



## **News from the Pews – Sunday, March 31st, 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



I think I have shared this piece of art before, but as we prepare for Good Friday and Easter Sunday, I found myself thinking of it again. I enjoy the "yuck" factor that Caravaggio brings to this scene, as Thomas lifts a flap of skin and truly tests the wound in Jesus' side. Just like in the bible story, this is a moment of raw truth, cutting through all of the hearsay and feeling for the indisputable reality of the wounds that Jesus suffered. Most of us wouldn't go that far, it's gross and weird, but Thomas makes absolutely sure.

It is remarkable that Jesus still bears these wounds, and this piece of art makes me wonder about all the physical questions: how deep does that wound go? Does it hurt him? If he moves about too much, will it open up again and start bleeding?

But more importantly, and more to the point of the bible story (I think), it makes me ask "why?" Why does Jesus still have this wound, after he has been raised to new life? Why wasn't it healed, as part of the process that gave him new life? He was dead for days, so clearly his body was restored

and repaired to some extent, but it is made very clear that these wounds remained, clear beyond a shadow of a doubt in Thomas' case.

Remember that for Thomas, this was important because he needed to be sure this was actually Jesus, and that he was real. The wounds proved his reality, and showed that there were no tricks. He had really been through it, and was standing before Thomas now.

May we recognize the power of our scars for our own testimony. May we not be afraid to admit the times we have suffered and the wounds we still carry. When we have endured much, may we not hide the signs, but proclaim what God has brought us through.

For there is no wound of body or of heart that God cannot redeem. No sorrow, no regret, no sickness, no death can hollow us out forever. For God can bring new joy and life to even the crucified and abandoned. That is our message of Good News for the world. And how can they know? Just look at the scars.

### **Services for this week:**

**\* Good Friday Service, Friday, March 29<sup>th</sup> at 11:00am**

**\* Easter Service, Sunday, March 31<sup>st</sup> at 11:00am**

**Holy Communion will be held at this worship service.**

**This service will be broadcast over VOWR tonight, March 31<sup>st</sup>.**



**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 life our voices in praise!*



## Treasurer's Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) will be coming up in about a month's time. I am busy preparing what to say and how to say it, using words, charts, and spreadsheets.

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?**

Back in 2018 Steve Andrews resigned as treasurer and moved to Toronto. I was already looking towards this congregation's 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary and thought perhaps as treasurer I can help get us get there. And you voted me in. We're almost there! It has been quite a ride, many deficit budgets, but somehow we always manage to make it through another year. And this year, for the first time, our deficit is actually lower than the previous years. That's actually something to celebrate.

There's a letter on its way to you and I'd like to add my voice. St. David's sense of community is what attracts people, what keeps us here, what causes us to strive to help one another. Nationally, we reach out to others through Presbyterian Sharing, please consider helping out with donations to them throughout 2024. Locally, we show great support for Bridges to Hope and our groups (knitters, WA, and AMS) sponsor events like "Socktober" and

provide warm comfortable knitted caps, mitts and scarfs for those needing them during our winters. And we cannot forget the Christmas hampers and all the people who pitch in to deliver them.

Our congregation has changed over 250 years and faced many obstacles in that period. Recently, it has been impacted by the pandemic. Through it all we continue to move forward and face the future together always striving to play a meaningful role in our community.

**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 (April 1 - April 7)**

**Happy Birthday greetings to Andrea Greeley** who has a birthday coming up on April 6<sup>th</sup>. Andrea will be celebrating her big day with family and friends including her mom and dad, Mildred and Darrin Greeley, and her aunt, Marilyn Reardon. We hope you have a wonderful birthday, Andrea. Best wishes from your St. David's family!

**Happy Birthday wishes to Heather Patey** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 2nd! Heather will be marking this special day with her husband, Bob, daughters, El and Jean, brother John and his family and of course proud parents, Sylvia and Bob Taylor. Happy Birthday, Heather from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a great birthday and best wishes for the coming year!



**El Patey will be celebrating her birthday on April 5<sup>th</sup>.** Eleanor will be marking her big day with family and friends, including her mom and dad, Heather and Bob Patey, sister, Jean and of course proud grand-parents, Sylvia and Bob Taylor. Happy Birthday El from all your friends here at St. David's and best wishes for a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Ciaran Putt** who will be celebrating his 12<sup>th</sup> birthday with his family and friends on April 5<sup>th</sup>. Ciaran is the son of Kim Andrews and Craig Putt. They, along with Ciaran's younger sister, Kaylee and proud grand-father, Steve Andrews, will all be sharing the happy day with him. Your friends here at St. David's wish you a very Happy Birthday Ciaran! Enjoy!

**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.

The Church administrator will be working remotely, (**Mondays only**).

Heather will check church emails and phone messages regularly.

Alternatively, you may contact her by cell. @ 403-830-7217.

**For pastoral care** ~ Please contact our minister, Rev David Sturtevant at 709-699-3661.

Enjoy the day!

## **Sunday School**

Memory verse is the books of the New Testament in order. SURPRISE! He is risen!!

