

Sunday December 4th, Second 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.

Also this Sunday, we are delighted to have the TSO (Tenacious String Orchestra) performing at our service. The TSO have been friends of this congregation for many years, performing for us and holding their rehearsals here every Wednesday evening. To all the musicians, thank you very much for joining with us ~ it is wonderful to have you back!!!

Please join us after the service for "The Minister's Advent Lunch"!

Hot soup with warm friends ~ All are welcome!!

Our Memorial Tree

On Sunday we will be adding three names to our Memorial Tree, Marjorie Pike, Peter Clouston and James Steele.

St. David's was a very important part of their lives and in turn, they were treasured members of our Church family. Today, we remember and celebrate their lives and the times we shared.

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 4th

"Where is God in all of this oppression and injustice?" Upon hearing the anguished cries of Palestinian Christians, Palestinian clergy felt it was crucial to respond pastorally and remind them that God is the God of justice, the God who cares about the oppressed. These Christians need God's hope. In 1989, Palestinian Christian theologians developed a theology that could be shared with fellow Palestinian believers. This led to the establishment of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, an ecumenical grassroots liberation theology movement. **Presbyterians Sharing supports Sabeel and Director, Omar Haramy, in standing with the oppressed, working for justice and engaging in peacebuilding.**

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

God, in the name of Jesus who gave bread to the hungry, we remember all who, through our human ignorance, folly, and sin, are condemned to live in want.

Show us, who have so much, what we can do to help those who have so little and bless the efforts of those who work to overcome poverty and hunger, that sufficient food may be found for all; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer No. 22 – 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 4 (Second Sunday of Advent) Give us peace in our relationships, homes, churches, communities and in our souls, O God, as we prepare to welcome Christ among us again.

Monday, December 5 We pray for Omar Haramy, Director of Sabeel Ecumenical Liberation Theology Center in Jerusalem, and Palestinian Christians as they work for justice and engage in peacebuilding.

Tuesday, December 6 Today marks 33 years since the École Polytechnique massacre in Montreal, Quebec. On this day in 1989, 14 women were killed and other women, as well as men, were wounded. We pray for healing and comfort for all who lost loved ones that day and for an end to the misogyny that leads to gender-based violence.

Wednesday, December 7 We pray for the development and implementation of stronger laws and policies that protect women and their rights.

Thursday, December 8 We pray for the people who gather and serve at Hummingbird Ministries in Vancouver, British Columbia, and we give thanks for their ministry.

Friday, December 9 We pray for the Continuing Education Grants Committee, which meets this month at the national office of the PCC.

Saturday, December 10 (Human Rights Day) We pray for individuals and organizations defending human rights in Canada and around the world. We pray for their safety and the safety of those they support and protect.

Minister's Message

This week, as part of our busy service of Peace, we will be placing three new leaves on our Memorial Tree in the sanctuary. Each leaf bears the name of someone who served this congregation faithfully, and has now died and left us with a legacy worth remembering. Their names are Jim Steele, Peter Clouston, and Marjorie Pike, and I know from personal experience and from hearing many stories just how well loved they were and what a profound spiritual impact they have had here at St. David's. A place on our memorial tree cannot be bought, it is earned by a life of faithfully sowing the seeds of the kingdom with whatever gifts God has given you.



One aspect of creation that I find especially beautiful is the way that God left the job unfinished. Creation was not made to stay the same, creation was made to keep creating! Trees grow to produce seeds and create new trees. People create new, totally unique people by new combinations of ourselves. The work is not done, and there are new creations made today that have never been seen in all of history.

We can remember the faith of others and the legacy they created among us in exactly the same way. The gifts they have given aren't just reflected in our building, a chosen pew, or a little leaf mounted to our memorial tree. The real gift we remember is one that has created something altogether new. We can't fully measure what they've given us in dollars, bricks, or even years. We can't really measure it at all, just as the acorn can't measure what was given to it by the oak tree.

So may we give thanks for our own sprouting faith and for our church today. For it will continue to grow and change, and over the years it may come to look very different than the church of those we remember on our memorial tree. That is right and good, just as the acorn grows into a new tree slightly different than its parent. What they have left us is not a tree, it is a seed. We have been given tools to take our next steps, to grow, create, and produce fruit of our own. That is Good News worth celebrating.

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

Each year we get a lovely swag and large wreath from the McKenzies and this year was no exception. The swag is over the door leading from the sanctuary to the hall and the big wreath is over the main door of the church. Our sanctuary is also living up to the season thanks to Janet Calver and Brian Gamberg who got the banners in place, the tree up and the manger in its place. I believe the final touches will happen when the younger set drop by to complete the decorations. It's beginning to look a lot like Christmas!

