

MAY/JUNE EDITION

# News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



# News from the Pews

## THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

As the vibrant greens of late spring transition into the warmth of June, the pace of the world shifts. The arrival of the summer sun invites us to step out of the frantic rhythms of our daily routines and into a season of intentional observation.

In our Presbyterian tradition, we find grace revealed through the natural world. This "slowing down" is a spiritual practice; when we pause to notice the detail of a blooming garden or the quiet calm of a summer evening, we connect with the beauty around us.

Psalm 46:10 reminds us to "Be still, and know that I am God."

Summer provides the perfect backdrop for this stillness, allowing us to shed the rush of previous months and appreciate the world entrusted to our care.

May you have a restful and refreshing season as we enter these warmer summer months together.



98 Elizabeth Avenue



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



The  
Presbyterian  
Church  
in Canada

# Minister's Message

This coming month will see me away from St. David's for a good chunk of time. I have two conferences to attend on the mainland, a mentorship conference in Montreal at the end of May, and then the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in Canada in Toronto at the start of June. Rather than flying back for less than a week in between, Michelle and the boys will be joining me in Montreal and putting their french immersion skills to the test as we re-visit the bustling city where Michelle and I lived during my seminary days.

The Equip and Encourage conference, put on by the Presbyterian College, is an annual retreat aimed primarily at the members of their ongoing mentorship program, of which I am a part. I have monthly Zoom meetings with a small group of ministers from across Canada, where we share our joys and struggles in the work of ministry. This opportunity to meet in person, to share a beer in the college courtyard and kindle each other's passion for ministry, is as warming and welcome as the springtime heat of leaving our island in May.

The speakers at the conference and its workshops are excellent, with this year's keynote speaker being Rev. Austin Carty, an American minister and author of *The Pastor's Bookshelf: Why Reading Matters for Ministry*, which received the 2023 Christianity Today Award of Merit and was named Book of the Year by Preaching magazine. We discussed some of the arguments from his book in our mentorship group, and I am excited to listen and participate in the workshops!

# Minister's Message

Then, after Montreal, I will be heading to Ontario to celebrate my dad's retirement after 41 years teaching Physics and Electronics labs at Wilfrid Laurier University and then to the General Assembly in Toronto. This is the annual meeting of Presbyterians from all across Canada, with each presbytery sending a minister and an elder, so that decisions are made by an even mix of ministers and laity. There are always lots of first timers at General Assembly, which I find helps keep us grounded in discussion. More information, and the reports that will be discussed, can be found here: <https://presbyterian.ca/gao/ga2026/>

One of the key interests I will have going in to General Assembly will be looking at new models of ministry. St. David's is predicting another large deficit this year. St. Andrew's is as well, and has been vacant for years. With few new graduates from our theological colleges, applications have been very few and far between for their vacancy. We have enjoyed a number of joint services this year, with positive feedback, and the natural question for our two churches is "What's next?" How can we work together to strengthen Christ's church in St. John's? What models have worked well, and how can we prepare ourselves for needed change and find the courage to jump into it?

Please pray for me, and for our church. May we have eyes to see where God is leading us, and trust in God's plans for us into the future. May it be a time of refreshment, with joy to be found in the company of co-workers and enjoying the warmer parts of God's creation in May. Pray for my safety in my travels, and I will certainly be praying for you while I am away!

*Rev. David*

# Treasurer's Report

Spring is here! I had some hopes for a spring-like March and I expected to be happier with April – not so much. Now that everything is actually starting to grow, vines are budding and everything else is turning green, I am happy! The church's summer status looks likely.

May 3rd was a busy day for us. We shared the Sunday service with St. Andrew's and had our joint Coffee Hour afterwards. The AGM took place as scheduled after the Coffee Hour, starting just after 1 pm. From my perspective: we reviewed the 2026 budget, we passed the Presbyterian allocation of \$5,600, and passed a budget with a projected deficit of over \$68,000. Some items are delayed until June 14th.

On June 14th we will review and pass the auditor's Review Engagement Report for 2024 and the Review Engagement Report for 2025. I believe we were supposed to review the 2024 report in the fall of 2025 and that was not scheduled. I'm moving on with other treasurer activities, like completing the PCC Statistics Report due June 15th. The CRA's Charities Return scheduled to be completed by June 30th.

I'm being asked questions about the price of oil. We are on an automatic payment plan, running from December of one year to November of the next. In the 2023-24 year we had a credit balance of \$5,171.42 which I was able to persuade Irving to deposit into our checking account on Nov 18 2024. They also reduced our monthly payment from \$2,299 to \$2,036 to try to balance us out for 2024-25. Happily, in November 2025 we also had a \$3,111.50 CREDIT balance. Last year I did not go after Irving. I let it slide forward into the 2025-26 year. At the end of April 2026, our credit balance had turned into a debit balance of \$7,785.90. This was due to the long, cold, and windy winter and to the reduction in our monthly payment, almost \$300 from 2024-25. What are we going to do? I am going to start turning down the heat whenever and wherever possible. What will Nov 2025 bring? I'm not sure, but I do expect to have to pay Irving this year.

On a happier note, we have a grant for a summer student. Jill Bruneau and I am working on getting the job on the government's Student Job Bank. There are more opportunities for grants, I keep looking at various sources. Session has approved getting a grant writer should we need one. If you should come across any prospective grants, please contact me.

And finally, to all our good friends and supporters who give their time and enthusiasm to so many tasks, from fixing the tape on the pickleball court, checking on the lights, toilets and helping out with all our Church related activities - my heartfelt thanks!

*Anne Calver*

# Condolences

## **Funeral Service - Elizabeth Thistle (April 28, 2026)**

The funeral service for Elizabeth Thistle was held at St. David's on Tuesday, April 28th . Elizabeth passed away on October 13, 2025 at the age of 92. Elizabeth had lived in Corner Brook these last few years to be near her daughter, Margo (Noseworthy) and her family.

Elizabeth will be fondly remembered by many here at St. David's. She served on the Board of Managers for many years, was an enthusiastic member of the WA, and a longtime member of the choir. She supported and took a keen interest in all Church-related events and activities. Besides all that, she was a great friend to many and she will be deeply missed. Our thoughts are with the family at this time.

## **David Edgar Hodder**

The sympathy and prayers of the congregation are extended to the Hodder family on the passing of David Hodder, at the age of 78, on April 22, 2026. Dave had been a resident of Pleasant View Towers for many years.

Dave is fondly remembered by many for his work with the Cubs and Boy Scouts here at St. David's in the 1970's. Dave worked for CF(L)Co in Labrador for many years but always came to St. David's when he was in St. John's.

Dave was predeceased by his wife, Sandra Hodder (Williams); his parents, Francis and Harry Hodder, parents-in-law, Gwen and Victor Williams, and sister-in-law, Heather Williams.

Dave leaves behind his daughter, Christine Drachler (Martin), son Bill Hodder (Tara), six grand-children, his brother Bob (Cynthia), sister, Shirley Atkins, and a number of nieces and nephews and family and friends. Donations in Dave's honour can be made to the Shriners. The funeral was held at Carnell's Funeral Home on April 29th.



# *MUSIC IN THE HALL*

**Saturday, June 6th: “Trad Night”**

**Featuring Jim Payne & Fergus O’Byrne**

**We are excited to welcome back these two traditional music icons!**

**Thursday, July 16th: The Gosse Sisters**

**Featuring Sonya and Michelle Gosse**

**with Scott Mansfield with Music Director, Brian Way**

**These sisters are known throughout the province and beyond – they have spent their careers as educators and performers. This concert will be filled with contemporary favourites!**

**Thursday, August 13th: Classical in the Sanctuary**

**we are thrilled to welcome back David Pomeroy with special guest**

**Wendy Woodland, accompanied by Music Director Brian Way**



Isaak Bonnell, June 3rd  
June Bowden, June 4th  
Ian Bruneau, June 9th  
Joseph Craig, June 9th  
Anne Calver, June 9th  
Mila Pike, June 10th  
Marilyn Reardon, June 11th  
Steve Bruneau, June 12th  
Stewart Gillies, June 12th  
Ashley St. Croix, June 12th  
Grace O'Grady, June 13th

Bob Mallowney, June 13th  
Penny Gillies, June 19th  
Emily Hudson, June 24th  
Dave Carmichael, June 25th  
Violet Aylward, June 28th  
Janet Calver, June 29th  
Aubrey Bonnell, June 30th  
Don McKay, June 30th



**HAPPY  
BIRTHDAY**

*From St. David's*



HAPPY  
*Anniversary*

**Jean and Bob Mallowney**

Celebrating their 56th anniversary on June 12th

**Heather and Bob Patey**

Celebrating their 33rd wedding anniversary on June 12th

**Sarah and Wesley King**

Celebrating their 10th wedding anniversary on June 25th

# What's Happening

at St. David's

**MAY**

**17**

**11:00**

**AM**

## **SUNDAY SCHOOL**

Sunday School has started up again for the new year, 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!

