



Sunday December 20 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 20, 2020" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Luke 1:26–38

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 20 Jesus said: “Those who welcome the stranger, welcome me.” We give thanks for the Kalunba refugee ministry in Budapest, Hungary, and for Director Dóra Kanizsai-Nagy.

Monday, December 21 We pray for the Rev. John Wilson who serves as the convener of the Ministry and Church Vocations Committee for the Presbytery of Algoma and North Bay.

Tuesday, December 22 Gift-giving God, we pray that you move us to greater generosity with all the gifts entrusted to us so that we might bear witness to your love.

Wednesday, December 23 We thank God for people who pray, opening their hearts to God’s direction, trusting in God’s faithfulness, and holding others up in care.

Thursday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and in him God shows how much the world is loved. We pray that the light of God’s love bless and fill the world with peace.

Friday, December 25 (Christmas Day) For Christ there was no room in the inn: we pray for shelter for those who are homeless. Christ had to flee his birthplace: we pray for the safety of all refugees. Christ read scripture in the synagogue: we pray for God’s wisdom to guide us.

Saturday December 26 God of love in whom we hope, we pray that you send your peace to the vulnerable, unemployed, anxious, hurting and to those who experience violence.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Christmas Hampers: Thanks to all those who contributed in so many ways to ensure the 2020 Christmas Hamper project was a “large success” as many people would phrase it! Thanks to those who bought the food, picked up the food (there are stories!), took care of the food before Saturday, helped out on Friday and Saturday by sorting food, packing food, dispatching food and especially to those who carried it safely to those who were happy to see such a hamper arriving on their doorsteps. We would also like to thank Community Food Sharing who provided the turkeys, vegetables, eggs, and salt beef. Perhaps we should also say something about Environment Canada and the weather? A great big thanks to everyone involved!

Below is a picture of David unloading the vegetables in preparation for packing the hampers.



David unloading the vegetables

Just in case you're wondering, you can still contribute to our hamper project by donating to the Christmas Hampers through your envelopes, by specifying "Christmas Hamper Donation" on your e-transfer. We received \$1,145 so far this year and would like to thank all those who donated to this worthy effort.

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 20th the Fourth Sunday in Advent –“Love”

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: Advent Wreath (**Pam Bruce**), lovely outdoor wreath and indoor swag (**McKenzie family**), and the newest angles on the tree (**Grace Artiss and her mother**). Thanks to all of you, St. David's is again well dressed for Christmas!

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 (744-4444).

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 20th 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.

Sympathy of Congregation

We extend our sympathy to Robert (Bob) and Sylvia Taylor on the passing of Bob's sister, Helen Butt, on December 14th, 2020. Helen was a member of St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church and many of us remember Helen and her husband, Doug, as the owners of Parkdale Pharmacy for 50 years. A private visitation and funeral service will be held due to COVID19 restrictions. To send a message of condolence, please view www.carnells.com . The thoughts and prayers of everyone here at St. David's are with Bob and Sylvia at this time.

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.

Speaking of cash donations, The Atlantic Provinces Synod Mission Committee made a significant financial donation to Bridges to Hope. Below is the note from Eleanor Bonnell, Board Chair of Bridges to Hope Food Bank.

\$500 was donated by the Committee last year, and Bridges to Hope has just received a \$1000.00 grant from them this year. We are grateful to the Atlantic Provinces Synod Mission Committee for its generosity that allows Bridges to Hope to continue to provide programs such as Healthy Hampers, Snacks for School, Bags to School, Christmas hampers, as well as food hampers throughout the year.



Presentation of Cheque to Bridges to Hope

Picture of Rev Krunys presenting a cheque from the Synod Mission Committee of the Presbyterian Synod of the Atlantic Provinces to Eleanor Bonnell, Board Chair of Bridges to Hope Food Bank.

Food for Thought

Food for Thought will hold its last meeting before Christmas on Saturday, December 19 at 8pm via Zoom. New people are always welcome. We have concluded the video series about how we can be confident in the claims of the gospel. Many thanks to Chongee Matyas for sharing the videos and leading the discussions. Our meeting this Saturday will have more of a Christmas / fellowship theme. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ernst Rollmann (ernstrollmann12 at [gmail.com](mailto:ernstrollmann12@gmail.com)) for the Zoom link. Ernst can also add you to the email list for instant updates.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Belated birthday wishes go out to Ivy Fleming, daughter of Jennifer Waterman and Derek Fleming. Ivy celebrated her 6th birthday on December 14th with family and friends. Happy Birthday Ivy from your St. David's family! We hope you had a great fun-filled birthday – with cake of course!

Happy Birthday greetings to Catherine McKenzie who will be celebrating her birthday on Boxing Day, Saturday, December 26th! Catherine is the daughter of Cynthia and David McKenzie. Best wishes Cynthia from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day with family and friends!

Happy Birthday to Kaylee Putt. Kaylee will be celebrating her 6th birthday on December 22nd with family and friends here and afar. Kaylee is the daughter of Kim Andrews and Craig Putt and grand-daughter of Steve Andrews. Best wishes Kaylee from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful 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

Aubrey Bonnell

Congratulations to Aubrey Bonnell Q.C. who on December 15th celebrated the 50th Anniversary of his admission as a lawyer to the Bar of Newfoundland and Labrador, the original date of his admission being December 15, 1970. Aubrey has spent his legal career with Curtis Dawe, and is now the Senior Partner of that firm, where he continues to practice, specializing in Corporate and Commercial Law.

