



News from the Pews - Third Sunday of Advent, Dec.17th, 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.

**We are delighted to announce this Sunday will be our
“No Rehearsal Pageant”!!!**

Minister's Message



Today's Message from the Minister is, in large part, an advertisement for one of the Christmas services we are offering this year. Thursday, December 21st marks the winter solstice, the shortest day of the year with the longest, darkest night. On that evening, we will be holding a Blue Christmas service at 7 PM, a small service with a more serious tone than the usual joyful feel of the Christmas season. This service is designed for those who feel out of place this Christmas season, perhaps because the death of a loved one is still fresh, or because their loss happened around Christmastime. Last year, the service was not very well attended, but that did not bother me. Last year, I was the one who needed it!

That service was the only time I've cried most of the way through giving a sermon. We'd had a hard year, losing both of our beloved cats randomly to a heart attack and then a brain tumor during the second half of the year, and then suffering a miscarriage just weeks before Christmastime. These events impacted my kids less than Michelle and I, which meant we had to keep Christmas special for them through all of this. While I still found some joy in the celebrations of Christmas, there was also a real part of me that was wading through the fog, just wanting the year to be over. It is hard work to make Christmas special for the people around you when you feel all hollowed out.

Please remember those around you who find this a difficult time of year. Remember those whose family and friends have died, and those who are without work and cannot afford to celebrate in the ways they want to. Remember those who are going through great stress in this time, and those who are left alone as everyone else celebrates.

And invite them to our Blue Christmas service, on Thursday at 7 PM. The stable is open to those who mourn, those who have no-where else to go, the lost, and the lonely. The deepest meaning of the season is that Christ comes to people such as these and meets them where they're at. Even if Christmas isn't feeling "Merry" at all, that's still the truth we can cling to, and it's still Good News that can help a weary soul.

St. David's Christmas Schedule:

Sunday, December 17th: Third Sunday of Advent

“ No-Rehearsal-Pageant”

Wednesday, December 20th: Christmas Hamper delivery

****Volunteers required****

Thursday, December 21st: “Blue Christmas” Service – 7:00pm

A special service for those feeling a loss
at Christmas

Sunday, December 24th: Fourth Sunday of Advent

Holy Communion Service at 11:00am

Sunday, December 24th: Christmas Eve **Candlelight** Service

Carols & Scriptures – at 6:30pm

****Christmas Week ~ Dec. 27th – 29th : Office hours**

9:00am to 12:00pm

Treasurer's Report

The Christmas season is well and truly here with the lead up to the hamper delivery happening this coming week. Across this province, people went to their local store to get those weekly "specials" and sometimes made several trips. Those pesky limits! The elves have safely tucked away all the food which has come in and now we're on to the preparations for the big day. We have people bringing in the boxes, putting the boxes together, setting up tables, gathering all the food and laying it out, our four super packers, the team getting the food out the door and our great team of drivers. We may have a spot or two for some more drivers and their helpers (those boxes, turkeys and veggie bags are heavy!). If you'd like to get involved, please contact the office.

Throughout the year St. David's has its guardian angels watching over us and helping us in so many ways. Our next-door neighbours let us know when a bird flies into a window, as excitement ramped up with the TV show Hudson & Rex was filming here - updates were received when the TV doggies (yes, there are two, Rex and a stand-in) go out for a walk on the lawn, and when the fire trucks show up in our parking lot – no fire mind you! We have people coming by to trim our trees and bushes, plant and maintain our lovely flowers, mow the lawns and sweep up in the fall. For the plant sale, a number of people brought in flowers from their gardens, grew vegetable sets, and our people's neighbours showed up to help in the sale. Our groups had a great year, the knitters have large tubs of caps, mitts, and scarfs to be either given away with the hampers or going to local charities. The Bible study group met on Wednesdays and this year tackled communications and the Bible. The AMS had a successful Socktober and Winter-coat-November culminating with a joint Advent feast with the AMS from the Kirk. Session and the Board of Managers meet monthly and guide us throughout the year. In the past couple of weeks I've mentioned the happenings of the Good Companions, the WA's bridge parties and all the work they do around and

for the church, the concerts initiated by the Futures Committee, and our Christmas elves. Thank you all!

