

Happy Thanksgiving

News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd
Anglican Parish of Lancaster

Thanksgiving 2023 Newsletter



Regular Service Times

Holy Communion on
Sundays at 10:30 AM

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

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

Happy Thanksgiving



THANKSGIVING 2023

Dear people of the Good Shepherd,

Hope instead of despair, joy not gloom, life in the face of death – that’s why in Christ we give thanks.

Yet to give thanks does not mean denying the realities of our lives. Our health, our relationships, our jobs, our life situations can be deeply challenging, even painful.

The only reason we can give thanks *in* difficult times is because the One in whom “we live and move and have our being” experienced suffering, pain and death for the whole world. We thank Him for His presence, His love, His compassion even though our circumstances don’t change. Sometimes we are silent because it is difficult to say the simplest “thank you” – He understands and does not abandon us. And we can be thankful that we can be honest with Him; we don’t have to deny our circumstances.

Let us give thanks for the harvest of His love in our lives through all circumstances. By His Spirit He is always nearer than anyone else we know. Let us be thankful that we can speak to Him honestly, openly, anywhere, anytime, and that at the end of the day we can whisper “thank you for your presence, for your love.”

Happy Thanksgiving

Scripture reminds us: "*Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God.*" (Philippians 4:6) It then continues with the outcome, saying, "*And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.*"

May you have a truly blessed Thanksgiving, in the midst of all your circumstances.

Most sincerely,

Keith Joyce

Keith Joyce (The Rev'd)
Interim Priest-in-charge

Our Dearly Departed

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

Mildred Bishop, April 23, 2023

Elizabeth (Betty) Melvin, Jun 7, 2023

Judy Smith, September 19, 2023

Happy Thanksgiving



Volunteers Needed!

Every church depends heavily on volunteers to keep things running smoothly. From the worship service to maintenance of our property to administration tasks, volunteers play an important role.

Please pray about helping in any one or more of these roles:

- † Sunday Morning Greeters (training available)
- † Counters for the Collection (training available)
- † Altar Guild (training available)
- † Monthly Luncheons - preparing food, clean up
- † Maintenance Projects (see Shayne Galbraith)
- † Sunday School - (volunteer for as few or as many Sundays that you are comfortable committing to)
- † Youth Group

Please let any vestry member know if you are interested in volunteering.

Remember... many hands make light work!

Happy Thanksgiving



LIFT

Our Lift group started meeting once again in September. We continue to meet on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the small hall.

In April we received word that Beacon Cove, the youth shelter located in the south end peninsula, was in desperate need of toiletries. LIFT agreed to fund a shopping spree to pick up the essentials.



At the beginning of the summer the gardens were spruced up by volunteers and a few annuals planted to add a bit of color. Two beautiful planters of begonias were placed on either side of the front doors in time for our vendor's market. In the fall these were replaced by mums, always a fall favorite.



The **Caring Card** project continues. We have been told this simple act of sending a card has had a big impact on those that receive them. Please remember to let LIFT know if you know of someone who needs a "LIFT", is celebrating one of life's special moments or perhaps should be recognized for an accomplishment, please let our Lift members know.

The ladies also designed a few 'welcome' cards to accompany our new 'welcome package' that is being designed for new parishioners.

Happy Thanksgiving



Music



A special Thank You to Helen Gollings who stepped in as our organist while David Mitchell convalesced from surgeries.

Worship

On June 4, the Prayer Shawl ministry was introduced to the congregation with the blessing of 20 prayer shawls. Fr. Keith explained to the congregation the significance of these shawls and how he was once blessed with one.



Kept by God, enwrapped by the prayers of family and friends, and having the world's best caregiver to help me through the journey, I am truly blessed!!



Our organist, David Mitchell was one of our first recipients of a prayer shawl as he recuperated from surgery.

Happy Thanksgiving



Our summer services were conducted a bit differently as the Sanctuary went under renovations. A smaller communion table was placed in front of the Sanctuary for the summer months.



In August, Fr. Keith took a well-deserved vacation leaving us in the capable hands of our awesome lay readers. Thank you to Paul Desjardin, Joyce Mitchell, Heather Masson, and Brenda Clayton for their leadership in Morning Prayers.



This summer has been a time of growth for us as we have a few new members and a return of some past members.

A visitor's pamphlet, which gives a bit of information on the service is now available in the Narthax.



On September 24th, **Wesley Mark James Craft** was baptized. We are so happy to welcome him and his proud parents, Caitlin, and Adam, into our church family.

Happy Thanksgiving

Mark your Calendars and Invite Friends and Family to Join us for:

“Welcome!” Sunday

Not sure what church is all about?
Come and join us!
Sunday,
October 22, 2023, 10:30 am.
Come for worship and stay for lunch.



Sunday School

Spread the word - Sunday School is back in session. In September we explored the life of Moses - from the baby in a basket on the river Nile to talking to God via a Burning Bush, as he parted the sea and then climbed Mount Sinai to receive the Ten Commandments from God. Moses was a busy guy!

Youth Group

Stay tuned - we are working on a plan!

Happy Thanksgiving



Hospitality



The men served up a yummy Hamburger Soup at our May luncheon.

Thank you to our cooks!

We celebrated a special occasion during our monthly luncheon in June.



Members of our congregation provided lovely sandwiches as we **celebrated Bea Connelly's upcoming 100th birthday in August.**

Happy Thanksgiving



Thank You" to L.I.F.T. for our lunch in September 2023. Our table was graced with many yummy sandwiches and a special cake as we celebrated the Baptism of Wesley Craft. It was great to see so many stay and enjoy a meal together!

On October 22, 2023, we celebrate Welcome Sunday. Our men will be setting the tables, with what - Come and find out! Be sure to stay for dessert - Ice Cream Sundaes!

Communication

A brief visitor's guide has been designed to help visitors and newcomers during our services. It can be a little overwhelming when visiting a church for the first time. These are now available in the Narthex. Please pass these along to any visitors that you see in church.

We also recognize that we have been blessed with several new and returning parishioners and are working on a welcome package with more detailed information about our parish. This will be available soon.

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

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? 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>

Happy Thanksgiving

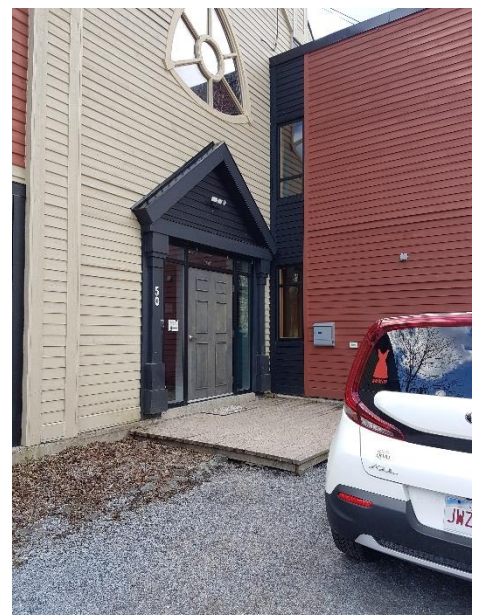
Mission Projects Update

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 an offering - just make sure to note on your envelope that the monies are designated for the food bank. At the end of the month the Church sends these donations to the food bank. Please leave any food items for the food bank in the small bench just inside the main doors. A volunteer will transport these to the food bank.

In April we received word that **Beacon Cove**, the youth shelter on St. James Street, was critically low on toiletries. Thanks to LIFT, we were able to spend \$500 on toiletries at Costco and deliver them to the shelter. The coordinators were incredibly happy and told us they have five emergency shelter beds available along with the ten beds for their longer-term residents. Beacon Cove is a beautiful facility and a wonderful place for vulnerable youth to find stability in a safe environment. The youth at the shelter also spread kindness by taking supplies to other homeless teenagers.





Christmas Baskets - 2023

It is that time of year again when we start thinking of our annual **Christmas Basket** campaign. Although it doesn't officially start until after Remembrance Day, we realize that many folks like to shop the sales. Below is a list of the standard grocery items we put in the baskets.

We also accept monetary donations. These funds are used to purchase additional nonperishables (if needed), fresh fruit & vegetables, milk, bread etc. closer to the day of distribution. We also provide a gift card so the families can purchase a turkey, ham, or chicken.

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!

Happy Thanksgiving



As part of the Saint John West Days celebration in June, our church hosted a Vendor's Market on Community Day to give local crafters a venue in which to participate during the week-long celebrations. We presented a Heritage Display at the same time to share photos and other items of interest from all three west side Anglican churches. The Steel Band group "Pandemonium" performed on our lawn outside the market to add to the day's festivities!

Vendors Market



Happy Thanksgiving



Steel Band



Heritage Display - St. George's



Many thanks to current and former parishioners from all three churches who loaned or donated their photos and other memorabilia for our displays! It provided a wonderful window into our rich past!



Thanks to volunteer Jackie Clark for setting up and attending the St. George displays. Our volunteers were on hand to answer questions and chat with visitors.



Happy Thanksgiving



Heritage Display - St. Jude's



Heritage Display - Church of the Good Shepherd



Many thanks to volunteers Ngaire Nelson and Ann Stone for setting up and attending the Good Shepherd and St. Jude's displays!



The Heritage Display proved to be a popular addition to the market and a chance for many parishioners to reconnect and reminisce!



Happy Thanksgiving



Building and Maintenance Update



The top tier of the Sanctuary floor was removed, and carpet re-installed to make it safer for Clergy and Lay readers to navigate around the Altar. Many thanks to Shayne and Barry for taking on this and many other projects around the church this summer.



New paint on both sets of side doors and a bulletin board for announcements to keep the door looking fresh and clear of signage.

You may have noticed a small shed on the side of the church. This now houses the outdoor equipment that was previously stored on the gym stage.



Happy Thanksgiving



The cellar doors on the side of the building received a much-needed makeover.



A couple of pews from the choir area were recently removed so the electric keyboard could be situated closer to the choir.

Other projects that have been completed:

- † Chapel Walls/Ceiling - water damage repaired and painted.
- † Repairs and painting in sunshine room, men's washroom, and office closet.
- † Cleaned up basement.
- † Insulation installed in basement.
- † Added ceiling to 2 storage rooms on stage to allow further storage on top.
- † and several smaller jobs.

"Thank You!" to Shayne and Barry for all their hard work to keep our building in great shape!

In late fall we expect contractor's work to begin on the new metal roofing installation on the middle high roof of the church.



Summer Student



It is hard to believe that summer has come and gone already. Once again, the NB government provided us funding through the SEED program to hire a student to mow our cemetery and church properties and clean the church during Larry's vacation. Ellie Snow started with us just after the Victoria Day weekend and worked until August 25th. She was engaging, hard working and up for any task that she was given.



Ellie completed many tasks including:

- † Paint floor in the Nave
- † Transfer Archive items to upper room
- † Thorough cleaning of the large kitchen
- † Painted Chapel Walls and doors, Small Hall door, Basement door, Office Cabinet and door frame, Office Shelf.

Thanks to Shayne Galbraith for providing her support, guidance, and odd jobs through the summer.

FINANCE UPDATE

As forecasted in the annual budget at the AGM, and in the Easter Newsletter, we are continuing to see near break-even results due to having a part-time rector and the energy cost savings from the natural gas conversion.

Financial results for the end of August are currently showing a small loss of \$408, with a forecast to end the year with a surplus of \$9,735.

As reported earlier in this newsletter, we have a number of building related costs this year. In addition to the natural gas conversion costs, the sanctuary updates, new shed and the upcoming roof updates will all need to be funded from the building fund and the operating memorial fund, with any additional funds required to be funded from the capital memorial fund. If your personal situation allows, please consider making additional donations to help replenish the building and memorial funds.

	<i>Jan - Aug</i>	<i>Jan - Aug</i>	<i>Jan - Dec Forecast</i>	<i>Jan - Dec</i>
	2023	2022	2023	2022
Offerings	89,042	90,471	143,756	150,015
Rents	11,900	11,683	14,995	14,478
Interest	2,210	2,273	4,177	4,483
Misc Income	-	23,351	300	500
Total Income	103,152	127,779	163,228	169,476
Salaries	51,851	53,344	77,317	76,052
Church Bldg & Office	32,525	51,698	44,567	69,292
Rectory	1,805	7,401	3,863	9,011
Worship & Programs	695	4,199	2,715	4,882
Shared Ministry	16,685	17,495	25,031	26,243
Total Expenses	103,560	134,137	153,493	185,481
YTD Loss	(408)	(6,358)	9,735	(16,005)

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UPCOMING EVENTS

Welcome! Sunday and Luncheon
October 22, 2023 10:30am

Monthly Luncheons:

October 22
November 19

**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.

