



Fall

The St. David's Connection

St. David's Presbyterian Church, 98 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's, Newfoundland, A1B 1R8, (709) 722-2382, stdavids@nfld.com

Greetings from the Interim Moderator, Rev. David Sutherland

Greetings from Edinburgh, Scotland. It may seem somewhat negligent on the part of your Interim Moderator to be writing from such a distance but we are on vacation and enjoying our first leisurely visit to Scotland. I am reminded of "Uncle Traveling Matt" of Muppet Show fame. Over two weeks ago we "hired a car" from Avis and started our pilgrimage from Aberdeen. We journeyed north through Sutherland and Caithness, then south from Tongue through Sutherland and Ross into the Black Isle and on to the Isle of Skye for a few days. Then we were off to Argyll, across to Mull and Iona and then up to Sterling gradually making our way into Edinburgh before we head for Aberdeen and our flight home in mid week. As well as visiting the lands of our ancestors, we have enjoyed a modest exposure to church life here in Scotland. Like many of the churches of 'Christendom' the Church in Scotland, in its many forms, is experiencing a time of significant change. Gone are the days when 'everyone' went to church and the church's voice on most issues was both expected and anticipated. This has meant closures and forced amalgamations for many congregations and the loss of the luxuries that allowed for divisions and splits within larger denominations. Today, the Church, both in large and small denominations, is looking to rediscover who we are and upon what should be our primary focus. In many well established parishes this has led to a renewed interest in evangelism both outside and inside the church. On a walk this morning, for instance while my loving wife enjoyed the character of a Scottish launderette, I noticed that Morningside Parish Church (Church of Scotland) is focusing their fall program on themes of the identity of Jesus and in the evenings an introduction to the message of the Hebrew prophets. There is an eagerness to discover what it means to be the Christian Church in this place in the 21st. Century. We were delighted to find an old friend from Canada (Cape Breton, to be precise) who is serving one of the larger parishes in the greater Edinburgh area. Of necessity, this congregation removed the spire of their ancient church tower (dating back to the 1200's). The spire was literally a crown as is not uncommon here as a representation of the recognized Kingship of Christ for his Church and this society. It has since been placed on one of the inner city churches. In its place has been erected a rather modern representation of a crown of thorns. The crown of thorns, like the cross, is becoming a symbol of the role of the Christian Church in the 21st. Century. It is worth noting that this is a growing congregation under the symbol of the "crown of thorns" and one filled with young families and children. Their change in adornment begs the question of us as we look to the future and Christ's calling for us. "What does it mean that Jesus said to His Church, "Take up your cross and follow me" See you soon. Dave Sutherland



!! EXCITING NEWS !! - The Interim Moderator and Search Committee are delighted to announce that St. David's will host a candidate for the position of Minister in mid-October. The candidate will lead the worship service on a Sunday to be finalized soon so look for the coming announcement of this exciting event.



I have shown you in every way by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remembering the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive. - Bible - Acts 20:35

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Hello friends at St. David's!

On the 5th anniversary of 9/11, we just wanted to thank you for the kindness and generosity you showed us during our stay in Newfoundland. My husband and I were on a Sabena flight that was diverted to your beautiful homeland on that tragic day. We often reflect on our time at your church and our stay in St. John s and we do so especially today as we mark the 5th anniversary.

It is truly hard to believe that it has been five years. We now have two beautiful little girls (a 3 year old and 1-1/2 year old) and we are doing our best to live life to its fullest.

We hope this email finds your congregation doing well. Again, please know that your kind acts will never be forgotten. We still tell friends about our adventures and what a beautiful place Newfoundland is.

May God bless you!

Amy and Chris Prideaux Dallas, TX

NEWS FROM THE PEWS

- The Rudofsky family celebrated the marriage of their daughter/sister Krysta to Keith Pike on July 12th at Gower Street United Church. Best wishes are extended to them at this happy time.
- During the month of September there were three couples who celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary. -Penny and Stewart Gillies, Kathy and Don McKay and Sue and Ken Templeton. Congratulations all and may you have many more!
- EXTRA congratulations are extended to Johnnie and Mary Mudie on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary on September 12th and sincere best wishes are extended to them from the congregation.
- We are sorry to see the Steneker family leave for Aberdeen, Scotland and Mark and Catherine Williams and family leave for Calgary due to the cancellation of the Hebron offshore oil project. Their mailing addresses will be available through the church office.
- Rev. Cassandra Wessel - Several people have requested a mailing address for Rev. Sandy as she has relocated in the USA. 1110 Lake Lucy Road, # R, Tionesta, PA.USA 16353



Congrats to the many folks of St. David's who participated in the Tely 10 road race this past July. Mary Bruneau, first time runner, Penny Gillies, Kathy McKay, Hazel Gamble and Dave Rudofsky were amongst those who ran and finished the lengthy 10 mile course.



