

CHRISTMAS/EARLY JANUARY EDITION

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



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Welcome to the Mini News from the Pews
Newsletter!

As the year draws to a close and the Christmas season settles gently among us, we are pleased to share this special mini Christmas edition of News from the Pews. In these pages, you will find a few meaningful updates and highlights from recent events that reflect the spirit of generosity, fellowship, and service at the heart of our church community. These moments remind us how, together, we continue to support not only one another, but also the wider community beyond our doors.

As we celebrate the birth of Christ and the season of hope it brings, we wish you and your loved ones a Christmas filled with peace, warmth, and joy. Thank you for being such an important part of our church family, and for walking together in faith throughout the year.

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



The
Presbyterian
Church
in Canada

Minister's Message

What an exciting year we have had here at St. David's! After 250 years of worshipping God and serving our neighbours in Christian love, we have celebrated in great style. A big thank you to everyone who has helped out with our many events, from the Banquet to our historic walk through downtown, from our Art Auction to our musical concerts, we have been a busy hub of activity. Thank you for your support, and as we continue in the spirit of those who have come before us, we have no plans to stop all of our activity as we work together to bring Heaven to earth one step at a time!

In the spirit of that work, I want to take some time in my message to look ahead to something exciting starting up in the New Year. As some of you may know, a few volunteers (myself included) from St. David's volunteered at the downtown Jimmy Pratt soup kitchen, which has historically run out of George Street United Church downtown. Unfortunately, the church has closed, and so the soup kitchen has found themselves trying to work out of a building that is no longer heated. After our visit, leadership at the kitchen reached out to include us in a broad message letting us know that the soup kitchen is looking for a new place to operate, both in a temporary and in a more permanent capacity.

Here at St. David's, we enthusiastically look for opportunities to serve our neighbours in Christian love, and the work of a soup kitchen is clearly in line with the values of Jesus Christ, who led us to have faith in the world proclaimed by the prophet Isaiah who wrote "Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat!" Hearing of their need, the elders here at St. David's have been moved with compassion, and after speaking with the team from Jimmy Pratt, we believe that St. David's could at the least provide a temporary home for some of their programs.

Conversations are in very early stages and many details are still being worked out, but since their corporate and private sponsors have put them in a position to potentially match the rates we charge to other groups and activities that use the church, we see an opportunity to provide a need for our community that is difficult to ignore. Large, recurring users like this are the ideal. They bring their own workers and volunteers, and although volunteers coming from St. David's would be welcome, we are not blind to the possibility that we may find a few people coming the other direction and joining our church community on Sundays as well!

Current discussions center around a weekly Monday brunch and Friday lunch, with various other times staff will be in throughout the week. They also have a seniors program with a lunch that has been on hold due to the cold. We are proud to be supporting such good work in our city, and responding to their immediate need for a warm place to feed the hungry gives us both a chance to test out a partnership and gather impressions from our people.

With prayer and listening to those expressing cautious opinions, we nevertheless see this as a great opportunity to do the work of Jesus Christ in our community. In my opinion, this project looks good on us, and will be attractive to people who are looking for a church that cares about really reflecting Jesus Christ. Please keep us in your prayers, and let us know if you support St. David's providing a warm place for the Jimmy Pratt soup kitchen to do their work. Speak to your elders, or send us a message, because your input gives us the perspective we need to be our best.

May God continue to bless St. David's as we step boldly into the future. We are a church with deep connections to our community, and those outside our doors notice our openness and commitment to being a blessing. After 250 years of compassionate ministry, I know that our eagerness for mission would make all those who have come before us proud.

This is how the Kingdom comes, and this is Good News!