I'd also like to thank Ian Bruneau who sent the summarized PAD details needed by me. Then there's Heather Morrissey who is working diligently to ensure our renters and our own members are warm and happy while they are in our building. Thursday she was running back and forth checking on the heat to see how it was doing. Warm wishes and thanks!

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.

This week we got the next Irving payment notice and they don't know what to do about the price of oil either. They are still using last year's rate for our annual monthly price, it's still at last year's rate of \$1,535 per month. We will see what happens as we move forward and the price of oil rises and falls. Meanwhile, I continue to calculate what the federal carbon tax may do to our oil costs for 2023.

Our problem with the heat on the stage continues, it is a work in progress with the continuing difficulty getting parts for the repairs. So, I've called in a company to start the work needed for H&R Mechanical to do their thing and I've suggested we use the "new" actuator in the old kitchen and replace it with a newer one. What did we learn on Thursday? DO NOT USE THE FANS.

The heat comes up faster when the fans are not working! A new sign is in place.

This week I received the details from Ian Bruneau for the distribution of monies received through the PAD. Yes, there is a small spreadsheet with the details of how we're doing. To the end of November contributions were \$8,611.35 and if we have the same donation via PAD (\$556.40) in December, only \$116.25 is required through etransfers or Sunday envelopes to meet our 2022 commitment of \$9,284 as voted on and passed in the ACM. Should more than \$116.25 be donated that amount will be sent and if it's a bit less I will write out a cheque to meet our commitment.

As I write out the final cheques for 2022, the expenses are continuing to rise and our income is simply not keeping pace, even with the \$42,000 received from the St. Aiden's Fund back in June.

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 4th: Second Sunday of Advent

TSO performs during the service

Minister's Advent Lunch

Sunday, December 11th: Third Sunday of Advent "No-Rehearsal-Pagent"

Thursday, December 15th: Good Companion's

Christmas Lunch at noon

Saturday, December 17th: Christmas Hamper Delivery
Volunteers 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

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

Christmas Week ~ Dec. $28^{th} - 30^{th}$: Office hours 10:00am to 1:00pm

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

There will be Sunday School this week, Dec. 4th, followed by the "norehearsal-pagent" next Sunday, Dec. 11th.

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 at gmail.com. New folks are always welcome!

Bible Study

Our long standing Bible Study, under the guidance of Sheena Findlay, meets every Wednesday morning in the Armour Room from 10:30am to 12:00 noon.

The topic, "Money – having it and not having it. What it means to Christians." We will look mainly at the gospels for what Jesus said and the implications for ourselves.

All are welcome!

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 conclude on Friday, December 2nd with week three on prayer and will introduce the book of James that we will co-study along with it. We 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!

W.A.

Bridge Party - November 23, 2022

Last week, the WA was pleased to host the second Bridge Party in the Church Hall. It was a successful afternoon by all accounts - great food, spirited bridge playing and lots of smiles and laughter. Can't ask for more than that! (We will announce 2023 dates very soon!!)

It was also our opportunity to use our newest coffee machine. Thanks to Steve Bruneau and friends, the WA now has a super-duper coffee machine that will take care of coffee requirements for any of our functions for a long time to come! Three carafes of coffee in just under 15 minutes. And Steve engineered things so we don't even have to turn on a tap to fill the unit! How good is that! Thank-you Steve!





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**.

So, from now until <u>Hamper Delivery time – Saturday, December 17, 2022</u>, 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

Turkey (10-12 lb.) Vegetables - Cabbage, Carrot, Turnip, Potatoes

Flour (2.5 kg) Sugar (2 kg) Onions (2-3 lb.)

Oranges (3-5 lb.) *Apples* (3-5 lb.) *Tuna* (170 g tin)

Green Peas (tin) Corn (tin) Evaporated Milk (tin)

Cheese Whiz Peanut Butter Juice (1 Litre)

Milk (2L 2%) Cereal (Box)

Teabags (72/144) Coffee (Instant) Margarine (454 g)

Eggs (1 dozen) Bread (1 loaf white) Bread (1 loaf w/wheat)

Bread Crumbs (1 pkg.) Savoury (18 g) Cheese (block)

Crackers Cookies Beans (tin)

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)

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 <u>December is</u> designated as <u>"Cereal/Oatmeal Sunday".</u> Thank you for your co-operation and support.