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)

## **Prayer Shawl (Knitters) Ministry**

The knitters will meet on **Tuesday, April 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10am** in the Armour Room. Come join this lively group ~ no experience necessary ~ 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 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 April 4<sup>th</sup> 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 28 – April 3, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart	Dole Pineapple - \$1.27
	Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.97
Dominion	Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99
	No Name Soups - \$0.50
Sobeys	Compliments Canned Vegetables - \$0.99
No Frills	Holiday Luncheon Meat - \$1.49

The suggested item(s) for **April 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Canned Fruit**. 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.

## **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!

## Obituary Announcement...

Theodore Bernard (Ted) Hoekman passed away peacefully and suddenly on March 12<sup>th</sup>, while vacationing in Sarasota, Florida. Ted was born on November 1st, 1939, in Lethbridge, Alberta, to Thelma and Martin Hoekman. The family returned six years later to their native America, where Ted grew up. The family was part of a very large extended family to which Ted remained close, and he was proud of his Dutch ancestry. His education included a BSc from Hope College (Michigan) and a PhD from the University of Illinois, as well as a post-doc from Vanderbilt University (Tennessee). His first full-time academic appointment was at Georgetown University in Washington D.C. Fate brought him back to his country of birth when the new Medical School at Memorial University offered him a position, which he accepted and held for 30 years.

In addition to his scientific endeavours, Ted enjoyed walking, gardening, car mechanics, (especially his beloved VWs) computers and much more. In his 60s, biking became his passion. His other passion was choir singing. He was an original member of the Newfoundland Symphony Philharmonic Choir and also a member of the St. David's Church choir. His beautiful baritone voice and flawless singing made him a very welcome member of any choir. He loved fixing broken things and was generous with his help to many people. Over the years he bred and showed Dobermans, was a semi-professional photographer and was a consummate do-it-yourselfer, if he wanted to do something he taught himself how, culminating with building a house.

In 2007 Ted moved to Newbury, Ontario where he built a solar powered house mostly by himself and he also joined three different choirs. He loved road trips and traveled frequently to visit his children and grandchildren as well as other family members in Canada and the U.S. In the last twelve years he enjoyed spending a few months in Florida during the winter.

Ted is survived by his five children Derek, Jan, Alexia, Rafael and Raquel, his six grandchildren Akari, Dustin, Sam, Annie, Luna and Ezra, his siblings Bob, Gladys, Phil and Trish, his first wife Phyllis and his second wife and best friend Elena Hannah, as well as his three stepchildren Arianne, Christopher and Adriel Eric Hannah. We will all miss him with his eternal Tilley hat, his self-deprecating humour, his quick mind and his unstinting support and help.

A celebration of Ted's life will be held in Newbury, Ontario, date to be announced.

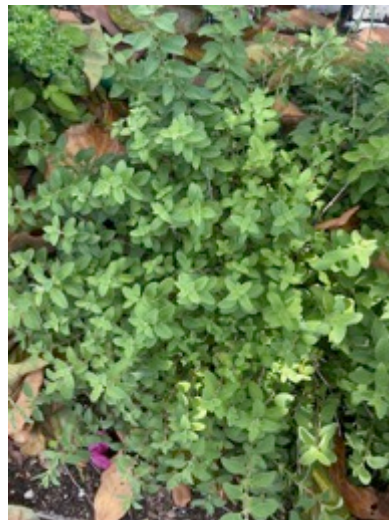
**Messages of condolence may be sent to:** [alexiahoekman@hotmail.com](mailto:alexiahoekman@hotmail.com)

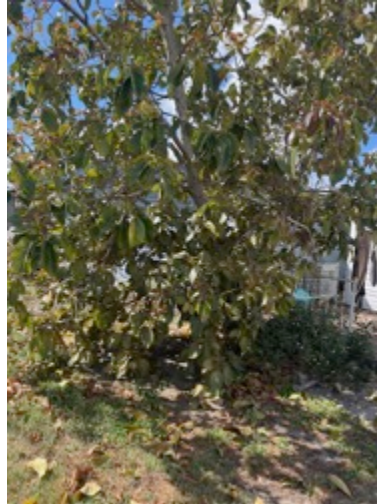
## Features with Pictures

### **Barbara's Plants in Florida**

This past week, we received some beautiful pictures from Barbara Ellis, who is currently in Florida. For the gardeners among us, we can only sigh at the sight of growing tomatoes, peppers, herbs and an avocado tree in blossom!

Thanks Barbara for sending these pictures along. They give us hope!!





## Mission Moment for Sunday, March 31st, 2024



In Malawi, Madalitso Mphamba, a determined 16-year-old, once doubted she would ever have the chance to attend secondary school. When Madalitso's mother fell seriously ill and had to give up her job, they moved in with family for support. At first, Madalitso's grandma's beer brewing venture was thriving and played a crucial role in supporting her primary school education. However, Madalitso's grandmother eventually had to stop this business, and the family could no longer afford to send Madalitso to school. With help from PWS&D, the Blantyre Synod Education Department's Neno scholarship program allowed Madalitso to re-enroll, enabling her to dream of a brighter future