



News from the Pews for Sunday November 12, 2023

“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



Why do we celebrate Remembrance Day in our church services, like we did last week? Why not just support the official ceremony downtown on the 11th? Why is our church involved in these military celebrations? There is always a question for churches and ministers of how far to allow the secular world's concerns and authority into their holy worship space. This is something we saw reflected early in the COVID era, with churches grappling with government mandates and restrictions on gatherings while still wanting to stay true to the holiness and spiritual importance of worship. But before these restrictions were in place, Remembrance Day was one of the few points of potential tension: after all, this is the day where Canadian flags, military members, and even parade weapons are often brought into

sanctuaries while the national anthem is sung. Of course, we know all too well that nationalism and religion are dangerous bedfellows, so why include this kind of ceremony in a worship service?

Firstly, it is important to remember the fact that the world wars, and the first world war in particular, was enthusiastically supported by the churches (and society) of the time. It was seen as a war of good versus evil and framed in religious language from the pulpits. In part, we remember because this was our sin, our mistake. We demonized other people, put guns in the hands of our children, and sent them off to kill. We remember our loss, our foolishness, and the sacrifice of those who died.

The second reason is perhaps even more important. Although culture has made a lot of advances in the last hundred years, we are still just as capable of dehumanizing others, drawing battle lines, and going to war. The soul of humanity has not changed much in that time. We take the time to remember as a way to remind ourselves that all the righteous intentions in the world are not enough to save us from evil. The Pharisees were full of righteous intentions, and their righteous intentions drove Christ to the cross.

Remembrance Day is an opportunity for us to pause and reflect on the impact our faith has on the world around us, to look for suffering and ask if we are contributing to it. It is a chance for us to treasure the lives of all God's children, and refuse to participate in wasting life in such a way again. May God continue to protect us from the horror of war, and may he protect us from the seeds of folly that lead us there. For our own sake, we remember.

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Upcoming Meetings This Month

Session

St. David's Session will meet Tuesday November 14, 2023 at 7:30 pm in the Armour Room .

St. David's Futures Committee

The Futures Committee will meet Wednesday November 15, 2023 at 7 pm in the Armour Room .

Presbytery

Presbytery will meet Wednesday November 22, 2023.

St. David's Board of Managers

St. David's Board of Managers will meet Thursday November 23, 2023 at 7 pm in the Armour Room.

Treasurer's Report

Last week I reported to the wider community the state of our finances, which is not good. We have used the full Line of Credit (LOC) to help pay the October month-end and November month-start payrolls. I am keeping an eye on upcoming automatic withdrawals. When I have sufficient funds to pay people and businesses, I will do so. The Session and Board are aware of our financial situation.

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 (November 13 to November 19, 2023)

Happy Birthday greetings go out to **Blake Rudofsky** who will be celebrating his birthday on November 18th with family and friends. Blake is the son of Judy and Dave Rudofsky. Best wishes Blake from your St. David's family and we hope you have a great day!

Happy Birthday wishes to **Jane Lowery** who will be celebrating her birthday on November 19th. Jane is the daughter of Susan and Travis Lowery who currently live in Turnwater, Washington and the grand-daughter of Lillian and Harry Crawford. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a great day, Jane, with your family and friends – near and far! Enjoy!

Happy Birthday wishes to **Karen Bonnell** who will be celebrating her birthday on November 19th! Karen will be celebrating her big day with her family, including her mom and dad, Judy and Dave Bonnell, her sister, Catherine and her family, and her many aunts, uncles and cousins, near and far. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a great day, Karen! All the best!

Happy Birthday greetings to **Doug Barnes** who will be celebrating his birthday on November 16th! Doug is currently living in England but continues to stay in touch with St. David's through our weekly bulletin. Doug's sister is Janet Aitken and their parents were Effie and Cyril Barnes, longtime members of St. David's. Best wishes, Doug, for a great day and for the coming year!

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

Each week the Sunday School will have an item to share with the church community. This week Sunday School's thoughts are "Being prepared for what life throws at you is key. Are you ready to meet Jesus?" The Memory Verse for November is The Beatitudes Matthew 5:1-12

AND

Save the date for Tea with Tilly which is Sunday November 26!

Check out the **Features with Pictures** to see the Memory winners for October.

AMS - November is Winter Coats Month

The month of November our focus shifts to collecting "lovingly used" Winter Coats. Please ensure that all closures; zippers, snaps, buttons, etc are in good working order. We will have a coat rack set up in the reception area just outside the offices or the collection of donated coats.

The **next AMS meeting will be held after church on Sunday November 19** in the Armour Room. A light lunch will be followed by the meeting. We hope to see you there!

St. David's Choir

On October 15th our choir took part in the service, a small but mighty group. If you would like to join our choir, they will be meeting in the **Sanctuary at 9:30 am on the third Sunday of the month – November 19th** for practice. If you are interested in joining this choir, please contact the church office at (709) 722-2382.

WA (Women's Auxiliary)

The next St. David's Bridge Party is this coming Tuesday, November 14th . 2023, see below for details! The next meeting of the WA will be held **Tuesday November 28th at noon in the Armour Room**. 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 will take place.

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 afternoons from 2pm to 4 pm**. All are welcome!

Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, December 5th 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.

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!

Pickleball games for our congregation

The fall pickleball games for the members of our congregation will be starting soon, possibly even this coming week. In the spring, pickleball took place on **Wednesday afternoons 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.

St David’s Bridge Lunches

The November Bridge Lunch is this coming **Tuesday November 14th 2023 in the Church Hall**. The doors open at noon for those early comers! We can accommodate between 20 to 22 tables, if you haven’t booked your table, please contact Heather or Lillian. Remember the lunch will be a hearty meal which includes the surprise and delicious “mystery” soup, the regular array of favorite soups, plus those very decadent desserts. There will be prizes plus an enjoyable game of bridge for everyone. See you there!

