

MAY 2025

# News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



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ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

April showers bring May flowers, and as the season becomes warmer with sunnier days ahead, we're thrilled to share fresh stories and updates from the congregation.

We encourage you to stay tuned for updates, as we'll be announcing the completion of long awaited projects and events as part of our 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary!

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



[stdavidsnfld@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsnfld@gmail.com)



98 Elizabeth Avenue



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

# Minister's Message

On the last Sunday in April, I preached a sermon on the narrative of Joshua bringing God's people into their promised land, driving their enemies out before them and putting them to death as they claimed the land that was theirs by divine right. As I was preaching, on the other side of the world, a war is still being fought over portions of that land today. The reality is that for many people, Israel's right to the land in question is rooted in their understanding of the Old Testament. These stories move armies and launch missiles, and as we come to this point in the story of the Bible I feel this difficulty should be addressed more than I was able to in my sermon.



In March, Israel moved to create "Buffer zones" inside the borders of Gaza, driving residents away from the edges and concentrating them against the edge of the sea. These zones, including the city of Rafah in the south, are being flattened in the interests of increased security.

For some, this is a story of the rights of a sovereign nation. Israel was attacked by a terrorist group, they would say, and it has the right and responsibility to protect its citizens. The people of Gaza are hiding the hostages and the terrorists and would like nothing better than to see the end of Israel and all the Jews who make it up. For those who tell this story, we must stamp out the evil that lurks in the shadows, and while we might grieve the collateral damage, we have to fight for a lasting peace and leave no terrorist alive. The bad must be purged so the good can expand. We have to protect ourselves by taking them out before they get out of control.

But as I look at the situation, I cannot help but tell a different story. When I see people without food, with their backs to the sea and an insurmountable army bristling with weapons surrounding them, I can't help but think of Moses and the Israelites huddled against the Sea of Reeds as Pharaoh's army comes riding towards them. Time and again, God comes to his people when they are weak, and frightened, and crying out. Time and again, they grow strong and proud under God's blessing, and begin to act just like the other nations in how they treat the poor and vulnerable, whether they remember themselves as slaves living on gifted land, and so on, until God abandons them to the end of all the nations they imitate: decay and invasion. They are almost totally destroyed, but the few who remain cry out. God does not fail to have compassion, and the cycle repeats.

So as I consider the story of Joshua and the Middle East today, I ask that we allow the Bible to shape how we see what is happening. Who are those who are too proud to care for the widow and the orphan? Who are the homeless, the hungry, in search of a place to live in peace? Who is afraid that the slaves will grow too numerous and rise in revolution? Who has nowhere to turn but to God alone?

For the Lord is with those who are forsaken, the small and the lowly. Little ones to him belong, they are weak but he is strong. He is God-with-us, rubbing elbows with the poor, the sick, the sinners and the unbelievers.

*That is where we find Him, because that is how the Bible teaches us to see the world.*

*David*

# Message from Clerk of Session AGM, April 2025

The Annual General Meeting for St. David's was held on Sunday, April 27, 2025 after our regular Church service. The meeting went well and it gave those in attendance an opportunity to review Church documents and reports and to ask questions and/or express their views on Church-related initiatives.

Below, are the closing remarks from our Clerk of Session, Lillian Crawford.

*The Church is not a building, the church is a people, and we are fortunate that there are many people here at St. David's who keep the building, and the Church, going!*

*So we offer particular thanks today to the Minister, the Church Administrator, the Treasurer, the Music Director, the Church School Supervisor, Elders, Board of Managers and the leaders of all the groups within the church community.*

*But there are others who make this place run. From those we don't see at all who come in faithfully every week to set up chairs and tables; those who provide a pot of soup or dessert for our social events; those who drop in for a few minutes to sign cheques or drop off an offering or food for Bridges To Hope, those who turn on the kettles for coffee-time, to those who sweep the floors - and the list goes on.*

*So, as we move through St. David's 250th anniversary year, we offer sincere thanks and gratitude to the whole congregation, for their continued support this year, in past years, and many years to come!*

Thank you



# *New Members Confirmation*

On Sunday, April 27th, we were delighted to welcome 4 new members to our congregation.

Four new members were confirmed by profession of faith:

**Drayton Froude  
Madelyn Froude  
Harriet Offia  
Nnene Offia.**

Two new members were recently confirmed by transfer:

**Sandra Stavlo  
Treva Aberle.**

*Welcome to St. David's  
as New Members!*



# Treasurer's Report

St. David's Annual General Meeting took place on Sunday April 27 th . It was a relatively short meeting. The 2025 deficit budget was accepted by those voting members in attendance. We currently have enough income to meet some commitments, but not all, meaning choices will be made of who we pay and when.

The Board reported that it has three new members. We are always looking for more people to take part in this important committee. In the past we had "family" Board members where one or more members of the family would attend the meetings and take part in our activities. If you don't want to commit to becoming a full Board member, you can always help us out with some of our activities and projects. Have a chat with any Board member and see how you can use your talents for St. David's.

As we embark on our 250 th 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



Gregory Hudson,  
May 1 st



Jack Porter,  
May 1 st



Luke St. Croix,  
May 3 rd



Catherine Bailey,  
May 3rd



Janet Aitken,  
May 7th



Claire Goobie,  
May 7th



Jeremy Hicks,  
May 8th



Andrea Crosbie,  
May 10th



Benjamin den Otter  
Versteeg, May 10th



Jean Collins,  
May 12th



Julia Bassler,  
May 12th



Harriet Offia,  
May 13th



Jessie Crosbie,  
May 14th



Dean King,  
May 19th



Emma Ryan,  
May 23rd



Daniel Rumbolt,  
May 23rd



Laura Barnes,  
May 24th



Monica McNeill,  
May 26th



Kathryn Hudson,  
May 26th



Lesley Stuckless,  
May 28th

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



# HAPPY *Anniversary*

Kaena and Scott Bonnell, who will be celebrating their 20th anniversary on May 6th;  
Olive and Charlie Goobie, celebrating their anniversary on May 19th;  
Roxanne and David Hancock, who will be celebrating their 22nd wedding anniversary on May 24th

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

MAY

06

10:00 AM

## PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY /KNITTERS

The Knitters will be meeting this Tuesday, May 6th in the Armour Room at 10am. No knitting experience is required. Please join this friendly and fun group for a morning of knitting and fellowship.

MAY

07

7:00 PM

## BOARD OF MANAGERS

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

MAY

07

1:00 PM

## BIBLE STUDY

This May, 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 1:00 pm in the Armour room.

# What's Happening

at St. David's

**MAY**  
**07**  
**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.

**MAY**  
**08**  
**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!

**MAY**  
**14**  
**7:00 PM**

## **FUTURES COMMITTEE**

The Futures Committee will meet on Wednesday, May 14th at 7pm in the Armour Room

# What's Happening

at St. David's

MAY  
**20**  
7:30 PM

## SESSION

Session will meet on Tuesday, May 20th at 7:30pm in the Armour Room

MAY  
**TBD**  
12:00 PM

## WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of WA will be announced at a later date.

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.

MAY  
**27**  
2:00 PM

## AMS

The AMS NL Presbyterial AGM will be held at St. Andrew's on May 27th at 2pm. The regular monthly meeting of the AMS will be held on Sunday, May 18th following worship. A light lunch will be served. Hope you can make it - as the discussion will be about a very special project!

# What's Happening

at St. David's

MAY

04

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!

MAY

11

11:00AM

We are still looking for volunteers. Please speak to Sarah King or email [sarah\\_mcmeekin@hotmail.com](mailto:sarah_mcmeekin@hotmail.com)

MAY

18

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.

MAY

25

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.

# 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 **May 2025**, 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.

### Bridges to Hope – May 2025 Update

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 May 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 June, 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](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com)

Thank you!



## Music in the Hall

We are excited to announce the new season our Music in the Hall Concert Series ~ featuring two of our province's finest artists, Fergus O'Byrne and Jim Payne.

Please join us for an evening of Traditional Music. Accompanied by Brian Way, this promises to be a wonderful evening of Music!

Very soon we will be announcing ALL of the Musicians and dates in our Third Season Line-up. Stay Tuned!!

