

FEBRUARY/MARCH EDITION

News from the Pews

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF
ST. DAVID'S PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

1775-2025



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Welcome to the News from the Pews Newsletter!

February and March arrive like twin lanterns in the long stretch of winter. One glows with the warmth of connection. The other hints at thaw, renewal, and the quiet promise of spring.

As we move through these weeks together, we find ourselves in a season that invites both reflection and anticipation. The days are still short, yet the light lingers a little longer each evening. There is something sacred about that slow return. It reminds us that even when growth is hidden beneath frost, it is still unfolding.

In February, we celebrate love in all its forms: the steadfast love of God, the care we offer one another, and the small kindnesses that shape our community. In March, we begin to notice the first signs of new life. Lent also invites us inward, calling us to pause, to pray, and to prepare our hearts with intention.

May this season draw you closer to God's steady presence. May it renew your spirit. And may the light returning outside our windows be a gentle echo of the light growing within.



98 Elizabeth Avenue



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



The
Presbyterian
Church
in Canada

Minister's Message

***"Where there is strife, there is pride,
but wisdom is found in those who take advice."***

(Proverbs 13:10)

As the years go by, I am increasingly convinced that the Church has an important role to play in our world today. The news feels dark, and I am shaken to speak to people who have lived through great wars and crises and still shake their heads and say "It's never been like this before". The internet, hoped to be a tool for unity and the free exchange of information, is shaping our world in ways that feel more divided and less informed than ever before. Young people do not want to start families for fear of the world their children would be born into. Democracy is cracking, to the thunderous applause of those who have everything to lose. It is my opinion that even people without a single church-going bone in their bodies would agree that we are living in a time of what can only be called a spiritual crisis, greater than any single politician or issue. The storm is beating against the house, and we are terrified the very foundations will be washed away and it will all come crashing down.

Jesus commands us to love our enemies and pray for those who persecute us. Every day, I feel more and more strongly how countercultural that concept is becoming. The lies of the Enemy tell us that to be safe we must dig in, harden ourselves, and allow no dissent. But where there is no second-guessing, there can be no repentance. Our hard hearts must be broken if we are to live, and we are called to rise up and follow away, not build fortifications and defend them.

When we come to church, we come in humility to accept that we are small. We come to kneel (figuratively at least, lest some of our elderly find themselves stuck down there). We come to learn and to repent. We come to be changed. How important that pattern is for the human soul!

Minister's Message

We are now preparing to enter into the church season of Lent, a time of self-imposed austerity and fasting, of choosing humility instead of what is rightfully ours. May it be a fast of the heart! Even if our enemies deserve hatred, let us fast from it. May we fast from vindication and from smug victory. May we accept the humiliation of saying nothing, as Christ did in his trial, and accept that suffering for ourselves.

For victory belongs to the Lord, yesterday, today, and forever. The last will be first, and the first will be last. In reality, love is stronger than hate. That's been our message for 250 years and beyond, and the darker things get the brighter it shines to me.

Do not be afraid. Keep the faith, love the unlovable, and trust in God. The best is yet to come, and humility will bring us there.

Your brother,
Rev. David Sturtevant
Minister at St. David's Presbyterian
Cell: (709) 699-3661
Church: (709) 722-238



*Making
Space for*

Grace

Seeking wisdom,
balancing care for our
church family with love
for our neighbours.

This month at St. David's, we are asking for congregational involvement as we consider the opportunity to become host to the Jimmy Pratt Memorial Outreach's 2-Meal program, which prepares and serves a hot Monday breakfast and Friday lunch to those in need in our community. Currently operating out of the now-closed George Street United church, their facilities can no longer support them and they are only able to hand boxed meals out through a window. The program comes with their own volunteers and finances, but needs a warm hall and kitchen facilities to feed the hungry of St. John's with dignity and compassion. We have a beautiful hall and a commercial kitchen.

The Elders of our church are working hard, together with the Jimmy Pratt memorial team, to determine how God is calling us to serve our neighbours in Christian love. The path forward is one we must discern prayerfully, with due concern for our existing community and programs, balanced with a fierce determination to follow where God leads us.

Come join us this month in worship as Rev. David's sermons turn us to the Bible to ask how we ought to discern on this matter and how these lessons may apply to the other parts of our lives as well. The path forward is not clear-cut; pray for us as we consider what our options may be and listen in humility for God's voice speaking in new ways.

Happy Birthday



Kyle Sampson,
March 2nd

Sarah King,
March 3rd

Judy Woolridge,
March 4th

Daley Johnson,
March 5th

Brian Gamberg,
March 5th

Gracie Wood,
March 7th

Katherine Hancock,
March 9th

Kathy McKay,
March 10th

Pearle Clouston,
March 11th

Jean Mallowney,
March 12th

Ian Steneker,
March 12th

Rev. David Sturtevant,
March 13th

Daley Johnson,
March 15th

Miraero Shin,
March 15th

Sylvia Hudson,
March 18th

Jana Kearsey,
March 27th

Sheena Findlay,
March 29th

Max Burness,
March 29th

Olive Goobie,
March 30th

Brian Way,
March 31st

What's Happening

at St. David's

SUNDAY SCHOOL

FEB
22
11:00
AM

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!

