



News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Easter 2024 Newsletter

Holy Week

The Sunday of Passion: Palm Sunday, March 24, 10:30 am

Maundy Thursday March 28, 7:00 pm

Holy Communion with Stripping of the Altar. Prayer Watch - time to pray - to "keep watch with Jesus" - after the service to 10:00 pm (come & go as you'd like - whenever and for however long)

Good Friday, March 29, 12:00 pm

Celebration of our Lords Passion

The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

Sunday March 31, 10:30am

Holy Communion

Regular Service Times

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Phone: (506)635-8145 (Office open Tue-Fri 9-Noon)

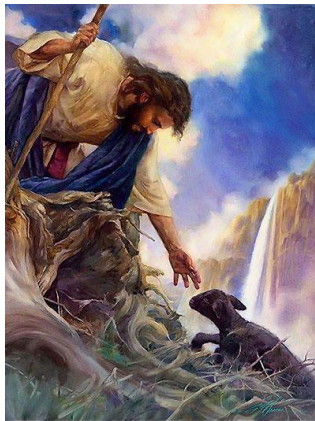
Email: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca

facebook "Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB"

Website: www.goodshepherdsj.ca



We acknowledge that the land on which we gather is the traditional unceded territory of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq Peoples.



THE CHURCH OF THE GOOD SHEPHERD

Good Friday and Easter 2024



Dear people of the Good Shepherd ~

The journey of Lent began on Ash Wednesday and ends on Easter Day. This time for spiritual refreshment actually comes to a proper end not just with Easter Day, but also with that best of days, Good Friday. You simply cannot have Easter without Good Friday. If there is no death, then there is no resurrection.

The salvation of the world burst out onto that world on the day of Christ's rising from the dead. But the victory of that salvation was won, with blood, sweat and tears, on the cross. The resurrection makes that saving work of God available to all who put their trust in Christ. It pours that love into all who would receive it. The real symbol of the resurrection is not the so-called 'empty' cross, but rather the very empty tomb. The 'full' cross of Good Friday, full of the broken body of Christ, expresses the astonishing healing, forgiving love of God. This cross is inseparable from the empty tomb.

The two images above attempt to display this truth, this reality. An artist friend of mine once tried to draw them. He told me that they were some of the hardest things to draw. They are not just another figure on a cross, nor another vacated hewn piece of rock.



They are the very depths of God's heart revealed to the world. Their message - too deep, too immense, too complete and holy - are impossible to convey with a mere drawing or two. Yet, to the degree that we can perceive it, they convey the very yearning of God towards this world.

Let us know the incredible 'goodness' of Good Friday and the awesome freedom of Easter Day, now, and throughout the whole of 2024, and especially in these days of world-wide uncertainty militarily, environmentally, and socially. May we know and share this incomparable hope in God's love and light for the sake of the whole world.

The glory of Good Friday and the joy of Easter Day bless you richly, now, and always,

Keith Joyce

Fr Keith Joyce
Interim priest-in-charge

Our Dearly Departed

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them. Amen

Norman Keating, February 14, 2024

Ruth Henderson, March 8, 2024



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Church of the Good Shepherd, Parish of Lancaster was held on Sunday February 25 after a delicious, bagged lunch. With 46 parishioners in attendance the annual report was reviewed and discussed, vestry members were voted in and delegates to the Synod were selected. Special thanks to Fr Keith Joyce for officiating, Terry Ricketts for taking minutes, all those who provided reports, those who provided the lunch and all those who attended.

Vestry Members 2024

Susan Jack	Warden, Building/Housekeeping & Safety
Terry Ricketts	Warden, Mission & Outreach, Hospitality
Heather Masson	Vestry Clerk, Worship
Jeff Maker	Treasurer
Janet Brown	Mission & Outreach, Communications
Don Cormier	Building & Maintenance
Shayne Galbraith	Building & Maintenance
Beverly Janes	Christian Education
Barry McQueen	Building & Maintenance

Synod Delegates

Susan Jack	Synod Delegate
Beverly Janes	Synod Delegate
Ann Stone	Synod Alternates
Patti Vaughan	Synod Alternates

Please support these parishioners who have offered to serve our congregation and prayerfully consider if you are called to one of these roles in the future.



PAC Report

The PAC (Parish Advisory Council) is responsible for finding a new incumbent (priest and rector) for our parish. It is comprised of Wardens Terry Ricketts and Susan Jack as well as Barry McQueen, Jeff Maker and Beverly Janes.

