



**Sunday December 19th 2021 – Forth Sunday in Advent
(Communion Sunday)**

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 our YouTube channel by typing “St. David's Presbyterian Message for December 19 2021” into Google. Copies of the hymns and scripture readings are included in the email sent out each Friday.

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant is in the office Tuesdays through Fridays from 10 am to 2 pm, if you need to drop off or pick up something. For pastoral care, please contact him at 699-3661. To contact the office, please leave a message on the church’s phone number (722-2382) or email us at stdavids@nfld.com.

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 19 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we find in the Christ child will nourish and nurture our love.

Monday, December 20 We pray for socially marginalized and vulnerable people who find this time of the year difficult.

Tuesday, December 21 We pray for the Presbytery of West Toronto's Ministry Committee. May they feel a strong sense of God's presence to strengthen, focus and lead their discernment.

Wednesday, December 22 We give thanks for the efforts that have been made to confront systemic racism in our society, and we pray for those who continue to work toward ending racial discrimination.

Thursday, December 23 We give thanks and pray for those who dedicate themselves to ensuring the care, protection and rights of all children.

Friday, December 24 (Christmas Eve) Christ was born as one of us and, in him, God shows us how much the world is loved. We pray that the light of God's love blesses and fills the world.

Saturday, December 25 (Christmas Day) Holy Child, born of Earth woman and the Spirit of heaven. Warrior of heaven and earth who conquered death, we thank you. For the life, love and hope you give us through children, kakike ka' nanaskom'tinaan (Cree for "we will always be grateful").

Message From the Minister



Look around the sanctuary of any church and you will see a hundred symbols of faith. In only a quick peek around the sanctuary at St. David's, I can find crosses, doves, chalices, swords, keys, fish, lambs, and even some more fantastical symbols: a griffon and a dragon!

Before the reformation, when literacy was rare and services were not in a language people could understand, the symbols and pictures represented in art and stained glass worked to teach and remind people about the stories of their faith. It was as if the sanctuary was a picture book for people to read and learn about who God is.

Still today, the Christmas season is full of symbols: a star, a manger, a white-robed person with wings. We still use symbols to represent stories, one simple image telling a whole story. As the saying goes, a picture (or symbol) is worth a thousand words!

As for me, I find one of my favorite symbols of Christmas is the hampers we deliver to those in need in our community. Today we are preparing and sending out 40 hampers full of all manner of essentials, big cardboard boxes stuffed full of food, bags of vegetables, a turkey, and even a thoughtfully donated hand-knit dish cloth for everyone. It is all packed into plain cardboard boxes, and shows up on the doorstep in the hands of a friendly volunteer.

The cardboard box is as plain a vessel as the stable was. The gift inside brings life, and comes to you where you are, you have only to receive it. It is abundant, so much it must be shared. And most of all, it is a sign of freely given love. What better symbol of Christmas could there possibly be?

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

In-person Church Services

St. David's would like to welcome you back to our in-person church service. We use QR codes to verify vaccination status and each week we do better at this new process. We still ask for your assessment status as we have since we started in-person services.

Our morning worship is at 11 am. We also live-stream the service, or you can access it later. Please wear your masks especially during singing and respect social distancing norms.

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. 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'd certainly welcome you back.

Getting the Service and Bulletin using our website

This bulletin is placed on our website as soon as the Rollmann family a copy on Friday morning. 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 Dec 19th 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.

Can We Help? Do you need help getting your QR code or getting it in the format you want (on your phone, a paper copy or a wallet size copy)? Do you need help with any small jobs around the house or garden such as putting up some Christmas decorations? Do you need any help getting groceries perhaps? Or maybe you would just like to have a chat with the minister or an elder? If so, give the church a call at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com and we'll see what we can do to help. If you'd like to drop by the church to see David or to drop something off, he's in his office from 10 am to 2 pm Tuesday through Friday.

Treasurer's Report, Session and Board of Managers (BoM) Update

Treasurer's Notes

The Christmas Hamper Project's big day is this Saturday when we will be delivering hampers to forty families. This takes place with help from the Community Food Sharing Society which is supplying turkeys and vegetables. We also ask you to help by your donations, your help in shopping for and preparing the hampers, and by doing the driving and providing safe delivery of the hampers. We hope for a nice day, right now Environment Canada says a 40% chance of flurries. Our budget for this project is \$2,000 to ensure your donation goes to this project, please designate it as "Christmas Hamper Project" on your e-transfers or envelopes.

Session is considering a Sunday for a short meeting immediately following the service to discuss and approve the 2020 Financial Reports. We hope to have that soon. Meanwhile if you did not get a copy of those statements, please contact the office and a copy will be emailed or sent to you. Copies are also available at the office.

