



EASTER



Quarterly Newsletter - Spring, 2006

www.stdavids.nf.ca

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The St. David's Connection

Greetings from the Interim Moderator, Rev. David Sutherland

It is an honour to bring this brief greeting of Easter. Easter is the central celebration of the Christian Church and that which especially distinguishes us in the world and the society which surrounds us. While many focus the rebirth of hope in the illusive arrival of spring, particularly here in Newfoundland and Labrador, we again focus our hope on the ministry of Jesus Christ. We approach Easter facing the realities of human sin and our separation from God. It is because we face the reality of darkness in the human soul that we are most prepared to recognize the necessity of Calvary's Cross and the miracle of Jesus' resurrection from the dead.

As Canadians in 2006 we are most aware of the costs of confronting evil as we receive word of brave soldiers who are paying the ultimate sacrifice in a theatre of conflict based on oppression and terror. It is difficult for us to grasp in the security of our land what it must be like to face an enemy who does not distinguish between soldier and civilian. It is also difficult to face an extremist enemy who so dismisses the value of human life. Yet we press on in our commitment because we know ultimately that evil will not overcome the good. As those of the Christian heritage our values, not only for ourselves, but for all of humanity are worth defending.

As Christians we know that our hope for such values is not based only on what we have come to believe but upon the sacrifice and victory of the Son of God. Whether it be global challenges or those we face day by day, we know that because He lives we shall live also. It is in taking the good news of our forgiveness and salvation, living as a resurrection people that we find new hope and purpose for ourselves and those who surround us in life.

It is as we gather together that we celebrate new life for our loved ones whom we have laid to rest over the past year.

It is my prayer that as you prepare to celebrate Easter this season, whether at home or in far away places, that your focus will be upon this miracle: "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him might not perish but have everlasting life" From the family of St. David's we bring you sincere wishes that His love will give you the courage to live for others in the days ahead.

May God bless you with joy and hope as we celebrate once again His victory over our grave.

Dave Sutherland



Matthew 28:6-7 - He is not here; he has risen, just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples: "He has risen from the dead and is going ahead of you into Galilee. There you will see him." Now I have told you. (NIV)

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NEWS FROM THE PEWS

Krysta Rudofsky and Keith Pike announce their upcoming wedding at Gower Street United Church on July 21, 2006. Krysta is a long time member of St. David's Church and well known as the host and producer of Rogers Television's "Out of The Fog". Keith has a long history with the Gower Youth Band and is a member of the "Jazz East Big Band". Keith is an engineer working with the Hibernia project. The reception will take place at the Johnson Geocentre with family and friends from Canada and the UK in attendance. Proud parents are Dave and Judy Rudofsky and Olivia and Robert Pike. A honeymoon cruise to the Caribbean is planned following the wedding.

Joanna Titus, daughter of Brian and Colina Titus, formerly of this congregation, will arrive in St. John's on April 9th and stay for a six-week work term at the Leonard Miller Center, Veterans' Pavilion. She will stay with Ken and Sue Templeton for the first three weeks, and then with Richard and Marilyn Beaton for the second three weeks. It will be such a treat to see her after all these years!

In early March, Elizabeth and David Thistle had a long-weekend visit from their granddaughter, Heather Noseworthy. She is living in Fredericton, NB and in her 3rd year of nursing at UNB. She also has her Bachelor of Music (singing) from Mount Allison University. On Sunday morning, she donned a choir gown and sang with the Choir, much to the delight of her grandmother. Heather is the daughter of Margo and Larry Noseworthy of Corner Brook.

In March, Larry Bauer received the MUN Faculty of Business Dean's award for excellence in teaching. Congratulations!

Shelley Bauer authored the document "Child Passenger Safety in NL". This policy paper was jointly presented to the NL Government late 2005 by the Newfoundland & Labrador Medical Association, the Association of Registered Nurses of NL, the NL Public Health Association and Kids in Safe Seats. Hopefully this will be the first step to NL updating 25 year old legislation and finally instituting booster seat legislation in this province. The work of these four groups continues to promote effective and enforceable legislation.

Kudos to the Willing Hands Quilting Group who have been diligently working on making comfortable cushions for the church pews. They also make lap quilts for shut-ins, baby quilts for new infants in our congregation and pet quilts for the Fall Sale. This small group of ladies meet every Wednesday at 1:30 P. M. and would be delighted to add to their numbers at any time! For further information, you may contact Patsy Carmichael (726-9039) or Marjorie Pike (722-6089).

Kathy McKay's mother, Marge Walters, is planning a visit to St. John's in May. Among other reasons, she is coming to see her grandsons, Cameron and Neil McKay convocate from Memorial University. In the fall, Cameron plans to pursue a master's degree in library and information science at McGill University while Neil undertakes a master's programme in mathematics, likely at Dalhousie University.

