

SEPTEMBER 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!

Summer days have come and gone, with cozy, amber-lit days on the way. Often times, the fall season can remind us how beautiful it is for change to take place.

We have lots to share in this months newsletter, with more exciting events on the way to round out the year.

We hope you enjoy, and consider attending our upcoming concerts, social Saturdays, our 250<sup>th</sup> banquet, and so much more.

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

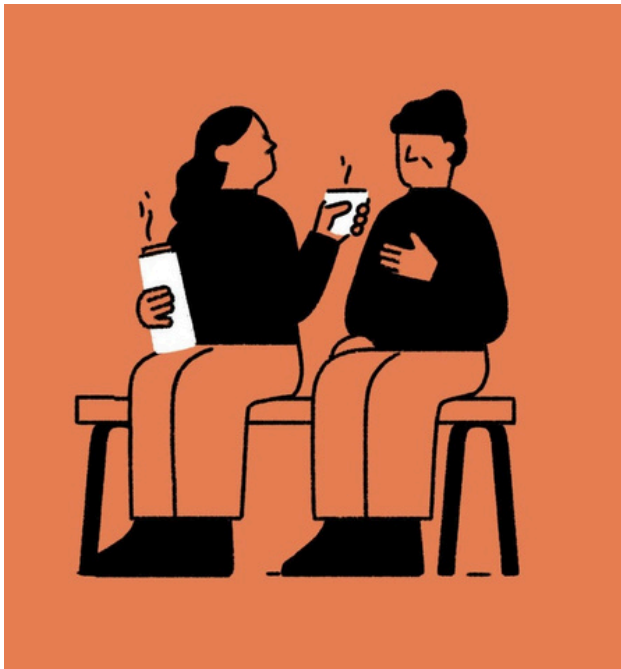


Worship Service, Sunday  
11:00 a.m - 12:00 p.m

# Minister's Message

Welcome back from a record-setting summer! It has been so hot and sunny this summer that we have learned to celebrate the rain, and that attitude will certainly serve us well in the days to come. In an age of discontent, it is good for our souls to learn to celebrate what we have, even if it is rain.

As we come back into the fall, we have a lot to celebrate here at St. David's. I am very grateful for everyone's patience as we have spent the year up to this point studying the Old Testament in our Sunday morning worship. I hope I have shown that the Old Testament gives us some deeply human stories, messages that connect with a world that often seems so full of selfishness, uncompassionate power, and a desperate need for justice. But this Fall, we will be starting into the New Testament, focusing on the story told by Luke and trying our best to read it with fresh eyes. I am very excited!



There are many exciting things to look forward to listed in this newsletter, but I wanted to draw your attention to one new thing in particular: Social Saturdays. I am well aware that one of the best parts of our church is our community itself. This is the way it should be! In these days, I believe that people feel increasingly isolated and busy, and the need for intentional and supportive community is higher than ever.


On these Saturdays, I want us to invite our families and neighbours to come to the church for some together time. Make it family time and bring a board game to play with your kids or grandkids. Invite a lonely neighbour for a cup of tea and a game of cards with some new friends. We have cornhole, carpet bowling, and pickleball available on a first-come-first-serve basis, and a kitchen full of everything you need to make a cup of tea or bake a treat to share.

I do not want anyone to feel obligated to do set-up or take-down, and would like all involved to lend a hand as needed. This is your church building, and it is a beautiful and functional space. Spending time together is meaningful and important for everyone, so please join us for a relaxed and informal time of community on Social Saturdays on the last Saturday of each month!

**"How good and pleasant it is  
when God's people live together in unity!"  
Psalm 133**

*David*





Join us in 'The Hall'

# **Social** *Saturdays*

**Saturday, September 27th**  
**2:00 pm - 5:00 pm**

The **Last Saturday** of this month, **September 27th** from **2-5 PM**, Rev. David wants us to have a Social Saturday. Invite your family and friends to come so that we can celebrate "how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity" (Psalm 133). Fight back against a world divided and isolated by choosing Social Saturday!