# Good News *from you*

## WA Hosted Bridge Party – April 8, 2025

The WA hosted their April Bridge Party on Tuesday, April 8th. It was a cold, cloudy day outdoors but the WA ladies and our team of helpers made sure that everyone had a warm welcome and a fun-filled afternoon. The soup and dessert luncheon is always something our guests look forward to and Tuesday was no exception. All-in-all, a great afternoon of friendship in action!

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. You're amazing!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 8th.



# Good News

from you

## **Eleanor Cummings Celebrates her Birthday**

Eleanor Cummings just celebrated her 92nd birthday on April 10th! Eleanor was a faithful Church-goer here at St. David's and an enthusiastic Good Companion for many years. Eleanor moved to Quebec just before Christmas 2024 to live with her son, Peter, and his wife, Suzanne. She is settling in to her new home and neighbourhood thanks to the love and support of her family. We keep in touch and are delighted to share this picture with you!

Best wishes Eleanor from all your friends here at St. David's!



## **Susan St. Croix wins Volunteer of the Year Award**

On Tuesday, April 29<sup>th</sup> Susan St. Croix was honoured with the Volunteer of the Year award during the Best of PCSP Community Awards. The award recognizes volunteers for their outstanding efforts and invaluable contributions to the development of recreational or social opportunities that benefit the wellbeing of the community, with Susan making an extraordinary impact through her work with Girl Guides. Susan also volunteers with Stable Life located in Portugal Cove, and teaches others how scrapbooking can preserve memories in beautiful, thoughtful ways. Congratulations Susan on the well-deserved award!



# Good News

from you

## AMS Luncheon at the Kirk (April 16)

Members of the St. Andrew's AMS invited the St. David's AMS to join them at the Kirk Hall for an Easter luncheon and short devotional on April 16th. It was a lovely way to usher in the Easter Season and everyone who attended enjoyed this time together. Thank-you ladies! Below is a picture from the event.



## A Dream Come True?

For any gardener who longs to have their own Kubota when some serious digging needs to be done in the garden, finding a Kubota under the awning by the Church was like a dream come true! OK, so it was Steve's Kubota and he had it in here to finish off the trench and to do some much needed landscape maintenance. Well, I didn't get to drive it or even turn it on - Steve still held the key - but I did get to sit in it! A dream come true. Thanks Steve!



# Good News from you

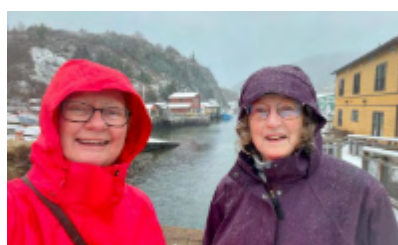
## Ice Can be Beautiful

Not too many people like April's freezing rain that turns into ice, but it can turn a plain tree or bush into a magical sight. Such was what we found when we came out the Tower door a few days ago. In the middle of freezing rain and ice pellets, we found the hedge looking like this!



## Moderator's Visit – April 22 - 25

The Moderator of the Presbyterian Church of Canada, Rev. Dr. Patricia Dutcher-Walls, and her husband, Tim, arrived in St. John's on April 22 for a 4 day visit. While here, they experienced authentic Newfoundland and Labrador weather (!) and got the opportunity to meet members from all three Presbyterian Churches and learn about their congregations. They got to visit Bridges to Hope and Pat conducted a workshop at the Kirk (Narratives of Hope and Possibility). There was a presentation from St. Matthews and a presentation/tour from St. Andrews. Both Pat and Tim visited the Rooms and attended a presentation (Dissenters Path) to celebrate the 250th Anniversary of St. David's congregation. In between all this, they had an opportunity to visit Signal Hill (and meet Sable Chief!), have a walk around Quidi Vidi and enjoy some of our famous seafood. Thanks to everyone who helped make their visit so memorable and a special thank-you to Lynne Allan for all the pictures you see below!



