



News from the Pews – Sunday, May 19th, 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



After all the excitement of the eclipse just a month ago, a new spectacle from outer space showed up in my news this week. Due to an especially strong eruption of charged particles from the Sun, the Aurora Borealis (or Northern Lights) were incredibly strong earlier this week. Alas, I wasn't able to find a patch of clear sky, so I wasn't able to fulfill my dream of seeing them in person yet. One day, though!

It's a beautiful sight, or so they tell me, watching the ribbons of colour dance noiselessly across the sky. Of course, the closer you are to the poles, the better your chances of watching an aurora: charged particles from the Sun are caught in the Earth's magnetic field and, like iron is drawn to either end of a magnet, they are drawn to either of the two poles where they impact the atmosphere and make a spectacular sight.

The Northern lights are also a sign of protection, because those same particles would cause some real problems if they weren't captured and turned into beauty: without the magnetic field, these particles would chip away at

earth's atmosphere, literally blowing it off into space over time. They would destroy the ozone layer and expose us all to cancer-causing radiation. They would fry electronics and prevent transmissions.

The Aurora reminds me of something I have found to be a very important spiritual practice: giving thanks for all the dangers that I never face and the blessings too easily overlooked. I give thanks for God protecting me from hardships I have never seen. I give thanks for good health and a life free of violence. I may have been kept home this week because my kids have been battling pinkeye, but that's a far cry from the cancer that the Aurora is protecting us from!

May you rest secure in God's hands this week, and give thanks for God's protection. May you see God's hand in the aurora, transforming particles of suffering into quiet beauty free for all to share. What a beautiful reminder of who God is. Hallelujah, and Amen.

St. David's Men's Group

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries (May 20 – May 26)

Happy Birthday to Laura Barnes who is celebrating her birthday on May 24th! Laura will be sharing her special day with her mom and dad, Martha and Glenn Barnes, her brother, Nathan, his wife, Jamilya, and their little daughter, Charlie, along with many other family and friends, near and far. Best wishes, Laura, from everyone here at St. David's!

Happy 12th Birthday to Emma Ryan who will be celebrating her birthday on May 23rd with family and friends! Emma is the daughter of Aimee Reardon and grand-daughter of Marilyn Reardon (Melendy). Happy Birthday Emma from your St. David's family. We hope you have lots of fun and wonderful surprises!

Happy Birthday greetings to Monica McNeill, who will be celebrating her birthday on May 26th! Monica was our previous Church Administrator and as such has made many lasting friendships with people at St. David's. Monica will be celebrating her birthday with her husband, Mike, son, Ben, and her father, Sam Johnson, along with many other family and friends, near and far. Best wishes Monica from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day and enjoy many more to come!

Happy Birthday to Kathryn Hudson who will be celebrating her birthday on May 26th. Sharing her special day will be her mom and dad, Sylvia and Dave Hudson, and her siblings, Kent, Doug and Geoff and their families. Happy Birthday Kathryn from all the folks here at St. David's and best wishes for the coming year!

Happy Birthday greetings to Daniel Rumbolt who will be celebrating his birthday on May 23! Even though Daniel is not living in Newfoundland right now, his family, including his mom, Jill, brother, Jeremy, grand-parents, Patsy and Dave Carmichael, and countless other family and friends, near and far, will be sharing birthday wishes with him as well. Congratulations Daniel from your St. David's family and we hope you enjoy your day!

Happy 21st wedding anniversary to Roxanne and David Hancock who will be celebrating their special day on May 24! Roxanne is the daughter of Evelyn and Nowell Melendy. Best wishes from all your family and friends here at St. David's and much happiness in the coming year!

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:

Church Office Hours:

The church office is open Tuesday thru Friday from **9 am to 1 pm**. Mondays the church administrator works remotely, but checks and returns church office emails and phone messages regularly.

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

Sunday School

The Holy Spirit came on the day of Pentecost.

Memory verse for the month: The Apostles Creed

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

This week in Bible Study, we will be reading 1 Peter 3:8-18 and, having wrapped up our series on the Character of God, we will be considering what we would like to study next. Come join us, and let's share examples with each other of how God has been faithful in our own lives! No experience required.

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 23rd from 2-4pm**. All are welcome.

St. David's "Concert in the Hall" Concert Series

The first date in the new 2024 Concert Series has been scheduled!

We are pleased to announce that Shelley Neville, Peter Halley and Brian Way will be taking to the stage on Friday, May 24th for a variety concert of well known songs.

