



News from the Pews – Sunday, April 14th, 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



As we focus on music at St. David's this month, I thought it would be appropriate to share some thoughts on one of the hymns we will be singing in our worship service on Sunday. Over the years, both Brian and I have chosen the hymns for our services, and this Sunday Brian made the choices (and he's chosen some good ones, in my opinion). Everyone has a different history of hymns, and when I saw that Brian had chosen, among others, "Onward, Christian Soldiers" I thought to myself that it must be his Salvation Army background showing through.

"Onward Christian Soldiers" is a hymn that has faced some backlash in modern times, as churches struggle with a desire to distance ourselves from religious violence. The call to lay down our lives for our faith, and to build a new kingdom on earth, is too easily corrupted into a message that serves leaders with less-than-heavenly goals, and it is a common critique of religion in general that it contributes more to global violence than it does to peace. "Onward, Christian Soldiers" has been left out of many denomination's hymn

books for this reason.

I think this hymn still has a place however, when I read of its use during the Civil Rights movement, when members of the African-American community took it up as an anthem in their efforts to make a more just world for themselves and their children.

There do come times in Christian life when our faith leads us into conflict. There are times when we are called to step up, to do something risky, because that is where Christ is leading us. But as we prepare for that conflict, let us remember also the words of another, equally controversial battle hymn in our hymn book which says: *"for not with swords loud clashing, nor roll of stirring drum, but deeds of love and mercy, they reign of peace shall come"*

The conflicts we face will be real. There is real suffering and evil in this world that we seek to change, and to confront it is just as important and terrifying as it is for a soldier preparing for battle. But the war we march towards is one that we have faith we will win with all the love, mercy, kindness, forgiveness, and grace that Jesus Christ showed among us. That is how victory will be won, and that is Good news for all.

-David

The date is set: St. David's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 28th following the worship service.**

A light lunch, tea and coffee will be served. Please do plan to attend.

Musical happenings for the rest of April!

Brian Way & Friends

A postponed concert from last Fall has been rescheduled for tonight, Friday, April 12th at 8:00pm in the hall. There are some tickets left, so please do plan to attend this event of classical, tradition and spiritual music as Brian welcomes friends Amanda Dawe and Darrin Martin to join him in this unforgettable evening.

Please call the office for more information and to reserve tickets.

Thank you!

*** This Sunday morning, April 14th, we welcome the TSO!! They will be joining Brian to lead the music during the service. It is always an absolute pleasure to have them with us!**

*** Sunday, April 21st, we are delighted to advise that the Bassler Family will be performing with Brian for what will be a very special Sunday morning service.**

*** And on April 28th, the last Sunday of the month, our ever amazing Contemporary Band !!!**



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 lift our voices in praise!



Treasurer's Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) comes up later this month. While the Board selects a date, Session approves it and that is on their agenda for their next meeting. Two weeks prior to the date, the message is announced in church, so this Sunday we'll find out the date!

The treasurer's component of the Annual Report is DONE!!! And you don't know how happy I am about that. This year, I went light on words and you get to "see" where our income comes from and see where it's spent. There is also much background information in the form of tables and spreadsheets showing details. If you ever want to have a chat about our income or our spending, please get in touch. Yes, I'm the manager on duty all this month, so I'll be around each Sunday.

So far this year our finances are following last year's trend. I'm unable to pay some of the PCC commitments, but continuing to pay our employees, contractors, and local companies.

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?

This is going to sound a whole lot like last week's, with a few new possible "do's" thrown into the pot.

I've previously spoken of our current (2024) deficit and how it's bucking the trend (it's *actually lower* than the one for 2023). And I touched on our upcoming 250th anniversary, first mentioned in the trivia section of the News from the Pews back in May 2022.

Back then I was torn between "sestercentennial" (sester being the Latin prefix for two-and-a-half) and "semiquincentennial" (half of 500 years which is also being used *maybe* by the USA for their 250th in 2026 and causing some controversy), so. The newest alternate the "quartermillennial" is now in the running for the upcoming US celebration. Yes, as your treasurer, I'm always looking at what's around me, how that's changing and also looking at what's coming towards me!

