



Sunday December 13 2020

This Sunday's Service will be available on Sunday, and can be found on our YouTube channel by typing "St. David's Presbyterian Message for December 13, 2020" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Isaiah 61:1–4, 8–11

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 9:30 am to 2 pm daily, should you wish to drop by. In case of an emergency, he can be reached on his cell phone at 699-3661. Alternately, you may contact your elder. The elder's list is on the back of this bulletin.

Prayer Partnership: The Presbyterian Church in Canada offers a prayer partnership that may form part of a daily devotional, please consider these prayer partnerships:

Sunday, December 13 We give thanks for the Garu Community-Based Rehabilitation program in Ghana, which provides training to people with disabilities, helping ensure they have the necessary resources to lead healthy and productive lives.

Monday, December 14 We pray for the wisdom to understand and be thankful for what it means to have enough during the consumer-driven Christmas rush.

Tuesday, December 15 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Essex-Kent in Ont.

Wednesday, December 16 We pray that God fills us with the wisdom of the scriptures, the grace of Christ and the understanding of the Holy Spirit so that we may be a church of people with vision who are at work in the world.

Thursday, December 17 We thank God for financial and prayer support received from congregations for Presbyterians Sharing in 2020 to support the ministry of the General Assembly and its committees.

Friday, December 18 (International Migrants Day) We pray for the safe and just treatment of foreign temporary workers in Canada, as well as for organizations and individuals working for the humane treatment of migrant workers and members of their families.

Saturday, December 19 We pray for the cold and hungry, that they not only find local meal and shelter programs, but also compassion during this winter season.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

The Session is delighted to welcome our five new elders! Each has unique and special talents that will go a long way in serving our congregation, Church and community and we know they will bring fresh ideas and insight into our spiritual lives. We present our new elders: Jenny Griffioen, Jennifer Waterman, Ed Vanderkloet, Tanya Shalaby and Eleanor Bonnell. Welcome! On Sunday, December 6, 2020, Rev, Sturtevant presided over the ordination of our new elders and on December 9th, they joined us for their first Session meeting.



New Elders' Ordination December 6, 2020

left to right: Tanya, Ed, Eleanor, Jenny, Jennifer

Christmas Hampers: This year we have volunteers for many of the tasks. Thanks to all those who offered to sort food, pack hampers, dispatch them, and make deliveries. We need help on Friday afternoon: two volunteers to setup the tables (approximately 1 hour) and shortly thereafter two more to build the boxes (approximately 2 hours). We are also looking for help on Saturday after the hampers (not Elvis) have left the building. We need two volunteers to sanitize the tables, benches, other touched surfaces and the doors on leaving. If you are interested and would like to help us, please call Monica.

We looked at what we can safely do to create and deliver or have people pick-up hampers. This year the plan is different as we will have to limit the number of people in the hall and be careful of the hand-off from the hall to the delivery drivers and of course from the drivers to the recipients. Thanks to all those who have volunteered.

You can also contribute to our hamper project by donating to the Christmas Hampers through your envelopes, by specifying “Christmas Hamper donation” on your e-transfer.

Coming to Church: Self Assessment Guide and Sign-in / Sign out Sheet: The Streamlined Process

St. David's has a process for completing our Self Assessment Guide (SAG) and the sign-in procedure for Sunday's church service. The manager on duty will ask you the questions on our SAG and will complete it for you. They will also complete the sign-in sheet allowing you to proceed directly into the sanctuary if all is well. The manager will also complete the sign-out sheets allowing you to leave in an orderly manner.

The sign-in and sign-out form is to allow contact tracing, should we ever need to do so. If you are a member of the congregation, we only need your name and phone number. If you are not a member, you will also be asked for your address.

Sunday Service – December 13th the Third Sunday in Advent –“Joy”

This coming Sunday we will continue to follow the process described above for the completion of the SAG and the sign-in sheets. We will again have people enter through the breezeway and come in through the side narthex door or the front door. The person or the “bubble” will be seated. The exit plan is to leave via the door to the lobby and out through the tower door. There will be managers and elders to greet you and if you are new to the process, they will help you through it.

We are including singing as part of the service and are adhering to all provincial public health guidelines. Please remain seated and wear your mask while singing.

