



News from the Pews – Sunday, January 14th, 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” page(s), this will have little stories and pictures of happenings at St. David’s.

Minister's Message



This week, I went in for a minor day surgery to remove a ganglionic cyst from my wrist. Back in the old days, some may remember these being "treated" with a swift smack from a heavy bible to pop it and hope it didn't recur, but I for one am glad that treatment has progressed since then!

This cyst is in no way a medical concern, it was completely benign, but its presence meant that I couldn't bend my right wrist back very far and couldn't do push-ups, yoga, or certain hands-and-knees games with my kids, so I booked an appointment to get it gone.

In the business of the hospital, the last thing I want to be is a bother, but as I sat in my pre-op chair in day surgery I made the mature choice to tell the nurse that I sometimes have a strong reaction to needles, and from then on I was on a stretcher instead of in a chair.

I'm always a little embarrassed to mention it, for a few reasons. They're busy. Stretchers are needed for more severe problems. I don't always get woozy when I get a needle (and in fact, this time I was fine). But the nurses made sure I knew that they were glad I'd said something. It's better to be the guy who says something and has a stretcher he doesn't end up needing

than to try to be Mr. Tough and faint on my way out of the operating room! Sometimes it takes a lot of strength to admit to weakness. Recovery has been very fast, but in the day or so after the surgery I had to ask Michelle to open jars, help me with my coat, and even put toothpaste on my toothbrush for me. It is not always easy to ask for help again and again.

May we all remember to be honest with others when we find ourselves in need of help. May we not be proud and suffer. Sometimes asking for the help you need, or might need, is the stronger choice.

My healing continues to be both steady and fast. I've got no pain in my wrist anymore and no restriction in moving my hand or fingers. Full recovery is expected in as little as two weeks post-op.

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 - most will start next week. Welcome back!

Meanwhile, the 2023 donations mainly received through Sunday envelopes and e-transfers are tabulated, and the last donations are processed. Record once and check twice. Once all is in and balanced to the deposits, they will be sent to Ian Bruneau, our envelope secretary. Ian will have them next week.

Then I turn my attention to the year-end activities, the last CRA payment for 2023, the preparation of the T4's and ensuring the new CRA changes are incorporated into the salary calculations. Then it's time to prepare the books for the auditor to have a financial review for the AGM. There is always something!

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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (January 15 - January 21)

Happy belated Birthday to Yasmin Ahmed who celebrated her birthday on January 7th, with her husband, Derek, her two little furry cats, and friends and family, near and far! Yasmin is a wonderful supporter of and friend to many here at St. David's. Yasmin is always full of wonderful surprises and spreads her kindness and generosity wherever she goes. Best wishes, Yasmin, for the coming year from your St. David's family!

Happy belated Birthday wishes to Heather Steele Morrissey who had a birthday last week! Heather, as you all know, is our much adored Church Administrator who guides us all with a gentle hand and keeps everything on track even in the midst of total chaos. Best wishes for the coming year, Heather, from your (dysfunctional at times) St. David's family and all our love for just being you!

Happy Birthday wishes to Charlie Barnes who will be celebrating his big #1 Birthday on January 15th! Charlie will be celebrating his birthday with his mom and dad, Jamilia and Nathan, Aunt Laura and proud grandparents, Martha and Glenn Barnes, along with other family and friends. Have a fun day, Charlie from your St. David's family!

Happy Birthday to Kay Scott who will be celebrating her birthday on January 17th with family and friends near and far! Kay is a long time member of St. David's and very active in every aspect of our Church. She is a great supporter of many of our Church groups, including Good Companions, Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) Group, AMS, WA and Bridges to Hope. Kay is a special friend to many, within the congregation and beyond, and we wish her every happiness and all our love on her birthday!

Happy Anniversary wishes to Lori-Kim den Otter and Andy Versteeg on their 20th wedding anniversary, January 17th! Even though Lori-Kim and Andy are now living in Ontario, they will always have a special place in our hearts. Best wishes on your happy day and throughout the coming year!

Happy Birthday to Samuel Venth who will be celebrating his birthday on January 18th with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Kirsty Gillies and Robert Venth (currently living in Germany) and proud grandparents, Penny and Stewart Gillies. Best wishes Samuel, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Ed Vanderkloet who has a birthday on January 20th! Ed will be celebrating his birthday with his family and friends, including his children, Abigail and Jacob. Congratulations Ed from your St. David's family and best wishes for a great 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.

Condolences - Baird-Duncan (Hay), Christina Grace



Passed peacefully away on Monday, January 8, 2024, Christina Grace Baird-Duncan (Hay).

Predeceased by her second husband, Walter (Ian) Duncan; her first husband, Norman Arthur Gordon Baird; and son, John Baird.

