



## **News from the Pews – Sunday, March 3rd, 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.

## Minister's Message



There's an old saying about the month of March: "In like a Lion, out like a Lamb". As today marks the first day of March, and the weather is cold and blustery today, I know I'm not alone in hoping the proverb holds true. May the rough, cold, blustery weather give way to sunny days and warmer days! It's also not lost on me that Easter Sunday falls on the last day of this month. Out like a Lamb indeed! And when I looked to the reading for this first Sunday of the month, what do I find but the story of Jesus clearing the temple courts with a whip!

*'[The Lord] said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.'*

*2 Corinthians 12:9-10*

The Bible often makes use of paradoxes to help us understand the controversial parts of our faith. Paul writes in 2 Corinthians about strength and weakness, saying that it is in our weaknesses that God's strength is perfected. The image of Jesus Christ as a lamb, although familiar to us, is hardly a "kingly" one. Lambs are weak, helpless creatures, that would be snatched up as a snack by any self-respecting lion who came across one.

May we remember the weakness we are called to. May we see the transition from Lion to Lamb as progress, not only in the weather of March, but in our own development as well. Our world values Lions, those who are strong, powerful, and in control. Yet God loves lambs, those who are vulnerable, who rely on others, without claws or fangs.

May we be willing to measure ourselves by a different standard than the familiar judgements of the world, to find strength in weakness as Paul did. And if we enter March as Lions, may we leave it as lambs. Amen.

## **Treasurer's Report**

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.**

**Most Tax receipts for 2023, were mailed on February 29<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries (March 4 - March 10)**

**Happy Birthday to Edith Peach** who will be celebrating her 85th birthday on March 4th! Edith and her family have a long history with St. David's and continue to be a big part of our Church family even to this day. Edith was a long-time supporter and member of the WA (Women's Auxiliary) and was a great worker-bee at many of our sales, dinners and afternoon teas. As a former Church Trustee, Edith was always there to provide guidance and encouragement. Edith will be celebrating her birthday with her immediate family and their families – here in St. John's and far away, along with many good friends. Best wishes Edith from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more birthdays to come!

**Happy Birthday to Judy Woolridge** who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, near and far, on March 4<sup>th</sup>! Many of us know Judy from the days when she was our Church Administrator. Judy has always been a great supporter of St. David's. Over the years, she has helped out with many events and gatherings within our Church and continues to serve as Secretary for the General Protestant Cemetery Committee. Best wishes Judy from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more!

**Happy Birthday to Gracie Wood** who will be celebrating her birthday on March 7<sup>th</sup>! Gracie and Joss are long-time members of St. David's and very dear to many. Over the years, they have been involved with many of the groups and activities here at the Church. Gracie was an enthusiastic member of the AMS, the WA, the Quilting Group, and the choir for many years and was a great supporter and worker for many of the events – Church sales, afternoon teas, morning coffees, dinners, garage sales, hampers (especially the fruit baskets), and special commemorative events involving the Choir. A big Happy Birthday from your St. David's family! We know you and Joss will celebrate your birthday in fine style and we wish you many more birthdays to come! Much love from everyone!

And just in..... **Happy Birthday wishes to Sarah King** who will be celebrating her big day on March 3rd! Sarah and her family are an important part of our St. David's family. They take part in many of our Church activities and support us by their presence and participation in many of our events. Sarah, especially, has been a great inspiration to us all as she has taken on the role of Sunday School Coordinator for this year. Sarah will be celebrating her special day with her husband, Wesley, their son, Dean, and other family and friends, near and far. No doubt, it will a happy day for all! We hope you have a wonderful birthday, Sarah, and best wishes for the year ahead! All our love! **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:**

**Spring Cleaning has started early at St. David's...** in an attempt to have the Clouston ready to become the permanent home for our Sunday School, volunteers have been cleaning, organizing and tidying. As a result, some furniture moves have been happening... in this case bookcases.

On a large table in our reception area just outside the offices, you will find an assortment of books looking to find new homes. Please help yourself... whatever is left over will be making its way to the CFUW sale (please see their Announcement below.)

The General Protestant Cemetery Board is seeking a church representative.

The duties would consist of one to two meetings annually ensuring that our church is represented by a member who ensures annual dues are paid, attends the AGM each year and continues to ensure the congregation is informed of any major changes in the Board policies. The GPC committee are a group who represents their church concerning burials, rates, property and maintenance. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Heather at the church office.

**UPDATE:** We have a temporary volunteer for the position until a permanent volunteer is found.

## **Please save the date!!**

The International Potluck ~ "A Taste of Home", has been rescheduled for **Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>** following the service. Please bring a dish that reminds you of home, wherever home may be.

All are welcome!

## **Sunday School**

Jesus cleaned up the temple. How can we take care of our place of worship? Memory verse is the books of the New Testament in order.

