



Sunday January 17th 2021

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 January 17, 2021" into Google. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

John 1:43-51

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, January 17 We give thanks for the Joint Christian Committee for Social Service in Lebanon, and pray that they receive the resources and support needed to provide life changing vocational training to youth and refugees.

Monday, January 18 We pray that God give those gathering in ecumenical services during the World Week of Prayer for Christian Unity a strong sense of God's presence and the unity of Christ.

Tuesday, January 19 We pray for the congregation and community of Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church in Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation, Sask.

Wednesday, January 20 We pray for the Rev. James Douglas who serves as the convener of the Ministry Committee for the Presbytery of Seaway-Glengarry in Ont.

Thursday, January 21 We pray for all camp leaders and boards as they plan for 2021.

Friday, January 22 We pray that people struggling with their experience of the church will be opened to God's love and grace so that any pain the church has caused will be healed.

Saturday, January 23 We pray for Cariboo Presbyterian Church in Nazko, B.C., and their new leader, the Rev. Mark Carter. May their outreach ministries flourish as they connect with new families.

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

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 January 17th Service

This 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.

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 services are now 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 Jan 3rd 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.

Announcements

AMS

The AMS will be holding its first monthly meeting of the New Year after the worship service. Come and join them! All are welcome and they would love to see you!

Food for Thought

Food for Thought, a Bible Study group for university-age / young adults, is meeting once a week during the pandemic via Zoom. New people are always welcome. We held our first Zoom meeting of 2021 on Saturday, January 9, with Ernst leading a discussion on the parable of the unforgiving servant. The next meeting is scheduled for Saturday, January 16, at 8pm. Anyone interested in participating should contact Ernst Rollmann (ernstrollmann12@gmail.com) for the Zoom link. Ernst can also add you to the email list for instant updates.

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

Happy Birthday greetings to Samuel Venth who will be celebrating his 5th birthday on January 18th with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Kirsty Gillies and Robert Venth (currently living in Germany) and proud grandparents, Penny and Stewart Gillies. Best wishes Samuel from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to our own Kay Scott who will be celebrating her birthday on January 17th with Eric and her family and friends near and far. Kay is a long-time member of St. David's and is very active in every aspect of our Church life as a leader/organizer, participant and supporter of many of our Church groups including Good Companions, Prayer Shawl (Knitter's Group), AMS, WA, and Bridges to Hope. Kay is a great friend to many, not only here at St. David's, but also to the residents in Elizabeth Towers and her fitness group buddies! Your St. David's family wish you a wonderful birthday Kay and all our love!

Happy Anniversary greetings to Lori-Kim den Otter and Andy Versteeg who will be celebrating their 17th wedding anniversary on January 17th. Even though Lori-Kim and Andy are now living in Ontario, they hold a special place in our congregation's heart. Best wishes Lori-Kim and Andy on your anniversary from all your friends here at St. David's and we wish you many more years of happiness!

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

Last week, thanks to Sheena Findlay, we had the story of Nuri, the grumpy camel. This week, we have another piece from Sheena – one that she wrote for the Presbyterian Message back in December 2008. Although the Christmas Season is officially over, Sheena's writing and message are relevant all year long.

Wise Men (and Women) in Times of Challenge – by Sheena Findlay, 2008

What Sunday School Pageant would be complete without the “three Wise Men” lovingly attired in last year's robes outgrown by older siblings, wearing shaky but still shiny crowns, and proceeding carefully down the aisle with outstretched “gifts” for the Christ Child! Our hearts warm to the familiar story from Matthew, and to the innocent sincerity of children re-enacting the journey of the Magi. Who could fail to believe in the long and challenging travels of the eastern astrologers from far away places who came seeking a mysterious child?

There's much that's strange and perplexing about these "sages" who were well versed in both the religious astronomy and astrology of the ancient world and who made the long journey from either Arabia or Babylon, using the "direction finder" of the stars, rather than GPS!

Their arrival in Herod's Jerusalem in a time of Roman occupation and their talk of a prophesied royal child would have caused a tremendous shock to the puppet king as well as to his political and religious advisors.

And how painful must it have been to these "seekers" to find out so quickly in the "slaughter of the innocents" that the place blessed by the birth of Christ was right in the middle of a world of horrible violence and callous cruelty – a world no different than our own.

So what was it that kept this small band of "seekers" and "stargazers" from giving up when the journeying became arduous and seemingly unending? When they began to doubt if they were really hearing the Lord or just their own ideas? When they encountered the deviousness of Herod or saw his jealous rage vented on the helpless? When they ran into the deafness of the religious establishment? All challenges very familiar to ourselves today.

