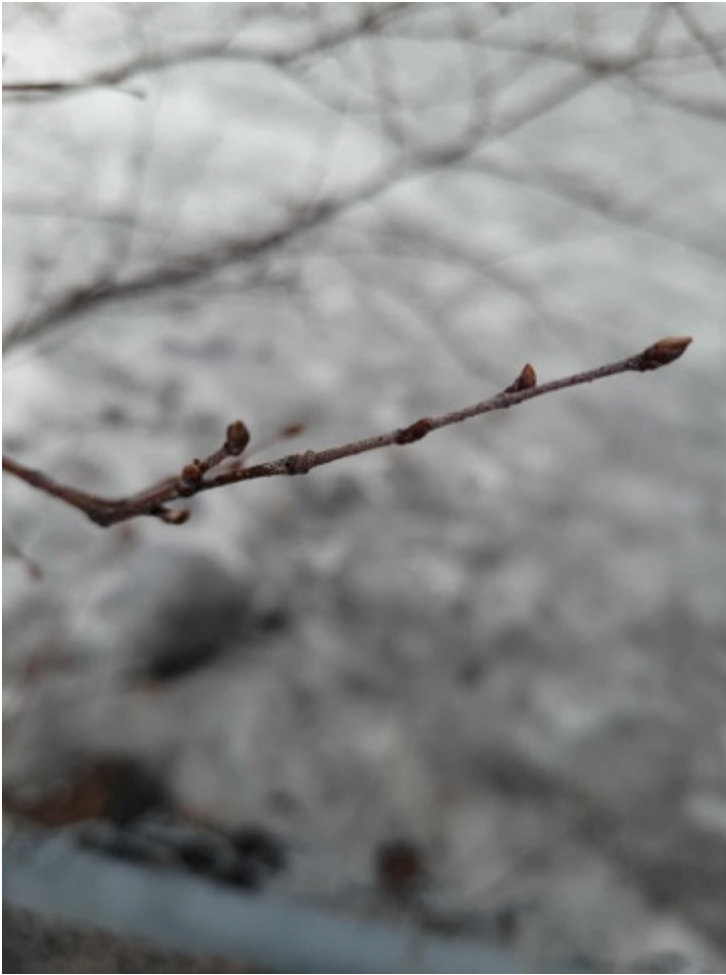




News from the Pews – Sunday, March 10th, 2024

“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



One thing I really enjoy is going for a walk, finding a quiet place to sit down, and listening to a podcast or some music on my headphones. I've found a few quiet parks that aren't too far away from home, and I know where all the real benches with backrests are. Today, I went to one of my favorites, a little park off of Cherry Hill road behind the Green depot near the church. When I got there, the path was almost blocked by snow. I wear big boots though, and with the storm coming this weekend I know it was only going to be getting worse, so I decided to push through to my bench.

After the piles of snow on the path in, I found the field between me and my goal had flooded and frozen into a rink of super-slick ice. I had my backpack with me, with my ice spikes for my boots inside, because I really don't like the feeling of wearing them on hard surfaces like sidewalks. So, instead of unbalancing myself trying to get at them, I slipped and slid my way across. Then the bench was cold. Then my headphones weren't working properly. Then an ad came on in the middle of what I was listening to, much louder than I wanted. Sometimes, it doesn't rain but it pours.

As I was getting up to go, I looked at a little sapling right next to the bench, and saw it had buds on it. I smelled the clean air that is such a blessing in this province. I listened to the calm quiet morning and zipped up my toasty warm jacket. The buds on that sapling are small, so small you could easily miss them, but they are there, and they brought me joy.

My friends, some days are hard. Some days, things can seem to go wrong one after another after another. Some times, you have to really look to find the blessings. But it is always worth it to do so. Matthew 7:7 says *"Ask and it will be given to you; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you."*

Seek goodness in the world around you, and you will find it growing. Do not seek it, and you may miss out on it until the Lord sees fit to reveal it to you. The goodness is there. May we have the eyes to see it. Amen.

Treasurer's Report

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.**

Most Tax receipts for 2023, were mailed on February 29th, 2024.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (March 10 - March 17)

Happy Birthday wishes to Kathy McKay who will be celebrating her birthday on March 10th! Kathy and her family are long-time members of our Church. Kathy is a St. David's elder, and is involved with many of our Church groups - including the WA, AMS, and the Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) group - and participates in many other activities and events. Kathy will celebrate her big day with her family and friends, near and far, including her husband, Don, and their children, Kirsten, Neil and Cameron and their families. We know they will make it a special event! Best wishes Kathy, from all your friends here at St. David's! Hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Jean Mallowney who is having a birthday on March 12th. Jean will be celebrating her special day with husband, Bob, and her three sons (Robert Jr., James and David) and their families, and her brother Dave Carmichael and his wife, Pat. Jean has always played an active role in the life of St. David's and she continues to help out when she can. Best wishes Jean from your St. David's family! We hope you have a lovely day... we'll be thinking of you!

Happy Birthday to Pearle Clouston who will be celebrating her 90th birthday on March 11th! Pearle will be celebrating her special day with family and friends, including her daughter, Cindy, her nieces and nephews, and her many close friends, including all her new friends at the Residence. Pearle has been an important part of our Church family for many years and continues to support and help out whenever she can. Best wishes Pearle from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Ian Steneke who is celebrating his birthday on March 12th! Ian will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Jane and Rob Steneke and proud grand-father, Hugh Cumming (former Board member and Session elder). We wish Ian a wonderful day spent with family and friends!

Birthday greetings go out to Katherine Hancock who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends on March 9th. Katherine is the daughter of Roxanne and David Hancock and the grand-daughter of Evelyn and Nowell Melendy, and the grand-niece of Marilyn Reardon and Mildred Greeley. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a very Happy Birthday Katherine... hope it's a great one!

