



News from the Pews – Sunday, May 5th, 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



Sometimes, when it comes time to write my weekly message and think about the picture to include, I start with a message idea and figure out what picture I need to complete it. Other times, I find a picture on my phone and think of a message as I look at the picture. This week, I started with the picture.

As I was out walking one foggy morning, starting an excellent podcast on the Sermon on the Mount from the Bible Project (listen here: <https://bibleproject.com/podcast/kicking-year-sermon-mount/>), I saw a garden in someone's yard that was so beautiful I had to take a picture of it. Well, actually, I didn't. But then I thought about it a few more times that day and went back the next day to take a picture, thinking to myself "I'll figure out some way to make a Message from the Minister out of this!"

But then, when I sat down to write the message and pulled up the picture to look at it in my warm, dry, office, I had second thoughts. The little purple flowers that were so bright and cheery on my walk now just looked kind of wet. The picture didn't capture the same impact; the flowers that seemed so

special on my walk now looked small and bedraggled. Maybe the garden wasn't quite as nice as I'd thought.

But it was, for me, when I was on my walk on that foggy wet morning. And in one moment, I saw the message that I knew from scripture in this experience: In rainy, cold days, small flowers can have a big impact. We are called to be a blessing to the world, and to the people that God has put into our lives. Sometimes, we feel like because we do not have much blessing to give, it doesn't really matter if we do. One kind word doesn't seem like much for us to give and then celebrate over. But we live in a world where many people are glad to see even the smallest blossom, and remember it for days. May you give small gifts today. Hold the door for a stranger, and tell your cashier you hope they have a wonderful day. Play peek-a-boo with babies and give honour to co-workers who make your job easier. May we share small blessings with the world, because you never know how much they may mean to someone else.

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

Treasurer's Report

The Annual Congregational Meeting (ACM) took place last Sunday. I'd sincerely like to thank those who came and participated. It was a meeting where we approved many things and discussed various topics.

If you ever want to have a chat about our income or our spending, please get in touch with me.

This year our finances are following last year's trend. I'm unable to pay the PCC commitments, but am 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 your church. What would you like to see from, or for, your church?

- 1) Communications: how can they be improved, both to you and for you?
- 2) 250th anniversary: how would you like us celebrate it?
- 3) Mission: is there a particular mission you would like us to undertake?
- 4) Worship times: Sunday mornings are busy times (soccer, hockey, ballet, and a nice sleep-in after all week). What times are better for you and your family?
- 5) Spirituality Center: a quiet place where you go to reflect, meditate, pray, think, and just be. Would you appreciate one at St. David's?

- 6) Helping our groups: many of our groups need occasional help or volunteers. What group would you like to help? What times would suit you?
- 7) Ongoing learning: would you like to learn how to do things around your home or cottage? We could teach you how to install eavestroughs, fix drywall, identify what paints to use on different types of walls, how to make (sew) curtains, how to trim trees, how to sharpen a chain saw, how to mulch your flower beds, and the list goes on and on.
- 8) Other activities: what ones would you like to see us, with you included, undertake?

We are seeking your participation in this church, its activities, and its future. That includes 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. What are your ideas? Let us know!

IF you have any thoughts, concerns, suggestions or want to be part of the discussion or the action, have a chat with me!

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

Birthdays and Anniversaries (May 6 – May 12)

A very Happy Birthday to our own Janet Aitken who will be celebrating with her family and friends on May 7th! Janet's mom and dad, Cyril and Effie Barnes, played a significant role in the history of our Congregation. Janet continues the tradition by being very active in our Church's life through the WA (Treasurer), the Prayer Shawl (Knitter's) Group, Bridges to Hope, and Sunday Coffee duties, just to name a few. Janet is a great supporter of all the events and activities that take place here at St. David's and always helps keep us organized and on track. We're sure that her husband, Paul, children Steven and Jill, grand-daughter, Raphaelle, and her brother, Douglas (now living in England) and all their families will make her birthday a special day. Happy Birthday Janet from your family here at St. David's and best wishes for the coming year!

