



Sunday October 24th 2021

Our Sunday service is at 11 am with in-person worship, we also stream the service live and record it for later viewing. The recording of the service will be available on Sunday and can be found on our YouTube channel by typing "St. David's Presbyterian Message for October 24, 2021" into Google. Copies of the hymns and scripture readings are included in the email sent out each Friday. The scripture readings for this Sunday are:

Psalms 126, Mark 10:46-52

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm. For pastoral care, please contact him at 699-3661. Monica McNeill, our Office Administrator, is in the office each weekday from 9 am to 1 pm, if you need to drop off or pick up something.

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, October 24 We give thanks for Presbyterian World Service & Development partners who equip families in Guatemala to lead healthy lives through food safety and nutrition training workshops.

Monday, October 25 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Lindsay-Peterborough in Ontario.

Tuesday, October 26 (Intersex Awareness Day) We give thanks for the work of intersex people in advocating for a more just and inclusive health-care system.

Wednesday, October 27 We pray for countries that do not have an adequate supply of the COVID-19 vaccine for their citizens, and we pray that our government and other wealthy nations will help provide doses.

Thursday, October 28 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Waterloo-Wellington in Ontario.

Friday, October 29 We pray for congregations taking proactive steps to combat racism in order to become anti-racist communities.

Saturday, October 30 We pray for people in Afghanistan whose livelihoods have been disrupted by COVID-19 and give thanks for the food assistance they've received through Presbyterian World Service & Development partners.

Message from the Minister

Last Sunday, I made the trip out to preach at St. Matthew's Presbyterian in Grand Falls-Windsor. This was their first service in their building in almost exactly two years, since a fire in October of 2019 caused extensive damage to their building. The first picture shows the communion table and organ, standing in their blackened sanctuary in the early days after the fire, the last time I was in the building. I remember the smell of smoke, the layer of soot that sucked all the light out of that darkened room, and the sadness of realizing just how far the smoke and water damage had spread; everything needed to be torn out and replaced. Walls, hymn books, chairs, even the downstairs kitchen cupboards on the far side of the church had a thick layer of smokey grime baked into them.

Yet they persisted, and thanks to the generosity of people who love that church, they were able to stretch their insurance money and completely restore their building. And they did more than restore it! A wall was taken down to create a large office space out of what was once more or less two closets. The stairs up to the communion table were re-designed to give more usable space at the front. A simple but new sound system was installed, fresh bright paint and newer, brighter lights were put in, and the comments from all who came were that the church was just like it was, but better. The only signs of damage that remain are borne by the cross at the front of the sanctuary, left intentionally still streaked with signs of the fire as a reminder for those worshipping.

God is a restorer. The story of St. Matthew's is a parable for the work that God can do in and through each of us. Standing in the wreckage of two years ago, it seemed impossible to think that things could be even better than before. The people were sad, they had stood at the sidewalk and watched the flames through the windows of their church. Yet even after all that, they have been restored.

When things are bad, when we feel burned-out, when we suffer a loss, when catastrophe strikes, it is easy to get discouraged. But God is our restorer, and there is nothing God cannot make new and better than new. May we have faith this week in the one who defeats the grave and the flames. God can do it. What Good News that is!



From the Board, Session and Treasurer

In-person Church Services

St. David's has had in-person services each Sunday since September 2020 with a brief break from February to April 2021. Our morning worship is at 11 am. We also live-stream the service, or you can access it later. With the move to "Level 2 Re-opening", the number of people who can be in the sanctuary is increased provided we can maintain social distancing. For those members of St. David's unable to participate in virtual worship for one reason or another, we invite you to attend in person when you are comfortable doing so. Those of you who join us virtually via Zoom may certainly continue to follow us that way or if you are comfortable joining us in person, we welcome you back.

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin is 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 Oct 24th you will see the screen and the note: live in "a number" of hours. After the fact, you can see the YouTube 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.

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? You may call the church at 722-

2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help. Monica is at the church during regular office hours from 9 am to 1 pm each weekday, if you want to drop by for any reason.

