



Advent 2018

Message from the Minister Rev. David Sturtevant

At this time of year, with Christmas fast approaching us, it can often feel like there is so much to do that we can find ourselves a little overwhelmed. We're pulled in a hundred different directions, with family and friends to see, and so much to do that we can scarcely imagine how we will get it all done. Christmas can be hard work!

I find it encouraging to think about the experience of Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus as I contemplate how overwhelming the season can be. They had just spent many long days travelling, only to find that there was no room for them in the Bethlehem inn. They were sent out to the stable, and there, so far from home and all their family and friends, Mary finally had her baby. I'd think for "overwhelming Christmases", Mary's just might take the cake. But through it all, God was with her. In that lonely, frightening time, God did something amazing. God came into the world in the flesh, born as a helpless baby, Jesus of Nazareth.

I'm personally realizing that my Christmases are only going to get busier. With our son Oliver just sixteen months old and our next baby on the way (due mid-March), what little wisdom I have tells me "overwhelmed" might soon be a bit of an understatement! But even in the midst of all my busyness, I reflect on the great joy that God has given me, and the blessing that my family is.

May we not let the busyness of the season consume us. As you read through this newsletter and reflect on all the exciting activities that God has led us through here at St. David's, as well as all the new plans and missions we believe God is calling us to, I hope you will reflect on all that God has brought you through in this past year. Remember that whatever your Christmas will be like this year, the reason for the season is a God who is truly Emmanuel, God with us, in the most overwhelming times of our lives. It is my prayer for you that you would have a very Merry Christmas, and a Happy and Blessed New Year.



Isaiah 9:6-7

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.



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PEWS NEWS



Anne Calver's
very own
"Grapes of Wrath"

Steve Andrews visit
to the Japanese
gardens at Butchart
Gardens.



Baptisms galore at
St David's this year
Including this
ceremony featuring
Rev. David and
Michelle's Son!



Ernst Rollmann spent the first half of 2018 in Wiler, Switzerland, at YWAM (Youth with a Mission) in their DTS (Discipleship Training School), which included training followed by mission work in Romania and Bulgaria. After a short break in the summer, he returned to Wiler to begin a longer program in YWAM's SBS (School of Biblical Studies), consisting of intensive Bible study, additional training, an outreach program to Ethiopia where he will be training Bible translators and teachers, and then back to Wiler to complete the SBS. Learn more from the SBS newsletter available in the narthex!

Choral Scholars The Choral Scholar Recital will be held here at St. David's on Saturday, December 1 @ 7pm. Any free will offering will go into the music ministry at the church



"TEA AND SCRABBLE FOR A GOOD CAUSE!"

Terra Nova Grandmothers and Grandmothers Saturday, December 1, 2018 : 2 - 4:30pm at The Lantern, 35 Barnes Road. Admission \$15.00. Come as a team or find a partner there. Bring a board/4th ed. dictionary."



News and Announcements

Marriages

David William Mochulski and Meghan Areta Goobie October 18, 2018

No interments since 2017

Baptisms

Zachary Kai Hamilton. Baptism April 22, 2018. David and Emma Hamilton

Oliver James Sturtevant. Baptism May 13, 2018. David and Michelle Sturtevant

Madison Elizabeth Earle. Baptism May 13, 2018. Jamie and Kelly Earle

Dawson David Earle. Baptism May 13, 2018

Solomon Yasir Thomas. Sept. 23, 2018. Thomas Hamid and Rukiya Yusuf

Jayden Jonathan Foading Baptism Oct. 14th Raoul Anne Marie Foading



Carols, Candles Readings and Tea December 9th at 4PM

Christmas is coming.....but Advent is here now so treat yourself to a stress free afternoon of special music, carols, and readings followed by food and fellowship on December 9th at 4pm here at St. David's sponsored by the AMS.

So let's all take a moment to slow down and remember what Advent is meant to be, a time of waiting for the coming of Christ.

