News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025 ———

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

With a new month joining us, it means new stories and events to share. The 'ber' months are officially here, with the season of traditions and renewed hope on the way. Since the launch of our new look, we've been receiving rave reviews! Thank you to all who reached out, and for the continued support of our beautiful community - we might be nearing 250 years old, but our sense of community is growing stronger.

Want to share your news, events, or good story in the next edition? Contact us!







Minister's Message



What are you steeping in? Cut flowers draw from the water they are placed in, and you can do a little science experiment with some food colouring to see this in action. As the plants draw up the water they need, the food colouring is drawn up too, travelling up the stems and through the petals of the flower until, as the water evaporates into the air, the colour is left behind to change the hue of the bloom. A flower drinking red water will become red, a flower drinking blue water will slowly turn blue, and so on. Depending on the type of flower and how much food colouring you use, the effects can start to show up in only a few hours.

Now, unlike flowers, drinking coloured water will not change your skin tone. But in the same way, we are subtly shaped and changed by the streams we drink from. In these days more than ever, each of us is conscious of where we get our news, of whose stories we will listen to and whose we will cast aside. Once a narrative has been poured into our ears, it percolates through our hearts and cannot help but begin to tint us.

So what are you steeping in? Increasingly, I am realizing the importance for us, as Christians, to turn to the Bible to answer this question. The narratives of scripture are powerful and unexpected, proclaiming a world that is good, demanding love for enemies, and showing forgiveness as the true path to fulness of life. As Christians, we ought to be marinating in the scriptures, so that they come to infuse us. To do this, we have to really trust in the messages of the Bible and see their value, and to do that, we have to get to know them.



We are subtly shaped and changed by the streams we drink from.

The Bible is not really written like a rule book. It is also not written as a theological essay. So much of it is narrative and poetry, stories and songs given to be told and retold and steeped in until they leap to our mind and colour how we see the world and our place in it.

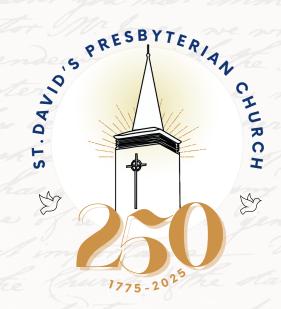
In 2025, St. David's will be celebrating our 250th year of worshipping together as a congregation. The congregation has changed, the building has changed, the style of worship has changed, the English language has changed, which church we are a part of has changed. We are not connected to the St. David's of 250 years ago in many meaningful ways at all, save by the continuing story, the narrative, that defines who we are and how we got here, and that narrative matters enough that we claim it for our identity.

In the coming year, my hope is to focus on the grand narrative of the Bible, a unified story that leads to Jesus. I aim to remind you, or convince you, to claim it as your identity. We will steep together in the message of scripture, and discover ways that it predicts and guides the story of our lives, if we have the wisdom to learn.

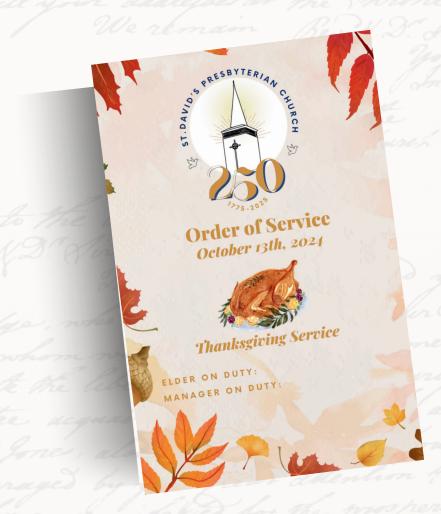
So what are you steeping in? What stories do you use to understand the joys and the struggles of this life? Do you see random chance, or karma, or natural consequences behind it all, or can you believe there is a stronger hand working for good in this world? The stories we tell ourselves matter, we draw them up and breathe them out, and they leave a mark on us as clearly as dye colours the petals of a flower.

May you be marked by the colours of Christ, shining with grace, mercy, compassion and love. May faith grow and strengthen in you, so that when you hear the stories of those who suffer, you see and value them as Christ who suffered. When you have more than enough, may the warnings of the prophets ring in your ears and urge you to righteousness in your community. When you are sad, may the cries of the Psalms assure you that you are far from abandoned or alone. May you be steeped in the Love of God, for that is a spring of water that will never run dry, and as you draw it up over and over and over again, it will fill you to abundant life.