Treasurer's Report

Report as of October 20, 2021

Anyone coming to the church may notice that there is still a chill in the air. Our furnace was affected by Hurricane Larry and we have not had heat for 33 days. H & R Mechanical have been in this past week working on the furnace, but the critical chimney liner has not yet arrived and without that, Service NL will not allow us to operate the furnace. The good news is that the chimney liner is on the way. We'll keep you updated.

On a more positive note, Babbs was at the church earlier this week and they have installed a new handicapped door opener mechanism including the handicapped touch pad outside the (Tower) door. The door is now working as it should!

Of course, there are still outstanding charges and the cost of some of those are still unknown: Synod charges, invoice from Babbs, invoices from H&R Mechanical for the work on the furnace, our accountant's invoice, extra Irving charges, the new monthly Irving invoice (we're on a 12 month equal payment plan), the regular payrolls, and our snow clearing contract which starts in November.

The line of credit of \$10,000 is fully available and we have \$12,000 in our sinking fund (which we started in order to pay back the \$30,000 funding we received from the federal government and which is due December 31, 2022).

Generally, we do well in the run up to Christmas. I am hoping that continues for 2021 as I ask for your continued and much needed support. If you are able to increase your contribution to this church, please consider doing so.

Thank you to all who are continuing to donate to your church through your envelopes on Sunday mornings, by e-transfers, or through 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 and help by dropping 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.

Due to provincial mandate, St. David's will be performing Vaccine Passport Checks starting this week. If you do not have your VaxPass yet, bring your MCP card, and we can help you get it.

Bridges to Hope

The Food Pantry at Bridges To Hope is open and staffed by volunteers.

Donations for Bridges to Hope are always welcomed! At the Sunday worship services, a trolley will be available for your donations. If you are not able to make it on Sunday, you can always drop off food items at the Church Office and they will be included with that week's food collection, normally delivered to "Bridges" on Thursdays. ***As always, cash or gift cards are helpful and greatly appreciated.*** These monetary gifts allow Bridges To Hope to purchase perishable items required, such as, margarine, fresh fruit & vegetables, etc.

Below is a list of some weekly specials that you may want to consider as a possible donation.

Weekly "Specials"

October 21 to October 27, 2021

Great buys for Food Trolley!

Walmart – Campbell's Soups (Top Four Soups) - \$0.57

Lawtons – Heinz Beans/Pasta - \$0.99

Cloverleaf Tuna – 4/\$5

Kraft Dinner – 5/\$5

Dominion – Oasis Juice Blends - \$0.99

Shoppers Drug Mart - Colgate Toothpaste - \$0.88

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls

In 2019, the National Inquiry into Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls released its final report, *Reclaiming Power and Place*. The report concluded that violence and anti-Indigenous racism is a race-based genocide that particularly targets Indigenous women, girls and people who are Two-Spirit, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex and/or asexual. The report detailed how pervasive and devastating the violence has been, but also brought forward 231 concrete recommendations to end the violence.

The report sets this genocide in a context of colonialism, supported by a belief of Christian European superiority that was introduced by European settlers to Canada. The presence and influence of these beliefs in our society and institutions is seen in casual and systemic interactions that dehumanize and devalue Indigenous people. Seven-hundred people shared with the National Inquiry the brutal and deadly consequences of colonial violence in their lives and the lives of their loved ones.

The impacts of colonialism today are reflected in the under funding of services for Indigenous communities, insufficient health care, education, housing infrastructure and systemic callousness in interactions with social, health and policing services. The National Inquiry's Calls for Justice are concrete guidance to healing and wholeness that emphasize Indigenous people's knowledge and self-determination—and we are called to respond.

What You Can Do:

- Attend a Sisters in Spirit vigil.¹
- Read *Reclaiming Power and Place* and use the church's study guide:

Why Work to Decolonize? 2

- Support the National Indigenous Ministries of the church.
- Prioritize relationship building with Indigenous people in ways that honour

Indigenous self-determination and address racism.

- As a congregation, repudiate concepts used to justify European superiority over Indigenous people, such as the Doctrine of Discovery and terra nullius.

**For more information, see the National Native Women's Association website: nwac.ca

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday to Shemsadin Hamid who will be turning 8 years old on October 24th. Helping celebrate his big day will be his mom and dad, Rukiya and Thomas Hamid, and his siblings, Solomon and little sister Beli. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday Shemsadin! Have fun!