The process to date has included:

- Assessing our priorities by asking for input from everyone.
- Meeting with Arch Deacon Leo Martin.
- Updating our Parish Profile which is used by prospective candidates to get a feel for who we are and who we are looking for.
- Meeting with Archbishop David Edwards who has told us that there has not been a lot of clergy movement over the last year, but he is expecting more in the next little while.
- Talking with Father Keith about his willingness to stay with us over the next 12 months to continue to grow our faith and numbers. Father Keith and Elinor have graciously agreed to do so.

Next Steps:

- Forecast our income and expenses for the next several years to assure ourselves that we can afford a full-time priest and rector. Conversely, can we afford **not** to have a full-time incumbent? Our future as a parish depends on it.
- Wait (patiently) for the right person to come forward who can inspire and lead us into our future.

What can you do?

- Pray for the work of the PAC. Pray they are able to discern the person that our parish needs to lead us in our ministries on the West Side of Saint John.
- Pray for Father Keith and Elinor and their ministries here in the Parish of Lancaster.



Volunteers Needed

Several groups and outreach projects are still looking for volunteers. Please ask yourself how you can be of service to others through our church.

Altar Guild

A donation to the Altar Guild helped in purchasing a new purple superfrontal for the altar. The superfrontal will be put into use as soon as some alterations are made.



The guild would also like to acknowledge and thank David and Joyce Mitchell for the donation of a fabric steamer.

The Altar Guild is pleased to welcome new members Marilyn Galbraith, Wendy Maxwell, Susan Dole, Patti Vaughan and Carol Patterson. If you are interested in joining this important ministry, please speak to Sharon Titus.



The joys of worship - reading scripture in worship by Fr Keith

At the heart of our worship is not the worshippers but the One being worshipped, namely God: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. We gather for worship to *give ourselves* to God in praise and adoration. We are also to *give* Him open hearts and minds willing to receive from God His grace in Word and Sacrament.



Significantly, the reading and listening to the scriptures is vitally important. The role, not only of Layreader, but also of the congregational reader, who usually reads the Second Reading every Sunday, is significant, and actually a privilege. This is because they are not merely reading words from an ordinary book but are reading the very written word of God. Their 'job' is not simply to come up and read quickly the reading of the day, but rather to read thoughtfully what God has to say to His people through that written word.

Yet, it is not a solo endeavour. The people hearing the reading are to listen and receive that word of God attentively and caringly. Both reader and listener are intentional and active in the public reading of God's word contained in the scriptures. The reader is not just sounding out the words on a page but is declaring a message from God. The listener is not merely hearing words being read but is to be listening with heart and mind to this message from God.



On the practical side, in order to help the scripture passage stand out when it comes time for a reading to be offered, I've asked readers to pause briefly after announcing the reading and before starting to read. Likewise, when the reading is finished, readers are to have a definite pause before saying: "Hear God's word for God's people", or "The Gospel of Christ". And I have very much appreciated the fine efforts made by our readers to put this into practice. With that, I want to say thank you very much to all who do take a turn in reading in our times of worship. That's not only on Sunday, but also at other occasions of worship, since as Anglicans, we are not a 'Sunday only' worshipping congregation.

LIFT

Lift continues to meet on the second Thursday of the month at our new time of 2pm in the small hall. We have been blessed with a couple of new members.

In January LIFT voted to send donations to Saint Rose School, Barnhill Memorial School, and Coverdale Centre for Women. The ladies also created some wonderful Valentines Cards which were sent to some of our congregants and were also available to the congregation for distribution.



Our February fundraiser, the Bakeless Bakesale, was a success once again. Money raised from this year's fundraiser will be used to support the Harbourview Lunch Program.

The ladies of LIFT thank you for your continued support. It is both heartwarming and uplifting the way you embrace and sustain our mission work.

The ladies are currently working on an Easter surprise for the congregation. 😊



PLINK, PLONK, PLINK

By David Mitchell

Nicki Gumbel, the founder of Alpha tells this story.

Lord Radstock was staying in a hotel in Norway in the mid-nineteenth century. He heard a little child playing the piano downstairs in the hallway. She was making a terrible noise: "Plink... plonk... plink..." It was driving him mad! A man came and sat beside her and began playing alongside her, filling in the gaps. The result was the most beautiful music. He later discovered that the man playing alongside was the girl's father, Alexander Borodin, composer of the opera, PRINCE IGOR. God calls you into a relationship that involves cooperation with Him. The Christian faith is about what God has done for you in Christ. However, we are not mere spectators. We are called to respond.