News of the sons of David Crosbie and Suzanne Brake: Nicholas Crosbie will graduate with his Law Degree from the University of Calgary in May. He will then join a Calgary law firm. Brother Tom and his partner Jill Slater (daughter of Diana and David Slater formerly of St.David's now living in Houston, Texas) are currently living in Melbourne, Australia. Tom will graduate with a Masters Degree in English Literature from the University of Latroke at Melbourne this year while Jill completes her degree in Geology at the Universty of Melbourne. These young men are grandsons of the late Bill and Gertrude Crosbie and nephews of Andrea Crosbie and Paul Crosbie all of this Congregation

Jackson and Emily McLean both participated in the 2006 Newfoundland Winter games. Jackson (#8) was on the volleyball team from Gonzaga high school that captured a bronze medal. Emily competed in cross country skiing. This was the first time Emily participated in ski races and she was among the youngest to race. The Picture shows Emily just before her classic Nordic Race



Emily McLean



Jackson McLean



Rev. Sandy Wessel, Retirement

In February of this year, Rev. Sandy Wessel returned to St. John's after a three-month leave of absence granted in November 2005 at her request. On March 5, 2006, Rev. Wessel returned to St. David's to conduct her final service, having requested permission from Newfoundland Presbytery to retire effective March 1, 2006. This service was originally scheduled to take place on February 26th but due to a severe storm and cancellation of worship on that day, we were pleased that Rev. Wessel was able to join us on the 5th. A Reception/luncheon took place following the service at which Rev. Wessel had an opportunity to bid a personal farewell to members of the congregation. Retirement gifts were presented on behalf of the Church School, the Session and congregation and she received the well wishes of all those present as she returns to be with her family in Pennsylvania, U.S.A.



Rev Sandy Wessel

Harry R. Burton, Farewell

Farewell to a true "St. Davidian"
(As Harry referred to his St. David's friends)

On Wednesday, January 25, 2006, St. David's lost a special member when Harry R. Burton passed away. Some of our congregation do not know about Harry, so let me give you a brief profile on this gentle, modest talented man.

Harry was born in Greenspond, Bonavista Bay in 1923. At a very young age he taught himself to play the organ. In the 1950's he moved to St. John's and was organist at St. David's for 12 years (1963-1975). Those of us who were in the choir with Harry appreciated his musical talents. He had a distinctive style/touch at the keyboard. Soloists loved him as an accompanist. He was a composer, arranger and could transpose a piece of music at the blink of an eye. In 1975, when St. David's celebrated its bicentennial, a special anthem titled "Music Was by God Created", was sung by the choir. Dr. V. Isabel Jones wrote the lyrics and Harry put them to music. Next to his music we remember him for his wit. It was impossible to be serious with him. Fun and foolishness was the order of the day when you were with Harry.

Shortly after the bicentennial service in October 1975, while practicing at the church organ, he had a disabling stroke. It broke his heart when he could not return to our choir and organ. His piano is in the Armour room as a reminder of his devotion. He never forgot us and St. David's never forgot him and his devoted wife myrtle.

Harold Hammond

I would like to take this opportunity to express my sincere appreciation to St. David's for your help and support when my husband, Harry, died. Thank you especially to Rev. Sutherland for the lovely service and the choir and old friends for the music and singing. I was so happy to see so many at the visitation and service and receive your words of sympathy.

Myrtle Burton



Harry R Burton

Canada Youth 2006

Canada Youth 2006, a five-day residential event, July 4-9, at Brock University, St. Catharines, invites youth nationwide to participate in this faith-sharing, mission and service, recharging and refreshing Conference. There are three ways to participate: Conference (Youth ages 15-19), Mission track (Young adults 19-23), and Youth leadership (Adults 21+). Some funding to cover the cost of travel and accommodation is available. For more information, visit thePresbyterian Church in Canada website. For local sponsorship and to indicate your interest in attending, please contact Susan Templeton 726-9511) or the Church Office ASAP Registration forms and fee of \$485.00 must be sent by April 30th.



SEARCH COMMITTEE



The process of seeking a new Minister for St. David's has begun, and the following people, representing a wide cross-section of the congregation, comprise the Search Committee.

Table with 3 columns: Role, Name, and Phone Number. Includes Interim Moderator (Rev. David Sutherland) and Committee Members (Bruneau, Stephen; Chancey, Fred; Crawford, Lillian; Cumming, Hugh; den Otter, Andy; Gillies, Penny; Loomis, Emily; Patey, Heather; Purchase, Susan; Whitehead, Catherine).

The congregational meeting held on March 12, 2006 was one of the first steps in the search process and we were very pleased with the number of people in attendance, the frank and open discussion and the positive atmosphere evident at that meeting. We particularly want to thank all those who completed the self-analysis questionnaires which Rev. C. Chinard, Synod Moderator, used to facilitate our discussion.

For your further information, the categories rating highest on the pastoral skills and interest inventory sheet of the questionnaires, and incorporated in our congregational profile as areas in which a potential candidate would have strengths, are as follows:

- 1. Leading Worship and Preaching (Planning and conducting worship services)
2. Crisis Visiting (Serving people at times of illness, death, trauma, family crisis, job loss)
3. Work with Youth
4. Equipping Church Members (For integrating Christian faith with life)
5. Work with Seniors
6. Personal and Spiritual Development (Providing resources and guidance for people's devotional life, and for prayer groups, retreats and other small group experiences)

If you have any concerns or comments about the search process, please feel free to contact any of the committee members or the Interim Moderator.