Last month, we were thrilled to launch our branding for our upcoming 250th anniversary in 2025. As mentioned, we'll be launching updates from now until the big year and we get to share another sneak peak that will be in your pews soon! For each holiday and special occasion, we'll be sharing a unique cover for our Order of Service to add to the festivities.





250th Anniversary Committee

In 2025, St. David's will be celebrating 250 years of congregational worship. This is a celebration for us all to share in, and we are looking for your input and help in marking this momentous occasion. A Committee has been formed to oversee the celebrations (consisting of Rev. David, Steve Bruneau, Janet Calver, Lillian Crawford, and Heather Steele-Morrissey), but we are looking for your ideas and your willingness to help out with individual events throughout the year.

If you would like to help with researching the realities of life 250 years ago in St. Johns, participate in a historical walk through places of meaning to this congregation, prepare food for celebrations, join in prayer vigils, or offer new and exciting ideas for how we can celebrate together, please reach out to us! If you're not ready to do that yet, then stay tuned for more details.

Treasurer's Report

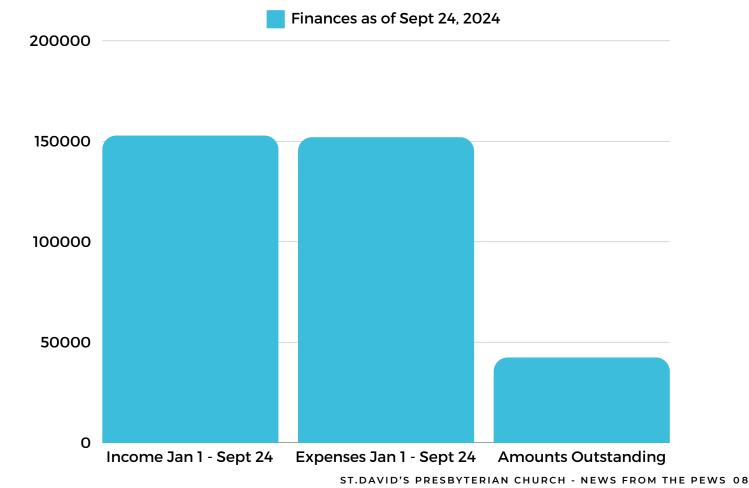
We are now almost a month into the new "church year", this being written on September 25th . The various groups have started their fall and winter schedule. Welcome back!

We began the year with a small surplus and as treasurer I keep a lid on our finances as can be seen from:

Expenses Jan 1 - Sep 24: \$152,039.14 Income Jan 1 - Sep 24: \$152,850.19

We currently have \$9,293.67 in our current account and by Oct 1st I will have paid out \$9,592.52 to our employees, contractors, and local business entities.

This chart shows the income, expenses and outstanding amounts currently due.



We owe \$42,419.60 to various groups and companies;

the largest share by far being the Presbyterian Church in Canada and its various entities. I continue to pay what I can, when I can. The Board and Session are aware of these numbers and support me.

I do have expectations of some income due within a short period of time and am fully aware that a majority of our annual income, well over 20%, occurs in the last six weeks or so of the year. If you are able to support our church, please do so.

Thank you to all who are continuing to donate to your church through your envelopes on Sunday mornings, 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 about.

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.

Did You Know?



You can donate to St. David's from anywhere!

When you choose to donate via e-transfer, you can set St. David's as a payee and set automatic contributions.



Your donations go beyond the church doors.

Donations aid in supporting new members to the church, and allow us to become community champions by supporting others in need.

Condolences Myrtle Greeley (nee Macdonald)



The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Mildred and Darrin Greeley and their families on the passing of Darrin's mother, Myrtle Greeley (nee Macdonald), on August 16, 2024 at the Agnes Pratt Nursing Home.

Predeceased by her husband, Thomas Clifford Greeley; parents: Andrew and Bertha Macdonald and her beloved dog Coco. Leaving to mourn, her sons: Kevin (Geri), Wade and Darrin (Mildred); grandchildren: Andrea (Jesse), Josh (Tilly), Jodie Pennell (Kaliem) and Brad (Ana Rose); great granddaughter, Rowan; cousin and dearest friend like a sister, Jane Macdonald; brother, Walter Macdonald (Mona) and her brother-in-law, Kevin Greeley (Yvonne, deceased); her partner George Lillington of 27 years who never left her side and George's son, Jason Lillington.

The interment took place at the Anglican Cemetery, Kenmount Road on Saturday, August 24, 2024.

CondolencesShirley Hope Ryan



The sympathy of the entire congregation goes out to Patsy and David Carmichael on the passing of Patsy's sister, Shirley, on August 14, 2024 at the Health Science Centre. (Please see Carnell's Funeral Home for the entire obituary.)