Congratulations to Laura Bruneau for leading her soccer team in goals and eventually to victory in the gold medal match this summer in the city summer league.



The McLeans spent a wonderful camping trip visiting Twillingate and Gros Morne in August. While Christine, Emily and pet Shadow did a light hike, Jackson and John hiked the grueling Gros Morne. The effort was worth it as there were many caribou at the summit and the view from the top was breathtaking. Pictured is Jackson overlooking 10 mile lake.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

MARRIAGES: Matthew Murray Moyt AND Jessica Jean Gosse - June 10th., 2006
Ashley Ryan Paradise AND Jennifer Anne Stevenson - August 12th. - 2006



DEATHS: Olive Francis Louise Murdoch - July 1, 2006

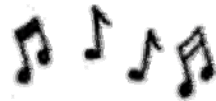
BIRTHS: Born to Carolyn and Paul Roberts on August 17th in Orlando, Florida, twin daughters Madlyn and Mckenzie. These little ones are the Grandchildren of Jean (Hibbs) Walsh and Lar Walsh of this congregation.

BAPTISMS: Luke Douglas St. Croix - May 3, 2006 - son of Susan (Ellis) and Frank St. Croix (Jean - not sure if this one was in the summer issue)



GRADUATIONS: Congratulations to Aimee Reardon who graduated from Memorial University with a Bachelor of Arts, Sociology degree and Business Minor. Aimee is now employed with Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Eastern Newfoundland.

St. David's Choir Notes



Welcome back to another year of music making at St. David's! St. David's choir is seeking new members and all are welcome to join—no audition required. Rehearsals are held Thursday evenings at 7:30 and the new season will begin Thursday, September 21. Throughout the Church year we continuously learn new music and work with local conductors in our quest to become educated about singing and new works.

Please consider joining this dynamic group as we celebrate the Lord through choral art and enjoy each others fellowship and company. If you would like more information please contact myself or any of the choir members.

In music and faith,
Mike Fisher

NOTICE

The Hungarian Theological Male Choir (on tour throughout the Atlantic Provinces and Ontario) will be in St. John's on Sunday, Oct. 1 at the Kirk for the worship service and then at the Kirk at 7:30 on the 1st for a concert. Their director is a Canadian- Brian Johnson who is known to our music director Michael Fisher and this should be a wonderful choral concert

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!



South Africa from a Veterinary Perspective



In 1997 a pair of students at the Ontario Veterinary College took it upon themselves to promote international veterinary medicine, and organized the first of the projects that would become known as Global Vets. Since then Global Vets has become a yearly tradition at the college wherein second year students are given the chance to submit an application to travel to a developing country. These applications are reviewed by a committee of advisors and the chosen teams then work together to find funding for the projects through fundraising and sponsorship. All the planning for the projects as well as the work for funding is done by the students and the program is considered entirely student run. Through this opportunity students get to explore veterinary medicine in a culture very different from their own, build relations within the worldwide veterinary community, and make contributions to the organizations they visit. Upon their return, students share their experiences with the college and veterinary community. I was lucky enough to be chosen for this amazing adventure as part of a team of three that would travel to South Africa. Why South Africa? South Africa is heavily involved in its wildlife's management, providing the opportunity to explore species we had never encountered, while still having English as one of its main languages.

What can I say about our two months in South Africa? Incredible, eye opening, stunning, experience of a lifetime? That might start to cover it. Our first stop was the Cape Town SPCA, and here we came face to face with the realities of animal overpopulation and cruelty on a severely limited budget. It seems that having less forces you to do more with what you have - and the employees of this SPCA appear to have done just that and more. Unlike most Canadian SPCAs, this organization not only houses but treats and operates on its patients as well - in the order of 40 to 50 sterilisations a morning, plus other special surgeries. They also house much more than cats and dogs - horses, chickens, reptiles, and birds were among the guests.

