

OCTOBER 2026

News from the Pews

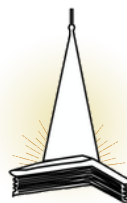
THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



News from the Pews

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ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH



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<https://presbyterian.ca/>

Minister's Message



One of the images that Jesus uses often is the image of seeds being sown and plants growing from them. Jesus often drew on natural processes, familiar to everyone who was listening, to display wisdom and teach underlying narratives and patterns to trust in.

"Very truly I tell you" Jesus says in John 12, "unless a kernel of wheat falls to the ground and dies, it remains only a single seed. But if it dies, it produces many seeds. Anyone who loves their life will lose it, while anyone who hates their life in this world will keep it for eternal life."

We all go through patterns of death and rebirth in our lives; moving from your house to a new place to live, your children being born or leaving home, changing jobs or careers, or friends moving away. So many of these changes feel difficult, especially in the before times, when they are looming. A seed clinging to its plant has never fallen before, much less been buried and cracked open! But for all of us, our lives are full of these plunges, where the safety of the familiar is released and we go tumbling forward into the future.

1: A sunflower with a special guest.

I was in a field of sunflowers out at Lester's farm this month with my family, looking at all the flowers bent and heavy with rich seeds. I took a picture of the biggest one I could find, larger than a dinner plate, enough seeds to fill a whole family-size snack bag from the single flower. The stalks of many plants could barely take the strain, and many plants had become a bit tangled, leaning on each other haphazardly for support. They never could have grown so big if they had been by themselves in an empty field! The wind would have them beaten down like juniper, tiny and scraggly if it could even survive.



Give thanks to those who have held you up and helped you every step of the way. Say thank you to those who have supported you in your growth and who you have leaned on. It is not good for us to be alone. Giving thanks to others for every bit of support is a spiritual exercise that makes us stronger and more fit for the days ahead.

And give thanks to God, for the new life that started when you were at your lowest point, buried and cracked. For the changes that have come in your life to bring you to this point, the unimaginable directions your life has gone and the unexpected new beginnings that have brightened your year.

Here, is a prayer for *you*

Thank you God, for the new life I've received.

I never could have imagined how things have turned out, but you have guided me here.

Thank you for all the people in my community who support my day in so many ways: essential workers, tradespeople, volunteers and kind neighbours.

Thank you for your promise that you will always watch out for me and restore me even when the way ahead seems deep and dark.

*Give me opportunities to be fruitful, and I will praise you.
Amen.*

Rev. David

MINISTER AT ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN



Treasurer's Report

Message for News from the Pews October 2026

Thanksgiving is upon us and we do have plenty of things for which we are thankful. We have a wonderful active group of ladies who take care of a multitude of things, the WA. They are already looking forward to our Christmas hampers and which items are on special now. We have a team of "doers", people who set up for our various groups or events and also do the take-down after our events. What can I say about our super shoppers who travel to multiple stores getting everything from those excellent "bridge buns", to cleaning supplies for Chuckwudi, to the cheap milk and cream on Seniors's day at Shoppers. The list goes on and on. Thanks to everyone.

Our church groups have started up again. Thursdays are a lively time with the dedicated bridge players and the enthusiastic bowlers enjoying their time together and of course, a snack, goodies and tea. Sunday School is back and when possible, on nice days the children get a chance to go outdoors and for more activities. Welcome back to all our groups!

