

News Around The Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Anglican Parish of Lancaster Website: www.goodshepherdsj.ca

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Christmas 2021

Christmas Message

Rev. Jonathan Springthorpe

There is a story about a man who decided not to attend church on Christmas Eve. It seems that the awe of Christmas was lost on him. Shortly after his family left the snow began to fall. It was bitterly cold outside. He began to hear "thuds" against the window, one after another. When he went to investigate, he found a flock of birds huddled miserably in the snow. They had been caught in the storm. He couldn't let the poor creatures freeze to death, so he remembered the barn where his children stabled their pony. That would provide a warm shelter if he could direct the birds to it.

Quickly he put on a coat, galoshes, tramped through the deepening snow to the barn. He opened the doors wide and turned on a light, but the birds did not come in. He figured food would entice them in. So, he hurried back to the house, fetched breadcrumbs and sprinkled them on the snow, making a trail to the yellow-lighted wide-open doorway of the stable. But to his dismay, the birds ignored the breadcrumbs, and continued to flap around helplessly in the snow. He tried catching them...He tried shooing them into the barn by walking around them waving his arms...Instead, they scattered in every direction, except into the warm, lighted barn.

And then, he realized that they were afraid of him. To them, he reasoned, I am a strange and terrifying creature. If only I could think of some way to let them know that they can trust me...That I am not trying to hurt them, but to help them. But how?

"If only I could be a bird," he thought to himself, "and mingle with them and speak their language. Then I could tell them not to be afraid. Then I could show them the way to safety and warmth...to the



Service Times

White Gift Sunday & Cantata
December 12th - 10:30AM

Christmas Eve Services:
Family Service 5:00PM
Midnight Service 11:00PM

Boxing Day
December 26th - 10:30AM

Regular Services

We have moved to one
regular Sunday service at
10:30 am.

Morning Prayer on
Wednesdays at 9:00 am



safe, warm barn. But I would have to be one of them so they could see and hear and understand." At that moment the church bells began to ring. The sound reached his ears above the sounds of the wind. And he stood there listening to the bells pealing the glad tidings of Christmas.

And he sank to his knees in the snow. It had dawned on him the awe of the Incarnation.

"And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we have seen his glory, the glory as of a father's only son, full of grace and truth."

(John 1:14 [NRSV](#))

You may not know it, but the term "Word" refers to Jesus. **"In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God."** (John 1:1). Jesus, God the Son, left the glory of heaven and took on the form of a servant. He humbled Himself in taking on human form to reveal to us who God is. He pitched His tent among us sharing in our suffering. Had this been the only reason that Jesus became flesh and dwelt among us, to show us who God is, would have been amazing but the story of the Gospel does not end at Christmas. Jesus was born in human form to be the sacrifice of sin and to take upon Himself the iniquity of us all. Ponder, I invite you, the amazing gift of Christmas. God- who lives in unapproachable light. God who is perfect in power, infinite in majesty, so much higher than we can ever imagine, so superior to us, infinitely so, yet He comes to us at Christmas to give us the greatest gift that could ever be given, Himself. God comes to us at Christmas to give us a message of hope, joy, and love.

Merry Christmas!



Our Dearly Departed

Audrey Wolno - Sep. 15th, 2021

Joan Ann MacKenzie - Oct. 20th, 2021

Judith Urquhart - Oct. 5th, 2021

Nancy Amelda Knorr - Nov. 25th, 2021

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

ADVENT CANDLES

Advent reminds us of the Hope, Peace, Love and Joy that came with the birth of Baby Jesus. Each week a candle will be lit as we celebrate the season. The outside advent wreath will also be lit, using solar lights and God's blessings, so that those who pass by may be reminded of the real reason for the season. Many thanks to Janet and David Brown for designing and constructing this beautiful outdoor version of our traditional Advent Candles!



COVID OPERATIONAL PLAN UPDATE

As a congregation of worshippers, we have maintained adherence to the guidelines presented by the Government of New Brunswick. Showing proof of double vaccination has been a new measure that has allowed us to continue our worship time while still maintaining physical distancing, hand sanitizing and mask wearing.

The biggest challenge I have found with COVID 19 during worship is NOT being able to sing along with the choir. Humming will have to do for now! A huge thank you to our choir who continue to provide inspiration through their lovely voices in song.... all the while wearing masks. Most impressive!

COVID 19 and the provincial response continue to evolve. The commitment of Vestry is to keep parishioners informed of updates and safe practices during worship and time spent in church activities. Please follow Facebook, the Website and your email for updates as they occur.

Patti Skidmore



Choir Update - Reasons to Rejoice

David Mitchell

On December 12th, as part of our morning worship, **The Church of Good Shepherd Choir**, under the direction of **David Mitchell**, will present **FESTIVAL OF CHRISTMAS**. Written by **Mary McDonald** and orchestrated by **Michael Lawrence**. This Cantata was composed for a world premiere on the mainstage at Carnegie Hall in 2020. The preparation of this gorgeous 30-minute work has been a labor of love. Come to Church on December 12th and be prepared to be uplifted and blessed. And...watch for a surprise contribution from a well-known figure in our community and his friends.