Next we spent a week with a clinic known as Mdzananda, located within Khayelitsha, one of the townships of Cape Town where black South Africans were relocated during apartheid. If we thought the SPCA had limited resources, this was an entirely new level - operating out of two cargo containers with almost entirely donated supplies, having received water and electricity only six months ago, and having a vet only two or three mornings a week. It is truly amazing what this clinic does for its community. The employees spend their days helping, as best they can, anyone who can bring their pet to the door. They even help those that cannot by traveling into the communities on mobile clinics to provide fleas baths, dewormers, and vaccinations. It was here that we got the most practice using our diagnosing and surgery skills - and each got to perform our first dog neuter!

From Khayelitsha we headed out to Durban to volunteer with CROW, Centre for the Rehabilitation of Wildlife. Here we had our first encounter with many species we'd never seen, let alone worked with - from baboons and velvet monkeys to mongooses and duikers. We learned a great deal about how to feed and care for these animals to help them re-enter the wild as well as all of the work that entails.



To continue our exposure to new species we then spent a week in the Johannesburg Zoo - yes, IN the zoo, since our accommodations were within the zoo grounds and we often spent our nights wandering through the exhibits. Our most touching experience here was the time we spent caring for a newborn sable foal who had been abandoned by its mother. Through 4am feedings and creative physiotherapy we did our best to give this baby a chance at life.

Our next experience took us from entirely confined wildlife to wildlife that had rarely seen humans, let alone been touched by them. South Africa National Parks, SANParks, is responsible for managing and caring for the wildlife within its parks. During our time there our efforts consisted of capturing a number of animals to be relocated and sold in auctions - a project with the joint goal of keeping the populations under control and obtaining funding for the organization. Capturing animals with one's bare hands, once they have been herded into a netted area, is definitely an unforgettable experience.



We finished our trip off by learning about how research can be done on one of the ultimate predators - the great white shark. All of our experiences were incredible and we were lucky enough to meet amazing people at every organization with which we worked. We cannot express how grateful we are for this opportunity, or how much we all hope to return to Africa someday.

Report written by: Kim Andrews with Naomi Dicks and Kristen Brown. Kim is the daughter of Emir and Steve Andrews



Presbytery

Since its last report in St David's Connection, Presbytery has met only once - on 24 June. At that meeting, Presbytery heard reports by its delegates to the General Assembly - Rev. Ian Wishart and Susan Templeton. Among the many highlights of the assembly, the two delegates related how they had persuaded the meeting to reject a report by the clerks of assembly not to grant Rev. John Duff full membership in the Presbytery of Newfoundland. As a retired minister, Mr. Duff was permitted to participate in debates but was not allowed to vote. With the approval of the General Assembly, Rev John Duff became a voting member of the Presbytery.

Also at its meeting in June, Presbytery endorsed a report prepared by its Community Concerns Committee dealing with a General Assembly report called "Covenanting for Justice in the Economy and the Earth." This report discussed the issues of globalization and neoliberalism. In approving the committee's report, Presbytery asked for greater clarity in definitions and nuance in prescriptions.

Presbytery also heard a report on Ms. Katherine Burgess, from Wabush, Labrador, who was awarded the Alison Stewart-Paterson Scholarship to assist in her studies toward the ministry at Presbyterian College. Among various other matters, Presbytery approved Rev. David Sutherland's request for study leave in Aberdeen, Scotland, in late August.

BOARD OF MANAGERS Jamie Merriam

It is September again and we are all getting back into the fall routine. It is a good time to look back on what's been going on during the summer. Some board members have been particularly active and others have had to step down. Eileen Jones-Whyte, Val Loomis and Jane Steneker had other demands and resigned from the board. The property committee has been very busy this summer. Thanks to Hugh, Peter and Andy on heading up the repaving of the parking lot. Johnsons Insurance provided financial support for the repaving which was greatly appreciated. Ann Calver not only helped in supporting the repaving, but also directed/supervised the summer student and initiated renovations on the kitchen. Where she gets her energy from I do not know! The summer student under Ann's supervision did a great job repainting the offices and kitchen.