I believe that it was because of their "vision" – God's vision – sustaining them all the way on their journey to Bethlehem and home again. The Magi were people with a vision. They "saw" things differently from others. They "followed a star". I'm not sure how fully they understood, at the start of that journey, where they would be led or that they would eventually be privileged to see the Christ child or that they would be kept safe from every threat to their lives or their peace.

But I think that's true of each of us as we journey through different stages of our lives. We do not always understand God's purposes in circumstances, in relationships. We sometimes don't hear the message or don't sit still long enough to listen.

Life is never simple or straightforward for any of us, however deeply we believe in our Lord. Like the Magi we have to walk by vision, and sometimes that turns out to be "night vision"!

So what is your vision – or mine - this year? Whose vision is directing our lives and actions? Are we "seeing" everything "differently" because of Christ who lives within us, who calls us out to journey by faith, by vision?

Perhaps we could ask ourselves "How would my life change if I were to walk by God's vision? How would I see things differently, and therefore act differently, when I look at my family, my church, my auxiliary, my work, my friends?"

When we journey as did the Magi, following God's vision, we see everything differently and we are freed up to act differently. As they did, we can take risks. We can try new and even strange things. We can put up with difficulties on the way – maybe even rejoice in them! We can turn problems into opportunities.

We can change our attitudes and we can live with uncertainty from day to day because we are seeking and following the Christ who goes before us, is with us, is within us.

Decorations Put Away

I'm guessing that most of you put away your Christmas decorations this past week. We did the same thing here at St. David's. The banners and tree came down and were carefully tucked away. Our Christmas tree angels were gingerly placed in a box and are now in the safe hands of Grace Artiss who has volunteered to "look after them" and where required give them a wash and a new starch job! We look forward to seeing our "little angels" next Christmas! Thank-you Grace!



Brian Folding Away the Banners



Angels All Packed Up

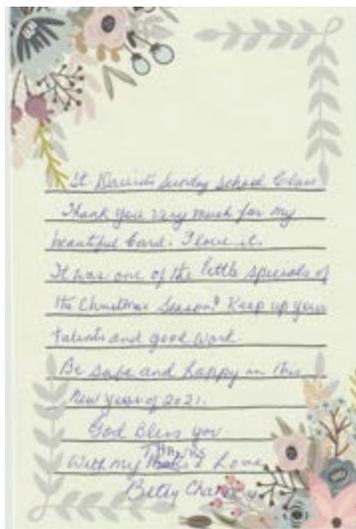
Christmas Cards Delivered

A couple of Sundays ago, we told you about the Christmas cards that our Sunday School children lovingly made and delivered to many in our congregation, especially those who have not been able to come out to our Church services due to COVID-19 restrictions. Well Jennifer Waterman, one of our new elders, sent along some pictures she took of her children – Evan, Marcus and Ivy - delivering some of the cards. It was a time to be treasured by all – the givers and the receivers!



Delivering Cards

Betty Chancey, who resides in Cambridge Estates, received one of these cards, and she sent along a little thank-you note to the children. Here is Betty's note:



Betty's Note

It reads:

St. David's Sunday School Class,

Thank-you very much for my beautiful card. I love it. It was one of the little specials of the Christmas Season! Keep up your talents and good work.

Be safe and happy in this New Year – 2021.

God bless you.

With my thanks and love,

Betty Chancey.

An Archival Moment

Here's another picture from the 2008 WA Christmas Lunch at Edith Peach's house. There are lots of familiar faces!



WA Christmas Lunch at Edith Peach's Home 2008

From left to right: Hazel Gamble, Grace Wood, Elizabeth Thistle, Sylvia Hudson, Betty Wood

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: What was the major driving force in Newfoundland at the time and what impact did this have on everyone?

The answer is: Fishing – all was directed towards a successful fishery. The fishing admiral/governor directed who and what could happen anywhere close to the waterfront where fish was processed. Further back, into the woods or on the barrens and outside the town's boundaries, the little church was able to survive.

This week the question is: How did the fishing admiral threaten John Jones at one point?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: What surprise visitor did St. David's have this week?

The answer is: A stolen creche including the Baby Jesus! For the second time in three years Baby Jesus was taken from his normal home in front of Corpus Christi Parish Church. This after being super glued into the cradle, supposedly making him more difficult and heavier to abscond with successfully.

This week the question is: How many of our regular renters are back with us? Which of our own groups are currently active in our facilities?

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