



## **News from the Pews – Sunday, March 24th, 2024**

“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. There is also the “Features with Pictures” page(s), this will have little stories and pictures of happenings at St. David’s.

## Rev. David's Message



Today's picture is of a marvel both ancient and modern at the same time. This plant has been named "Methuselah", and it is a Judean Date Palm grown from a preserved 2,000 year old seed, making it the oldest seed to be germinated with human assistance. If you have ever wondered what the original Palms from Palm Sunday might have looked like, I think you could hardly do better than to consider the branches of Methuselah here, grown from a seed that may even (If I can take a little imaginative license) have fallen to the ground when those following Jesus brushed past it. Sadly, our palms will not be quite this glorious on Sunday. For one thing, the branches aren't eight feet long. It's not easy to find palm branches in Newfoundland in March, and dates certainly don't grow here at any time of the year.

Using palms in the service illustrates to me one of the strange tensions of reading the Bible. The story in Mark says that people "spread branches they had cut in the fields." The palms being laid down were brought by the people who gathered to welcome Jesus, and although the palm branch was symbolic for the people of the time as a symbol of victory, they were also a sensible contribution grown from the soil of their land.

Is the most accurate way to remember this story to import palm branches from a far-away land? Or would it, perhaps, be more fitting to celebrate Palm Sunday by asking members of the congregation to bring in whatever boughs they could find from the fields and forests of Newfoundland? Should we remember and emulate the specific methods and events of Palestine in millenia gone by and thus honour the reality of that story, or would we better capture the spirit of the story by bringing different boughs?

How we look at scripture, and the tools we use to understand how we can imitate it in our daily lives, is an important question. In terms of the branches being palm or spruce, it's largely an aesthetic concern. But it is always important for us to consider the underlying messages and motivations in each passage of scripture we read and ask ourselves if the traditions we are used to are adding to, or taking away from, that message.

I encourage you to ask these sorts of questions of the scriptures and of your minister. For in scripture we find the living Word of God, fresh for each new day and season. May God Bless you this Holy Week with the reminder that this is a time of death and rebirth, of new life unexpectedly triumphing. That's Good News!



**MUSIC – Share your gifts of music with the whole congregation!**

*Just as we focused on food in February, for the month of April, we are focusing on 'MUSIC'! Do you, a family member, friend or someone you know, have musical talent they are willing to share by participating in one of our Sunday worship services? If so, please let your Elder, Heather in the Church Office, or Brian Way know.*



**250th Anniversary – 2025**

*Plans are underway to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of St. David's congregation in 2025. Would you like to be part of the planning process? Do you have ideas or suggestions on how this milestone can be marked? Please let us know. Just speak to an Elder, Heather in the Church Office or Rev. Sturtevant. We'd love to hear from you!*

**Hymn Requests**

*Do you have a favourite hymn? Would you like to hear it again? A box for such requests has been placed at the entrance of the church and you are invited to write your suggestion on the card and place it in the box. The hymn may be used in the Sunday worship service or in the Hymn Sing soon to be offered prior to that service. It may be anonymous, or you may wish to include your name or perhaps it can be a memorial. Together, let's lift our voices in praise!*





## **Treasurer's Report**

In getting ready for the Annual Report, I'd like to point out some "points to ponder". The amount we agree to send the PCC for Presbyterian Sharing last year was \$8,100 down from their ask of \$14,479. Even with that lower amount, we did not meet that commitment and took \$896 from our current account to meet it. However, last year we donated the most we have ever given to Bridges to Hope, both from a monetary basis and in actual food donations.

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.**

## **What would you do for your Church?**

Last week I highlighted some of the church activity in which people are taking part, those were about the new members on the Board, the people helping Sarah McMeekin with Sunday School, and people working on ways to help us communicate better with you and with the general community.

This week, I'm hoping to interest you in some of our ongoing activities. Did you know that we have a group of church members and friends playing pickleball every Wednesday afternoon and another group who play on Fridays? Would you like to join the Wednesday players? Yes, there is a coffee/tea break and some cookies!

Sweets and snacks are often requested by Bridges to Hope clients and previously we had muffin-making Mondays. This activity can be any morning that the Church kitchen is free – doesn't have to be Monday! We'd really like to revive this practice!

