



Sunday December 27 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 27, 2020" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Luke 2: 22-40

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 27 We give thanks for language teachers and translators who connect cultures and people around the world through education.

Monday, December 28 We pray for all those who have been victims of violence and who experience the effects of trauma.

Tuesday, December 29 We pray for those who struggle with illness, grief or depression. May they know God's peace and strength.

Wednesday, December 30 We pray for a spirit of co-operation and understanding among leaders in our communities, nations and the world as they seek ways to recover in the face of the global pandemic.

Thursday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) Though 2020 was a difficult year for every country in the world, we pray for the ability to see the blessings of the past year, mourn the sorrows we experienced, and look to 2021 with hope and open hearts.

Friday, January 1 (New Year's Day) We end the past year in gratitude to God for the moments and the milestones in which we experienced God's presence. We begin the new year in prayer for a more just and loving world where we depend on the abundance of God's grace, the generosity of God's mercy and the unwavering promise of God's compassion.

Saturday, January 2 We give thanks for congregations celebrating special anniversaries this year and pray for their ongoing witness into the future.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Christmas Hampers: Last week's "thank-you" was written in anticipation of a good outcome. Aren't all Presbyterians optimistic? Well, we can now report that the 2020 Christmas Hamper Project went much better than good. It was indeed a "large success"! Thanks again to all those who contributed in so many ways to the 2020 Christmas Hamper Project. When we ran out of freezer space because the turkeys were humongous, Bouwina and Frank Fogwill "donated" their freezer space for 14 turkeys. Penny safely harboured 6 turkeys in the McKay's freezers and Anne's neighbours looked after the rest. Steve Bruneau and David Sturtevant transported all the vegetable packs. We had volunteers from some of our rental groups - two yoga ladies did the box build, the numbering and then the stacking on stage. We had volunteers from near and far to do safe deliveries - one man actually drove in from Carbonear to deliver hampers. Thanks to those who sorted food, packed food, dispatched the food hampers, cleaned up (sanitized) afterwards and especially to those who carried it safely to those who were happy to see such a hamper arriving on their doorsteps. Yes, for the most part Environment Canada and the weather smiled on us as well. A great big thanks to everyone involved! Look out for pictures of the action! I'm sure they will be tucked in here somewhere.

Just in case, 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 have received just over \$1,800 so far this year and would like to thank all those who donated to this worthy effort so far.

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 December 27th Service

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 thank members of the congregation who have contributed to the beauty of our sanctuary during the Christmas Season: the Advent wreath (Pam Bruce), the lovely outdoor wreath over the front entrance and the indoor swag (the McKenzie family), and the lovely angels on our Christmas tree (Grace Artiss and her mother).

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. 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 27th 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 e-transfers, 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.

Year-End Donations: The year 2020 is quickly winding down and if you would like to ensure your 2020 donations are included with this year's income tax, please make sure your:

- donation arrives at the church by **noon January 4th 2021**;
- cheque is dated **December 31st 2020 or earlier**;
- E-transfer is made **on or before December 31st 2020** to be included in 2020.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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

Belated birthday wishes go out to Cynthia Clouston who celebrated her birthday on December 23rd with her mom and dad, Pearl and Peter Clouston. It seems that a Chinese dinner was enjoyed by all! Best wishes Cynthia from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you had a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Kirsten McKay who is celebrating her birthday on December 28th. Kirsten is the daughter of Kathy and Donald McKay. Kathy and Don travelled to British Columbia over two weeks ago now to ensure they could be with Kirsten for her birthday and Christmas. Best wishes Kirsten from your St. David's family. We hope you have a great birthday!

Happy Birthday to Rukiya Yusuf who will be celebrating her birthday on January 1st with family and friends, near and far! Rukiya and Thomas have three children – Shemsadin, Solomon and Beli. Best wishes and all our love Rukiya, from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful day.

