear solution. Often, I find there are no clear “good guys” and “bad guys”, although there are clearly innocent people suffering on

both sides. The Gaza strip is an area smaller than the area of St. John's, and it is home to two and a half million people, half of them children. There is no way that warfare happening in this area can avoid causing untold suffering, something both Israel and Hamas seem quite willing to accept.

As Christians, we are called to love our enemies, to see them as deserving children of God, our brothers and sisters. There is no time when this call feels more foolish, weak, and inadequate than during conflicts like this. But at the same time, there is no conflict that better reveals the truth that this is the only way forward. From Matthew 5:

"You have heard that it was said, 'Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.' But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well. If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.

"You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.' But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? And if you greet only your own people, what are you doing more than others? Do not even pagans do that? Be perfect, therefore, as your heavenly Father is perfect."

This is not easy to do, but it is my prayer that those on either side of the conflict who have been hurt will be led on this path to life. I hope that you will join me this week in praying for the innocent on each side of this

conflict who are suffering, for the humanitarian workers who are seeking to feed and protect the most vulnerable people on each side, and the mothers and fathers seeking safety for their children. May we allow space in our community here for both Israeli Canadians and Palestinian Canadians to speak, and may they find unity in care for their families and a hope for peace.

And may we remember in our own personal conflicts to live out a radical willingness to forgive, to love, and to bless our enemies. That is the love that Christ has for us, a love that never gives up and never falters. What Good News that is.

Treasurer's Report

Our financial picture has not changed markedly since last week and this week I see the use of our Line of Credit (LOC) again to get us through the October mid-month payroll and other bills due. This will mean that we have used \$6,000 of our \$10,000 LOC.

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 stdavidsnfd@gmail.com and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (October 16 - October 22)

Happy Birthday to Jean Patey who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends on October 22nd. Jean is the daughter of Heather and Bob Patey and the granddaughter of Sylvia and Bob Taylor. From all the folks here at St. David's, we wish you a very Happy Birthday Jean! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Emily Critch who will be celebrating her birthday on October 18th. Emily is the daughter of Jennifer and Paul Critch and the granddaughter of Jean and Clayton Collins. With lots of family and friends, near and far to help you celebrate, we know it will be a wonderful day. Best wishes Emily from everyone here at St. David's!

Birthday greetings go out to Timothy Bassler who will be celebrating his birthday on October 21st. Timothy will be celebrating his special day with his mom and dad, Sarah and Paul Bassler, his siblings, Julia and Alexander and of course all his aunts and uncles and cousins, near and far. Happy Birthday Timothy from your St. David's family! We hope you have a great birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings to Matthew Hudson who will be celebrating his birthday on October 22nd. Matthew is the son of Michele and Geoffrey Hudson and grandson of Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes Matthew from your St. David's family!

Happy Anniversary to Meghan and David Mochulski who will be celebrating their 5th anniversary on October 18th! Meghan is the daughter of Olive and Charlie Goobie. Congratulations and best wishes on your anniversary from all the folks here at St. David's!

Happy Anniversary to Lillian and Harry Crawford on their wedding anniversary! Lillian and Harry were married 55 years ago on October 19, 1968. Congratulations and much happiness and best wishes from 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.

St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices

Our normal activities of the fall are on!

Sunday School

Sunday School started last Sunday and continues this week with the lesson plan being the Golden Calf. We are also focusing on learning songs along with the weekly lesson. If you have any suggestions for songs, please email: sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com

AMS

Socktober clothesline has been hung and donations have already started to arrive! We are looking for socks, mitts, personal hygiene items along with some small household items like towels, bedding, tea towels, dish cloths, and small gently-used appliances which are very useful for newcomers to Canada.

St. David's Choir

This week Brian Way has again asked for people interested in joining our choir to meet this, the third Sunday of the month, in a concerted effort to have a choir. Initially it would only be on the third Sunday each month. If you are interested, please arrive at the church at 9:30 for a practice, have a small break and then take part on the 11 am service. **Do you like to sing? This is your chance to be in a choir directed by Brian Way.** If you are interested in joining the choir, please contact the church office at (709) 722-2382.

WA (Women's Auxiliary)

The next meeting of the WA will be **Tuesday November 2nd at noon in the Armour Room**. If you would like to join this vibrant group, drop by to get to meet the ladies. There is a great lunch, a short devotion, and a business meeting where the plans for the next activities will take place. The main activities revolve around the monthly games of Bridge games. The first of these will be held n this coming Tuesday October 18th .

Good Companions

The Good Companions is a seniors group that meet once a week in the church hall and Armour Room to share in some activities. If you would like to try your hand at carpet bowling, join a game of bridge or 120's or maybe a friendly game of Scrabble, please join us on Thursday afternoons from two to four pm. All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, November 7th at 10:00am in the Armour Room**. No knitting experience is required ~ please join us for a friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

Bible Study

"Sandwich and Scriptures", the St. David's Bible Study group takes place in the **Armour Room every Wednesday at 12:30 pm** ~ so bring your lunch and we will make the tea (or coffee!), we would be delighted to have you join us!

Pickleball games for our congregation

The fall pickleball games for the members of our congregation will be starting soon, possibly even this coming week. In the spring, pickleball took place on **Wednesday afternoons from 2 to 4 pm**. If you'd like more information, or if you would like to get some education on the rules and instruction on how to play, please contact the office.

Brian Way and Friends - The Fall Concert Series

The third concert in the Fall series is postponed because of scheduling difficulties and will be re-scheduled at a later date. Stay tuned

The fourth concert in the Fall series is on **Saturday, October 28 at 8 pm featuring Fergus O'Byrne, his son, Fergus Jr and Brian Way** performing an evening of Traditional music.

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.

St David's Bridge Lunches

Fall is coming with the return of the successful series of Bridge Lunches! The first one will be held on **October 17th in the church hall** and tables are going fast! So, if you missed your game of Bridge over the summer, please get your request in for a table or sign up for the entire fall, winter and spring sessions! Lillian and Heather will be the ones to call.

Remember the lunch will be a hearty meal including the surprise and delicious "mystery" soup, the regular array of favorite soups, plus those very decadent sweet squares. There will be prizes plus an enjoyable game of bridge for everyone. See you there!

New Choir – Spiritoso Singers

Would you like to join a fun choir this fall? Join the Spiritoso Singers! We are a brand new, Christian-based, SATB choir, led by Sarah Templeton and Chris Morano. If you are aged 13 to 103 and have a little bit (or, a lot) of singing experience, this is for you!

Rehearsal dates: Saturday, Oct 14th to Dec 2nd, from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm, here at St. David's, with a Christmas concert on Dec. 3rd. A portion of the proceeds of the concert will go to The Spear Fund, a charity that works to end child trafficking worldwide. Very friendly auditions will be held on Saturday, September 30th. For more information, and to sign up for an audition:

www.feldenkraisforsingers.com/spiritososingers

Bridges to Hope

The Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – October 12 – 18

Walmart - Clover Leaf Tuna - \$0.97
Dominion - Colgate/Crest Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.97
Colemans - Mario's Vienna Sausage - \$0.99
No Frills - No Name Tuna - \$0.99
Sobeys - Flakes of Ham/Chicken – 4/\$5.50 **

** With Scene card

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **OCTOBER** is **Canned Milk**. 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.

Features with Pictures



The Socktober Drive is on!

This week Kay Scott dropped by with some socks and she hung them on the line and Rev. David got a couple of pictures, one with Kay and one showing the clothesline which is getting full!