Boxing Day Service

Sunday December 26th at 11 am

First service in 2022

Sunday January 2nd at 11 am

Christmas Hamper Project dates and activities

Packing and delivering hampers Saturday December 18th

Board of Managers Update

After the Board meeting on December 9th and after consultation with our Covid Best Practices Committee (CBPC) we have made some small changes in the sanctuary and we hope more will be forthcoming. A coffee hour is also in the offing provided we are still trending in a good direction Covid-wise. Stay tuned for upcoming news on how the coffee time will work.

The Board and Session are also looking for a new church administrator. A job description is approved and discussions continue on how it will be advertised and distributed. We will be asking for applicants to apply.

Bridges to Hope

Christmas Hampers are done and we hope they helped to make Christmas brighter for those who received them! **Thank you** to all who donated in any way to this project through financial and food contributions and, most importantly, time!

The need for help extends beyond Christmas which is why we continue to assist Bridges To Hope through donations of non-perishable food items for our Food Trolley each week! Keeping up with the ever increasing demand is a challenge but we strive to do our best to help!

In case you're not sure what might be most useful, listed below are some of this week's flyer "specials" which are good deals for items used in Bridges' food hampers:

Weekly Specials

December 16 - December 24, 2021

STORE	ITEM	PRICE
Walmart	Aylmer Soup	\$0.57
	Franco-American Canned Gravy	\$0.67
Pipers	Avon Peas & Carrots/Mixed Vegetables	\$1.00
Lawtons	Heinz Tomato Soup	2/\$1.20
	Compliments Apple Juice	\$0.97
Shoppers Drug Mart	No Name Evaporated Milk	\$0.99
	Campbell's Soup	4/\$4.00
Dominion	Green Giant Vegetables	\$0.88
	Kraft Dinner 12 pack	\$7.99 (\$0.67 each)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Condolences

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to the Mavis Owusu-Damprane, her husband, Collins Bekoe and their little son, Calvin, on the passing of Mavis's mother on November 28th. Our prayers and thoughts are with them during this difficult time and we hope that it brings them some comfort to know that others are thinking of them.

From the Bekoe family:

"Our dear mother was a wonderful and Godly woman who pleased the Lord in all she did. There are not enough words we can say to describe how important she was to us. It is sad she had to leave us but as Christians we know she is with the Lord.



As Roman 14:8 says: 'For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord: whether we live therefore or die, we are the Lord's.'

May your soul Rest In Peace Mummy!!! You will forever remain in our hearts."

Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations and Engagements

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 7th 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 lots of fun!

Happy Birthday to Cynthia Clouston who will be celebrating her birthday on December 23rd with her mom and dad, Pearl and Peter Clouston. Best wishes Cynthia from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a great day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Kirsty Gillies who will be celebrating her birthday on Saturday, December 18th with family and friends, including her husband, Robert Venth and sons, Noah and Samuel and her sisters, Joanna and Allison and their families. And let's not forget proud parents – Penny and Stewart Gillies! Best wishes Kirsty from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day with many more birthdays to come!

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

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to Judy and William (Bill) Barnes who will celebrate their 54th wedding anniversary on December 26th. Our thoughts

are with you both. Warmest wishes and congratulations from all your friends here at St. David's!

And a very special announcement – Allison Crawford and Steve Hawco got engaged on December 14th! Congratulations to you both from everyone here at St. David's and we wish you much 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.

Announcements

Festive Noel Concert

The St. John's Choir under the direction of Stephen Candow, will be presenting a Christmas concert, Festive Noel, on Saturday, December 18, 2021 starting at 7:30 PM (doors open at 6:30 PM) at the Anglican Cathedral. Tickets are \$20.00 each and can be purchased from choir members (including our own Ed Vanderkloet) or at the door. VAX pass and masks will be required. For more information contact Ed at edvanderkloet59@gmail.com or by phone or text:(709)730-2467

News from the Pews

Knitted Goods Delivered!

On Tuesday, Penny Gillies sent along this little note full of great news!



I took many of the St Davids Prayer Shawl items to Stella's Circle this morning so they took a pic which will be on their social media. Cathy White decorated the tree in the lobby with hats, scarves and mitts. Big thank you to all who contributed!

-Penny

A Christmas Story

This is such a busy time of year and it's always good just to take a breath and try to find a calm moment if you can. Below is a little story from the book, "Twelve Tales for Christmas, written by Rev. J. S. S. Armour. (This is one of my favourite books and I have come to treasure it!) The story is titled "A Memorable Christmas" and with the arrival of recent refugees from Afghanistan to our province and Canada, it seems somewhat appropriate. I hope you enjoy and that it finds a special place in your heart.

(Printed with permission of Rev, J.S.S. Armour. 1999 The Church of St. Andrew and St. Paul; ISBN 0-9685857-0-1)

The year was 1979. In common with many churches and groups in Canada, the congregation I then served decided to sponsor a family of boat people. The tragic aftermath of the war in Vietnam – the plight of the families fleeing in overcrowded boats, scarcely sea-worthy – then being refused landing in so many ports, touched many hearts across this generous land.

