



## **News from the Pews – Fourth Sunday of Advent, Dec.24th, 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.

**News from the Pews will be taking a break between Christmas and New Years ~ resuming in January.**

## Minister's Message



Christmas, more than any other holiday I know, has a lot of symbols. Candy canes, stockings, trees, reindeer, ornaments, mangers, stars, and more and more.

And not only the symbols, there are so many Christmas traditions! Leaving out milk and cookies, opening presents, seeing the lights, sharing a feast, going to church, having an orange at the toe of your stocking. There are so many pieces to make a "real Christmas" that its no wonder the season can feel exhausting. With two children at home (one of whom is bouncing around me as I write this, already started his Christmas break), I know better than ever how little time there can be to stop and take a breath during this season.

But my Christmas prayer for you (and for myself) is that we will not forget the real meaning of Christmas. In the story of Christmas, God comes to an ordinary couple who are unprepared for him. They are away from home, crashing in a stable, disrupted by a government decree. Their Christmas is not going at all as planned, and yet Jesus comes to them. In God's world, the unprepared are blessed and the unworthy are loved.

So may we not be trapped by the trappings of the season and think we need to do it all to have a "real Christmas". You can never really be unprepared to remember a last-minute birth in a stable. This season is about God's love for you, poured out joyfully when you least deserve it. That is a real Christmas.

Merry Christmas to you and those you love.

Dear God,

Thank you for this Christmas day!

We think of you, the babe in hay,  
and know that if our tree won't light,  
our turkey burns, or children fight,  
you'll always look on us with love,  
and hear us when we call above.

'O Lord, we're sorry for the mess,  
the house ain't clean, we must confess,  
We've failed the perfect Christmas season,  
and do not have the best of reasons.'

But don't forget the Lord remembers  
how it went that first December!

Whatever you bring to the table,  
He'll say "at least it's not a stable".

## St. David's Christmas Schedule:

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

Holy Communion Service at 11:00am

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

Carols & Scriptures – at 6:30pm

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

**9:00am to 12:00pm**

Sunday, December 31<sup>st</sup>: Worship at 11:00am



YOU'RE INVITED TO OUR CHRISTMAS EVE

# Candlelight Service

SUNDAY | **24** | DECEMBER  
6:30PM | 2023

**St. David's Presbyterian Church**  
**98 Elizabeth Ave**

## **Treasurer's Report**

It's almost Christmas Eve, Merry Christmas everyone!

For me it's actually early on December 19<sup>th</sup> and this is a busy week, so I'm getting ahead of every "due date". Especially Wednesday when we have lots of help to safely get hampers out to forty families. As well as food, they will find tucked away some hand-knitted caps, mitts, and scarves, all thanks to the Prayer Shawl Knitters.

This Christmas season has been a joy, as the TSO played for us on December 10<sup>th</sup> and we welcomed back some people who now find it hard to get out on Sundays but really wanted to be there for that particular day. Last Sunday it was the "No Rehearsal Pageant" in which everyone got to participate - you could be an angel, shepherd, an animal, or a townie. You can watch it on YouTube and see all 114 minutes of preparation (dressing up), action, and the finale, the singing of "Silent Night" and "Go Tell it on the Mountain".

The Youtube link:

<https://youtube.com/live/CVcv3TqUikM?feature=share>

The congregation of St. David's is 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](mailto:stdavidsnfld@gmail.com) and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.**

## **Announcements:**

**Judy Barnes-Woolridge, St. David's Representative on the General Protestant Cemetery Board has advised that she will be stepping down effective February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2024. We will need a new person to represent St. David's. If you are interested please call or drop by the office and speak with Heather. Thank you!**

**The beautiful Poinsettias in the Sanctuary are in loving memory of Ralph Emberley, Blanche & Roy Chancey, Bob Chancey and Rita & Fred Stevens. The gift of the Emberley and Chancey Families.**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries (December 25 - January 7, 2024)**

**Happy Birthday greetings to Catherine McKenzie** who will be celebrating her birthday on Boxing Day, December 26<sup>th</sup>! 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 26<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 28<sup>th</sup> 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 92nd birthday on December 28<sup>th</sup>! 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 29<sup>th</sup> followed by Marcella and Hans's 55th wedding anniversary on December 30<sup>th</sup>! Best wishes to the Rollmann's from everyone here at St. David's!

