

News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd

Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Thanksgiving 2026 Newsletter



Thanksgiving Service

Holy Communion
Sunday, October 11,2026
Fr Keith Joyce, presiding

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.



Thanksgiving 2026

Fr. Christopher Ketch

Dear Church of the Good Shepherd,

As the vibrant golds and fiery reds of autumn yield to the more stark, skeletal beauty of approaching winter, we find ourselves in the season of Thanksgiving. There is something about the crisp air and the falling leaves that invites introspection.

This past year has been a significant one for me, marking my first year serving among you in a unique shared ministry. While my time with you has been half-time, my heart has been fully engaged in walking alongside you. As I look back over this first year, my primary emotion is indeed one of profound gratitude. I thank God for calling me to this place, and I thank each one of you for the warmth, welcome, and grace you have extended.

Ministry in a shared context can sometimes be complex, but your faithfulness has made it a joy. I also want to offer a particular word of thanks to those who bear the load of leading worship the weeks I am at St. Paul's Church in Kent. I am deeply indebted to our dedicated Lay Readers—Paul, Brenda, Heather, and Joyce—and to Fr. Keith Joyce for their steadfast coverage of Sunday services. Your commitment ensures that the worship life of the Church of the Good Shepherd remains consistent, regardless of my location. Thank you for your ministry.

Gratitude is a central theme of our faith but let us be honest: true gratitude does not always come naturally. It is often easier to default to anxiety about what we lack than to rejoice in what we have. Yet, Scripture calls us to rejoice always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus." (1 Thessalonians 5:18).



This command is not meant to minimize our struggles, but rather to reorient our perspective. Gratitude is a remedy. It is a spiritual discipline that guards us against bitterness and cynicism. When we practice thankfulness, we begin to recognize that everything is a gift from God, even the difficult seasons.

In recent weeks I have been reflecting heavily on the themes of endings and renewal, especially as I reflect upon how my time in the parish of Kent will be coming to a close. I will transition to being your full-time priest at the end of the school year. These musings brought to mind a micro-fiction that I wrote last year, which I share with you now as part of this Thanksgiving reflection.

A Leaf in the Wind



A small boy with wide, curious eyes, no older than seven, sat cross-legged beneath the colossal oak tree, his bright red rubber boots caked with mud. He'd been watching this particular leaf for what felt like an eternity, captivated by its tenacious grip. The leaf, gnarled and scarred by a harsh, hot summer season, clung precariously to its branch. It was a handspan from stem to tip and its vast surface, once a vibrant summer green, now bled into hues of fiery amber and deep russet, each imperfection a testament to the sun-drenched months it had weathered.

A jagged lacework of holes and an irregular edge, gnawed by a caterpillar, bore witness to another life it had sustained beyond its own. With a final, almost imperceptible sigh, the ancient oak relinquished its hold, and the autumn wind, a playful choreographer, caught the massive leaf in a swirling embrace.

The boy's gaze followed its every turn as it danced and spiralled, a fragile, torn and battered sail against the pale blue cloudless sky, before finally settling with a soft, papery rustle onto the damp earth, nestling amongst its fallen brethren.



Soon, it lay heaped with countless others—maple reds, birch yellows, and elm browns—all gathered by a diligent rake and excited, tiny hands into a mountain of vibrant autumn joy; they waited for the delighted shrieks of the boy and his sisters to send them scattering anew.

Later, an old man, his face a roadmap of wrinkles carved by seasons past, leaned on his rake, looking at the towering compost heap. He watched the leaf, now just one among many, knowing its journey wasn't truly over. He understood that in this quiet decay, its grand, imperfect form would transform, enriching the soil for the spring to come. He saw not an ending, but a promise—a silent cycle of life, death, and renewal.

As we gather around our tables this Thanksgiving, let us remember the wisdom of the old man in the story. Let us see the imperfect parts of our own lives, and of our community, not as failures, but as part of a greater tapestry of growth and as the places where the grace and mercy of God enter in. Even when we are falling away, there is the promise of forgiveness and renewal. To those who have been away for some time, I encourage you to return and embrace this promise anew.