Happy Birthday to Claire Goobie, who will be celebrating her birthday with family and friends on May 7th. Claire is the daughter of Olive and Charles Goobie. Best wishes, Claire from everyone here at St. David's! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Jean Collins who will be celebrating her birthday on May 12th with family and friends, near and far! Sharing Jean's special day will be her husband, Clayton, and daughters, Janet, Jennifer and Jacqueline, along with their families. We know they will make it a very festive day. Happy Birthday, Jean from your St. David's family – we're thinking of you - and best wishes for a great day and a wonderful year to come!

Happy Birthday to Andrea Crosbie who will be celebrating her birthday on May 10th! Andrea's family and her many friends, including those at Kenny's Pond Retirement Home, will be celebrating with her and making sure she has a memorable birthday. All your friends here at St. David's wish you a wonderful day Andrea, and best wishes!

Happy Birthday to Benjamin den Otter Versteeg, who will be celebrating his birthday on May 10th. Benjamin and his family – Lori-Kim, Andy and Marijke – are living in Ontario now, and we know they, along with his grandmother, Dini den Otter, and other family and friends will be celebrating his big day with him, regardless of distance. Everyone here at St. David's sends along birthday greetings Benjamin! We hope you have a wonderful day!

Happy Birthday to Julia Bassler who will be celebrating her birthday on May 12th! Julia will be sharing her special day with her mom and dad, Sarah and Paul Bassler, brothers, Timothy and Alexander, aunts, uncles and cousins and many friends. Your St. David's family wishes you a wonderful, full-filled birthday Julia!

Happy Birthday wishes go to Jeremy Hicks, who will be celebrating his birthday on May 8th! Jeremy will be celebrating with his mom and dad, Susan and Fraser Hicks, his brother, Gregory, and his grand-mother, Shirley Fraize – along with other family members and friends! Best wishes, Gregory, from everyone here at St. David's! Have a wonderful birthday!

Happy Anniversary to Scott and Kaena Bonnell who will be celebrating their 19th wedding anniversary on May 6th! Scott is the son of Eleanor and Aubrey Bonnell. Even though Scott and Kaena are living in the States now, we know your family and friends, near and far, will be thinking of you both on your special day. Best wishes, Scott and Kaena, from all your friends here at St. David's!

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 emails and phone messages regularly. Alternatively, you may contact Heather by cell. @ 403-830-7217.

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

Sunday School

We are to love others as Jesus loves us.

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

AMS

The next meeting of the AMS is scheduled for this Sunday, May 5th following the Worship Service

Please do plan to join us for a light lunch and fellowship in the Armour Room. 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.

Bible Study

This week, our Wednesday Bible Study will be meeting at 12:30 in the Armour room as we look at a third attribute of God in our five-part series: Loyal Love. We will be reading Psalm 136 together, and reflecting on the loyal love that defines God, and how it can come to define us too. No experience required, please come join us!

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 9th 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.

Hope to see you there!!

Bridges to Hope: Weekly "Flyer" Specials – May 2 – May 8, 2024 - Items helpful for food hampers:

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| Walmart | Campbell's Soup - \$0.94 |
| | Christie Cookies (Oreo/Chips Ahoy) - \$1.94 |
| Sobeys | Palmolive Dish Soap - \$1.99 |
| Shoppers Drug Mart | Crest/Colgate Toothpaste – Toothbrush - \$0.88 |
| Pipers | Heinz Ketchup, Mustard or Relish - \$1.49 |

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?





MISSION MOMENT

May 5, 2024



Presbyterian World Service
& Development

Sydney Nkhata, a 27-year-old from Northern Malawi, is the chair of a youth network made up of 12 clubs. His management journey was significantly influenced by the “Every Youth Empowered” project, which provided valuable leadership training and is funded by PWS&D. Equipped with new skills, Sydney has become a mentor—guiding and nurturing club members. His efforts ensure that youth actively embrace and take ownership of the project, where they learn about sexual and reproductive health rights—turning it into an integral part of the community. As a result, girls and boys are more aware of the risks related to early pregnancies and transmission of diseases and are changing behaviours. Sydney’s story highlights the transformative power of leadership training and showcases his commitment to mentorship and community development.