



News from the Pews – Sunday, April 28th, 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.

The Sunday Worship Service will be broadcast on VOWR this evening at 7pm

Rev. David's Message



This Sunday, we will be following our usual practice of having our contemporary worship band play for the last Sunday of each month. Which instruments are used in church can sometimes be a thorny issue for people, although I know the majority of members at St. David's find they are able to worship in a variety of styles, which is in my opinion a good thing. Whenever I hear of debates kicking off between churchgoers about what the proper instruments of worship are, I find myself reflecting back on the history of music in the Presbyterian church and remembering that at one

time, not so very long ago, a very similar debate was being held over the inclusion of the newfangled "pipe organ" instrument in services of worship. Historically, Presbyterian churches tended to follow a strict, Reformed practice of music in worship. The only appropriate songs to be sung, it was felt, were the Psalms of the bible themselves. The only appropriate instrument was the voices of the worshippers. No contemporary songs like those that fill our hymnals today or instruments of any kind were to be found in worship.

Here is an extract from a 1867 publication of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, from a time when organs were just beginning to be found in Presbyterian sanctuaries. The article lists a dozen reasons for why the organ has no place in Christian worship, including:

"Instrumental music [...] has the effect of carnalizing the worship of God, by changing the spiritual service of praise into a sensuous, scientific performance, not always to the edification of the Church or to the glory of God, but too often for the honour of the musicians, and the gratification of the musical taste of the hearers. Thus the service of God is profaned, and the house of prayer turned into a concert-room."

"It destroys congregational singing [...]"

"It is worshipping God by machinery."

As we come to the close of the Month of Music at St. David's, I hope we will remember the true breadth of music that has been used for worship over the years. Of course, we all have our favorite hymns, our favorite styles, and our favorite instruments. But praise in worship has always had more to do with the hearts of those worshipping than the instruments being played. Whether we play the organ or the drums, may our worship be to the Glory of God, may congregational singing be encouraged, and may we worship God with our hearts. May we keep open minds and hearts to appreciate the worship style of our neighbour! May we lift hearts to God in worship, no matter the accompaniment of the day or the decade. That is our enduring mission.

Dear St. David's Family,

We, all of us, are the church. Your advice, recommendations and suggestions are needed. Indeed they are important and valuable to us.

As we make the way forward to our incredible 250th Anniversary year, please consider this invitation to attend St. David's Annual Congregational Meeting today at 1:00pm. A light lunch will be served following worship, prior to the start of the ACM.

**Sincerely,
Your Board of Managers**

Please note: Childcare will be provided.

Musical happenings!

On this last Sunday in our musical month of April, we are delighted to showcase our ever amazing Contemporary Band !!!

Treasurer's Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) is this Sunday, April 28th. 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. If you would like another copy emailed to you, please contact the office.

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 coming Sunday, April 28th is the ACM.

This is your church. What are you would you like to see from your church? We'd really like to know!

- 1) Sunday mornings are busy times (soccer, hockey, ballet, and a nice sleep-in after all week), so are there times during the rest of Sunday or at other times during the week that may be more convenient for you?
- 2) Have you heard the term Spirituality Center? It is a quiet place where you go to reflect, meditate, pray, think, and just be. Would you appreciate one at St. David's?
- 3) We have many groups who need occasional help or volunteers. What kind of group would you like to help?

- 4) Would you like to learn how to do something around your home? We could teach you how to install eavestroughs, fix drywall, what paints to use on different types of walls, how to sew curtains, how to trim trees and bushes, how to mulch your flower beds, and the list goes on.
- 5) How could we improve our communications to you and for you?
- 6) How would you like to see us celebrate our coming 250th anniversary?
- 7) Is there a particular mission you would like us to undertake?
- 8) 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.

Birthdays and Anniversaries (April 29 – May 5)

Happy Birthday to Luke St. Croix who will be celebrating his birthday on May 3rd! Luke will be celebrating with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Susan and Frank St. Croix, siblings, Samantha, Ashley and Matthew, aunts, uncles and cousins and of course, his proud grand-mother, Barbara Ellis. Happy Birthday Luke! Your St. David's family wish you a wonderful birthday! Enjoy!

Happy Birthday to Gregory Hudson who has a birthday coming up on May 1st! Gregory will be celebrating his big day with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Michele and Geoffrey Hudson, siblings Samantha and Matthew, and of course proud grand-parents, Sylvia and Dave Hudson. Best wishes, Gregory, from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Birthday to Catherine Bailey who will be celebrating her birthday on May 3rd! Catherine will be sharing her special day with her husband, Richard, and children Sophie and Aiden, along with her sister Karen and her family, her mom and dad, Judy and Dave Bonnell and her aunt and uncle, Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Best wishes Catherine from everyone here at St. David's! We wish you all the best and have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Jack Porter who will be celebrating his birthday on May 1st! Jack will be celebrating his birthday with family and friends, including his mom and dad, Katie Berghuis and Daniel Porter and younger brother, Benjamin. (Jack is the great grand-son of the late Elisabeth and Peter Berghuis.) Best wishes, Jack from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a great day!

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:

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

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

This week: To bear fruit, we must be connected to Jesus.

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

WA

The next meeting of the WA is scheduled for Tuesday, April 30th 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.

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. May 1st.**

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 May 2nd from 2-4pm**. All are welcome

AMS

The next meeting of the AMS is scheduled for Sunday, May 5th.

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

Prayer Shawl

The next meeting of the Prayer Shawl Knitters Group is Tuesday May 7th at 10:00am in the Armour Room. All are welcome – no experience necessary.

Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – April 25 – May 2, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart	Colgate/Crest Toothpaste - \$0.84
Dominion	Hunt's Pasta Sauce - \$1.99
Colemans	Cheez Whiz - \$3.97

The suggested item(s) for **May 2024**, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **Kraft Dinner**. 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.

MISSION MOMENT

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The Reformed Parish in Csap/Chop, a congregation of the Reformed Church in Transcarpathia in western Ukraine, has been providing temporary shelter and food for people displaced by the war. Their social kitchen program includes hot food delivery to elderly congregation members who live alone and are unable to cook for themselves. With limited resources, Bishop Zan-Fabian reached out to the PCC for financial support to continue this ministry of care. The PCC provided a grant from Presbyterians Sharing, fulfilling the law of Christ to bear one another's burdens.



Features with Pictures

Sunday School Presentation

Last Sunday, our Sunday School welcomed an Easter Seals “ambassador”, who explained what a disability could mean and how these disabilities do not define a person. Everyone listened intently as she explained, with the help of some dolls, what each disability was. She totally engaged the children and stressed the need for all of us to treat everyone with respect and kindness and she explained that people with disabilities can live full, healthy and active lives. The dolls were a big hit and after the talk, our Sunday School children were able to get a little closer to them!

Many thanks to Nnenna for taking this great picture!

