

The St. David's Connection

Quarterly Newsletter



St. David's
Presbyterian
Church

98 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's
Newfoundland
Telephone 722.2382
www.stdavids.nf.ca



2001
FALL ISSUE

Musings on Ministry

Rev. John C. Duff

It started with a phone call from one of our members who was listening to the radio. "The mayor is saying we're going to need church halls to accommodate the passengers whose planes have been diverted here," he said. "Is St. David's going to do anything?" A couple of phone calls, to Lillian Crawford, Clerk of Session, and Stephen Bruneau, one of the co-chairs of the Board, led to both mobilizing some people who might be ready to do something if we were called on. At eight o'clock a few extra people "crashed" what was to have been a meeting of the Atlantic Mission Society, and after a period of fervent prayer for the many who had been affected by the tragic events of the morning of September 11, 2001, the people there set to work.

We discovered that help was needed to provide emergency shelter in halls such as ours. We soon found ourselves saying that we could get ourselves ready for seventy. After that, people at the meeting fanned out, using cell phones to contact many more people to look for sleeping bags, air mattresses, blankets, sheets, pillows, towels, toothbrushes, food and drink for our unexpected guests. By eleven o'clock or so mountains of these things had arrived, and the work of many hands had turned them into made-up beds ready for weary travellers, and coffee, tea, and fruit ready in the kitchen. At one o'clock in the morning the first forty guests arrived, and watched in numbed disbelief the images on the television set of what had happened while they had been in the air or

sitting on the tarmac in their plane for several hours after landing here. And then they went to bed. Two more groups arrived during the night until by morning we had 69 passengers, and one cat!

Well over a hundred of St. David's people contributed to the passengers' many needs in the next five days, and just as many people and businesses from the community who came to us to see what they might be able to do to help.

Those who helped didn't need to say very much about our motives for helping; our guests interpreted what we did as done for the love of God. The comments we received from our visitors were overwhelmingly about the tremendous care and love they were experiencing.

Of course, this scene was repeated in church halls, school gyms, community centres, and homes across Newfoundland. The people of the province responded with open-handed generosity to the need that suddenly presented itself. But I was especially proud of what so many did at St. David's to turn a very stressful and disorienting event into an experience for which many passengers gave thanks, not only to their helpers, but also to God.

At a time when evil broke in from the skies, good burst forth from the hearts and homes of thousands of Newfoundlanders.

Thanks be to God! ❖

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

BAPTISMS

Rebecca Cassie Hodder, daughter of Jeffrey and Daphne (Marche) Hodder, born April 10, 2001 and baptised on June 10, 2001. Rebecca is the grand-daughter of Effie Hodder also of this congregation.

BIRTHS

Born to Susan and Frank St. Croix, a baby girl, Samantha Christina on July 7th., 2001. Grandparents Barbara & John Ellis

DEATHS

Eric George Thistle passed away on July 23, 2001. Eric was the husband of Dorothy, father of Leslie and Jeffrey and brother of Dave (Elizabeth) Thistle also of this congregation.

MARRIAGES

Erika MacFarlane and Shane Best were married at Bowring Park on Thursday, July 12th, 2001.

Louise Copeman and Benjamin Laurel were married at St. David's on Saturday, July 14th, 2001

Janet Collins and Joel Starkes were married on Saturday, July 28th, 2001 at St. David's. Janet is the daughter of Jean and Clayton Collins also of this congregation.

The Editorial Committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items for this edition of The St. David's Connection and we encourage you to continue to do so. Feel free to drop items or notes off anytime to members of the Newsletter Committee listed below, or leave them in the Church mailbox.

Tonya Bassler	753-3135
Jean Bruneau	722-6436
Lillian Crawford	754-2362
Neil Ellis	722-0992
Judy Rudofsky	726-3184

❖ David and Grace Artiss welcomed David's sister from Reading, England in July. David's son Tom began a tour of the U.S., Canada, and Europe on September 19th as bassist with the Sarah Harmer Music Ensemble. The summer was concluded with a splendid Labour Day weekend in Gros Morne National Park, where a get-together was organized for South African Newfoundlanders.

