

APRIL 2025

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



The
Presbyterian
Church
in Canada

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

April brings the season of Easter; a season of reflection, gratitude and celebration. We encourage you to join us this month for services of Easter, among many events we have as well.

On April 24th, please consider joining us at The Rooms for a very special event where members of our congregation will be presenting 250 years of history along with artifacts that represent the history of our congregation.

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

Up until now, I have made it my general practice to avoid being too "political" in settings where I feel like I am wearing my minister's collar. I want St. David's to be a church where people who are truly diverse may find a home, because that is the image that the Bible points to, of all the nations streaming in to the city of God, with a garden in the centre. God's Kingdom unites us to each other in the end, as per the symbolic deeply symbolic "city" imagery of Revelations 21:23-26:



The city does not need the sun or the moon to shine on it, for the glory of God gives it light, and the Lamb is its lamp. The nations will walk by its light, and the kings of the earth will bring their splendor into it. On no day will its gates ever be shut, for there will be no night there. The glory and honor of the nations will be brought into it.



Humility is a key theme of the Bible, and in particular the history of God's people as recorded in the Old Testament, which we have been studying through this year so far. Repeatedly, God's people do not listen, fail to trust, sin, and show themselves to be not only no better than their neighbours, but often worse than them. God's people's main weakness is that they do not listen. In both Hebrew and English, the word "listen" also means "obey", and is a crucial concept in the Bible that God's people fail at over and over again.

I believe that understanding that the history we are called as Christians to claim in both the Old Testament and the New is fundamentally one which humbles us. We are not the best and brightest in all the world, but we are blessed nonetheless. We worship a God who teaches us to live without fear even when facing uncharted territory, not because of how smart or great or perfect we are in the world, but because we believe that it is better to trust in God.

Last night, I read an Executive Order from Donald Trump, the President of the self-proclaimed "Greatest nation on Earth", titled "RESTORING TRUTH AND SANITY TO AMERICAN HISTORY" and I feel that to proclaim the truth of what the Bible teaches means speaking up. The order begins:



"Over the past decade, Americans have witnessed a concerted and widespread effort to rewrite our Nation's history, replacing objective facts with a distorted narrative driven by ideology rather than truth. This revisionist movement seeks to undermine the remarkable achievements of the United States by casting its founding principles and historical milestones in a negative light. Under this historical revision, our Nation's unparalleled legacy of advancing liberty, individual rights, and human happiness is reconstructed as inherently racist, sexist, oppressive, or otherwise irredeemably flawed. Rather than fostering unity and a deeper understanding of our shared past, the widespread effort to rewrite history deepens societal divides and fosters a sense of national shame, disregarding the progress America has made and the ideals that continue to inspire millions around the globe."



With whatever authority is vested in me, I denounce this mindset, and I cling instead to the history of the Bible, warts and all. I refuse the narrative that silences the powerless and the oppressed in favour of unity in the story of the victor, because the story of God's people is the story of slaves and exiles.

When God's people suffer in the Bible, they suffer for their own sins. When they are blessed, the story isn't that they earned it by being amazing, our baptized family gives us no "unparalleled legacy" among God's People. Truly, the honour and the glory goes to God for the blessings, even though we often scratch our heads as to why God is blessing such sinners. To commit to this story, to bear this witness, is part of what I believe it means to follow Jesus Christ.

I make mistakes, even big ones. My church and my country make mistakes, even big ones like participating in residential schools, glorifying combat during the world wars, and participating in colonialism alongside our American neighbours. What makes us truly great is not our bravery, or our strength. It is not our own glory. It is our slow learning to care for the lost and the least, a growing concern for the impoverished and the abandoned, all children of the same God who saves me.

That is the history I will tell.

David



HOLY WEEK

Schedule

20
APR

EASTER SUNDAY

18
APR

GOOD FRIDAY

13
APR

PALM SUNDAY

This is a moment for self-reflection, forgiveness, and expressing gratitude for the many blessings in our lives.

Services will begin 11:00 am on April 13th, 18th and 20th. Please join us to celebrate and express gratitude in the importance of this season. on Sunday, April 13th TSO will be joining our service with beautiful music.

He is risen.

SDPC 250 THE *Dissenters* Path

Thursday, April 24th 2:30 pm – 3:30 pm The Rooms Theatre

From the rugged barrens of 18th-century St. John's to the welcoming doors of St. David's Presbyterian Church today, the story of this congregation is one of resilience, faith, and community. Join us as we embark on a journey through time, following the Dissenters' Path through the streets of St. John's that traces the evolution of the congregation from its founding in 1775 to the present day.

This engaging presentation will feature insights from Dr. Steve Bruneau, PhD, P.Eng., along with members of the congregation's original founding families, who will share personal and historical perspectives on the congregation's rich legacy.

Using historical maps, archival records, and personal accounts, they will explore the key locations that shaped the congregation's history—from its earliest gatherings in the barracks of Fort William to the construction of the Stone Chapel, the devastating fires of 1892, and the eventual establishment of St. David's Presbyterian Church. Attendees will also have the rare opportunity to view archival records in person, including original documents and artifacts that bring the congregation's history to life.

Join us for a fascinating glimpse into the enduring spirit of St. David's, and the deep roots of religious dissent in Newfoundland and while seeing 250 years of history up close. After all, it's not everyday you turn 250 years old.



Treasurer's Report

St. David's finances are behaving as predicted last month. Meanwhile what does the treasurer do in the first quarter of the year? It's quite the list:

- Calculate the employee salaries (taxes, CPP, EI, any pension or insurances)
- Calculate the contractor rate(s) for the year
- Finalize the 2025 budget
- Get the files (Sage, banks, meeting minutes, etc.) ready for the auditor
- Help collate the income for the preparation of the receipts
- Find and correct any errors in documenting the church's income
- Find addresses for everyone who is to get a receipt
- Assist the Envelope Secretary with the receipts
- Prepare the T4's
- Complete any PIER review from CRA if they question the returns
- Prepare the treasurer's report of the church's Annual Report due out two weeks in advance of the Annual Congregational Meeting which will be held this year on April 27th 2025
- Help update the Board of Manager's list of things to do as a manager
- Get ready to complete the church's annual CRA report (T3010) to keep or status as a non-profit and a charity
- Complete (soon) the PCC new format which is used for their reporting in the annual Book of Forms
- Attend interesting webinars (PCC grants and process, stewardship, the new PCC version of the 3010, community usage of churches)
- Complete Canada Statistics reports on the property and its energy (oil and electrical) usages
- That came in handy when we needed to know the energy used for a new provincial "green" grant which is based on CO2 reduction from changing the use of oil to using electricity
- Grant preparation for available grants from the PCC

- Grant preparation for the new provincial grant, including discussions with possible provider(s) for any change in energy usage
- Monthly financial reports for the Session and the BOM and
- A monthly report for the News from the Pews
- The interesting movement of money back and forth from bank account to bank account, as necessary, so we don't bounce any checks
- Try to pay as many people, companies and entities on time and as our ability allows

That's the list of most of the activities. I've probably forgotten something or other and will find that out as soon as I press "Send"! 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

Birthdays and Anniversaries



Martha Barnes,
April 5th



Heather Patey,
April 2nd



El Patey,
April 5th



Ciaron Putt,
April 5th



Andrea Greeley,
April 6th



Rebecca Hodder,
April 10th



Eleanor Cummings,
April 10th



Madelyn Froude,
April 11th



Nnene Offia,
April 13th



Glenn Barnes,
April 14th



Rachel Barnes,
April 17th



Marijke den Otter,
April 23rd



Cassidy Quinton,
April 22nd



Kurt Aubrey-Bassler,
April 22nd



Sylvia Taylor,
April 22nd



Charles Stockwell,
April 22nd



Laura Bruneau,
April 26th



Judy Barnes,
April 27th



Hans Rollmann,
April 28th

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



HAPPY *Anniversary*

Janet Calver and Brian Gamberg, who will be celebrating their
26th anniversary on April 17th.

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

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.

What's Happening

at St. David's

APRIL

06

11:00 AM

AMS – MISSION AWARENESS SUNDAY

The AMS – Atlantic Mission Society, will be leading worship on Sunday, April 6th.

Following this service, AMS will hold their monthly meeting in the Armour room please join us to learn more about the various mission projects the AMS supports. – a light lunch will be served.

APRIL

09

7:00 PM

BOARD OF MANAGERS

The Board of Managers will meet on Wednesday, April 9th at 7pm in the Armour Room

APRIL

13

11:00 AM

PALM SUNDAY

We are delighted to announce that the TSO will be our guests at our Palm Sunday service!! Under the direction of Andrei Popkov, a performance given by The TSO is always very special. Thank you ever so much and welcome back!

What's Happening

at St. David's

APRIL

15

7:30 PM

SESSION

Session will meet on Tuesday, April 15th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room

APRIL

16

7:00 PM

FUTURES COMMITTEE

The Futures Committee will meet on Wednesday, April 16th at 7pm in the Armour Room

APRIL

18

11:00 AM

GOOD FRIDAY

This meaningful service will be held at 11:00 am.

What's Happening

at St. David's

APRIL

20

11:00 AM

EASTER SUNDAY

He is Risen!!! Our joyful Easter Worship!
Holy Communion will be served at this service.

APRIL

27

11:00 AM

CONTEMPORARY SUNDAY AND THE ACM

This service features contemporary gospel music complete with a band thanks to brilliant Music Director Brian Way!

The ACM will take place after the Service in the Hall. Please join us for a presentation of this Congregation's Committee and Group reports, followed by the Budget. A light lunch will be served.

What's Happening

at St. David's

APRIL
29
12:00 PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of the WA will be held at 12 noon, Tuesday, April 29th, 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 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, April 8th. Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance. Cost - \$20.00 per person.

APRIL
09
12:30 PM

BIBLE STUDY

This April, 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! Bible Study sessions start at 12:30 pm in the Armour room.

What's Happening

at St. David's

APRIL

06

11:00AM

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!

APRIL

13

11:00AM

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

APRIL

20

11:00AM

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.

