



Sunday December 26th 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 our YouTube channel by typing “St. David's Presbyterian Message for December 26 2021” into Google. Copies of the hymns and scripture readings are included in the email sent out each Friday.

Church Office Hours: Rev. Sturtevant will be visiting family in Ontario until January 14th. 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 26 (Boxing Day) For Christ, there was no room in the inn; we pray for those who seek shelter. Christ had to flee his birthplace; we pray for those who seek refuge. Christ read scripture as a child; we pray that God's wisdom will enlighten our minds and direct our paths.

Monday, December 27 We pray for the ministry and mission of Mistawasis Memorial Presbyterian Church of the Mistawasis Nehiyawak First Nation in Northern Saskatchewan.

Tuesday, December 28 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of Cape Breton in Nova Scotia.

Wednesday, December 29 We pray for theological students who graduate this spring and begin the process of seeking a call to a congregation.

Thursday, December 30 We pray for the people, ministries and mission of the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

Friday, December 31 (New Year's Eve) We end the year in praise for God's loving kindness and care, and we pray for peace in the world.

Message From the Minister



*The Annunciation by El Greco,
c. 1590–1603,
Ohara Museum of Art, Kurashiki, Japan*

Well, this is unfortunately shaping up to be another Christmas marked by things not going the way they should, or the way we wished they would. To my dismay, but for good reason, we've had to move our Christmas eve service online. We're up into hundreds of active coronavirus cases in the province for the first time in many months, and just at the time when we all want to be together and have a proper Christmas, we have to watch those plans evaporate. In the words of our Chief Medical Officer, "The timing just sucks".

All the same, it brings me back again to one of the things I think is the most overlooked reality of the Christmas story. The piece of art to the left is a depiction of the "annunciation", when the angel came

to Mary to tell her that she would be giving birth to the Son of the Most High, and that she would name him Jesus. This is the beginning of many Christmas stories, and Mary then waits for months while the God-child grows inside her. What eager anticipation she must have felt! She must have been counting down the days, eagerly preparing to bring the King of Kings into the world! But then, things changed. Government mandates came down, and she had to travel to Bethlehem right when she was due, and when the contractions started, there she was on the back of a donkey, nowhere to go but a stable.

I cannot help but imagine that Mary must have felt tremendously ashamed to be giving birth to God in a stable. What would the announcing angel think? Was this any way to receive a king? Most certainly not.

But Christmas is, at its heart, a story of how God blesses the undeserving. Christ was born to a pair of nobodies pregnant outside of

wedlock in a backwater town, laid in a manger, with not a single important person present. The only ones who heard about it were, again, shepherds of so little status their names were never recorded. The stable is a sign of a Christmas gone wrong. Mary and Joseph must have been overjoyed to welcome their new baby, but I wonder if they were afraid of what God would think of how they were treating his newborn son?

Christ comes to the undeserving. No matter what your celebrations look like this year, they will be better than that first Christmas of rough swaddling cloths, drafty walls, and a feed trough for a bed. Remember that this season is not about the decorations, the fancy feasts, or the perfect reunion of all our loved ones: Mary and Joseph had none of that. What Christmas is about is remembering the promise that God comes to us, and that love and hope and peace comes into the world in the darkest of nights.

No matter how you celebrate Christmas this year, you can take heart because of the stable. Christ comes to the lonely and the frazzled, Christ comes to the unprepared and the ashamed, Christ comes to the poor and to those who feel crushed by government mandates. Christ comes to all, and what we have to do is the same thing as Mary and Joseph: pause for a moment, open our hearts, and give thanks for the gift right in front of us. Nothing can take away that Good News. Hallelujah!

-Rev. David

From the Board, Session and Treasurer

Church Services

St. David's will be holding services virtually for the time being, due to increasing numbers of Omicron cases and the firm desire that we not be the cause of suffering to those who worship with us. We pray continually for our medical community and our world, and encourage everyone to do everything they can to limit the spread of the virus so we can get back to worshipping together in person. If you or anyone you know needs help getting registered for a booster shot (or a first vaccine), please let us know and we will offer all the compassionate and non-judgemental help we can.