Also last week, I spoke of the spring letter which I hope you took a moment to read. We are looking for your participation in this church, its activities, and its future including the planning and activities for next year, a major anniversary that only a few congregations will ever have.

St. David's sense of community is what attracts people, what keeps us here, what causes us to strive to help one another. Through it all we continue to move forward and face the future together always striving to play a meaningful role in our community. Please consider ways to help us grow our community. Also consider how we can celebrate the sestercentennial. What would you like to see happen next year? What ideas do you have? Let us know!

By the way, I am manager on duty for the month of April, so 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, have a chat with me at church on Sundays!

Alternately, you may always contact the church at 722-2382, email us at stdavids@nfld.com.

Last night (April 10th) there was a Futures Meeting and afterwards we got the following message from Glenn Barnes.

Hello folks:

I reflected on last evening's meeting with a smile. It was wonderful to do some exciting church business, planning for the next 250 years while starting to celebrate the first 250. It was fun to reminisce about people and families, all people we hold dear. I am confident that our ancestors at St. David's were looking down and smiling at us last night.

I was also very happy to see a building that was abuzz with people and activates throughout. We are indeed alive and well after 249 years.

Most of the members of the Futures Committee were born here and have been a part of St. David's for our entire lives. Some families have been here from the beginning, and after 249 years of worship and support are still here. They are the Calvers, the Irish Barnes (all nine generations), and my daughter, Laura, is generation ten for the English Barnes. Going around the room, the Steeles, Bruneaus and Bonnells have also been here for many, many years, for multi generations, certainly most of my lifetime and some well beyond that. Janet and Aubrey have been here all of my life. I won't say how long that is since that might give away their ages! I remember fondly your parents and families.

2025 will be a 'big year' along Elizabeth Avenue. Memorial University, just down the street will celebrate its 100th anniversary and now has over 100,000 alumni all over the globe. We will welcome Canada to the Canada Summer Games which will largely be held at Memorial's St. John's campus on Elizabeth Ave. There is somewhere around \$75M being invested in the Elizabeth Ave. upgrades and in sites and buildings for the Games. All will remain as a legacy for the citizens of this place. There will be thousands of visitors driving and walking past our church and no doubt many worshipping with us.

Anyway, just wanted to share some of my thoughts. Glenn

Birthdays and Anniversaries (April 15 - April 21)

Happy Birthday wishes to Rachel Barnes who will be celebrating her big day on April 17th with family and friends, near and far. Rachel is the daughter of Derek and Patricia Barnes and the niece of Glenn and Martha Barnes.

Rachel's grand-parents were long time members of St. David's – Mary and Ralph William (Bill) Barnes. We hope you have a wonderful birthday Rachel!

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.

Condolences – Peggy Amelia Hatfield (Martin)

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Jean and Clayton Collins on the loss of Jean's sister, Peggy Hatfield (March 23, 2024). Peggy was predeceased by her husband, Lawrence (Larry), son, Andrew, and just this past October, her sister, Nancy.

The funeral took place on Monday, April 8, 2024 at the Anglican Church of the Good Samaritan.

Condolences - Mary Iris McVicker (nee Walker)

April 25, 1926 to April 8, 2024 *The sympathy of the congregation goes out to the family of Iris McVicker who passed away on Monday, April 8, 2024. For many years, Iris and her late husband, Maurice, were faithful and supportive members of our congregation, and even though it has been a while since Iris has been able to make it to St. David's, many of us have very fond memories of her. Our thoughts are with the family at this time. Her obituary can be found below.*



We are so saddened with the loss of this incredible individual. Born in Dungannon, Northern Ireland, on April 25, 1926, Iris passed away just shy of her 98th birthday on April 8, 2024. Loving and dedicated wife to Maurice (of Portrush, Northern Ireland, died September 2013), and mother to Charles (Kelly Fleming), of whom she was so proud. Wife, mother, mother-in-law, sister, aunt, cousin, friend, nurse...she mastered them all.

Iris trained as a nurse in Manchester, England after WWII, then studied midwifery in Sterling, Scotland. She met Maurice when she was an obstetrics nurse and he was a junior physician at the Lagan Valley Hospital in Lisburn, NI. They wed in 1954, then made the momentous step of moving to Canada, spending the first two years in Bonavista, followed by two years in Musgravetown then settling in Lewisporte where they spent most of their working lives.

