



News from the Pews for Sunday January 7, 2024

“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 with happenings and pictures of happenings at St. David’s.

We hope you enjoy.....

Minister's Message



January 6th is a day known by some as "Old Christmas day" and by others as "Epiphany", marking the end of the twelve days of Christmas and remembering the visit of the wise men to see the young Jesus and his family. Although the wise men are often included in the story of the nativity, Matthew's gospel tells us of their arrival to see Jesus not at the stable, but at a house:

"[...] the star they had seen when it rose went ahead of them until it stopped over the place where the child was. When they saw the star, they were overjoyed. On coming to the house, they saw the child with his mother Mary, and they bowed down and worshiped him. Then they opened their treasures and presented him with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh." (Matthew 2:9-11)

This story makes me wonder. I don't get people knocking on my door very often, but my dog does love to let me know when someone comes. It's surprising when someone knocks on your door these days, and I'd say there's a pretty even chance these days between three possible reasons people are on my doorstep. The first is a visit from a friend, dropping something off or coming by to say hello. The second is someone with a clipboard trying to ask for money or wondering if I want to switch internet providers. The third is something like when my neighbour came to tell me my car trunk was open

because the button on my key fob was pressed by accident without me noticing.

So whenever my doorbell rings and the dog starts barking, I open the door and wonder what reason someone has for knocking. Never have I ever been confronted with a group of Magi following a star to my house laden with gifts.

What a strange encounter that must have been for Mary and Joseph!

This season, may we all remember the unexpected things that God can bring to our lives. God never leaves us alone, and knocks at our door to bring us out of the ruts we fall into.

This new year, may you hear God knocking at your door, and face the surprises that come to you with good humor and the certainty of God's love.

For although God's ways are so often unexpected, they bring us joy, peace, and purpose. What Good News that is!

Treasurer's Report

At this time of year we normally review the previous year or look forward to the year to come. The main groups have not yet started but are looking forward to getting back together, some will start next week or the week after. Welcome back!

I've been busy for a while writing out cheques and yes, we have paid all our bills for 2023. If you are wondering what happened to that debt, with Session's approval I have moved money from the Memorial Fund to cover all our commitments. The agreement also included setting up new interest-free loan, repayable when we are able to do so. Then I shifted into calculating the new CPP, EI and tax implications for 2024. With guidance from the PCC regarding the stipend scale and our 2022 donation base, I've been revising the 2024 budget and have two 2024 cheques out the door already. More will certainly come.

Meanwhile, the 2023 donations mainly received through Sunday envelopes and e-transfers are tabulated, with the last donations being processed this week. Once all is in and balanced to the deposits, they will be sent to Ian Bruneau, our envelope secretary. Ian will have them by mid-month.

Thank you to all 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.

Session, Futures Committee and Board of Managers meetings for the month of January are scheduled for:

Session: Tuesday, January 9th at 7:30pm

Futures Committee: Wednesday, January 10th at 7:00pm

Board of Managers: Thursday, January 18th at 7:00pm

Birthdays and Anniversaries (January 8 - January 14)

Happy Birthday greetings to Stephen McKenzie who will be celebrating his birthday on January 8th. Stephen is the son of Cynthia and David McKenzie.

Best wishes Stephen for a great day spent with family and friends and congratulations from everyone here at St. David's!

Happy Birthday greetings to Alexander Bassler who will be celebrating his birthday on January 14th! Best wishes to Alexander for a great birthday

spent with family and friends including his mom and dad, Sarah and Paul Bassler, siblings, Timothy, Julia, and Ritaj. And Happy Birthday from your St. David's family!

Happy Birthday to Jayce Froude who will be 8 years old on January 12th! Jayce will be celebrating with his classmates, friends and family including his mom and dad, Karen and Paul, and his siblings, Madelyn, Drayton, Scarlett and Carrie, and of course his grandparents, Sue and Ken. A big day for sure! Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled birthday Jayce! All our love.

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

Hampers

A very special "thank you" to all those who participated in preparation and distribution of Christmas Food Hampers. Forty-two (42) generous hampers were delivered on December 20th. Special mention to Mike Rudofsky's Triple A, Under 13, Rangers hockey team whose "young legs" went up and down the stairs from the Clouston Room many times, bringing the food stored there to the Sanctuary where they sorted and arranged it on the tables set up earlier in the afternoon by Kyle. The boys also counted and packaged apples and oranges. Many hands make light work! We are grateful for the shoppers, box assemblers, packers, phone callers, trolley fillers, drivers and their helpers as well as others who contributed in any way to make this project work so well.