Our morning worship is at 11 am. We live-stream the service on Zoom and Youtube, or you can access it later on Youtube.

For those members of St. David's unable to participate in virtual worship for one reason or another, please contact us so that we can discuss any options for participation that work for you.

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 26th 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? 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

On Saturday December 18th we safely delivered 40 hampers. We'd like to thank Community Food Sharing, which supplied turkeys and vegetables, and all those who made donations, helped with the shopping, packed the hampers, and safely delivered the hampers to each home.

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.

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.

Year-End Donations: The year 2021 is quickly winding down and if you would like to ensure your 2021 donations are included with this year's income tax, please make sure your:

- donation arrives at the church by **noon January 3rd 2021**;
- cheque is dated **December 31st 2021 or earlier**;
- E-transfer is made **on or before December 31st 2021** to be included in 2021.

Please contact the church office if you have any questions.

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.

Session Report

Christmas Decorations at St. David's

Our church is well decorated for this season and Session would again like to thank all those who helped give our church a very festive air. Thanks to all!

Services and Activities this Holiday Season

Session has identified the following list of services and seasonal activities taking place during the Christmas season:

Christmas Eve Service	Friday December 24 th at 6 pm
Boxing Day Service	Sunday December 26 th at 11 am
First service in 2022	Sunday January 2 nd at 11 am
(Rev. Jim Russell will take the Service)	

Board of Managers Update

The Board and Session will start actively looking for a new church administrator after the Christmas season. 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

As we come to the end of another year, **Bridges To Hope** extends its thanks and appreciation to everyone at St. David's for their continuing support!

Weekly donations of non-perishable food items, cash/gift card donations go a long way in assisting us with our programs, particularly during the winter season when expenses for many of our clients are at their highest!

The need for help extends beyond Christmas which is why your contributions are invaluable! We know that the year ahead will still be challenging but with your ongoing participation, we will endeavour to help those in our community who are in need.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

Announcements

We would like to thank Dave and Sylvia Hudson for a donation to the Memorial Fund in memory of Hugh, Alma and Ian Douglas Hamlyn.

We would also like to thank Mildred Skanes for a donation to the Memorial Fund in loving memory of Charlie and Julie Skanes.

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Awards

Happy Birthday greetings to Joanna Lo who is celebrating her birthday on December 28th. Joanna will be celebrating her birthday with her mom and dad, Penny and Stewart Gillies, who were fortunate to be able to travel to British Columbia to be with Joanna and her husband, Gordon, and their children for the birthday celebration and for the Christmas holidays. Best wishes Joanna from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings to Kirsten McKay who is celebrating her birthday on December 28th as well. Kirsten is the daughter of Kathy and Donald McKay. Kathy and Don travelled to British Columbia almost 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 Eric Cumby who will be celebrating his 85th birthday on December 30th! Eric is a great friend and supporter of St. David's and takes a keen interest in the life and fellowship of our Church and its people. Eric is always there to lend a hand when needed, to cheer you up with a witty little

comment when you feel a bit down and to share his special insight of life with his wonderful writings. Eric will be celebrating his special day with Kay, his children – near and far, other family members and his countless friends! From everyone here at St. David's, Eric, we wish you a very Happy Birthday with many wonderful moments and may there be many more celebrations in your future!

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, much happiness and a great year to come!

Happy Birthday to Marcella Rollmann who is celebrating her birthday on December 29th followed by Marcella and Hans's 53rd wedding anniversary on December 30th! Best wishes to the Rollmann's from everyone here at St. David's! We miss you! Let's hope that 2022 will see us being able to meet and chat in person! (Marcella sent along this little note and a beautiful picture of herself and Hans. Thank-you!)

And congratulations to Hans Rollmann who was awarded Professor Emeritus from Memorial University!
Congratulations Hans!
Well deserved indeed!
(See note below.)



The week between Christmas and New Year's usually entails a lot of celebrating, including my birthday on the 29th and our anniversary on the 30th, but during this COVID-year we will be celebrating our 53rd wedding anniversary quietly at home. Hans was recently awarded Professor Emeritus, but missed the convocation due to health concerns. We are generally erring on the side of caution, avoiding social contact, and are enjoying St. David's services online. Holiday greetings to everyone. Stay well!

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

Decorating Cupcakes!

Before Michelle, Oliver and Orson left for Ontario on December 13th, they had a great visit with Monica and had a very productive time decorating cupcakes! Monica sent along these pictures...





Allison and Steve

Last week, we announced the engagement of Allison Crawford (Lillian and Harry Crawford's daughter) and Steve Hawco. This week, they sent along a great picture that we wanted to share with you. Congratulations Allison and Steve – terrific news!

Christmas Hampers

The 2021 Christmas Hamper Project was a great success! There are many people to thank including: Lillian Crawford and Anne Calver who know how to organize and who will never give up; Rev. David, who picked up all the turkeys from Community Food Sharing, Cathy White and Doreen Wakeham (two ladies who participated in the yoga classes that were held in our Church Hall pre-COVID) who put the boxes together, labelled them and stacked them on stage; the people who sorted the food, packed the boxes (Allison, Steve and Brian and helper); Steve Bruneau and Jenny Griffioen, who got the vegetable to the Church right on time; the dispatchers, Becky and Leith Quinton, who kept the hampers moving smoothly from the Hall to the waiting drivers; and to all the drivers who dropped off the hampers to families in St. John's and metro area. It goes without saying that none of this would have been possible without the tremendous support of everyone from St. David's. Every donation you made, whether actual food, money or

your time, went towards making this Christmas very special for many families. Doesn't get much better than that. Thank-you all!

The same day we do the hampers, we (the Session and Board) also put together Christmas baskets for David, Monica, Brian (Way) and Frank (Fogwill) as a token of our appreciation for all they do for us throughout the year. It takes a special "knack" to put together a Christmas basket with flair! Jessica Thorne and Zack Barnes, two good friends of Anne, definitely have that creative touch! Thank-you Jessica and Zack for helping us out – it's very much appreciated! (Jessica and Zack also delivered 4 hampers around town!)

Below are just some of the pictures from last Saturday. We hope you enjoy them!



Just Some of the Food to be Packed



Steve and Allison Pack Boxes



Brian Starting to Pack Boxes



Janet Aitken and Friends Knit Dish Cloths for the Hampers



Steve Bruneau Arrives with the Vegetables



Bags of Vegetables



Just Some of the Packed Boxes



Leith, Steve, Allison, Lillian and Becky



Kyle - Ready to Drop off Two Hampers!



Zack and Jessica Preparing Baskets



Christmas Baskets

Archival Moment

This week we have a picture from a few years back and it seems somewhat appropriate to share this picture with you at Christmas. Thank-you Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell for passing along this picture. Do you know who the two boys are? Well, one is Dave Picco, (son of Catherine and David Picco) and the other is Scott Bonnell, son of Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell!



Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

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

The answer is: The Dorcas Society ended its activity in 1975. The money they had was spread equally between St. Luke's Home, the Agnes Pratt Home and St. Patrick's Mercy Home. Brass plaques were placed in each home as a memorial to the Dorcas Society.

This week the question is: What was one of the first things Rev. Ward did on his re-appointment as minister of the Chapel in 1827?

Recent History:

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

The answer is: The year 1975 was the 200th anniversary of the congregation. There were special services held throughout the year with visiting ministers and other activities.

This week the question is: Out in the Narthex is an old stand-alone organ. What event did this organ "star" in, in 1975?

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.

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