**Solve a puzzle, play cards,  
or bring a board game!**

**Play pickleball, carpet  
bowling, or cornhole toss!**

**Bring your loved ones for a  
relaxed time together, or be  
brave and make a new friend!**

**Get a crew together  
to bake muffins for  
the food bank!**



# Music in the Hall

## Schedule of Concerts

Please call the office at 709-722-2382 or email: [musicinthehall250@gmail.com](mailto:musicinthehall250@gmail.com) to reserve your tickets. Tickets remain the same at \$25/pp. The performance will start at 8pm – with doors opening at 7:30pm. Thank you.

The complete list of concerts - can be found on the Tower door entry bulletin board.  
And on our website under “concerts”.

**OCT  
08**

**“ONLY THE LONELY”**

A tribute to  
Roy Orbison

**NOV  
01**

**GOSPEL IN THE HALL**

Contemporary Music  
with Kelly-Ann Evans

**NOV  
23**

**GOSPEL IN THE  
SANCTUARY**

Darrin Martin and  
Jonathan Parsons

**DEC  
13**

**“ON A WINTER’S NIGHT”**

Shelley Neville & Bob  
MacDonald with Music  
Director Brian Way



# 250th Anniversary Banquet

You are warmly invited to join us for a special evening of celebration in honor of our 250th Anniversary.

Where: Royal Canadian Legion, 57 Blackmarsh Road,  
St. John's, NL

When: Wednesday, October 22nd, 2025

Evening Schedule:

- 6:30 p.m. – Welcome Reception featuring hors d'oeuvres, punch, and live entertainment
- 7:00 p.m. – Anniversary Banquet with a delicious stuffed chicken dinner, followed by dessert, tea, and coffee
- (Vegetarian and gluten-free options available upon request)

Tickets: \$25 per person

Reservation deadline: Sunday, October 5th, 2025

To reserve, please call 709-722-2382 or email  
[stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com).

Come share in an evening of fellowship, food, and reflection as we celebrate this remarkable milestone together.



## **250th Anniversary Ecumenical Service and Luncheon**

**Join us in celebration of a historic milestone! On All Saints Sunday, November 2nd, 2025, we will gather for a special Ecumenical Service to honour 250 years of faith, community, and shared history. Following the service, all are warmly invited to share in fellowship at a commemorative luncheon with games!**

**This momentous occasion is an opportunity to come together in gratitude, reflection, and unity as we mark a quarter of a millennium of worship and community spirit.**



# 250th Anniversary Art Auction

Dear Members of the St. David's Congregation,

This November, St. David's will be hosting an Art Auction to raise funds in support of our ministries and community outreach. We are reaching out to you, our church family, to help us make this event a success by contributing art pieces that would bring value to the auction.

We are especially seeking:

- Original artwork (paintings, drawings, prints, and sculptures)
- Photography and other fine art pieces
- High-quality, collectible works that could be of interest to buyers

Please note that while we deeply appreciate everyone's generosity, this particular auction will focus on curated, higher-value art items. That means we won't be able to include items like used décor, hobby crafts, or pieces that are more suitable for a market or yard sale. But don't worry—we're planning a "Community Treasures Holiday Sale", where those wonderful items will shine and find new homes!

As a registered charity, St. David's can provide tax receipts for the fair market value of donated art included in the auction.

If you have a piece you'd like to contribute or if you'd like to learn more about what qualifies, please reach out to Ian Bruneau by Monday, November 10th.

Thank you for supporting St. David's in this exciting new event. Together, we can celebrate creativity, community, and generosity.