❖ Stewart and Penny Gillies have taken an extended leave for 3 months to Australia and will rejoin us in December.

❖ Anna Kieffe visited over the summer and has taken up residency in Toronto and attends the University of Toronto to continue her study in Physics.

❖ Over the summer months, Stephen and Audrey Fultz and family have moved back to Nova Scotia.

❖ We have also said goodbye to Pierre and Leanne Dil and family who have moved to British Columbia.

❖ James and Maria Sayers will be leaving in October to move to London, England. We wish God's blessing on you all as you travel and settle with your families.

❖ Krista Rudofsky produced and hosted a very successful talk show on Rogers Television this summer, called "Up at St. John's Lane". This

weekly show is still running excerpts from previous shows every Thursday on Cable 9 at 7:30 pm. On November 5, Krysta will co-host a new half hour current affairs programme with Berni Stapleton, to be televised every night from Monday to Friday at 7:30 pm on Rogers Television, Channel 9. She and boyfriend Mike Coady both appeared in the sold out smash hit musical "EVITA"!

❖ This summer Michael Rudofsky captained the Eastern Canada Rugby squad in Ontario and played several other matches for "The Rock", Newfoundland's provincial team. He also enjoyed an Engineering work term with Stephen Bruneau of North Atlantic Pipeline Partners, where he studied several aspects of icebergs and their travels from Greenland through "Iceberg Alley". Michael has just resumed his fourth year at Memorial University in the Faculty of Engineering.

❖ This summer Blake Rudofsky attended Circle Square Ranch. He was voted "Rancher of the Week". Blake is currently in Grade Eleven at Holy Heart of Mary High School, and is fortunate to have a part-time position with the Bread Pig restaurant.

❖ There are many new faces around the church in the past weeks and we are looking forward to meeting you all and welcoming you to our church family.

**Check out St. David's on the Web @
www.stdavids.nf.ca**

Ministry to Children and Youth.

Sue Templeton.

Another year of Church School has begun! On Sunday September 9th, all classes met together on the stage after Children's Time with Rev. Duff for a "meet and greet" event. Teachers and children were welcomed with songs, introduction circle and a name tag craft, where older children helped younger ones. Since then, children have settled into their classes with their teachers after a brief "together time". Parents of younger children are welcome to accompany their children to classes until they feel comfortable. Teachers will be asking the

assistance of parents from time to time for "extra hands" with crafts, activities, etc. Please ensure that the registration forms are returned to the teachers in September so that we may have an accurate record of the children we serve, and so we are able to update the information file for "Membership Plus" in the office.

TEACHERS ARE STILL NEEDED! Our Primary and Youth classes have one teacher each, and, ideally, should have two each, so that the teachers have an opportunity to attend worship services on a regular basis.

If you can assist the Church School by offering to teach, even for a few sessions, please let us know! We would welcome you warmly. No teaching experience is required. The curriculum, The Whole People of God, is very well laid out and easy to follow with material for the children that is able to be photocopied. Of course, the kids are a joy to work with! Most of us who have had the privilege of sharing in this ministry find that we learn so much from the experience and that we "grow" as much as the children do (albeit, in different ways!).

Festival 500 - - Sharing the Voices, July, 2001.

Jean Bruneau.

Many thanks to St. David's for your support of the wonderful international choral festival this past July. The volunteers who offered time and energy during Festival week at a variety of "jobs" - including young Marejka den Otter Rumbolt assisting her Mom as a guide at the MUN School of Music, were great. Thanks also to those who assisted with the preparation and serving of lunch and the clean-up at St. David's on Sunday, July 1st. We hosted the wonderful 50 voice Amabile men and boys choir of London, Ontario on that day. Those who attended Church on that special Sunday morning found the worship service, which combined mourning and celebration, music and readings to be profoundly moving. Not least affected were the visiting young men and boys who learned about Beaumont Hamel as a living historical event. Special thanks to Rev. Duff who organized / orchestrated the

service with such sensitivity and dignity and the Amabile Choral Conductors, Carol Beynon and Ken Fleet, who with the historical information provided by Rev. Duff educated and prepared their choir so well. The young men of this excellent choir who sang "In Flanders Fields" with bowed heads and tears in their eyes affected us all.