Happy Birthday to Nowell Melendy who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends on December 26th! Nowell has a long connection with St. David's – his mom and dad, Olive (d. 2011) and Ralph (d. 2005) Melendy, and his siblings, Marilyn Reardon, Mildred Greeley and Gerald Melendy. Best wishes Nowell from all your friends here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Anniversary to Marcella and Hans Rollmann! Marcella and Hans will be celebrating their 52nd wedding anniversary on December 28th with family and friends. Congratulations from all your friends here at St. David's and may there be many more years of happiness for you both!

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

Christmas Hampers

As mentioned above, the 2020 Christmas Hampers Project was a tremendous success even in these COVID-19 times! Everything was perfectly planned, thanks to our fearless leaders – Lillian Crawford and Anne Calver – and to all the volunteers and helpers. There are many people in the St. John's metro area who will enjoy their Christmas and a yummy dinner or two – thanks to you!



David Unloading the Vegetables



Some of the Goodies for the Hampers



More Goodies Ready for Packing



Our Leaders



Allison Crawford and Steve Hawco



Allison and Steve Packing Boxes



Brian Packing Boxes



Brian in a Sea of Boxes



Becky and Leith Tackle the Turkeys



Veggies Ready to Go



Loading the Hampers into the Car



Leith with Another Hamper



Father and Son Effort

Christmas Card Delivery Project

The young people of the church made beautiful Christmas Cards from the Sunday School, Board and Session! We would like to thank them for such a wonderful job!

Here they are being delivered!



A Note from Jim Steele

Due to COVID-19, Jim Steele has not been able to join us at St. David's for our Sunday Church service or for our regular Session meetings but he still keeps in touch and follows all the news thanks to the bulletins and telephone conversations with members. Below is a note from Jim to you – it's pretty special....

"I am writing this letter to send Happy Christmas and New Years wishes to my friends at St. David's. What a year it has been!!! One of the benefits of growing old is that you are afforded the opportunity to see the bigger picture. The world has seen many unbelievable events over the years. And though this year has been an exceptionally challenging one, there are still many things that we can be grateful for. The St. David's bulletin/newsletter has been a bright spot in my week! It has been wonderful to read everyone's stories, to hear of all of the work still going on in and around the church, to know that we are all connected in spite of the pandemic. It amazes me that our congregation family, no matter where they are in the world, are brought together with the sharing of these newsletters. I am so grateful to everyone for the work that goes into this weekly endeavour.

I few things I would like to add. To all the families that lost a loved one during this time - my very sincere condolences, to those who have experienced health challenges - I trust that you are well on the mend, to all who celebrated special events, birthdays and anniversaries - my congratulations! (Thank you to everyone who remembered my 96th birthday - I was overwhelmed by all the cards and well wishes - thank you ever so much!) I would also like to add my sincere welcome to the new members of the session. I look forward to welcoming you all in person when I am able to attend worship again."

Jim Steele

Below are a couple of pictures Heather sent along.



Jim at His Cabin

Heather says:

Yes, that is a pic of Dad out in the sun porch of the cottage this past September. It is/was his and Mom's "favourite place on the plane"! I got him an all-weather rocking chair - so we can put it outside too. (At that time, an early birthday gift.)



Jim Celebrates his 96th Birthday with Cake!

An Archival Moment

I found these pictures from last year - not “archival” at all I suppose, but great to see. This was at the 2019 – WA Christmas Lunch. Hope you enjoy!



Marcella Rollmann, Janet Aitkin, Becky Quinton and Judy Barnes



Michelle and
Patsy Carmichael



Orson and Michelle



Oliver and David

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

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

The answer is: The governor or fishing admiral for that year was Captain John Montague. He arrived in the spring of 1776 and forbade the use of the premises where the little congregation used to meet.

This week the question is: Where did they meet over the winter of 1775-1776?

Recent History:

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

The answer is: The fourth candle represents "Love".

This week the question is: The Advent wreath has five candles. The four lit on Sundays during Advent are: "Hope", "Peace", "Joy", and "Love". The large centre candle will be lit on Christmas Eve. What is that candle called?

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