



News from the Pews – Sunday, February 4th, 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



To start this month of "Fooduary", I want to share a picture from my kitchen. This is my coffee grinder, and it sees near-daily use grinding fresh coffee beans for our french press. Since Michelle has worked in cafes for ages, the coffee we make at home has to be top-notch to compete. Each morning, I measure out 60 grams of coffee on my kitchen scale, set the adjustable kettle to heat the water to just the right temperature, fill the press with hot water to pre-heat it, and then grind the beans.

Now, in such a precise and perfect system as my morning coffee ritual, I have to confess that the grinder is the weak link. It has a built-in safety feature that stops the grinding if the lid is taken off or if the container of

ground coffee is removed, to protect hands and fingers. Unfortunately, the vibration of the grinder working is enough to shake the parts just loose enough to trigger the safety, and so the only way to get it to grind without stopping is to hold the lid and the hopper in place, just like I am in the picture. It's hardly a big deal to stand there for ten seconds while it's grinding, and I usually don't even notice I'm doing it anymore.

During this morning's ten seconds of grinding though, it got me thinking about the nature of sin. Sin is a failure to live up to God's designs. The fact that I have to hold my grinder "just so" in order for it to work properly wasn't how it was designed, and when it jiggles itself loose and stops it is, in a sense, sinning against me when it fails me.

How easy it is for little sins to be overlooked in the daily course of our day. How easy it is for us to consistently accept just a little injustice, to allow just a little unkindness, or to overlook just a little bitterness.

May we never forget to have hope in the reality of God's Kingdom. May we believe in the dream of things being on earth as they are in heaven. May I aspire to be more perfect in how I treat others even than I am in how I make my coffee each morning.

And praise God that when we do follow his ways, when we search out the sin in ourselves and work to do things God's way and God's way alone, the cup tastes all the sweeter for it.

Our Fooduary Events Schedule:

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!

February has been designated “Food-uary” at St. David’s and we are encouraging everyone to contribute non-perishable food items for Bridges to Hope. Wondering what to bring? Below is a list of the contents of a Full Hamper for 1-2 people which might help!

HAMPER CONTENTS – FULL (1 or 2 People)

Milk (Canned) fresh)	Beans (Canned)	Vegetables (Canned or
Soup (Canned or homemade)	Meat /Fish(Canned)	Pasta (Canned)
Fruit (Canned or fresh)	Juice (if available)	Dry Pasta/Rice
Pasta Sauce (1 can/bottle)	Cereal (1 box/bag)	Bread Product (1 loaf)
Margarine (113g block - 1/2 cup)	Tea/Coffee (1 portion)	Sugar (1 portion)
Eggs	Crackers	Kraft Dinner (1 pkg.)

HAMPER CONTENTS – EMERGENCY (1 or 2 People)

Milk (Canned or homemade)	Beans (Canned)	Soup (Canned or
Meat /Fish(Canned)	Pasta (Canned)	Kraft Dinner
Fruit (Canned or fresh) 1/2 cup)	Buns or rolls (1 pkg.)	Margarine (113g block -
Crackers	Oatmeal	Tea/Coffee (1 portion)
Sugar (1 portion)	Snack items	

Families with children also get “School Kits” for each child, made up of juice boxes (4) granola bars (2) fruit bars (2) and Goldfish crackers. Cheese strings and two (2) pieces of fresh fruit are added at time of distribution.

Other items not listed, such as personal care items – shampoo, soap, deodorant, toothpaste, dish detergent, laundry detergent, toilet tissue, feminine hygiene products, etc. are most welcome and appreciated!

Also, clients often ask for: cooking oil, peanut butter, jam, Cheez Whiz, cookies, cake mix and other baking items,

Simply put, any food item that you would normally purchase/use would be helpful!

Treasurer’s Report

The month of January was busy and as promised last week, here’s a look at some numbers from last year.

In 2023, there were \$65,745 donations made by approximately 40 families through monthly PAD (pre-authorized donations). The managers on duty on Sundays, recorded \$48,662 in donations from 74 different donors. We received \$ 22,665 from 21 different people who donated using e-transfers. We also had 47 groups pay \$36,703, to use our facilities for everything from

regular meetings, for choir practices and concerts, to birthday parties, to weddings. Session approved the use of \$32,400 from the Memorial Fund to meet our commitments and expenses. We received \$30,000 from the St. Aiden's Fund in July 2023 to allow us to re-pay the CEBA loan.

So far in 2024, we have received \$12,795 from all sources of income, with donations of \$9,070 and the remainder coming from people paying to use our building. The January base expenses were \$13,124 and have been paid. We currently owe some \$4,492 (local companies - \$1,863 and the PCC - \$2,629). So basically 2024 is very similar to our finances in 2023.

