



# THE DOVE

OUR MONTHLY NEWSLETTER

September 2022

## Message from Chairman Ken

Welcome back everyone! September brings the traditions of returning to work, returning to school and returning to worship. We hope that all of you were able to spend some time away or with friends and loved ones to rest and recharge. September also means the Board has resumed meeting by Zoom again and we had a lot to talk about.

The Search Team has started interviewing candidates for the interim minister. We should complete these interviews within the next couple of weeks and are planning for an early November start for the successful candidate.

The Ministry and Personnel committee will soon be starting the search for a new music director so we can fill that vacancy as well.

Many of you have noticed that the railing on the ramp has been repaired. All that remains is to have a fresh coat of paint applied and it will be as good as new! We're soliciting quotes for the paint work now.

The Canada Christian Academy, the school that rents most of the building from us during the week, has been suffering from declining enrolment for some time. In order to help them, we negotiated a temporary rent reduction with them but unfortunately this has not been enough. The CCA will be giving up the space in Fellowship Hall and keeping the gym and the classrooms in the Balsdon Hall side. Unfortunately this will mean a further reduction in revenue, but it gives us the opportunity to find a new tenant for that part of the building.

That's all for now, keep watching The Dove for further updates.

Thanks again for your prayers and support.

Ken Pebesma,  
Chair



## “Trouble and Grace” Rev. Jeff Bacon Retirement Message July 24, 2022

**EDITOR'S NOTE-** Rev. Jeff delivered his message July 24th.

Good morning, everyone. Deb and I have been part of the St. Bart's online worshipping community since the beginning of February and it's wonderful to be back in the Sanctuary to participate in-person today.

I'd like to add my thanks to Cheryl for leading worship today, and to all of the other worship leaders who have led worship for St. Bart's while I've been away. And thanks to the Worship Team and to the Board who have kept us all together during the Covid pandemic. Also, a huge thank you to the entire St. Bart's congregation for your prayers, and for your caring cards and notes. This is the first time that I've spoken from the Lectern and I'm blessed to be among you and incredibly grateful to all of you.

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## CELEBRATIONS

### BIRTHDAYS & ANNIVERSARIES

#### SEPTEMBER

17 Bryan Nyhof  
24 Doreen Owen  
29 Henry Beglin  
30 Joan Simpson  
30 Don Sheffield

#### OCTOBER

5 Bob White  
14 Isobel Moote  
17 Laurie Pebesma  
19 Al DeSaegher  
23 Michelle Gautier  
25 Sergio Pereira  
26 Bev Carkner  
27 Muriel Campbell  
30 Jan Kerr



# Outreach

## St Bart's Food Bank

We are delighted to report that some recent donations have arrived for our breakfast food bank. This will mean that several families will receive a bag with their clothing.

Please know that each bag DOES make a difference.

Your donations are SO VERY appreciated.



## Pass It On Team

Our first sorting session of the fall season happened on Friday, Sept. 16th with one of our largest wish lists ever. A team of 12 volunteers worked diligently to find items for 30 individuals from eleven families.

For those who could stay, we returned to our pre-pandemic tradition of sharing coffee and treats (with precautions of course.

We have another sort planned for Friday, Sept. 23rd. We'll be looking to add items for at least 7 individuals. Youthful clothing for women: sizes L & XL and for men: size S are in high demand.

## Family of Hope Services

Over the summer months, several memorial donations were received for Family Hope Services in Katatura, Namibia.

Foibe, the manager is overjoyed to receive this second sum from St Barts this year.

Our container, the one packed with used bikes back in 2007, still stands on their property - acting as a bike repair shop - continuing to provide revenue to help sustain meals for 395 children, 3 days a week as well as 150 meals on Tuesdays & Thursdays for their Kindergarten & Remedial children.



Sincerely,  
...Bev & your Outreach Team



## Ladies' Social Group



## Ladies meet

**Sincerely Judy Dykes & Bev Thacker**

Please plan to join us at 1:30 on Wed. Sept. 28th in Balsdon Hall for conversation and snacks. This is our first such meeting. We look forward to seeing you in person. (A special thank you to Deirdre for our very own logo.)



Please note: In contrast to our logo... we WILL BE socially distanced.

## It's "Trouble and Grace" Rev. Jeff Bacon Retirement Message

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It's been a difficult time of transition for me – physically and emotionally. It's been a difficult time of transition for the whole congregation. Sometimes, it's in these troubled times that we get glimpses of God moving in our lives. Sometimes it's when our own sense of self-sufficiency is shattered, our defenses are down, and we're totally vulnerable that we open ourselves to experience the powerful presence of God. This experience fits with the basic four-page sermon that I was taught by my Preaching Professor, Paul Wilson: Page 1 is the trouble in a Bible passage; Page 2 is God's grace in that passage; Page 3 is that same trouble in our world today; and Page 4 is God's grace continuing in our lives today. Through the trouble we have faith in God's grace.

My outlook was particularly troubled as I laid in my hospital bed on the morning of February 4th, ready to be wheeled off for a very long and complicated surgery to repair my neck vertebrae crumbled by cancer. It was dark and quiet in my hospital room and I began to pray, "Dear God ..." And then I could only cry. Then I took a deep breath and said, "Amen." It was the most powerful prayer I have ever prayed, and only God could understand it. A few moments later, I felt comforted and composed as they rolled me off to the operating room. The operation went well and after testing, the cancer was found to be metastatic prostate cancer, for which I have received radiation treatments and continue to receive hormone therapy. And now, I'm able to visit with you today in-person! It's another story about God - just like in the Bible - moving from trouble to God's grace. I'm standing here today as evidence of how all of your prayers supported a 15-person surgery team and countless other medical professionals in an ongoing healing miracle. Your prayers made a miraculous difference and I am eternally grateful.