Weekly "Specials"

December 2 – 7, 2022

Good Suggestions for the Food Trolley

Pipers	Kraft Dinner	\$1.09
Sobeys	Graves Apple Juice	4/\$5.00
Dominion	PC 100% Juice or Juice Blends	\$0.77
	Green Giant Vegetables	\$1.29
Walmart	Heinz Beans or Pasta	3/\$4.00
	Dairy Isle Evaporated Milk	\$1.33
	Clover Leaf Tuna	\$1.37
No Frills	Carnation Evaporated Milk	\$1.25
	Catelli Garden Select Sauce	\$1.25
	Holiday Luncheon Meat	\$1.99

Birthdays and Anniversaries and Graduations

Happy Birthday wishes go out to Geoff Hudson who has a birthday coming up on December 6th. Geoff will be celebrating with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's Geoff! Enjoy!

Happy Birthday to Andrew Ellis who will be celebrating his big day on December 9th. Andrew is the son of Neil Ellis and grandson of Barbara Ellis. Congratulations Andrew from your St. David's family and our best wishes!

Happy Birthday to Noah Venth who will be celebrating his birthday on December 9th with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Kirsty Gillies and Robert Venth and proud grandparents, Penny and Stewart Gillies. Best wishes Noah from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Paul Chancey who will be celebrating his birthday on December 10th with family and friends, near and far, including is wife, Holly, and two sons, Noah and Joshua, sister Kathy and of course, proud mom, Betty Chancey. Best wishes, Paul from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you have a great day!

Happy Birthday to Sophie Burness who will be celebrating her birthday on December 5th with family and friends here at home and in far away places. Sophie is the daughter of Heather and Brad Burness and grand-daughter of Edith Peach. Best wishes Sophie from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

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.

Upcoming Activities

Prayer Shawl Knitters

Prayer Shawl Knitters will be meet on Tuesday, December 6th at 10:00am in the Armour Room. This will be the last meeting for the year. The next meeting will be held at 10:00am Tuesday, February 7th, 2023.

Consider joining this very friendly and fun group of knitters – from beginners to experienced. All are welcome!

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!

"Save the date"...

For a Christmas Turkey Dinner with all the trimmings!!

On Thursday, December 15th, before we pause for Christmas, Good Companions will hold their traditional Christmas lunch. 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

Jellybean Row Girl Guides District

As many of you know the Girl Guides have been meeting in our hall for decades!! For years they have held a lovely Christmas Sale and Tea in our hall ... but it has been postponed during Covid until now...

We are delighted to announce that Jellybean Row Girl Guides District will be holding their Christmas Bazaar on this Saturday, December 3rd!! Hope to see you there supporting this Girl Guides at St. David's tradition!!

Please see poster for details.

JELLYBEAN ROW DISTRICT



Take a Break Sale

Bazaar for handmade products and baked goods featuring performances from our District Girl Guides!

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 3
10 AM TO 12 PM
ST. DAVID'S CHURCH
98 ELIZABETH AVE.

\$2 Single Admission or \$5 per Family
Masks are mandatory for this event
Morning coffee will not be served this year.

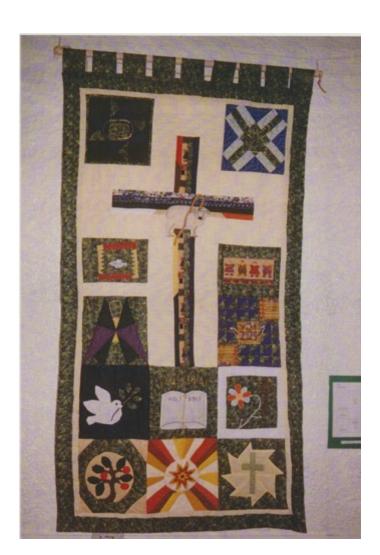
Come help us support our Unit Meeting Locations!

From The Archives

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

This quilt, titled "New Beginnings", was the work of the Waterloo North Presbyterian Church Quilters from Waterloo, Ontario. 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: Just over 100 years ago in 1920, the church lost two stalwarts. Who were they and what did they do?

The answer is: The two members who died: on January 29 1920 the master carpenter Edward Thomas of Lookout Farm, he was 86 years old, he build the Queen's Road church, the LSPU Hall (on the site of the Second Meeting House) and a smaller version of the Queen's Road church in Pool's Cove at that mission. Later in the year Mrs. Agnes Langmead died, a long time President of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Home Missionary Society.

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

Recent History:

Last week the question was: What are the colors for the candles on the Advent wreath and what do they mean?

The answer is: There are five candles on the Advent wreath, three purple, one pink and a large white candle. The first candle is purple and it represents **Hope**. The second candle is also purple, it represents **Peace**. The third candle is pink and it represents **Joy**. Purple again for the fourth candle representing **Love**. And lastly the large white candle, it is the **Christ Candle**.

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

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