It takes a maximum of three (3) people – two bakers and one timer/packaging person for 2 hours or so! All supplies are provided – muffin mix (just add water), chocolate chips/blueberries, etc.

Interested??? Just let Heather in the Church Office know and she'll be happy to fill you in.

Since last year, the W.A. (Women's Auxiliary) has been hosting a Lunch/Bridge event once a month! This has turned out to be a very successful fundraiser, with a Full House each time and a Wait List! Perhaps you would be willing to cook a pot of soup or make a dessert for this event sometime. It would certainly be appreciated. Heather can put you in touch with a W.A. member for further details.

We also have a **"TO-DO" List** of many opportunities from our Property Committee. The list is in the office lobby. Check it out, there's something for everyone, from counting the numbers of lights NOT working, to the number of ceiling tiles needing help, to supplying a hardy plant for Clouston Room as requested by the Sunday School kids, and big ask – a mural too!

We have other opportunities where you can make a difference and take part of the life in our church.

The **Sunday Coffee Hour** has been back now for some time. Would you or your family like to take part by:

- \* coming in before church to turn on the coffee & tea
- \* helping with the grandmother's table (a few chairs and the tablecloth)
- \* perhaps baking some homemade goodies
- \* laying out plates of cookies, biscuits, etc. (these are provided)
- \* taking part in the clean-up afterwards.

We welcome all types of participation, big and small, from everyone. I'm renewing my call: **if there are any things that you'd like, 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, or hopes.

**If you are interested in how St. David's moves forward, if you have any thoughts, concerns, suggestions or want to be part of the discussion or the action, please contact the church at 722-2382 or email us at [stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com).**

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries (March 25 - March 31)**

**Belated Happy Birthday greetings to Miraero Shin** who celebrated her birthday with family and friends – near and far – on March 15<sup>th</sup>! Miraero's sister, Wojuro, lives here in St. John's as well. Miraero and Wojuro's parents still live in Korea but stay in touch regularly. Best wishes Miraero from your St. David's family! We hope you had a wonderful birthday!

**Happy Birthday greetings to a very special friend to many here at St. David's, Sheena Findlay**, who will be celebrating her special day on March 29<sup>th</sup>. Sheena has been a faithful and much loved member of St. David's for many years and continues to offer her insight, gentle guidance and support to many of us through one-on-one chats or through group activities. Sheena was an Elder for many years and continues to be involved with the AMS, actively participating in the group's missionary and spiritual initiatives. Sheena is an avid supporter of the weekly Bible Study group and always encourages thought provoking discussion. Needless to say, Sheena is an important member of our St. David's family! Love and best wishes Sheena from everyone here at St. David's! Have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday wishes to Olive Goobie** who celebrates her birthday on March 31st with family and friends, near and far, including her husband, Charlie, and daughters, Megan and Claire and their families. No doubt, it will be a special day for Olive! Olive and her husband, Charlie, are long-standing members of St. David's and are very supportive of all the events and activities here at our Church. Olive is always there to help out at the WA Bridge Parties and other events and she and Charlie are our inspiration during the Wednesday afternoon pickle-ball games! We hope you have a great birthday Olive, and best wishes for the coming year!

**Happy Birthday wishes go out to Max Burness** who will be celebrating his birthday on March 29<sup>th</sup> along with his mom and dad, Heather and Brad Burness, his sister, Sophie, and proud grandmother, Edith Peach. We wish Max a wonderful day spent with family and friends!

**Happy Birthday to Jana Kearsey** who will be celebrating her birthday with her husband and children and other family and friends on March 27th! Jana is the daughter of Judy (Kearsey) Woolridge, our former, former Church Administrator. Best wishes Jana from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a great day!

**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:**

**New Church Office Hours:** The church office is open weekdays from **9 am to 1 pm** with the (**new**) exception of Mondays.

Starting this Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>, 2024, the Church administrator will be working remotely, (**Mondays only**).

Heather will be checking church emails and phone messages regularly. Alternatively, you may contact her by cell. @ 403-830-7217.

Enjoy the day!

### **Sunday School**

Memory verse is the books of the New Testament in order. The Power of God's love.