Hamper Packing and Delivery Day December 20

This year we are celebrating the 50th anniversary of preparing and delivering St. David's Christmas Hampers. This ministry was started by someone just like you from the congregation who asked the Minister at the time Rev. James Armour if he could provide a hamper of food for somebody who really needed that in our city. Rev. Armour contacted the City Index to find a recipient and the food, a modest 10 or so items for Christmas dinner was gathered and delivered to that home. The next year 2 or 3 more food Hampers with the help of the Session Benevolent Fund were put together and delivered to needy individuals. So for 50 years not only has this congregation been incredibly generous with gifts of money, food, toys and knitted goods on White Gift Sunday but also with their talents to organize this event. And it does take a small village or should I say a willing congregation to do just that. Nowadays the Hampers, sometimes as many as 40 have almost 30 items for meals over Christmas with fresh fruit and veg, milk bread eggs and of course turkey and trimmings with toys and cosy knitted mittens scarves and hats included plus a little brochure from this church. The Hampers will be packed on the morning of Thursday December 20 and around noon the same day drivers will come to pick up the Hampers for delivery in various parts of the city. The evening before tables will be set up, boxes assembled and groceries will be picked up from Sobeys. A willing group of all star minor hockey players led by Mike Rudofsky have volunteered their time to do this. We also have a newly formed guide group meeting at St. David's who are excited to donate some goods to the Hampers.



So please won't you give some prayerful thought to contributing your time and talent to go forward with this ministry for another 50 years to make this an integral part of your Christmas preparations?

If you can help or wish to donate please call the Church Office at 722-2382

Penny Gillies

The Board of Managers

Allison Crawford Reporting:

Dear St. David's Congregation (both near and far),

I am so pleased to write to you today as Convener of the Board of Managers. I believe it is an incredibly exciting time for our congregation as we have, and continue to, execute projects that show that our church is alive and well within our community. The new hall ramp and the start of our stained glass window project send a positive and promising message to our members, our guests, and the general public that we are investing in our property.

We have many programs that have brought light and vision within our group, during our time of worship and through outreach. Rev. David Sturtevant has become a gracious leader for our congregation, and I believe his young growing family is helping to welcome new families to our mix. I am sure many would agree that our music program, under the direction of Brian Way, is second to none and that our Sunday School/Vacation Bible School programs are forging a new path under Diana Wamsteeker. We are truly blessed with the talent that surrounds us, and I am an advocate of sharing our talents with as many as we can.

I would be remiss not to send a special thank you to the WA for their generous support of the Board and their funding for special projects like the painting of the hall floor, new ceiling tiles in the kitchen, and much more. Their hard work shows, and we are grateful.

With all of the positivity that surrounds us, we are not immune to challenges at times. As you will see in the Treasurer's message we have had several unforeseen expenditures pop up throughout 2018 and they have put pressure on our ability to balance our budget. As Anne has mentioned, we are hoping to join together to work toward raising the funds to do so this year. We hope that you will consider St. David's and its outreach in your holiday giving.

In closing, I look forward to communicating with all of you more consistently in the near future and sharing the good work and good news of St. David's Church.

Sincerely,
Allison Crawford

★
For
unto
you is
born this
day in the
city of David
a saviour, which
is Christ the Lord.
Luke
2:11



Glistening wax, new paint. "Pity to walk on it!"



Children's Ministry

Diana Wamsteeker



The Children's Ministry at St. David's is preparing for the Advent season and are grateful that Ms Leslie Stuckless and Ms Sue Templeton are organizing the children and their families for what is sure to be a wonderful pageant this year. Sunday School programming has divided the children into two separate groups, based on age, which is proving to be a success with kids and volunteers alike. It has been wonderful to meet new children this year and watch all the children grow in their love for Jesus. We look forward to beginning new curriculum in January. Unfortunately, the summer Vacation Bible School programming was rescheduled to the fall this year, due to a lack of volunteers, and then cancelled in the fall due to a lack of children. We are hopeful that we can utilize the materials purchased at another time for an community outreach event. We continue to look for new and enthusiastic volunteers to participate with our Children's Ministry



Sunday School Pageant, December 16, 2018

This year the Christmas Pageant will be offered, as has become the custom, during morning worship. Ms. Leslie Stuckless will have scripts ready for families November 25.

Our pageant will be a little different this year, in that we are encouraging entire families, not only the children, (aunties, uncles, grandparents, church family, too!) to participate. For example, we will have whole families take the roles of shepherds, angels, innkeepers, wise men, Herod, priests and entourage, animals for the stable, Gabriel, Mary, Joseph, and of course, baby Jesus! In fact, one family has already offered to present the roles of "wise men"!

Please check your calendars, and if your family is able to participate, please contact Leslie Stuckless or Sue Templeton to let us know what role(s) you would like to present.

Please note the following dates:

November 25- sign up for a role, pick up a script for your family to practice at home.