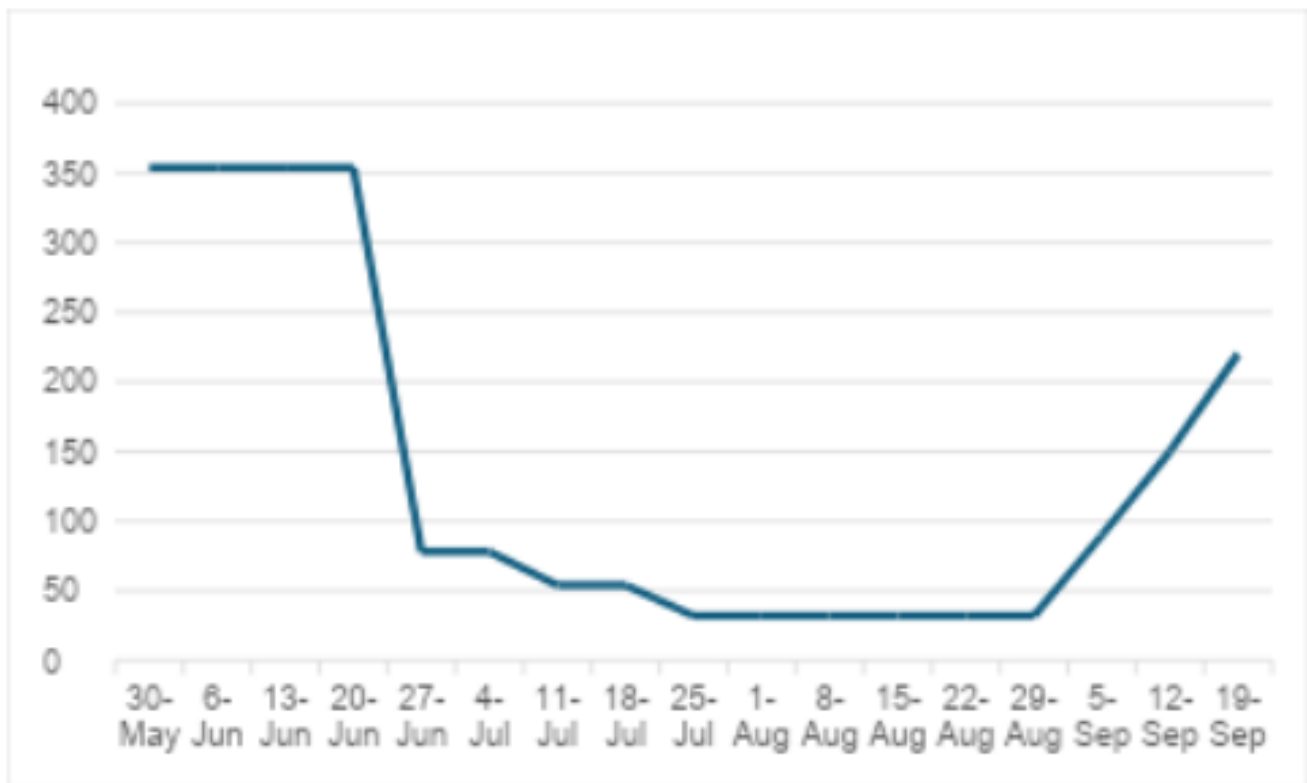
We also have our regular renters, who have been with us for many years, the TSO, NHS, Floral Arts, and SoundBone to name just a couple. It is nice to see our spaces being well used by such a wide variety of people and activities. Welcome back to all our rental groups!

Each time I drop by the church, the first thing I check out is the sign and what it's saying to us and about us. From sermons to food drives to concerts, it's saying we are a vibrant welcoming place.

I'm slowly working up to the fuel bill. There is a saying about something throwing a spanner in the works. That may well be November's Irving invoice which will be mailed out on November 1st. Or not. I'm currently going after our HST rebates, any remaining monies owed us from the employment of a summer student (any outstanding balance plus, as a not-for profit, we get back our component of the CPP and EI) and looking hopefully at all other options.

The unfortunate part is we have no control over the price of fuel, however we can ensure we're saving when and where we can. While I seemed to have really turned the heat off during the summer, it's now mostly back on again for the Fall. Our fuel bills tell the tale of what happened over the summer.





This graph shows weekly usage from May 30th to September 19th, with help from Heather who opened our October 1st bill and called out the latest September usage. I am somewhat confident that we will owe roughly \$6,800 on November 1st. Which is a lot better than I had projected.

I reiterate, we are renown as being a friendly, **warm**, and welcoming congregation and our heating bill certainly attests to the warmth people find at St. David's!

And finally, to all our good friends and supporters who give their time and enthusiasm to so many tasks, both indoor and out and to those who support us through their offerings on Sunday or through the PAD - my heartfelt thanks!

