



Sunday December 18th, Fourth 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 Holy Communion will be celebrated.

We are very pleased to have Heather Kao as our musical guest this Sunday.

Church Office Hours: The church office is open from 9 am to 1 pm weekdays with the exception of statutory holidays.

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@nfld.com.

Mission Moment – Sunday, December 18th

Through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing, Cyclical PCC supports many important outreach ministries in Canada. One such ministry is the Presbytery of Montreal's Communauté Rivière des Prairies, a new worshipping community in the city's east end. Rivière des Prairies embraces multilingualism in their church services and children's programming, providing an open and welcoming space for newcomers to Canada. Over five different languages and dialects are used by the ministry to connect with newcomers, both in the church family and in the wider community.

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

God, you created our hands beautiful and capable but ...

Too often we use them to grab what we want.

We ball them up into fists to hit.

We use them to hug only ourselves.

We hide them behind our backs pretending there is nothing we could do to help when we know there is.

So, we turn our hands up to you asking for forgiveness.

Forgive all the bad we have done with our hands.

Wash our hands and make them clean.

Lead us to use our hands well.

Teach us to open our hands to share with others,

Give us the power to shake hands with our neighbours.

Show us how to join hands with our neighbours to build your kingdom of love.

We pray in Jesus' name and remembering his loving hands. AMEN

Prayer No. 49 – 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 18 (Fourth Sunday of Advent) We pray that the love we know in Christ will nourish and nurture our love until we conform to the pattern of Christ's life.

Monday, December 19 We pray for church planting initiatives in the church.

Tuesday, December 20 We pray for refugees who have been displaced by war and famine.

Wednesday, December 21 We pray that LGBTQI2+ people whose families have rejected them will feel God's comforting presence as they find love and support in their chosen families.

Thursday, December 22 We pray for those who are prayerfully discerning a call to join God's mission around the world, to walk with, serve and learn from international partners.

Friday, December 23 Christ who was born for us, help us to know you, worship you, serve you and be transformed by you.

Saturday, 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 God's love blesses and fills the world.

Minister's Message

My whole family has been sick this entire week. Ask anyone with school-age children, and they will tell you that the flu season this year is striking unbelievably hard. If possible, I encourage you to wear a mask to our service on Sunday to protect you and those around you; COVID is not the only disease masks can help prevent!

This also means that on this leadup to the Sunday of Love, I must trust in your love for me. I'm writing this with a fever of 102, so I my thoughts are a little slower and more scrambled than usual! So rather than leaning on my own limited and addled wisdom, I will share a passage worth meditating on, especially at this time of year: 1 Corinthians 13. Often read at weddings (because it is about love), this passage was originally written to a church struggling with internal disagreement, conflict, and division. Perhaps during the stressful holiday season, you can relate!



Hear the words of Scripture:

If I speak in the tongues of men or of angels, but do not have love, I am only a resounding gong or a clanging cymbal. If I have the gift of prophecy and can fathom all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have a faith that can move mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give all I possess to the poor and give over my body to hardship that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing.

Love is patient, love is kind. It does not envy, it does not boast, it is not proud. It does not dishonor others, it is not self-seeking, it is not easily angered, it keeps no record of wrongs. Love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth. It always protects, always trusts, always hopes, always perseveres.

If you do nothing else this Christmas, may you give and receive the most important gift of all: Love. May you know in your heart that God loves you, and may it overflow to change whatever your world looks like today. For God's love cannot be contained, it spills into earth in the most unlikely ways and places. And that, my friends, is Good News.

-David

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.

Please be advised...

The Canadian Bible Society has permanently closed the office in St. John's. All services & programs have been closed out. There will no longer be Congregational Representatives & therefore no Bibles available for Baptisms. It is possible that I may be able to get the Daily Bible Reading pamphlets for 2023. I will place them in the Narthex to be distributed with the bulletin if I receive them.

The following is contact information for the National C.B.S.office.