We are all part of a community where we come together to worship, to serve one another and to serve our neighbours. I hope to see you in church in the coming weeks and I 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 and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (December 18 - December 24, 2023)

Happy Birthday to Kaylee Putt. Kaylee will be celebrating her 9th 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 Kirsty Gillies who will be celebrating her birthday on December 18th with family and friends near and far, including her mom and dad, Penny and Stewart Gillies and siblings, Joanna and Allison and their families. Best wishes Kirsty from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

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:

Sunday School

Today is the no rehearsal pageant. We hope we have many friends join us for a retelling of the Christmas Story.

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.

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)

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)

Pickleball will be on hiatus until January 2024 - the start date will be announced!

Good Companions

Good Companions will be taking a break for the rest of December but will resume their Thursday afternoons (from 2 to 4pm) on January, 11th, 2024.

Bridges to Hope:

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope, Dec 14 - 20, 23

Sobeys - Compliments Canned Vegetables - \$0.88

Compliments Jelly Powder - \$0.99

Shoppers Drug Mart – Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.88

Lawtons - Heinz Tomato Soup - \$0.79

Flakes of Ham – 4/\$5.50

No Frills - No Name Peanut Butter - \$4.44

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

Visit with Sylvia and Bob Taylor

(Janet Calver)

I enjoy great visits with Sylvia and Bob Taylor and our discussions cover a wide variety of topics. We solve many world problems and share many a chuckle about good old foolishness. Both Sylvia and Bob have many interests and I recently discovered that Bob - and Sylvia as well - enjoy working on Lego projects. Now these are not your ordinary Lego blocks. They are very complicated to put together and involve many, many hours of work - not to mention steady hands and good eyesight! Check out the Ford Mustang (Blue), the GM Corvette (Red), the Lamborghini (White), and the fun little convertible (Cameo?). So for all you Lego fans out there - and there are many - I hope you enjoy the pictures below!



TSO Concert

On December 10, we were treated to a beautiful Christmas service filled with familiar Christmas hymns and carols. Many thanks to the TSO (Tenacious String Orchestra) and the choir who filled the Church with music and to Brian Way, Kerri MacPhee and Stephen Candow who helped pull it altogether! (If you missed the service, you can find it on YouTube <https://youtube.com/live/S8ftrQH3TMI?feature=share>)





The beautiful wreath above the front doors of the Sanctuary ~ the gift of the McKenzie Family

Bridge Party – December 12, 2023

This past week, the WA hosted the December Bridge Party (December 12th). As usual, we had an enthusiastic group of bridge players come for lunch and then stay to enjoy an afternoon of playing their favourite game. The homemade soups and desserts were enjoyed by our guests and as it was Christmas and the last bridge party for 2023, there were special treats for our guests including samples of Christmas cakes and a beautiful Christmas basket for a lucky recipient! All in all, a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party will be on **January 23rd!**

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteered to make this afternoon a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all!

Here are just a few of the pictures from this past Tuesday showing some of those desserts and our "worker bees" in action.



Mission Moment for December 17th



With support from Presbyterians Sharing, The Well Church (Mississauga) provides a welcoming space for those who identify as a third culture community; that is, one that is neither the culture of mostly immigrant parents nor the dominant culture of Canadian society. In a post-pandemic world, the ministry has decided to re-set their focus around spiritual formation, in everything from small groups to children's ministry, retreats and conferences. They are also training leaders to be elders with spiritual formation at the centre. By focusing on spiritual formation and becoming more Christ-like, the congregation has not only grown closer as a community, but they also feel better equipped to share their personal stories of hope and transformation with friends and neighbours.