To reserve tickets please call or email the office.

709-722-2382 or stdavids@nfld.com

Doors open at 7:30pm ~ Concerts starts at 8pm.

**Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – May 16 – May 22, 2024 -
Items helpful for food hampers:**

Colemans	Favorite Canned Fruit – 4/\$5.00
Dominion	Cheez-It Crackers - \$1.50
No Frills	No Name Beans - \$0.99

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.

This product may not be something we talk about a lot but it's an **ESSENTIAL** part of everyday life!

We're talking about an item often requested by food bank clients that is not always available – **TOILET TISSUE!** Even when available, it's usually given out in single rolls – which we know does not last long!

So, for the month of May, we'd like to offer some relief to the food bank we support by asking you to donate toilet tissue! During the month, we will gather donations and display our collection in a creative way (similar to the photo, or perhaps better) at the end of the month!

Never seen a Toilet Tissue Tree? well, here you are but we'd like our tree to be much larger! Will you help?



Bridge Party – May 14, 2024

This past week, the WA hosted the May Bridge Party (May 14). As usual, we had an enthusiastic group of bridge players who braved the torrential downpour of rain, came for lunch (a selection of homemade soups and delectable desserts) and then stayed to enjoy an afternoon of playing their favourite game. It was great to see everyone again! All in all, it was a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party – our final one until September - for will be on **June 11, 2024!**

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. It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make this event a success – so cheers to all our worker-bees, some of whom you'll see in the pictures below!





CAMP GEDDIE- A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Camp Geddie's mission is to invite all to experience the joy of God's beauty and love in creation and to nurture a relationship with Christ and Christ's people in a caring community through play and worship.

Camp Geddie is owned and operated by the Synod of the Atlantic Provinces of The Presbyterian Church in Canada and is accredited by the Camping Association of Nova Scotia and PEI.

We aim to develop Christian faith and character in children and youth through living together in a Christian camp community and to further the educational goals of the church in an outdoor setting.

We are open to all youth and to all denominations.

Our Summer Camping program includes daily Bible study, mission study, canoeing, swimming, outdoor education, arts and crafts, games and sports, vespers and campfire. Our camp sessions open with registration between 3 & 4 pm on opening day and close with a vespers service at 11am which family and friends are invited to participate in.



Features of our site include a sandy beach, two lakes, seven sleeping cabins, the Irwin Lodge, which also serves as the dining hall, a craft/rainy day recre-

ation building, wash house with hot showers and flush toilets, a nurses cabin/first aid station, and two outdoor chapels, and many nature trails. The site affords ample opportunity for canoeing, hiking, sports and much more.

Our summer staff is made up of carefully selected and trained counsellors and program staff, qualified swimming and canoe instructors and all staff are first aid certified.



ACCREDITATION AND MEMBERSHIP

Camp Geddie is accredited by CANSPEI and a member of the PCCCA. Camp Geddie follows the Leading With Care Policy of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Each camp we have a chaplain present on site to offer spiritual and pastoral support to both campers and staff.

Memories from Camp Geddie “Alumni” ...

“There are funds available to help kids get there. I started going when I was 12 being sent by WMS at the Kirk and in those days it was by train and ferry and then train. Since then I have been a leader there and my kids also went. It’s such a wonderful camp. Have some great memories.”

Barbara Ellis

“I remember the fellowship and the swimming lessons (Yes, swimming lessons! I earned several of my “badges” there.) I loved the evening campfires and sing-alongs... and the S’MORES!!! Had my first one around those campfires. Those were the best summers... Wonderful memories in a beautiful place.

My Mom and my cousin, both deaconesses, spent time there as leaders.”

Heather Steele Morrissey

You can find information on registration for Camp Geddie on their website:

campgeddie.ca

And by calling or emailing: [902-926-2632](tel:902-926-2632)

director@campgeddie.ca

MISSION MOMENT

May 19, 2024

Gifts to Presbyterians Sharing support international partners through leadership development grants. In 2023, the National Council for Higher Education recommended that the position of Assistant Librarian at Zomba Theological University in Malawi should require at least a bachelor’s degree. So, the Rev. Dr. Takuze Chitsulo, Vice Chancellor, requested support from the PCC for Assistant Librarian Jane Mwalabu Makupete to upgrade her Diploma in Library Information to a Bachelor of Arts degree in Records Management. Jane was ecstatic and very grateful when she heard of the PCC’s support.