We would like to reiterate our thanks to members of the congregation who do normal things in this time when nothing is normal. Our Advent Wreath (thanks to Pam Bruce) and our beautiful wreath over the front door and the swag over the door to the lobby (thanks to the McKenzie family) make the sanctuary feel safe and reassuring.



Swag Wreath Over Door

Meanwhile, people have been asking whether we still provide **“Wheels to Worship”**? And the answer is **“Yes!”**. If you need a ride to church, please call Newfound Cabs.

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin and the Sunday service are placed on our website as soon as the Rollmann family get Monica’s email on Friday. The website is **stdavids.nf.ca** and if you type this in as your search, our website will be right there. At the top of the main page is a “Sunday Service” which will take you to this week’s service link and bulletin. Since our Sunday Service is live-streamed, the link is already posted so people can experience the Sunday service at home live beginning at 11 am on Sunday. If you click on Video Service for Dec 13th now, you will see the screen and the note: live in “a number” of hours. After the fact, you can see the You-tube video of the service. If you would like to catch up on previous services all are available, simply scroll through the services and choose the Sunday service or bulletin that you would like to see or read.

Public Health Guidelines

This statement comes directly from the Public Health guidelines: “While not a requirement, Public Health maintains their warning to people 60 and above, or with additional risk factors, to avoid any non-essential gathering.” We feel duty bound to openly communicate this statement. We will certainly welcome and include anyone wishing to join us in person for worship. Meanwhile, we will continue to offer on-line services for those who may prefer that option. Everyone should feel comfortable participating in or engaging in any activity in which they take part. Do not feel compelled to participate, nor be barred from participating, by virtue of age or underlying medical condition. Every precaution to meet and exceed the Public Health

guidelines will be taken. However, that is not a guarantee that we can make our gathering a risk-free activity. We all look forward to a day when this Public Service warning is no longer required. We would like to thank you for your co-operation in helping us ensure we are all protected.

Treasurer's Report

Thank you all who are continuing to donate to your church through envelopes on Sunday mornings, by etransfers, or by your monthly PAD contributions. My thanks go out to elders and friends who happily and gladly pick up envelopes from those not able to get out to church and drop them off at the church office.

By the way, **the sole email address we are using to accept donations** is stdavidsnfld@gmail.com and this one is linked to our bank account and it will **automatically accept** all donations.

Announcements

Flowers and/or donations have been given in loving memory of:

Charles & June Skanes by Mildred Skanes

Fiona and Melvin Mercer by Michelle, Joe and Julia.

Dr. Joseph Craig from the Craig Family.

Food for Thought

Food for Thought will meet again on Saturday, December 12 at 8pm via Zoom. New people are always welcome. We will conclude the video series and discussion about how we can be confident in the claims of the gospel. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ernst Rollmann (ernstrollmann12 at gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Ernst can also add you to the email list for instant updates.

**ST. DAVID'S
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH**

**CHRISTMAS HAMPER 2020
UPDATE**

We are well on the way to preparing for delivery on Saturday, December 19, 2020 but if you would still like to help, there is time.

Here's how you can help:

- Make a monetary donation ... just indicate that donation is for "Christmas Hampers",
- Donate a gift card that can be used to purchase food items for hampers, or
- Volunteer to help in some capacity there are always small or last minute jobs to do!

NOTES: Covid-19 protocol must be followed at all times, i.e. masks required, no unauthorized entry to Church hall, no entry to recipient residences, etc.

**FURTHER INFO/QUESTIONS? PLEASE
CONTACT:**

**LILLIAN CRAWFORD 754-2362/691-3057
ANNE CALVER- 682-4329
CHURCH OFFICE- 722-2382**

AMS

Come join us after Worship this Sunday for Advent with the AMS.

Bridges to Hope

Non-perishable food items are being accepted at BRIDGES TO HOPE once again! Your help is needed, so as you return to weekly worship at St. David's, remember to bring in your food items for the trolley. Below is a list of the items most needed:

Canned Beans

Mac and Cheese

Canned meats (Meatballs, Beef Ravioli, etc.)

Canned Milk

Tins of Fruit and Vegetables

Tins of Soup

1 l Juice

Pasta Sauce

Cereal

Cash donations are always acceptable, and very much appreciated.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

A very Happy Birthday to Beatrice Quinton who will turn 3 years old on December 15th! Beatrice will be celebrating her birthday with friends and family, including her mom and dad, Nina and Luke Quinton and proud grandparents, Becky and Leith Quinton. Best wishes Beatrice from your St. David's family. We hope you have a fun-filled day!