With profound sorrow we announce the sudden but peaceful passing of Shirley Hope Ryan on August 14, 2024, at the Health Science Centre in St. John's. She leaves to mourn with fond and loving memories her five children, Karen, Jim, Gail, Lynette (Gian Paulo) and Ken (Sabrina); twelve beautiful grandchildren, Emma, Michael, Maggie, Madeleine, Thomas, Sophie, Elizabeth, Rachel, Ronan, Ciara, Patrick and Nicholas; sisters, Marina (Herbert, deceased), Carol (David, deceased) and Patricia (David); brother Winston (Kay); as well as a large circle of nieces, nephews, other relatives and many friends. A devoted wife, mother and grandmother, Nanny will be dearly missed and forever in our hearts.

Shirley was predeceased by her husband James (Jim); parents, Pearl and Hector Parsons; sisters, Minnie (Lloyd), Theresa (Lawrence), Lorraine (Stanley), Roberta (Winston), Pamela and brother Hector (Vera).

CondolencesShirley Hope Ryan



In accordance with Shirley's wishes, cremation has taken place.

Visitation was held on Saturday, September 28, 2024, at Carnell's Funeral home, 329 Freshwater Road, St. John's from 2:00 – 4:00 pm and 7:00 – 9:00 pm. Funeral service was held the following day, Sunday, in the Carnell's Chapel at 11:00 am with a reception that followed. Inurnment took place on Monday, September 30, at the Forest Road Anglican cemetery at 11:00 am.

In honour of Shirley's memory, we kindly request that in lieu of flowers, and if you so choose, a donation can be made to the CNIB or a charity of your choice.

Birthdays and Anniversaries





Pam Bruce October 4th



Jacqueline Brockerville Octber 4th

Margo Noseworthy

October 15th



Julie Gill October 5th



Matthew St. Croix October 11th



Emily Critch October 18th



Timothy Bassler October 21st



Jean Patev October 22nd



Matthew Hudson October 22nd



Harry Crawford October 23rd



Penny Stansbury October 24th



Ethan Quinton October 24th



Evelyn Melendy Michelle Sturtevant October 24th October 25th



Ernst Rollmann October 25th



Emily McLean October 28th



Nicholas Lowery October 28th



Emily Hancock October 31st



Eleanor Bonnell October 31st

Monica and Michael McNeill, celebrating their 12th wedding anniversary on October 5th

Michelle and David Sturtevant, celebrating their 11th wedding anniversary on October 5th

Mildred and Darrin Greeley, celebrating 35 years of marriage on October 6th

Meghan and David Mochulski, celebrating their 6th wedding anniversary, October 18th

Lillian and Harry Crawford, celebrating 56 years of marriage on October 19th

Congratulations to all our couples. We hope you share your special day with family and friends and best wishes for many happy years ahead!



at St. David's

01

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTERY/KNITTERS

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their first monthly meeting this Fall on Tuesday, October 1st at 10:00 am in the Armour Room. No knitting experience is required! Please join us for a friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

OCT

01-

31

AMS STOCKTOBER PLUS

Socktober Plus is here again so please think about adding some warm socks, hats, mitts and personal care items to the washing lines in the sanctuary during October. All donations will go to the Association of New Canadians helping newcomers settle in NL. Thank you for your continued generosity.

OCT

02

12:30

PM

BIBLE STUDY

Each Wednesday at 12:30 PM, we gather together to study the bible together. We choose together what we would like to study, and are eager for new voices to join us. Through the story of scripture, we find meaning that matters to us. A questioning mind is an asset, a willingness to learn from others is essential, and a resistance to getting distracted and off topic would be, although not strictly needed, a novel addition to our group.

at St. David's

0CT 02 2:00 PM

PICKLEBALL

Pickleball will resume for Fall and will take place every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 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.

03

2:00 PM

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 afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00 pm. All are welcome!

06 06 11:00 AM

WORLD COMMUNION SUNDAY

October 6th, is World Communion Sunday. We invite you to join us for Communion during the Worship Service.

at St. David's

06T 06 11:30 AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is a fun and active group that meet part way through the Sunday Service following the Children's hymn and sermon.

11:30 AM They have a Bible study lesson, enjoy craft-time, sing songs and so much more! Please join us and see for yourself!

We are still looking for volunteers. Please speak to Sarah King or email <u>sarah mcmeekin@hotmail.com</u>

0CT 08 7:00 PM

SESSION

Session will meet on Tuesday, Oct 8th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room.