David



Christmas EVENTS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 21ST

Fourth Sunday of Advent
Holy Communion Service at 11:00am
"Blue Christmas" Service at 6:30pm
A special service for those feeling a loss at Christmas.
VOWR Broadcast, 7:00 pm

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

Christmas Eve Candlelight Service
Carols & Scriptures at 6:30pm

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 28TH

Last Sunday Service of 2025 at 11:00am
Last Sunday School of 2025 (Resuming January 11th, 2026)



Condolences

Sarah Quinton

The sympathy of the congregation goes out to Leith, Becky and the Quinton Family on the passing of Leith's dear Mother, Sarah Quinton on November 4th, 2025 in her 103rd year.

Sarah was born in Red Cliffe, Bonavista Bay, Newfoundland and lived here until her eighties, at which time she moved to Toronto to live with daughter, Karen.

The Funeral was held in St. John's in early December.

Happy Birthday



Yasmin Ahmed (Krunys),
January 7th

Stephen McKenzie, Heather Steele Morrissey,
January 8th January 8th

Jayce Froude,
January 12th

Alexander Bassler,
January 14th

Charlie Barnes,
January 15th

Kay Scott,
January 17th

Samuel Venth,
January 18th

Ed Vanderkloet,
January 20th

Allison Gillies,
January 22nd

Sandra Perry,
January 29th

Samantha Johnston (Hudson),
January 30th

And belated Happy Birthday wishes to Joanna Adhikary-Gain
who celebrated her birthday on December 14th

HAPPY Anniversary

Lori-Kim denOtter and Andy Versteeg
Celebrating their 22nd anniversary on January 17th.

Congratulations to all our couples. 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

JAN
07
1:00
PM

BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Bible Study has started back up for the year. Come join us in the Armour room for our informal study as we follow along with the journey through the Bible. All are welcome, no experience is required.

JAN
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 would like to get some education on the rules and instruction on how to play, please join us on Wednesdays!

JAN
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!

What's Happening at St. David's

JAN
11
11:00
AM

SUNDAY SCHOOL RESUMES

After a short break, Sunday school will resume on January 11th during the regular worship service. 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!

Creche/Playroom

We have an unsupervised Creche/playroom for Families to use. This space is available to use anytime and during the worship service.

JAN
11
12:30
PM

AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

AMS will meet on Sunday, January 11th following the worship service - 12:30pm in the Armour Room. 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.

What's Happening at St. David's

JAN
13
12:30
PM

BRIDGE LUNCH

Bridge will be meeting again in the New Year beginning on January 13th for lunch! Come break bread with a great group, have some fun, and meet new friends.

FOR MORE EVENTS AND UPDATES

Looking for further information on worship services, events, or group information? Contact the Church!

stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com

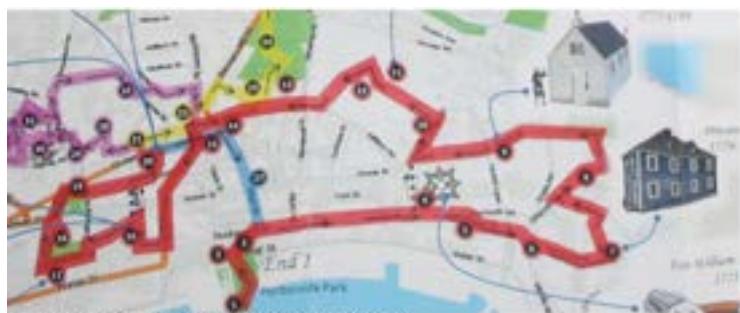
Good News *from your*

Dissenter's Path – Hosted by Steve Bruneau

On Saturday, November 1st, Steve Bruneau led an interpretative walk – part of the Dissenter's Path - through the streets of St. John's. It was yet another event to mark our congregation's 250th anniversary. After a wet and windy start to the week, Saturday was a splendid Fall day for the event. The leaves were so colourful and it was a fitting backdrop for a walk describing our congregation's "colourful" history!

Our group met at King's Beach/Harbourside Park – the most likely place where John Jones first set foot in Newfoundland in 1765. As we walked the streets and hills of St. John's, we were also tracing the growth of our congregation. Steve explained the significance of each stop along the way and often regaled us with tidbits of information. There were parts of our city that many in the group had not seen before and to be able to link that to our congregation's history was quite amazing! All in all, the 2 1/2 hours just flew by.

