



**St. David's
Presbyterian Church
~Welcomes All~**



St. John's, Newfoundland and Labrador

Congregation founded in 1775

"For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord." (Romans 8:38-39)

Sunday Service This Sunday's Service will be available on Sunday Morning, and can be found on our YouTube channel at:

<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFCfIHeNnDk-dINWCrfNdag>

Or by typing "**St. David's Presbyterian Message for May 17, 2020**" into Google. This Sunday's scripture reading will be: *John 14:15-21*

We pray for health workers, including physicians, doctors, nurses, social workers, therapists, paramedics and support staff.

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, May 17 We pray for Dr. Priya John, the first Indian woman to serve as General Secretary of the Christian Medical Association of India.

Monday, May 18 We pray for Presbyterians leaders at the Cyclical PCC annual gathering this week. May they be inspired and encouraged as they learn about church planting together.

Tuesday, May 19 We pray for Captain Kim Barlow, who serves as a regular force military chaplain in Gagetown, NB, and for her ministry of presence with members of the Canadian Armed Forces.

Wednesday, May 20 We pray for the continued work and ministry of the recipients and nominees of the Woman of Faith Awards.

Thursday, May 21 (Ascension Day) We praise God for Canadian farmers participating in growing projects with Presbyterian World Service & Development partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank, helping combat hunger around the world.

Friday, May 22 We pray for commissioners to the 2020 General Assembly as they prepare to discern the mind of Christ for the church.

Saturday, May 23 We pray for those in need of healing today.

News from the Pews:

This week, as the Province moves to Alert Level 4, we would like to pray for all those returning to work including those who are providing childcare services, accounting, legal and financial services along with workers who provide in-person worker and workplace safety training, and those who work in landscape and gardening centres. We include a special prayer for Karen Froude, who will be providing much needed childcare services for the children of other essential workers. Thank-you for your dedication and service.

Last week we received an email from **Sheena Findlay**:

“Like all of us, I’m struggling to stay in touch, deal with the frustrations of not visiting, and questioning “Lord, why COVID-19!!”.... so far no very satisfying answers!!

Three things help me as an old person, living alone:

*1. I’m **thankful** for the Bible - just check out what happened when Jesus got creative about “social distancing”:*

Feeding the hungry in a crowd! See Mark 8: 1;

Being touched by, and healing, the woman with menstrual bleeding. See Luke 8: 43-48; and

Healing the ten infected lepers. See Luke 17: 11-19.

*2. I’m **thankful** for so much kindness - my non-churchgoing neighbours, who’ve brought soup, cookies, muffins, medications when needed, groceries, and the phone calls; the members online of my art class right from the start of COVID; elder visits in the driveway (thanks Kathy,*

Penny, and Lillian) and by phone; and a lovely bunch of birthday calls from friends.

*3. I'm particularly **thankful** for phone calls with family in Denmark, Germany and Scotland. I'm a bit anxious about the health of two very elderly cousins in Europe, though my 92-year-old brother-in-law is still going strong! This month's good "news from away" was the safe April birth of a new (*) great-great nephew Ossian Allan Findlay!!! (* I have already got 15 of these great-greats!!)*

Hey St David's**, its not just the minister or the elder's job to keep up the connections during COVID. Jesus said it first and is still trying to tell us (cf. "we're all in this together"). "Love one another as I have loved you." John 13 :34. So, lets get creative in loving each other even in a pandemic! **Sheena Findlay

Bridges to Hope Update

Good News about Bridges to Hope ! We are to reopen on May 21 (would have been the 19th except for the holiday weekend). Bridges to Hope has been closed because we were unable to meet all the requirements for us to operate under the COVID-19 guidelines, and we have been working ever since to meet these guidelines. There will be some new ways in which we will operate, including making appointment times for receiving hampers, and these will be publicized. We hope to be able to safely receive donations of food soon, and how, when and where this will happen will also be publicized. In the meantime any financial donation will be appreciated as we are including supermarket gift cards to supplement our hampers.

Birthdays

Dean King will be turning **1** on May 19th! All of us wish Dean a happy birthday, full of snuggles with mom Sarah, dad Wesley and his cat Misty.