Canadian Bible Society News

This year marks the 100th Anniversary of the Canadian Bible Society. An important event of the Bible Society is "A Proclamation - The Word of God" that is the reading of the Bible from cover to cover. It takes place over a period of 10 days. The readings occur for approximately 40 minutes each hour from 7am until 9pm.

Sylvia Hudson, Congregation Representative, Canadian Bible Society

On an amusing note, Jean B. and I were assigned to read from 1 Chronicles, Chapters 22, 23, 24 and 25. A tough reading assignment indeed, What names!! We jokingly remarked (to each other) upon arriving at St. Mary's that if we mispronounced these difficult names "who would know?" -- only to learn that reading immediately before us, and then listening to our readings was Roman Catholic Archbishop O'Brien from the Basilica.....!!





The following article is reprinted from the Sunday, March 12, 2006 edition of "The Telegram". Submitted by E. Thistle.

And here are the nominations Rev. Bob Ripley

We had lamb chops for the shepherders of Brokeback Mountain, string beans for Walk the Line, mixed greens for The Constant Gardener, Singapore noodles for Memoirs of a Geisha, squash for Crash, chocolate macaroons for Charlie and the Chocolate Factory.

And then we settled in to watch the 78th Academy Awards as each recipient, including (ahem) hometown boy Paul Haggis, went gaga over the eight-and-a-half-pound statuette that the Academy librarian in the 1930s thought looked like her uncle Oscar Pierce.

Hardly a month goes by without an awards ceremony, Grammys, Tonys, Junos and Genies. Presenters squinting to read their teleprompter. Teary winners intoning a litany of appreciation including God and lawyers.

With the proliferation of accolades, it's hard to imagine someone without a tangible tribute stashed in a drawer somewhere. A red ribbon from field day. A certificate of appreciation. A tarnished trophy. A plaque. Salesperson of the month. Optimist of the decade.

Church workers toil not for earthly honour but a heavenly trophy. Right? Still, down-to-earth awards to saints for outstanding contribution in a supporting role might not be a bad idea.

To the custodian (or sexton or caretaker) for forever turning off lights and locking doors. For sweeping up bat droppings before anyone notices. For always knowing where to find the church ladder; for setting up tables knowing someone will come along and rearrange them. For straightening hymnals and dusting pews before every service. And for being the unofficial church greeter the other six days of the week.

To the organist for playing hymn tunes that only the minister knows. For smiling even when the altos are flat and the tenors are short. For playing the organ loud enough to be heard in the back but not so loud that hearing aids squeal.

To the Sunday School superintendent for taking on the job. Nuff said!

To the church ladies for lunches on short notice. For post-funeral sandwiches and squares. For catering banquets when they'd rather be home with their family. And for having to step out of the steamy kitchen to be dutifully thanked and applauded for a delightful meal, tastefully served. To the folk who oversee the nursery during worship. For their cunning in isolating the trouble-makers. For creative distribution of seconds in cookies and juice when the sermon goes long.

And to the church secretary. Underpaid, overworked and loving every minute of it. For keeping up with computers while still mourning the loss of the Gestetner duplicator. For handling ticket money for every church function. For always having the coffee on for anyone who drops in just to chat. For remembering everyone's name. For listening to everyone's complaints and troubles and keeping their month shut.

And now, the envelope please!

Rev. Bob Ripley is the senior minister of Metropolitan United Church in London, Ontario.