General Protestant Cemetery Board – New Representative Required

Each Protestant church has a representative who takes part in this board which manages all the Protestant cemeteries in the greater St. Johns region. Our current representative, Judy Barnes-Woolridge, the St. David's Repre-

sentative on the General Protestant Cemetery Board has advised that she will be stepping down effective February 1st, 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!

Sunday School

Christmas is over and the routines of life have or will start again. Let's remember always that God sent us the best gift of all! Jesus!!!

There will be a **Sunday School Planning meeting after the service Sunday January 7th in the Armour room**. All those that would like to help volunteer are asked to attend. The lesson plans for January and February were sent out this week in an email. If you would like more information please contact Sarah King's via email at sarah_mcmeekekin@hotmail.com or call the church office.

Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, January 9th at 10:00am in the Armour Room**. No knitting experience is required ~ please join us for a friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

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 afternoon Jan 11th 2024 from 2 pm to 4 pm** . for the first get-together this year. All are welcome!

AMS

The first meeting of the AMS will take place on **Sunday, January 14th** in the Armour Room following the Worship Service. A light lunch will be served.

WA (Women's Auxiliary) Meeting

The next meeting of the **WA** will be held on **Tuesday Jan 30^h 2024 at noon in the Armour Room** to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the next Bridge Party.

If you would like to join this vibrant group, drop by and get to meet the ladies. There is a great lunch, a short devotion, and a business meeting where the plans for the next activities take place.

Bible Study

“Sandwich and Scriptures”, the St. David's Bible Study group takes place in the **Armour Room every Wednesday at 12:30 pm** ~ so bring your lunch and we will make the tea (or coffee!), we would be delighted to have you join us! **Start date to be announced soon**

Pickleball games for our congregation

The fall pickleball games are well underway. Pickleball takes place every **Wednesday afternoon from 2 to 4 pm**. If you'd like more information, or if you would like to get some education on the rules and instruction on how to play, please contact the office.

Bridges to Hope

The Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – January 4 to 10, 2024

Sobeys -	Heinz Beans or Pasta – 4/\$5.00
Dominion -	No Name Rice Crackers - \$1.00
	No Name Ramen Noodles - \$.39
Walmart -	Great Value Peanut Butter - \$.27
	Cheerios - 3/\$10.00
	Ritz Crackers – 3/\$7.00
No Frills -	No Name Rice Crackers - \$1.00
	No Name Peanut Butter - \$3.99
	Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.44
Colemans -	Holiday Luncheon Meat – 2/\$6.00
	Primo Pasta – 4/\$5.00

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for JANUARY is Peanut Butter or Cheeze Whiz. 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.

News From the Wamstecker Family

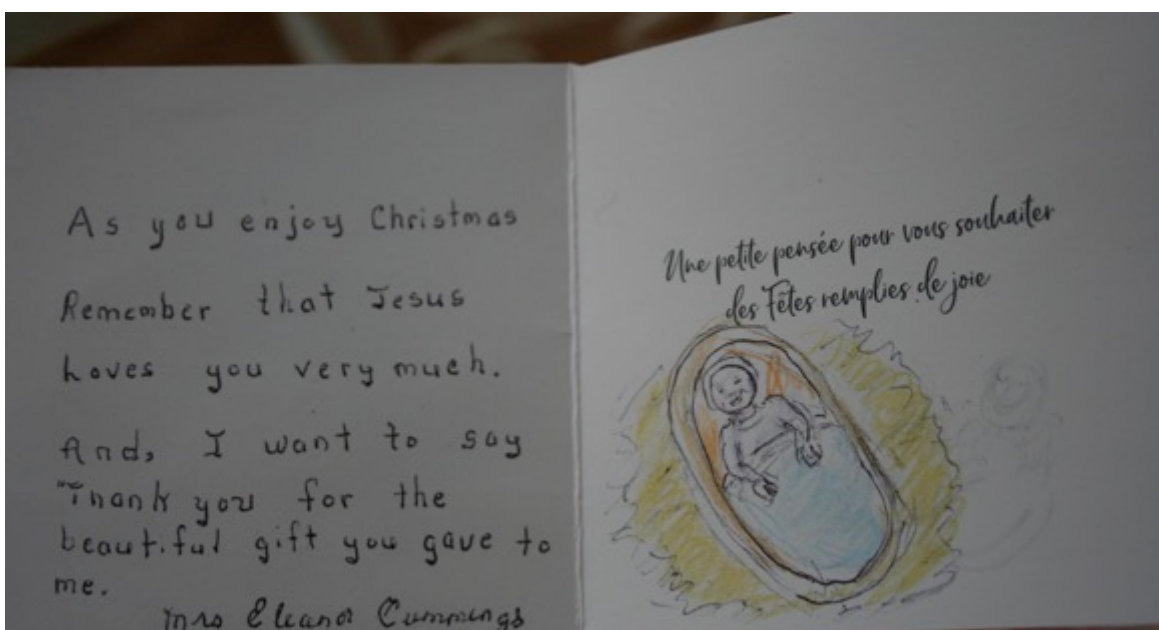
Every year, we are delighted to get a letter from Diana and Mike Wamstecker outlining what the family has been doing for the past year. They've been busy!! We will always have wonderful memories of their time here at St. David's and are delighted they continue to stay in touch. Who knows when their travels will bring them this way again.....