Anne Calver
TREASURER

Happy Birthday



November 2026



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

Steeley Ellis November 1	Timothy Bruneau November 12	Jane Lowery November 19	Nicole Myles November 25
Sophie Bailey November 3	Deborah Offia November 12	Karen Bonnell November 19	Josh Quinton November 28
Susan St. Croix November 3	Doug Barnes November 16	David Hudson November 21	Drayton Froude November 30
Samantha Bruneau November 12	Blake Rudofsky November 18	Dini denOtter November 24	Robert Patey November 30

Happy Anniversary



November 2026



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

Janet and Paul Aitken
55th Anniversary
November 6

Jane and John Green
60th Anniversary
November 19

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*

October 2026

Bible Study

1:00 PM –
2:30 PM

Our weekly Bible Study meets on Wednesdays in the Armour Room from 1:00 to 2:30pm (or so!). Come join our informal journey through the Bible. All are welcome, no experience is required.

Good Companions

2:00 PM –
4:00 PM

Good Companions meet Thursday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00pm. The Good Companions are 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! All are welcome!

Pop-up Choir

9:30 AM

Pop-up choir will meet on **October 18th at St. Andrew's** (Glenn Cafe leading the music, if you're interested in joining the choir practice will begin 10:00 am prior to the service). In November, please plan to meet Brian for rehearsal at 9:30am in the Sanctuary. There will be a short break at 10:40am, followed by the worship service from 11:00am to 12:00 noon.

Fall schedule:

Sunday, November 15th
Sunday, December – TBA

Women's Auxiliary

12:00 PM

Our monthly Lunch/Bridge is on **Tuesday, October 20th**. Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance, \$20 per person. **The next meeting of the WA will be held on Tuesday, October 27th 2026 at noon** in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the November Bridge Party. 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.



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Contemporary Service

11:00 AM

Our contemporary services will take place on **Sunday, October 25th** and Sunday, November 29th. Contemporary services take place each month, on the fourth Sunday.

Joint Service

11:00 AM

Joint services with our sister church, The Kirk have resumed for the Fall. We come together for the 11am worship service followed by a time of fellowship over tea, coffee and sweets in the Halls of our churches!

Fall schedule:

October 18th at St. Andrew's (*Glenn Cafe leading the music, if you're interested in joining the choir practice will begin 10:00 am prior to the service.*)

November 22nd at St. David's

December 13th at St. Andrew's: this one will be a joint Christmas Pageant!

Pickleball

2:00 PM-
4:00PM

Our informal Pickle Ball has started for the season. It takes place in our Hall on Wednesday afternoons from 2:00 to 4:00pm. You are invited to join us to find out more!

Prayer Shawl

10:00 AM

The Prayer Shawl Knitters will be holding their next meeting on **Tuesday, November 3rd** 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.

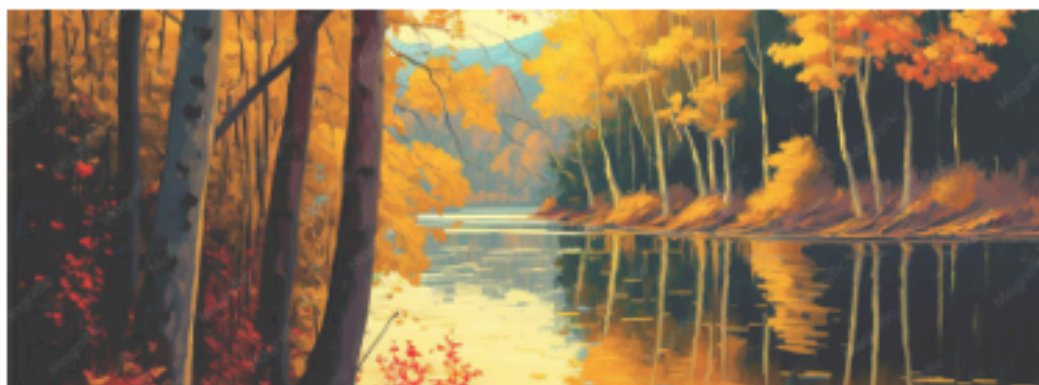
Atlantic Mission Society (AMS)

12:00 PM

AMS generally meet on a Sunday after the worship service 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! If you have any questions, please call the office for Penny Gillies or Kathy McKay's contact information.



