



## **News from the Pews - Second Sunday of Advent, Dec.10th, 23**

“News from the Pews”, contains stories, pictures and happenings from, by and for the members of the congregation. It also contains Birthdays and Anniversaries, a Treasurer’s Update, News from other Church Groups, Boards and Committees, special requests from Bridges to Hope, News from the Presbyterian Church in Canada, and of course Special Events happening at St. David’s. There is also the “Features with Pictures” page(s), this will have little stories and pictures of happenings at St. David’s.

**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 Monday evening. To all the musicians, thank you very much for joining with us ~ it is wonderful to have you back!!!**

## Minister's Message



Winter seems to be arriving with gusto this year, but when I was picking up Oliver from school one day this week I found myself thinking of springtime. One of my favourite springtime experiences is digging through a pile of snow to find plants underneath, green and growing. I distinctly remember marveling last year when I uncovered my thyme plant in the herb garden and saw how happy it seemed to be, almost as if it hadn't noticed winter at all and had just gone on growing underneath the snow for the whole winter! This Sunday marks the second Sunday in advent, the Sunday of Peace. In John's Gospel, when Jesus is preparing to face the cross, he tells his disciples: *"Peace I leave with you; my peace I give you. I do not give to you as the world gives. Do not let your hearts be troubled and do not be afraid."* It is a promise of comfort when the hard times are looming, a reassurance that in Christ we have a peace beyond the world's understanding. Those plants under the snow remind me of the peace that Christ offers, the

peace that I long to have in my life. No matter the storms that rage, no matter how dark the nights or how deep the drifts, that thyme in my herb garden is green beneath the snow, untroubled and thriving.

This season, may we all remember the gift of Peace that Christ offers us. May our spirits be preserved with the grace and good humour of the Kingdom against every obstacle and difficulty of this world. May the love of God and our certainty of God's provision keep us fresh and growing no matter our situation.

May God give you peace that the world cannot take away, peace that rules quietly in your heart until the once-mighty ice is broken and melted away. May you be free of anxiety, filled with laughter, free of fear, filled with gladness, free of anger, and filled with compassion. For in Christ, we can find Peace that endures all things. What Good News that is!

### **St. David's Christmas Schedule:**

Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>: Second Sunday of Advent

TSO performs during the service

Special Coffee Hour

Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>: Good Companion's

Christmas Lunch at noon

Sunday, December 17<sup>th</sup>: Third Sunday of Advent

"No-Rehearsal-Pageant"

Wednesday, December 20<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Hamper delivery

**\*\*Volunteers required\*\***

Thursday, December 21<sup>st</sup>: "Blue Christmas" Service – 7:00pm

A special service for those feeling a loss  
at Christmas

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion Service at 11:00am

Sunday, December 24<sup>th</sup>: Christmas Eve Service

Carols & Scriptures – at 6:30pm

\*\*Christmas Week ~ Dec. 27<sup>th</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup> : Office hours

9:00am to 12:00pm

## **The Meaning of White Gift Sunday**

The tradition of White Gift Sunday has its roots in a small Methodist church in Ohio in 1904. What began as a humble way to reflect on the love and devotion of the giver and not the value of the gift has grown into today's white gift services in many churches across several denominations.

The story is told that a minister's wife initiated the idea to solve the problem of inequity of gifts given at the Sunday School Christmas party. Instead of focusing on receiving gifts, the focus shifted to bringing gifts to Jesus that could in turn be shared with people around the world who did not have much. All the gifts would come wrapped in plain white paper, so that no one would know which was an expensive gift and which was a more modest one. No one would feel ashamed of their gift and everyone would share in the joy of giving to others.

Here at St. David's, we have observed White Gift Sunday for many years during the season of Advent. In keeping with the spirit of the first White Gift service, all those attending would bring a gift of toys, food, personal care items, etc. all wrapped in white paper or in a white bag.

**This year**, on the three Sundays in Advent, please bring a gift if you are able, for a child, youth, man or woman. The gifts will be distributed to various organizations in the city before Christmas. Food items will be either included with the Christmas Hampers or given to Bridges To Hope.

This is one way we can show God's love and our caring commitment to the people of our community. Please consider how you can help.

### **Treasurer's Report**

The Christmas season is here and I'd like to offer my thanks to the Christmas elves who decorated the church and to Penny and Pam who did a lovely job on the Advent candles decorations. A further sign of the season is the MacKenzie family's annual donation of the big wreath over our front door and the swag on the door leading to the office lobby. They are absolutely beautiful, just look up! Thank you all!

Last week I spoke of all those who consider St. David's as their "home" church. This community exists in St. John's and is also spread across the globe, as we see family members from St. John's visit their children and grandchildren across Canada, in the United States and further afield. St. David's displays a strong community spirit right here, as evidenced by the time and effort people take to help out with, and for, our various groups. This can be anything from those who make soup, or desserts for the bridge parties, to the person who joyfully measures the balls and their distances from the "jack" during the Good Companions indoor bowling.