Other Community Announcements

Wesley United Church – Flipper Dinner

Wesley United Church will be holding a **Flipper Dinner** (with dessert, tea & coffee), on **November 16th at 6:00 pm**. Eat in and takeouts

available. Takeouts to be picked up between 5:00 pm and 5:30 pm. Tickets are \$30. Call Pheobe Sheppard at 726-1689, Marvin Barnes at 579-7900 or the Church office at 579-3682.

New Choir – Spiritoso Singers

Would you like to join a fun choir this fall? Join the Spiritoso Singers! We are a brand new, Christian-based, SATB choir, led by Sarah Templeton and Chris Morano. If you are aged 13 to 103 and have a little bit (or, a lot) of singing experience, this is for you!

Rehearsal dates are every Saturday up to December 2nd from 10:30 am to 12:30 pm in the St. David's sanctuary. There will be a Christmas Concert on December 3rd. A portion of the proceeds of the concert will go to the Spear Fund, a charity that works to end child trafficking worldwide. For more information or to sign up, go to:

www.feldenkraisforsingers.com/spiritososingers

Bridges to Hope – Food Drive at St. John's Farmers Market (SJFM) – Festive Market

As part of the SJFM this year, **Bridges to Hope will be collecting donations** at the **“Festive Market” from November 24 to 26**. You are invited to drop by for some amazing local vendors, food, and music. For more details see the SJFM site:

[SJFM Festive Market 2023 - St. John's Farmers' Market](#)

Alex Taylor is raising funds for Bridges to Hope

Youth musician Alex Taylor is hosting his annual “Merry & Bright” Christmas fundraiser on Saturday November 25th at 7 pm at St. Mary's Church, 80

Craigmilller Ave. For tickets, please call (709) 691-4020. Alex is donating the proceeds to **Bridges to Hope**.

Bridges to Hope

The Weekly "Flyer" Specials – Useful items for Bridges to Hope – November 9 to November 15

Sobeys -	Compliments Soup – 4/\$5.00
No Frills -	Barilla Pasta - \$1.25
	No Name Tuna - \$1.00
Colemans -	Campbell's Soup – 4/\$5.00
	Holiday Luncheon Meat – 2/\$6.00
Walmart -	KD (Kraft Dinner) – 6/\$6.00
	Maxwell House Instant Coffee - \$2.97

Bridges To Hope are asking their partner churches to contribute a specific item each month and the item for **November** is **Crackers**. 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



Congratulations to our Sunday School Memory Verse Champions for October. They are Harriet Oriaku Ulari Offia and Nnene Ukoma Offia, Congratulations!

Good Companions Enjoy an Afternoon Tea with a Special Guest!

On Thursday, November 2, the Good Companions met and enjoyed their regular carpet bowling and bridge games, however, it turned out to be a very special afternoon for many reasons.

Our Good Companions were treated to a full-fledged afternoon tea, complete with sandwiches and cookies and china cups and saucers. They also met a special "guest" - one who had travelled many miles to be there. This guest was Tilley, the Travelling Teapot!

Below are just some of the pictures from the afternoon. It was a fun time for everyone! And, if you are interested in joining Good Companions, we'd love to see you - **Thursday afternoons from 2:00 - 4:00.**



Tilley - the Travelling Teapot

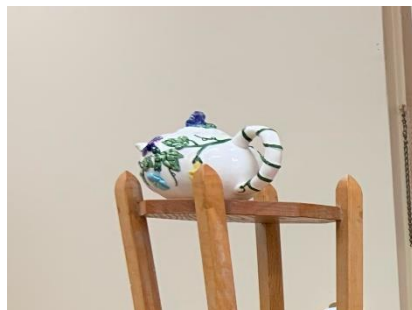
The Good Companions met Tilley - the Travelling Teapot last week at their afternoon tea. We thought you might be interested in learning a little bit more about Tilley and how the "travelling" started. (Many thanks to Lillian Crawford who provided the background story about Tilley!)

Tilley's travelling started back in 2015 when Bonnie Langille from River John, Nova Scotia, started sending the little teapot to different AMS (Atlantic Missionary Society) groups within Nova Scotia and New Brunswick.

A teapot is a symbol of hospitality and Tilley is no exception. Wherever Tilley ends up - meeting, Church service, Bible study group or tea party - it reminds all who see it that hospitality is universal and that as we go about doing the Lord's work, we can do so in an hospitable manner.

Along the way, different AMS groups have used Tilley as a fundraiser - such as to help support meals for those less fortunate, as well as raising funds for the AMS magazine, " The Presbyterian Message". Anyone can receive the Presbyterian Message - you don't have to be a member of the AMS. The message is a great way to keep up to date on our Presbyterian Church in Canada's mission work here in Canada and around the world.

So, whenever you enjoy a cup of tea (or coffee), please remember that a filled cup can be the best thing you can share with others because one cannot share it without engaging in hospitality and caring with those whom you share. That is the ministry that Jesus invites us to take part in.



Mission Moment for November 12th



We are a vibrant denomination, working together to put our faith into action. When we give to Presbyterians Sharing, we share in God's mission and proclaim God's love. We participate in mission and ministry in Canada, build strong congregations, support theological colleges and provide resources and educational opportunities. We serve vulnerable people, seek justice and work toward healing and reconciliation with Indigenous people. We share Christ's love around the world, sending grants and staff to encourage, equip and accompany PCC partners in their ministry. Through Presbyterians Sharing, we make mission and ministry happen. None of this would be possible without your generous gifts.