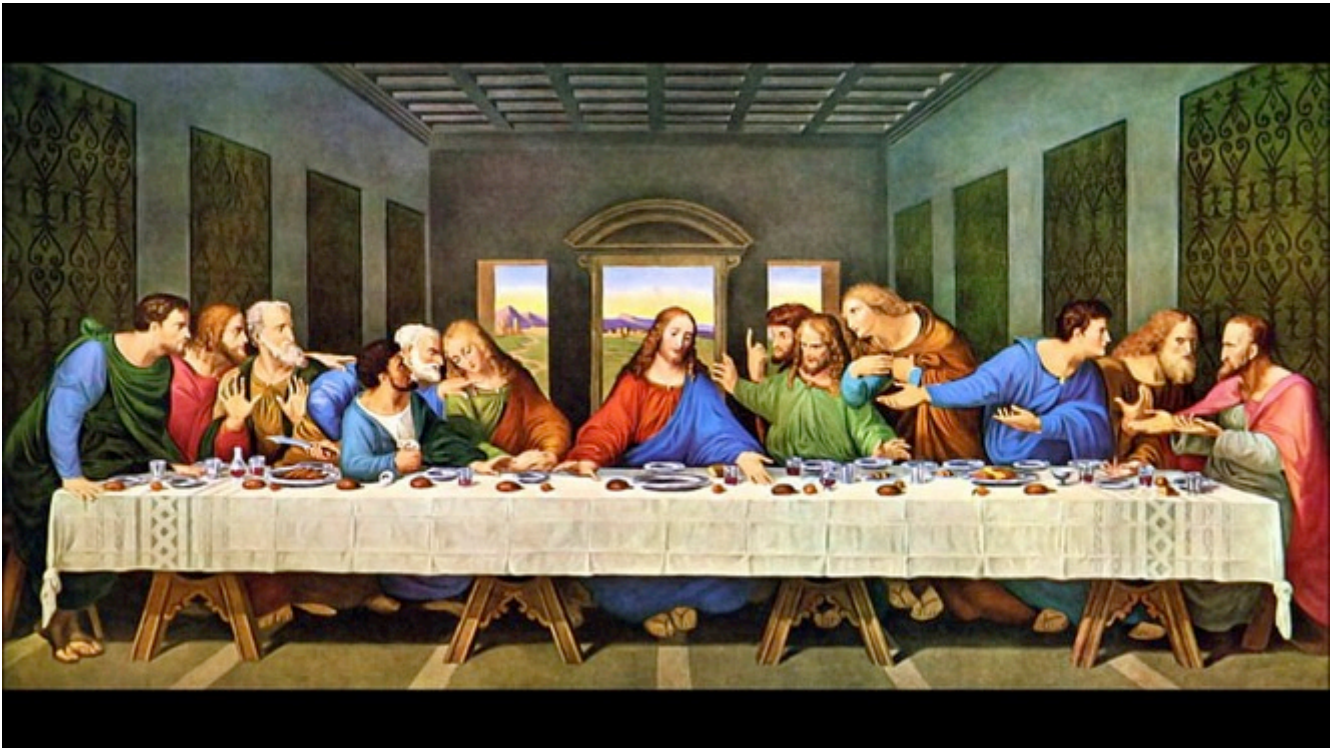




News from the Pews – Sunday, January 28th, 2024

“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



"Here I am! I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in and eat with that person, and they with me." Revelation 3:20

Throughout the Bible, food plays a central role. From God providing mysterious manna for His people to eat in the wilderness to Jesus feeding five thousand people with five loaves and two fish, miracles that put food in people's bellies are not hard to find.

There's a symbolism there, I think. After all, everyone has to eat. All of us know what it is like to be hungry, although by the grace of God most of us do not know what it is like to be starving. It is a need that unites us to each other and can inspire empathy with each other.

Eating together also provides us with fellowship. As a wandering preacher, Jesus ate many of his meals as a guest, eating other people's food and getting to know them as they ate together. He was routinely criticized for the company he ate with, but used those opportunities to build relationships

with sinners that transformed their lives.

Next month at St. David's, February will become "Food-uary". February is often a hard month for food banks like our own Bridges to Hope, as Christmas-time donations have dried up but bills are still high for the hungry homes in our city.

Jesus' ministry often revolved around food. He fed the hungry and ate with outcasts, he called himself the "Bread of Life" and instructed us to share a Holy Feast together to remember him.

