

FEBRUARY 2025

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



News from the Pews

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ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

As the winter season continues, there's many things to look forward to this month: it's the shortest month of the year after what felt like the longest month, Valentine's Day, and lots of new things to share.

We hope you enjoy this next edition of the News from the Pews newsletter, and join us during worship or one of our many group events throughout the month.

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



stdavidsnfld@gmail.com



98 Elizabeth Avenue



Worship Service, Sunday
11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m

Minister's Message



Do tigers have good camouflage?

I remember as a kid this question confused me. How was it that tigers, so well known for their bright orange and black striped fur, could be using it for camouflage in the green jungles they called home? I have since learned the secret, which is that the animals they hunt do not have eyes like mine. Most human eyes have three different types of colour sensors, and use a combination of all three to see in full colour. However, some humans, and most other mammals, lack one or more of these sensitivities. The most common lack, both in humans and other animals, is red-green colourblindness, and to eyes like that, a tiger's orange fur looks remarkably similar to the green leaves it hides among. If you know someone who is colourblind, ask them if they see a difference between the two pictures of the tiger above!

Is the God of the Old Testament loving and kind? I know many people who struggle with this question. Many of us have our own points of friction with certain stories, glaring problems to our eyes: Why did God even make a tree Adam and Eve weren't supposed to eat from? Why didn't God like Cain's gift as much as Abel's?

Minister's Message

When I was talking with my young son Oliver about the story of Noah and the Ark the other day, he asked why God didn't help all the other people outside of Noah's family be good instead of flooding the world, and I had to admit it was a good question! Just as I questioned the jungle camouflage of the orange tiger, God's goodness is sometimes hard to see in the stories of the Old Testament.

In the study of the bible, it is crucially important to learn to set aside our own preconceptions and basic cultural knowledge so that we can understand what the Bible is really trying to say in its own way. These writings come from a different world, written so long ago they may as well have been written for eyes fundamentally different from my own. What shocks me might have been normal to them, and what seems normal to me might shock them. This is what I am trying to do as we preach through the bible in our Sunday services, re-present the Bible in a way which invites you to engage with the narrative of scripture more on its own terms.

In the same way, in our daily lives, we must learn to empathize with the people around us. We are called to recognize that others don't see the world the way we do, and just as God lowered himself to our level to heal and feed and bless, we are called to be the sort of people who try to love people even when they are blind to reality, or at least, blind to some of it.

Minister's Message

May we have the humility to value looking through the eyes of another, for it will help us understand the world.

May we recognize our own blindnesses, and try to love the efforts of those who want to teach us something we struggle to understand.

May we not think that because something doesn't make sense to us there is no wisdom or value in it at all.

May we read the Bible looking for the meaning underneath, not just reacting to it.

May we read the actions of our family, friends, and neighbours looking for the meaning underneath, not just reacting to them.

Amen.

David



New Member Introduction



Our 250th anniversary has brought together many of us over the last year, and many (many!) ideas and bouts of inspiration have come together that honour the celebration. We're excited to share that one of our congregation members, Laura Barnes, has joined our committees to take on the role of Public Relations/Communications Liaison as part of our 250th anniversary celebrations.

Laura is a life-long member of our congregation, and joined our Futures Committee and now 250th Steering Committee volunteering her time and talents to support the future development of our congregation.

Outside of St. David's, Laura works in the field of Communications/Public Relations and volunteers her time as the Vice-President/Incoming President of the International Association of Business Communicators (IABC NL), Media Relations Lead for the 2025 Canada Games, and Content Strategist for La Coutts Toronto. Over the last year, she's been creating fresh assets for our anniversary, including the logo that you've seen on our order of services, the new look of our newsletter, and will continue working to develop pieces that embody the celebration.

If you have any ideas to share with Laura on how to better provide outreach to the public on our anniversary, reach out to her at laurabarnescommunications@gmail.com

Treasurer's Report

This year is following the same pattern as in many prior years. St. David's did really well financially in December and now we are again falling behind. We have enough income to meet some commitments, but not all, meaning I have to choose who and when to pay.

This is not a great situation.

For 2025, we again have a projected deficit which I will be discussing in a joint meeting of Session and the Board. This is all in preparation for the upcoming Annual Congregational Meeting in the spring. At that time, members of the congregation will receive the Annual Report for 2024 including the budget for 2025.

As we embark on our 250th Anniversary, please reflect on what St. David's means to you and your family, now, and going forward into the future. Our future depends on you and everything you bring to our congregation. As treasurer, I do appreciate your generosity. I hope that you continue to support St. David's in many ways and as best you can.

Thank you.

Anne Calver

Condolences

Edith Ann Peach



The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to the Peach family on the passing of Edith Peach, January 20th, 2025. Edith was a treasured member of St. David's Church for many years and always steadfast in her faith. She was such an inspiration. Many of us in the congregation had the privilege of knowing Edith and sharing time with her.

Those are special memories that will be cherished and held forever in our hearts. How blessed we were that Edith was a part of our lives. We are so grateful for that.

Our thoughts and prayers are with Heather, Lori and Jim and their families. We hope they know that their St. David's family will always be there for them.

The full obituary for Edith can be found on Barrett's Funeral Home

Obituary

In Loving Memory of Edith Ann Peach (Cahill)

Edith Peach, a devoted mother, cherished grandmother and beloved friend passed away peacefully surrounded by her children. She is predeceased by her parents John "Jack" and Ethel Cahill, brother William "Billy" Cahill, husband of 48 years William "Bill" Edward Peach and their son, David Peach.

Condolences

Edith Ann Peach



She leaves behind her living children: James “Jim” Peach (Paula), Lori Peach-Sezer (Fuat), Heather Peach-Burness (Brad); daughter-in-law Rebecca; and her grandchildren Carrise, Jessica, Billy, Mallory, Tolga, Phoebe, Jack, Lily, Sophie, Max , Benjamin, Olivia, Natalya, David, and Marysa. Edith also leaves behind several great-grandchildren. Additionally left to mourn is her sister: Barbara Jones; cousin and best friend Violet Alyward; and dearest family member Brenda Burness; as well as other family members including countless cousins, nieces, nephews, and cherished friends.

Born in St. John’s, Edith lived a long life of unwavering love with integrity and grace. She had many travel adventures throughout her lifetime, along with experiencing the great joy of living in St. John’s.

A woman of deep faith, she found her strength in God, and that strength was always evident to those who knew her. She was a constant source of encouragement and compassion, embodying a quiet but powerful inspiration to all who were blessed to know her.

Seventeen years ago, Edith bid farewell to her beloved husband, Bill. Though widowed, she carried on filling her days with finding deep joy in the little things (like a game of crazy eights), gatherings with dear friends, children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and conversations filled with countless expressions of her unconditional love for her life and all of those in it. Edith had an unparalleled gift for making others feel valued and at peace, whether through her warm smile, listening ear or subtle joke.

Condolences

Edith Ann Peach



Additionally, she always had a way with small children and always found such joy in reflecting on her years of parenting her own young ones and at the end of her life simply loved observing her small great grandchildren and experiencing their joy. Her family will remember and reflect on her as a woman of quiet strength, a steady hand to hold in turbulent times and a wellspring of contentment and love. Edith spent the last four years of her life at The Residences at Littledale. There Edith was warmly welcomed by both residents and staff and grew many beautiful relationships. She enjoyed cards, bingo, arts and crafts, exercise, music and various social activities there. The family would like to extend their sincere gratitude to the staff, specifically the nursing staff at Littledale for creating such a peaceful and loving environment for their residents.

A sweet resident at Littledale, Madeline Pearcey, quickly became a cherished friend. In Edith's final weeks, Madeline, visited her daily to offer a prayer over her, and was a source of comfort for Edith and Edith's family. Father Molloy, also a Littledale resident, was so kind to visit Edith many times and be a sincere comfort to her family.

Additionally, a dear friend, Janet Calver, has made weekly visits to Edith for many years. Edith looked forward to those visits, and we know she was blessed by them. The family would like to acknowledge those near and far who have prayed for the finality of Edith's life and interceded on her behalf. Though her earthly journey is complete, Edith's memory lives on in the lives she shaped, the faith she nurtured, and the countless stories we will hold dear to us of her love and devotion.

She is now reunited with her dear Bill and beloved son, David, and we, her family, are comforted greatly knowing she has entered into the eternal peace she so deeply believed in and built her life on.

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Charlie Goobie,
February 3rd



Fraser Myles
February 3rd



Sarah Quinton,
February 7th



Effie Chancey,
February 11th



Emily (Emm) Dyckson,
February 5th



Nabil Shalaby,
February 5th



Jill Rumbolt,
February 11th



Valda Morrissey,
February 14th



Alexander Bruneau,
February 14th



Lila Quinton,
February 14th



Jackson McLean,
February 15th



Sam Johnson,
February 15th



Nadia Shalaby,
February 16th



Junup Chol,
February 16th



Nnenna Offia,
February 18th



Orson Sturtevant,
February 19th



Stephen Bonnell,
February 20th



Chelsea Critch,
February 22nd



Barbara Ellis,
February 26th



Gregory Hicks,
February 27th

Best wishes from everyone here at St. David's and we hope you have a wonderful birthday with family and friends!

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB
02
1:00 PM

COMMUNICANTS CLASS

In concert with our brothers and sisters at St. Andrew's church, St. David's is offering a Communicants class for people interested in becoming voting members of our church. **Classes will be held on Sunday Afternoons at 1pm in the Armour Room, beginning on February 2nd, and will include lunch.** In our tradition there is no hard and fast rule for what age children may pursue communicant membership, but parents are encouraged to speak with their children to determine if they are prepared to grapple with the spiritual questions such a class involves. Adults interested in church membership or coming back to the faith are also welcome to attend.

FEB
04
10:00 AM

PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY/KNITTERS

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their first monthly meeting of 2025 on Tuesday, February 4th 10:00am 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.

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB
05
12:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

This February, our Wednesday Afternoon Bible study will be focusing on New Testament passages brought to mind by our journey through the Bible in Sunday Worship. The Old Testament was near and dear to the hearts of those writing the New Testament, as well as the people whose stories it records. By reflecting on how they brought old testament teachings into the time they lived in, we can learn to apply their wisdom and teaching to our own lives as well. No biblical experience is required, questions are welcomed, and newcomers are warmly appreciated!

FEB
05
2:00 PM

PICKLEBALL

Pickle Ball takes place every Wednesday afternoon from 2:00 to 4:00 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.

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB

06

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 to 4 pm. All are welcome!

FEB

09

12:00 PM

AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

AMS will meet on Sunday, February 9th after Worship Service in the Armour Room.

Refreshments are provided and everyone is most welcome. We have lots of discussion around mission and much laughter! Hope to see you there!

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB

02

11:00 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. They have a Bible study lesson, enjoy craft-time, sing songs and so much more! Please join us and see for yourself!

FEB

09

11:00 AM

We are still looking for volunteers. Please speak to Sarah King or email sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com

FEB

16

11:00 AM

Our need for additional volunteers makes it difficult for us to respond to children who need consistent one-on-one care. In the event that a child needs ongoing behavioural help during Sunday School or is wandering from the group, we may ask parents to come assist with their child's learning, or else return the child to their parents in the service so the rest of the class can continue. If you have a child with special considerations, please speak to Sarah King before the service.

FEB

23

11:00 AM

Creche/Playroom:

We have an unsupervised Creche/playroom for Families to use. This space is available to use anytime and during the worship service. Though please be reminded that it is unsupervised.

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB

16

9:30 AM

POP-UP CHOIR CALL

The Pop-Up Choir will meet with Brian at 9:30am in the Sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service. And do let Brian know either way, so he can prepare accordingly.
Thank you!