Warmly,

The Art Auction Committee



# Happy Birthday



Adam Kearsey,  
September 4th

David Ott,  
September 6th

Raphaelle Aitken,  
September 8th

Addeline Abma-Rudofsky,  
September 10th

David Parker,  
September 11th

Philip Templeton,  
September 12th

Jane Green,  
September 13th

Bob Taylor,  
September 13th

Karen Froude,  
September 21st

Helen Reddick,  
September 21st

Annie Crosbie,  
September 28th

Lisa Dooley,  
September 28th

Patsy Carmichael,  
September 30th

James Mallowney,  
September 30th



# HAPPY *Anniversary*

**Heather and Bradley Burness**

Celebrating their 27th wedding anniversary on September 5th

**Jacqueline and Maxwell Brockerville**

Celebrating their 35th wedding anniversary on September 8th

**Penny and Stewart Gillies**

Celebrating 49 years of marriage on September 8th

**Sarah Learmonth and David Corkey**

Celebrating their 9th wedding anniversary on September 19th



# What's Happening

## at St. David's

**SEPT**

**14**

**11:00AM**

### **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School has started up again for the season, and will be studying the Story of the Bible as told in the Jesus Storybook Bible. We aim to teach children to relate to the stories of the Bible and reflect Jesus Christ in their actions, while taking plenty of time for joyful play and building friendships. Parents are asked to consider volunteering to assist with one Sunday each month to ensure that our volunteers get breaks, and new volunteers are enthusiastically welcome!

**SEPT**

**21**

**11:00AM**

**SEPT**

**29**

**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

SEPT

21

9:30  
AM

### POP-UP CHOIR CALL

Hope this finds you well. I am writing regarding our hopes of returning to the choir ministry at St. David's Presbyterian.

Here is the schedule for Fall:

~~Sunday, September 21st~~

**Sunday, October 19th**

**Sunday, November 16th**

**Sunday, December 21st**

OCT

19

9:30  
AM

Should you be available and interested in giving of your time and voices, or know of anyone who enjoys singing, the church congregation, as am I, would be greatly appreciative!

NOV

16

9:30  
AM

On the given Sunday, beginning September 21, we will meet 9:30am in the sanctuary for rehearsal followed by the 11am service which typically finishes by noon.

Please consider helping out and do let me know either way so that I can prepare accordingly.

DEC

21

9:30  
AM

Thanks for your time,  
Brian

# What's Happening

at St. David's

SEPT

27

2:00

PM

## SOCIAL SATURDAYS

The Last Saturday of this month, September 27th from 2-5 PM, Rev. David wants us to have a Social Saturday. Invite your family and friends to come so that we can celebrate "how good and pleasant it is when God's people live together in unity" (Psalm 133). Fight back against a world divided and isolated by choosing Social Saturday!

- Solve a puzzle, play cards, or bring a board game!
- Play pickleball, carpet bowling, or cornhole toss!
- Get a crew together to bake muffins for the food bank!
- Bring your loved ones for a relaxed time together, or be brave and make a new friend!

SEPT

28

11:00

AM

## CONTEMPORARY SERVICE/VOWR

The Contemporary Service will resume on the last Sunday of the month, September 28th with the VOWR service taking place at 7:00 pm the same day.

# What's Happening

## at St. David's

OCT  
**01**  
ALL DAY

### **NATIONAL SENIORS DAY**

On behalf of St. David's, we wish all seniors and those in our congregation a happy National Seniors Day! There are events happening in many municipalities, visit your city or town's website or social media for more info on celebrations!

OCT  
**05**  
12:30  
PM

### **AMS (ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY)**

AMS will meet on October 5th after Worship in the Armour Room. Refreshments provided. New members would be most welcome.

We have lots of discussion around mission and much laughter. Hope to see you there! Call Penny Gillies if there are any questions: 700-728-8112

OCT  
**07**  
10:00  
AM

### **PRAYER SHAWL MINISTRY KNITTERS**

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their first monthly meeting this Fall on Tuesday, October 7th at 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

OCT  
**14**  
ALL DAY

### 2025 PROVINCIAL ELECTION

Elections NL will hold polling stations in The Hall on October 2<sup>nd</sup> as part of the 2025 Provincial Election. There will be no access to the church, only to vote if it's your assigned polling station. Please remember to get out and vote!

OCT  
**16**  
7:00  
PM

### BOARD OF MANAGERS MEETING

The Board of Managers will meet on October 16th at 7:00pm in the Armour Room.

OCT  
**21**  
12:00  
PM

### WOMEN'S AUXILIARY (WA)

Our monthly Lunch/Bridge will take place on October 21<sup>st</sup> at noon. Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance. Cost - \$20.00 per person.

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.

# What's Happening

## at St. David's

OCT  
**15**  
7:30  
PM

### SESSION MEETING

Session will be held on Wednesday, October 15<sup>th</sup> at 7:30 pm due to the Provincial Election. Please meet in the Armour Room.

OCT  
**22**  
TBA

### 250TH ANNIVERSARY BANQUET

Our 250th Anniversary Banquet will be held on Wednesday, October 22nd 2025 at The Royal Canadian Legion on Blackmarsh Road. Further details can be found in the newsletter.

# 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 September 2025, especially useful for Bridges to Hope – Canned Soup. 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/>

## Bridges to Hope August Update

Our food hampers were distributed to 1,548 people - which included 129 seniors and 501 children. For the BTH newsletter, go to <https://bridgestohope.ca> and choose “About Us”, and then the “Newsletter” to see their latest newsletter.

### Bag to School – Update:

We are thrilled to share that thanks to the support of our community, our Bag to School program was able to provide essential school supplies to each and every family that applied this year.

**Together, we supported 900 local students!**



# Groups and Events



## 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 be done on an 'Honour System' – anybody can leave a puzzle or take a puzzle. You can take as long as you like to complete.



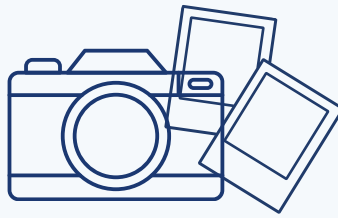
## Sunday Coffee Hour Volunteers

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

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. Please do call the office if you have any questions.

Thank you!

# Groups and Events



## **We're Looking for Your Photos!**

Attended one of our many monthly events or want to include great photos that are worthy of a share in our next edition of the News From the Pews newsletter? Send them to us at [stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com).

# Good News *from you*

## Music in the Hall Concerts (July and August)

Our July “Music in the Hall” concert was a super-charged event that highlighted the music from the 1970’s. Titled, “One of These Nights”, it was a cast of super performers – Roger Howse, Scott Mansfield, Steve Power, Leanne Kean, Brian Way, Natalie Noseworthy, Sandy Morris (see picture below). They made the music come alive! What more can one say.... it was a terrific evening!

Our next concert took place in August and featured Alanna Fraize, David Pomeroy and Noelle Slaney (see picture below). These world-class performers treated us to a magical evening of song and made us realize how fortunate we are to have such talent in our midst. A standing ovation at the end of the evening was an indication of just how much the audience enjoyed the performances.

As always, where would we be without our own Brian Way? A big thank-you to him for organizing these concerts and for his accompaniment and musical versatility that always delights the audience! Bravo!

Below are pictures of our performers:



# Good News *from you*

## News From our Congregation

This was such a busy summer for many members of our congregation. Here are a few items we wanted to share with you:

**Baptism** – Addeline Judith Marie Abma-Rudofsky (July 6, 2025), daughter of Jennifer Abma and Blake Rudofsky and grand-daughter of Judy and Dave Rudofsky. (Yes, that's Addeline in Rev. Krunys' arms!)



**Baptism** – Julian Andrew Dominquez-Gillies (July 27, 2025), son of Allison Gillies and Daniel Dominquez and grand-son of Penny and Stewart Gillies.



# Good News *from you*

## News From our Congregation

This was such a busy summer for many members of our congregation. Here are a few items we wanted to share with you:

**Condolences to the Armour Family** – On Saturday, July 12th, Rev. J.S.S. Armour passed peacefully away with his wife, Margaret, by his side. Rev. Armour was our Minister for over 20 years and a dear friend to many within our congregation. Our deepest sympathy is extended to the Armour family.

**Memorial Tree Dedication** – On Sunday, August 17th, the Peach Family gathered to dedicate 2 leaves on our Memorial Tree in honour of Edith and Bill Peach. Edith and Bill were longtime faithful members of this congregation. Throughout their lives, they served on different Church committees and groups, participated in many activities and events and gave willingly of their time. They were important members of our Church Family and will always be fondly remembered.



**Flower Services** - This year, St. David's was pleased to be able to help out with the annual Flower Services. On Monday evening, July 28th, Rev. Sturtevant and Brian Way officiated the Memorial Service at the Memorial Gardens Cemetery, Beaumont Hamel Way. It was a beautiful service with many families in attendance.

**Camp Geddle** – This past summer, St. David's AMS was pleased to sponsor two young people from our congregation - Nnene and Harriet Offia - in attending Camp Geddle in Nova Scotia. Camp Geddle's summer camping program includes daily Bible study, mission study, canoeing, swimming, outdoor education, arts and crafts, games and sports, vespers and campfire. We hope to hear more about their experience, but by all accounts, Nnene and Harriet had a great time!



# On The Go

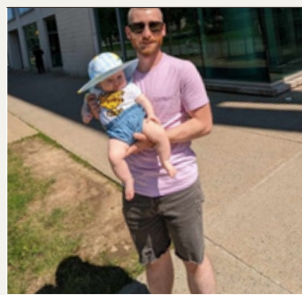
Penny met up with Gracie and Joss at the Avalon Mall...



Janet and Paul Aitken got to spend time with her brother, Doug, and visit Canterbury, especially enjoying their tour of Canterbury Cathedral...



Nathan Barnes has recently completed his MBA in Finance at Dalhousie University, Halifax. Good news for proud parents, Martha and Glenn Barnes! (Glenn mentioned that Nathan's accomplishment adds to the family's pride as Dalhousie was Glenn's alma mater.) Congratulations Nathan from everyone here at St. David's!



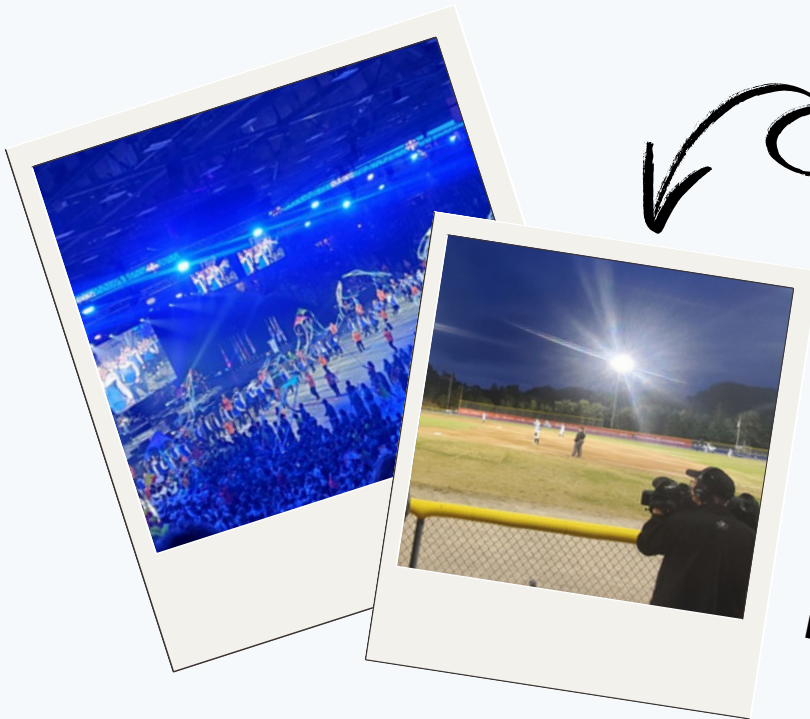
Janet and Brian finally got to visit the old International Lounge at the Gander International Airport...

# On The Go

Don McKay sent along a note to say that Michelle Noftall, former organist and music director at St. David's, hosted a live performance of "Well Played" an album celebration at SLÁINTE on July 27.