APRIL

27

11:00AM

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

APRIL

09

2:00 PM

PICKLEBALL

Pickle Ball 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.

APRIL

10

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!

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 April 2025, 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.

Bridges to Hope – March 2025 Update

568 food hampers were distributed to 1333 people – which included 118 seniors and 370 children. To see the full newsletter. Go to <http://bridgestohope.ca> and choose “About Us”, and then the “Newsletter” to see their latest edition!



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



<https://bridgestohope.ca/>

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 April sign up schedule is now available.

Groups and Events



News from the Pews Newsletter

Our next once-a-month, Newsletter will be emailed to the Congregation in early May, 2025.

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*

Pancake Supper (March 4)

On Shrove Tuesday (March 4th), the WA, with help from some super chefs, sponsored a Pancake Supper at the Church Hall. The supper was open to members from the community as well as from our congregation - and what a turnout we had! There was well over 100 people who made it out and we were delighted to see lots of families with young children and Church members and friends reconnecting. The freshly made pancakes, Halliday sausages (always a big hit), baked beans and ice-cream with chocolate fingers for dessert seemed to all disappear in no time. (See the picture of the empty bean crock!) It was a truly special evening for everyone who was there.

Many thanks to all who participated: our setup and take-down crews, our dishwashers and our hard-working chefs (Leith, Stewart, Aldrin, David, Ken and Soumyo) who cooked literally hundreds of pancakes and 45 pounds of Halliday sausages and our ladies (Lillian, Janet A., Jackie, Heather, Penny, and Becky), for pitching in with the time-sensitive serving!! And a special thank-you to Maddie who helped organize all the essentials including the plates and cutlery. Thank-you everyone!

Below are a few pictures, enjoy!



Good News *from you*

WA Hosted Bridge Party – March 11, 2025

The WA hosted their March Bridge Party on Tuesday, the 11th. The weather was in our favour again and everyone was looking forward to a wonderful lunch and a friendly game of bridge. Our "team of helpers" welcomed everyone and made sure they were given a warm welcome. As usual, the soups and desserts were scrumptious and everyone enjoyed a lovely afternoon of fellowship and fun – and bridge of course!

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 April!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 11th.



Good News *from you*

Good Companions Paddy's Day Dinner – March 20, 2025

Last Thursday (March 20), the WA hosted a hot turkey dinner for our Good Companions Group. Our Good Companions bring a lot of joy to everyone with their enthusiasm for life and their infectious laughter – especially those carpet bowlers! The Paddy's Day dinner is a special time, not only for the "companions", but for the WA members as well, who get to share a meal with them and a little chit-chat. How good is that!! And let's not forget their generosity. They had a cart loaded with all kinds of donations for Bridges to Hopes within minutes of their arriving at the Church Hall.

We hope the pictures below say it all – and take note of all those green clothes and accessories! (And thank-you to David, Orson and Oliver who joined the Good Companions for lunch and stayed for some bowling after!)



Good News *from you*

Signs of Spring?

Many of us saw the first signs of Spring come to life in our gardens these past couple of weeks. Looks good!



Recipe of the month

Oatmeal-Raisin Bars

½ cup shortening (can use ⅓ cup of canola oil in a pinch)

¾ cup brown sugar

1 cup flour

1 cup rolled oats (not instant or quick cooking)

½ tsp salt

½ tsp baking powder

Good pinch of allspice or cinnamon

¾ cup milk

¾ cup chopped raisins, currants or cranberries. Partridge berries would not be a good choice.



I like to add ½ cup of applesauce, but reduce the milk to ½ cup.

Cream sugar and shortening. Mix dry ingredients and stir into sugar and shortening, alternately with the milk. Add fruit and mix well. Bake in prepared 8 or 9-inch square pan at 350 F. Test for doneness after 40 minutes. Do not overbake.

Ice with a butter icing.

If using dates, the following changes should be made.

Chop 1 cup of dates. This is about ½ package of Jaffa dates. Chopping the dates is necessary to make sure that no pits remain. Cover the dates with 1 tsp of soda and ¾ cup of boiling water. Mix well. Let cool completely, but do not drain!

Mix as above, but omit the milk. If the mixture appears to be too thick because the dates have absorbed much of the water, add up to ¼ cup of milk.

Bake as above.





**4 WEEK SESSIONS
ONLY 12 SPACES
STRONGER U
SENIORS FITNESS
PROGRAM**

**We invite you to join us for our brand, new
StrongerU Senior Fitness classes!**





StrongerU Senior Fitness classes are
designed to be good for the body, brain,
prevent falls, and so much more!

Registration to reserve spot email
sharonmtrainor@gmail.com Option to
call or text me me709- 691-8688. Leave a
message I will return your call


**The class will take place on Fridays 1030 to 1130
am for a four week session Starting April 25 . This
set will be focused on functional exercises with
individual goals and outcomes . Total price for all
sessions \$25.00**

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, Anne Calver, Nnenna Odide Offia, Heather Steele Morrissey, Lisa Dooley, Debbie Wells, Aldrin Gain



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Want to share your news in the next edition?
Contact us!



stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com



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