Very special thanks are due to those of our congregation who billeted participating choristers. This was a tremendous commitment of time and energy for 8 - 10 days and was greatly appreciated by the Festival organizers and by the hosted choir members.

Festival 500, 2003 is already planned and being prepared for (you can take 2002 as your holiday!). We look forward to the continuing support of the people of St. David's. ❀

To date, we have quite a large group of children, about fifty-four, divided into four classes. Thank you to Christine McLean, Megan Goobie, Kathy McKay, Valerie Loomis, Tanya Shalaby, Viola Duff, and Lucy McDonald, who have already committed to teach this year. Come join the fun!

The Youth Group, teens in junior and senior High, met with Sue Templeton on Sunday, September 23rd to initiate activities for "service, study, and socializing". The first activity this year has been attendance at the concert given by Steve Bell, a Juno award-winning contemporary Christian musician, at Holy Heart on Sat. Sept. 29th. Sue arranged for tickets for individuals who indicated they wanted to go. Steve Bell's "demo" tape is available in Sue's office for those who missed his concert, but may like to buy his tapes / CD's in future. Further planning for leadership and coming events is ongoing. Watch your church bulletins for announcements about youth activities at St. David's! ❀

UNEXPECTED VISITORS

Ian S. Wishart

Tuesday night there was a meeting of the Atlantic Mission Society at St. David's. The members gathered at the church at 7:30, but there had been a change of plan. Members of the Session and Board of Managers also showed up, and quickly there was a general gathering of congregational members. It was September 11th, and everyone had spent the day glued to the television watching with horror as planes crashed into the World Trade Centre in New York and the Pentagon in Washington. These scenes were far from St. John's, Newfoundland, but some of the consequent activity would be close at hand.

All aircraft were instructed to land, and twenty-seven came to Torbay on the edge of the city. Several churches indicated that they would help. St. David's offered places for 50 to 70 people. Calls were made to members of the congregation: bring air mattresses, sleeping bags, pillows, towels to the church. It was not normal business for the AMS, but before long there was a great pile of bedding at the end of the hall, and the kitchen was filling with soft drinks, cookies, general refreshments and more substantial food items.

Lillian Crawford is Clerk of Session, and an active AMS member. She was one co-ordinator, along with Stephen Bruneau, Co-Chair of the Managers. The meeting dispersed, but Lillian and Stephen stayed behind. Half past

midnight and a call came from the Emergency Centre at Mile One Stadium. Thirty people from a Sabena aircraft were on their way.



Young children were among the party, but the St. David's crowd were prepared for that. Other members of the church were summoned, and before long John Duff, the minister of the congregation, was extending a welcome to the weary travellers. They had sat for seventeen hours on the plane, waiting for each person to pass



through Customs and Immigration before being transported to the Stadium for registration and assignment to a billet. They came from the

plane with what they carried in their hands: no luggage apart from a purse. St. David's had tooth brushes and paste on hand. At 2.30 a.m. there was another call, and one more at 4 o'clock. The hall was full to capacity. Sixty-nine travellers were bedded down in the hall, some in the sanctuary. A television was operating in the Armour Library, and snacks were available from the kitchen.

In the morning Lillian was interviewed on the CBC. They were serving breakfast, and before long food was coming in the door

from many sources. People arrived with baking and offers of help, and when initial confusion was cleared, cars came to offer the passengers rides to local sites and stores. Helpers came from St. Andrew's Church, and from many groups in the city. It was soon clear that none would travel for at least another day. Plans were put in place for a pot-luck supper and an evening concert. Star of the entertainment was Previn Moore, one of the stranded passengers, a gifted pianist and vocalist. He charmed the audience with his music. The St. John's Suzuki Violin School came with some of their pupils, and members of the congregation added to the entertainment. It was a magnificent concert arranged on the spot.