Sunday School FALL SCHEDULE



SEPT 27

Joint Service at St. David's

Food Drive for Bridges to Hope

Lesson: **Adoration** - Enjoying God in our everyday lives

OCT 4

Communion Sunday

Start of SOCKTOBER - Donate clean socks

Lesson: **Confession**

OCT 11

Lesson: **Thanksgiving**

OCT 18

Joint Service at St. Andrew's

OCT 25

Michelle is away

Lesson: **Thanksgiving (Part 2)**

NOV 1

Lesson: **Supplication (Part 1)**

NOV 8

Lesson: **Supplication (Part 2)**

NOV 15

Lesson: **Intercession**

NOV 22

Lesson: **Baking for Bridges to Hope**

Happenings Around the Church

BY JANET CALVER



1: The new bus shelter progress
1: Building the shed
3: The final shed product!

Update on Bus Shelter

Last month, Steve Bruneau was telling us about all the good things that happened around the Ada Barnes House over the summer and the discussions with Metrobus and the City of St. John's to install a bus shelter in front of our Church. Well, good news! An agreement has been reached with the City and Metrobus and work has started already. Check out the concrete slab that now marks the spot where the bus shelter will go. Stay tuned for more updates!

New Shed

If you have entered the Church via the Tower Door, you may have noticed something new tucked away in the little nook. Yup, its a shed! The shed will be used to store seasonal items – snow shovels and salt for the Winter and rakes, watering equipment, brooms, etc. for the rest of the year. Many thanks to David and Ed for putting the shed together and to Ed for coming back afterwards and building and attaching a great platform for the shed! ■





A Souper Bridge Party

SUBMITTED BY
JANET CALVER

On September 22nd, the WA hosted the first Bridge Party since our summer break. As usual, we had an enthusiastic group of bridge players who came for lunch (a selection of homemade soups and delectable desserts) and then stayed to enjoy an afternoon of playing their favourite game. For some, it had been nearly two months since they had all been together, so there was much excitement in the air! It was wonderful to see everyone again and to meet some new players! All in all, it was a fun afternoon with much laughter and chatting. The next bridge party will be on **October 20, 2026!**

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. We couldn't do it without you! Thank-you all!

It takes a lot of work behind the scenes to make this event a success – so cheers to all our worker-bees, some of whom you'll see in the pictures! ■



Food Drive Success

Providing warmth, and gratitude



1

1: Food drive table in the sanctuary

SUBMITTED BY JANET CALVER

On Sunday, September 27, the congregations of St. David's and St. Andrew's joined forces for a Food Drive at the joint service held at St. David's. The Food Drive was part of the Bridges to Hope "Take Action On Hunger" campaign. It was a tremendous success! There was an array of items donated – fresh produce, rice and pasta, cereals, flour and sugar, lots of items suitable for kids' snacks and a lot of personal care items – and yes, cat and dog food! A tap machine was also set up in the Hall for those who wanted to contribute financially.

Many thanks to all who contributed to the success of this campaign. Your kindness and generosity means so much! ■



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Music in the Hall

September Concert Series



1: Dominic, Theo and Brian

SUBMITTED BY JANET CALVER

Our September Music in the Hall concert was a very special concert in many ways. We were delighted to have Theo Weber and Dominic Greene as our guest performers. For those among us who have been regular attendees at the Newfoundland Symphony Orchestra (NSO), Dominic Greene and Theo Weber are two names that you immediately recognize. Dominic is a well established and very accomplished violinist with the NSO and other ensembles. Theo Weber was principal cello for the NSO for many years and earned stellar reviews for his musicianship and musical interpretation. So it was a rare treat to have Dominic, Theo and Brian together for one of the most beautiful instrumental concerts to grace our sanctuary. It was a magical evening. A big Thank-you to Brian for making this possible and for all the work he does to make these concerts such a success.

By the way, did you know that this was the first time in six years that Theo had performed in front of a live audience? We hope he felt at home with us and that he and Dominic come again soon! ■

Groups and Events

If you have an event coming up or information to share, let us know.



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. 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/>



Sunday Coffee Hour Volunteers

This time of fellowship is so important to provide every Sunday and we can't thank our volunteers enough for your efforts - they go above and beyond! The October sign up schedule is now available in the kitchen.

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!