Thank you for allowing me to walk this cycle with you. May your Thanksgiving be filled with the peace that passes all understanding.

With every blessing,

Chris+





Current Schedule for being in the Parish of Lancaster for 2026:
October 1-4
October 15-18
October 29- November 1
November 12-15
November 26-39
December 10-13
December 31-January 3

Our Dearly Departed

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

Dianne Cormier, April 11

Elizabeth "Bette" Parks, April 15

Donald Nelson, September 2



LIFT

LIFT once again provided a cute Easter Surprise for the congregation to enjoy.







At the beginning of the summer the gardens were spruced up and a few annuals planted to add a bit of color. Two beautiful planters of were placed on either side of the front doors, many thanks to Joyce Mitchell for preparing these.



For the upcoming months of October and November, LIFT will be helping Heather Masson prepare special tree ornaments for the Chrismon Service to be held in December.





MUSIC

During our June 7 service, the offertory hymn, “Hear Our Prayer, O Heavenly Father,” written by Ngaire Nelson, was sung to Picardy, the traditional French carol tune best known for the 1906 English Hymnal text “Let All Mortal Flesh Keep Silence.”

WORSHIP

EASTER VIGIL SERVICE



Starting outside around a fire and lighting the Christ candle from it represents the journey from darkness to light, from death to life, and from the old creation to the new creation in Christ.

The Vigil begins when it is getting dark, at sunset. The world is symbolically in darkness—the darkness of sin and death. We gather around the warmth and light of a blessed fire. This fire is not just a practical tool; it is a "new fire" representing the new creation brought about by the Resurrection of Jesus.

By gathering outside in the closing darkness, the community acknowledges its need for a saviour. We stand in the place of the disciples on that first Holy Saturday, confused and grieving, unsure if the light had been extinguished forever.



Also, on Maundy Thursday the church building was the upper room and the garden of Gethsemane.

On Good Friday the church building was Golgotha where Christ was crucified.

On Holy Saturday the church building is the tomb where Christ was laid to rest but the Easter Vigil reminds us that something happened that night that was fully realized and celebrated on Easter Sunday!

HAPPY EASTER!
HALLELUJAH!
HE IS RISEN;
HE IS RISEN INDEED!

Vibrant displays of flowers adorned the church for Easter Service, and many musical selections were enjoyed.









NATIONAL INDIGENOUS DAY OF PRAYER
JUNE 2026

For Heart and Mind – to grow in faith and understanding.

On this day of prayer, we participated in the Church's desire to pray with and for the indigenous people of this land, and to remember that we are one in Christ with our indigenous brothers and sisters.

NATIONAL DAY OF TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION
SEPTEMBER 2026



The beautiful service coordinated and lead by Heather Masson started with prayers Honoring the Four Directions. (and yes, the directions are out of order as we started facing the 'church' east - traditionally where the alter is)



Candle Lighting Ceremony for Truth and Reconciliation:

- Candle #1 is lit for the Stewardship of the Earth
- Candle #2 is lit for all First Nations
- Candle #3 is lit Innocent lives lost at the Residential Schools
- Candle #4 is lit for Peace
- Candle #5 is lit for Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls
- Candle #6 is lit to acknowledge Jesus sacrifice on the cross



THE ORDINATION OF RICHARD JOSEPH CUNNINGHAM

On Saturday, September 12, 2026, Rick Cunningham was ordained to the Holy Order of Priest at Christ Church Cathedral in Fredericton. He was one of four ordained as Priest with three others as Deacon. Rick's journey began in our parish, which he still considers home, many years ago and several of our parishioners including Father Chris Ketch and his wife Laura, made the trip to Fredericton to attend the ordination.

The service was live streamed for those who could not attend but the Cathedral was still filled beyond seating capacity with several folks required to stand at the back! There was an impressive procession of vested clergy and our Bishop, The Most Reverend David Edwards, presided over a wonderfully inspirational and very moving service.

Our parish has gifted Rick several stoles and a gift card at RD MacLean which is a clergy and church supply store in Moncton. We wish Rick and his family all the best as he continues his journey – now as an ordained Priest.