One of the stranded passengers was the Rev. David Renwick, minister of Second Presbyterian Church in

Lexington, Kentucky. David was ordained in the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and served for five years in Christ Church, Wabush. He had accompanied his daughter to Glasgow where she will be studying, and was caught on his return journey. He was accommodated at the St. John's Convention Centre, and paid a call to St. Andrew's Church for a surprise reunion with Rev. David Sutherland and myself. We had both participated in his ordination!

Dr. Alvin Crawford, a noted orthopedic surgeon from Cincinnati, on his way back from a medical conference in Sweden, was one of the visitors at St. David's. On Wednesday morning he took the opportunity to visit colleagues at the Health Sciences Centre. He was very impressed with the reception which passengers received. "The hospitality has been remarkable, unbelievable. I have seen people who are caring and very compassionate, who went out of their way to make our lives as comfortable as possible. Once you've been in a situation like this and have had this kind of care, then you can never look at things again in the same way. Our ability and willingness to volunteer help will be enhanced by

this experience." His wife Jean added that she had made new friends with whom she will keep in touch.

Margaret Ewers, an elderly English lady, was the only passenger at the church from American Airlines Flight 105. She was apprehensive that

come to Canada next year, but this visit was a surprise. "We have not been disappointed. The people are just lovely. It has been amazing. Perhaps we should stay here - holiday here. We just cannot thank anyone enough."



Previn Moore is an American singer who has lived in Germany for twelve years. He was heading for Cincinnati to see his mother who has had recent surgery. "We arrived at St. David's late at night, all so tired, and we did not really know what had happened. It was only at the church that we were able to see the pictures. It seemed so absurd. None of us can fathom the purpose of these horrible acts - horrendous, outrageous, mind-boggling. But

she might be forgotten. On Thursday a young man turned up at the church. He identified himself as Dave Astle, pilot of the plane. He had checked all the locations where his passengers were staying, and assured Margaret that he would not take off without her.

Joe and Jackie Logan, from Ayrshire in Scotland, were travelling via Delta Airlines to Florida on holiday, and wondered if they would get there. Jackie said that they intended to

who would believe the kindness we found? There was love and compassion from wonderful people. I hope to get to Cincinnati soon, but there will be a tear in the corner of an eye at parting from them. They have reminded me that love is still the winner. Love will still win against this horror. Humans will say no, but God says yes. I have thought about Psalm 91: God is our refuge and our fortress, and in him we trust. To the people of St. David's I say thank you, thank you, thank you." ❀

Weatherlore Warning

The dogberry trees are now all aglow
With scarlet red,
Portending another abundance of snow
When leaves are dead.

Soon will be heard the autumn's "Amen"
On airs blizzard-fanned.
Come, let us read the forecast again
In Dogberry Land.

Harry R. Burton

Choice Pickings

The hills are heavy green with ripe September,
And groomed with cooling breeze,
Impelling me to park my moods and ramble
Through brambled trees.

There I shall tune my heart to sylvan measures
Reverberating vales,
While trailing on relaxedly and filling berry pails.

Harry R. Burton

If it ain't broke – at least be prepared!

Today in a rapidly evolving world we strive to find a balance between change and preservation. We try to act and not to just react to the changing needs and expectations of the congregation, community and society while preserving those values and traditions that define us.

What are we, the Board of Managers, doing to respond to these challenges?

Over the past few months the Board subcommittees (that are, in a sense, action groups) have put efforts into various projects and activities such as:

- the well-attended, spectacularly

sunny, summer picnic we shared with St. Andrews,

- the hiring of a summer student (Neil McKay) to work on updating congregational information and to carry out various maintenance jobs and technology improvements,
- the integration of Sue Templeton into the pastoral life of St. David's,
- the completion of roof, driveway and other much needed repairs,
- and, the hosting of stranded airline passengers.

These and several other worthy efforts have injected vitality into the congregational life of St. David's. So one might ask the question "if it ain't broke, why try to fix it".