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)

## **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 7th from 2 to 4 pm**. 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 – February 29 – March 6, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:**

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|-------------|---|
| Walmart -   | Heinz Beans or Chef Boyardee Pasta - \$0.87                                     |
| Colemans -  | Favorite Mandarin Oranges - \$0.99  |
| Pipers -    | Maple Leaf Vienna Sausage – \$0.99  |
|             | Jello Jelly Powder - \$0.99   |
| Lawtons -   | Clover Leaf Tuna – 4/\$5.50 (With Scene Card<br>- 4/\$6.00 (Without Scene Card) |
| Dominion -  | Graves Apple Juice - \$0.88 (With PC Optimum Card)                              |
|             | PC Liquid Dish Soap - \$1.00  |
| No Frills - | Holiday Luncheon Meat - \$1.49  |

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

# **CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE**

## **PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE!**

CFUW St. John's is collecting gently used fiction, non-fiction, and children's books (hard cover and paper back) for our used book sale on the following dates and times:

**Book Collection: February 24th to March 12th.  
7 days a week from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.**

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

We **do not** accept encyclopedia, magazines, textbooks, Readers' Digest books, computer books, VHS tapes, and cassette tapes.

### **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!)

Same location as the book collection - former Bouclair store

**Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships and  
community outreach projects.**

**Thank you for your support!!**



## Features with Pictures

### **Food “Mountain” for Bridges to Hope**

The month of February was designated as "Fooduary" for St. David's and this past Sunday, we were delighted to welcome Jodi Williams, Executive Director of Bridges to Hope Food Bank, to our Sunday service as part of this month-long initiative. Jodi took the time to explain a little bit about what's going on at Bridges to Hope and why there is an increasing need for donations.

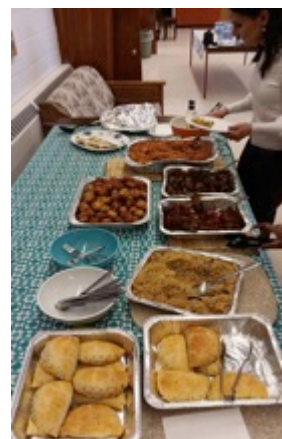
All month long, our congregation has been encouraged to contribute non-perishable food items for Bridges to Hope. This past Sunday we saw the result of your generosity - a giant "Food Mountain"! Well done indeed!

(Many thanks to Heather, who added her creative touch to building the mountain, and to Sue for providing this great picture that says it all.)



## Nnenna's Birthday Party

This past Sunday, after Church, we had a beautiful birthday celebration, compliments of Nnenna Offia and her family. Nnenna's birthday was actually on the 18th of February, but due to a snowstorm that cancelled most activities that day, her party was re-scheduled for last Sunday. And what a celebration it was! Nnenna and her family are originally from Nigeria but now make their home here with us in St. John's. The tradition in Nigeria is that the "birthday person" is supposed to throw the party and provide the cake! So, keeping with tradition, Nnenna and her family invited the entire congregation along with some of their closest friends. Plus, they provided some delicious Nigerian dishes and the cake! It was a wonderful time and everyone who was lucky enough to be there, totally enjoyed the party. Thank-you Nnenna - and your family - for inviting us to share in your special day!! Below are a few pictures from the birthday party. We hope you enjoy!



## Our Quilts Live On

Many of us in the congregation know that a few years ago, (pre-COVID), we had a group of talented ladies who, for many years, made beautiful quilts. The Quilting Group were known for the quality of their work. They lovingly produced quilts for our elderly, who were sick or shut-in, for our newly baptized children, as a special gift on their baptism day, and even for some dialysis patients, who faced many long hours receiving their treatments.

These ladies spent countless hours, cutting, stitching, ironing, and sewing. The results of their hard work were truly gifts of love and caring. Last going off the Quilters Group consisted of Patsy Carmichael, Betty Wood, Marjorie Pike and Gracie Wood. (Check out the picture below)



For a few years now, the sewing machines and materials, have been carefully stored away. We knew that there were many quilters out there that share the passion and creativity that our ladies had and it seemed only fitting that we pass along our machines and supplies to them.

We were fortunate to find one such person in our own congregation - Marilyn Reardon. Marilyn is a multi-talented craft-person. She's an accomplished quilter, knitter and seamstress. For someone who can hardly sew on a button, I'm in awe of her! Needless to say, Marilyn was delighted

to have the opportunity to inherit some of the quilting material. We spent a wonderful few hours carefully going through countless boxes and bags, sorting things out. Much to our delight, we discovered a number of partially completed quilts - some even with the straight pins in them!

Marilyn made a promise that she would "take up the torch" so to speak, and finish off each quilt and return them to the Church so that they could be used as originally intended. She was true to her word and in less than 2 weeks, she presented us with the completed quilts. (See the pictures below.)



We were also delighted to show the finished quilts to Patsy, who was so pleased to know that Marilyn was able to complete the work the quilting group had started.



We were also happy to be able to give some of the rest of the quilting supplies and materials to the Quilting Group in Eastport - a very enthusiastic and dedicated group we've been told - and to some of our Ukrainian friends. We wish them much success and hope that as they work on their quilting projects that they enjoy the same fellowship and joy that our ladies shared over all the years.

*(Janet Calver)*

## Mission Moment for Sunday, March 3rd, 2024



**As part of a Caring Community Initiative, the Presbyterian Music Camp piloted a Mental Health Workshop program during the summer of 2023. The program included mental health support and workshops run by a qualified health professional on the topics of anxiety, depression, ADHD, self-harm, suicide and other mental health topics. The opportunity for attendees to express themselves in a caring and safe environment with professional leadership took safety to the next level for the camp, and provided an opportunity for individuals to explore some of their struggles with support. The program continues to grow by providing Mental Health First Aid training to staff and volunteers as well as exploring ways that art and music therapy can be offered in a camp setting.**