Bob Patey is back in action after injuring his ankle during the summer. Great to have you back Bob! Jean Bruneau has agreed to come back to assist the board until the next AGM. Thanks Jean, we appreciate the support. We are in a bit of a transition so anyone who would be interested in assisting the board (you do not have to become a manager) we would appreciate any volunteers.



General Assembly

June 24th, 2006

By Sue Templeton

As a delegate this is my report after attending the General Assembly meetings in June. I would whole-heartedly encourage any member of Session/Presbytery to accept the invitation to General Assembly as a commissioner. This invitation certainly gives participants the opportunity to explore and address issues important to them, to their own presbytery and to the ministry of the national church. It is an enriching and enlightening experience, broadening and deepening one's knowledge about the life and work of the larger church, and hopefully, encouraging and energizing participants in their own ministries. Thank you to the Presbytery of Newfoundland for allowing me this special privilege. (Sue Templeton's full report is available on the bulletin board by the Minister's office.)



What Excitement!

I usually become excited when I go to airports, I guess it comes from childhood when as a family we went on summer holidays, only it was trains then. The smell of smoke, new clothes, suitcases etc remain as emotional triggers, to this day.

About two weeks ago, Leo was sitting in the car next to me and he obviously was experiencing the same feeling. He was dressed to the nines, and it wasn't hard to see that he gets just as excited as I do. You see Leo Massaquoi was about to live a dream over three years in the making. Clearly he had every reason to be well dressed and excited, he was about to take a special trip. Let me tell you his story, Leo is a new Canadian from Sierra Leone, (a country in West Africa). Many of you will know that country was torn apart by civil war and consequently Leo, like many others, found himself in a refugee camp. While he was there (every cloud has a silver lining, or as they say God moves in mysterious ways) he met the love of his life Esther, they had a child Kugbe. That is all good and well except the story became a little more complicated; you see Leo had to leave the country to come to Canada, a day before the birth of his son.

In order for Esther to support Kugbe she moved to the United Kingdom to find work as a nurse, when Kugbe was very young, leaving him in the care of his relatives.

So we now have three people living in three different continents, miles apart and with little hope of reunion. Leo separated from Esther and yet to see his son who is nearly four years old. Enter John Duff who as you well know, sees few problems and agreed to take on Canada Immigration, with the faint hope of succeeding where others had failed, believe me when I say they tried with no success. John quickly formed a group from St David's and the fight commenced. (I still think Canada Immigration and various High Commissions around the world never knew what hit them.) The tangle of bureaucratic rules were gently teased apart with the dexterity of a surgeons nimble fingers and John quickly had the bureaucrats on the ropes. (The refugee committee like to think we helped but Rev Duff was the man.)

The news that it was all going to happen, must have been like a dream come true for Leo, and it was now a chance for the St David's machine to roll into action. A request for assistance in the form of household items and the like was extended to the congregation and lickety split, bikes were found (a special request), clothes for winter etc and an apartment was made to look like a home, in jig time. So when you wonder what all the fuss was about at St John's airport, it was just the small miracle of a wee boy arriving in a new country, where he can be free and grow in love and security, following on behind him was Mum and Dad with their feet six inches above the ground. Easily recognized by their million dollar smiles! Let us all extend the warm hand of welcome to a reunited family! The Refugee Committee would like to thank everyone who made this possible; the smiles on the faces of Esther, Leo and Kugbe say it all. Interestingly I understand that Kugbe means "Champion" in his own language! *Stuart Gillies*



About 27 years ago the world witnessed the plight of the Vietnamese boat people. St David's was there for the refugees, side by side with many of the other churches of our city. Since that time St David's has come to the assistance of Cubans, Bulgarians, Nicaraguans, Kosovars and many others. St David's Church continues to offer assistance and sanctuary as an outreach activity.



Community Mediation Services

Community Justice Connections:

Building Bridges from Northern Ireland to Newfoundland

Community Mediation Services is hosting a special guest from Ireland from October 21-28. Martin McAnallen is coming to town to share his vision and experience in building *community justice* alternatives in Northern Ireland. The program that Martin is heading up has received international acclaim and people are coming from all over the world to find out how to do *community justice* right!

