



News from the Pews – Sunday, April 7th, 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



I don't tend to collect fancy things. Partly it's my personality, I've always preferred function over form when it comes to choosing what to buy or wear. Partly it's the reality of having young kids; I don't want to invest in beautiful things that are a source of stress as I watch my kids spin brooms around, or play keep-it-up with a balloon, or so on. Better to wait and get the pretty things once they are grown up a bit.

That being said, I did pick up one nice little piece of pottery at a farmers' market in Ontario last time I was back there. It is a little bowl, beautifully glazed, with a little piece in the middle folded like a piece of ribbon. It is a bud vase, and it's designed to hold a few tiny little flowers on display.

I love to take a few little snips of flowers from the garden or growing wild as I walk around and bring them home to put in the vase. I like that it is small enough that filling it isn't hard. I like that it brings a little splash of life and color to the house.

"Finally, brothers and sisters, whatever is true, whatever is noble, whatever is right, whatever is pure, whatever is lovely, whatever is admirable—if anything is excellent or praiseworthy—think about such things." Philippians 4:8

As I grow older, I realize more and more how important it is to make rejoicing a choice. The little buds are easy to miss, so I am glad to bring them inside so they remind me of the beauty of spring many times a day.

May you treasure the little blessings around you today, and guide yourself to think about the noble and good things that Paul writes about in Philippians. May you find ways to remind yourself of them and keep them always in your eyes and in your mind.

And may the fog and rain bring me many more buds for my vase in the days to come. By the grace of God, we will never run out of little reasons to rejoice, and that is good news indeed!

Important April Dates:

- Session Meeting - Tuesday, April 9th at 7:30pm
- Futures Committee – Wednesday, April 10th at 7:00pm
- Board of Managers – Thursday, April 18th at 7:30pm



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.

The treasurer's component of the Annual Report is underway. This year, consideration has centered around charts. There is also much background information in the form of tables and spreadsheets showing details, which is available on request.

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?

Last week I spoke of two things: our current deficit and how it's bucking the trend (it's actually lower than last year's) and our upcoming semiquincentennial. What's that? This congregation's 250th anniversary, first mentioned in the trivia section of the News from the Pews back in May 2022. Treasurers are always looking at what's around them and also looking at what's coming towards them!

Also last week, a letter was mailed to the St. David's community. It was an Easter message. Easter falls in spring, the season when we see signs of growth. There is now growth in the gardens, including brand spanking new dandelions which the hens love and which disappear as quickly as they sprout up. For Easter Sunday there was a large number of people out to church and that was so nice to see.

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 grow ways to help us our community. Also consider how we can celebrate the sestercentennial. Ok, that's just another way to say our 250th anniversary. 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 8 - April 14)

Belated Happy Birthday greetings to Brian Way, who celebrated his birthday on March 31st! No doubt, Brian's family - near and far - ensured that he celebrated in fine style. Brian has gifted St. David's with his many musical talents. As our musical director, he leads and inspires our congregation every week and is always there to support our events and functions. We hope you had a wonderful birthday and best wishes for the year ahead from your St David's Family!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Rebecca Hodder who will be celebrating her birthday on April 10th with family and friends, including her mom and dad, Daphne and Jeffrey Hodder and brother, Stephen. Best wishes Rebecca from everyone here at St. David's. We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday greetings to Nnene Offia who will be celebrating her birthday on April 13th, with family and friends, including her mom, Nnenna and sisters, Harriet and Deborah! Best wishes Nnene from your St. David's family. We hope you have a terrific day full of fun and special surprises!

Happy Birthday greetings go out to Madelyn Froude who will be celebrating her birthday on April 11th! Madelyn will be celebrating with her classmates, friends and family including mom and dad, Karen and Paul, siblings Jayce, Drayton, Scarlett and Carrie, aunts, uncles and cousins and of course her grandparents, Sue and Ken Templeton. A big day for sure! Your St. David's family wishes you a fun-filled birthday Madelyn! All our love.

Happy Birthday greetings to Eleanor Cummings who will be celebrating her 91st birthday on April 10th! Eleanor has become a special part of our Church family. She has started to come to some of our groups and events including Good Companions and has become known among her friends as a "keen" carpet bowler! Eleanor will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends near and far, including her son Peter and his family along with her stepsons, Jeff and John and his family. Best wishes Eleanor from all your friends here at St. David's. We hope you have a wonderful 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:

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.

This week: Seeing is believing.

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 April 11th from 2-4pm**. All are welcome

Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – April 4 - 10, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

Walmart	Great Value Pizza Sauce - \$0.97
	Crest Cavity Protection Toothpaste - \$0.88
	KD – Kraft Dinner – 12 pack - \$9.97 (\$0.83/each)
	Mr. Noodles - \$0.27
Dominion	Heinz Beans or Pasta - \$1.49
Sobeys	Catelli Pasta – 3/\$3.99
No Frills	No Name Peanut Butter - \$3.99

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.

Brian Way & Friends

A postponed concert from last Fall has been rescheduled for Friday, April 12th at 8:00pm in the hall. 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!

Features with Pictures

Remember how Anne mentioned Spring in her “what would you do” segment...

As she reminded me, Spring is also the time for Spring cleaning... 😊



MISSION MOMENT

April 7, 2024

Katia Bien-Aime, a senior nurse and coordinator for a nutrition program in Haiti, recalls a time when a significant number of children failed to return for follow-up care after initial treatment at the nutrition clinic. She knew something needed to be done. In response, PWS&D's partner, who also runs the original clinic, decided to begin mobile clinics.

 Presbyterian World Service
& Development



DAILY PRAYERS

Sunday, April 7 We pray for PWS&D partners who are compassionately walking alongside those suffering from tuberculosis, HIV, leprosy and malaria. May their collective journey toward health and prosperity be filled with strength, support and positive outcomes.

Monday, April 8 We pray for the Assembly Council as it meets to prepare reports for the upcoming General Assembly, that it will focus on the hopes and possibilities of Christ's church as we continue in ministry and mission together.

Tuesday, April 9 We pray for Jill Foster and the ministry of healing and reconciliation she does with Indigenous people, organizations and communities, and her partnership with churches in the Montreal area.

Wednesday, April 10 On this International Day of Pink, we pray for an end to bullying against the 2SLGBTQIA+ community, and for greater acceptance of diversity, equality, and inclusivity.

Thursday, April 11 We pray for ministers who are on inter-mission that they will be blessed by a sabbath time where they can be open to the presence of the Holy One in their lives.

Friday, April 12 We pray for Crieff Hills Retreat Centre, Executive Director Kristine O'Brien and staff as they offer warm hospitality in Jesus' name.

Saturday, April 13 As the Women's Missionary Society synodicals meet for their annual meetings, we pray for the Rev. Sarah Kim, who has been the Executive Director of the WMS since September 2001.