Please see the attachment in your email – complete with beautiful pictures!!

Features with Pictures

Sunday School Christmas Cards

Many of our seniors who find it difficult to get out to Church on a regular basis, received a little gift bag at Christmas time. It had a few goodies in it along with a special Christmas card made by our Sunday School children. Those little bags meant so much to people and the handmade cards were especially treasured by all our seniors. Below is a special thank-you card from Eleanor Cummings that we wanted to share with you.....

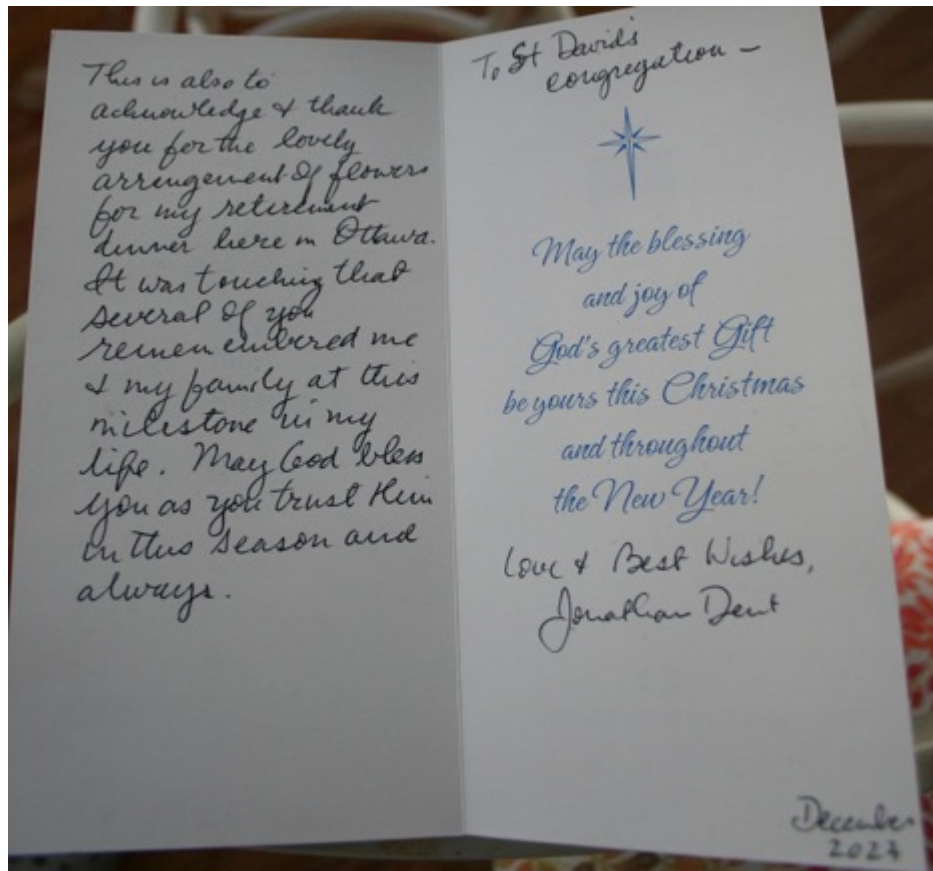


Thanks From Jonathan Dent

The Church received a beautiful card from Jonathan Dent thanking us for the beautiful arrangement of flowers we sent along to mark his retirement. Below are his words

This is also to acknowledge and thank-you for the lovely arrangement of flowers for my retirement dinner here in Ottawa. It was touching that several of you remembered me and my family at this milestone in my life. May God bless you as you trust Him in this Season and always.

Jonathan D



Mission Moment for January 7th



When the Rev. Lora Nafziger visited her sister in Nepal in 2022, she never imagined that she would return as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with United Mission to Nepal (UMN). A faith-based international NGO, UMN strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Responding to God's call, Lora departed for Kathmandu in early January 2024 with her spouse Mitch Rhodes and their two youngest children. Lora, who is also a clinical social worker, will provide spiritual and emotional support to expatriate UMN staff and Nepali staff. She is jointly supported by the PCC through gifts to Presbyterians Sharing and Mennonite Mission Network.