



# News Around the Flock

The Church of the Good Shepherd  
Anglican Parish of Lancaster

## Christmas 2023 Newsletter



*Celebrating*  
THE BIRTH OF  
*Christ*

**Christmas Services**

**Christmas Eve**  
6:00 pm

**Christmas Day**  
10:00 am

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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.**



## ADVENT/CHRISTMAS 2023



Dear fellow members of the Good Shepherd church ~

In Advent we look back and we look ahead.

We look back to the first coming, the first Advent, of Jesus in the celebration of the nativity of our Lord at Christmas. We look ahead to the second coming, the second Advent, of Christ's glorious return.

Yet, we live now with more than mere sentimental recollections about Jesus' birth, with more than wistful pining for his return. Within the bookends of Christ's first and second coming we are to experience the extravagant grace of knowing Christ now, of being in Christ, by baptism and through faith. Even with seeming ever-lurking Covid-19 still about us, and devastating persistent wars on our planet, we still have hope. The power of this hope is that it is grounded in a person and not in an idea or a plan or a spiritual notion; it is in Christ Jesus **himself**, in knowing him, no matter the circumstances.

In these Advents of our Lord, we recognize the work of our great God, whose ways are far higher than ours. When we ponder these things, we cannot but be humble, penitent, joyfully awestruck. Advent's call to penitential anticipation, which is not a grovelling in our sin, but rather it's the life-giving process of lining up our lives with that of Jesus Christ, our brother and our King, our friend and our Lord - it's the way of freedom and hope.



Let's take this Advent opportunity to square our lives afresh with the One who is **"God with us", Immanuel**. We rejoice, with hearts sharpened by our penitence, that *"as many as received Him, to them He gave the right to become children of God, to those who believe in His name"* and that we have the privilege of being a number of those children. As daughters and sons of God it is our cherished calling to willfully bow before our Bethlehem-born Lord in adoration.

*"The Word became flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."* This is absolutely amazing! Think on it, and believe it, deep within your soul.

A Blessed Advent and a Happy Christmas to you and yours.

Affectionately, by the grace of God,

**Keith**

Fr Keith Joyce  
*Interim Priest-in-charge*

## **Our Dearly Departed**

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

**Audrey Ferris, November 25, 2023**

**Nancy Spencer, December 5, 2023**



## LIFT

Our Lift group meets on the second Thursday of the month at 2pm in the small hall. In October we were happy to provide a donation towards the purchase of turkeys for the Annual St. Rose Student Turkey Dinner. We also voted to provide 2 solar water pumps to a Haitian community through the PWRDF Christmas campaign.

At our November meeting, we started creating Caring candles, finishing up just in time for the service of the Nine Lessons and Carols.

We also hosted St. Mary's band on November 30. What a wonderful way to get into the Christmas season with traditional Christmas music.



## Men's Guild



There were a couple of elves helping people stay a little warmer on Saturday, November 25 as the West Side held its annual Christmas Parade.

Thanks to our men, Shayne Galbraith, and Bruce MacLeod for

stepping up and sharing the good will of the Church of the Good Shepherd. Several free will offerings were received in thanks which were then forwarded to the West Side Food Bank.





## Music

### Welcome Back David!

We welcomed David back to service on November 12, 2023. We are so glad to have you worshipping with us again. You may have noticed that space was made for the electric keyboard in the Choir loft. This makes it easier for David to change between keyboards during the service and allows more space in the Chancel area.



With David's return we are looking forward to hearing the choir during the **Nine Lessons and Carols** service on December 17. A few extra choir members were recruited to help with this endeavour. We hope you can join us!

The **Tintinnabula Hand Bell Choir** have been blessed with a couple of new members but are always looking for new members, age doesn't matter nor does experience! They have a wonderful time making a joyful noise unto the Lord and recently were invited to play at St. Paul's United Church in Sussex.





## Worship

Our Sanctuary renovation is complete and we resumed using it for communion in late October.

On November 26, 2023, **Colter Andrew Kenneth James** received the sacrament of baptism. We welcomed Colter along with his parents, Taylor and Michael into our church family.



We continue to welcome visitors and new congregants. Please remember the visitor's pamphlet, which gives a bit of information on the service. This is available on the table in the Narthex.





## Sunday School



We are happy to see a slight increase in attendance in Sunday School over the past several months. Let us keep all our children in our prayers.