Several meetings were held and a committee elected. We considered at some length what we might do about housing, a possible job, clothes, food, medical care, etc. Things were progressing, but very slowly. It was somehow all an effort. Many had doubts about the project. Unemployment was high. How would these people fit in? The congregation was less than enthusiastic. However, there was plenty of time. They were not to come 'til February and it was now the middle of December.

“Wait until the New Year when people aren't so busy – then we'll really get organized!”

Then came the call... “Your family has arrived in Canada. They are in Edmonton. We'll put them on a plane for St. John's next week.”

One week to get ready, and it was almost Christmas!

And yet within that week, everything was miraculously done. People who had shown no interest suddenly came to life. An apartment was found and furnished. We were flooded with clothes and dishes, food, and toys for the

children, even a TV. Christmas cards began arriving for the family even before we knew their names.

Then it was off to the airport to welcome them. It was snowing, somehow a typical Canadian Christmas scene. The airport was jammed. Students returned from school. Family members home for the holidays. Everywhere, people were laughing, bags stuffed with gaily wrapped presents, parents hugging sons and daughters, everyone full of Christmas spirit.

And then, almost without warning, there stood our family – pale, emaciated, with matchstick arms and legs, sallow skinned, huge eyes and incongruously dressed in an assortment of Canadian winter clothes that did not fit. Uncertain, frightened, alone, the mother had a tiny child in her arms. The father, with a child at his side. Had his arms outstretched, as though to protect them all from the strangeness, the suddenness of their arrival in an unknown place, among an unknown people.

None of us moved. Somehow, before our eyes, amidst all the prosperity of a North American Christmas, a tableau of tragedy. A child born in a stable because there was no room for Him in the inns of the world. A family who were to become refugees in Egypt, escaping the horrors of persecution. The eternal lesson of Christmas – reinforced for us each year by all the needy children of the world – be they in Europe, Africa, in Asia, in Central America, or here in Canada.

Christmas means seeing Christ in all – being Christ to all – especially to those in need of our help.

A Happy Ending? Yes, please, at Christmas-time. Let me tell you the rest of the story. Our Vietnamese family, by their hard work, quickness of mind, independence of spirit, became self-supporting long before the year ended. They prospered and we saw and heard less of them.

Christmas Day 1982. I was just about to sit down to dinner. It had been a hectic morning, visiting the hospitals, delivering the poinsettias from the Christmas Eve service and now it was time to sit down and enjoy my family and friends. The doorbell rang. What now? With some reluctance I opened the door.

There stood the little family, immaculately dressed, radiating good health, beaming from ear to ear. "May we come in?" "Of course."

In they trooped and perched on the chairs. No, they would have nothing. In their hands were packages, carefully wrapped in white tissue paper. "For me?" "For you. Is not your Christmas a time of giving?"

Inside was a tea set – not Crown Derby, not Limoges – and yet no cups and saucers could have been more precious. That Christmas Day, the little family visited every member of the committee, and for each one, there was a tea set that said, "This is Christmas."

St. Francis of Assisi reminds us that "it is in giving that we receive."

May it be so with you this Christmas.

Archival Moment

First, a small correction from last week. The picture of the Good Companions Christmas Lunch from the Battery Hotel was taken in 1992, not 1995.

This week, keeping in the Christmas spirit, we have another picture of a Good Companions Christmas Lunch – this time from the Church Hall here at St. David's. The year was 1986. Lots of red to be seen! Recognize anyone? Thanks again to Pam Bruce and Kay Scott for these pictures!



Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: What was the Dorcas Society and when did it crease operations? This may surprise a number of people!

The answer is: Rev Ward's wife Sarah started the society with eleven other women of the congregation in early 1825. It was modelled on the act of Dorcas in Acts 9 who did "good deeds and almsdeeds" and who sewed garments. This little society raised funding and provided clothing for honest and industrious poor. Its success was due to annual reports on its funds and their use and also that the clothing was distributed without regard for the religious creed of the applicant. The Dorcas Society continued for some 151 years, until March 1975.

This week the question is: How did the Dorcas Society close out and can anyone here now remember its closing?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: What were the reasons to have two services on Christmas Eve?

The answer is: The earlier service was aimed at families who had young children who needed to be in bed early Christmas Eve. The carols sung did not always have the effect of lulling the children to sleep! The later service, held at 11:30 pm was for those who were out and about Christmas Eve delivering gifts or visiting friends. Its story and carols climaxed at midnight when the birth of the baby Jesus was announced by the choir – in song.

This week the question is: While the Dorcas Society closed in 1975, what other event took place at St. David's that year?

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

Offerings Your church donations can take many forms including using the Pre-Authorized Donation (PAD), if you'd like to have your donations made using 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 re-opening. 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: Vacant

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) – 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:

Ken Templeton Ed Vanderkloet Steve Bruneau
Andem Effiong

Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau