



# News Around the Flock

## The Church of the Good Shepherd

Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Website: [www.goodshepherdsj.ca](http://www.goodshepherdsj.ca)

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March 2021

### Easter Message from the Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe, Priest and Rector!



Easter is associated with flowers and spring and chocolate of course. Perhaps you associate Easter with getting together with family. In the church we focus on the story of Easter with Jesus' death and resurrection. But what does this mean? What is the significance of Jesus' death and resurrection? Is it just a story of one person overcoming His unjustified death? Is it just a story to help us place our faith and trust in the Person of Jesus Christ? Or is it something even more? For many of us we have spent our whole lives in church. We were baptized, we were confirmed, we attended Sunday School and other programs right up until today. We are familiar with the story of Easter and it can be a challenge to look at Easter with fresh eyes but that is what we are called to do. We are to examine and re-examine the story and enter into it afresh each year. In the Alpha program Nicky Gumbel compares the Gospel to a diamond. A

diamond has 4 sides to it and at least 57 facets. We may glance at a diamond quickly or we may study each facet individually to take in the details of its beauty. It is the same with the Gospel. The story is that Jesus Christ, the Son of God, was crucified, died, and was buried, and on the third day He rose again, as we say in the Creed each week. Yet we can also take a look at one facet of the Gospel at a time. It is true that Jesus overcame His unjustified death, and it is true that Jesus' death and resurrection help us to put our faith in Him but it is so much more. Jesus died as a substitute for all of humanity. This is made clear for us in the Scriptures. In Romans 6:10 Paul writes "The death he died, he died to sin, once for all; but the life he lives, he lives to God." 1 Peter 3:18 tells us: "For Christ also suffered for sins once for all, the righteous for the unrighteous, in order to bring you to God." The Author of Hebrews echoes the same with: "And it is by God's will that we have been sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all." What is clear from these three passages of Scripture is that Jesus died once for all people. It is easy for those of us who have grown up in the church to think that the Easter message is only for Christians. We tend to compartmentalize our lives in North America. Our public selves are to be kept apart from our private selves and religion belongs in the private world of the individual. Yet the message of Christ cannot be boxed in. Just one facet of the Easter message is that Jesus died once for all people. Jesus did not die for only "religious" people but for all people. Jesus died for young and old, black and white, rich and poor, female and male. The Easter message then is a message we need to share with those in our lives in word and deed. I pray that this Easter you take the time to study one facet of the diamond of the Gospel.



### **Holy Week and Easter Services:**

Palm Sunday Services at 9:00 and 10:30 am March 28<sup>th</sup>

Maundy Thursday Service at 7:00 pm April 1<sup>st</sup>

Good Friday Service at 11:00 am April 2<sup>nd</sup>  
with the Easter Vigil to follow.

Easter Sunday Services at 9:00 and 10:30am April 4<sup>th</sup>

### **Rick's Discernment:**

Rick Cunningham can be found on many nights studying in the Sunshine Room. Rick has completed 5 courses (of which he received two A's and three B's). Well done Rick. His favorite course to date is Church History. He is finding his studies enlightening and challenging especially in the area of doctrine. Rick has to meet once more with the Parish Discernment Committee to discuss their final report and is heading to ACPO in April. God's best for you Rick.

### **L.I.F.T. (Ladies in Fellowship Together) continue to encourage and support!**

L.I.F.T. had their first meeting since November on March 11, 2021. Despite being unable to meet, they provided Christmas cards for our Christmas basket families as well as gift cards for "the girls". They also sent the 2021 tuition to Bishop McAllister School for our student. As of Mar 14<sup>th</sup>, the "Bakeless Bake Sale" raised \$833 for Safe Harbour, which provides emergency and transitional housing to young people in our community



who are in need of a safe place to stay. Ladies attending the March meeting made an Easter craft. They are looking forward to additional meetings this spring and hopefully a return to more activities this fall. L.I.F.T. will continue to explore new avenues of fundraising but as we have learned thru this pandemic, it is the people that matter most.