Many of you have experienced God working in similar ways in your own treatments for cancer, or strokes, or heart ailments, or other medical conditions, and you have experienced the power of prayer as your troubles were overcome by the miraculous grace of God.

The first two commandments are to love God and to love our neighbours. Prayer is powerful in a congregation that loves God and loves our neighbours. When we meet together to worship and when we meet together as Committees to serve each other and to serve others, we invite God into our midst and help miracles happen. Pastoral Care, Outreach, Worship, Property, Finance, Men's and Women's Groups, etc., etc., are all ways to experience God working in our lives. So, get involved as you are able, and help facilitate others to get involved. God will be working in and among you.

I have loved serving you as your minister. St. Bart's is now choosing a new minister as we move through trouble, with and by the power and grace of God.

Thanks be to God. And thanks to all of you for a wonder-filled time together at St. Bart's

Amen

## Membership

*Here we are at the beginning of the fall season. Where did the summer go? I do know it was very hot! No complaints there.*

*I continue to get printed and deliver sermons to the people who have no access to computers. If you know of anyone who would like a sermon delivered please let me know.*

*We continue to announce birthdays and anniversaries when we know them and I am sure we are missing people. Let me know and I will get them on my list.*

*Attendance at church tends to be low and I expect it will pick up as we head towards Thanksgiving. I am afraid Covid is here to stay. Please wear your masks if it makes you more comfortable. We have lots of room in the church so we can spread out. Come right at 10:30. Be the first to leave and avoid contact with others. We have extra masks and hand disinfectant. We miss you and sincerely hope you will be back soon.*

*Lorraine, chair of Membership*

## Prayer List

Joanne Moote Concisom, Emmett Young, Grace Longfield, Jean White, Isaac Moreithi, Bob White, AnnEva Crane, Rev. Jeff Bacon, Kathleen (Boss) Matchett, Jean Morris, Betty Ryan, William (Bill) Walker and all those who are dear to us.



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# Finance

## **Financial Update to August 31**

The following is a brief update for the Local Operations Fund, which represents the day-to-day operations of our church. (All figures have been rounded to the nearest thousand.)

Total revenues are at the same level as last year, at \$107,000. Rental income of \$28,000 is up from last year by \$11,000 due to increased use of Balsdon Hall by the two basketball groups and a new renter for a baton school. Investment income, which includes the solar panels, is also up from last year by \$4,000. These two increases offset a decline in the level of donations. Total donations are \$59,000 which is down \$16,000 from last year. Half of this decrease is a result of donors who have passed away since last year, while the other half represents donors who have informed me that they had to scale back their level of donations from last year as a result of changes in their personal finances this year.

Total expenses of \$109,000 are down significantly from last year as a result of Rev Jeff having to go on disability in February for emergency surgery to his neck, and culminating with his retirement at July 31 so that he can focus on his ongoing health issues. During Rev Jeff's absence, supply ministers provided Sunday worship services. Insurance through the United Church of Canada covered 85% of Rev Jeff's compensation during the period that he was on disability leave. The net effect of the insurance and the need to rely on weekly supply ministers led to a reduction of \$24,000 in operating expenses. The final result is that we have a deficit of \$2,000 at August 31 as compared to a deficit of \$23,000 last year at this time. This is a temporary situation until we find an interim minister, and ultimately a full-time minister.

## **Other financial matters –**

Repairs have been made to the railing for the Accessibility Ramp to Balsdon Hall. The bill for the work came to \$8,000 which was paid from the Building Fund. A donation was made in prior years to cover this work, which was delayed until this summer due to Covid.

We continue to receive donations through PAR, e-transfers and envelopes dropped off to the church. Please ensure that your planned level of donations is up to date. Interim statements will be provided in October so that you can plan accordingly as we approach the end of the year.

Terry Gabel - Treasurer

## *M&P*

Our thoughts and prayers are with Jeff. It was wonderful to meet and chat and enjoy tasty treats at his visit to the church on July 24. St. Bart's is so thankful for your dedicated service. We hope you have had a good summer.

We would also like to send an enormous thank you to our Sunday Service team. We owe them so much and are grateful for their devotion.

We welcome back Deirdre to the office after healing from her fall and are thankful for her recovery.

M&P will be attending a United Church Canadian Shield And Shining Waters Region M&P webinar on October 26.

As Dorean's epic years of service drew to a close at the start of September, I was reflecting on those treasured times particularly when I came across this quote by Rob Halford, "the music that touches you in your youth is magnified as you get older. Each record can be a virtual time machine. All you need is to hear a second or two and you go back to that place and time when you first heard it. It's a brilliant feeling when music touches you so profoundly and stays with you through time." When listening to the online church services this past while, hearing Dorean's recordings of her organ playing brought comfort. Thank you Dorean. Our thoughts and prayers are with you too.

Peggy On behalf of M&P

## St. Bart's Social Media

### **FACEBOOK**

<https://www.facebook.com/stbartsUC>

### **TWITTER**

<https://www.twitter.com/stbartsUC>

### **INSTAGRAM**

<https://www.instagram.com/st.bartsunitedchurch/>

### **YOUTUBE**

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV6iCkTrteznszDkUY\\_gWAA?](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCV6iCkTrteznszDkUY_gWAA?)