Thank you to all our Sunday school volunteers for your dedication to our children. If you would like to help out with Sunday School please email [sarah\\_mcmeekin@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com)

### **WA**

The March meeting of the WA is on Tuesday, March 26<sup>th</sup> at noon in the Armour Room. If you are interested in learning about this inspiring and creative group, please consider attending. A lunch will be served.

All are welcome!

### **Bible Study**

Anyone interested in Bible Study, please contact Rev. David at 709-699-3661 for more information. Thank you! 😊

## **Pickle Ball games for our congregation**

Pickleball takes place every **Wednesday afternoon 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.

## **Good Companions**

The **Good Companions** is a seniors group that meets 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 afternoon March 21st from 2-4pm**. All are welcome

**Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange ...** The Good Companions Group have started a Jigsaw Puzzle exchange... you will find the Jigsaw Puzzles in the locked grey cabinet just outside the Armour Room. (The key for the cabinet is kept in the office.) Management of the puzzles will be done on an 'Honour System' – **Anybody** can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle and take as long as you like to complete. Should you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you may leave them at the office for Charlie Goobie and he will contact you promptly! 😊

## **Bridges to Hope**

**Weekly "Flyer" Specials – March 21 – 27, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:**

Walmart	Great Value Peanut Butter - \$2.97
	Dole Pineapple - \$1.27
Dominion	Palmolive Dish Soap - \$1.99 (With PC Optimum Card)
	Green Giant Vegetables - \$1.29
Pipers -	Mr. Noodles - \$0.69
Lawtons -	Heinz Tomato Soup - \$0.97
No Frills	Sugar - \$1.99

The suggested item(s) for **March 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Beans**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

While Bridges to Hope always has an ample supply of dog food, they have a shortage of cat food. Your help in this area would be appreciated too.  
Thank you.

## **CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE**

**Location:** The former Bouclair site at the Avalon Mall between Globo Shoes and the Golden Phoenix Restaurant.

**DATES FOR THE BOOK SALE:** March 21 1 - 9 p.m.  
March 22 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.  
March 23 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (half price day!)

**Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships and community outreach projects. Thank you for your support!!**

### **Brian Way & Friends**

A postponed concert from last Fall has been rescheduled for Friday, April 12<sup>th</sup> at 8:00pm in the hall. Please do plan to attend this event of classical, tradition and spiritual music as Brian welcomes friends Amanda Dawe and Darrin Martin to join him in this unforgettable evening.

Please call the office for more information and to reserve tickets. Thank you!

## Features with Pictures

### **Bridge Party – March 19, 2024**

This past week, the WA hosted the March Bridge Party (March 19). As usual, we had an enthusiastic group of bridge players come for lunch and then stay to enjoy an afternoon of playing their favourite game. The homemade soups and desserts were enjoyed by our guests.

Everyone was so happy the weather cooperated and we were delighted to see everyone again! All in all, it was a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party will be on **April 16th!**

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteered to make this afternoon a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all!

Below are just a few pictures from Tuesday. And even though we do not have a picture of our clean-up crew in action, we wanted to say a special thanks to Jenny and David. We are so grateful to them both for taking on those dirty dishes and leaving the lower kitchen "spic-and-span"!





## **Good Companions Paddy's Day Dinner – March 14, 2024**

Last Thursday (March 14), the WA hosted a hot turkey dinner for our Good Companions Group. It's hard to say who had more fun at this event, the WA ladies or the Good Companions! Our Good Companions brought not only smiles and laughter, but an abundance of enthusiasm which they passed along to all those around them. And, they also brought along lots of donations for Bridges to Hope. The simple joy of coming together with friends and sharing time together - what could be better! We hope these pictures say it all!









## Mission Moment for Sunday, March 24th, 2024



**Following Christ's example to care for the broken-hearted and those crushed in spirit, Anamiewigummig Kenora Fellowship Centre provides care and support for people who have endured inter-generational trauma and profound loss and grief in their lives. The centre promotes healthy grieving practices that include sharing circles and memorial fires, creating a safe space for a time of prayer, sharing sorrow and mourning the loss of loved ones. The community has come to value the importance of the sacred fire teachings and the warmth and comfort it offers, welcoming all to come just as they are.**