Happy Birthday greetings to Emily McLean who will be celebrating her birthday on October 28th with family and friends – near and far. Emily (living in Halifax) is the daughter of Christine and John McLean (Hammonds Falls, Nova Scotia). Her brother, Jackson, is living here in St. John's. Best wishes Emily for a wonderful birthday from all your friends here at St. David's!

A very Happy Birthday to Michelle Sturtevant who is celebrating her birthday on October 25th. It will be a joyous occasion no doubt with family and friends from Ontario to Newfoundland joining in the happiness of the day. Making it very special day will be husband, David, and her two little boys, Oliver and Orson, and all her adorable pets. Best wishes Michelle from everyone here at St. David's! We wish you a wonderful birthday!

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

AMS This Sunday, Oct 24th, AMS will be held at the home of Kathy McKay, 55 Pine Bud Ave., right after the church service. Come for a time of fellowship and a light lunch. Only plan to attend if you can bring proof of double vaccination as per NL Government rules. Any difficulties, call Kathy @ 579-0721. We look forward to seeing you and thank-you for your cooperation. Kathy and Penny

Chat with Andrea Crosbie

This past week, I had a little chat with Andrea Crosbie as I was dropping off her weekly bulletin. Andrea looks great! She is currently living at Lane's Retirement Living complex in Airport Heights and she loves it there. She sends her best to everyone!

Jim's 97th Birthday

I had a lovely chat with Jim on his birthday. Heather, Jim's daughter, always makes sure Jim celebrates his special day in style and this year was no exception. Jim was delighted to have received many cards and phone calls and even visits from friends wishing him a Happy Birthday. Tiffany Village also helped with the celebration making sure there was lots of cake for Jim and all his friends there! One of Jim's best presents was a visit from his son, David and his two grandsons who live away but made it home the week before his birthday for a special surprise visit. Jim is very proud of his two grandsons, Jimmy, who is a Chartered Professional Accountant, and Matthew, who has recently completed his degree in Mathematics and hopes to continue on with his education. Sounds like a wonderful birthday! Congratulations Jim and we're all thinking of you!

Muffin Making

Muffin making has started again for the year! Once a month, a small group of enthusiastic bakers come together under the guidance and supervision of Monica McNeil, our Church Administrator, to produce dozens and dozens of muffins for Bridges to Hope. Last Monday, Monica, Janet Aitken, her good friend, Dorothy French, and Lillian Crawford joined forces and baked 21 dozen blueberry bran muffins! Amazing! Sam Johnson, Monica's dad, then had the task of delivering all those muffins to Bridges to Hope. (Monica has given him the nickname of "Sam, Sam, the Muffin Man"!) Great team effort everyone!

If you are interested in helping out any time, contact Monica at the Church (722-2382) and just let her know.

A Reflection from Eric Cumby (Nova Scotia, October 13, 2021)

I so enjoy hearing from Eric and I know you do as well. Kay and Eric spent Thanksgiving week in Nova Scotia with Eric's family and did some sightseeing while they were there. Thank-you Eric!

Apples and God's People.... A Little Reflection

Last week Kathleen and I visited a large apple orchard in Nova Scotia's Annapolis Valley. Acres and acres, rows and rows, of many different kinds of apples. So many varieties, McIntosh, Fuji, Gala, Granny Smith, Cox's Orange Pippin, Honey Crisp - (my favourite), and so many more.

Deep reds, yellows, red and yellow mixes, greens. Different names, different colours. Yet all so alike on the inside, firm white flesh, juicy, sweet and sometimes with a touch of tartness. All in all, perhaps 80% alike on the inside.

And my mind, in the quirky way it works sometimes, brought me back to a sermon of a few weeks ago, from Rev. Mercer at Wesley United Church. He was comparing the bigoted religious differences of many years ago with the enlightened awareness of today. His belief is that most organized religions are pretty much 80% to 90 % alike in their beliefs and teachings. The same scripture readings each Sunday, the same gospel, the same emphasis on our fundamental beliefs of love and kindness, of compassion and forgiveness.