# Good News from you

## 250th Anniversary Presentation at The Rooms

On April 24th, St. David's kicked off the start of its year-long activities to celebrate its 250th Anniversary as a congregation. A "Coffee and Culture" event at the Rooms presented the audience with the events and places that shaped the congregation through its 250-year history. Rev. David Sturtevant offered a welcome to those in attendance, Steve Bruneau took the audience on a journey along the Dissenter's Path, Glenn Barnes talked about the founding families and Janet Calver introduced the audience to three artifacts from the congregation's past. Many thanks to the Rooms and their team for making this possible and to everyone who contributed to making this a memorable afternoon!

**The Dissenters' Path**

*A Walk through the 250-year history of the Congregation today known as St. David's Presbyterian Church*

**Chronology of Congregation Milestones:**

- 1757 John Jones arrives in St. John's
- 1759 Jones organizes a meeting
- 1762 Congregation is formally organized
- 1763 Begins and services in Barclay's
- 1764 Jones and meeting in Queen's Chapel
- 1764 "Abolished to give 'The Rooms'"
- 1767 Meetings in Private Chapel of Alexander
- 1767 First Meeting House built on "Abolished"
- 1777 First Meeting House about 60' by 30'
- 1778 Meetings continue in Jones' house
- 1780 First Meeting House (Alexander's Chapel)
- 1787 The Meeting House (The Rooms)
- 1789 General Meeting House completed
- 1800 Rev. Free Mission Society Meeting House
- 1801 Jones Chapel opened
- 1802 First meeting in Alexander's Chapel
- 1803 Meeting House (Alexander's Chapel) burned
- 1803 Rev. Charles Budge, Thomas W. Hooper, Q.C. etc.
- 1804 First Free Meeting House (The Rooms) opened and the General Meeting House Jones' house remains at 60' by 30' (60' x 30' on Alexander's Chapel)
- 1805 Jones Chapel opened
- 1805 First Queen's Chapel opened
- 1814-18 Second Meeting House (The Rooms) opened
- 1815 Congregation "moved" into its Presbyterian Church in Canada
- 1820 First St. David's Chapel opened
- 1850 "Renovated" Chapel and 5th St. (Oldman Education Building) opened
- 1877 Bicentennial of Congregation Celebrated

**Choose your path . . .**

- Public Path 2.9 km
- Close Loop 0.9 km
- St. David's Path 2.9 km
- New Path 2.4 km
- Short cut 1 -4.6 km
- Short cut 2 -0.5 km

**1 King's Beach/Harbor Park**

**2 S.O. Steele and Son's/Breakwater Boats**

**3 The War Memorial**

**4 Site of Fort William**

**5 John White Deer's Hairs**

**6 Battery Road Park**

**7 Anderson House circa 1804**

**8 Road to Lyall's Hill**

**9 First Meeting House General location**

**10 Commissioner's House**

**11 "The Barrow"**

**12 Government House**

**13 Colonial building**

**14 Colonial Park**

**15 Baseline Cross**

**16 The Second Meeting House (Lulu Hill)**

**17 Court House**

**18 Anglican cathedral (Marlborough)**

**19 Victoria Square**

**20 The Stone/Queen's Road Chapel**

**21 Fisher Walsh's Hill**

**22 Monkstown Road**

**23 Monuments and Sculptures**

**24 Sunnyside Park Walk**

**25 Battery Road Trail Walk**

**26 St. David's Church**

**27 King's Road**

**28 The Basilica and Bishop's Chapel**

**29 Harvey Monument**

**30 The Rooms**

**31 Fort Frontenac Courthouse**





**32 Battery Road**

**33 The Gift of the Dissenting Church Bazaar to the Defunct Church in St. John's (Very Found!)**


**For more information and links to google map guide:**

# 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](mailto: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](mailto: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/](http://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

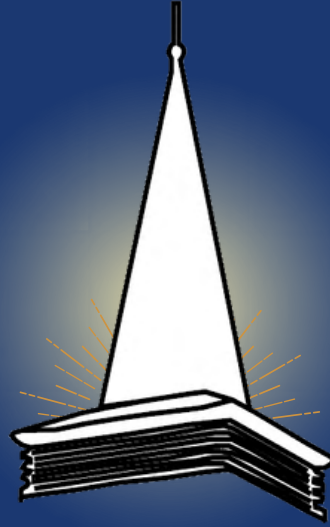
## Session

- 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!

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