



## **News from the Pews – Sunday, January 21st, 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 morning when I was getting up, I noticed that my boys were being quieter than usual. Usually, that's a worrying sign, so I quietly made my way over to where I knew they were so that I could catch them in the act of whatever it was they were up to.**

**Lo and behold, what I found was Oliver, reading a book to his brother on the couch. It's sometimes hard for me to track just how good Oliver is at reading, because he doesn't like to sound out words out loud, so he'll just look at them for a while and then surprise you by reading the whole sentence at once. Nevertheless, he is a great reader and was telling Orson the story of "Sam and the Firefly" with expression, barely slowing down on any of the words. It was a proud dad moment, seeing him read so well and watching his little brother snuggle in for the story.**

I remember teaching Oliver his letters. Heck, I remember teaching him to use a spoon! If there is one thing that is amazing about parenting, it is the chance to watch children grow and change at such an amazing pace, growing to have new skills and becoming new people as day after day they become the people they were meant to be.

When Jesus' disciples tried to keep the little children from him, he rebuked them and told them that "anyone who will not receive the kingdom of God like a little child will never enter it."(Mark 10:15). Perhaps part of what that means is to have a mind that grows and changes, that learns new things and is willing to be transformed from one day to the next.

Throughout scripture, we are reminded that God's ways change our lives. The ancient start new families, simple fishermen become leaders, persecutors become preachers, and those who have fallen to sin are welcomed back with overflowing joy. People can, and do, change. That is a promise of God!

May you never lose hope for those around you, and may God restore a spirit of learning, of growth, and of change within you and those you love. For in God's kingdom, we do not remain the same. Like little children, we grow day by day. What Good News that is!

## **Treasurer's Report**

We are definitely in the middle of January and all that entails. The last CRA payment has been made and the T4's are next. The file for Ian has been tabulated and just needs a final review, the creation of the blank receipts for Ian and file of addresses for the envelopes are both works in progress. Heather is helping with that.

Meanwhile I've been looking at some of the results from last year. We gave substantially more this year to Bridges to Hope, \$325 in 2022 and over \$2,180 in 2023. We committed to \$8,100 for Presbyterian Sharing for 2023

and only received just over \$7,200 so that was topped up to meet our commitment.

Next week I will be in touch with our auditor to discuss the review process for 2023 and get an idea of dates for completion. 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](mailto:stdavidsnfld@gmail.com) and this one is linked to our bank account and it will automatically accept all donations.**

### **Birthdays and Anniversaries (January 22 - January 28, 2024)**

**Happy Birthday greetings to Allison Gillies** who will be celebrating her birthday on January 22nd! Allison is currently living and working in Ontario, but will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, far and wide, including her mom and dad, Penny and Stewart Gillies, and her siblings, Kirsty Venth and Joanna Lo, and their families. Best wishes Allison, 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:**

### **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**

The story of Jonah shows us we cannot hide from God. January the memory verse is Psalm 23.

## **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. 7<sup>th</sup>**

## **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 25<sup>th</sup> from 2 to 4 pm**. All are welcome!

## **Bridges to Hope**

**Weekly "Flyer" Specials - January 18 – 24, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:**

Dominion -

**Graves Apple Juice - \$0.88 \*\***

No Frills -

No Name Canned Beans - \$0.99

No Name Canned Vegetables/Mushrooms - \$0.99

Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.25

PC Organic Peanut Butter - \$3.99

### **\*\* With PC Optimum Card**

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!

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

## **Looking ahead .....**

### **WA (Women's Auxiliary)**

\* Our monthly **Lunch/Bridge** takes place on **Tuesday, January 23rd, 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<sup>h</sup> 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 Desert. No charge but free will offering is always appreciated.

**The month of February is going to have a name change to “Food-uary”!!!**

**Stay tuned for an announcement with dates and details of all the food-focused activities for next month.**



Choir lovers, Music lovers!!

Lady Cove Choir from St. John's is ecstatic to host the world-renowned a cappella group RAJATON (Finland) as they return to their favourite North American city for one night only!

Rajaton, a six-voice a cappella group, treats their audiences to the kind of diversity of repertoire, singing style, and stage presentation that has made them a phenomenon on the WORLD stage. Their energy - infectious; their ability to entertain and inspire - Rajaton! The voice is boundless.

[Saturday, February 3, 2024](#)

[7:30 pm](#) Holy Heart Theatre

Prices \$58/\$38 plus surcharge/tax

[\(709\) 579-4424](#)

[www.holyhearttheatre.com](http://www.holyhearttheatre.com)

## Mission Moment for Sunday, January 21<sup>st</sup>, 2024



We are God's people, called to serve God with our many gifts. We belong to a denomination that is connected by faith, governance, history and mission. Presbyterians Sharing is one of the ways that Presbyterians across Canada work together to proclaim the good news of Jesus Christ, sharing God's love and hope in our communities, in Canada and around the world. Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing help build strong congregations, serve vulnerable people, walk with Indigenous people, seek justice and share God's love. When we work together, we can accomplish so much more than we ever could on our own.