Monica McNeill will be celebrating her birthday on Tuesday, May 26th and if you'd like to get in touch with her: email the church at stdavids@nfld.com or call or text her. She does drop by to do deposits and pick up the mail, email and calls once a week.

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

Other News

Marcella Stuckless, who is back in St. John's and will be attending MUN, is currently working at Dominion at The Lake. As an essential worker, Marcella is doing a stellar job at helping to keep the food chain intact for all of us. Her cherry smile and disposition help all her customers feel better just for meeting her. Thank-you Marcella!

St. David's would like to acknowledge the very generous donation from the TSO (Tenacious String Orchestra). In a "normal" year, the TSO would participate in some of our services and perform special concerts in our sanctuary. We look forward to having the TSO back in St. David's in the near future!

Condolences go out to Monica McNeill and her family on the sudden death of her cousin in Alberta last week and her brother's, (Neville Johnson) father-in-law this past week in Ontario. The sympathy of the congregation and our thoughts and prayers are with Monica and the Johnson family.

It is with much sadness that St. David's is saying "Good-bye" to the Wamstecker family, as Mike's work is calling them back to Alberta. Diana, Mike and their 3 little gentlemen (Cam, Grant and Marcel) have blessed our congregation in so many ways and they have found a special place in our hearts. We wish them all the best as they prepare to journey.

We received this note from Diana:

"Hello Dear Family and Friends;

We hope you are all staying safe, well and healthy during these unusual times.

We wanted to share with you all that Mike's job is heading back to Alberta and we will be moving back to Calgary over this summer (goal of July 1). We are working hard to get our house ready for the market and get everyone packed up and ready to go on a fairly quick timeline.

To the friends we have made in Newfoundland...you have all made our time here something so very special that we will hold dear and close to us. We thank-you deeply for welcoming our boys into your hearts and homes, and for sharing your beautiful and rugged island with us. We could not imagine a better place for little boys to grow up and explore

in. We are forever grateful and hope to remain in touch. Please know that you are always welcome in our home should you travel out west.

To our friends and family we are returning to...we look forward seeing you all again soon and enjoying some Alberta sunshine!

All the best.

Stay safe.

Much love.

Mike and Di W.”

News From Away

Today we touch base with Scott and Steve Bonnell and their families. Scott and Steve are the sons of Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Here's the note from Eleanor and Aubrey:

Scott, who lives in N YC, and his family made a decision when the schools announced closing to move to Rhode Island to live with his Mother in law who has a large home there. They have now been there for 8 weeks and will probably be there until July or August. Scott works from home as his office will not be reopening until at least August. His children (York 13, Nea 11) both have two hours a day of online schooling and assignments also to do online and submit. The family all realize that when they move back to NYC it cannot be the same after the severity of the pandemic there. They will probably not use the subway, schools have 1500 pupils who cannot be in tight quarters – even walking on the street is an issue- and most people live in high rise condos which have common areas and require use of elevators.

Steve lives in Glenview, a suburb of Chicago, and he works in Chicago. His office is also closed, and he also works from home. His sons (Evan 13, Isaak 12) also have schooling similar to that in NYC. They spend time with games etc. on Ipads with friends a lot , which normally they would not be allowed to do, but this is their only means of contact with friends. There are COVID -19 cases in Glenview. A friend had a serious case and they also have acquaintances who contracted the Virus. They tend to keep near home and have a large yard to get outside. Steve & Isaak and sometimes Evan go for runs around the neighbourhood to keep fit, and Denise does any shopping fully protected.

Of course we worry about our family but know they are taking all precautions. Zoom has been great in these circumstances, as seeing them in person again will not be probable for some time.

Closer to St. David's

How are you coping? We'd like to know! So far:

David Sturtevant is keeping an eye on his rhubarb and some herbs, which got a head-start on the season, being safely tucked away under all that snow. The parsley is struggling because it has been found to be delicious by a certain small backyard gardener.

Lillian Crawford is doing picture puzzles, at least five to date, and is thinking "GOLF!!!" when the weather warms up a bit.

Jenny Griffioen is thinking about and planning on what plants to grow in her new garden.