So for the month of Fooduary, we ask that you put in a special effort to bring in non-perishable food for Bridges to Hope, and come out to enjoy our fellowship meals together. In this way, we will reflect the generosity of God in feeding the world, as well as the ministry of Jesus Christ in building relationships over the sharing of food.

Our Fooduary events include:

Sunday, February 4th: "Bring-your-own-lunch" time after the service with our Sunday School. For some little ones, tummies are hungry by the time service ends. We welcome you to bring a lunch to church and eat in the Armour room following the service.

Tuesday February 13th: Pancake Tuesday Supper. Please come and join us for our yearly celebration before Lent begins. The menu will include Pancakes, Halliday's Sausages, Baked Beans, and Dessert. Freewill donations are gratefully accepted, but not required. Invite a friend!

Wednesday, February 7th: "Caring and Sharing"... The AMS will be "cooking up a storm" in St David's kitchen on Wednesday February 7. We plan to visit and bring a home cooked meal for folks and friends from the congregation, who are unable to come to church. If you would like to help with visits and delivering please contact Penny Gillies 709-728-8112 or Kathy McKay 709-691-0836

Sunday February 18th: "A Taste of Home" International Potluck following the service. Please bring a dish that reminds you of home, wherever home may be. All are welcome, and there will be cake!

Sunday February 25th: A special presentation will be made by Jody Williams, Executive director of Bridges to Hope food bank in our morning service. Let's show him our generosity and finish Fooduary with a mountain of donations for the hungry!

Treasurer's Report

The month of January is busy and remains busy for the next week or so with the following underway: file to Ian, receipts, T4's, preparing for the auditor, and month-end payroll. Next week, I'll be back with a look at the month that was January 2024!

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 22 - January 28, 2024)

Happy Birthday greetings to Samantha Johnson who will be celebrating her birthday on January 30th with family and friends, including her husband, Cecil, her mom and dad, Tracey and Douglas Hudson, and grandparents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes Samantha from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful year ahead!

Happy Birthday to Charlie Goobie who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends – near and far – on February 3rd! Charlie and Olive are long-standing members of St. David's and are very supportive of all the events and activities here at our Church, including Good Companions, the Christmas Hampers Project and the amateur pickleball squad!. Let's not forget Charlie's skill with carpet bowling! A special Happy Birthday wish from all the Good Companions and best wishes from your St. David's family! We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Birthday greetings to Fraser Myles, who will be celebrating his birthday on February 3rd with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Joan and Wayne Myles and sister, Nicole. Best wishes Fraser from your St. David's family and we hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Sandra Perry, currently living in Ontario, who will be celebrating her birthday on the 29th of January. Her sister, Beth, will be helping her mark the special day from here in St. John's. Your St. David's family sends along birthday wishes Sandra and we hope you have 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

St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices:

Sunday School

Is God in control of your life?

January the memory verse is Psalm 23.

WA

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 on Tuesday, February 20th.

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**

Pickle Ball 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 Feb. 1st from 2 to 4 pm**. All are welcome!

Bridges to Hope

Weekly "Flyer" Specials - January 25 - 31, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart -	Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.88
Colemans -	Clark Beans - \$0.99
Pipers -	Maple Leaf Vienna Sausages - \$0.99
	Mr. Noodles - \$0.66
	Jacob's Cream Crackers – 3/\$5.00

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

Features with Pictures

Bridge Party – January 23, 2024

This past week, the WA hosted the January Bridge Party (January 23rd). 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. It was the first Bridge Party of the New Year and even a few snowflakes could not dampen the enthusiasm of everyone who came. All in all, it was a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party will be on **February 20th!**

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 (yum!) and our "worker bees" in action.



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

Mission Moment for Sunday, January 28th, 2024



In Nepal, Nirba struggled with an undiagnosed skin condition that kept her inside. In addition to her health struggles, Nirba grappled with financial instability. Because she couldn't afford medical assistance, Nirba borrowed money from friends and relatives. Thanks to a clinic set up by the International Nepal Fellowship (a PWS&D partner), Nirba was able to meet with a dermatologist, receive a diagnosis of leprosy and begin treatment. The clinic's support also provided financial aid for Nirba's child's education. Nirba expressed profound gratitude for this assistance as it not only helped her son but her own health situation as well.