God bless you. Stay safe.

Lest we forget...



In recognition of Remembrance Day, lay reader Heather Masson prepared a moving worship piece to begin our Sunday Service on November 7, 2021. We remembered those men and women who have died serving our country, those who have served, and those who are still serving. We also remembered the sacrifices of their loved ones. Four candles were lit as a special prayer was recited for each. Our prayers continue for all service men and women and their loved ones. May God keep them safe and give them peace.

YOUTH GROUP

Our Jr. Youth Group has grown this fall. We started off with 3 boys who came faithfully through September and then others started to join. We have a regular attendance of 8 youth (boys and girls). We gather together on Wednesday evenings at 6:30pm till 8pm. We work on crafts, play games, share with one another, learn the Bible and pray. Please keep this group in your prayers.



DISCERNMENT UPDATE

Rick Cunningham continues the classes in his Master's program at Saint Stephen's University while working full time as a Firefighter. He is a Postulant in the Diocese of Fredericton. Please pray for Rick, Gen, Lilly, and Noah during this busy season.



BIBLE STUDY

Our 2021 course was called "Learn The Bible" in 24 Hours by Chuck Missler. It has been a whirlwind tour of the Bible and sometimes difficult to keep up with the speed at which Chuck presents the material but there have been moments of significant learning that have drawn us closer to God and a deeper appreciation of His Word. We have a hybrid style of meeting with some joining in on the Zoom Software Program and some at the church in person. Our next program of study will be a small group course written and presented by NT Wright. Please consider joining us in 2022!

Our Finances

Similar to what we reported in the last newsletter, our expenses continue to exceed our income. As of the end of Nov. we have lost \$33,000 so far this year, and we are forecasting our year-end results to be a loss of \$25,500.

A sub-committee of vestry, the Financial Futures Committee, has been struck to take a closer look at our projected revenue and expenses over the next 5 years, including building maintenance and repair costs, and brainstorming potential new revenue sources to help offset our rising building related costs. Anyone who is interested in being on this committee please let Rev. Jonathan or Jeff know.

	<i>Jan - Nov 2021</i>	<i>Jan - Nov 2020</i>	<i>Jan - Dec 2020</i>
Offerings	134,244	128,957	156,125
Reaching the Kingdom	2,164	4,754	5,093
Rents	7,280	8,559	9,109
Interest	2,314	3,055	4,800
Federal Subsidy	1,758	15,896	16,040
Total Income	147,760	161,221	191,168
Salaries	104,213	102,578	111,526
Church Bldg & Office	41,306	35,110	41,481
Rectory	7,944	9,011	9,592
Worship & Programs	2,033	5,571	6,625
Shared Ministry	25,608	26,962	29,658
Total Expenses	181,104	179,232	198,882
YTD Loss	(33,344)	(18,011)	(7,714)



How to make your offerings:

- E-Offerings: see form and instructions at <https://nb.anglican.ca/programs/eoffering>
- E-Transfer: goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca (**we are now registered for Auto-deposit so no security question required**)
- Mail or drop your offerings off at the church office

Call the church office at 635-8145 for more info on any of the above options.

Christmas Memorials

Please have your **Christmas Memorials** into the office no later than **Tuesday December 21st**, so that they will be in the bulletin in time for Christmas Eve. Thank you!

Request for Greeters

Patti Skidmore

Have you ever wanted to participate in a mini-ministry within our church family? Being a GREETER/SIDES PERSON may be just the role for you!

GREETER/SIDES PERSON: Along with your welcoming smile and greeting as worshippers enter the church, you would be passing out bulletins, directing folks, answering inquires about the service, ensuring doors are open etc. - a bit of a host/hostess role.

The role of Greeter has many facets to it, all designed to create a comfortable, welcoming, and safe worship environment. This role is also a great chance to buddy up with a pal or someone new.

If this opportunity has piqued your curiosity or answered a calling for you, please contact the wardens, Patti Skidmore (654-0015) or Sharon Baxter (343-1907), or speak to us at church. Thank you.

CANADIAN CHURCH CALENDARS 2022

As in years past, we will once again have Canadian Church Calendars for sale later this fall.

Last year we ordered more than were needed, meaning the church had to absorb the loss. This year we will order fewer. Please contact the church office to reserve yours.

The price will be \$7.00 each (or less). This is not a fund raiser for the church, so we try to pass them along at cost.

New Church Banner

Speaking of greetings, have you noticed our new church banner? Members of Vestry thought that it would be beneficial to have more visible (and portable!) signage that included our church name and how to get in touch with us. Rev Jonathan designed and ordered the banner that is really hard to miss at its current location along our front fence - greeting all who are walking and driving by!





Tintinabula Handbell Choir

"Make a joyful noise unto the Lord."

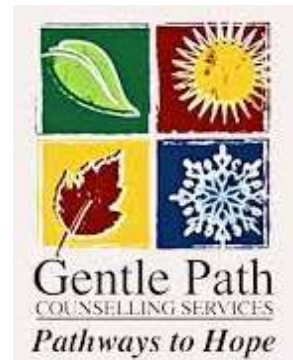
Two bodies (four hands!) will answer Lynn's prayers for a full choir! No experience necessary!

