



## **News from the Pews – Sunday, April 21st, 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



This week, when I was looking over Brian's hymn suggestions, I realized that one of them used to have different lyrics that some of you may be more familiar with. The hymn I am familiar with, "God is love, come heaven, adoring" used to be sung as "God is love, let heaven adore Him". The reason for the change is a common one, as hymn lyrics are re-written to avoid using He or Him for God so that our image of who God is does not inadvertently elevate one of the sexes above the other in our minds. In the case of this particular hymn, I think the effort is more well done than is sometimes the case. The poetry is maintained well, and words don't feel out of place. Theologically, God has always transcended the male/female distinction, and all people, whether they be male, female, or the rare few born without distinguishable sex, are equally made in God's own image. It goes without saying that God is neither a man nor a woman (unless we are talking about the man Jesus Christ), but nevertheless, we have a long history of using masculine pronouns when referring to God as a sign of respect from a time when positions of authority were viewed as belonging rightfully to men.

Change can be uncomfortable. There is nowhere that this effort to use non-gendered language is more uncomfortable than in old familiar hymns. I have a hard time singing hymns like "Who made the earth and the heaven" from our hymn book, because I know it so much better as "He's got the whole world in His hands". I struggle with "To God be the glory" because I end up accidentally singing "great things He hath done" at the end instead of "who great things has done" as it says in the hymn book. I may accept in my head that God is not a man, but I feel embarrassed when I sing the wrong words and then I grumble to myself about whether the change was really needed, more because I am embarrassed than out of some deep theological reasoning.

But this week, I realized that "God is love, come heaven adoring" was, for me, the familiar words. I know some people may be grumbling about how they preferred the old words, but for me, these are the words I grew up with. In the same way, my children will grow up with different hymns than I did, and perhaps that may help them to value the traditionally feminine values of God a little more: compassion, tenderness, mercy, and gentleness.

Sometimes, change can be uncomfortable. Sometimes we work for changes that will benefit other people at our own cost. That is what Christ did, when he suffered and died for us, and that is the kind of life he calls us to live.

So when you are faced with a change you do not love, but know is the right one, may you have faith that goodness outlasts suffering. We may stumble over the lyrics for a generation, but the song will endure beyond that and will bring hearts to God long after we are gone, speaking to a new generation with words that are familiar to them. That's Good News!

Rev. David

**The date is set: St. David's Annual Congregational Meeting will be held on **Sunday, April 28<sup>th</sup>**.**

**A light lunch, tea and coffee will be served following the worship service with the ACM starting at 1:00pm.**

**Child Care will be provided.**

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**Musical happenings for the rest of April!**

**\* Sunday, April 21<sup>st</sup>, 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 28<sup>th</sup>, 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 life our voices in praise!*



## **Treasurer's Report**

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) comes up on April 28<sup>th</sup>. This is a meeting for which I'd love to see a really good turnout. We will review our budget for this year, look at what we can do as part of the upcoming anniversary celebrations, and get your thoughts on how we should move forward. Some serious discussions are involved, please come and let us know your thoughts, hopes, and wishes.

The Annual Report was emailed out last Sunday, hard copies are available at the church. There are all kinds of information in it, a message from the minister, reports for all the church's groups, and, of course, the budget. One bright spot is that this year's deficit is smaller than last year's, however, it's still a hefty deficit.

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 [stdavidsnfd@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsnfd@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?**

On April 28<sup>th</sup> we're having the Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM).

This is your church, what are you willing to do for it?

- 1) Are there times during the week that are more convenient for you than other times to get involved in church activities?
- 2) Would you consider joining a group? We have quite a few!
- 3) Would you consider volunteering with a group or taking part in some outdoor (think yard work!) activities around the church?
- 4) Would you consider letting us know how to better communicate with you?
- 5) Would you consider joining a 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary committee? There may be several to many of those!
- 6) What would you consider contributing towards?
- 7) What other activities would you like to see us, with you included, get involved with?

We are looking for your participation in this church, its activities, and its future. That does include 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 sescentennial. 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](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com).**

## **Birthdays and Anniversaries**

**Happy Birthday greetings go out to Marijke den Otter** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 23<sup>rd</sup> with family (Lori Kim, Andy, Benjamin and Dini) and friends, near and far! Even though Marijke is living in Ontario now, she will always be a part of our Church family. Happy Birthday, Marijke and best wishes from everyone here at St. David's!

**Happy Birthday to Cassidy Quinton** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup>. Helping her celebrate will be her family, including her husband, Mike, her mom and dad – Becky and Leith Quinton – brothers, Josh and Luke and their families, along with many great friends, near and far. Best wishes Cassidy from your St. David's family. We hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Kurt Aubrey-Bassler** who will be 14 years old on April 22<sup>nd</sup>! Kurt will be celebrating his big day with mom and dad, Christine and Kris, sisters, Maggie and Charlotte, aunts, uncles and cousins, not to mention, lots of friends. Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday Kurt! We hope you have a great day!