If you know of someone who is going to have a birthday or an anniversary in the coming days or weeks, please call or email the church.

News from the Pews

Brian Way

We told you last week about Brian Way's bike accident. It's hard to believe that Brian could be back playing within days of this misfortune, but back he was, playing for our Sunday service – complete with a cast on his left arm/wrist! This is a very busy time of year for Brian and everyone at St. David's hopes that his recovery continues. Obviously, our prayers are being heard...



Brian Playing the organ – With cast!

Note from Jenny Griffioen

Keep in mind Jenny's upcoming concert with the NSO - Handel's Messiah - on December 11th. Check out Jenny's note below.

I will be playing harpsichord with the NSO in this year's performance of Handel's Messiah. The concert is going to be pre-recorded at the Basilica and released online Friday Dec 11.

More information and tickets can be found on the NSO website here:

<https://nsomusic.ca/nso-handels-messiah-december-11-2020/>

Decorating the Church for Christmas - Angels

Last week, we showed you some pictures of the Church being decorated, including the Christmas tree with those beautiful little hand-made angels. Well, I received a wonderful story from Grace Artiss about those very same angels. It's a "must-read"! Thank-you Grace for sharing your story with us!

My memory regarding the white angels on the Christmas tree in St David's Church is as follows:

Many years ago in the early 90s, our church Christmas tree had all kinds of little, mostly paper ornaments of many colours made by the children and it all started to look somewhat shabby. It was then that our minister at the time, Rev. Ted Thompson, one Sunday morning suggested to the congregation that we change the non-theme of the tree to a theme of only white angels. If I remember correctly, we still had two live Christmas trees in the front of the church in those days.

I immediately got on the phone to my mother in South Africa and asked her

to crochet me 2 dozen white angels for our church's Christmas tree with specifications that they should not be too fancy because that would take too long and also should they be able to withstand the long journey where packages often get abused when going through many borders and much handling. She got to work at high speed on this unexpected and unusual request and sent them airmail to me. Back then mail from South Africa took at the most 2 weeks to reach us.

Then my problem started. I had to starch all these angels, whose heads and wings were still separated from the skirt-parts, and the skirt-parts needed something round to fit on after starched and while drying, but where was I going to get 24 round objects to fit them on? Also did I not have starch and I didn't know one could get starch in a spray can. My mother suggested sugar water. I remember having taken every possible rounded little can and bottle my neighbours and I could lay our hands on and finally I had them all as well as the wings stiffened up. Then I had to sew the heads with the wings onto the skirt parts and put red bows around their necks with ribbon my mother added to the package. Understandably she could not do the starching on her side as the package then would have become very large and the angels would and could under no circumstances hold their stiffened shape in the mail.

When learning of the angels' sugar water baptism, Darlene Thompson's first horrified reaction was that we are going to invite all the ants of the province to the storage space in the church. Oh my, too late to worry about that, so on the tree they went with all the other white angels other women as well as children of the congregation created.

The ants never came, and my angels got flatter and flatter as the years went by. Every year I still saw them there and even this year I recognized some of them on the picture in the bulletin and it always make me think with loving gratitude of my dear mother, now 93, who contributed to our Christmas tree

all those many years ago. It pleased me so much, when every time they came to visit us, she could see her angels among the other angels, doing their thing on the Christmas tree of St David's.

Afterwards she crocheted more of these angels, this time correctly starched and shaped (I'm not sure how she did it) and brought them along on one of their visits to Canada. To transport the now starched parts safely and in a way so that they didn't take up too much space in their luggage, she couldn't attach the heads with wings to the skirt parts and that is still up to me to do it. Soon I finally will attack this project and if the "powers that be" are interested, I would be happy to pass them on behalf of my mother on to St David's to adorn our Christmas tree once again with fresh new angels for hopefully again many years to come. How to store them to prevent them from getting flattened, remains to be seen.

Grace Artiss.



Angel

The Kindness Factor

It's so easy this time of year to just get caught up in the hustle and bustle of the season and forget basic human kindness. Well, Timothy Bassler did not forget and as a result, he made many people very happy and brought smiles to the faces of many more.