Phone #: 1888-946-1711

Email: customerservice@bs.ca

Treasurer's Announcement

This week's thanks

By the time you read this the Christmas hampers will have been put together and delivered. It is a masterful piece of work to find all the contents needed at a price we can afford. My thanks to the Community Food Sharing Association who provided turkeys, vegetables and fruit this year. Lillian Crawford is a whirlwind of action, promoting the weekly specials, finding those specials, and getting them safely tucked away ready for the Saturday distribution. Have you ever had to find a freezing cold home for 45 turkeys with a couple of hour's notice? Take a guess who did! There are many others who helped: Steve Bruneau (who picked up the turkeys and eggs), Ian Bruneau (apples, oranges, bananas, and lots and lots of vegetables), Anne Calver (cereal, peanut butter, and corn), various people at Sobeys, Coleman's, Dominion, Costco, No Frills and let's not forget Mount Scio (savoury) and the members of the congregation who brought in tins, bottles and boxes over the past month, each made a difference. You may not believe the amount of food stashed around the hall, but there will be pictures. Thank you all!

If you were at the pageant last week, you saw the kids (angels all), the animals, shepherds, and townsfolk. Sue Templeton started early in the week to get the costumes sorted out and ready to go, she helped dress the participants and read the lessons. And you certainly heard Brian Way helping musically by egging on the four groups to do their bit (Hallelujah!!!!). Rev. David who first hid, then staged all the props, and led the service with much enthusiasm. Thanks to everyone who took part, mooed on cue and sang and clapped along in the grand finale. Special thanks to David, Brian and Sue!

By the way, you can catch it on our website, just find the Sunday Service for December 11th. Alternately it is on our YouTube channel, the address is

https://youtu.be/CKy3AEIfO_A

The Prayer Shawl Group, our knitters, had their wares on display at the service. There were caps, gloves, shawls, mittens, and all manner of other knitware. These items will be given away to people who are badly in need of warm garments this winter. Some will be given away with our hampers and some to other local groups. The knitters meet once a month but bring along all the items they have completed since their last meeting. It is a fun time with much laughter and chatting including helpful knitting hints. Everyone, from accomplished knitters to beginners are welcome, expect to have a chat, learn something about how to knit and have a cuppa and a snack. Thanks to all the members of the Prayer Shawl group and their leader Bouwina Fogwill.

Fiscal Updates

For over a month you've been reading about some of the challenges this church now faces and some of the things we can all do to help.

I was very pleased to see the minister's appeal re-printed in last week's bulletin. The church is also living in times with lower income and higher expenses. Did you know we take donations for other charities and pass them along: some of the groups who received donations from us were Bridges to Hope, the Ukraine relief fund, the Ada Barnes House and donations for John Chol. We also receive targeted donations for our Woman's Auxiliary, Wheels to Worship, and the General Protestant Cemetery Fund. We support Presbyterian Sharing and Presbyterian World Service and Development.

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.

Remember to have your donations included on your 2022 income tax, you should have them in to us by the end of the year, December 31, 2022.

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 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

At 11:00pm

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

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

10:00am to 1:00pm

A donation to the Memorial Fund has been made in loving memory of **Charlie and June (nee Barter) Skanes** by Mildred Skanes.

A donation to the Current Account has been made in loving memory of **James H. and M. Frances Steele** by Heather Steele Morrissey

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

The Food for Thought fellowship, prayer, and discussion group for young adults held its final meeting of the year on Dec. 13. Many thanks to all who participated throughout the year. After a Christmas break, we will resume weekly meetings by Zoom in January. For information contact Ernst Rollmann at ernstrollmann12 at [gmail.com](mailto:ernstrollmann12@gmail.com).

Wishing you joyous and peaceful holidays,

Ernst Rollmann

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

Memorial Tree – December 4, 2022

Last week, we shared some pictures with you from the TSO concert in the sanctuary followed by a great Advent Lunch in the Hall.

There was another lovely event that took place on that Sunday, December 4th. It involved placing three leaves on our Memorial Tree in honour and in remembrance of three of our longtime members – Peter Dane Clouston, Marjorie Pike and James H. Steele. All the people represented by these leaves hold a special place in our hearts and our memories. (And many thanks to Steve Bruneau who oversees the creation and placement of these leaves.)



Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday to Kaylee Putt. Kaylee will be celebrating her 8th 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, Pearl Clouston and other close family and friends. Best wishes Cynthia from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a great day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Catherine McKenzie who will be celebrating her birthday on Boxing Day, 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 Nowell Melendy who will be celebrating his birthday on December 26th with family and friends, including his wife, Evelyn, daughter, Roxanne, and son, Sheldon, and their families, and his siblings, Marilyn Reardon, Mildred Greeley and Gerald Melendy, and their families. Best wishes Nowell from all your friends here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Joanna Lo who will be celebrating her birthday on December 28th with family and friends near and far, including her mom and dad, Penny and Stewart Gillies. 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. Best wishes Kirsten from your St. David's family. We hope you have a great birthday!

Happy Birthday wishes to Kay Korpel who will celebrate her 91st birthday on December 28th! Kay is a treasured friend of many here at St. David's and participated in many of the Church groups and activities for many years. Now living in Bishops Gardens, we know her birthday celebrations with her family, including her children, Rita, Michael and Ariane and their families, and her sister, Bouwina, will be very special and full of fun and laughter. Best wishes Kay from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more birthdays to come!

Happy Birthday greetings to Scott Bonnell who will be celebrating his birthday on December 30th. Scott and his family, now living in the States, will be celebrating his special day with his family near and far, including his mom and dad, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell, and brother Stephen and his family, also living in the States. Best wishes Scott from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you have great day and a wonderful year ahead.

Happy Birthday to Marcella Rollmann who is celebrating her birthday on December 29th followed by **Marcella and Hans's 54th 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 2023 will see us being able to meet and chat in person!

Happy Anniversary wishes go out to Judy and William (Bill) Barnes who will celebrate their 55th wedding anniversary on December 26th. Our thoughts are with you both. Warmest wishes and congratulations from all your friends here at St. David's!

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.

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!

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 15 – 21, 2022

Good Suggestions for the Food Trolley

Walmart	Stove Top Stuffing Mix	\$0.74
	Dole canned fruits	\$1.27
No Frills	Primo Pasta Sauce or Itala Pasta	\$1.25
Lawtons	Heinz Tomato Soup	2/\$1.20

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!

Good Companions are taking a wee break for Christmas and will return in January ~ date to be announced!

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

There are no outside announcements this week.

From The Archives

This week, we have 2 final pictures from the Millennium Quilting Exhibit from 2000. It was an exhibit of more than 40 quilts crafted by talented Presbyterians right across the country.

One pictures shows the quilts displayed in our Church Hall, while the other picture shows them hanging proudly in our Sanctuary.

We hope you have enjoyed seeing all these beautiful quilts from 2000 – yes, 22 years ago!

Thank-you Pam for keeping them safe all these years!

Note: This will be the last "From the Archives" for this year. See you again in 2023!



Church Trivia Questions

Way back when:

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

The answer is: 1925 was a bad year: declining membership, decreased offerings, sad losses including beloved Sunday School teacher Miss Lillian Cowan, and much needed repairs. So, at the annual meeting of the congregation (a contentious affair by all reports) a decision to mortgage the Allendale property was made. But nothing was allowed to spoil the year's great event, the 150th Anniversary lasting for a full week. Sunday Oct 18th His Excellency the Governor was at the 11 am service and Professor J. L. Paton MA recently appointed Principal of Memorial College addressed the 7 pm service. Other services were held throughout the week culminating in the Oct 25th services, with Rev. Power of the Kirk at the 11 am service and the 7 pm service was conducted by Rev. McDermott from the Fortune Bay Mission.

This week the question is: What happened in 1926 another bad year?

Recent History:

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

The answer is: The last real person to play Mary was Kay Scott and she was roped into it at the last moment! Recently, the figurines in the creche are used for Mary, Joseph, baby Jesus and of course the animals.

This week the question is: The Tree of Memory was made by whom and in what year were the first leaves placed on the tree?

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