**Happy Birthday wishes to Sylvia Taylor** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with family and friends, including husband, Bob, and children Heather (Patey) and John along with their families. Best wishes, Sylvia, from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful day!

**Happy Birthday to Charles Stockwell** who will be celebrating his 4th birthday on April 22<sup>nd</sup> with family and friends! Charles is the son of Gordon and Sarah Stockwell. (Gordon was our organist for many years here at St. David's and both Sarah and Gordon sang with the choir and delighted us with their musical talents). Everyone here at St. David's wishes you a wonderful birthday Charles and we know you'll have lots of fun!



**Happy Birthday greetings go out to Hans Rollmann** who will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends on April 28<sup>th</sup>. Hans and the entire Rollmann family have been an important part of our Church community for many years. All your friends here at St. David's wish you a very Happy Birthday, Hans! We hope you have a wonderful day and may there be many more yet to come! Best wishes!

**Happy Birthday to Laura Bruneau** who will be celebrating her birthday on April 26th! Even though Laura is living in Ontario right now, we know her family – including mom and dad, Mary and Steve Bruneau, brother, David, aunts, uncles and cousins and proud grand-mother, Jean Bruneau – will be celebrating right along with her. Your St. David's family will be thinking of you Laura! Have a great day!

**Happy Birthday greetings to Judy Barnes** who will be celebrating her special day on April 27th! Through the years, Judy has been a great supporter of St. David's, especially her work with WA events and with our Christmas sales, morning coffees and afternoon teas. Judy and her family will always be in our thoughts and prayers. We hope your birthday is very special, Judy, and know that we will be thinking of you. Best wishes always!

**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 – James Ryan**

The sympathy of the congregation is extended to Patsy and Dave Carmichael and their family on the loss of Patsy's brother-in-law, James Ryan (April 4, 2024). James left behind his wife of 64 years, Shirley (Patsy's sister), five children – Karen, Jim, Gail, Lynette, and Ken - along with many grandchildren and a large number of other relatives and friends.

The funeral service took place on Sunday, April 17, 2024 at Carnell's Memorial Chapel.

## **St. David's Upcoming Events and Notices:**

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](mailto:rev.sturtevant@gmail.com) or to Keegan Allen at [kgwallen96@gmail.com](mailto:kgwallen96@gmail.com)

**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**

Rachel from Easter Seals will present to us disability in our community. 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\\_mcmeekekin@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_mcmeekekin@hotmail.com)

## **Bible Study**

**Bible Study** starting up again this week on **Wednesday at 12:30 in the Armour Room**. We are 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! **Next meeting: Wed. April 24th.**

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 25<sup>th</sup> from 2-4pm**. All are welcome

## **WA**

The next meeting of the WA is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30<sup>th</sup> at 12:00 noon. It will be held in **the Armour Room and will include a light lunch ~ On the agenda, are plans and discussion for** upcoming events, including the next Bridge Party.

## **AMS**

The next meeting of the AMS is scheduled for Sunday, May 5<sup>th</sup>.

It is held in the Armour Room after worship. Please do plan to join us for a light lunch and fellowship. Everyone is welcome!

**Bridges to Hope:** Weekly "Flyer" Specials – April 18 - 24, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart	Clover Leaf Tuna - \$0.97
	Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.84
Dominion	Campbell's Soup - \$1.00
No Frills	Graves Apple Juice - \$0.88
	KD (Kraft Dinner) = \$1.00

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.

## **Features with Pictures Concert Series – April 12, 2024**

Last Friday evening, April 12<sup>th</sup>, we were treated to another wonderful concert with some amazing performers. Brian Way took the stage with Amanda Dawe and Darrin Martin. Amanda and Darrin had been scheduled for last year, but due to unforeseen circumstances their 2023 concert had to be postponed. They certainly more than made up for the wait! Their voices, along with Brian's playing, made for a beautiful evening.

With a song-list that included music from Broadway to Gospel, Amanda and Darrin treated the audience to a fantastic evening. We hope to see Amanda and Darrin again!

We also look forward to having discussions with Brian in the next week or so to discuss some possible Church Hall events for 2024. Stay tuned for more details!



*Darrin, Amanda and Brian*

### **Bridge Party – April 16, 2024**

This past week, the WA hosted the March Bridge Party (April 16). As usual, we had an enthusiastic group of bridge players come for lunch and then stay to enjoy an afternoon of playing their favourite game. The homemade soups and desserts were enjoyed by our guests. We were delighted to see

everyone again! All in all, it was a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party will be on May May 14th!

Many thanks from the WA to all those who volunteered to make this afternoon a great success – our set-up and take-down crews, our "souper" cooks and "delectable dessert" bakers, our dessert "plater", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all!

Below are just a few pictures from Tuesday. Notice the setup picture of the Hall and the picture with all our guests enjoying their lunch! It takes a lot of work to make our afternoon a success!