The Handbell Choir meets on Monday evening in the Small Hall 6:45 pm. Lots of tinkling and laughter can be heard - Come & Join the fun!



Sharing Our Building

The **Shuffleboard group** returned this fall and enjoyed using our gym every Wednesday morning. In November, **Gentle Path** used our gym for a fundraising event - Vendor's Market - and in December, the **St. Rose Home & School** will use our large kitchen to prepare a full turkey dinner for all 275+ students attending that school. Unfortunately, Covid measures don't allow the students to have their meal at our church but we hope to be able to host them next year at this newly established annual event!



L.I.F.T.

Janet Brown

Lift meets every second Thursday of the month in the small hall at 6:30pm unless scheduling issues force a change. Our next meeting is December 9th. We were happy to welcome two new members to our group this fall - Kelly Campbell and Yvonne Fox.



Our ladies were busy this fall with various crafts. In **October** our ladies gave the fall pew markers a little "LIFT" by adding some pumpkins and bows. They also made wine bottle pumpkins to take home to decorate their Thanksgiving tables. We made contributions to the Purse Project - thanks to new member Yvonne for coordinating our part in this wonderful project. In **November** the ladies crafted these beautiful votive candle holders - **Christmas Caring Candle**. Each candle holder comes with a battery-operated candle and a Christmas message. We invited you to take a candle, or two, and pass it along to someone in your life as a symbol of fellowship and joy this holiday season. These were introduced at Sunday Service November 27 and the votives "flew off the shelf"! Thank you to all who helped spread the light of Christmas all over our community.



In early **December** we enjoyed the sounds of the season with our fundraising concert by the Cool Chicks and Ugly Doclings. Thank-you to all who attended.

Caring Cards: Our very talented ladies of Lift have crafted cards that we will be sending out as a quick hello to those we haven't seen in a while, those who need a little uplift, and those who are enjoying one of life's many celebrations. If you know of someone, parishioner, neighbour, friend please let us know and will be happy to mail them a card with a short note. 😊

Our group is open any ladies who would like to join us regardless of whether they attend our church. Invite your friends and neighbors to join us at our next meeting. 😊



OUR MISSION WORK CONTINUES!

ROMERO HOUSE COOKING TEAM

Romero House had run out of turkeys for us to cook this fall BUT thanks to several donations from our generous parishioners our cooking continues! We still provide two buckets of soup and 200 P&B sandwiches in addition to the cooked turkeys every week!

SHEPHERD'S CUPBOARD

By the generosity of our congregation the Shepherds cupboard remains stocked. Since September Rev. Jonathan has provided 12 people and four families with much needed groceries.

We continue to accept donations of food as well as monetary donations which help with the supply of perishables.

Please keep this mission in your prayers as we face the winter months ahead.

CARING CLOSET

We have collected and delivered 4 loads of clothing and other items to Hillcrest Baptist Church in support of their ministry to newcomer families. They are very grateful that we have answered their call for help. This is an ongoing mission so we will continue to deliver as needed.



Our Youth group will be heading this year's campaign, **collecting personal items** for the **Seafarer's Mission**. Any donations of personal hygiene items, snacks (candy/mints), magazines, puzzle books and pens, socks, hats, gloves etc. would be much appreciated. Please place your donations in the Seafarer's boat in the Narthex. Our youth group will be making up individual bags and delivering them to the Seafarer's Mission. Please bring all donations in by **December 12th**

MAP (MISSION ACTION PLAN)

As requested by the Diocese we started the process of discovering our Mission Action Plan - MAP.

We have reviewed findings of our information requests and have presented preliminary recommendations to vestry. A formal presentation will be made at the Annual General Meeting in February 2022. In the meantime, thank you for your continued support of our mission activities!

We ask that you continue to pray for MAP.

If you wish to know more about the Mission Action Plan please see the Diocese website [Mission Action Plans | Resources | Anglican Diocese of Fredericton](#).



SEAFARER'S MISSION

CHRISTMAS BASKETS

As we move into the busy Christmas season, it is time to focus on our annual Christmas Basket project. Once again, we will sponsor 30 families with everything required for a complete Christmas dinner, extra groceries to help families at this expensive time of the year and gifts for any children. White Gift Sunday is December 12th and we ask that if you have taken tags off the giving tree in the Narthex, you bring the corresponding items to the church by then. As always, financial donations are welcome anytime and will be needed to purchase the turkeys, fresh produce, dairy, and bread to complete the baskets.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT OF THIS MISSION!!

MENS GROUP

On Saturday Nov. 27th, 14 men of our congregation (and friends) met at A.J.'s Diner for breakfast and fellowship. We had a hearty breakfast, a prayer, and a short devotion. We also had a few conversations on projects we might undertake in 2022. We plan to meet again in late January or early February and welcome all men in the parish and wider community to join us!



Do we have your e-mail address?

If you're receiving a printed copy of this newsletter and have an e-mail address, please contact the church office so we can add you to the Parish distribution list. If you don't have e-mail, that's fine, you will continue to receive printed copies.



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