### **Learn The Bible In 24 Hours!**



During Lent and into spring we started a new series that will continue into the fall. Have you ever wanted to learn the basic story of the Bible? Do you want to know more about the Bible but don't know where to start? I have ordered a study by renown Bible Teacher Chuck Missler. There are 24 videos in all. We will cover 12 sessions on the Old Testament this spring and then 12 sessions in the fall on the New

Testament. If you want to make 2021 the Year that you grow in Bible knowledge then this series is it! The 12 sessions in the spring will start on Feb. 23rd and run till May 4th. We will start at 7pm and go until 8:30pm. We will also be offering this online at the same time through Zoom if you are not able to come to the church. The zoom link for each week's bible study will be sent out on Sunday for Tuesday night's session. If you click on the "Home" tab of our website ([www.goodshepherdsj.ca](http://www.goodshepherdsj.ca)) and then click on "Rector Updates" on the bottom left of the home page, it will bring you to a page where the latest Sunday's parish update is located. Scroll down to find that week's zoom link. We have also been posting this our Facebook page (Church of the Good Shepherd, Saint John, NB).

## LENT CHALLENGE – 40 DAYS OF KINDNESS!



Thanks to Janet Brown and Terry Ricketts for this great idea for a Lent Challenge! We laminated 8" x 14" sheets with 40 ideas to spread kindness each day in Lent, and hung them all along the wrought iron fence in front of the church - about 4 ideas on each sheet. Unfortunately, with the wind we had in the week after the signs went up on the fence, several were damaged, so we had to take them down. However, each week we continued to display new suggestions inside next to our Baptism font at the front of our church, on FaceBook, and on the website. By the time you read this, Lent will be almost over, but if you'd like to continue with another "40 days of Kindness", click on the "LENT - 40 DAYS OF KINDNESS" on any page of our website for suggestions and continue your journey to brighten someone's day with kindness beyond Lent! If you don't have access to the internet, contact our church office for the list.

## A little bit of Hospitality during the Pandemic!

On the day of our Annual General Meeting (Feb 14<sup>th</sup>), parishioners were treated with a lunch treat on their way out, whether or not they stayed for the AGM.



About 30 parishioners stayed after church to attend the AGM. Pictured on the left below is Susan Jack presenting the financial statements and budget for 2021.





Patti Skidmore

**Wardens:**

Patti Skidmore (left) & Sharon Baxter (right)

**Past Warden:** Bruce MacLeod

**Vestry Clerk:** Terry Ricketts

**Treasurer:** Jeff Maker

**Christian Education:** Jonathan Springthorpe, Heather Masson, Margaret-Ann Reid

**Building and Maintenance:** Shayne Galbraith, Doug Fillmore

**Housekeeping & Safety:** Patti Skidmore, Beverly Janes

**Communications:** Sharon Baxter

**Hospitality:** Bruce MacLeod, Brenda Clayton

**Mission and Outreach:** Janet Brown, Terry Ricketts, Beverly Janes

**Rentals:** Shayne Galbraith

**Worship:** Jonathan Springthorpe, Janet Brown

**Discernment:** Jonathan Springthorpe



Sharon Baxter

**Synod Delegates:** Susan Jack, Brenda Clayton, **Synod Alternates:** Bruce MacLeod, Margaret Ann Reid

**COVID Committee** – Rev. Jonathan, Patti Skidmore, Sharon Baxter, Terry Ricketts, and Bruce MacLeod

### COVID-19 Operational Plan Review

COVID-19 and this past year will forever be etched in our memories, not only for how the pandemic changed our lives but also for the impact on faith services. Different colors have meant different rules and our parish and church family have adapted to the new way of worship. While we have missed out on handshakes and hugs and tea and coffee, we have gathered and learned to read the good cheer and friendship in each other's eyes.