Christmas Pageant Lineup, 2005

Viewed from the Balcony

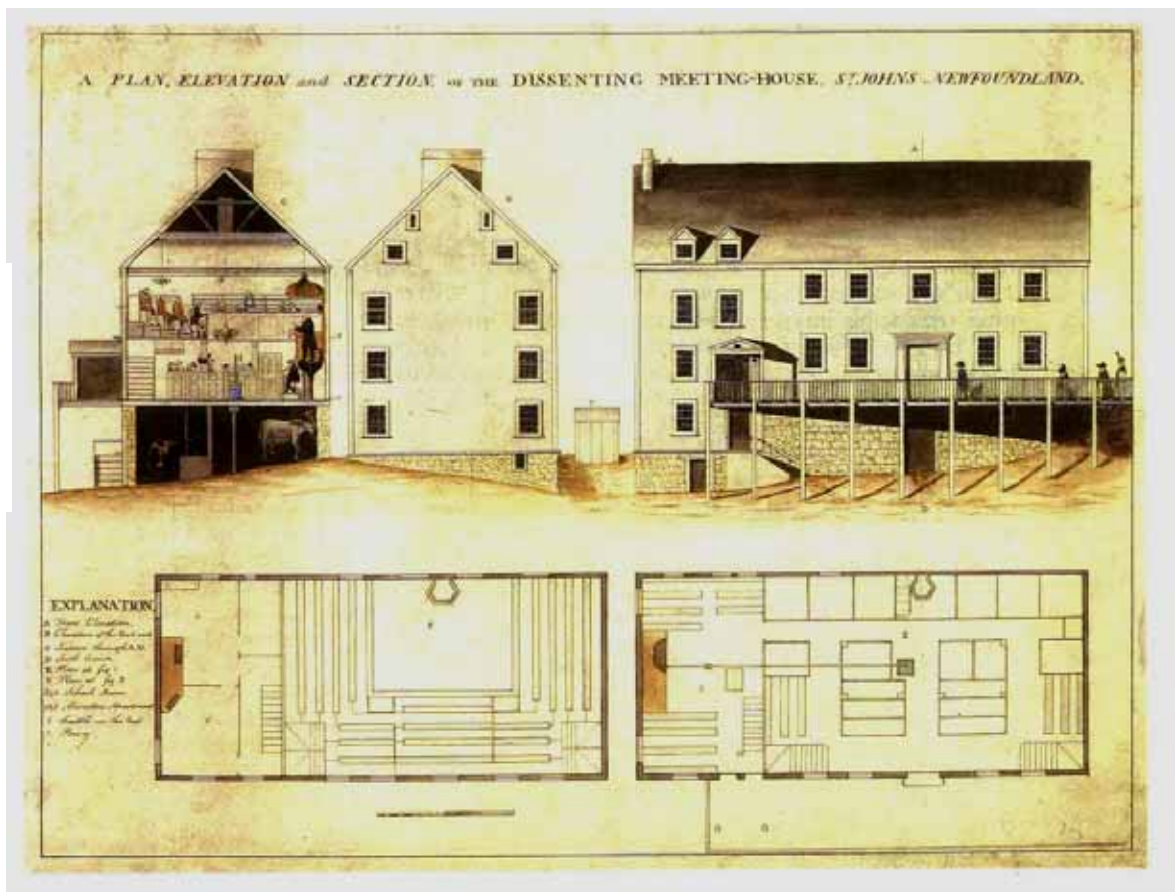




Projected Renovation at LSPU Hall

The initial study for the projected renovations at the LSPU Hall on Victoria Street (former Meeting House Hill) has uncovered in a pit in the basement the foundations of the building underneath – the second Meeting House of the dissenting congregation built in 1789 with voluntary subscriptions from England and Newfoundland. The “Plan, Elevation and Section”, a pen and ink with watercolor drawing, believed to have been executed by someone in the military, was acquired by the National Archives in 1922 and shows a three story building with fashionably dressed church-goers on the gallery (it is known that 400 attended regularly in the 1790’s), Rev. John Jones preaching in the pulpit and his horse and cow in the basement. It was from this plan that David Webber, formerly with the Newfoundland Museum for many years, at the Arts and Culture Centre Model Display in 1999 and brought to St. David’s by Glen Barnes for a display. The congregation moved to the Stone Chapel on Queen’s Road in 1853 while the old Meeting House became Temperance Hall. Both buildings burnt in the fire of 1892.

Pam Bruce



This plan is reproduced from Bruce Wilson, Colonial Identities, Canada from 1760 to 1815 (Ottawa, 1988)

REMINDER

In addition to your regular church offerings, there are several other ways you can support outreach projects at St. David's:

Recycling – St. David's has an account at Evergreen Recycling if you'd like to donate your recyclable beverage containers!

There are boxes in the church entrance for:

- **Grocery Tapes** – Dominion or Sobey's cash register tapes (used for fruit baskets and food hampers at Christmas)!
- **Magazines** – Distributed by volunteers to the library at H. M. Penitentiary
- **Canadian Tire Money** – Used to purchase small maintenance items, such as light bulbs, batteries, etc.
- **Bridges to Hope** – Items (cereal, tea and coffee in 2006) for their Food Bank and toys for their Toy Lending Library!



Once again, Camp Geddie offers a leader in training programme this summer. The complete programme for youths 16 years or older will run from 3 to 23 July 2006 and Level One for youths 15 and older will run from 4 to 17 August 2006. This programme is designed to train and sustain good leaders for the whole church - not just Camp Geddie. Past participants recommend the course very highly and fondly recall a special time of fun and work. Further information and application forms can be obtained from Audrey Cameron at a.r.cameron@ns.sympatico.ca; from Rev. David Sutherland at 368-8609 or dsutherland@nf.sympatico.ca; or from Andy den Otter, 753-1856 or denotter@mun.ca.



Andy den Otter



Friday, Twelve Noon in the Armour Room

St. David's currently runs two Bible study Groups on Wednesdays and Fridays. Having experienced only the Friday Group for the last two and a half years or so I will have to restrict my remarks to that Group. There is a general feeling in the Group that the Congregation is totally unaware of what goes on in the Armour Room around Friday lunchtime and that the occasional passer-by has not only heard heated discussion, much laughter and suspicious silences but has even seen members carrying in food. Even more suspicious (!) – giving rise to some questions overheard by Judy Kearsley and others: “Who is it in there?” “What are they doing there?” “Are they just hanging out?” “Why do they seem to alternate between sound and silence and what the devil is a TV doing in there?” “Are they secretly watching a favourite show?” In an attempt to set people's minds at rest I thought I would try to explain why this small group might lay claim to being one of the liveliest in Church.