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 (February 5 - February 11)

[First, a correction from last week's announcements.](#)

Happy (belated) Birthday wishes to Samantha Hudson who celebrated her birthday last week on January 30th! Samantha, who lives in Labrador City, celebrated her birthday with family and friends, near and far, including her mom and dad, Michele and Geoff Hudson, her brothers, Matthew and Gregory, and of course, proud grand-parents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. We hope you enjoyed a wonderful birthday, Samantha, and best wishes for the year ahead

Happy Birthday greetings to Collins Bekoe, who will be celebrating his birthday on February 6th! Collins will be celebrating his birthday with wife, Mavis, and their little boy, Calvin, along with many friends and family – here and abroad. Best wishes Collins from your St. David's family - we hope you have a great day and may there be many more to come!

Happy Birthday greetings to Effie Chancey who will be celebrating her 98th birthday on February 11th! Effie is fondly remembered by many here at St. David's, especially by many of our Good Companion friends. Effie was married to Harold Chancey. Effie is the sister-in-law to Fred Chancey (d. 2006) and Betty Chancey. Effie is currently living in a retirement home in Clarendville and by all accounts still enjoys good health and many activities. Effie will be celebrating her big day with many friends and family. Happy Birthday, Effie from all your friends here at St. David's! We wish you a great day and all the best for the coming year!

Happy Birthday to Emily (Em) Dyckson, who will be celebrating her birthday on Sunday, February 5th! Em is a great friend to many here at St. David's and an enthusiastic supporter of many of the activities and functions that happen within our walls. Em will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, near and far, including her sister, Lillian Crawford and all of Lillian's family. Best wishes, Em for a great birthday from all your friends here at St. David's! We'll be thinking of you!

Happy Birthday greetings to Nabil Shalaby, who will be celebrating his birthday on February 5th with family and friends, including his wife, Tanya, and daughters, Christina and Nadia. Best wishes Nabil for a lovely birthday celebration and best wishes 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:

The Board of Managers will meet on Thursday, Feb. 15th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room and over Zoom.

Session will meet on Tuesday, Feb. 20th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room and over Zoom.

The Future's Committee will meet on Wednesday, Feb 21st at 7:00pm in the Armour Room and over Zoom.

VOWR

This Sunday's Service will be broadcast on VOWR this Sunday evening, February 4th at 7:00pm ~

Sunday School

Jesus spent time in prayer and so should we.

Please bring a packed lunch and join us in the Armour Room to eat together with members of the congregation.

Looking for Girl Guide Cookies! The chocolate mint variety is now available. If you're interested in purchasing or ordering some, Nnene and Harriet Offia will be happy to help you with that. Cost is \$6.00 per box. See either of the girls on Sunday morning.

Prayer Shawl Ministry/Knitters

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their next monthly meeting on **Tuesday, February 6th 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. (**This meeting will also include W.A. discussions that were postponed last week because of the snow storm.**)

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

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. 8th from 2 to 4 pm**. All are welcome!

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Who doesn’t love a good Jigsaw Puzzle?!

Well, the Good Companions Group has started a Jigsaw Puzzle exchange... you will find the Jigsaw Puzzles in the locked grey cabinet just outside the Armour Room. (The key for the cabinet is kept in the office.) Management of the puzzles will be done on an ‘Honour System’ – anybody can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle. And you can take as long as you like to complete. Should you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you may leave them at the office for Charlie Goobie and he will contact you promptly! 😊

AMS

Next **Sunday February 11** please plan on coming to AMS after worship. Our theme is “ Love  is all you need” Everyone is welcome.

Penny

Bridges to Hope

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – February 1 - 7, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart -	Clover Leaf Tuna - \$1.27
No Frills -	KD (Kraft Dinner) - \$0.55
Lawtons -	Heinz Tomato Soup - \$0.77
Shoppers Drug Mart -	Colgate/Crest Toothpaste/Toothbrush - \$0.99
	KD (Kraft Dinner) - \$0.55
Dominion -	No Name Mandarin Oranges - \$1.29

The suggested item(s) for **February 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Juice – 1 Litre**. 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

What a fun afternoon with a nail biting carpet bowling game, two tables of bridge players, who all enjoyed a feast of cinnamon rolls baked by Paul Rice. Many thanks Paul!

Penny Gillies



Mission Moment for Sunday, February 4th, 2024



For decades, Presbyterian World Service & Development has faithfully dedicated itself to serving those in need across the globe. In collaboration with our valued partners, PWS&D is actively contributing to positive transformation within our global community. From responding to emergencies to helping families and communities access nutritious food, clean water, adequate health care and quality education, PWS&D is helping people thrive. As people of faith, we respond to Christ's call to walk with the distressed and marginalized, work towards equality, the restoration of human dignity, peace, and care for God's creation. Together, we are working towards a sustainable, compassionate and just world.