Many thanks to Steve, who led the walk and for all his work in creating the Dissenter's Path brochure. If you do not have a copy yet, there are some still available in the Church. We look forward to joining Steve for other walks from the Dissenter's Path in the future!



The red line indicates the path we walked



At Harbourside Park



At Government House

Good News from your 250th Anniversary Sunday

On Sunday, November 2nd, St. David's celebrated its 250th Anniversary as a congregation with a special Sunday service followed by a "Birthday Party" in the Church Hall for the congregation and for the community at large.

The Church service was well attended and Rev. Sturtevant preached a timely sermon entitled "the Fate of the Builder's". After the service, it was on to the Church Hall for a yummy lunch – a hearty turkey soup (compliments of Rev. David), sandwiches and other savoury dishes thanks to our Church members, and of course anniversary cakes to top things off! There was an enthusiastic rendition sung of "Happy Birthday" followed by the cake cutting. It was a great time made even more special by sharing this time with members from the community, including some families from Simms's Street.

Many thanks to all who contributed to this special day and for making it a highlight of our 250th anniversary celebrations – including our cleanup crew!



Good News *from you*

WA Hosted Bridge Party – November 18, 2025

The WA hosted the November Bridge Party on the 18th in the Church Hall. The damp weather did nothing to deter the enthusiastic bridge players. There is always much chatter and laughter when they first arrive – and excitement about “what’s on the menu today”. Our WA ladies and our team of helpers always ensure that our guests have a lovely afternoon.

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. And special kudos to everyone who pitched in to help out when our dishwasher decided to take a rest!! We couldn't do it without all of you! A BIG thank-you!

Here are just a few of the pictures from Tuesday.



Good News *from you*

Music in the Hall Concert (November 23rd)

There was a beautiful Music in the Hall concert on November 23rd. It was held in our sanctuary on Sunday afternoon and featured Darrin Martin and Jonathan Parsons, with our very own Musical Director, Brian Way accompanying. Both Darrin and Jonathan have powerful voices that resonated so beautifully in our Church. Their talent and love for what they do, together with the old gospel favourites and the newer inspirational songs they sung, made for a wonderful afternoon for all who attended. We thank them so much and we hope to see them back at St. David's in the near future! Below is a picture of Brian, Darrin and Jonathan.



A big thank-you to Brian for all the hard work that he puts into making these concerts a reality and all the great afternoons and evenings of music we have enjoyed!

Good News *from you*

Sunday School Fun

The Sunday School kids were on the go again a few Sundays ago as they enjoyed a nature walk and then some “playground time”. What better way to see the beauty surrounding us and have some fun with our friends at the same time!



Welcome, Ella!

On behalf of the Barnes family, Aunt Laura is thrilled to share that Nathan and his family welcomed a new addition to their little family - Ella Mae Ali Barnes. Ella was born on Monday, December 8th, 2025 and is doing very well. Big sister Charlie has settled into her new role nicely, helping Mom and Dad and constantly reminding her little sister how beautiful she is.

Welcome to the world, Ella!



Good News *from your*

Simms Street Fire Update

When the call for help went out for the Simms Street families, there was an amazing response from not only our congregation, but also from the community at large. On a Sunday in November. Penny, Kathy and Jill worked with Sarah Bassler to coordinate a little “free shopping spree” for some of the families. The ladies came in early on Sunday morning and organized all the clothes that had arrived at the Church and spread it all out so that the families could have a good look at what was there and determine what would be suitable for their children and themselves. Many thanks to Sarah, Penny, Kathy and Jill for setting this up and then clearing things away after the event.

The furniture that was dropped off to the Church for the families has also found a nice new home as has some furniture that people donated directly to the families.

Many thanks to everyone who was able to help and continues to do so!