First of all the group is diverse: its national background has embraced at various times The United States, Canada (Newfoundland 2 and Ontario), Nigeria, South Africa 2, Holland and England. And, not to forget, of course, one Portugal Cove bilingual Yorkshire Terrier. Just as diverse are the denominational affiliations: Presbyterian, Anglican (2) Dutch Reformed Church, South African Dutch Reformed Church (2), Methodist and Society of Friends (Quakers). So we can truly be described as heterogeneous. Herein may lie much of its strength and one might add that three members of the group have Theological/Religious Studies university degrees, so we bring to the table a breadth of experience and diversity of background that can only generate excellent discussion. Sadly, the lunch meeting time of 12:00 to approximately 2:30 tends to exclude youthful and working members and favours the retired, a point well taken at the Meeting with the Synod Moderator.

The Group started off with introductions and people gradually got to know each other. The Minister wisely took a leaf out of the Alpha Programme and suggested initially we should bring our own sandwiches. Since people wanted to share, the proposal rapidly developed into a full-blown pot-luck lunch. This turned out to be one of the great successes, as one tasty ethnic or local dish after another popped up every Friday without warning and previous organization. There are frequently two hot dishes, always fruit and cheese, a variety of salads, desserts, coffee and tea and, Oh Yes, there is always some kind of dark chocolate to finish off with the coffee. It sort of gave new meaning to the old questions “What's for lunch?” as you never know what to expect. There was only one occasion when everyone brought a dessert I got the distinct impression that not only Presbyterians take the injunction to “break bread together” very seriously. But lest people should think that the group has been seduced by very worldly gourmet temptations, I should point out that it is part of the Alpha Programme – but more of that later. You see where I'm heading – any visitors, preferably not the whole congregation at one and the same time, will be very welcome to lunch on Fridays! Everyone at St. David's knows how bonding eating together is and it is ever more effective in a small group. Lasting friendships have been formed as we got to know each other's lives and family histories. We enjoy each other's company so much that we even continue meeting during the summer months, every second week in each other's homes.

We began “in the early days” more traditionally as a Prayer Group with a detailed study of Matthew and The Lord's Prayer, followed by a study of much of the book of Revelation. The Minister's erudition, and her commentary were quite outstanding, including her knowledge of the historical background. There have been some very lively – I repeat, very lively theological debates of a cut and thrust nature which may well have been heard outside the Armour Room! The Minister gave excellent and stimulating leadership in this regard but the Group really took off and found its feet, when she decided to introduce the Alpha Programme, hoping to train the Group as Facilitators for a much wider presentation of the Programme to the congregation at large. The idea of the Alpha Programme was developed by Rev. Nicky Gumble of Brompton Church in Central London, UK, but just what is it? – and this answers that question about the relevance of the TV. We were actually watching our favourite show. It is a fifteen video course open to everyone who is seeking to answer questions of Faith, Life and Death. Courses are being run in every different denomination, including Anglican, Roman Catholic, United, Methodist, Baptist, Pentecostal, Salvation Army and others.

ALPHA SPELLS Anyone interested, Learning, Laughter, Pasta, Pie, Helping one another, Ask anything. Cost depends on your ability to pay. The fifteen titles are: Who is Jesus? Why did Jesus die? How can I be sure of my faith? Why and how should I read the bible? Why and how do I pray? How does God guide us? Who is the Holy Spirit? What does the Holy Spirit do? How can I be filled by the Holy Spirit? How can I resist evil? Why and how should I tell others? Does God heal today? What about the church? No one can deny the challenging nature of these questions.

Continued. .



... continued

There appear to be a number of reasons for the overwhelming worldwide success of this course. First and foremost is the personality of Rev. Nicky Gumble. He seems to embody all the attributes every congregation would wish for in a Minister: spiritual depth, intellect, great wit and wisdom, tact, warmth of personality, compassion, organizational skills – all good leadership qualities, together with a peculiarly self-effacing British charisma of his own. To date, I have heard nothing but praise for him. Secondly, it is very challenging for he faces and gets people to discuss some of the really big issues in life both private and public (for example, a topic like “Marriage and Family”). His biblical commentary is at once enlightening and stimulating. He enlivens his introductions with a lot of humour. Even though the claim may sound exaggerated, in many ways he strikes one as a latter-day Dietrich Bonhoefer – the German theologian murdered as the Second World War ended, whose book Life Together has become the classic exploration of Faith in Community, giving practical advice on how life together in Christ can be sustained in families and groups. This is essentially the goal of the Alpha course. All in all, it is a fun course to do, from which one can take away a lot – much enlightenment, inspiration and Christian motivation. Regularly eating and meeting together is another factor.

There is a direct, uncomplicated, non-judgemental, impartial, inter-denominational, open-minded, down-to-earth approach in the course which so many different denominations find helpful.

