



News from the Pews – Sunday, March 17th, 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.

Rev. David's Message



"With measurement errors negated, what remains is the real and exciting possibility ***we have misunderstood the universe***," lead study author Adam Riess, professor of physics and astronomy at Johns Hopkins University, said in a statement."

<https://www.livescience.com/space/cosmology/james-webb-telescope-confirms-there-is-something-seriously-wrong-with-our-understanding-of-the-universe>)

For all my life, I have always been a lover of science. Going all the way back to some of the earliest theologians in the history of the church, there has always been an idea that we can learn more about God through the study of two books, the book of Scripture and the book of Nature.

This idea that nature can lead us to knowing more about God should come as no surprise to anyone who has read the parables of Jesus, which so often use natural processes to reflect divine truths!

The algorithms that choose which news articles to show me have picked up on my love of science, and I chuckled a bit when I read the headline that the above quotation (and picture) came from: "James Webb Telescope confirms there is something seriously wrong with our understanding of the universe". Simply put, we expected everything in the universe to be expanding at a certain speed and have based our whole understanding of the cosmos and cosmic history on that, and we are now realizing that it isn't actually all expanding at that certain speed after all. From the article: *"We wouldn't call it a tension or problem, but rather a crisis," [said] David Gross, a Nobel Prize-winning astronomer"*

Sometimes, when we read the book of nature, we don't understand it properly. Sometimes those mistakes persist for a very long time. Sometimes we have to reshape a great deal of what we thought we already knew.

The same can be true of our understanding of the book of Scripture. As Christians, I hope that we can always approach questions of faith with at least as much humility as these Nobel-winning scientists who are realizing they've misunderstood the universe. May we seek to learn the truth, to know the living God and our place in God's world better and better, without being embarrassed when we realize we have made mistakes.

For at its heart, our faith leads us to repent, to forgive, and to both give and accept second (and third, and fourth...) chances. We are never certain we have got it right, but we can always show our faith by doing our best to learn from our mistakes. We too may find that we have misunderstood the whole universe, but God is gracious, God is kind, and God is quick to forgive, and that is Good News.



MUSIC – Share your gifts of music with the whole congregation!

Just as we focused on food in February, for the month of April, we are focusing on 'MUSIC'! Do you, a family member, friend or someone you know, have musical talent they are willing to share by participating in one of our Sunday worship services? If so, please let your Elder, Heather in the Church Office, or Brian Way know.



250th Anniversary – 2025

Plans are underway to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of St. David's congregation in 2025. Would you like to be part of the planning process? Do you have ideas or suggestions on how this milestone can be marked? Please let us know. Just speak to an Elder, Heather in the Church Office or Rev. Sturtevant. We'd love to hear from you!

Hymn Requests

Do you have a favourite hymn? Would you like to hear it again? A box for such requests has been placed at the entrance of the church and you are invited to write your suggestion on the card and place it in the box. The hymn may be used in the Sunday worship service or in the Hymn Sing soon to be offered prior to that service. It may be anonymous, or you may wish to include your name or perhaps it can be a memorial. Together, let's life our voices in praise!



Treasurer's Report

In case you've been wondering why has Anne been so quiet for a couple of weeks? Busy times! I've gone through the individual donations from every e-transfers and all the Sunday donations, with the homework including taking the files home and looking at every entry. Then Heather and I helped Ian prepare the 2023 tax receipts.

In the last AGM, we reappointed our auditor who said she'll undertake our Engagement Review for 2023. I spent the next while reviewing data in our accounting package (Sage), balancing all 1300 plus entries against expenses and revenue entries, while making sure that if an expense charge had HST on it, it made its way to the HST rebate account. All is now in the hands of our auditor along with my notes of the financial activities that took place. Lillian Crawford is helping me out with a letter about the 2023 use of the Memorial Funds as approved by Session.

So now, I'm back! That you may see by the next part of this report – the “What can you do for your Church” section.

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.

What would you do for your Church?

Since I check everything, I looked back and it's just over a year (Feb 26th 2023) since I first asked that question. I started out with:

That's a question I hope many of you are asking yourselves. Some people are actively thinking about it, while others are actively doing things.

Several of you have answered that call:

- we now have a Board of Managers (BOM) with seven (7) new people involved
- we have a new Sunday School leader and volunteers from the congregation
- we have people with talent and various abilities doing things like – developing a new “Welcome to St. David’s” package, updating our Facebook page, updating our website, working as adjuncts to committees while not actively ON that committee, baking us goodies for Good Companions and other groups, and the list goes on and on!

We welcome all types of participation, big and small, from everyone. I’m renewing my call: **if there are any things that you’d like, or hope, to see happen, if you see a need we can undertake, or if you would just like to talk about our finances or the church and its outreach programs**, please get in touch! We’d welcome your ideas, proposals, thoughts, or hopes.

As treasurer, I’m also on the BOM and happen to be on the Property Committee. **A reminder:** you don’t have to be a member of the BOM to be on a committee or to help out on one, or with one! So, you may well be able to help us out with some of the myriad opportunities we have for volunteers!