We had a bit of a wobble in January when our zone went red for just over a week and as we have come to know, red means stop. Orange means proceed with care but look both ways. Faith services have been blessed in orange in that 50 people can gather for Worship and between the two services we have been able to continue our worship time. Pre-registration, mask wearing, hand sanitizing and social distancing have been standard steps in the plan. We have also taken other steps over the past year including removing the BAS, BCP and Bibles from the pews. The 9:00 am worshippers have use of the books which are removed after service every week to allow for natural disinfection. The 10:30 am worshippers can follow the service, including the wonderful music, on the overhead screen. The Eucharist was also amended, and we now share in the bread but not the wine; a step which has provided a greater degree of comfort for those attending and the alter guild who work every week after service to reset the table.

I would like to acknowledge the success we have had in staying safe during these unusual times. Thank you to all...being able to come to service, worship together and share a prayer and smile has been possible because of our combined efforts and faith. We can thank God for our ability to embrace this special and sacred time together all the while following the operational plans we have set in place.

Patti Skidmore

## Our Finances

Well, 2020 is in the books and we ended up with our financial results being fairly similar to those of 2019 (loss of \$7,240) despite the fact we had a priest & rector for the entire year (as opposed to six months in 2019) and a pandemic that shut our building down for several weeks. The Federal Wage Subsidy and the Reaching the Kingdom campaign resulted in a much smaller loss in 2020 than we had budgeted.

In the first two months of this year, we are seeing a substantial increase in offerings while expenses are being held relatively steady. We are currently budgeting an \$18,000 loss for this year.

	<i>Jan-Feb 2021</i>	<i>Jan-Feb 2020</i>	<i>Jan-Dec 2020</i>
Offerings	23,253	19,671	156,125
Reacing the Kingdom	1,060	0	5,093
Rents	373	465	9,109
interest	0	0	4,800
Federal Subsidy	221	0	16,040
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>24,906</b>	<b>20,136</b>	<b>191,168</b>
Salaries	18,865	18,034	111,526
Church Bldg & Office	12,562	12,505	41,481
Rectory	1,279	277	9,592
Worship & Programs	227	377	6,625
Shared Ministry	4,655	5,392	29,658
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>37,588</b>	<b>36,585</b>	<b>198,882</b>
<b>YTD Loss</b>	<b>-12,682</b>	<b>-16,449</b>	<b>-7,714</b>

How to make your offerings:

E-Offerings: <https://nb.anglican.ca/programs/eoffering>

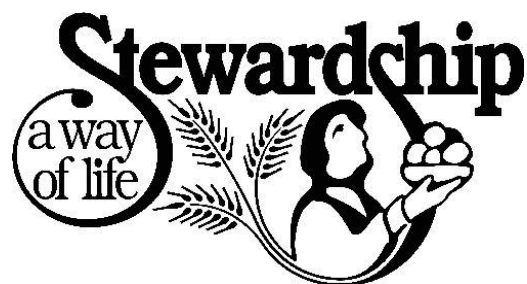
A form specific to our Parish can be obtained from the church office or on our website ([www.goodshepherdsj.ca](http://www.goodshepherdsj.ca))

E-Transfer: [goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca) (security: Lancaster)

Cheque: Make payable to "Church of the Good Shepherd"

Mail: 668 Manawagonish Road, Saint John, NB, E2M 3W5

Call the church office at 635-8145 for option explanations.



## Reaching for the Kingdom:

For our capital campaign we posted envelopes (with amounts \$1 to \$200 on the outside and a blessing inside) on a board for parishioners to choose a dollar amount they were able to donate in addition to their regular offerings. Based on the 2020 year end financials and the 2021 YTD, The Reaching the Kingdom wall has raised \$6218.30 as of mid-March 2021. We appreciate all who donated to help us meet our budget.