Despite living in Newfoundland all this time, in her heart Northern Ireland remained her home. And by her Ulster accent which never faded, one might think she was just visiting here. Iris was an inspiration to anyone who met her...always an uplifting or wise word in times of struggle, a kind word in times of sadness, a sign of strength in times of grief, and always a laugh in the silly moments. Her smile, of which there was no short supply, brightened any room. She loved a good dinner party or cocktail hour, and was a cook/baker extraordinaire. If you crossed her path, you could be sure she would not forget you. The most thoughtful and kind individual, she took care to make a difference through seemingly small ways, but if you looked closely, you would find the tremendous thought that went into everything she did. An avid reader, painter, gardener, adventurer...there was little that she was not interested in learning about or doing.

Many thanks to the loving staff at Kenny's Pond Retirement Residence including Dr. Percy Crocker, where she resided for the last nine years. Her family knew that she was cared for by wonderful people who demonstrated compassion every single day. You all made a world of difference to her later years, and you will forever have our gratitude.

Iris has been cremated, and will be laid to rest beside her husband in Toberkeigh, County Antrim, Northern Ireland. A celebration of her beautiful life will occur at that time to include her brother Eric (Norma), sister-in-law Leslie (wife of the late Billy McVicker), Elaine Henderson (Craig), nephews Alan Walker (Rebecca), Angus McVicker (Maureen), Alan McVicker (Louise); and Helen (wife of the late Shane McVicker).

Condolences - Hugh Napier Thompson Cumming

May 9, 1938 to April 7, 2024

The sympathy of everyone at St. David's is extended to the family of Hugh Cummings on his passing, Sunday, April 7, 2024. Many of us in St. David's have wonderful memories of Hugh. He was a longtime member of this congregation and served for many years on the Board of Managers and on Session as a respected elder. His commitment to his family and his Church was unwavering and steadfast. Hugh was a good friend who will be dearly missed. Below is Hugh's obituary..

Passed peacefully away at St. Pat's Mercy Home on April 7th, 2024. Hugh Cumming was the epitome of the charming Scotsman, who enjoyed his native culture and that of his adopted homeland, family and dear friends, and the Newfoundland outdoors, particularly on the water.

Hugh and Laureen emigrated to Canada in June 1965, with their infant son Ewan, and arrived in fogbound St. John's at a time when the talk of the town

was the escalator at Woolworth's. They quickly made friends, once they adapted to a culture where people walked in your unlocked front door and sat down for a chat. Newfoundland became their true home, and neither ever wanted to be anywhere else. Daughters Jane and April followed, and their circle of family and friends was always strong.

Hugh worked initially with Procter and Redfern as a Civil Engineer, before moving over to the St. John's (later Newfoundland and Labrador) Housing Corporation, where he became General Manager. Later he worked with the Provincial Government before retiring in 1992 to look after Laureen, who passed away in 1993. He was involved with the Parkinson's Society, and served as the local Executive Director.

Hugh and Theresa married in 1994, and he found himself the proud stepdad to Matthew and Travis Chapman, at which point he learned to love basketball! Hugh and Theresa traveled on many adventures and found joy in each other's company, although Hugh's mobility declined in later years.

Through the years Hugh was keen to adopt outdoor activities, including golf, camping, hiking, road trips and cross-country skiing. He loved woodwork and music, although his true passion was sailing, and he was never happier than on the water on Talisman with friends and family. When mobility issues limited sailing, Hugh and Theresa enjoyed travel, including cruises with sister-in-law and friend Anne Cooke.

Hugh is predeceased by Laureen, his parents, Hugh and Agnes (Nancy), as well as older brothers David and Gordon, and by mother in law Eileen Cooke and brother in laws Edward and Tony. Hugh leaves to mourn Theresa, his children, Ewan (Heather), Jane (Rob Stenecker) and April (Tom Kennedy), Matthew (Sarah) Chapman and Travis (Michelle) Chapman. Papa will be missed by his dearly loved grandchildren Jill (Mike Reid), Beth, Kay, Helen, Ian, Alex, Cameron, Jack, Grace, Hilary, Norah, Gabrielle, Madeleine and Emily, as well as by sister-in-law Anne Cooke, brothers-in-law Phillip

(Bernice) Cooke and Chris (Joan) Cooke and the extended Cooke and Chapman families.