It all started when Tim went to buy some Christmas presents at the neighbourhood Dollar Store. There, he met Neta Loveman Rowsell and they started to chat. Neta was so taken with Tim's shopping for others that she eventually offered him \$5.00 to help him pay for his items, even though Tim had enough money and he tried, unsuccessfully, to give it back to her. Neta told her story on CBC radio and expressed her interest in meeting up with Tim again to see how he made out with his shopping. That led to a wonderful "reunion" with Tim, his mom, Sarah Bassler, and Neta! Tim and Sarah had yet more surprises for Neta, including some homemade cookies. For Tim, it was nothing special, he was just being himself, but for Neta, his kindness meant everything. (Check out the CBC news item at <https://www.cbc.ca/player/play/1829511747685>)

You are a wonderful inspiration for us all Tim!

An Archival Moment

This time of year and in “normal” times, we would be enjoying our Christmas Pageant. The other day, Gracie Wood came across an old picture from 1974 that showed the children taking their final bow at the conclusion of the Pageant. The choir is on either side in the background. This is the same picture we shared with you in the July 19th bulletin but it’s certainly worth a second look given the time of year! It brought back some wonderful memories for Gracie and we are still trying to sort out who is who! Who do you recognize?



Christmas Pageant 1974

Front Row (l to r): Allison Gray, Helen Bruce, Jeff Hodder, Richard Martin,
Heather Stevens, Geoff Hudson

Christopher Martin is behind Richard

Neil Ellis is to the right of Allison

Andrea Barnes is to the left of Richard

Bernita Kiefte is to the left of Rev. Armour

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: What was the name of the location of the church's mission's cemetery on Random Island?

The answer is: The answer is Middle Lance Cove on the north side of the island between Britannia and Petley. There have been inquiries about family burials there!

This week the question is: Where was the very first meeting house, or where was it thought to be? P.S. not the one on Victoria Street!

Recent History:

Last week the question was: During last week's Communion how did David pass out the bread?

The answer is: David used a set of tongs to pick up and pass out the bread.

This week the question is: With the Christmas tree up, how were those little white angels made?

Do you have any ideas for some church trivia? Email or call the church!

Offerings While COVID-19 keeps us from church each Sunday, please consider other ways to keep up your weekly donations. For those of you who are not on PAD, please consider signing up. Simply email the church and we will put you in touch with Ian Bruneau, our Envelope Secretary. He will answer any questions you may have. Alternately, you can donate via e-transfer to stdavidsnfld@gmail.com. Using your bank's comment section, you can specify information like your envelope number and how you would like your money distributed; to Current, Presbyterian Sharing, or any of our outreach programs. You may also donate through Canada Helps. You may also mail your donation, drop it off at the church, or call the church and someone would be pleased to pick it up for you.

How can we help you at this time? Do you need any help getting groceries, having something picked up, or having something dropped off (like this bulletin or the minister's weekly sermons)? Would you just like to have a chat with the minister or your elder? Please call the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help.

Ideas to keep in touch Do you have any ideas how we can keep in touch with one another or what you'd like to see us do over the next period of time while we're all under orders to stay safely distant from one another? Call and let us know! Please keep in touch!

Web Site We'd like you to visit our web site, which is the place to find past services and any number of interesting things. The Sunday services are found on the web site and the text of the sermon is also available in the comment section. Our web site is **stdavids.nf.ca**

Once there, choose ministries and look for the service you'd like to see or hear. There are 592 services on-line too listen to or see.

How to reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant Cell phone: 699-3661

Church Office: (709) 722-2382

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – Kay Scott

Bible Study Group – Sheena Findlay

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Board of Managers – Kyle Sampson

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Carmichael

Food For Thought (University and Early Career) – The Rollmanns

Session: the elders are:

Lillian Crawford

Jim Steele

Ken Templeton

Sue Templeton

Janet Calver

Kathy McKay

Penny Gillies

Steve Bruneau

Ian Bruneau

Aubrey Bonnell

Eleanor Bonnell

Jenny Griffioen

Jennifer Waterman

Ed Vanderkloet

Tanya Shalaby

Board of Managers: the members of the Board are:

Kyle Sampson

Ken Templeton

Ed Vanderkloet

Tanya Shalaby

Steve Bruneau

Allison Crawford

Andrea Crosbie

Sandra Perry

Treasurer:

Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary:

Ian Bruneau