Gumble clearly sees himself, his helpers and the Course participants as equals – and this is a one-time Cambridge-trained lawyer, who gave up a highly successful career as a barrister to be an Anglican clergyman.

What is the Course likely to achieve? Answer: many things. First, experience shows that it is very likely to stimulate and improve fellowship within the church community. Second, it works as an outreach programme affecting atheists and agnostics alike and others who would never normally set foot inside a church. Third, it has in many cases proved such a strong influence that it has drastically changed the direction of participants’ lives. The Holy Spirit moves in a mysterious way. But where do we find a Nicky Gumble in St. John’s? Who knows? But the Holy Spirit really does move in a mysterious way.

Now that we have finished the Alpha Course we have taken up Rick Warren’s The Purpose Driven Life (the book used by Amanda Smith to convince a man to give himself up, who had not only kidnapped her but had also just shot and killed a Judge and three other Court Officers. The book, by a Baptist Pastor and running into millions, had helped to turn her life around from acute drug addiction). We read a chapter each week and discuss it on Fridays.

I mentioned earlier that we had started as a Prayer Group and we have managed to maintain that aspect. We pray both for each other in the Group and also for all members of the congregation who are suffering in one way or another. There have been some heart-warming answers to prayer (the sceptic will call them extraordinary coincidences). We pray for St. David’s especially at this time in its search for a new minister. We would like to see the “close connections” we have made extended beyond the bounds of our Group, so that the whole congregation could experience the kind of very special fellowship we enjoy. Our suggestion is that this would work in several small Study Groups, meeting at times of their own convenience and pursuing topics and themes of their own choice, that would suit the personalities of that group. We hope, trust and pray that some of the comments above may serve to encourage new Study Group participants and help to dispel any misconceptions of what this Bible Study Group is about.

David (and Grace) Artiss.



Savory Soups

“Savory Soups”

Sunday, April 23, 2006, after Worship in the Church Hall. Please join the members of the St. David's Refugee Committee for lunch, and to raise funds to support the outreach of the committee, as we offer assistance to refugees arriving in our community. We invite members and friends of the congregation to share their favourite soup recipes with all of us, by bringing a pot of soup for all of us to sample, and a copy of your recipe to pass on. Beverages, rolls and sweets will be provided. If you wish to donate a pot of soup, please call Sue Templeton (725-9511) by Monday, April 17th, to confirm your participation in this project. To give us an indication of your attendance, please sign the list by the Church Office by Easter Sunday. Admission to the lunch will be \$5.00 per person or \$15.00 per family. Should you wish to support the work of the Refugee Committee, but are unable to attend this event, donations can be made at any time to St. David's Church, and designated to the Refugee Committee.



About 2,000 miles from the nearest continent, and 1,400 miles from the next closest inhabited isle, lies a tiny chunk of land only 65 square miles in size. It is the most isolated, inhabited place in the world, Easter Island. First found by Europeans in 1722 on Easter Day.



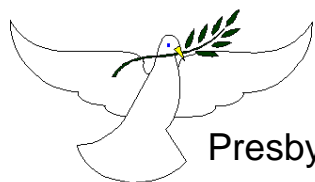
WHAT IS A PRESBYTERIAN WOMAN?

God borrows from many creatures to make a Presbyterian Woman. God takes the voice of a meadowlark, the stubbornness of a mule, the curiosity of a cat, the spryness of a grasshopper and the strength of a pack horse to create a Presbyterian Woman.

A Presbyterian Woman can be found anywhere. She can be found in the Church choir. She might be found in the Church kitchen. She's often found in the Church office and on Sundays, she will be found in the Sunday school program. She is also found in board rooms, behind a cash register or at a school P.T.A. function. She quilts, bakes, knits and volunteers at the hospital. She even bowls!

A Presbyterian Woman is comfort with a casserole in her hand. She is service cleaning up after a luncheon. She is Compassion with a pledge card in her purse. She is friendship with a cheerful smile on her face and she is very hungry for knowledge armed with a Bible and a Study Book. Church Sessions include Presbyterian Women. Church Secretaries slave for them. Husbands despair for them and Heaven protects them.

A Presbyterian Woman is a dreamer and a worker, dreaming great dreams for her children, her church and her country and she's working to make those dreams come true. She's a link with the past, a powerful force in the present and an investment in the future.



Presbytery News

Andy den Otter

Author Unknown (St. David's, Grand Falls-Windsor, N.S.)



Among the many tasks that a Presbytery performs in the Presbyterian Church is the supervision of the Ministers of Word and Sacrament within its boundaries. While in many instances, the minister acts in accordance with the wishes of the session and congregation, ultimately, she or he is responsible only to the Presbytery. So it is the Presbytery that ensures that the preaching, sacraments, discipline, and management of material goods are all properly administered. Practically this means, that Presbytery approves the appointment of a minister to a congregation, his or her transfer to a different congregation, and her or his retirement.