**Happy Anniversary wishes go out to Judy and William (Bill) Barnes** who will celebrate their 56<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary on December 26<sup>th</sup>. 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.**



## **St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices:**

### **Sunday School**

Dec 24 and 31 we will not have Sunday school. We wish all the Children a wonderful Christmas with their families. There are children's bulletins available for use during the service if anyone needs something to keep them occupied.

Sunday School will resume Jan 7. Following the service on Jan 7 there will be a planning meeting. For anybody interested in assisting with Sunday school please let Sarah know by email [sarah\\_mcmeekin@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com).

### **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, 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024.

## **Bridges to Hope:**

### **Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges To Hope – Dec 21 – 28, 2023**

|             |                             |
|-------------|-----------------------------|
| Dominion -  | Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99 |
| Pipers -    | Jello - \$0.99              |
| Walmart -   | Dole Pineapple - \$1.27     |
| No Frills - | Goldfish Crackers - \$2.00  |

**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**

### **Good Companions – Christmas Dinner - December 14, 2023**

On Thursday, December 14th, the Good Companions met for their Christmas dinner. What better way to usher in the Christmas Season than with good friends and excellent food!

As a special treat, Mike Gillan agreed to cater our meal and what a job he did! Mike started off with homemade rolls and butter followed by a traditional Newfoundland turkey dinner - with a twist. (It's not every day you are served a salt meat and cabbage casserole with a bechamel sauce or a carrot/turnip peas pudding terrine or green beans tied up in a pretty bow of red pepper!) Follow that up with a homemade blueberry cake with rum sauce - well, it was a job to concentrate on the carpet bowling after!! Many thanks, Mike, for making this day a very special treat for everyone!

We wish all our Good Companions a safe and happy Christmas and look forward to seeing everyone in the New Year!!

A special thank-you to all those who just pitch in and help when they see that something needs to be done - our set up and take down teams, our cleanup crew and kitchen worker bees. Couldn't do it without your help!

Our Good Companions are an inspiration to all of us who have the honour of helping out. They celebrate each day and enjoy their time together to the fullest. The photos below say it all – there's nothing better than being together and sharing a smile and a laugh or two with your friends!

We hope you enjoy the pictures below.





## Concert Series (December 16, 2023)

Last Saturday evening, we were delighted to have a very special Christmas concert with Brian and his friends - Shelley Neville, Bob MacDonald, Scott Mansfield and Chris Harnett. It was a magical evening of Christmas song and music - favourite carols, traditional Christmas hymns, some country and western, a bit of jazz - all topped off with brilliant harmonies and moving lyrics. And it was easy to tell that there was a deep friendship binding our performers together which in turn, made us feel very much "at home". What a wonderful way to welcome in the Christmas Season!

Many thanks to Brian again for making this possible and to our "behind-the-scenes-working-group". Kudos to all involved!

Below is a picture of Brian, Shelley, Bob, Scott and Chris!





## Mission Moment for December 24th



Through Presbyterians Sharing we shine Christ's light in Canada and around the world. We are there when a prisoner in Malawi discovers Christ's love through Bible study, and when an Indigenous woman in Taiwan reads the Bible in her own language for the first time. We are there when a congregation adapts to meet community needs in new ways and when a theological student in Canada, Malawi, Nigeria, Ghana or Beirut graduates, ready to serve God. We are there when a child receives a healthy snack and after-school support from an inner-city ministry, and when a refugee claimant needs a friend. We are also there for one another as we pray, serve and share the gifts God has given us. When we put our gifts in God's hands, God does remarkable things!