Happy Birthday wishes to Daley Johnson who will be celebrating his 3rd birthday on March 15th! Daley will be celebrating his big day with his mom and dad, Samantha and Cecil Johnson, big brother, Leo, grand-parents, Tracey and Doug Hudson and proud great-grand-parents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson, not to mention many other family members, near and far! Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a very happy birthday Daley. Enjoy your day and have lots of fun!

Happy Birthday greetings to Rev. David Sturtevant who will be celebrating his birthday on March 13th! Helping to celebrate his big day will be family and friends – near and far – including his wife, Michelle, and two little sons – Oliver and Orson, and all his family and friends in Ontario. Best wishes David from your St. David's family! Best wishes and we hope you have a great day and enjoy every minute!

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:

Session will meet: Tuesday, March 12th at 7:30pm

Future's Committee: Wednesday, March 20th at 7:00pm

Board of Managers convene on: Thursday, March 21st at 7:30pm

**AMS: meeting at St. Andrew's on Sunday on March 17th - 12:30pm
At The Kirk.**

WA: meeting in the Armour Room on Tuesday, March 26th at noon

Spring Cleaning has started early at St. David's... in an attempt to have the Clouston ready to become the permanent home for our Sunday School, volunteers have been cleaning, organizing and tidying. Stay tuned for pictures in the upcoming weeks! 😊

The General Protestant Cemetery Board is seeking a church representative.

The duties would consist of one to two meetings annually ensuring that our church is represented by a member who ensures annual dues are paid, attends the AGM each year and continues to ensure the congregation is informed of any major changes in the Board policies. The GPC committee are a group who represents their church concerning burials, rates, property and maintenance. If you or someone you know is interested, please contact Heather at the church office.

UPDATE: We have a temporary volunteer for the position until a permanent volunteer is found.

Please save the date!!

The International Potluck ~ "A Taste of Home", has been rescheduled for this **Sunday, March 10th** following the service. Please bring a dish that reminds you of home, wherever home may be.

All are welcome!

Sunday School

Can we measure God's love??

Memory verse is the books of the New Testament in order.

Thank you to all our Sunday school volunteers for your dedication to our children. If you would like to help out with Sunday School please

email sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com

Bible Study

Anyone interested in Bible Study, please contact Rev. David at 709-699-3661 for more information. Thank you! 😊

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 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 March 14th, at noon for the annual Good Companions St. Paddy's Day Turkey Dinner!!!** All are welcome

Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange ... The Good Companions Group have 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 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

This month's meeting will be held jointly with at St. Andrew's at The Kirk on Sunday on March 17th at 12:30pm.

WA

The March meeting of the WA is on Tuesday, March 26th at noon in the Armour Room. If you are interested in learning about this inspiring and creative group, please consider attending. A lunch will be served. All are welcome!

Bridges to Hope

Weekly "Flyer" Specials – March 7 -13, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart -	Hereford Corned Beef - \$2.97
Dominion	PC Liquid Dish Soap - \$1.00
Sobeys	Catelli Pasta Sauce - \$ 1.25 (With Scene Card)
No Frills	No Name Soups - \$0.50

The suggested item(s) for **March 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Beans**. Other non-perishable food items are always welcome and appreciated!

CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE

PREPARATIONS ARE UNDERWAY FOR THE CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE!

CFUW St. John's is collecting gently used fiction, non-fiction, and children's books (hard cover and paper back) for our used book sale on the following dates and times:

Book Collection: February 24th to March 12th.
7 days a week from 11 a.m. until 3 p.m.

Location: The former Bouclair site at the Avalon Mall between
Globo Shoes and the Golden Phoenix Restaurant.

We **do not** accept encyclopedia, magazines, textbooks, Readers' Digest books, computer books, VHS tapes, and cassette tapes.

DATES FOR THE BOOK SALE: March 21 1 - 9 p.m.
March 22 10 a.m. - 9 p.m.
March 23 10 a.m. - 1 p.m. (half price day!)

Same location as the book collection - former Bouclair store

Proceeds from the sale fund scholarships and community outreach projects.

Thank you for your support!!

Features with Pictures

News From Barbara

We were delighted to receive a little note from Barbara Ellis – all the way from Florida – this past week!

Barbara is enjoying the warmth from the Florida sunshine and from all her wonderful friends down there. Apparently, her birthday celebrations started at Church on Sunday and continued on through to Tuesday! Sounds good!!



And Speaking of Birthday Parties.....

Last week, we shared with you a number of pictures from Nnenna's birthday party which was held at the Church after our service on Sunday (February 25). Well, we missed one but it's just too good to miss! Here it is....



And we have another very special birthday girl... Edith Peach's 85th Birthday!

This past Monday, March 4th, Edit celebrated her 85th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Edith's family got together with the folks at the Residence and held a wonderful birthday party for her. There was lots of food, fun, laughter and singing, not to mention cake! (I believe the party continued well into the evening!)

Many thanks to Lori and Violet for these great pictures.....



Mission Moment for Sunday, March 10th, 2024



“We are brave and strong because we learned important information about rights, feelings and participation.” PWS&D supports a human rights program in Guatemala that not only empowers women by ensuring they know their rights but also equips them with essential skills and knowledge about food security and nutrition. Through education on when and how to plant vegetables, grow tree seedlings and how to care for livestock, women have more stable incomes and improve their family’s access to nutritious meals. “We are happy for our project. We sell the trees in the town and use the money to buy food,” shares one of the participants. This program provides women with the resources and skills they need to lift themselves out of poverty and create a more equitable society.