00T 09 7:00 PM

FUTURES COMMITTEE

The Future's Committee will meet on Wednesday, Oct 9th at 7:00pm in the Armour Room.

at St. David's

13 11:00 AM

THANKSGIVING SUNDAY

Join us for our special Thanksgiving Sunday – after all it is "the Season of Thanksgiving"! The Sunday's Service on October 13th, will be broadcast on VOWR at 7:00 pm.

16 11:00 AM

BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers will meet on Wed, Oct 16th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room and over Zoom. The Board of Managers are always looking for new members. If you think that you might be interested in being part of the BOM, we would love to hear from you. Maybe consider attending one of the monthly meetings to see what we are all about. You would be most welcome!

20 9:30 AM

POP-UP CHOIR CALL

Ever dream of singing with a group on stage? Here's your chance! Join the church congregation on October 20 where we will meet 9:30 am in the sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service. Fill our sanctuary with beautiful voices – contact Brian to participate.

at St. David's

22 2:00 PM

AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The AMS will be holding a special meeting during the month of October, an AMS Fall Rally!!! This meeting will be a joint event with the AMS of St. Andrews – The Kirk! It will be held St. David's on Tuesday, October 22nd from 2:00 to 5:00 pm in the Armour room.

Please contact Penny Gillies for further information. Thank you

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CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

This service features contemporary gospel music complete with a band thanks to extraordinary Music Director Brian Way! Contemporary Services are scheduled for the last Sunday of every month and we hope you will join us for this lively Sunday Worship!

OCT 29 12:00 PM

WOMEN'S AUXILIARY

The next meeting of the WA will be held on Tuesday, October 29th, 2024 at noon in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the next Bridge Party. If you would like to join this vibrant group, drop by and get to meet the ladies. There is a great lunch, a short devotion, and a business meeting where the plans for the next activities take place.

Our monthly Lunch/Bridge will resume on October 15th Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance. Cost - \$20.00 per person.

Groups and Events



Bridges to Hope

"The Weekly "Flyer" Specials with items helpful for food hampers", will be included in your weekly Announcements insert in the Order of Service. The suggested item(s) for October 2024, especially useful for Bridges To Hope - Canned Milk. 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.



39 Cookstown Rd, St. John's, NL A1C 4G7



https://bridgestohope.ca/



Jigsaw Puzzle Exchange

Who doesn't love a good Jigsaw Puzzle?!

Well, the Good Companions Group has started a Jigsaw Puzzle exchange... you will find the Jigsaw Puzzles in the locked grey cabinet just outside the Armour Room. (The key for the cabinet is kept in the office.) Management of the puzzles will done on an 'Honour System' anybody can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle. And you can take as long as you like to complete. Should you have any questions, comments or suggestions, you may leave them at the office for Charlie Goobie and he will contact you promptly!

Groups and Events



Sunday Coffee Hour Volunteers

Sunday Coffee Hour is a lovely custom we have at St. David's. \odot

We are looking for individuals and families to help assist with setting up and/or serving ... there is really not much to it and other volunteers would be delighted to show you the ropes! A sign up sheet has been put on the refrigerator if you have a spare Sunday to help out. A special thank you to everyone who signed up in September – it is truly appreciated.

Now who would like to help in October?;)



We are excited to announce the next two concerts in our Music in the Hall Concert Series!

Please join us **Thursday, October 10th at 8:00 pm** for "Runnin' on Faith" a tribute to Eric Clapton "Unplugged" – featuring Larry Foley, Roger Howse and Sandy Morris with Leanne Kean, Scott Mansfield and Brian Way. Tickets are \$25 per person

Please join us **Sunday, October 20th at 2:00 pm in the sanctuary** for a concert of Gospel and Inspirational Music. Featuring Karla Pilgram, Jackie Sullivan, Darrin Martin and Brian Way! This is freewill offering admission.

David Reid - Guest at our Sunday Service

On Sunday, September 1st, we were delighted to have a very special guest join us for the service. David Reid, formerly from Newfoundland and Labrador, was in the Province for a well-deserved holiday. He now resides in Calgary and is the principal base trombonist with the Calgary Philharmonic Orchestra. While he was visiting his old "home", who should he run into but Brian Way, who, of course, invited him to join us for our Church service! What (L-R): David, Mrs. Way and Brian a great surprise! After the service, Heather took a lovely picture of David, Mrs. Way and Brian.



And to add to the story, a little trivia....

David was the cornetist accompanying our organist, Harry Burton, for our 200th Anniversary Service held on September 28th, 1975!