December 2- deadline to sign up and to pick up a script

December 9- pick up costumes after worship...can be adapted with stuff from home

December 15- rehearsal (time to be decided by December 9)

December 16- Pageant during Sunday worship

If you have any questions, concerns and offers of assistance, Leslie and Sue would welcome them.



Christmas Pageant



Bouwina wishes to thank all her friends in the prayer shawl ministry. It is obvious from the smiles and the cornucopia of items they have made that is both a productive and fun group! Thank you Bouwina!



Knitting for the Hampers!



Big pile of stuff for this year's garage sale. Thanks for those who donated, distributed and discarded!



Music ministry starts early!

MUFFIN MAKING MONDAY

This picture shows the result (88 chocolate chip muffins) of our first "Muffin Making Monday", a new outreach project!

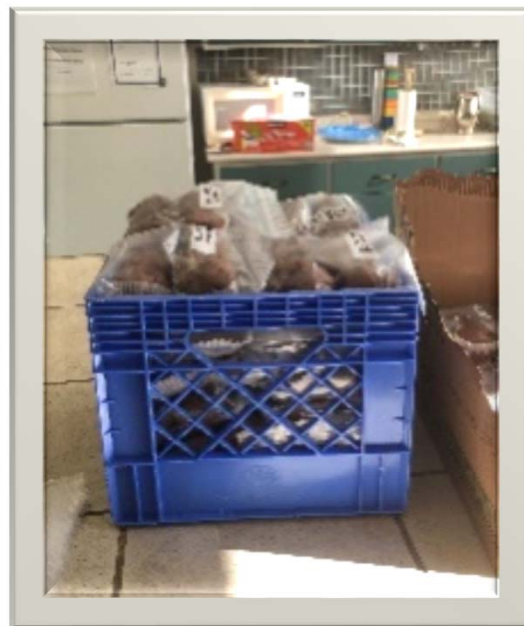
On one Monday morning each month, a group gets together in the Church kitchen and makes muffins! The finished products are taken to Bridges To Hope for inclusion in their "Smart Snacks for Children" program. Extras are used as "treats" for the food hampers.



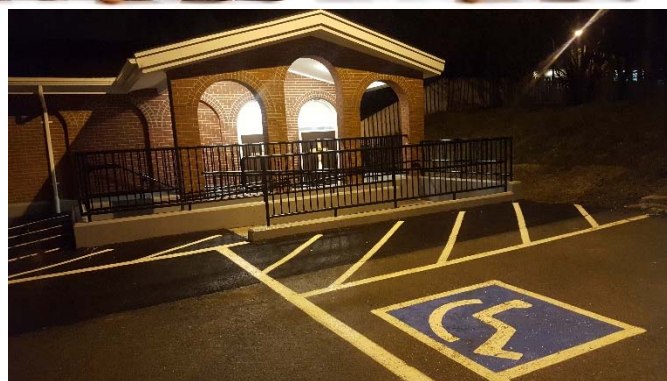
Our latest Muffin Monday produced **14 Dozen** blueberry muffins, so we're getting the hang of it!

Initially supported by the AMS and WA, this project is open to all our congregation, friends, family, etc. Our Administrator, Monica, has taken the lead and needs only three (3) additional people to assist each time. Here are several other ways you can help!

- Volunteer to be a muffin maker, or muffin tin liner, or bag labeller or dish washer
- Provide supplies (Monica can suggest what's needed)
- Make a monetary contribution towards supplies
- If you're interested in participating, just give Monica a call at 722-2382; she'll fill you in! Try it - we know you'll enjoy it!



Have you an idea for an event? Our church Hall is ideal for activities of all kinds and of course the kitchen is certified as commercial. The Hall is fully accessible now too!



RAMP Project



Original East Entrance

Accessibility Plan
Concept Drawing

The RAMP project is essentially complete!

The genesis of the RAMP project stretches back a long time when it was recognized that the original east entryway was a significant barrier to many using the Hall. Building standards relating to accessibility were at the infancy stage in the early 60's when it was built. In recent years significant accessibility improvements were made inside the church including the placement of a mechanical lift, door widening, washroom improvements and other. The modification of the entryway was always known to be a higher cost undertaking and the conditions for tackling it were not in place until recently. Through the encouragement and direction of the national church to utilize memorial funds, and through the growing needs of the church and broader community, the ramp project was revisited and early estimates were gathered. Fortunately an application to the Federal government for funding assistance was successful last year and so the project was given the green light to proceed. The Board of Managers and Session are grateful to the memorial fund donors, the federal government, the volunteer services and the encouragement of many that led to the project's successful execution. A special thanks to Glenn Barnes for his volunteer professional services, to the Contractor Jordan Construction (Glenn Dyke) for his high quality work and accommodating spirit, to Kay Scott for strongly representing those who need it, and to Mr. Steele whose support for the project was an inspiration to many.