Consequently, the Presbytery of Newfoundland met a number of times this and last year to deal with the leave and subsequent resignation of Reverend Cassandra Wessel. At the last of these meetings, 4 February 2006, the Presbytery invited members of St David's to attend and make known their views. Six people came and, while they did not object to the retirement, spoke warmly about the contributions Mrs. Wessel had made during her tenure at St. David's. With the approval of the retirement, Presbytery appointed Rev. David Sutherland as the Interim Moderator.

Presbytery is also responsible for persons wishing to become ministers. Currently, it is supervising Mrs. Katherine Burgess, of Labrador, who will soon commence studies at Presbyterian College in Montreal. Until he moved to Halifax, Donald Mews - recently wed to Katherine Gray - was also under the care of the Presbytery of Newfoundland.

Usually, the membership of Presbytery consists of all ministers, diaconal ministers, and representative elders from each pastoral charge in a designated geographical region. Currently, clergy members of the Presbytery of Newfoundland are Rev. Ian Wishart, clerk, and Rev. David Sutherland. In addition - because of its small size - presbytery requested the Synod of Atlantic Canada, to appoint Rev. Dr. Cynthia Chenard, of Dartmouth, Nova Scotia, as an assessor presbyter. Unfortunately, poor weather caused flight delays, and Dr. Chenard could not attend her first meeting with presbytery. To further bolster its numbers, presbytery has asked the General Assembly to appoint Rev. John Duff (retired and minister in association) to be designated a full voting member of presbytery.

The representative elders at presbytery are Andy den Otter (St. David's, moderator), Robert Thompson (St. Matthew's, Grand Falls-Windsor), and Jennifer Whitfield (St. Andrew's). To ensure that presbytery contains an equal number of preaching and ruling elders, Presbytery appointed Betty Barrett (St. Andrew's) to be an equalizing elder. At its next meeting, Presbytery will welcome Kathy McKay (St. David's) as the second equalizing elder.



Some say Gren-ay-da, Some say Gren-a-da

An invitation to teach at the medical school of St. George's University afforded Donald, Kathy and Kirsten McKay an opportunity to visit Grenada this past January. Grenada is a volcanic island and the southernmost in the chain island pearls known as the Lesser Antilles. Its east coast is on the Atlantic and its west coast is all Caribbean.

The smallest independent nation in the Western hemisphere is a peaceful country, whose people are mostly of African descent, but whose language and governance systems trace back to its time as a British colony. The entire comma-shaped country can be circumnavigated by automobile in half a day, as it measures only 19 X 35 km. Lakes are scarce, and the only ones of any significance are within the craters of inactive volcanoes. Two volcanoes in Grenada remain active; Mt. St. Catherine provides the highest point in Grenada and its elevation helps creates a central rainforest.

For Kirsten and Kathy, every day in Grenada included some time on the beach. One could scarcely imagine that the Atlantic Ocean in January could be so warm, just about bath temperature. The clear Caribbean waters were teeming with colourful tropical fish, which made for great snorkeling. Donald was lucky enough to see the much heralded but seldom observed 'green flash' that occurs as the top tip of the sun slips into the sea at sunset. As Grenada is so close to the equator, the warm ambient temperatures are much the same year round, and day length remains quite consistent, too, with sunup around 6:00 a.m. and sundown around 6:00 p.m. The island has relatively few birds but small harmless lizards are common. Flower blossoms and fruit trees are ubiquitous.

The roads in Grenada are narrow and winding, so pedestrians walk the roads at some risk. The island has a well-developed system of private busses, which are minivans set up to carry approximately 15 passengers each. These so-called 'reggae' busses travel the entire island stopping to discharge or pick up passengers all along their routes. Each reggae bus ride is an adventure.

Grenada was devastated by hurricane Ivan in 2004. The second leading producer of nutmeg, Grenada lost 90% of its nutmeg trees. Over 90% of the homes were storm damaged, and virtually every tree on the island was stripped of its leaves by the high winds. Rebuilding is an ongoing and slow process. Some countries have provided aid in rebuilding efforts. Electricians from Cuba restored the power grid, the Chinese are constructing a large soccer stadium, and the U.S.A. is helping to restore many schools. Government buildings and churches will likely be some of the last buildings to be repaired.

The capitol city of St. Georges had 3 beautiful old churches: Roman Catholic, Anglican and Presbyterian. All were destroyed by Hurricane Ivan, but their spires remain prominent features of the city skyline. A walk through St. George's will trivialize St. David's roof issues. After all, St. David's has a roof to repair. These churches lay in ruin.

Grenada is recovering from the hurricane by redeveloping its tourism industry. A locally produced chocolate bar was one tasty example. More tourists will undoubtedly help Grenadians prosper while the agricultural infrastructure recovers from the hurricane. Other than goods and services that catered strictly to tourists, prices were not excessive. Fresh local spices produced on the 'spice island' of the Caribbean makes their food and drink especially tasty.

Just about the time the McKay's were becoming accustomed to a very pleasant tropical life in Grenada, a 15cm long highly venomous centipede crawled into their room. The appearance of this creature made their return to a St. John's winter pretty easy to take.