FEB

18

7:30 PM

SESSION MEETING

Session will meet on Tuesday, February 18th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room

FEB

19

7:00 PM

FUTURES COMMITTEE

The Futures Committee will meet on Wednesday, February 19th at 7:00pm in the Armour Room

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB

20

7:30 PM

BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

will meet on February 20th in the Armour Room. We 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!

FEB

23

11:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

This service features contemporary gospel music complete with a band thanks to brilliant 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! The next Contemporary Service will be: Sunday, February 23rd, 2025

FEB

25

12:00 PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of the WA will be held at 12 noon, Tuesday, February 25th, 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 next Bridge Lunch will be Tuesday, February 11th. 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 February 2025, especially useful for Bridges To Hope – **1 Litre containers of Juice**. 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?! Especially during the long evenings of Winter... or even a snow-day!!

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

“Coffee-time” after the church service allows people to meet and mingle. When it doesn’t happen, people still wander down and miss the opportunity to have a chat and a cuppa. However, to sponsor this time, we need volunteers! It is not an onerous task - all the things needed are already in the kitchen. What needs to be done?

Before church, the kettles have to be boiled; a pot of coffee made, cups, milk, sugar, etc. put out, together with plates of cookies/biscuits or other goodies. Often there are treats in the freezer! If there is a special occasion, just a word to any member of the WA and more delicious homemade goodies will appear.

After the service, tea needs to be steeped and then, coffee, tea served at the wicket. Of course, there is always clean-up but there are always people willing to help with this task.

How much time does it take? Maximum 30 minutes before church and about the same amount of time after!

Why not give it a try? Take the opportunity to “Team up” with someone who does this regularly to learn the ropes and help spread the workload for this important time of fellowship.

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 signs up to help - it is so appreciated!!

The February sign up schedule is now available.

Groups and Events



News from the Pews Newsletter

Our next once-a-month, Newsletter will be sent out to the Congregation on Saturday, March 1st, 2025. If you are not already on our email list, please contact the office and we will happily add you to the list.

If you would prefer to have one dropped off at your home, we can do that too!! It would be our pleasure! We would love to read your stories and see your pictures, hear about special events, a holiday-trip, a treasured pastime and maybe share a favourite recipe!!

We are interested in any of the ways you would like to stay in touch and connect with each other.

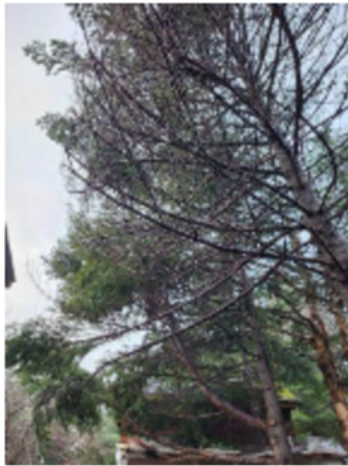
Send your stories to: stdavids@nfld.com Thank you!

Good News

from you

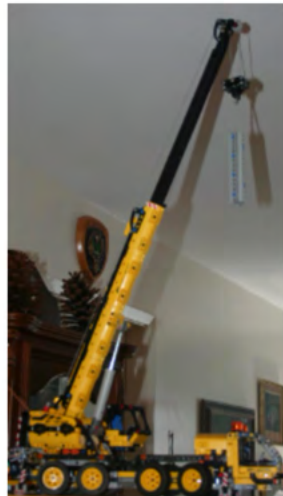
Anne's Trees – Wind Storm Aftermath

Early in January, the province experienced very high winds. Lady Cove, Random Island was no exception. Anne sent along some pictures of the aftermath of these winds. A lot of her trees had to be thinned out as a result. Looks like she will not have to worry about firewood for the next little while.



Lego Fans – Take Note

Bob Taylor, like many of us, is a kid at heart when it comes to Lego. In fact, Bob's enthusiasm has spilled over to his wife, Sylvia, who in turn has "caught the bug" and is enjoying putting together her own sets! Bob has recently completed a couple of big sets – even by Lego standards. Check out the pictures below, the crane (1116 pieces) and the firefighter/rescue aircraft (1134 pieces) . Oh yeah, the aircraft is mounted on a wall!



Good News from you

WA Hosted Bridge Party – January 7, 2025

The WA hosted the first Bridge Party for 2025 on January 7th . The weather was on our side - cold but sunny – and our guests were looking forward to lunch and bridge. Once again, our team of helpers ensured everyone had a warm welcome and a fun-filled afternoon.

The soups and desserts were yummy – as usual! It wasn't long before lunch was finished, the tables cleared of dishes and the cards came out. It was a great afternoon of fun and friendship!

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 look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year! Here are just a few of the pictures from the 10th .



Good News

from you

Barbara Ellis Florida Greetings

Barbara Ellis is currently in Florida – her “home away from home”. When Barbara is in Florida, she takes an active part in the community and that includes supporting the Trinity Presbyterian Church there.

Attached is a picture and a little note explaining how this Church is engaging the community and bringing people together. So great to hear from Barbara, keep the pictures and emails coming!

Hi folks,

I just wanted to share our Sunday school kids who form our choir the last Sunday of the month. They performed the anthem and the offertory. They are neighbourhood kids that are picked up by our new church van to attend church every Sunday. It's just wonderful to have so many children in the church. On Sundays that they perform some parents also come which is helping to build our congregation. The last Sunday in a month we celebrate everyone's birthdays for that month with birthday cake. This Sunday we had two January birthdays among the children. The last Sunday in February the kids are hosting a family party after church for all members and the kids parents. It will be nice to get to know them all better.

Barbara Ellis



Good News

from you

Eleanor Sends Greetings

Eleanor's son, Peter Brown, sent this lovely picture of Eleanor and her newest great-grandchild, Florie (9 months old in this picture). Eleanor was an enthusiastic supporter of St. David's and was a regular at Church and at many of our events and activities, including Good Companions. Late last year, she moved to Sherbrooke, Quebec, and now lives there with her son, Peter, and his wife, Suzanne. We think of you often Eleanor, and love to hear from you and Peter!

Here's Peter's note:

Tis quite the hub of activity around here as our children and grandchildren are with us for the holidays. They wanted mom to see her great grandchildren. What a blessing!

Please give her love and greetings to all her friends at St Davids - and at the bowling club. No luck finding a bowling activity for her here, but we have high hopes of soon finding a piano! She seems to be game.



Good News

from you

New Sign for St. David's 250 th Anniversary

Some of you may have wondered what is going at our Church – the west side grounds look like a little construction project! Well, it is a construction project and an exciting one!

If you had looked closely at our Church sign on Elizabeth Avenue, you would have noticed that it was not in good shape. After many conversations within the Church's governing bodies, it was decided that installing a new sign was a great opportunity to help celebrate our 250th Anniversary as a congregation and signify our belief in our Church's future.

It's a big undertaking for sure. The Bruneau family have taken on the responsibility for this project, so we have complete faith that it is in good hands. With a bit of luck and perhaps a bit of divine intervention, most of the ground work, including digging and inspections, etc., was able to be completed before we had a major snowstorm!

Work continues on the actual sign, but that has the blessing of being done mostly indoors. Steve and Ian were able to do the actual trench digging (with a real backhoe!) for the new electrical work. We think they had a lot of fun with that part! Steve has sent along some pictures to share.

Stay tuned for more updates!



Good News

from you





Sam Recites His Poems

Sam Johnson, is well known to many at St. David's. Sam has taken our Sunday service on many occasions during past years and now he is a treasured Good Companion. Many know Sam to be an excellent story-teller, so when he mentioned that he would like to recite a couple of his poems at our Good Companions "coffee break", we were delighted. Sam's book of poetry is titled "Sentinel" and his poems are well worth a listen!




Church Information



Church Office Hours:

-  Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm.
-  709-722-2382 (General office)
-  709-699-3661 (Rev. David Sturtevant)
-  stdavids@nfld.com (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
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!



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98 Elizabeth Avenue
St. John's, NL
A1B 1R8