



# St. Francis News

Volume 13, Number 3

November 2024

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## The Alternative Calendar of Christ

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Dear friends,

One of the beauties of our Christian life together is the alternative calendar we live within. For some people, Dec. 1, 2024, will be another day at work, with perhaps a bit of panic over shopping deadlines. But for the followers of Christ, it is Advent. Once again, we recall the beginning of the coming of the Lord of Peace.

As this was being written, once-only events of human history are unfolding. In the United States, the most powerful country in the world, a national election was set to unfold, after a bitter and profane campaign. In Canada, there is speculation of a similar event, coming soon. By the time you read this, more will be known.

Yet, while history unfolds, Christians are taught to see society through a unique lens. Whatever happens in the world calls for a corresponding agenda of compassion and healing set by the Creator of all. In the Anglican morning prayers of Advent, the prophet Isaiah is a key figure, crying out, "A voice of one calling: In the desert prepare the way of the Lord." Read at the mid-point of Advent, the phrase is a reminder of a turning point in history. It is a new song which announces that God will again speak tenderly to His people in radically unexpected ways.

At this pivot point in our church year, we don't suddenly become wise people who have it all together. But rather we recall the Biblical narrative of life is -- as the theologian Karl Barth put it -- written for struggling people "to whom certainty has everywhere begun to waiver." Our calendar was designed to address this process of falling away and coming home.

We gather at St. Francis by the Lakes for reflections on God's grace and mercy in giving us His incarnation. We sing hymns and invoke what songwriter Margaret Rizza called, "Inborn Spirit, deep and still." We devote time to just and loving social outreach, rather than the mall. Our Christ-driven calendar unfolds amidst the rush of events. Let us pray we are restored this Advent to the Lord who loves us, allowing His Son's presence to enter our lives.

~Reverend Mike and Reverend Gloria

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### Advent / Christmas Services/ Special Events

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- ✦ Memorial Carol Sing – Dec. 1 @ 7:00 p.m.
- ✦ Advent Reflections – Wednesdays through Advent @ 2:00 p.m. (Nov. 27, Dec. 4, 11, and 18)
- ✦ Longest Night Service – Dec. 18th @ 7:00 p.m.
- ✦ Christmas Eve Services – 4 p.m. (Rev. Gloria) and 7 p.m. (Rev. Mike)
- ✦ Christmas Day Service – 10:00 a.m. (Rev. Mike)
- ✦ Epiphany tea - Jan 5, 2025--bring leftovers to share after services
- ✦ Annual Meeting – Jan 26, 2025



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## Letter From Your Wardens

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Dear Parishioners,

We are excited to announce that we have officially entered the parochial process to find our new priest! This is an important and prayerful journey for our church, and we are blessed to have a wonderful team to lead the way: Don Brushett-Chair, Wanda Joudrey, Recorder, Elaine Bishop, Jane Nauss, Scott Luff and Cynthia Stilwell. Please keep them in your prayers as they embark on this sacred responsibility. While the process is confidential until an official announcement can be made, rest assured that careful attention and discernment are being given at every step. Thank you to all who offered to be part of this committee.

As we near the end of another year, we want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all who have served on the Parish Council and various committees throughout the year. Your dedication, time, and energy have been invaluable in helping our church community thrive. We are so grateful for your faithful service!

Looking ahead, there will be openings on the Parish Council, and we ask you to prayerfully consider stepping into roles such as warden, treasurer, clerk of council, synod delegate, or a member-at-large. Becoming involved is a wonderful way to deepen your connection to the church and help us continue growing as a vibrant community. We also encourage you to join one of our committees and offer your suggestions and support.

Together, let us move forward in faith and unity as we continue to serve God and one another.

~Elaine and Jane



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## Christmas Flower Memorial

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If you want to contribute to the flowers placed at the altar, in memory of a loved one, please speak to Harold Irving, phone 865-4795 or e-mail [hirving215@gmail.com](mailto:hirving215@gmail.com)



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## Memorial Carol Sing

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Our Annual Memorial Carol Sing will be taking place on Sunday, December 1, at 7 p.m.