Thank you to our teachers Elinor Joyce, Terry Ricketts and Beverly Janes. We need more teachers for this ministry to be sustainable, if you are interested in helping, please let Terry Ricketts or Janet Brown know.

## Altar Guild



The Altar Guild have been busy deep cleaning the sacristy. Great job!

They have welcomed several new members to their group and are always looking for more to join their team. If you are interested, please speak with Sharon Titus

## Hospitality

The men served up a delicious Hamburger Soup and a Tomato soup at our October Welcome! luncheon. We were also treated to Sundaes with all the fixings!

Thank you to our cooks!





October was **Clergy Appreciation Month** and the one-year anniversary of Father Keith's time with us, so we took the opportunity, at a parish lunch, to make sure that Father Keith and Elinor both realize how grateful we are to have them with us during this time between incumbents. Elinor has assisted with our Sunday School while Father Keith has been doing a great job with our worship services and keeping our numbers high. They will be enjoying meals at three of our local restaurants.

Thank You to our Vestry for our lunch on November 26. We were treated to homemade beans and wieners and a special cake as we celebrated the Baptism of Colter James.



Our monthly luncheons remain a popular event. As the old saying goes, many hands make light work, if you would like to help with this ministry, please let Janet Brown or Terry Ricketts know.

We are also in need of financial donations to help offset the cost associated with these lunches. If you wish to make a financial donation, please mark your donation for the hospitality account and place it on the collection plate.

There will be no lunch in December as we take a short break for Christmas. We will resume on January 21, 2024. (This editor has heard that a delicious chili may be on the menu 😊)



Our **Annual General Meeting** will take place at our luncheon in February, February 25 with a snow date of March 17, and our traditional bagged lunch will be provided.

Please submit your annual reports to the office no later than January 23, 2024.





## Communication

We recognize that we have been blessed with several new and returning parishioners. To make their transition a pleasant one, a welcome package with more detailed and current information about our parish is now available. Greeters - please feel free to present a welcome packet, located in the Narthex, to newcomers.



Do we have your current 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](http://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 additional content? Please let us know: [goodshep@nb.sympatico.ca](mailto: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>.



## Mission Projects Update

The **Shepherd's Cupboard** and **Caring Closet** missions remain active. We also continue to support the **West Side Food Bank**. Thank you for continued support with these missions and please keep them and all those who are in need in your prayers.

A new outreach mission, **The Harbourview High School Brown Bag Lunch program**, has been running since November 6, 2023. A group of volunteers sprang into action to the urgent call to provide 50 brown bag lunches each week for the most vulnerable students at Harbourview High School. Each Sunday (except Monday holidays) a rotation of volunteer's pack 50 lunches which include a ham and cheese sandwich, a fruit or veggie snack, another snack such as a granola bar, and a juice box. These are then delivered Monday morning to the school's main office where the resource teacher will distribute to those in most need.



Our goal is to ensure this program is sustainable and consistent long-term.

### How can you help?

1. There is a restricted account set up to receive donations.
2. You can also donate non-perishables such as the juice boxes or granola bars.
3. You can volunteer to help assemble the lunches. This commitment is only 1 hour once every 4-6 weeks.
4. Don't see yourself making sandwiches? Maybe some of the shopping or lunch delivery to the school is more appealing to you!

Please reach out to Terry or Janet if you have any questions and/or would like to become involved in this very important outreach.

Terry Ricketts - 506-643-1722

Janet Brown - 506-721-6574



## Christmas Baskets - 2023

### Before:

Annual Christmas Giving tree:



**WOW!**

What a transformation from tags on the Giving Tree to White Gift Sunday.

Your generosity and kindness will surely be felt by all who receive one of our Christmas Baskets.

### After:

White Gift Sunday:





A **BIG THANK YOU** to the Urban Line Dance group who collected \$688.50 for our Christmas Basket Campaign. We also received mitten donations from one of their avid knitters as well as a few toys! This is the second year for this group to direct their holiday generosity to our Christmas Baskets and we are very grateful for their support!



## Seafarers Mission

You may have noticed that our Seafarers Mission boat has not yet made an appearance in the Narthex. Donations are needed and welcomed throughout the year so we decided that we would move this outreach mission to January since the parish is focused on other projects in December.



Suggestions - Hats, scarves, gloves or mitts, socks, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate), soap, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, shaving foam, razors, deodorant, lip balm, playing cards, puzzle books, pens, writing paper, postcards.



## Building and Maintenance Update

### Rectory



Barry working hard scrubbing the rectory siding. What a difference a little elbow grease does make! Check it out the next time you drive by.



Other projects around the rectory included crack filling and painting the ceiling in the 1<sup>st</sup> floor washroom, cleaning up the yard and trimming trees, repairing the frame and threshold of the front door to the garage and placing a missing roller on the garage door and cleaning and repairing the eavestrough.

### Church



You may have noticed a brighter area in and around the side door and shed. The gym stage area has been cleaned up and new lights have been installed over the gym stage and large hall.

Exits will be better identified with new running man signs which will be installed over the next few weeks.

Shayne and Barry always welcome another pair of hands to help keep our buildings in shape!



## FINANCE UPDATE

We are continuing to forecast a small surplus for the end of the year. It has, however, dropped slightly from the projected surplus we reported in Sept. This is due in part to a small decrease in forecasted revenues and a small increase in building related costs.

Financial results for the end of Nov. are currently showing a small loss of \$2,006, with a forecast to end the year of a surplus of \$4,640, an improvement of \$20,000 over last year's results as we continue to reap the financial benefits of having a part-time rector and the energy cost savings from the natural gas conversion.

	<i>Jan - Nov</i> <b>2023</b>	<i>Jan - Nov</i> <b>2022</b>	<i>Jan - Dec Forecast</i> <b>2023</b>	<i>Jan - Dec</i> <b>2022</b>
Offerings	125,673	126,256	142,523	150,015
Rents	12,700	13,778	13,281	14,478
Interest	2,210	2,273	4,177	4,483
Misc Income	-	23,851	-	500
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>140,583</b>	<b>166,158</b>	<b>159,981</b>	<b>169,476</b>
Salaries	71,394	69,932	77,675	76,052
Church Bldg & Office	43,924	59,679	47,769	69,292
Rectory	3,034	8,754	3,299	9,011
Worship & Programs	1,295	4,596	1,570	4,882
Shared Ministry	22,942	24,056	25,028	26,243
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>142,589</b>	<b>167,017</b>	<b>155,341</b>	<b>185,481</b>
<b>YTD Surplus/(Loss)</b>	<b>(2,006)</b>	<b>(858)</b>	<b>4,640</b>	<b>(16,005)</b>



## In other news...

### AED Now Available



A grant from our Diocesan Synod has enabled the purchase of an Automatic External Defibrillator (AED) which is mounted in the hallway. Please take an opportunity to familiarize yourself with its location. This device, once turned on, will provide step-by-step instructions on its use. Google 'Zoll AED 3 Training' to watch a short video.

Our church office is sporting a new laptop as the old computer was becoming a bit tired and finicky.



### Did you know:



In 1956 the Creche was presented to St. George's Church in loving memory of Charles Mark Waring, son of G. Ernst Waring. The figures were purchased in England and shipped to Saint John by ocean freighter. They passed through Canadian Customs where it was decided that Jesus, Mary, and Joseph would be duty free while all the other figures were taxable.

When the figures finally arrived at St. George's, work had begun on an appropriate display, a stable, to house them.



To maintain authenticity, it was decided no nails would be used in the construction, only wood pins, like those used in Christ's day. Also, the roof would be thatched like those of 2000 years ago. Thatching material was gathered from marshy areas around the Saint John River at South Bay. This was soaked in fireproofing solution, and dried. After some time, the roof was replaced with cedar shingles which remain in place today. Re-dedication of the creche happened in 1996 after repairs to the figures and creche were completed.

*~information above was summarized from a dictation in 1996 that was transcribed by David Goss in 2001*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

December 24<sup>th</sup> Fourth Sunday in Advent - 10:30 am

December 24<sup>th</sup> Christmas Eve Service - 6:00 pm

December 25<sup>th</sup> Christmas Day Service - 10:00 am

Monthly Luncheon - January 21<sup>st</sup>

Annual Meeting & Luncheon - February 25<sup>th</sup>

**A little Christmas humor to brighten your day....**







Fr Keith, Wardens, and Vestry  
of the Church of the Good Shepherd  
Wish You a Merry Christmas  
and a  
Blessed New Year!

**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.**