## **Music During a Pandemic!** **(extracted from Choir Director David Mitchell's Annual Report)**

In March 2020 singing was silenced at 668 Manawagonish Road. But, knowing that praising God was so much a part of the Christian's DNA, and music one of its most natural vehicles, we at Good Shepherd, were determined to maintain at least a thread of normalcy. Therefore, on March 22 Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe began preparing online services. Music recorded by myself and visuals added by Bruce MacLeod were included starting on April 5 ( Palm Sunday, by the way ). Recordings were provided for a Call to Worship, a Gradual and a Recessional. There have been approximately 80 of these recordings made to date, not including the Nine Lessons and Carols event. These efforts necessitated a rather fluid and unpredictable schedule to accommodate the growing number of participants and to choose and match music to the scripture passages proper to each Sunday. Much thanks to VOCALISTS Sharon Titus, Elyse Fortune, Susan Taylor, Virginia Higgins, Rachel Titus, Wendy Maxwell, Marilyn Galbraith, Emma Weagle, Clare Desmond, Joseph Desmond, Mary Louise Belyea, Norm Toole, Tina Ouelette, Ngaire Nelson, Bev Doiron, Katherine Irvine, Ray Roy, John Kerrigan and Nancy Kerrigan. Special thanks to Shayne Galbraith who provided GUITAR accompaniment to several of the selections and played for 2 communions.

Much thanks to Bruce MacLeod for matching my recordings to so many beautiful overhead slides. We all have appreciated the many hours he took from his busy work schedule to faithfully prepare and manage these acts of worship.

David Mitchell



## Some Additional Highlights from 2020



**Baptism:** On Nov. 29<sup>th</sup> Andi Jane Simpson, daughter of Laura and Luke Simpson, was baptized and welcomed into The Church of the Good Shepherd and into the Christian flock. Welcome Andi!

**White Gift Sunday:** Despite all the effects of COVID, our parish rallied together and supported our annual effort to support 30 families for Christmas! Thank you to all who donated time and money to this mission outreach.



### Christmas Baskets (Packing Day):



**Left:** Volunteers packing non-perishable food in the boxes.

**Right:** Anne Stone & Beverly Janes on sort duty.



### Christmas Baskets (Delivery Day):



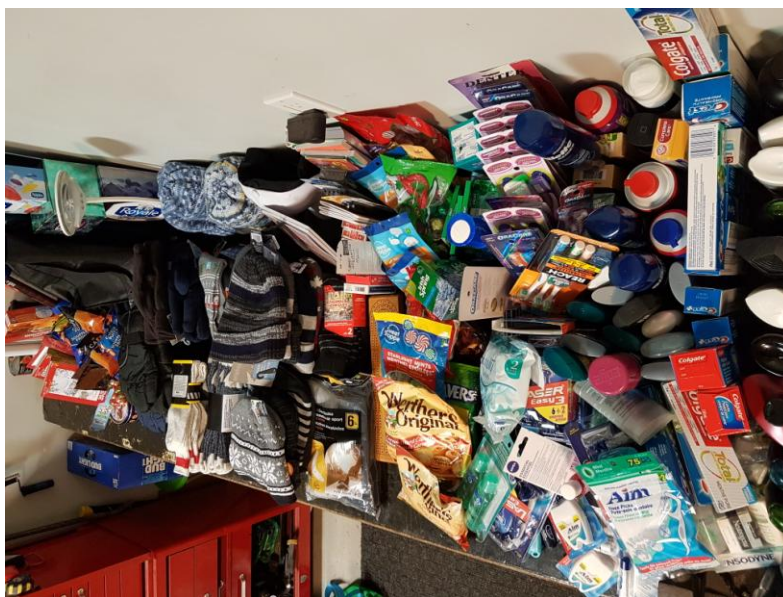
**Left:** Final items added for delivery day - milk and margarine (in the boxes) and the turkeys.

**Right:** Volunteers Jason Lohnes (Saint John Police Force) and Andrew Rooney (Saint John Fire Department) helped us load groceries into cars. Thanks guys!



## Seafarer's Mission:

Thanks to all who helped us "fill the boat" in 2020 with gifts for the Seafarer's mission. The bags of donations placed in the boat translated to: 85 personal hygiene products (Toothpaste and Brushes, deodorant, shampoo, soap, razors, shaving cream etc.), 40 winter accessories (hats, gloves, socks), 50 miscellaneous items (puzzle books, pens, playing cards, mints, candy, snacks etc.). They were very happy to receive it all!



## Confirmation:

On January 31<sup>st</sup> we had the pleasure of Archbishop David Edward's company for the Confirmation Service. There were six young people confirmed in their faith after meeting for many months in preparation classes at the church.

Back: Archbishop David Edwards  
Left to Right: Sophie Fillmore, Sarah Fillmore, Chloe Cochrane, Susan Janes, Nathan Maker, Sara Breen.



## Our Dearly Departed:

Wanda Lynn (Munford) Nelson – Mar 16, 1948 to Feb 9, 2021  
Alyson Laverne Maxwell – Jan 11, 1960 - Feb 28, 2021  
Laurenna Alberta Shea – Aug 20, 1920 to Mar 3, 2021

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



## Church Signs and Wreaths



**Gather here with grateful heart!**



**Home is the story of who we are!**



**Have you noticed our theme based signs and wreaths during the pandemic? Thank you to Janet for her creativity in making the wreaths that adorn our front door and to Terry for her sign making skills.**

Keep an eye out for several more wreath and sign changes this spring as we move closer to summer!

### **Romero House Project:**

Early in the pandemic, Rick Cunningham recognized an intensified need for food and meals in our community. He reached out to Romero House and after sorting through all of the pandemic restrictions and protocols, organized a group of dedicated volunteers who meet in our church kitchen most Saturday mornings at 8AM. They cook and prepare food that is then transported to Romero House for distribution to those in need. Each week, while two turkeys are cooking, the team makes 20 litres of soup from the racks of the previous week's turkeys along with 200 sandwiches. By noon, another volunteer (John Campbell) arrives to take the sandwiches, soup and freshly carved turkey meat over to Romero House while the team at the church clean the kitchen and freeze the turkey racks for soup the following week. Other volunteers do the shopping so that supplies are ready for each Saturday AM. Rick is joined in this much needed outreach project by Ann Stone, Sharon Baxter, Susan Dole, Lori McGovern, Janet Brown, Brenda Clayton, Patti Vaughan and Sharon Titus. While the turkeys are provided by Romero House, the other supplies are covered by a fund set up at our church and supported by members of the congregation. Romero House estimates that our church has helped provide about 2000 meals since last April! Please continue to support this team and their important mission. Additional volunteers are always welcome!

Since Romero House can only accept prepared food donations from "commercial grade" kitchens, let's give thanks to God for the wisdom and foresight of the vestry, Men's Group and other church leaders a decade or so ago who pressed forward with kitchen renovations to bring us up to code. This Romero House project would not be possible without their vision and we hope, God willing, that we will be able to see it back in service for our own gatherings at some point in 2021! In the meantime, we are fortunate that this valuable asset is proving to be an important part of community mission and church fellowship on Saturday mornings!

We welcome anyone who'd like to help out – we start at 08:00 AM on Saturday mornings and finish by noon. If interested you can let Janet Brown, Susan Doyle, Anne Stone or Sharon Baxter know. We appreciate the volunteers who stepped up to help with our weekly shopping and delivering to/from Romero House. In the picture here, Anne is handing over what has been prepared to John, who will deliver it to Romero House.



Ann Stone, John Campbell

If you received a printed copy of this newsletter, but are ok to receive future issues electronically, please e-mail the church at [goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto:goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca) to let us know and/or to have your e-mail address added to our newsletter distribution list. If you received this electronically, but prefer to have a physical copy, please contact us as well. Thank you to all who contributed to putting this newsletter together. Your contributions are greatly appreciated.

**HAVE A HOPE INSPIRED EASTER!**