At the event, Michelle shared stories and musical compositions that together for the first time, unveiled the previously hidden stories of six old pianos, their homes, and the people who cherished them.

For a few vocal numbers, Michelle was accompanied on piano by Brian Way, our current organist and Musical Director.



**Congratulations to all those who participated in the 2025 Canada Games! Those involved with the Games were volunteering their time for close to two years in preparations for game time. The metro area saw over 10,000 athletes, spectators, staff, volunteers, and supporters over the two week period. See some photos that from Laura Barnes who volunteered as a Media Relations Lead for Baseball.**



# Church Improvements

We want to thank everyone who took such good care of our Church building and grounds over the Summer. The grass was mowed regularly and the Furnace Room was tidied up. Steve Bruneau brought in his backhoe and removed the prickly barberry hedge and a few other trees around the property.

Penny and her "Gardening Team" (Kathy and Janet) bought bags of topsoil, Steve brought in a load of mulch and before you knew it, there were new flowers and bushes all around the Church! Steve fixed up the breezeway's overhang and arranged to have a mason come by to repair the brick pillar that had been damaged earlier in the winter.

Heather regularly watered all the new bushes and flowers during the heat wave. And let's not forget those 4 beautiful, blue garden chairs that Heather bought so that anyone who came by, could simply sit and enjoy! So much TLC!



# 250th Anniversary Celebrations

Even though it was summer, we continued to celebrate our Church's 250th anniversary. Here are just a few things that happened:

Rev. Sturtevant continued every Sunday with his project of Preaching Through the Bible. (If you missed any sermons, you can find them all on the Church's website!)

One of the highlights of the summer was St. David's 250th Anniversary Food Drive for Bridges to Hope (BTH) which took place on Saturday, July 19th from 10:00 – 2:00. As is normal during the summer months, donations to BTH are down but the need is still the same or even greater.

The Food Drive was a great success and all the donations were gratefully received by Bridges to Hope. Thank-you all! Below are a few pictures of some of the volunteers and some of the people who dropped off donations.

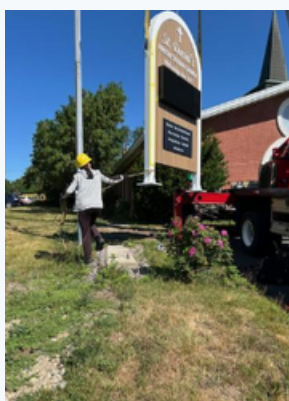




# 250th Anniversary Celebrations





The other exciting news that happened over the summer, was the installation of our new sign which is meant to be a commemorative recognition of St. David's 250th Anniversary. Many thanks to: Steve Bruneau and Glenn Barnes who devoted countless hours to this project; Black and McDonald (Electrical) and Bugden Signs whose expertise and professionalism guided us throughout; and to all those who worked hard behind the scenes to make our new sign a reality.

We hope our new sign proclaims to everyone who sees it and reads its messages that we are a warm and welcoming congregation and we are looking forward to the future!



# Church Information



## Church Summer Office Hours:

-  Tuesday to Thursday 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

-  For Pastoral Care in July, please contact Rev. Derek Krunys at 709-687-7742. For Pastoral Care in August, please contact Rev. David Sturtevant at 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

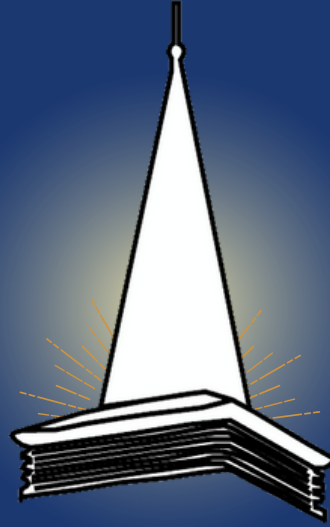
## Session

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



# News from the Pews

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ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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



[stdavids@nfld.com](mailto:stdavids@nfld.com)



[stdavidsstjohns](http://stdavidsstjohns.com)



stdavidsstjohns



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