We are all part of a community where we come together to worship, to serve one another and to serve our neighbours. One way in which we do this is the Christmas hamper project, where our donations of money and food go into the hampers along with some of the knitted goods from our group, the Prayer Shawl knitters.

Last weekend the Session and Board of Managers met to review the 2024 budget. We are looking at various options and things we can do to improve our fiscal outlook. You will be hearing about those plans in the future.

Meanwhile, I would encourage you to consider your church as you look ahead to the remainder of this year and to 2024. I'd like to acknowledge and to thank all of you 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.

**By the way, the sole email address we are using to accept donations is [stdavidsnfld@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsnfld@gmail.com) and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.**

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries (December 11 - December 17, 2023)**

**A very Happy Birthday to Beatrice Quinton** who will turn 6 years old on December 15<sup>th</sup>! 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!

**Happy Birthday wishes to Ivy Fleming**, daughter of Jennifer Waterman and Derek Fleming. Ivy will be celebrating her 9<sup>th</sup> birthday on December 14<sup>th</sup> 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!

**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.**

# St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices

## CHRISTMAS HAMPERS 2023

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!**

**\*\* These items are usually provided by Community Food Sharing Association.**

**DELIVERY DATE: DECEMBER 20,2023**

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)



## **Sunday School**

John the Baptist came as a messenger to prepare the way. Jesus is the light to guide us. Let us be reminded of this when we see all the lights around us at this time of year.

Reminder that during Advent the church is collecting gifts to be distributed to the community organizations. Our children are encouraged to be involved in thinking of a gift for another child and to add it to the offering trolley at the entrance of the church.

## **Bible Study**

**Bible Study has adjourned for 2023 and will resume in the New Year... the date to be announced.**

## **Pickleball (games for our congregation)**

The fall pickleball games are well underway. Pickleball takes place every **Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm. Please join this fun, lively group for some casual pick up Pickleball games.** If you'd like more information, please contact the office.

## **St David's Bridge Lunches for December**

The December Bridge Lunch is **Tuesday December 12<sup>th</sup> 2023 in the Church Hall.** The doors open at noon for those early comers! We can accommodate between 20 to 22 tables, if you haven't booked your table, please contact Heather or Lillian. Remember the lunch will be a hearty meal which includes the surprise and delicious "mystery" soup, the regular array of favorite soups, plus those very decadent desserts. There will be prizes plus an enjoyable game of bridge for everyone. See you there!



## **Good Companions**

The **Good Companions** is a seniors group that meets once a week in the church hall and Armour Room to share in some activities. If you would like to try your hand at carpet bowling, join a game of bridge or 120's or maybe a friendly game of Scrabble, please join us on **Thursday afternoons from 2 pm to 4 pm**. All are welcome! **The next GC is a Christmas Luncheon and will be held on Thursday, December 14<sup>th</sup>. Please arrive at noon for sit down at 12:30pm – thank you!**

## **Bridges to Hope**

### **Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – Dec 7 - 13, 23**

|            |                                     |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| Dominion - | No Name Beans - \$0.99              |
| Walmart -  | Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.47           |
|            | Dole Pineapple - \$1.27             |
|            | Palmolive Dishwashing Soap - \$1.87 |
| Colemans - | Jacob's Crackers – 3/\$5.00         |
| Pipers -   | Speed Stick Deodorant - \$2.27      |
|            | Jacob's Crackers – 3/\$5.00         |

**Bridges To Hope** are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **DECEMBER** is **Canned Meat**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

**Bridges To Hope** are also in need of cat food (hard & soft). They don't need dog food as they have a steady supply from the Doghouse store downtown.

## Features with Pictures

### **AMS Christmas Meeting and Luncheon**

On Sunday, December 3, the AMS (Atlantic Mission Society) groups from both St. Andrew's and St. David's met at St. David's for a Christmas devotion and luncheon. We were delighted to have Ted and Darlene Thompson join us for this special time together. (Ted and Darlene were in St. John's for a pre-Christmas visit with their son, Eric, and his family.)



## Signs of Advent and Christmas

December is a very busy time for most of us here at St. David's. It's always lovely though, to simply sit in the sanctuary and enjoy the peacefulness of Advent and Christmas. Below are a few pictures of some of the treasured decorations (some handmade) that appear this time of year. Many have been around for years and come with a story or two, not to mention good memories!



## Mission Moment for December 10th



In northern Ghana, people living with disabilities face a range of issues, such as widespread poverty, limited access to livelihood opportunities and health care, and social barriers to full inclusion. Political, environmental, and economic challenges work together to create those difficult conditions. PWS&D works with the Presbyterian Church of Ghana in a Community-Based Rehabilitation (CBR) program to address these challenges through vocational skills training programs such as soap and pomade making. Ateni Lois, a participant in the soap-making class, expresses her gratitude, stating, “We are so grateful to the CBR program and PWS&D for equipping us with the skills to be able to produce soap and pomade for money. Very soon, we will be in good business and will be out of poverty in our respective communities.”