How does this work? You give a donation in a loved one's memory and choose ONE of the carols to be played in their memory. During the playing of the carol, you may come forward and light a candle for your person being remembered or someone will do this for you. A light lunch will be offered after the service.

Envelopes will be available in the Narthex in November, or you may also call Joe Young at 902-456-5527. Information must be returned by November 26 in order to have their name on the slides. The list of carols to choose from:

- Joy to the World
- Hark the Herald
- Come All Ye Faithful
- Silent Night
- What Child is This?
- Away in a Manger
- O Little Town of Bethlehem
- Angels From the Realms of Glory
- Angels We Have Heard on High
- O Come, O Come Emanuel
- It Came Upon a Midnight Clear



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## Advent Reflections

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### Jesus in a Time of Strife

A service of reflection will be held in the church during the Advent season. Christmas is the season of Peace, but we live in a world much like Jesus was born into that is not peaceful. This is the world in which we are called to preach the Prince of Peace. But what is a prince and what is peace? We explore this through the scriptures that are the Christian baseline in life.

We know that Mary, the mother of Jesus, survived her son. In these narratives, we take the Gospel stories of the Nativity in a different order, seen through her memories: of Jesus lost; of the killings in Bethlehem, the 'House of Bread', and life on the road; of the offering of Jesus in the temple; and how the story started for her.

- Wednesday: November 27 at 2pm: Temple Time
- Wednesday December 4 at 2pm: Terror Times
- Wednesday December 11 at 2pm: The House of Bread
- Wednesday December 18 at 2pm: The Answer

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## Ways and Means Committee Update

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The month of October saw St Francis serving up a roast beef dinner. We raised approximately \$1,100. Next month is our turkey dinner (Nov 16) and planning for the meal will begin soon. December will be a very busy month with our first ever Christmas Market (Dec 7), which includes a St Francis Baked Goods table, plus a lunch of soup and a roll for \$5. An entrance fee of \$2 plus a 50/50 draw will enhance our profit. Jill Wall is coordinating rental of vendor tables. Lastly, there is the Christmas John Snyder concert (Dec 14) along with a canteen and a 50/50 draw.

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## Envelopes in this Newsletter

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Special Envelopes are included for your convenience.

You may also use e-transfers as a way to send a donation, send to: [stfrancisbythelakes192@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisbythelakes192@gmail.com) The question is: What is the money for? and the answer depends on where you want the money to go. For a weekly offering the answer is church and for the special appeals below the answer is in brackets. Please always use the message box when using eTransfer to send money - describe where the money is going and use the correct answer to the Question What is the money for?

The envelope marked "Advent" replaces the old coin folders. Traditionally, the four Sundays and weeks of Advent are used to help prepare and remember the real meaning of Christmas. Often people will give up the cost of a coffee a day or make a contribution based on giving something up or adding on a gift to their church in preparation of Christmas. (**advent**)

The "Christmas" envelope is simply a gift to the church in celebration of the birth of Jesus. (**christmas**)

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## Timeline for Christmas Outreach Projects 2024

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Nov 3- 23	Seafarer items for Missions to Seafarer Shoeboxes.
Nov. 17-Dec. 8	Money donations for "The Turkey Tree" for Beacon House.
Dec. 1-Dec. 22	Money donation for "Blue Lights" in memory of loved ones

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### Mission To Seafarer Christmas Shoeboxes

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Requested Items: (Size small or medium):

- Hats, mini-gloves or mitts, socks, scarves, soap or body wash, toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, shaving cream, razors, deodorant, lip balm, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate). A few NEW items this year: pen/pencil, notepad, and comb. Playing cards have been donated already!!

All items can be put in the bin in the narthex between Nov. 3-Nov. 24. Monetary donations can also be placed on the plate, label clearly with your envelope/PAD number and any cheques made to St. Francis by the Lakes. We will send one cheque to the Mission to Seafarers. Thank you all for supporting these hidden heroes.

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### Turkey Tree

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Every donation helps. When a total of \$20 has been donated, a turkey ornament will be placed on the Turkey Tree in the narthex. All donations go towards the purchase of turkeys for Beacon House's Christmas Hampers.



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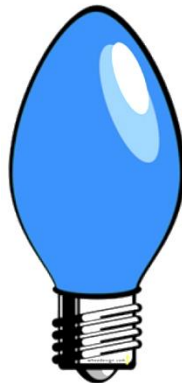
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### Blue Light Memorial

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Remember your loved ones this Christmas. For every \$5 donation, a blue light on the tree will be changed to white. On your envelope, please include the name your bulb is in memory of as this will be recorded on a poster by the tree.



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### Calling all Bakers

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This year we are hosting a Christmas Market with over 20 vendors to sell their wares. We will have our usual bake table with fabulous goodies to choose from.

We are looking for homemade baked goods for our Christmas Market on Dec. 7, from 10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m. If you are doing some baking or preserving, please consider making extra and donating to this event.

Suggested baked goods include cookies, squares, pies, cakes, cupcakes, tarts, breads, muffins, fudge, loaves etc. Please remember NO nut products including peanut butter. We ask that you package baked items in/on non-returnable containers such as paper/plastic plates, Ziploc bags etc. It is helpful to label key ingredients. Please group items in packages of 4-6, depending on size.

We are also going to have a \$5 lunch of hamburg soup and a roll for take-out, with some limited seating to eat inside.

Please contact Jane at 902-209-1195 (call or text) or e-mail: [jane.nauss@gmail.com](mailto:jane.nauss@gmail.com) and let her know if you plan to donate so we can get an idea of what we have coming in or if you are able to work a shift that day to help us out. We would ask that you have all donations to the church hall on Friday, December 6, between 6:00-7:00 p.m. or on Saturday, December 7, between 9:00-10:00 a.m.





## Fundscrip Dates

The Fundscrip gift card ordering program has been in operation at St. Francis by the Lakes since 2011. The premise is simple - parishioners and their friends can order gift cards that they can use for groceries, restaurants, gas, clothing, gifts, etc. In return, while the purchaser retains the full dollar amount of the cards they ordered, St. Francis receives a percentage of each card's value. Please consider purchasing your Christmas gift cards through the church.

For more information on how you can use this program to raise money for the church, without spending any extra money on your part, please check out the church website ([www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca](http://www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca)) for a list of retailers, as well as information on how to order.

Our team is always ready to assist you. Shelley Brushett is our main team member to contact and place the orders for cards. You can contact Shelley at [brushettsm@gmail.com](mailto:brushettsm@gmail.com) or 902-452-1536. Or contact any of the other team members found on the website.

Order dates and times:

MONTH	ORDER (by 6 p.m.)	PICK UP (between 9-10 a.m.)
December	Sunday, December 1	Sunday, December 8
January	Sunday, January 5	Sunday, January 12
February	Sunday, February 2	Sunday, February 9
March	Sunday, March 2	Sunday, March 9
April	Sunday, April 6	Sunday, April 13

This Newsletter is  
Dedicated to the Glory of  
God and in Loving Memory of

*Jessie Billard*

from her Family

ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES



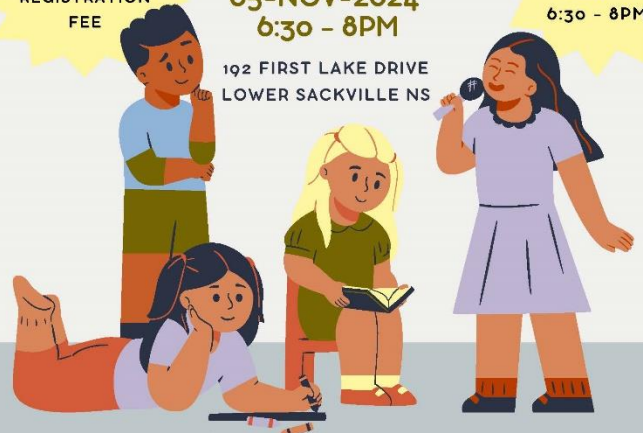
# Junior Auxiliary & Youth Group

\$20 ANNUAL  
REGISTRATION  
FEE

START DATE  
**05-NOV-2024**  
6:30 - 8PM

WEEKLY  
MEETINGS  
TUESDAYS  
6:30 - 8PM

192 FIRST LAKE DRIVE  
LOWER SACKVILLE NS



For more information please contact  
[stfrancisjas@gmail.com](mailto:stfrancisjas@gmail.com) or visit  
<https://stfrancisbythelakes.ca/>

Christmas At  
St. Francis By The Lakes Church



192 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville, N.S.

**Turkey Supper**  
(Take Out Only)

Call Elaine L. at 902-865-4727 before Mon. Nov. 11<sup>th</sup> to get a time for drive-thru pickup on Sat. Nov. 16<sup>th</sup>, 2024 between 4:00 pm to 5:30 pm Adult - \$18.00, Child (5-12) - \$8.00

Supper will be delicious roast turkey, dressing, potatoes, carrots, peas, turnip, cranberry sauce, a fresh dinner roll, gravy and even dessert!

We hope you will pass this along to your family, friends, and neighbors.

Check out our website for other events—[www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca](http://www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca)  
Follow us on Facebook

**ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES  
CHRISTMAS  
MARKET**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 7TH  
10AM - 3PM**

192 First Lake Drive  
Lower Sackville

**\$2 ADMISSION**

**\$5 Lunch: Hamburg Soup & Roll  
(takeout or limited seating inside)**

Vendors including:  
Wild Rose Crafts, The Cookie Mamas Sweet Treats, Love Envy, Helen's Creations, Crafts by Janet, U Name it Knitting & Crocheting, Kind Considerations Specialty Gifts, Sweet Temptations, Carla's Place Italian Goods, Spoil Yourself Now, Knits, Knots & Knotions, Ember & Essence Aromatics  
Plus homemade baked goods & treats!

**FOR MORE INFO CONTACT:**  
stfrancisbythelakes192@gmail.com  
or visit  
stfrancisbythelakes.ca

**JOHN SNYDER  
CHRISTMAS CONCERT**

**SPECIAL GUESTS  
RAYMOND & PAM GRAY**

**SATURDAY DECEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>  
2 - 4:30 pm**

**ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES  
ANGLICAN CHURCH**

192 FIRST LAKE DR. LOWER SACKVILLE

**TICKETS** Advanced \$10 At the Door \$15  
Order Online: [www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca](http://www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca)

**Concert Information & Sales**  
John Snyder 902-430-0253  
Elaine Bishop 902-864-3634

**50/50 TICKETS, CANTEN**

### Diocesan Youth Council (DYC)

From October 4th to 6th, many youth and two leaders attended this year's edition of DYC (Diocesan Youth Council) at Camp Malagash, on the shores of the Northumberland Strait. The theme for DYC this year was "We Choose Joy". 26 youth from across the diocese attended the weekend long event.

We heard scripture and personal messages (including from Bishop Sandra) about the importance of having joy in your life. We also heard about how we can find joy by following the word of our Lord. Many of the activities for the youth, allowed them to pick something that would be joyful for them. And, there were many a joyful song sung during the weekend.



Pictured above are Mark, John, Ethan, Shannyn, Lilly, Adele, Myra, Charlotte, Adam, Hannah and Aiden. Missing are Kaeden and Sadie.

The youth from St Francis stepped up to help and offer their talents to the weekend, whether it be participating in worship, lending a helping hand, or simply being kind, friendly, and at times, entertaining.

The youth understand that the St. Francis parish family is very supportive of their participation at DYC. They are thankful for that support.