The Sunday School has moved back to the Clouston Room. Ask a child and see what they answer. The kids asked for several things:

- they think it would be nice if the room had a new **paint job**, perhaps a **mural** (former attempt was made in the “old” classroom with pictures of the animals in the Ark). Some of our artistically talented people may be able to help out with that. The mural could be anything, the sea with waves and storm-tossed boats, green meadows (something I’d

love to see right about now) with bright flowers and (Burning) bushes perhaps? (Yes, the BOM would supply the paint and any supplies!)

- the children also liked the idea of **flowers and plants**, do we have any people with a green thumb or some **hardy** houseplants?
- Lastly, they also liked the idea of **curtains**. Is there someone out there handy with needle and thread or a sewing machine? (Again, the BOM would help out with supplies.)

We also have a **“TO-DO” List** of many opportunities from our Property Committee. A copy of that full list (more than 60 items) is on the wall on the office, please check it out! There’s everything from learning how to replace a real glass window (in the furnace room), to loaning us your truck (and you too) for dump-runs or runs to “Restore”, to simply washing and polishing windows – think **Spring Cleaning!**

We also have other opportunities where you can make a difference and be part of the life in our church.

The **Sunday Coffee Hour** has been back now for some time, meaning we need volunteers to:

- * come in before church to turn on the coffee & tea
- * help putting up tables
- * perhaps baking some homemade goodies
- * laying out plates of cookies, biscuits, etc. (these are provided)
- * taking part in the clean-up afterwards.

We have a sign up sheet on the kitchen door OR you can call Heather in the office. Your help would be appreciated.

We are still taking part in the green revolution by **Re-cycling – Reducing – and Reusing**. St. David’s has an account with Evergreen Recycling. If you would like to donate the proceeds of your recyclables, just enter the Church phone number 722-2382 when you are making a drop-off. Our account will automatically be credited.

If you are interested in how St. David's moves forward, if you have any thoughts, concerns, suggestions or want to be part of the discussion or the action, please contact the church at 722-2382 or email us at stdavids@nfld.com.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (March 18 - March 24)

Happy Birthday greetings to Sylvia Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on March 18th! Sylvia will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends, near and far, including her husband, Dave, and children, Douglas, Geoffrey and Kathryn and their families and her sister, Sandra Hamlyn, currently living in Ontario. Sylvia is a great friend to many within St. David's and always a great inspiration. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a very Happy Birthday, Sylvia! We hope you have a wonderful day and enjoy every minute – much love and happiness!

Happy Birthday greetings to Elizabeth Thistle who will be celebrating her birthday on March 23rd! Elizabeth is now living in the Mountain View Retirement Hoke in Corner Brook, but she still has a number of good friends at St. David's who think of her often and stay in touch via phone and Canada Post. We know her daughter, Margo, and her family and all the staff and residents at Mountain View Retirement Home will ensure that Elizabeth enjoys a wonderful birthday – including cake and candles! Best wishes Elizabeth from your St. David's family.... we'll be thinking of you!

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:

New Church Office Hours: The church office is open weekdays from **9 am to 1 pm** with the (**new**) exception of Mondays.

Starting this Monday, March 18th, 2024, the Church administrator will be working remotely, (**Mondays only**).

Heather will be checking church emails and phone messages regularly. Alternatively, you may contact her by cell. @ 403-830-7217.

Enjoy the day!

Choir Call for Sunday, March 17th, 2024

Hi Folks,

Hope this finds you well. Once again we are hoping to have a 'pop up' choir for service this coming Sunday at St. David's Presbyterian! Should you and your voice have a few hours to give, or if you know of anyone interested to sing, we will meet 930am Sunday for rehearsal followed by the 11am service finishing at noon.

Hope to see you Sunday!

Thanks,

Brian

Upcoming Choir dates at a glance:

Sunday, March 17 ~ this Sunday!! 😊

Sunday, April 21

Sunday, May 19

Sunday School

Memory verse is the books of the New Testament in order. The Power of God's love.

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

AMS: A joint meeting with the St. Andrew's AMS, on Sunday, March 17th - 12:30pm at The Kirk.

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

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

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 21st from 2-4pm**. 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! 😊

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 14 - 20, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Dominion	No Name Soups - \$0.50
	Sugar - \$1.99 (With PC Optimum card)
Sobeys	Colgate Toothpaste - \$0.88 (With Scene card)
Lawtons	Cheez Whiz - \$3.97
Shoppers Drug Mart	Colgate or Crest Toothpaste - \$0.99
No Frills	Franco American Gravy - \$0.79

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

While Bridges to Hope always has an ample supply of dog food, they have a shortage of cat food. Your help in this area would be appreciated too. Thank you.

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.

CFUW GREAT BIG USED BOOK SALE

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

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

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

Pearle Clouston's 90th Birthday!

This past Monday, March 11th, Pearle celebrated her 90th birthday surrounded by family and friends. Pearle's family (daughter, Cindy; brother, Gord; nieces and super party planners, Carol and Pam; nephew, Stephen and his wife, Doreen) got together and held a wonderful birthday party for her in her own apartment. There were lots of goodies to eat, including sandwiches and cake, and much conversation and catching up on the news! From what Pearle said later, friends continued to drop by late into the afternoon with greetings and well-wishes. All, in all, a great way to celebrate 90 years!

Here are just a few pictures from Pearle' party.....