The family extend sincere appreciation to the wonderful caretakers at St. Pat's who were truly merciful and kind, and whom he always had thanks and appreciation for, even when he was going through painful times with his health and momentarily forgot his polite words. He always apologetically remembered them immediately after.

If desired, donations may be made to the St. Pats Mercy Home Foundation or the Parkinson's Society (Parkinson Canada).

Visitation at Barrett's, 328 Hamilton Ave, St. John's on Friday, April 12th from 11:00 a.m. to 8:00 p.m. Funeral service at St. David's Presbyterian Church, 98 Elizabeth Ave, St. John's at 2:00 p.m. on Saturday, April 13th.

St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices:

Special Announcement:

The Flags at Memorial University will fly at half-mast on Monday, April 15th from 9:00am to 12noon, to honour the memory of the Late Ted Hoekman. A long time member and choir member of St. David's.

New Church Office Hours: The church office is open weekdays from

9 am to 1 pm with the exception of Mondays, when the Church administrator will be working remotely. Heather will check church emails and phone messages regularly. Alternatively, you may contact her by cell. @ 403-830-7217.

For pastoral care ~ Please contact our minister, Rev David Sturtevant at 709-699-3661.

Sunday School

Please mark your calendars for a special guest Rachel from Easter Seals will present to us on April 21 (NEXT WEEK).

This week: Jesus appears to the disciples

Philippians 4:4-9 is our memory verse this month.

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

Bible Study will be starting up again this week on Wednesday at 12:30 in the Armour Room. We will be following a 5-part series looking at some of the most common words used to describe God, and how we can share those attributes in our daily lives. Come join us for thoughtful study and discussion, no expertise is needed!

Rev. David

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 April 18th from 2-4pm**. All are welcome

Board of Managers:

The monthly meeting of the BOM will take place on **Thursday, April 18th at 7:30pm** in the Armour Room. Anyone interested in learning more about the board are welcome to attend.

Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – April 11 - 17, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart	Aylmer Soup - \$0.97
	Great Value Tuna - \$0.97
	KD – Kraft Dinner – 6/\$6.00
Dominion	Graves Apple Juice - \$0.99
No Frills	No Name Beans - \$0.99
Marie's Mini Mart	KD – Kraft Dinner - \$0.99

The suggested item(s) for **April 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Canned Fruit**. 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.

There has been interest in starting up a **men's group**, a casual get-together to foster friendships, learn new skills, and mentor each other in our Christian walk. If you would be interested in participating and have ideas for what you would like to do as part of this group, please reach out to Rev. David at rev.sturtevant@gmail.com or to Keegan Allen at kgwallen96@gmail.com



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 14 We thank you for your Word that shows your path. Help us to develop strong spiritual practices in our homes and communities that lead to transformation and growth.

Monday, April 15 We pray for those attending "The Art of Transitional Leadership: Help and Hope for Interim Moderators," that participants will be energized and renewed as they lead the congregations they serve in discerning God's future.

Tuesday, April 16 We pray for the 69th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Taiwan as they meet with a theme of "Inspire a Life of Faith—Seeking God's House of Abundance" from April 16-18.

Wednesday, April 17 We pray for Anamiewigummig Fellowship Centre in Kenora, Ontario as it provides practical care and support—an urban "home"—for many elders and young people who have endured the realities of the residential school system or have aged out of the child welfare system.

Thursday, April 18 God of resurrection and transformation, we pray that LGBTQI2+ people experiencing life transitions and coming out will feel your comforting presence through the care of their loved ones.

Friday, April 19 We ask that God bless the efforts of theological students in the last days of the academic year, giving them grace to finish well, to be taught, formed and swept up in God's reconciling mission.

Saturday, April 20 We pray for the Communauté Chrétien Siloé, a Cameroonian Church in Montreal, as they seek funding to complete renovations of the old church building they have revived for worship. We ask God to bless their vibrant music ministry, their dedicated women and their church choir.