Pictures on next page - Clockwise starting top left:

1) A very full Christ Church Cathedral.
2) "The Examination" - Bishop David addressing the four ordinands for Priesthood.
3) Some of our parishioners found a friendly face in the crowd!
4) The Reverend Michael Caines, The Reverend Richard Cunningham and The Reverend Dr. Chris McMullen. The Reverend Michael Caines and The Reverend Dr. Chris McMullen were Rick's presenters along with the Venerable Leo Martin. The Reverend Dr. Chris McMullen was Vester.
5) Rick with his wife Gen and children Lily and Noah.
6) Father Chris Ketch (far left) joined all attending clergy who were invited to join the Bishop for prayer during the presentation of the ordinands.


Happy Thanksgiving








Holy Cross Day
Ordinations and Holy Eucharist
3:00 p.m.
Saturday, 12 September 2026
CHRIST CHURCH
CATHEDRAL
FREDERICTON NB









VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL

"Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." Mathew 19:14



VBS 2026 was a joyful and meaningful time of learning, fellowship, worship and fun for the 20 students, 12 teachers and 5 volunteers who participated.

We pray that the lessons, songs, friendships, and memories from VBS will remain in the children's hearts and help them grow in faith and love of God.

We are grateful to everyone who gave their time, energy and talents to make this years VBS a memorable and blessed experience.











SUNDAY SCHOOL



Hi. My name is Laura and I'm so excited to be back teaching Sunday School! It's always a joy to share stories, laughter, and learning with our wonderful group—and there's always room for new faces. Each week brings a fresh lesson, fun activities, and of course, a tasty snack to enjoy together. Come join us!

YOUTH CONNECTION

This is a shared, Friday night, youth ministry between the Church of the Good Shepherd (West) and Stone Church (Uptown) for students in grades 5-10. Youth in grade 11 or older are also welcome but will have more of a leadership role and a separate devotional time.

Start date: September 18. Stone Church will do most of the hosting until more Good Shepherd and west side youth get connected.

Good Shepherd will host for the first time this year on October 2nd, 6:00-8:00 PM and then once a month on the following dates:

November 13
December 11
January 8
February 5
and March 19. (More dates to come.)

Youth Connection provides a shared meal as part of the evening.



HOSPITALITY



We were treated to a cold plate for our May lunch and our final lunch in June, before summer break, was kid friendly – lots of hot dogs and ice cream sandwiches!





Our September lunch consisted of delicious sandwiches provided by Barb Auland, Lori McGovern, Wendy Maxwell, Sharon Titus, Janet Leitch, Terry Ricketts, Janet Brown and Patti Skidmore. Many thanks those who contribute their skills to keep this ministry going.

October lunch will be held on the 18th, and our November luncheon will be held on November 15.

There will be no lunch in December. However, LIFT is sponsoring a Cider and Cookie social after the Nine Carols and Lessons service on December 13.



NEWS FROM THE CONGREGATION CARE AND COMMUNICATION TEAM

1 John 3:18 "Little children, let us love, not in word or speech, but in truth and action."

The Cambridge Dictionary defines care as "the process of protecting someone or something and providing what that person or thing needs"

We are blessed here at The Church of Good Shepherd to share in many types of care activities such as responding to others in times of loss, need or celebration, providing social time and purpose in the LIFT group, supporting the maintenance and repair of our physical buildings under our collective care among other activities.

Our team is undertaking an initiative to broaden care activities throughout and among our congregation. We invite you to be an active part! Here are some ideas to consider:

- Phone calls to members that are in hospital or at home.
- Visiting members that are in hospital or at home.
- Bereavement support individually or in group sessions.
- Preparing and delivering meals to members in need.
- Joining the Prayer Tree Ministry.
- Organizing a special event for parishioners. Some ideas are:

Coffee get togethers, walking group, arts and crafts, board game night, Christmas cookie exchange just to name a few. There will also be a category for OTHER … your suggestions would be great to have!

Please take a few minutes to look these suggestions over and ask yourself which activities you can see yourself joining and/ or leading. Sign up sheets will be available in the Narthex in the coming weeks. In the meantime, if you want to chat about this initiative, please reach out to Patti Skidmore in person, text or call (506 -654-0015) or email (patriciaskidmore99@gmail.com).



STEWARDSHIP & FACILITIES TEAM

Your S&F team is comprised of Jeff Maker, Susan Jack, Barry McQueen, Shayne Galbraith, Warden Chris Titus, Warden Paul Desjardin and Fr. Christopher Ketch.

Rentals

We are working to increase rentals of our unused space to bring people into our building while adding to our income.

Rectory

We are working to prepare our rectory for use by Fr. Christopher an his wife Laura. We have a prioritized list of work and repairs that are required. Shayne and Barry have been working through what they can. We are always looking for help.

An energy audit has been conducted which indicates two priorities:

- Adding heat pumps to offset the electric baseboard heating costs will significantly reduce our heating costs.
- Insulating the basement and attic will reduce heat loss.

Capital Projects

- We are on the roofer's list to have the roof facing the school replaced with steel.



MISSION PROJECTS UPDATE

We are still accepting donations for our **Shepherd's Cupboard** and will make every effort to get these in the hands of those in need. Thank you for your continued support of this mission.

Please note that we are still accepting clothing and small household items for the Hillcrest Baptist **Caring Closet**. Please keep this mission in mind as you change over to your Fall/Winter wardrobe. Volunteers continue to transfer the items to Hillcrest Baptist on a regular basis.

Please remember the **West Side Food Bank** and their clients in your prayers. You can donate to them directly or through a special church offering – just make sure to note on your envelope that the monies are designated for the food bank and it will be forwarded to the Food Bank along with the proceeds from our Food Bank collection jar in the Narthex. Please leave any food items for the food bank in the small bench beside the doors to the Small Hall. A volunteer will transport these to the food bank.

Meals for our Youth Connection - This is a shared, Friday night youth ministry between the Church of the Good Shepherd and Stone Church that begins with a simple meal at 6pm. The Church of the Good Shepherd will host one Friday night each month beginning in October. Now that our lunch program for HVHS is no longer required, this is a wonderful opportunity for parishioners to continue to "be present" for the youth in our community by preparing those simple Friday night meals when our parish hosts each month. We are looking for volunteers to take a turn making and serving the meals. 2 or 3 people can easily manage it and we encourage you to engage with the youth while there! Please reach out to Terry Ricketts (506-643-1722) for more details if you would like to be part of the host team in one of the upcoming months.



It is that time of year again when we start thinking of our annual **Christmas Basket** campaign. Though this doesn't officially start until after Remembrance Day, we realize that many of you like to shop the sales. Below is a list of the non-perishable items included in our baskets.

We also accept monetary donations. The funds are used to bump up the nonperishables if needed and purchase the fresh produce, dairy and bread closer to the day of distribution. We also provide a gift card so families can purchase a turkey, ham or other protein of their choice.

CHRISTMAS BASKETS NON-PERISHABLE LIST

Item	Required	Item	Required
Peanut Butter	30	Canned meat (ie.Pram)	30
Jam	30	Uncooked Pasta	30
Pancake Mix	30	Can/Jar Pasta Sauce	30
Syrup (for Pancakes)	30	Fruit Cocktail	30
Box of cereal	30	Cookies	30
Canned Juice	60	Canned Corn	48
Canned Soup	120	Canned Peas	48
Saltine Crackers	30	Cranberry Sauce	30
Canned Spaghetti	30	Stuffing Mix	30
Kraft Dinner	120	Christmas Candy	30
Canned Beans	40	Box of chocolates	30
Canned Tuna	30		

Please mark your donations "Christmas Baskets" if bringing them to the church before December. Thank you for your continued support!

PYJAMAS OR PAJAMAS?

Let's not nitpick and just settle on **PJ's!** Our goal is to include **nightwear** or **sleepwear** for every child who is part of the families we sponsor this year. The Salvation Army will provide toys for them. So, when you see those tags appear on the tree in the Narthex with a child's name, size and gender, please take one or two and help us provide cozy **jammies** for everyone of them!



MAINTENANCE



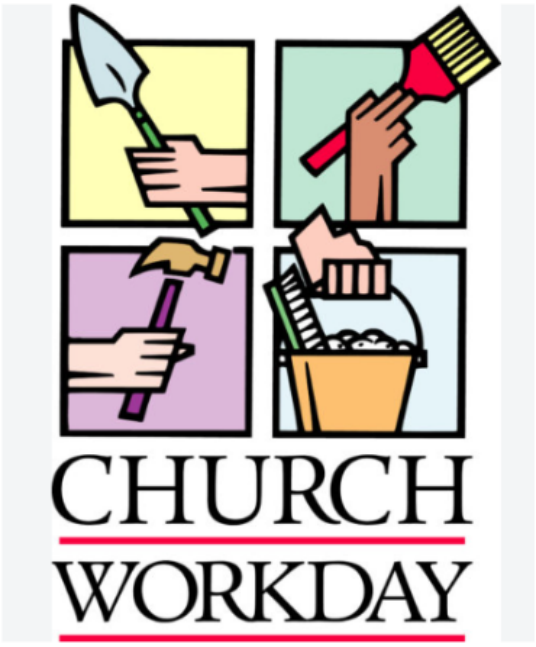
Another busy summer for Shayne and Barry as they replaced some of the rotting trim around the side of the church. They work tirelessly on the “the honey do list”.



SUMMER STUDENT

We are grateful for the continuing ability to hire a summer student to mow the cemetery and church as well as do some clean-up and maintenance around our building. The New Brunswick government's SEED program provides funding for a student by paying 100% of the cost for 12 weeks at minimum wage. That allows us to pay a higher hourly rate and to keep the student on beyond 12 weeks.

This summer we had two students. Nick Lake was with us for 8 weeks and Jack Duncan was with us for about 5 weeks. Shayne Galbraith is instrumental in keeping the students busy while they are with us.



Many Hands Make Light Work!

DATE: Saturday, October 17th, 2026

TIME: 11:00 AM

LOCATION: Rectory – 1004 Manawagonish Rd.

PLEASE BRING: Work gloves, rake, small tools

TO HELP: rake leaves, mow, replace decking, etc.

PLEASE SIGN UP: In case the weather doesn't cooperate and we need to contact you. BUT feel free to join us even if you didn't sign up.

Refreshments will be provided!



FINANCE UPDATE

As of the end of Aug., YTD financial results are showing a loss of ($15,941), which is $4,625 favourable to our budgeted year to date loss of ($20,566).

Our YTD revenues are in line with our 2025 actuals and slightly higher than our 2026 budget.

On the expenses side, salaries are trending higher than 2025 (primarily due to rector's salaries), but we anticipated this and the actuals are in line with the 2026 budget. All other costs are comparable to both budget and the 2025 actuals.

Our Outlook for the rest of the year is that we'll come in close to the budgeted loss of $16k. As noted previously in this newsletter, the latter part of this year will see us incur costs to replace a portion of the roof over the small hall, as well as a number of rectory updates.

	Jan - Aug Actuals		***Jan - Aug Budget***	
	2026	***2025***	***2026***	***2025***
Offerings	90,309	90,633	88,348	98,353
Rents	16,075	16,115	16,315	21,943
Interest	2,277	2,243	2,210	2,210
Misc Income	-	-	-	-
Total Income	108,661	108,992	106,873	122,506
Salaries	64,171	52,892	63,969	73,236
Church Bldg & Office	41,375	40,873	42,485	30,928
Rectory	1,094	792	2,631	3,612
Worship & Programs	2,274	2,564	2,667	2,933
Shared Ministry	15,689	16,042	15,689	16,042
Total Expenses	124,602	113,163	127,439	126,751
YTD Surplus/(Loss)	(15,941)	(4,172)	(20,566)	(4,245)



IN OTHER NEWS.....

Joyce Mitchell celebrated a milestone this summer. David surprised Joyce with a birthday party where many of her family, church family and friends attended.







Many thanks to all who contributed to this newsletter.

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.