If you have a spare Sunday to help out just let the kitchen helpers know and we will walk you through it!

Thank you!



Reduce, Reuse, Recycle

Do you recycle your beverage containers? At St. David's, we do!

Throughout the year, the church, and some congregation members, drop off recyclables and donate the proceeds to St. David's. At the end of the year, the account is cleared and the amount divided equally between St. David's Women's Auxiliary and St. David's AMS. This year, the AMS will donate their proceeds to their latest project, PWH20-01, "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene".

Would you like to help us? Here's how:

- Drop off your recyclables at one of the recycling depots, enter the church's phone number (722-2382) on the monitor, and that's it!
- If you go into the depot counter, just tell them you'd like to donate the recycling to St. David's Church. They'll take care of the rest!

"Without water drops, there can be no oceans; without steps, there can be no stairs; without little things, there can be no big things!"



Socktober

With your help St. David's AMS is ready for Socktober again! October is when the Sanctuary becomes festooned with socks and personal care items, which are then donated to those in need.

We will also be collecting "lovingly used" **Winter Coats**. Please ensure that all closures; zippers, snaps, buttons, etc. are in good working order. A coat rack is set up in the reception area just outside the offices for the collection of donated coats.

Thank you very much to all those who have donated already or plan to donate. Your donation, no matter how big or small, removes a barrier for others who are navigating challenges some of us may never experience.



Monday Muffin Baking is Back!

The plan is to meet on Monday afternoons to bake muffins for distribution to Bridges To Hope clients. Cookies, fancy biscuits and other baked treats can be expensive and aren't always considered when people donate to the Food Pantry. But everyone deserves a little treat, so we're hoping to add something sweet to the mix!

This is a simple, affordable project that won't take up too much time. We'll need just three or four people to prepare, bake and package the muffins, with the whole process taking only a couple of hours. To get started, we'll use muffin mix provided by Bridges To Hope, with the hope of expanding our offerings to include other sweet treats, like cookies!

While bran muffins are lovely, a little variety would be welcome! Donations of chocolate chips, raisins, berries and other tasty additions would be greatly appreciated. Several people have already offered to donate supplies or money to help purchase ingredients.

Interested in getting involved? Whether you'd like to lend a hand, donate ingredients or contribute toward supplies, please share your name with Heather in the Church Office, Janet Aitken, Lillian Crawford or Janet Calver. The best-case scenario? Enough volunteers to create rotating teams, allowing us to bake more often and perhaps even keep muffins and other treats on hand for special events. It's a small project that could make a sweet difference!





Music in the Hall

The last two concerts in our “Music in the Hall Concert Series” will move back to our beautiful Sanctuary.

To reserve your tickets, you can contact the main office by calling **709-722-2382** or by emailing **musicinthehall250@gmail.com**. Tickets remain the same at \$25 per person. The performance will begin 8:00 pm, with doors opening at 7:30pm.

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

Here is the schedule for the remaining concerts in the series:

Sunday, November 22nd: Gospel in the Sanctuary featuring Darrin Martin & Jonathan Parsons with Music Director Brian Way. An encore performance of our uplifting gospel concert!

Saturday, December 12th: “On a Winter’s Night” (Sanctuary) Shelley Neville & Bob MacDonald with Scott Mansfield and Music Director Brian Way. We are beyond delighted to celebrate these four performers and musicians in our 4th annual Christmas Concert!

Church Information

Questions, have an idea, or need assistance? Contact us!

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 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

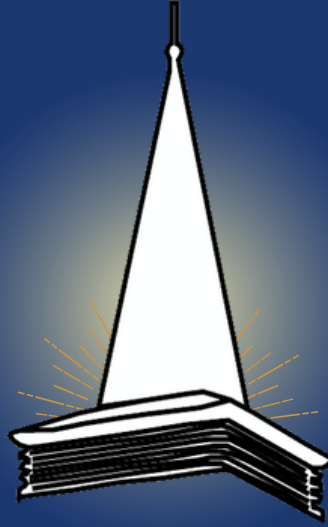
Board of Managers:

Jill Bruneau Anne Calver Lisa Dooley
Aldrin Gain Heather Steele Morrissey Nnenna Odide Offia



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Want to share your news in the next edition?
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