Ken Templeton creates a family quiz every couple of days, emailing members of his family a question that they **MAY** be able to answer. Then in a couple of days he posts a picture and the answer.

A lot of people are walking every sensible day and even on some days when the weather is not great: examples **Kay Scott** and **Mary Bruneau**.

Penny and Stewart Gillies - After the ravages of this winter there is not too much left of the greenhouse in the Gillies backyard so seeds have been planted on every available south facing windowsill inside the home in preparation for summer planting.....eventually when it warms up! The salad greens have been tasty in salads and sandwiches and now the kale, Swiss chard, herbs and tomato plants are looking quite perky. There may be some to spare if you are interested? Please call Penny or Stewart Gillies 726-1008.



Plants sitting in the window



Tomato plants galore!



Basil and Parsley plants

Pam Bruce, another avid gardener, has been working in her garden and doing quite a bit of pruning. What to do with all those branches? If they are from her magnolia tree, Pam brings them in the house and puts them in a vase to enjoy!



Pam's Magnolia Twigs in Bloom

An Archival Moment: Women's Missionary Society (WMS) 1975



As you know Pam Bruce draws us to the cabinet in the lobby where there are interesting displays of the goings-on at St. David's in the present and the past. Here's this week's time to remember:

1 st : Ada Barnes, Margaret Armour, Dini den Otter, Millie Hammond, Mary Barnes

2 nd : Dallas Frost, Diane Kieft, Nellie Brown, Zena Bleeker Elizabeth Berghuis

3 rd : Margaret King, Francis Steele, Marjorie Pike, Effie Barnes

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

One of the stained-glass windows in this church is of Saint Paul. The window was dedicated to a trustee and the builder of the current church. Who was this? And what was his wife's name?

Just a little while ago:

The 2019 Christmas Sunday School Pageant last year got everyone in the congregation involved. Aside from the main players, there were four groups of people who played different parts: angels, animals, shepherds and townspeople. **Who was Mary?** Hint – think outside the box! **For additional bragging rights: which member(s) of the Board played a shepherd?** Hint – the members of the Board of Managers are Kyle Sampson, Ken Templeton, Ed Vanderkloet, Tanya Shalaby, Allison Crawford, Sandra Perry and Andrea Crosbie.

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

News and Happenings from the National PCC

A PCC Mission Moment

May 17

Paying it forward in Ghana

After losing his leg from an infection at the age of thirteen, Halidu Dayuma thought he would never be financially stable. Some simple pieces of thread and the caring support of Garu Community Based Rehabilitation Centre in Ghana changed everything. At this PWS&D-



supported centre, which is committed to improving the quality of life for people with disabilities, Halidu learned cloth weaving and dressmaking so that he could make an income. Inspired by his studies with skilled coaches, Halidu is now paying it forward by training more than 40 apprentices to continue the work he loves. In gratitude, Halidu reflected, "I am who I am today because of your generous work and love."

PWS&D helps people overcome limitations

May 21, 2020 Cyclical PCC One-day On-line Conference titled:

What Innovation in Ministry Can Teach Us About What's Next for the Church

This is a free on-line event on Thursday, May 21, 2020 running from 12:30 pm to 8:00 pm (NDST). Cyclical PCC is a support initiative that assists leaders in discerning calls and taking first steps towards starting new worshipping communities. Cyclical PCC is expending an invitation to all leaders within the church to participate, for more information check out:

<https://presbyterian.ca/2020/05/04/cyclical-pcc-one-day-online-conference/>

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 us at stdavids@nfld.com 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, or get in touch with Rev. David at 699-3661 (rev.sturtevant@gmail.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!

For pictures and some of the signs of spring here at St. David's, check out our Facebook page at <https://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

For past services and any number of interesting things, like the Dissenter's Way (in the History segment) or a walk through the church looking at our stained glass windows, please visit our website at <http://stdavids.nf.ca/>

How to reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant

Cell phone: 699-3661

Church Office: (709) 722-2382

Minister email: rev.sturtevant@gmail.com

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – Kay Scott

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Board of Managers – Kyle Sampson

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Charmichael

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