Donald McKay



Grenada



Hurricane Damaged Church



Update from Board of Managers

A new year for the Board of managers has begun. Welcome to Andy Versteeg, Andrea Crosbie and Steve Andrews. New faces and fresh ideas are always welcome. Olive Goobie has agreed to another term as Secretary and Jamie Merriam will Chair.

Issues that are ongoing include arranging for a summer student and all the applicable paperwork for the government grant. Anne Calver has stepped up to the plate and everything is progressing on that front. John McLean has agreed to manage the church website this year and update it accordingly. We are in the process of valuation of the property for insurance purposes. The photocopy contract is up for renewal so we will be reviewing options for our existing or a new copier.



The Sweets and Siochana concert in February was a great success. The members of Siochana were terrific, we wish to thank them for the wonderful music and endless energy. We would like to thank all who helped to make it a fun night with good coffee to boot! A special thanks to Jane Steneker and Hugh Cumming for spearheading this fundraiser. The music was perfect for both young and old and those in between. Thanks also to April and Tom Kennedy for covering the cost of the equipment rental.

No new news on the roof. It has been inspected but no word on where the leak is coming from. We hope to have further details for the next newsletter. On the bright side there has been significant rain/snow in the last few weeks with no sign of leakage.

Jamie Merriam, Board Chair



St. David's Choir Notes



Winter has been a busy time in the choir pews this year, as we have taken time to learn pieces that have been challenging in both voicings and style—particularly the spirituals of Horace Boyer. Dr. Boyer, who has been to St. John's on numerous occasions with his involvement with Festival 500, is a prolific composer and advocate of African-American music. Over the past few months, we have attempted two of Boyer's pieces: "It's My Desire," and "Lord, Your Word is A Lamp." Both of these pieces are written in Boyer's signature style of being challenging and interesting to learn, but certainly fun to sing once the choristers have it successfully rehearsed!

African-American spirituals are stylistically challenging for any group, as it is difficult to achieve an authentic sound. To help the choir with this task, we asked local conductor Dr. Valerie Long to join us in an evening workshop in which we could look more in-depth into Boyer's pieces and other pieces that we have performed for Lent. Known for her dynamic personality and musicianship, Dr. Long certainly brought out the best in the Choir and we look forward to working with her again in the future.

As you have certainly heard, we have been working very hard to achieve a high standard of choral art at St. David's—the continued input and support of the congregation is most appreciated.

In music and faith, Mike Fisher

The Choir wishes to acknowledge with thanks the generous bequest from the late Bertha (Hodder) Hillyard. This gift is to be held in trust by the Board of Trustees of St. David's for the beneficial use of the Choir to assist with their music in worship. We are very grateful for this enduring gift from this wonderful friend of the Choir.



Schedule of Worship Services:

Holy Week Services – April 10–13 – Monday to Thursday – 7:00 P. M. (at St. Andrew's)
April 14 – Good Friday – 11:00 A. M. – St. David's

Easter Sunday – April 16 – Holy Communion Services at 9:00 A.M. and 11:00 A. M.

Sunday, April 30, 2006 – Mission Awareness Sunday, Atlantic Mission Society

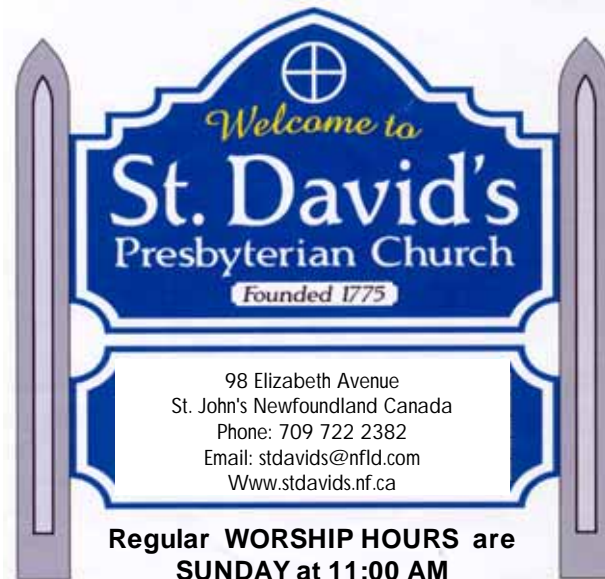
ADVANCE NOTICE - 2006 FLOWER SERVICES

General Protestant Cemetery, Topsail Road – Monday, July 3 – 7 P. M.
Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Hamilton Avenue Ext. – Monday, July 24 – 7 P. M.

In the event of inclement weather, the services will move ahead to 7 P. M. the next evening.

Women's Auxiliary Upcoming Events:

Wednesday, April 26, 2006 – 6:30 P. M. – Annual Flipper Dinner
Saturday, May 6, 2006 – 10:00 A. M. - 1:00 P. M. – Annual Garage Sale
Saturday, May 27, 2006 – 3:00 P. M. – "Garden Retreat" Tea Party



The editorial committee wishes to thank all those who contributed items to this edition of our St. David's Connection newsletter. Please feel free to drop items or notes off any time to members of the newsletter committee listed, or, leave them in the church mailbox.

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