



News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Christmas 2022 Newsletter



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Service Times

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

Christmas Eve at 5:00 PM
Christmas Day at 10:30AM

CHRISTMAS 2022 MESSAGE

The Church in her wisdom knows that as we start all over again in Advent, we need the healing of repentance to see Jesus clearly. Advent draws us into the big picture of God's designs. We need the fresh wind of anticipating Christ's unexpected return to set us straight lest we meander too far down the path of our own religiosity and do-it-yourself spirituality. Advent keeps us honest: the One who lies in the feeding trough created this world and will return as its judge. Advent prepares us for both the glorious return of Christ and for the celebration of that first arrival of God's self-revelation in human form. We can only worship from the heights of a bended knee; this is God at work in a big way!

Yet we do not wait with fear and trembling – Christ's return is on the other side of His death and resurrection! That's why this humbly-born child came in the first place – to die and physically rise again for the sake of the world. And the result? You and I and the whole world can have true life through this very same Jesus Christ. The world can once again flourish because the world has received in its midst the greatest gift it could possibly receive from its Creator. And that's Jesus Christ, God incarnate, the Son of God. And that's a very big thing!



Enjoy the bitter-sweet wonder of Advent. Don't let the 'Christmas rush' rob you of this all-important time. Recall the movement of God's grace in this world in the full reality of what God is doing in Jesus Christ: God incarnate, Saviour of the world, the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end, the King of kings who came to serve and not to be served. Ponder the big picture!

As you truly see this Bethlehem-born, died-and-risen and returning Lord, and as you make Him the singular focus and passion of your life, you will know the best Christmas gift of all.

A very blessed and truly Happy Christmas to you and yours,

Keith Joyce

Interim Priest-in-Charge



Our Dearly Departed

The Reverend David Dean - October 19, 2022

Jean Small - November 8, 2022

Scott Nelson - December 2, 2022

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



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



Our **LIFT** group was pleased to host The **Cool Chicks and Ugly Doclings** again this year. They performed their first Christmas concert of the season at our church on November 26th. The event was well attended (just under 100 toe-tapping folks) and if the dancing down the aisle as people left was an indicator, it was enjoyed by all! We hope to welcome this talented group to our church again in 2023!



In addition to hosting the concert, **LIFT** members have been very busy this fall working behind the scenes to support several projects. They assembled all the tags for our Christmas Giving Tree, addressed Christmas cards for the families we are sponsoring and labelled 500 Candy Canes with a Christmas message from The Church of the Good Shepherd for distribution at the **West Side Christmas parade** and the students of neighbouring **St. Rose School**. Once again, the parents committee of St. Rose used our large kitchen to prepare a turkey dinner for all students and staff at the school.



Elaine Geary, Ann Stone, Joyce Mitchell



Bruce MacLeod





Shayne Galbraith helping the parents of **St. Rose School** navigate our kitchen as they prepare close to 300 turkey dinners for the students and staff. This is their second time doing this event and it is becoming a finely tuned operation!



LINE DANCERS HELP OUT WITH CHRISTMAS BASKETS!

Several members of our congregation are also members of the **Urban Legend Line Dancers** who have their studio right next door to our church. These fun-loving ladies take up an annual Christmas collection and this year, they donated the proceeds to our Good Shepherd Christmas Basket program. The funds received from these generous dancers totalled \$722.25 in addition to other items such as knitted sweaters and infant snowsuits. We greatly appreciate this significant contribution to our baskets which are needed more than ever this year!





OUR 2022 CHRISTMAS BASKETS

Our Christmas Basket Campaign was generously supported again this year and we continued our tradition of providing 30 families with everything required for Christmas dinner plus extra groceries to help ease the financial strain at this time of year. There were 40 children included in those families and each of them received gifts of toys, books and/or clothing from members of our congregation.

Many thanks for your continued support of this important mission with your generous donations of food, gifts, money and your time to sort, pack and distribute the baskets!



Above: **Shayne Galbraith, Ann Stone, Terry Ricketts, Janet Brown, Deanna Morrison** and **Dawn Galbraith** packing the boxes with groceries and gifts for each family. Below: Loaders and drivers.



Sharon Baxter, Paul and Carol Ann Boudreau and Gilles Roy.

In addition to help from about a dozen parishioners we had help from **Paul, Carol Ann and Gilles** to load and make deliveries



A MESSAGE FROM PARISHIONER TAMMY BOYER

A huge thank you to Good Shepherd Church and the congregation for helping me make my director debut as a filmmaker. When I needed a church for a scene in the script, I knew I wanted Good Shepherd. And when I needed to fill the pews with people, I knew I could count on the wonderful congregation of Good Shepherd. My short film, **A Better Place**, is based on a vision that my mother, **Margaret Boyer**, had when her best friend had died when she was little. My character Maggie (named after mom of course) struggles to understand what is happening but realizes with belief and faith that love is what is left behind. I am not sure what she saw that day but she perceived it as vision as her faith is strong. My mother is my rock as she has been there every step of the way of my life. She has passed on her faith and strength to me and I only hope I do the same for my children. I cannot thank everyone enough for the support and love that I have been shown in this venture.

Can you spot any
fellow
parishioners in
these pictures?





WE ARE MOVING! (...to the Archdeaconry of Saint John)

In recent years we have seen the closure of several parishes and a mission in the Saint John area (Victoria, Carleton, West Saint John, East Saint John, Westside Anglican Mission). Because of that, our parish, as well as that of the Church of the Resurrection, have been moved from the Archdeaconry of St. Andrews to the Archdeaconry of Saint John to better reflect our numbers and geography.

The Archdeaconry of Saint John will now be comprised of the parishes of Coldbrook-St. Mary, Fundy and the Lakes, Lancaster, Millidgeville, Portland, Saint John, The Nerepis and St. John and St. Mark (Stone Church). Our Archdeacon is the Ven. Leo Martin.

Vestry reviewed this proposal and approved the change earlier this fall based on the unanimous belief that our parish has more in common with the other parishes in the Saint John area than with our former Archdeaconry of St. Andrews.

For more information of archdeaconries please see the diocesan website (<https://nb.anglican.ca>). Find-A-Church will provide and overview and Regulation 4.1: Regional Governance (under About / Synod & Governance) will provide a written summary.

NEW HEATING SYSTEM

The energy audit completed earlier this year identified several measures that our church could take to improve heating and energy efficiencies. Progress on the largest project has begun - a switch to natural gas from our current oil-based heating system. This project will be partially funded by an incentive program offered through NB Power. We thank **Shayne Galbraith** for his continued leadership on this major project! Here are some of the photos that Shayne has taken to document the progress.

Installation of meter and buried service line from the Manawagonish Road gas main.





Connection of
gas line from
meter to boilers
in the basement.



Installation of
two gas
boilers.



The two new
boilers.





FINANCES

To recap previous financial updates, we knew this year was going to present challenges financially. We went into this year budgeting for a loss of \$30,100.

Unprecedented high furnace oil prices; furnace repair bills; the energy audit; and offerings being below budget are a few of the challenges we saw this year. On the flip side, our financials were also impacted by rental income being above budget, and only having a part-time rector for over half the year.

We pray that a strong Dec. helps us go from a Nov. YTD loss of \$24,160 to a final Dec. YTD loss of \$15,398 - almost 50% of the budgeted loss.

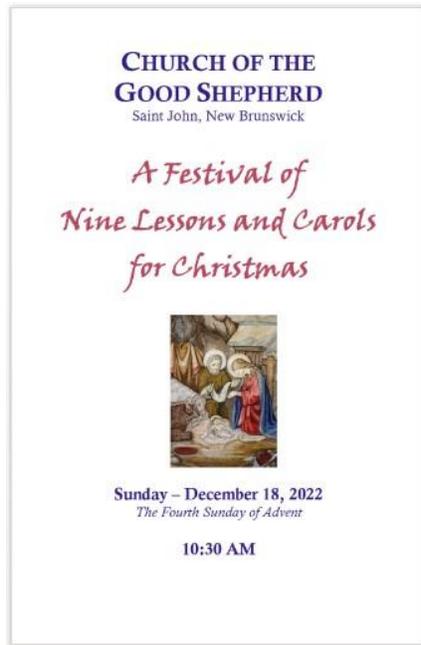
This loss, as well as the rectory roof costs, the natural gas conversion costs (net of any rebates), must be funded from investments held locally and/or with the diocese. Total cash assets (excluding Cemetery funds) at the end of 2021 were \$197,854.

	<i>Jan - Nov 2022</i>	<i>Jan - Nov 2021</i>	<i>Jan - Dec Forecast 2022</i>	<i>Jan - Dec 2021</i>
Offerings	126,306	134,488	147,083	163,492
Reaching the Kingdom	-	2,164		
Rents	14,278	7,280	14,528	8,030
Interest	2,273	2,314	4,863	4,505
Federal Subsidy	-	1,758		1,758
Total Income	142,857	148,004	166,474	177,785
Salaries	69,932	104,305	76,259	114,321
Church Bldg & Office	59,679	41,303	64,686	48,436
Rectory	8,754	7,944	9,330	8,461
Worship & Programs	4,596	1,933	5,354	2,191
Shared Ministry	24,056	25,605	26,243	27,932
Total Expenses	167,017	181,090	181,872	201,341
YTD Loss	(24,160)	(33,086)	(15,398)	(23,556)

Projected cash assets as at the end of this year are \$182,872. Bills for the natural gas conversion have not come in yet.



Nine Lesson and Carols



On Sunday, the congregation enjoyed the service of the Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols for Christmas. This service was first held on Christmas Eve in 1918 and was first broadcast by the BBC in 1928. It has continued to be broadcast yearly except for 1930.

Thank You very much to each of our readers.

We sincerely thank our Choir, our organist, David Mitchell, guitarist, Shayne Galbraith and the congregation for the music during this festival.

Monthly Luncheons Continue.....

A special **Thank You** to our **Choir** for providing the sandwiches and sweets for our November luncheon. It was enjoyed by all who attended!



Our next social is January 15, 2023.

Join us for Chili!



**We wish you a Blessed Christmas and
a Happy, Healthy New Year!**

- Good Shepherd Vestry

**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