Here's a question for you: when it's time to worship God in song during our Sunday morning worship, do you hit the mute button? Are you afraid that God or the people around you will be offended by your singing? Come on, admit it; I know many of you have said as much to me. If you answered yes to either of the above here are three more questions for you:

1. Does God actually judge our singing on the quality of our vocal production, or does He listen for something else?
2. Does God excuse any of us from singing His praises? Do some of us have 'non-participation cards?'
3. Does it really matter what the people around you think? And where is THEIR focus if they are judging you?

*NB. Answers to these questions by those who provide music leadership will of necessity be more nuanced.



Quick answer:

God wants us ALL to be contributors, not just consumers during our worship services. He wants to take your “Plink ... plonk ...plink ... ” and make something beautiful out of it. Our part is to be all in - heart first and then voice.

In my next column we will explore what Holy Scripture and great hymn writers have to say about our singing.

Have a blessed Easter season.

WORSHIP



Holy week will soon be upon us and several services marking the journey to Easter morning are planned.

Stations of the Cross vigils were held on March 1 and March 15.

Upcoming services on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, the Prayer watch, and Good Friday will prepare us for the celebrations for Easter Day.

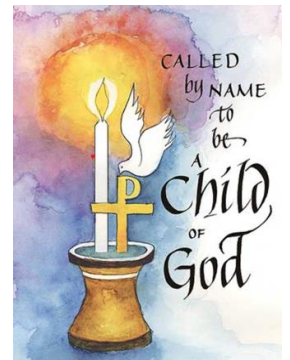
For each service we are blessed for the abundance of volunteers that come together to serve our Lord and our congregation. The Altar Guild, Layreaders, Readers, Choir Members, Sound Monitors, Greeters, and Building Care crew to name a few.

We would like to take a moment to thank George Ingraham for stepping in to help with the sound system while Chris Titus enjoyed a much-deserved vacation.



SUNDAY SCHOOL

We are so happy to have Laura Janes step in as our fulltime Sunday School teacher. We are thankful that she is willing to become the young leader for this group.



The children have been learning about Trust in God, The Ten Commandments and God loves the World.

Baptism and Confirmation

If anyone is interested in being Baptised or Confirmed please speak to Fr. Keith.





HOSPITALITY

Monthly Luncheons Continue.....

Chili was on the menu for our **January** luncheon, thank you to Susan Jack for being the head chef and to vestry as the sous chefs.



Chili
Luncheon

January
2024



In **February** our annual bag lunch was served prior to the Annual General meeting. Special thanks to Beverly Janes, Ann Stone and Janet Brown for preparing these lunches which included a tasty deli sandwich, grapes, banana bread and water. As always, there was lots of coffee and tea available to fortify everyone throughout the meeting.



Annual General Meeting

2024



Our **March** luncheon will be held after service on Palm Sunday, March 24, 2024.



MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

Our **Shepherd's Cupboard** mission continues to help approximately three families during these winter months. We are still accepting donations. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.



A special **Thank You** to a couple of our parishioners who committed to gathering 40 items for the Shepherds Cupboard as part of their journey through Lent.

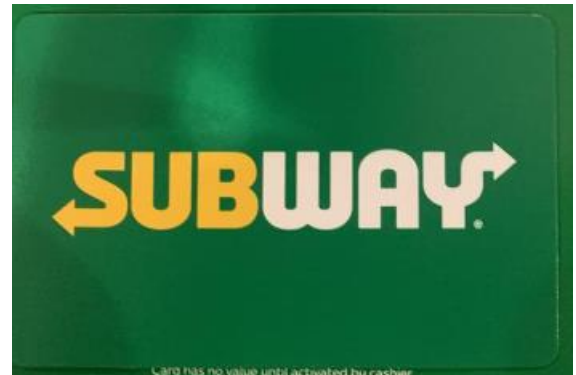


Please note that Hillcrest Caring Closet is temporarily closed for renovations. For the interim we will be taking donations to the Street Team SJ. Please keep this mission in mind as you change over to your Spring/Summer wardrobe.



We were fortunate to have funds remaining from our Christmas Basket campaign to purchase Subway gift cards for students who benefit from the **Harbourview Lunch Program.**

These were given in time for March break so the students would be able to continue to have a sandwich on us while away from school.



The students of Harbourview High Lunch program have voiced a desire to have pictures of the volunteers who help provide the lunches each week. This program has helped make the students feel seen, valued, and cared for.