(L-R): Scott Mansfield, Kelly-Ann Evans, Janet Cull, Brian Way

Music in the Hall Concert (September 12)

As everyone eased themselves back into the Fall routine, our September Music in the Hall concert came along just at the right time - with soothing and inspirational music that calmed the soul. Two of our Province's best known and loved musicians, Kelly-Ann Evans and Janet Cull, treated us to a beautiful evening of songs. With the accompaniment of our good friends Scott Mansfield (who also took the microphone on a couple of occasions) and our own Brian Way, it was truly an incredible night, enjoyed by all who attended.

Eleanor Cummings - Moves to Quebec

Eleanor Cummings, a great friend to many here at St. David's, has moved to her new home in Sherbrooke, Quebec, to live with her son and daughter-in-law, Peter and Suzanne Brown. She will be deeply missed by all who knew her, especially all her friends at Good Companions. We are sad to see her go, but so happy that she is with her loving family. We know that once she gets settled, she will make many friends in her neighbourhood and community – and perhaps even start her own carpet bowling league! All our love Eleanor! Below is a little note and some pictures from Peter that we wanted to share with you...

Hello

You probably know that Eleanor Cummings moved from her home on Elizabeth Avenue last week. She is deeply grateful for your ministry to her these past years and would like you to have her new address. She'll be living with my wife and I at the following address:

1380 rue Pleasant View Sherbrooke, QC J1M 0C6



Eleanor at Good Companions



Arrived safely, and even took a few steps outside!

Sarah King's Anniversary Celebration

Submitted by Sarah King

Sarah King, our much loved Sunday School coordinator and teacher, reached a milestone a couple of weeks ago. She sent along this little note – and a sweet picture – that we knew we had to share with you. We at St. David's, and our community, are so fortunate that you made the move! Congratulations!

The beginning of September marked 10 years of living in NL. Daddy and Dean got a piece of cheesecake for me to say; Thanks for moving here. It has been a quick 10 years due to the welcoming and friendly people around me.







Good Companions Are Back!

Our Good Companions, who meet weekly on Thursdays from 2:00 to 4:00, are back and having fun! After their summer hiatus, our Good Companions were ready to return to their bridge and bowling. We were delighted to welcome some new members to the Group and needless to say, they were given a warm welcome. It's not all bowling and bridge however, as you can see from the pictures below. Enjoying a cup of tea/coffee, some treats and of course some chatting and laughter, rounds out the afternoon. It's easy to know, we're going to have a great year!



Fall Issue of the Presbyterian Connection

The newspaper is now available at the church. You will find these complimentary copies in the Narthex and in the reception area.

Check out the excellent account of Canada Day/Memorial Day in NL on page 13 – written by Reverend Dr. Ian Wishart!

You can also view the newsletter online at https://presbyterian.ca/presbyterian-connection/.



Have a Good News story to share? Let us know!

Did you launch a new business, have a market coming up, made a dish with a recipe worthy of sharing, or finally finished that quilt?

Contact the church office at stdavids@nfld.com, and we'll include it in the next issue!

Church Information

Church Office Hours:

Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.

3709-722-2382 (General office)

🤇 709-699-3661 (Rev. David Sturtevant)

<u>stdavids@nfld.com (</u>messages are checked regularly!)

Pastoral Care

Please contact Rev. David Sturtevant

709-699-3661

Donations

The sole email address we are using to accept donations is: stdavidsnfld@gmail.com
It is linked to our bank account and automatically accepts all donations!

You can find more ways to donate on our website, stdavids.nf.ca/donations-2/

How to Reach us:

Minister: Rev. David Sturtevant - Cell. 709-699-3661

Music Director: Brian Way

Administrator: Heather Steele Morrissey

Women's Auxiliary: Lillian Crawford

Good Companions (Seniors): Call Heather in the Office

Bible Study: Rev. David Sturtevant

Atlantic Mission Society: Kathy McKay & Penny Gillies

Prayer Shawl (Knitters): c/o Lillian Crawford

Session

Lillian Crawford (Clerk)

Sue Templeton Ken Templeton

Janet Calver Aubrey Bonnell Tanya Shalaby
Penny Gillies Eleanor Bonnell Jenny Griffioen
Kathy McKay Steve Bruneau Jennifer Waterman

Ian Bruneau Ed Vanderkloet

Treasurer: Anne Calver **Envelope Secretary:** Ian Bruneau

Board of Managers:

Jill Bruneau Keegan Allen Anne Calver

Heather Steele Morrissey Nnenna Odide Offia



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Want to share your news in the next edition?

Contact us!