Leaving to mourn with fond and loving memories her son, Kenneth; daughter-in-law, Karen; grandsons, Ian and Stephen; sister, Elizabeth; and extended family and friends in Canada and the UK.

Christina was a kind and gentle soul. Christina and Norman arrived in Newfoundland from their home in Scotland in 1968. They were longtime members of St. David's who gave freely of their time. After Norman's passing in 1998, Christina returned to Scotland in 2000 and married Ian Duncan. Twenty-two years later, in 2022 and after Ian's death, Christina returned to Newfoundland to be closer to family. St. David's was blessed to a part of Christina's life upon her return to Newfoundland. Christina will be fondly remembered and be a lasting inspiration to all who knew her.

Funeral arrangements will be arranged by Caul's Funeral Home, Torbay. Visitation will take place on Friday, January 12, from 10:00 am to 12:00 pm (noon) followed by a funeral service from Caul's Chapel, Torbay at 2:00 pm.

For more details, open the link below:

[Link for Christina's Obituary](#)

St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices:

The New Year Choir Call

Hope this finds you well. I am writing regarding our hopes of returning to the choir ministry at St. David's Presbyterian. As we started in the fall, we will continue on the third Sunday of each month which, for winter/ spring will be:

Sunday, January 21

Sunday, February 18

Sunday, March 17

Sunday, April 21

Sunday, May 19

Should you be available and interested in giving of your time and voices, or know of anyone who enjoys singing, the church congregation, as am I, would be greatly appreciative!

On the given Sunday, beginning January 21, we will meet 930am in the sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service which typically finishes by noon.

Please consider helping out and do let me know either way so that I can prepare accordingly.

Thanks for your time,

Brian

General Protestant Cemetery Board – New Representative Required

Each Protestant church has a representative on this Board, who manage all the Protestant cemeteries in the greater St. Johns region. Our current representative, Judy Barnes-Woolridge, the St. David's Representative 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

This week a lesson about missions. January the memory verse is Psalm 23. Congratulations to Nnene and Harriet for memorizing The Beatitudes over the last several weeks. The support of their family and friends helped them to get their prizes.

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 for the New Year is Wed. Feb. 7th**

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.

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 18th from 2 to 4 pm**. All are welcome!

Bridges to Hope

Weekly "Flyer" Specials - January 11 – 17, 2024

Items helpful for food hampers:

Dominion -	Campbell's Soup - \$0.99
	Kraft Peanut Butter/Cheez Whiz - \$3.97
	Colgate Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.99
Walmart -	Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.97
No Frills -	No Name Canned Beans - \$0.99
	No Name Peanut Butter - \$3

The suggested item(s) for **January 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Peanut Butter/Cheese Whiz!** Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

Looking ahead

WA (Women's Auxiliary)

* Our monthly **Lunch/Bridge** takes place on **Tuesday, January 23, 2024 at 12:30 P. M.** Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance. Cost - \$20.00 per person.

* 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.

* Plan to join us for the **ANNUAL PANCAKE SUPPER – Tuesday, February 13, 2024 – 6 P. M.** Menu: Pancakes, **Halliday's** Sausages, Baked Beans, and Dessert. No charge but free will offering is always appreciated.

Features with Pictures:

We all enjoyed Paul Rice's baking today at Good Companions... YUM!!
Thank you sooo much Paul!

So with a few left over goodies, we decided to send them and our get-well wishes to Aubrey and Eleanor Bonnell. Janet graciously delivered as Eleanor is recovering from hip surgery.

Penny



The Hamid Family... Update

Many of you will remember Rukiya Yusuf and Thomas Hamid and their three boys moved from St. John's to Edmonton, Alberta in 2023. Well.... they happily welcomed baby boy #4 just before Christmas!!!

Please see the note and beautiful picture they sent to The Gillies Family, with their Christmas greetings!

“Hello Gillies family! Merry Christmas to you and all your family. We are all doing well here too. December 15, 2023 we welcome our fourth baby boy to our family. He was born with a c-section and he is doing well also a big boy 4.50kg. We miss you guys so much.”



Mission Moment for January 14th, 2024



Sohdi became the sole provider for her family when her husband died a decade ago. A farmer in Pakistan, she plants various crops, but droughts and floods have disrupted food production for three years. In 2021, Sohdi received aid through the Humanitarian, Early Recovery and Development project, supported by PWS&D, which provided food aid to households in need. This assistance enabled her family to eat properly even during times of failed harvests. The project also provided support for women artisans to improve their skills and market their goods, making them more resilient for the future. Sohdi is grateful for this support that allowed her to stay out of debt. Now, she dreams of her son's wedding as well as sending her other children to school.