Excavation and walls



Grading and steps



Paving and Railing



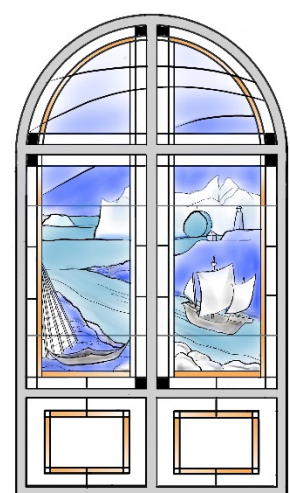
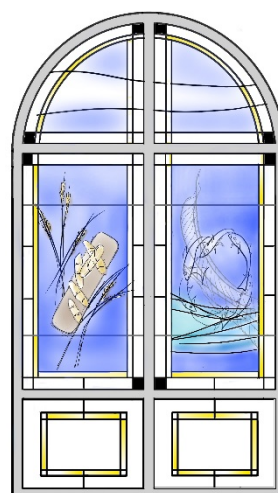
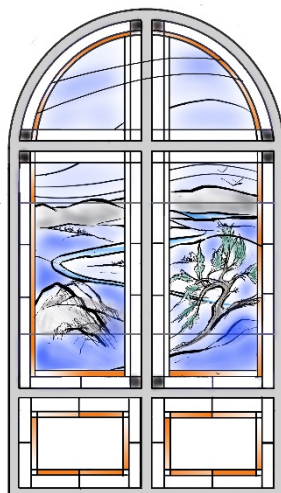
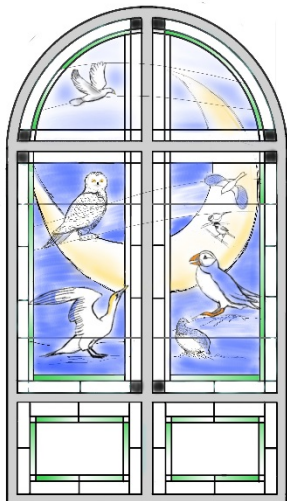
Complete with new parking arrangement

Windows Project



Christmas; the celebration of the birth of Jesus! Exciting times are also ahead for the St. David's Christian Education Building (the "Hall"). Our congregation has been blessed with donations of 'in memoriam funds' some of which were not designated for a particular purpose. It is important for us to act for these donors and use these funds to the Glory of God. Plans were made to consider installing a central stained glass window in the Hall and proposals were received from five different artistic suppliers. The design of choice came from Sue Obata and Norbert Sattler of Sattler's Stained Glass Studio of West LeHave Nova Scotia.

As word of this project flowed through the congregation, and as happened years ago with our Sanctuary's windows, some of our church groups and families asked if they might also sponsor windows. We are blessed as six additional windows have now been sponsored, all through new donations dedicated for each window. None of these windows will involve expenditures from the Board's operations account. Early in 2019 St. David's will be installing the seven windows and there has been an expression of interest for an eighth one as well! Should your family be interested, there are still three in the string of Hall windows remaining for your ideas. Contact any member of Session if you would like more details. Merry Christmas from the Memorials Committee!



Can you match these captions with the pics?

RAMP inspectors
Les Ms. Bridge Party
General Assembly
Tenacious strings

St David's Moose Mission
Tea or Coffee Tanya
Bake Sale Sandra
Father and Son



***Come and take part! Join! Enjoy the fellowship
and joy of serving at St David's!***



Upcoming Events at St. David's Church

- December 2 11 AM TSO Orchestra and Choir Advent Luncheon
- December 9 11 AM White Gift Sunday 11
4 PM Candlelight service of Carols & Advent readings
- December 16 11 AM Sunday School Pageant
- December 20 10 AM Hamper Preparation
- December 23 11 AM Communion Sunday
- December 24 6:30 PM Christmas Eve Family Service
11:30 PM Candlelight Service



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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We encourage you to view the Newsletter in colour on the St. David's website. www.stdavids.nf.ca

In addition, sermons and bulletins are posted regularly as are audio recordings of most services!