That's why Community Mediation Services is bringing him here. We want to get people dreaming about the possibilities for *community justice* right here, and making them a reality.

In a nutshell, *community justice* (some call it restorative justice, alternative measures, etc) can be described as a new lens that we can use to look at crime. Through this lens, crime is seen as violation of one person by another. The goal of *community justice* is to bring victim, offender and community together to search for creative ways to deal with the aftermath of crime.

Programs that use a *community justice* approach have been highly successful in reducing crime, building safer communities, helping victims to heal and offenders to make positive changes in their lives. At a time when people have increasing concerns about how we can deal with crime more effectively in Newfoundland, *community justice* presents a compelling option.

You can meet Martin at the

Community Justice Breakfast

Tuesday, October 24 at 8 am

St. John's City Hall – Foran Room

Call Community Mediation Services for details: 722-5040

There may also be other opportunities for you to meet him!

Martin McAnallen

has practiced within the mainstream criminal justice system for 26 years. Since the mid-1980s, he has been closely associated with the development of mediation practice in Northern Ireland as well as being involved in Alternatives to Violence project work and Restorative Justice. In 1992, Martin was a central to establishing what would become the Mediation Network for Northern Ireland, a highly respected agency. His special focus has been in the area of Victim Offender Mediation and, particularly Family Group Conferencing with young offenders.



Greetings from the Stenekers in Scotland! Our family has moved into our new home in Aberdeen (not the one pictured on the right!) and we are settling in well. Kate, Helen and Ian are all enjoying the International School, a wonderful facility with very friendly staff and students. We have been enjoying some day trips in and around Aberdeen and very much like the area and its people, even the weather has been agreeable! We send our best regards to all at St. David's, and apologise to those that we were not able to say Good-bye to before we left. We miss our family and friends but look forward to lots of visitors, so if you are coming this way be sure to look us up!

All the best, Jane, Robert, Kate, Helen and Ian.

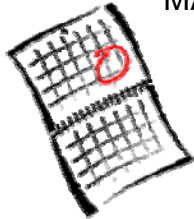
Stenekers in Drum Castle, Aberdeen Scotland



The St. David's Connection newsletter editorial committee would like to acknowledge with thanks the significant contribution that Neil Ellis has made to the design and production of the newsletter for many years. He considered it his contribution to St. David's. Neil and Vee and their children have relocated to St. Catherine's, Ontario for business purposes and we wish them well.

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR THESE UPCOMING EVENTS!



November 18, 2006 – AFTERNOON TEA & FALL SALE

February 20, 2007 – PANCAKE SUPPER

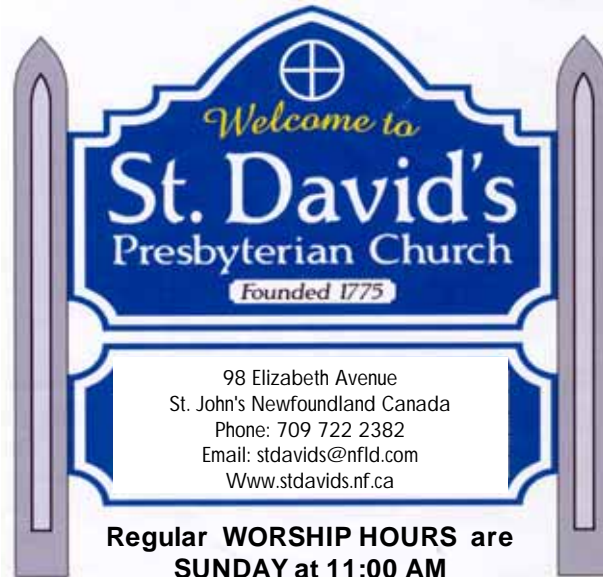
April 25, 2007 – FLIPPER DINNER

May 12, 2007 – GARAGE SALE

May 26, 2007 – "THEME" TEA

Good Companions

Senior members of the community are invited to meet other seniors at St. David's Church, Elizabeth Avenue on Thursday afternoons. The Good Companions welcome anyone interested in carpet bowling, bridge and cards for friendship and fellowship. Refreshments are served and transportation can be arranged if living in town for a weekly fee of \$1. For more information contact Kathleen Scott at 753-5925 or cell 341 - 0224.



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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