This past month the congregation has had to say goodbye to a number of its active members including two Board members, Pierre Dill and Jim Sayers. Also, the treasurer reports that we are facing a serious monetary shortfall as those who do not use the pre-authorized payment plan significantly reduced givings over the summer. Many capital improvement plans are on hold pending an improvement in the church treasury and we are having difficulty attracting youth to close the congregational generation gap.

So the message is that while it ain't broke, there *is* always room for improvement. ♣

Reports from the various committees

St. David's Board of Managers

At the beginning of each year members of the Board choose to join a committee to which they feel they can best contribute. *Note that membership on a committee is not limited to the Board. Thus there is an appeal for those church members or affiliates with skills to share, to come and speak to one of the Board members and learn how a modest contribution of your expertise can be put to work in a charitable way.*

The **Innovation Committee** is currently at work on several projects.

In order to make more tangible the friendly nature of this congregation, we have instituted a Friendship Register – a sheet to be passed through the Church each Sunday on which everyone can record their names, addresses and phone numbers. This will be of value in many ways. Especially, it will

enable us to follow up on visitors to St. David's by phoning or sending a card, and it will help us to quickly make contact with newcomers to the Church. Please bear with us as we workout how best to complete the register during worship.

Also, we are working on producing a photo directory of the congregation – a simple book with photos of as many of our community as possible, and a list of names and addresses. Once the cost of this undertaking has become firmly established, our photographers (Charles Goobie and Stephen Bruneau) will be taking photos after Church each Sunday for about a month. Listen for an announcement in Church! A sample photo directory is available for viewing at the Church office.

The annual St. David's Benefit Concert has been held in our sanctuary for a

good many years, and will be held there again in February 2002. However, plans are beginning to take shape for a larger venture to be held in the Arts and Culture Centre in early 2003. Christine Gray masterminded our very successful Eistedford some years ago to raise funds to make St. David's wheelchair accessible. We will be building on her experience, and given the skills and talents of St. David's and the Suzuki music program, we will be able to put on an excellent concert which will raise awareness of both groups.

We are currently at work on obtaining a sign for the outside of the Church and a memorial tree, which would probably be located on the wall of the sanctuary between the windows and the door leading out to the hall. We are diligently searching for designs, which will be both attractive and affordable.

Which brings us to the **Property Committee**. Major efforts will be undertaken to improve the thermo-static control of the entire church premises this fall. We will also be looking at various improvements to washrooms, lighting, masonry and ceilings. As mentioned earlier, however, an improvement in funds will be necessary before much of this work can be carried out.

The **Administration Committee's** main responsibilities are as follows:

- 1) Recruit new members for the Board
- 2) Plan and organize Annual General Meeting of Board
- 3) Review with Board's Approval any contracts on equipment (i.e. phone, copier, etc.)
- 4) Make final recommendations re rental agreements

- 5) Gifts at Christmas or for special presentation
- 6) Notifying or reminding members of meetings

Over the summer months there was little to report from this committee but one can expect a significant increase in activity as the fall sets in.

The report of the **Finance Committee** appears elsewhere in this newsletter and so will not be repeated here.

The **Personnel Committee** was very busy before the summer in order to have a summer student in place to work over the summer. Neil McKay was the successful candidate and he did a great job over the summer with "updating" our computer files and some manual labour in and around the

church. We also put together a contract for our Lay minister, Sue Templeton. Sue officially started working August 1st in that role and is working on many projects already. We are looking forward to working together in this new year.

The Call

The challenges that we face today are different in character but are no greater in magnitude than those faced at any time in the past. The Board of St. David's plans to meet these challenges and undertake new initiatives directed towards future prosperity, growth and outreach. We encourage all members, affiliates and newcomers to get involved and make a difference! ❀

ST. DAVID'S CHURCH FINANCIAL RESULTS

TO AUGUST 31, 2001

Summer is over and everyone is getting back to their regular busy schedules. At this time, the Board of Managers would like to update the congregation on the financial situation of the Church.