**JUNE**

**07**

**11:00**

**AM**

Creche/Playroom

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

**JUNE**

**14**

**11:00**

**AM**

**JUNE**

**21**

**11:00**

**AM**

**MAY**

**17**

**12:00**

**PM**

## **AMS - ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY**

The AMS generally meet on the second Sunday of the month after the worship service in the Armour Room. Refreshments provided. This will be the last meeting until September 2026! Hope to see you there! Call Penny Gillies if there are any questions 709-728-8112

One of the ministries under the AMS “umbrella” is the Prayer Shawl Ministry ~ the Knitters group! If you know of someone who could use a visit and the gift of a prayer shawl, please do let us know. A member of the group will reach out to arrange a convenient time to drop by.

**MAY**

**20**

**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 join us on Wednesdays! (May 20, 27 & June 3, 10)

**MAY**

**21**

**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 21, 28 & June 4, 11 (End of season lunch).

**MAY**

**24**

**11:00**

**AM**

## **CONTEMPORARY SERVICE**

The Contemporary Service for May will be held on Sunday, May 24th 2026.

**MAY**

**26**

**12:00**

**PM**

## **WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)**

The next meeting of the WA will be held on Tuesday, May 26 2026 at noon in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events. 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**

**31**

**11:00**

**AM**

## **ST. DAVID'S & ST. ANDREW'S JOINT SERVICE**

You're warmly invited to the joint Worship Service as we gather together with our friends from St. Andrew's. This shared service will take place at St. Andrew's, offering a meaningful opportunity to come together in worship, fellowship, and community.

**JUNE**

**02**

**12:30**

**PM**

## **VOLUNTEER LUNCH**

Volunteers are selfless and do so much for our community! To thank you, we'll be holding a sit-down lunch beginning 12:30 pm. Please arrive by 12:00 pm! Thank you for your support this year.

**JUNE**

**11**

**12:30**

**PM**

## **GOOD COMPANIONS LUNCH**

Before we head off to enjoy the summer weather, join us for lunch! Good Companions will be hosting an end of season lunch to celebrate on June 11. Please arrive by noon, lunch will be served 12:30 pm!



### **News from the Pews Newsletter**

The News from the Pews Newsletter will be taking a short break over the summer months. We'll be releasing the next issue on June 15<sup>th</sup>, and kicking off Fall with our September issue.

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

Send your stories to [stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com) to be included in the mid-June edition. Hosting an event over the summer? Have big news to share? Or simply want to wish our congregation well over the warmer months? Let us know! Submissions are due to Heather on June 10th.

Thank you!

JUNE

13

12:30

PM

## PRESBYTERIAL GUEST SPEAKER

On Saturday, June 13th, the St. David's AMS are delighted to welcome The Rev. Lora Nafzinger. Jointly appointed by the Mennonite Mission Network and The Presbyterian Church in Canada, Rev. Lora is the Staff Care and Counselling Adviser for UMN in Nepal.

We invite everyone to come for a light supper/refreshments to hear her speak about her mission work in Kathmandu. In addition to this, her husband Mitch Rhodes, Expatriate Coordinator will be speaking along with their ten year old son about their life in Nepal. Q and A to follow. This is sure to be a fascinating presentation and blessed time of fellowship!

Please read Rev. Lora's bio:

"The Rev. Lora Nafzinger serves as Staff Care and Counselling Advisor with United Mission to Nepal (UMN), a faith-based international NGO that strives to help all Nepalis achieve a fuller life through medical and community development programs. Stationed in Kathmandu, Lora provides spiritual and emotional support to all expatriate UMN staff and key Nepali staff, encouraging personal and team growth. To this mission work in Nepal Lora brings her background as a clinical social worker and a pastor. Lora is jointly appointed by the Mennonite Mission Network and The Presbyterian Church in Canada."