Good News *from your*

Serving Lunch at the Jimmy Pratt Centre - Friday, November 21st

St. David's AMS were honoured to be able to sponsor the hot lunch take-out at the Jimmy Pratt Centre on Friday, November 21st. It was a beautiful day in so many ways.

The actual work started a few days before Friday. First, the logistics had to be worked out. Mike Gillan, a longtime member of St. Andrew's and a professional chef, enthusiastically agreed to help our AMS determine the exact quantities needed to feed 100 guests. Mike then joined us in our (commercial) kitchen to help chop all the veggies and to oversee the actual cooking. Mike even lent us some of his soup pots! After the soup had been cooked and cooled, Penny and Stewart Gillies gently and carefully transported the pots of soup to the Jimmy Pratt Centre where they were stored in refrigerators. Meanwhile, all the other goodies that would eventually go in the take-out bag, including rolls and dessert, had to be prepared and likewise, transported down to the Centre.

When Friday arrived, Rev. Sturtevant and some of our AMS members joined the regular Jimmy Pratt volunteers to help with the final preparations – stirring the soup, filling the brown bags - and then actually serving the guests.

Many thanks to Treva Aberle and her volunteer staff for making us feel so much at home and for being so supportive. Treva is a relatively new member of our congregation but she also manages the Jimmy Pratt Centre. It was a very special day for the St. David's AMS.

Here is a little note from Treva:

Thank you all that made this possible! It was a fantastic morning and I am so glad that I could marry two of my church families for even a brief time of outreach and generosity!

Again thank you so much for helping our community.....

Treva Aberle

Good News *from you*

Serving Lunch at the Jimmy Pratt Centre - Friday, November 21st

If you would like to know more about the Jimmy Pratt Centre, call the Church and we'll put you in touch with Treva.

In the meantime, below are some pictures that we hope you enjoy..



On The Go

In our October newsletter, we showed you a “mystery” picture of one of our Church members riding a unicycle. (The caption from the newspaper read: Beating the high costs of automobile driving are the motor cyclists and bicyclists, keeping expenses down by operating smaller vehicles. But there’s even a way to beat high costs of bicycles and this man, who chooses to remain anonymous, has found it. He sold half his bicycle to get money to keep the other part going, it seems, although he proudly rides along Water Street, calling it a unicycle. More than one passerby stopped and rubbed his eyes last week as the unicyclist pedalled his way around town on the lone wheel.) Did you have any ideas about who it could be? Well, the mystery is solved. It’s Charlie Goobie! Charlie actually still has his unicycle. He got it out of his attic and brought it in to Good Companions a couple of weeks ago. Although he didn’t take it for a ride, we were very impressed that he got on it and looked right at home! We couldn’t resist taking a “today” picture of him on the unicycle. Way to go Charlie!!



Church Information

Church Office Hours:

- ⌚ Tuesday to Friday from 9:00 am to 1:00 pm (Holiday days and times will vary)
- 📞 709-722-2382 (General office)
- 📞 709-699-3661 (Rev. David Sturtevant)
- ✉️ stdavids@nfld.com (messages are checked regularly!)

Pastoral Care

- 📞 For Pastoral Care please contact Rev. David Sturtevant at 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

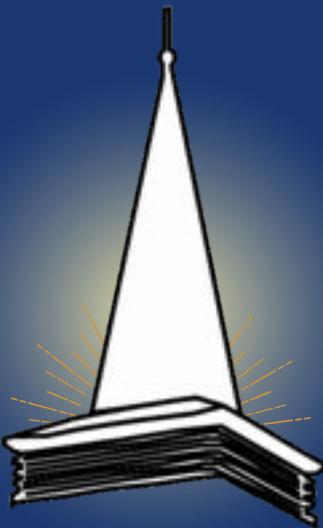
Session

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, Lisa Dooley, Aldrin Gain, Heather Steele Morrissey, Nnenna Odide Offia.



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