MAR
01
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.

MAR
08
11:00
AM

MAR
15
11:00
AM

What's Happening

at St. David's

FEB

18

1:00

PM

BIBLE STUDY

Our weekly Bible Study has starting back up for the season. 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. Wednesday afternoons at 1pm (February 8,25 & March 4,11,18,25)

FEB

18

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! (February 18,25 & March 4,11,18,25)

FEB

19

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! (February 19,26 & March 5,12,19,26)

FEB
22
11:00
AM

CONTEMPORARY SERVICE

The Contemporary Service for will be held on Sunday, February 22nd 2026.

FEB
24
12:00
PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY)

The next meeting of the WA will be held on Tuesday, February 24th 2026 at noon in the Armour Room to discuss and plan upcoming events, including the March 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.

MAR
01
11:00
AM

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

Both congregations will meet at St. Andrew's for worship at 11:00 am followed by Coffee Hour in their Hall.

The address for St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church: 76 Queen's Rd. (at Long's Hill), St. John's, NL - 709-726-5385

MAR

01

12:00

PM

AMS – ATLANTIC MISSION SOCIETY

The AMS generally meet on the first Sunday of the month 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!

Call Penny Gillies if there are any questions
700-728-8112

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.

MAR

03

10:00

AM

PRAYER SHAWL KNITTERS

The Prayer Shawl Knitters next meeting will be on Tuesday, March 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.

MAR

10

12:00

PM

WA (WOMEN'S AUXILIARY) LUNCH/BRIDGE

Our monthly Lunch/Bridge for March will be held on Tuesday, the 10th. Tables of four (4) must be booked in advance.

Cost - \$20.00 per person. Please contact Lillian Crawford or the church office if you are interested.

MAR

15

9:30

AM

POP-UP CHOIR CALL

The Pop-Up Choir takes place on the third Sunday of the month. Should you be available and interested in giving of your time and voices, or know of anyone who enjoys singing, you would be very welcome to join the Pop-Up Choir.

On Pop-up Choir Sunday, 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.

Thanks for your time,

Brian

Schedule for Winter/Spring:

March 15th

April 19th

May TBD

MAR

29

11:00

AM

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

Both congregations will meet at St. David's for worship at 11:00 am followed by Coffee Hour in our Hall.

MAR
TBD
2:00
PM

SOCIAL SATURDAY

Social Saturday will not be taking place on February 21st, however please consider coming to our next social Saturday - announcement to be made soon.

You and your family and friends are welcome to spend time in your Hall to 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 pickle ball, carpet bowling, or corn-hole toss!
- Get a crew together to bake muffins for the food bank! (Or sweets for Sunday coffee hour!)

Are you looking for new members to join your group(s), or simply looking to promote an event that would be of interest to our congregation?

Let us know! Email your information to stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com by March 10th, 2026 to be included in the next edition of News from the Pews.

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 February 2026, especially useful for Bridges to Hope – **1 litre containers of Juice 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 January 2026:

Our food hampers were distributed to 1526 people - which included 135 seniors and 515 children. For the BTH newsletter, please visit 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/>

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



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

Thank you!



Music in the Hall

The Music in the Hall concert series is on hiatus until mid-late Spring 2026.

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

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

Janet Aitken Phone: (709) 726-1916 E-mail: 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 – January 13, 2026

The WA hosted the first Bridge Party for 2026 on January 13th. The weather was on our side - cold but sunny – and our guests were looking forward to lunch and bridge. Once again, our team of helpers ensured everyone had a warm welcome and a fun-filled afternoon. The soups and desserts were yummy – as usual! It wasn't long before lunch was finished, the tables cleared of dishes and the cards came out. It was a great afternoon of fun and friendship!

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. We look forward to seeing you all again in February!

Here are just a few of the pictures from the 13th.



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
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

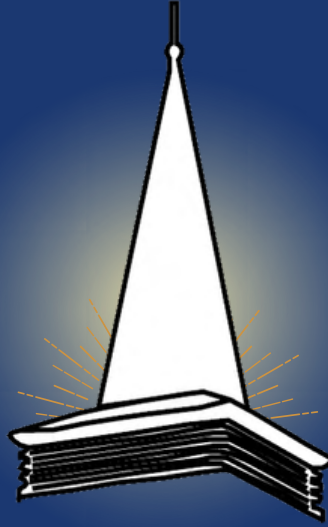
Session

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?
Contact us!

 stdavidsinstjohns@gmail.com

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