# 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 2026, especially useful for Bridges to Hope – **Kraft Dinner, cloth bags, and can openers!**

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 – Monthly Update for April 2026:

Our food hampers were distributed to 1,708 people - which included 7.3% seniors and 35% children. For the BTH newsletter, go to <https://bridgestohope.ca> and choose “About Us”, and then the “Newsletter” to see their latest newsletter.

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

 <https://bridgestohope.ca/>



## **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!



## **Camp Geddie ~ Summer 2026**

Camp Geddie is now seeking staff for the 2026 summer season. We welcome anyone and everyone above the age of 16 to apply on the many positions being offered. It runs this year from July 2 until August 14. Campers may also register at this time according to the available specified dates and age group. For more information, please visit the website at [campgeddie.ca](http://campgeddie.ca). We are looking forward to an excellent summer experience of faith and fun for all involved.



## News from the Pews Newsletter

The News from the Pews Newsletter will be emailed out to the congregation on the 15th of each month. If you would like to receive a copy, please email or call the office and we will happily add you to the email list. If you would prefer to have one dropped off at your home, we can do that too!! It would be our pleasure!

The newsletter contains most of the regular announcements and notices that you receive every week, plus updates, stories and new features- often with pictures!! And we would love to read your stories and see your pictures, hear about special events, holidays, 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 [stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com](mailto:stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com)

Thank you!

# Message from the WA

Hello Ladies,

St. David's Women's Auxiliary is in **NEED** of new members to continue its work. We get together at Noon on the last Tuesday of each month for a light lunch, meeting and friendship hour. You don't have to attend our Church regularly or even be a member of the Church to join us. Also, if you aren't a baker or a cook, there are lots of other ways to help. Why not just come and make a new friend; we'd really like to see you.

We carry out various projects each year to raise money for improvements to the Church/Church Hall. These include hosting the Pancake Supper, Good Companions Lunches, Funeral Receptions, etc. We are always looking for new ideas and maybe you have some.

Over the last several years, our main fundraiser has been our monthly Bridge/Luncheons. These have been very successful and we have established a reputation for good food and a warm and welcoming atmosphere. If you're not available in person to help on that day, perhaps you'd consider making a pot of soup or a dessert for that event. Cookies, sandwiches are often required for functions so perhaps you could help there.

Please consider coming to our meetings or offering to help in some way. If you are interested, or require further information, please call the Church Office, (709) 722-2382 or one of the following:

**Janet Calver** Phone: (709) 745-1343 E-mail: [Janetlcalver@gmail.com](mailto:Janetlcalver@gmail.com)

**Lillian Crawford** Phone: (709) 754-2362/(709) 691-3057 E-mail: [lilliancrawford4@gmail.com](mailto:lilliancrawford4@gmail.com)

**Janet Aitken** Phone: (709) 726-1916 E-mail: [janet\\_aitken@hotmail.com](mailto:janet_aitken@hotmail.com)

We appreciate your support and look forward to hearing from you.

*P. S. From time to time, we need some strong men to set up table/chairs before a function, so check with your husbands, partners or sons to see if they would be willing to help as well.*

# Good News *from you*

## WA Hosted Bridge Party – April 14, 2026

The WA hosted their April Bridge Party on Tuesday, the 14th. 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 "platers", our kitchen staff and servers, and our dirty dishes cleanup team. You're amazing! We look forward to seeing you all again in May!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 14th.







## Good Companions – Afternoon Tea (April 23rd)

Our Good Companions always bring a lot of smiles and laughter to Thursday afternoons at the Church. It's a special time for them but an equally wonderful time for the volunteers who organize the afternoon activities. On the 23rd, we got to do a little something out-of-the-ordinary for our Good Companions – an afternoon tea! Normally, we set up the tea, coffee and little lunch for everyone in the Armour Room, but on the 23rd we took over the stage area, got out the white tablecloths and the good china cups and saucers, made sandwiches (no crusts allowed!) and topped it off with an assortment of homemade cookies and squares! It was a great bit of fun and everyone enjoyed themselves! But not to worry – everyone went back to their carpet bowling and bridge as soon as the Tea was finished!!




# 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 )
-  stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.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](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 Lisa Dooley  
Aldrin Gain Heather Steele Morrissey Nnenna Odide Offia



# News from the Pews


THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF  
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

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

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

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

 stdavidsstjohns

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