Aubrey is an Elder at St. David's and over the years has also served as Chair of the Board of Managers, Boy Scout Leader, and on Special Church Committees.

Congratulations Aubrey from everyone here at St. David's! It's a great accomplishment and a very proud moment!



Aubrey Bonnell

Decorating the Church for Christmas – Angels - Update

Last week, we got the wonderful story from Grace Artiss about our Christmas tree angels. Well the story continues! This past Sunday, Kay and Eric brought over 2 beautiful boxes from Grace – and you guessed it – they were full of new little angels – 27 to be exact! Here’s Graces’ update:

Just to let you know, I gave Kay Scott 27 angels in 2 boxes to give to you last Sunday (yesterday). As luck would have it, I didn’t have to put them together except for 3. I did not look into those boxes with angels for nearly 3 decades, so I thought they still had to be sown together. To my surprise I saw they were GLUED together and where the glue was wet all those years ago, I had sprinkled on those silver sparkles”.

I knew they had to go on the tree, and I was so fortunate to have some help doing so – Oliver Sturtevant! Michelle, Oliver and Orson came over after Church to attend the AMS Advent meeting and Oliver was more than willing to help decorate the tree! He did a marvellous job and I think you will all agree that our newest angels look very much at home here! Check out the tree if you get a chance. Thank-you Grace for our beautiful angels!



New Angels for the Tree



Oliver’s favourite Angel

The AMS Advent Meeting

Last Sunday after our Church Service, the AMS held their annual Advent Fellowship get-together. Even though it was physically different than other years, the fellowship among those who joined us was very much in keeping with the excitement and expectancy of the Advent Season. Penny led our group in reflection and prayer and then we all enjoyed a wonderful cup of tea and some sweets – and fruit! We were delighted to have some guests join us for this special time, including Eric and Kay, and Michelle, Oliver and Orson. It was so good to see our little family again after so long – and the boys have grown so!



Enjoying AMS Fellowship Time December 13, 2020



Orson and Michelle at the AMS Meeting

Oliver was fascinated by the camera and he even took a couple of pictures, including the one below. (I may put him in charge of picture taking from now on!)



Oliver Takes this Picture

A Christmas Story - by Monica

We all have memories of Christmas that stand out to us. Memories that warm our hearts, some that even make us sad. The memory I am about to tell you is one that at first made me a little angry, but within a few moments it taught me a valuable lesson and to this very day still puts a smile on my face.

First of all, let me give you a little background as to what Christmas meant to me. I loved everything about it – lights, trees, gifts, Church, music, yes, you name it and I loved it! I'd wake up early in the morning and look at my stocking and if it was full I got so excited, even though Santa brought mostly fruit and a candy bar – it was the mystery of it all. It was often the family joke that whatever I received for Christmas I would wear all at one time... pyjamas, hats, scarves and the list went on!

Now let's travel in time to years later and I have my first cozy home. Let me tell you, it was exciting. I had my tree decorated the same colour as my living room – dusty rose and silver! It would take me days to decorate and weeks to clean, paint and bake. I should have been Mrs. Claus!

Now let's travel to a few more years ahead and I have moved to St. John's and Ben and I are on our own. Has Christmas changed? A little. It's quieter, but have my preparations changed? You betcha... NO! I took three days to put the lights on my tree. Every ornament was carefully placed, and the lights were meticulously hung! The tinsel - yes, that was the time of tinsel – was hung one by one. I was going to make Christmas as great as ever! It was a great plan until..... I was busy in my room one day (Oh, did I tell you that

Ben was just a toddler around 2 or 3 years old? That is an important detail.) Like I was saying, I was in my room for a few minutes, a few days after decorating, getting something, when I heard a crash. Now you have to understand that Ben was a very active little boy and was often into mischief. I went running to the living room and there was my beautifully decorated tree on the floor in the middle of the living room! I looked at my son and he seemed fine so I wasn't too worried at that moment. He looked at me and said, "Mommy, I just tried to climb the tree!". At first, I was somewhat angry but for the first time in my life, I was speechless. Then I began to laugh and thought this is a great story to tell him when he gets older. My days of Christmas tree perfection had been changed forever. I learned a lesson that day – it's not how perfect a tree is or how beautiful the decorations, it's the spirit of Christmas, family and the birth of Christ that we need to focus on. I also learned that day that it was more important to include Ben in the process instead of it being more about what I wanted.

So it turned out to be a great learning experience and a funny Christmas memory!



Always up for fun and smiles!

An Archival Moment

I came across this picture from the many that Pam Bruce has acquired in the archival photos. This was taken at the Sunday School Picnic in the summer of 1995. In the picture are Kathy McKay and Sue Garvie.



Summer Picnic 1995

Church Trivia Questions

(Apologies – the trivia section last week was a repeat from December 6th. So sorry. We're back on track now!)

Way back when:

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

The answer is: In the winter of 1776 and 1777, a carpenter, Wallis Lang, cut down some trees and in the spring of 1777 two elders of the little congregation with the help of one more person put up a tiny chapel. Where? In the vicinity of Forest Road where two members of the military John Lees and John Livingstone had leases.

This week the question is: Who was the governor (fishing admiral) in 1776?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: With the Christmas tree up, how are those little white angels made?

The answer is: The angels were crocheted, starched and ready for the tree. Many members of the congregation still have slightly different patterns.

This week the question is: The Advent wreath has five candles, the four lit on Sundays during Advent are: "Hope", Peace, and "Joy". What is the fourth candle?

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	Andem Effeiong	Don McKay

Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau