



Sunday December 11th, Third Sunday of Advent

The service is at 11 am and we are grateful to be meeting in person. While you are not required to wear masks we respectfully ask that you continue to wear your masks while in our building. The service is available on Zoom in real time and is also available via YouTube.

This Sunday Service we are holding our “no-rehearsal-Christmas Pageant!! Expect to giggle and expect to be moved, as our Sunday School invites the congregation to join them in telling the story of Jesus’s birth.

Church Office Hours: The church office is open from 9 am to 1 pm weekdays with the exception of statutory holidays. **PLEASE NOTE; NO ONE WILL BE IN THE OFFICE MONDAY, DEC 12TH ~ SORRY FOR ANY INCONVENIENCE. BUT PLEASE DO EMAIL OR LEAVE A PHONE MESSAGE.**

For pastoral care or to contact the Minister, please phone 699-3661. You can always leave a message on the church’s phone number (722-2382) or email us at stdavids@nfd.com.

Mission Moment – Sunday, December 11th

In Nepal, 70-year-old Dhani Gharti found a boil on the sole of her foot. When she sought treatment, Dhani received a diagnosis of leprosy. Despite taking medication for a year, Dhani’s wound kept coming back. One day, Dhani’s friend told her about the Presbyterian World Service & Development-supported Shining Hospital, a Christian hospital run by the International Nepal Fellowship, where she thought Dhani could get more successful treatment. **“Every time I visit the Shining Hospital with my wounded foot, the nurses always welcome me and give the best medical care.** They always show love and care while dressing my wounds,” shared Dhani.

From St. David's Auxiliary (Atlantic Mission Society)

God of strength, we pray for the staff at the Shining Hospital – a PWS&D supported health facility in Nepal. Be with them as they treat severe illnesses like leprosy and tuberculosis. Bless their work to provide vocational training so that people living with these illnesses may have more abundant life. Amen.

Prayer No. 64 – Taken from OVERFLOWING - Prayers for a More Sustainable, Compassionate and Just World, published in recognition of PWS&D's 75th anniversary!

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 11 (Third Sunday of Advent) Give us joy, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 12 We pray for the medical staff at the Shining Hospital in Nepal as they treat illnesses with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Tuesday, December 13 We pray for chaplains serving in hospitals, retirement homes and other health-care facilities across Canada.

Wednesday, December 14 We pray for Indigenous women in Guatemala as they learn their rights and are empowered to exercise them with support from the church through Presbyterian World Service & Development.

Thursday, December 15 We pray for the members and work of the Atlantic Mission Society.

Friday, December 16 We pray for those struggling with spiritual and mental health during the holidays. May they reach out for help and find faithful and supportive spiritual care providers.

Saturday, December 17 O God, you are the giver of life. We pray for the church throughout the world. May God renew its worship, nurture its growth, empower its witness and restore its unity as we continue Christ's ministry.

Minister's Message

In this week's Message from the Minister, Rev. David announces the sad news of his family's loss of a pregnancy this week. Included is a picture of his 15-week old fetus' hand, and a brief message of sadness and trust in God's promises. Michelle and David are resting and recovering, and give thanks to the people of St. David's for your kind words, thoughts, and prayers on our behalf, as well as for the people who have stepped up to help with child-care, meals, and such.

The full message may be found as an attachment with this email.

The St. John's and Area Council of Churches request congregations be made aware of:

The World Day of Prayer for Christian Unity

To be celebrated at The Baptist Crossing Church

314 Topsail Road

St. John's

On January 22nd 2023 at 2.30 pm.

Sermon will be delivered by Anglican Bishop Sam Rose.

Treasurer's Announcement

This week's thanks

The sanctuary is now fully ready for Christmas thanks to the Flemming family and friends who came in last Saturday to make the final touches on the tree and the creche. Great job and many thanks!

I'd also like to give a big thanks to Frank Fogwill who keeps the church and hall looking good all year around. He's also keeps an eye on the area around the church, front, back and sides. Heather has a calendar for Frank detailing what is happening and when so he can ensure we look good before and after those activities. Many thanks!

I'd also like to thank Lillian Crawford and the WA for everything they do, the Christmas dinner for the Good Companions, the bridge parties, and a whole lot of things we don't often see for example - clean ovens!

Lillian is also the leader for the Christmas hamper project. It partly explains why I was at Walmart yesterday getting Cheerios, since Santa is not the only one with a list! The budget for the hampers is some \$2,200 this year. We have only one dark cloud on the horizon - we may be in a bit of trouble over turkeys. Last year we were able to store over twenty LARGE turkeys in Bouwina and Frank's freezer. This year their freezer is unavailable. SO, we may be looking for some help, please spare a bit of room in your freezer for a turkey or two. Stay tuned!

Fiscal Updates

You've been reading about some of the challenges this church now faces and some of the things we can all do to help.

Last week I mentioned the donations for Presbyterian Sharing were falling short of our commitment. What a change a week makes! We've exceeded this year's commitment. So Presbyterian Sharing will get the full amount

donated, our original commitment and then some! Thanks to those who stepped up.

I was very pleased to see the minister's appeal in last week's bulletin. The church is also living in times with lower income and higher expenses. Did you know we actually have two loans? One loan is from the Presbyterian Church in Canada (PCC) for the new hall windows (not the 2018 stained glass ones donated by families and groups) but the ones we put in during 2014 replacing the old aluminum ones. That was a \$65,000 loan running from 2015 to 2029 and if we pay it off on time, the PCC will refund the \$15,833 in interest we will have paid. That does sound a lot like how the federal CEBA loan works.

My Thanks

As treasurer I'd certainly like to thank everyone who continues to donate to St. David's through your envelopes on Sunday mornings, by e-transfers, or through your monthly PAD contributions. If you would like to donate monthly by PAD, contact 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. We accept donations through Canada Helps, via Canada Post, or you may drop it off at the church, or call the church and someone would be pleased to pick it up for you.

The sole email address we are using to accept donations is through stdavidsnfld@gmail.com . It is linked to our bank account and automatically accepts all donations.

Minister's Christmas Appeal

I have a very clear memory from the birth of my eldest son, standing in the birthing room holding my wife's hand and watching the doctor holding him up in the moments after he was delivered. He was red and squishy, as most newborns are and his eyes were closed. What I really remember though, was the very first time I saw him move, as his arms trembled a bit and pulled in towards his chest; I remember thinking that suddenly there was a whole other person in the room, someone new with a new body and a new will.

In the season of Christmas, we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ, who came into the world in a very similar way. Christmas is a time of new beginnings, a new baby moving for the first time, a new family, a new relationship between God and creation, a new future opening up for the world! This was an unexpected and novel event, as the King came to dwell, not in the holiest and most sacred inner courts of the temple, but in a feeding trough in a backwater stable. The birth was made holy, not by incense, golden ornaments, or the fanfare of trumpets, but by the actions of a simple human family that welcomed God among them, nursed him, cradled him, and loved him. This season, we remember that Christmas is not about fancy surroundings, but about starting something new with love at the start.

Here at St. David's, we are excited to find ourselves in a time of change. I have spent nearly half of my time here under COVID lockdowns, so our full and busy schedule of Advent activities this year brings such joy to my heart! We are a vibrant community, and having the chance to bring joy and laughter to seniors with our Good Companions group, worship with the wonderful music of the Tenacious String Orchestra, and even share a simple cup of coffee after the service again is a powerful reminder of the love for God and neighbour that motivates all we do.

That being said, it will be no surprise to you to learn that COVID has been a hard time for our church. With in-person services suspended and no groups looking to rent our spaces during the week, we were glad for the opportunity presented by the federal government to participate in the CEBA program, which allowed us to receive an interest-free loan of \$40,000 to help us through the last few years. We are now looking to repay that loan, and I believe that with your help we can do it!

We have already saved up \$10,000 to put towards the loan. Significantly, the Government only requires \$30,000 to be repaid IF payment is made within the next year. Although we still have a years worth of time to try to save and raise the last \$20,000, we have chosen to make a special appeal to you, as a member of the congregation, to ask if you would be willing to help us pay down the loan so that we can focus our attention on new initiatives and ministries instead of recovering from the last few years.

I know this has been a hard time for many, so I hope that even if you are not able to contribute financially to this "Pay Off the Loan" appeal you will still consider taking new steps this year to support our ministries with volunteering your time and energy. We would welcome your support for our seniors group, our community meals, the Bridges to Hope food bank, our children's ministry, our work with refugees, or perhaps with a new ministry idea that God has placed on your own heart!

As we look to the manger, we remember that God can use even the smallest gifts to do great things. With your help, the future of this city and this world will be shaped by the love that filled that stable. This is a time of new beginnings, of new hope and new compassion. To you and yours, Merry Christmas, and may God fill your holidays with every blessing that truly matters.

Rev. David Sturtevant

St. David's Christmas Schedule:

Sunday, December 11th: Third Sunday of Advent

“No-Rehearsal-Christmas Pageant”

Christmas Hamper Sunday

Thursday, December 15th: Good Companion's

Christmas Lunch at noon

Saturday, December 17th: Christmas Hamper Delivery

Volunteer Drivers required

Sunday, December 18th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion

Wednesday, December 21st: “Blue Christmas” – Special Service

for those feeling a loss this

Christmas - at 7:00pm

Saturday, December 24th: Christmas Eve Service

Carols & Scriptures – at 6:30pm

Candlelight Service at St. Andrew's

Sunday, December 25th: Christmas Day Service at 11:00am

Christmas Week ~ Dec. 28th, 29th & 30th : Office hours

10:00am to 1:00pm

Advent Lunch – December 4, 2022

The Advent Lunch – a long-standing tradition here at St. David's – went ahead last Sunday (December 4th). In years gone by, the Advent Lunch was organized by our choir and the soup served was dubbed the "Choir Soup". Well, this year, Rev, Sturtevant took on the job of organizing the meal and he created a new tradition. He cooked 2 turkeys (and they were whoppers!), carved them up and then made two huge pots of homemade turkey soup. That was accompanied by rolls and butter and little candy canes and chocolates for dessert. He had a great team of volunteers who made sure things went smoothly, including the table setup and setting and clean-up detail. The soup was a great hit if the number of bowls eaten was any indication!

As many of you know, the TSO joined us for the Sunday service last week – a treat we look forward to every year – and we were delighted to have some of the orchestra members join us for lunch!

Thank-you David and helpers for a wonderful Advent Lunch!

And thanks to Judy Cumby for sharing her photos of the event, some of which are shown below.





St. David's Church Announcements

Church Service and Coffee Hour

We'd like to welcome everyone back to church and to the Sunday Coffee Hour after church. The services will continue to be streamed live over Zoom and placed on YouTube for later viewing. We look forward to seeing those we haven't seen for a long time.

Coffee Hour Volunteers needed...

We are looking for volunteers to:

- * make coffee & tea
- * do set up and clean up
- * set table and lay out plates of cookies, biscuits, etc (this will be provided)

There is a sign up sheet on the kitchen door OR you can call Heather in the office. Your help would be appreciated. Thank you ever so much!

Sunday School

If you would like to find out what is involved to assist with Sunday School, please contact Heather at the church office or Sue Templeton anytime ... Or, please join us one Sunday as our guest to observe the children's program in action!

Our sign up sheet for the New Year has been posted! Please sign up for any Sunday that will work for you. It is appreciated. Thank you!

Food For Thought (from Ernst Rollmann)

The Food for Thought fellowship, prayer, and discussion group for young adults met weekly this year on Zoom from January 18 through August 8. After a short summer break, we started meeting again on September 29. The meeting time, Zoom link, and discussion topic or Bible passage is sent out in a weekly email. We are currently meeting on Thursdays at 7pm. We are discussing the Pastoral Epistles (1 & 2 Timothy, Titus). Anyone interested in participating should email me at ernstrollmann12@gmail.com. New folks are always welcome!

Bible Study

Our long standing Bible Study, under the guidance of Sheena Findlay, has paused now for the Christmas season and will resume in January 2023.

Bible Study is held on Wednesday morning in the Armour Room from 10:30am to 12:00 noon. The start date for January will be announced at a later date.

Women's Bible Study

This Bible Study program is being offered by Christina Shalaby on Friday evenings from 6:30 to 8:30pm in the Armour Room.

Bible Study will pause for Christmas and will resume in the New Year (date to be announced).

Christina's contact information is as follows:

Phone: 709-770-0217 and email: christinashalaby@outlook.com

A.M.S.



It's time to return your Piggy Banks! If you would like a receipt for tax purposes, please return the contents of the banks before December 31st. This can be done via the collection plate, dropped off to the Church Office or given to any AMS member. Thank you for your continued support!

White Gifts/Christmas Hampers

Historically at St. David's, the first or second Sunday in Advent was observed as White Gift Sunday, a time when food and toys, wrapped in white paper, were donated to be distributed with the Christmas Hampers! We no longer distribute toys and Covid-19 essentially put an end to the white gift practice.

We do, however, still do **Christmas Hampers** and White Gift Sunday has evolved into **Christmas Hamper Sunday ~ Sunday, December 11th, 2022**

So, from now until **Hamper Delivery time – Saturday, December 17, 2022**, donations towards the cost of Food Hampers would be greatly appreciated!

We normally distribute 40-45 hampers but would certainly do more, if funds permit. Please consider how you can help this happen!

Thank you for your continued support.

CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2022

Preparations are well underway for Christmas Hampers . . but **help** is still needed! **Here's how you can help:**

- Make a monetary donation ... just indicate that donation is for "Christmas Hampers"
- Donate a gift card ... can be used to purchase food items for hampers
- Donate non-perishable food item(s) ... see Hamper contents below for suggestions
- Volunteer to deliver a hamper or two ... **NEED 15-20 DELIVERY PEOPLE THIS YEAR!**

Each Hamper has a value of approximately \$100 and contains

<i>Turkey (10-12 lb.)</i>	<i>Vegetables - Cabbage, Carrot, Turnip, Potatoes</i>	
<i>Flour (2.5 kg)</i>	<i>Sugar (2 kg)</i>	<i>Onions (2-3 lb.)</i>
<i>Oranges (3-5 lb.)</i>	<i>Apples (3-5 lb.)</i>	<i>Tuna (170 g tin)</i>
<i>Green Peas (tin)</i>	<i>Corn (tin)</i>	<i>Evaporated Milk (tin)</i>
<i>Cheese Whiz</i>	<i>Peanut Butter</i>	<i>Juice (1 Litre)</i>
<i>Milk (2L 2%)</i>	<i>Cranberry sauce (tin)</i>	<i>Cereal (Box)</i>
<i>Teabags (72/144)</i>	<i>Coffee (Instant)</i>	<i>Margarine (454 g)</i>
<i>Eggs (1 dozen)</i>	<i>Bread (1 loaf white)</i>	<i>Bread (1 loaf w/wheat)</i>
<i>Bread Crumbs (1 pkg.)</i>	<i>Savoury (18 g)</i>	<i>Cheese (block)</i>
<i>Crackers</i>	<i>Cookies</i>	<i>Beans (tin)</i>

N.B. An item with a strikethrough indicates that we already have enough of that item for forty (40) hampers – our initial goal. We will do more if funds permit!

DELIVERY DATE: DECEMBER 17, 2022

Two persons required for each delivery - Hampers are heavy!

Further info/questions?

Please contact: Lillian Crawford (754-2362/691-3057)

Anne Calver (682-4329) Church Office (722-2382)

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

A very Happy Birthday to Beatrice Quinton who will turn 5 years old on December 15th! Beatrice will be celebrating her birthday with friends and family, including her mom and dad, Nina and Luke Quinton and proud grandparents, Becky and Leith Quinton. Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled day Beatrice!

We are delighted to share a little update about Beatrice ... Bea as she is affectionately known, is loving her French Immersion Kindergarten at Bishop Field Elementary. She may be the youngest child in her class but is one of the tallest! Being 5 is a time of exploration and wonder for Bea and she loves the challenges of her new school and all the new friends she has made.

Happy Birthday wishes to Ivy Fleming, daughter of Jennifer Waterman and Derek Fleming. Ivy will be celebrating her 8th birthday on December 14th with family and friends, including her mom and dad, and her brothers, Evan and Marcus. Happy Birthday Ivy from your St. David's family! We hope you have a great birthday and lots of fun!

Happy Birthday greetings to Kirsty Gillies who will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, 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!

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.

Bridges To Hope

Jody Williams, Executive Director at Bridges To Hope, has given the Board of Directors a list of items that are always in short supply and which should be considered 'staples' in our hampers.

The Board has decided to designate the *first Sunday of each month* when a special appeal will be sent to participating churches to ask their congregations to provide these items – **a different item each month**. The hope is that a unified appeal from our two Presbyterian and seven United churches will supply many hampers. These items may be brought to the churches or to Bridges to Hope.

The first Sunday of December is designated as "**Cereal/Oatmeal Sunday**". Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Weekly "Specials"

December 8 – 14, 2022

Good Suggestions for the Food Trolley

Sobeys	Compliments Canned Vegetables	\$0.99
Dominion	Graves Apple Juice	\$0.66
	Green Giant Vegetables	\$0.99
Walmart	Palmolive Dish Detergent	\$1.97
	Dairy Isle Evaporated Milk	\$1.33
Colemans	Heinz Beans or Pasta	4/\$5.00
Shoppers Drug Mart	Blue Menu Peanut Butter	\$2.99
No Frills	Colgate Toothpaste	\$1.00

Upcoming Activities

Please view December Schedule page for upcoming activities and events. Thank you!!

On-going Activities

The Good Companions group are meeting again!!!

If you would like to try your hand at carpet-bowling, join a game of Bridge or 120's, maybe a friendly game of scrabble ... please join us on Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00pm in the Church Hall and Armour Room. Call Heather in the office at 722-2382 and she will put you on the list of attendees ~ we look forward to welcoming you back!

On Thursday, December 15th the Good Companions will hold their Christmas Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!!

Please RSVP by calling the office 722-2382 so that Heather can put you on the list of attendees. It is jolly way to start the Christmas festivities!!

We ask that everyone arrive at noon for lunch followed by the regular activities.

Re-cycling

Reduce Reuse Recycle! Yes, St. David's still has an account with Evergreen Recycling! If you would like to donate the proceeds of your recyclables, just enter the Church phone number 722-2382 when you are making a drop-off. Our account will automatically be credited.

Outside Announcements and Activities

Coastal Sounds Choir Association will be holding rehearsals for our Upcoming Christmas Cantata. The rehearsals dates are Nov 5.12.19. 26 and Dec 3 and 10. Cost \$25. Rehearsals will be held at Topsail United Church. from 2 until 4 P.M.

Please register on our Facebook

page <https://www.facebook.com/CoastalSoundsChoir>

From The Archives

This week, we're back with another beautiful quilt from the Millennium Quilting Exhibit from 2000. It was an exhibit of more than 40 quilts crafted by talented Presbyterians right across the country.

Unfortunately, this quilt does not have any information attached to it, but if you look closely, it does say St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church. There are a few St. Andrew's Presbyterian Churches spread across Canada. Does anyone know which one it is? Regardless, it is beautifully crafted and we hope you like it!

As always, thanks to Pam for taking care of all these great pictures and articles from our past!



Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

Last week the question was: In 1920, what was the winter like?

The answer is: Global warming has not gotten going to a measurable extent in Newfoundland and Labrador. The winter was one of the coldest on record, the St. John's harbour froze over as did the Bell Island Tickle so you could go over to Bell Island by horse and cart. People were skating on all ice surfaces around the city. It was a good old-fashioned winter.

This week the question is: Was there any celebration of the church's 150th anniversary in 1925?

Recent History:

Last week the question was: Where was Lookout Farm and what is there now?

The answer is: The farm was on Portugal Cove and if you are heading east on the Outer Ring Road and turn off to take the Portugal Cove Road South exit, you're driving over what was once part of the farm. The old trees on your left are all that remains of the tree-lined drive up to the farmhouse. The farm took in some of the streets south of the Outer Ring Road and the subdivision above it.

This week the question is: Who was the last person to play Mary in the Christmas play? Think outside the box!

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

How to reach us:

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

Music Director: Brian Way

Church Administrator: Heather Steele Morrissey

Church Office: (709) 722-2382 ~ Monday – Friday 9:00 to 1:00

Church email: stdavids@nfld.com

Facebook page: <http://www.facebook.com/stdavidsstjohns>

Groups:

Women's Auxiliary – Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors) – call Heather in the office

Bible Study Group – Sheena Findlay

Atlantic Mission Society – Kathy McKay

Session – Lillian Crawford

Prayer Shawl (Knitters) – Bouwina Fogwill

Food For Thought – Ernst Rollmann

Women's Bible Study – Christina Shalaby

Session: the elders are:

Lillian Crawford	Sue Templeton	
Janet Calver	Kathy McKay	Tanya Shalaby
Penny Gillies	Steve Bruneau	Ian Bruneau
Aubrey Bonnell	Eleanor Bonnell	Jenny Griffioen
Jennifer Waterman	Ed Vanderkloet	

Treasurer: Anne Calver

Envelope Secretary: Ian Bruneau