The Mission to Seafarers in Saint John

Saint John Seafarers Mission

This is the first year that the Seafarers Mission outreach happened in January instead of December. We were happy to be able to deliver several bags of items to the mission office at the beginning of February. Thank you to those of you who donated items to the Seafarers Mission- it was warmly received at the mission which welcomes and assists sailors all year long!

Thank you to **LIFT** for creating beautiful Valentines Cards. Some were mailed out and others left in the Narthex for the congregation to use. These were much appreciated by those who received them.

Remember the caring card project is ongoing and you can request a card to be mailed at anytime.





BUILDING AND MAINTENANCE UPDATE



Our largest west facing roof had a new metal roof was installed in late February before the torrential rains of March hit us.





HOUSEKEEPING

Clean up work continues around the church. Nooks, crannies, and closets are being cleaned out to track what we have, purge what we don't need and assign specific areas for items to be stored.

Shelves were added to the end closet in the Narthex to store extra prayer books, hymnals, and bibles.

We ask that if you use an item to please return it to its rightful place.



Signs for the A.E.D. have been placed around the facility to direct people to the A.E.D. machine located in the main hallway. You will see these in the front entrance area, upper mezzanine door, gym, and back hall.



The upper room above the small hall (old Sunday School Classroom) had become a catch-all room in recent years. It has been cleaned out and organized. The closet shown holds unused gowns for both choir and clergy while the space above it stores historical documents. A large walk-in closet to the right of the piano will now store seasonal Altar Guild items.





Water Usage in Our Church

Please Check....

**Make sure the water is
not running!**

A running toilet or tap can cost us
\$100 in no time.



If you can't get it to stop please turn off the
valve and contact the Office.

We are on a water meter which means that we are billed for water we consume. If a tap or a toilet is left running, we pay the price.

Be vigilant! When walking by our bathrooms listen to see if money is pouring down the drain.

If a toilet is running typically a jiggle to the handle will fix the problem. If not turn off the valve and let someone know.



FINANCE UPDATE

Financial results for the end of February are currently showing a small loss of \$6,058, which is slightly higher than our budgeted loss of \$3,348. For the same time period of 2023, we were showing a surplus of \$1,201, however we had yet to receive our first Natural Gas invoice for Jan and Feb. Adjusting for that, our expenses are tracking near budget and near last years' actuals. Our issue is Offerings are tracking about 12 - 13% below budget and last year.

It's too early in the year to forecast with much accuracy, so the right-hand columns below show the 2024 approved budget against the 2023 actuals. If the trend for offerings continues, we could be facing a loss of up to \$21,000 for 2024. Lots of time to turn that around though.

	<i>Jan - Feb 2024</i>	<i>Jan - Feb 2023</i>	<i>Jan - Dec Budget 2024</i>	<i>Jan - Dec Actuals 2023</i>
Offerings	18,595	21,513	144,200	145,359
Rents	1,850	2,000	14,000	14,100
Interest	-	-	4,420	4,420
Misc Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	20,445	23,513	162,620	163,879
Salaries	12,613	12,662	87,265	77,675
Church Bldg & Office	9,149	4,702	47,074	44,583
Rectory	28	777	5,928	2,945
Worship & Programs	590	-	2,000	1,557
Shared Ministry	4,123	4,171	24,738	25,027
Total Expenses	26,503	22,312	167,005	151,787
YTD Surplus/(Loss)	(6,058)	1,201	(4,385)	12,091



COMMUNICATION

Do we have your contact information? If not, you may be missing out on important notices. Please contact Lori in our office (506-635-8145) to update your information. Don't worry, your contact information is kept confidential.

Are you on the parish list? If you'd like to be or aren't sure please complete the form in the Narthex and place it in the collection plate, or give it to a greeter or send the following information by email goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca:

- Name
- Email
- Phone
- Names of Family Members

**Please note that we will use your email address to provide service updates and reminders and to send your tax receipt and newsletters.*

Don't forget to check out our website, www.goodshepherdsj.ca, and our Facebook page "[Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB](#)".

Are you enjoying the newsletters? Would you like to see different content? Would you be interested in contributing to the newsletter? Don't be shy, please let us know: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca

Did you know up to date news from the Diocese of Fredericton can be found on their website?

Check it out at <https://nb.anglican.ca/news>



**May the grace our of our Lord Jesus Christ,
and the love of God,
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with us all evermore.
Amen**

We hope to see you at our Worship Services.

Wishing you a Blessed Easter!

~The Good Shepherd Vestry