Our results to the end of August show an operating deficit (expenses higher than revenues) of \$9,026. While we had realistically budgeted to have a deficit of \$10,665 for this period, we had hoped that we would have better results than this.

Almost all offering categories are under budget so far this year. Current offerings (both envelope and P.A.D.) are under budget by \$2,326 and Presbyterian Sharing is under by \$475. Only Building Fund offerings are running over budget by \$2,984. Our expenses are mostly at or below budget.

So far this year, we have not had to draw on our line of credit at the bank but if this deficit continues through

the fall, we may have to borrow money to pay our bills.

Jan.1 – Aug. 31, 2001	ACTUAL	BUDGET	OVER (UNDER)
	\$	\$	\$
Current Offering	57,474	59,800	(2,326)
Presbyterian Sharing	8,705	9,180	(475)
Building Fund Offering	6,318	3,334	2,984
Other Income	<u>15,822</u>	<u>14,131</u>	<u>1,691</u>
Total Income	88,319	86,445	1,874
Total Expenses	<u>97,345</u>	<u>97,110</u>	<u>235</u>
Deficit	<u>(9,026)</u>	<u>(10,665)</u>	<u>1,639</u>

If you want some guidance as to how to split your givings among the three envelope categories, please consider the following: 84% for Current, 12% for Presbyterian Sharing and 4% for Building Fund. These percentages are based on a breakeven operating budget for the year. ❀

*Respectfully submitted,
Susan Purchase, CA*

An Editorial Note:

*Respectfully submitted,
Jean Bruneau.*

A few weeks ago we were planning the Fall edition of the *St. David's Connection* (our newsletter). We set the deadlines for written submissions and the distribution date. Then we privately mused (as we always do), "wonder what we'll get"; "what will the news be this time". Little did we know that the world was about to be turned upside down on September 11th, 2001.

We all are, and will continue to be, affected by the horrific events of that day - - angered, frightened, violated and deeply saddened. But Newfoundland and Labrador were given the opportunity to be involved in a supportive and comforting role by welcoming and hosting thousands of affected strangers from the sky into our lives. This, St. David's Congregation and friends did with great kindness and generosity. Many of the guests have expressed their appreciation to those who helped them during this terribly difficult time.

The Editorial Committee would like to issue a Special Edition of the *Connection* sometime in the next few weeks to record the thoughts and

educational, amusing or profound and personal instances of friendships and linkages formed between host and guest or between fellow volunteers, etc; any and all submissions will be welcomed. We are relying entirely on your support with written submissions to make this endeavour a success. There are many stories out there and they are worth sharing.

We would also appreciate receiving the names and address (e-mail and or postal) of any guests you may have met etc. as well as local people or friends who do not normally attend St. David's but responded to our call for assistance, so that they too can receive a copy of the Special Edition of the newsletter when it becomes available.

Please submit your written contributions to the Church office, or to Lillian Crawford, 754-2362, Judy Rudofsky at 726-3184 or Jean Bruneau at 722-6436 **as soon as possible** while memories are still fresh. ❀



experiences of those involved in any way with activities related to the influx of guests to our city, and in particular, to St. David's.

There may also be some of this congregation or community who had direct personal experiences in New York or Washington. Please could we have your stories, observations and anecdotes for this special edition. They can be long or short (four or five sentences even); touching,

From the W.A.

Looking Ahead: November 17th.
- Annual Afternoon Tea & Sale
- Stall of Baked Goods, White Elephant, Christmas and Candy etc.

Helping Hands are always needed for set up, donations of cookies and sandwiches, serving & clean up. Call Catherine Picco (747-3263) or Lillian Crawford (754-2362) for further details. ❀

Memorial Hymn Sing

Sunday, November 4th at 7 p.m. - A service of old and new hymns dedicated to those who have gone before us. This year Iain Whitehead will play saxophone and we will have a soloist from outside our congregation. Letters and hymn selections will be mailed out in mid-October. Please mark this date on your calendar as a time to remember our loved ones and to sing our favourite selections. ❀