His point was that all too often, rather than recognizing our commonality, we tend to focus on the small differences. It behooves us to be a more tolerant people, respecting other's faith and religious practices. To disparage another's Church by act, by word, or by sly innuendo is beyond sinful. "Let him who is without sin cast the first stone". Christianity has no place for any "holier than thou" attitude. Not to appear trite, but as with the many varieties of apples, so too in God's orchard, the many races of people are pretty much the same on the inside. We all seek the peace, comfort and hope that worship can bring. We choose our own venue, a sanctuary, that brings us a sense of reverence, an ambience for prayer and thanksgiving.

God Bless

Eric



Kay and Eric - Apple Orchard, Wolfville, Nova Scotia, October 2021

St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church Re-Opening, October 18, 2021

Last weekend, David, Michelle and the boys, travelled to Grand Falls-Windsor, to be part of the re-opening celebrations for St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church. Over the past two years, we have watched this congregation literally raise their Church from the ashes. They have been such an inspiration to us and to everyone in their community as they pulled together to make the impossible happen. Lynne Allan has been fabulous in keeping us up to date on their progress and we are so pleased that we now get to share some of their joy as they get back in their Church. Well done and congratulations from everyone here at St. David's! And many thanks to Lynne for providing these pictures and the photo explanations.

And we're back! Almost two years to the day since fire, smoke and water destroyed the sanctuary of St. Matthew's Presbyterian Church (Oct. 18, 2019), a service was held Oct. 17th in the little white church on the hill. It's been a long haul for a handful of volunteers, but now the oldest church building in Grand Falls-Windsor has been restored inside and out. Oct 17 marks resumption of regular services after the fire and then COVID-19 interrupted church life as we knew it. We thank individuals, companies, organizations and churches from near and far for their support during the past two years. We also thank God for guiding us along the path, lighting the way to the re-opening service. Interim Moderator Rev. David Sturtevant, minister of St. David's in St. John's, led the service. As one congregation member said, it was like coming home. Hallelujah!

(Please note that a baptism scheduled to take place during the re-opening service had to be postponed as children in the family had come down with a bug that's on the go).



The sanctuary from back to front. Congregation masked, socially distanced and waiting for the first service in the church in two years to begin.



Waiting for the first service in the church in two years to begin. Masked and socially distanced.



Aimee Doiron has been organist at St. Matthew's for more than 20 years. A keyboard has replaced the organ damaged in the 2019 fire. The prelude was played on a piano setting, something Aimee didn't have the option of doing before the fire.



Orson and Oliver were the only children in church for the re-opening service. They enjoyed children's time with their dad.



Rev. Sturtevant demonstrates how he had the birds eating out of his hand during a recent family outing to Quidi Vidi Lake, St. John's.



Rev. Sturtevant, Interim Moderator of St. Matthew's, along with Oliver and Orson, checked out the new minister's room. Restoration made it more than twice as big as it was before the fire.



These are just a few of the 62 caps for newborns knitted by congregation members Betty Baird-Cross, one of the senior members, and Gail Arnold for the obstetrics unit of the Central Newfoundland Regional Health Centre in Grand Falls-Windsor. St. Matthew's has continued to do some of its community outreach during the two years the church has been kept closed by restoration work and COVID-19.

Archival Moment

This week, thanks to Pam Bruce, we have a photo of St. David's Church taken around 1972 we believe. Can anyone identify who the family is trying to cross Elizabeth Avenue?



St. David's Church Around 1972

Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: In that year the little congregation asked him to return to Newfoundland as their minister. Who offered more monetarily - the little congregation or the British Army?

The answer is: The British Army offered a significant amount of money over and above what the little congregation did, however John Jones accepted the church's offer and returned.

This week the question is: Back then, what did a Sunday look like?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: Who are the current members of the congregation involved in the St. David's Group Home Ltd., i.e. the Ada Barnes House?

The answer is: The current members of the congregation on the Board are Steve Bruneau and Ken Templeton.

This week the question is: What group provides music for our services normally twice a year?

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 now that things are starting to re-open. 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 over 600 services on-line too listen to or see.

How to reach us:

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

Church Administrator: Monica McNeill

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 – Ken Templeton (Session rep)

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Willing Hands (Quilter Group) – Patsy Carmichael

Food For Thought (University and Early Career) – Ernst Rollmann

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:

Ken Templeton Ed Vanderkloet Steve Bruneau

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Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau