



St. Francis News

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Message from Reverend Will Ferrey

It has come as a bit of a surprise to me that I've been the Rector at St. Francis by the Lakes for a full year. It seems like only yesterday that Wanda was reminding me to write my first article for the newsletter, so that you folks could learn a little bit about me. Now that I've been here for a year it will not surprise very many people to know that I was pretty late, and Wanda had to remind me.

We have been through a lot together in the last year- perhaps we might even say a surprising amount. We have, as a community, experienced some significant and unexpected deaths, we have embarked on an ambitious new renovation project, and we have continued the simple ordinary work of the church. We have fed the hungry, clothed those who need it, proclaimed the good news of God in Jesus Christ and done our very best to build the kingdom of God in Lower Sackville.

We have done well together. All through this newsletter you will find articles about things that we have done as a congregation, as a church, and things that we are planning for the future. We collaborated with the Anglican Foundation and received a grant to install two new computers at the Beacon House Shelter. Folks who are looking for jobs or apartments will find those searches go more easily with a laptop. We worked with the Anglican Foundation again on the Say Yes to Kids campaign and raised a huge amount of money to support the breakfast program at Cavalier Drive School. We walked with Joe Young as he moved over this last year from postulant to ordinand to ordained Deacon, and we will continue to walk with him as he is (God willing) ordained a priest later this year, and as he lives out his ministry in our midst.

And in-between all the big things, all the things that are worth getting articles written about them are the everyday experiences of being church. Of those moments of encounter with God, of those moments of encounter with each other. We have learned, and we have acted and we have grown together over this last year, and it has been my honour and my privilege to be a part of it.

I'm perpetually grateful to those who step up in leadership at St. Francis, and those who continually discern their own call toward different kinds of leadership. It takes a lot of people, and a lot of effort to make a church of this size and complexity work.

So, my friends, now that we have one good year in, let's keep working to make the next years even better!

~Will

Letter From Your Wardens

Dear Friends

Well, it has been a whole year since Rev. Will and his family have joined our St. Francis family.

Our Sunday morning services are full of enthusiastic parishioners welcoming all the changes we have seen in his first year and eager to welcome more changes.

Our Joe Young has recently been ordained as Deacon after a long process.

Renovations to our church are going very well and are on track for completion early September. We are anticipating our first Sunday service back upstairs approximately 13 September. An open house is planned to happen in October.

Our Say Yes to Kids program has been a huge success and will be a continuing project to help support the Breakfast program at a local school.

As we look forward to 2027, we are in need of volunteers for the positions of Warden, Treasurer and Clerk for our executive. Please give it a moment to consider volunteering for one of these roles. It is with shared efforts together we make St Francis the growing parish it is.

Sincerely your Wardens
~Garry and Mary Belle

Parish Day of Prayer – Save the Date

Please mark your calendar for our Parish Day of Prayer on Saturday, September 26. More details will be shared soon, but we warmly hope you will join us — even for a little while — as we gather in faith and community. A light shared lunch will be included as part of our time together.

Ways and Means

As we look ahead, our parish is gearing up for a wonderfully busy and joy filled fall season. Mark your calendars, there is something for everyone in the months ahead:

- September 19 – Hamburger Soup & Fish Chowder Eat-In and Take Out Meal
- October 17 – Roast Beef Take Out Meal
- November 21 – Turkey Take Out Meal
- November 28 – John Snyder Christmas Concert
- December 12 – Annual Christmas Craft Market

These gatherings are more than events, they are moments of connection, community, and shared support. We cannot wait to welcome you.

If you have questions or would like to volunteer to help, please reach out to jane.nauss@gmail.com.

Youth Group

Plans are in progress to reignite our Youth Group at St. Francis for this fall. Meeting time and frequency will be determined in conjunction with the teens who are interested to best accommodate everyone's (busy) schedule. Youth group is open to anyone in the community in junior or senior high school. Friends welcome!

We will have our first gathering on Sunday, September 20th, 7-8:30pm in the parish hall. We'll kick off the year with a games night with snacks and slushies following our usual opening time, offering an open, non-judgmental discussion during our Focus on Faith.

We are currently seeking volunteers who could offer leadership with our youth group. Training and guidance provided!

Questions or inquiries? Contact Cynthia at 902-225-1015 or stilwellcl@gmail.com

Outreach

Since our last update, Outreach has been very active.

We have held two Community parties. There was an Easter/Spring party in April. There were games, activities, facepainting, cookie decorating, bingo and snacks. In June, we held our Summer party with indoor and outdoor activities, games, bingo, snacks with hot dogs and hamburgers. Both parties were well attended, and fun was had by all.

In May, June, and July we had Senior Socials on the first Monday of the month. Some attending worked on puzzles, played cards, and enjoyed games like axe throwing. Some chatted with others, worked on crafts, enjoyed refreshments and snacks. People seem to be enjoying the time out and they have been well attended by members of our St. Francis family and others from the wider community. The next one will take place August 17 and will include Music. The socials will continue through the fall (September 14, October 5, November 2).

The "Say Yes to The Kids" campaign to help provide snacks for the kids of Cavalier school was a huge success that raised around \$3500.00. Thank you very much.

We continue to support Beacon House Food Bank with your food and clothing donations, donations of bread from Cobs Bakery. We are well on our way to having a banner year for school supplies promotion. We should easily exceed our 2025 donations.

At Beacon House Shelter we support with volunteers, excess food from food fundraisers and receptions, clothing items, and our Tuesday evening desserts.

In July we went into St. George's Soup Kitchen and provided 132 meals of ham, potato salad, coleslaw, rolls, and dessert. In August we will be onsite to serve hot dogs, hamburgers, potato salad, coleslaw, and dessert to 125 – 150 people.

We supplied the Sackville Youth Den with various snack items.

There are a couple of new Outreach projects in the works for the fall. Stay tuned.

Thank you for your continued and generous support of our Outreach projects.

~Don Brushett

Junior Auxiliary 2026-27

On September 15 at 6 pm, Junior Auxiliary (JAs) will kick off a whole new year of kids in grades primary to 5 and their leaders growing together in faith, learning about community, and having lots of fun!

We are going to try out some new things this year, and while those plans are still being sorted out, here are a couple of the details of what it is going to look like:

- Weekly on **Tuesdays from 6:00 to 7:00 pm**
- We are going to be working towards a **Variety Show**, which will take place in December, and maybe another in May.
- Bible Stories, checking in with each other, and praying together.
- Seasonal fun and festivities throughout the year.
- and more to come!

This will be a significant shift away from the traditional JA program, but much of the heart of JAs will remain the same and we are hopeful and excited about the possibilities of this new way of serving kids in our community!

We could use a couple additional leaders to help make this happen! There is not much required outside of the Tuesday evening gatherings, and leaders do not need to commit to being there every week. Talk to Rev'd Will or Allie if you are interested! And if you know of any kids who would like to join us this year, please ask their grown-ups to get in touch with Allie at stfrancisjas@gmail.com.

Say Yes to Kids Campaign

This year at St. Francis by the Lakes, we decided to try, for the first time, participating in the Anglican Foundation's Say Yes to Kids campaign. This is an annual campaign that the Anglican Foundation runs across Canada. Local congregations or groups are supported in fundraising by the Anglican Foundation. The Foundation supplies fundraising tools, matching funds incentives and communications, while the local team supplies the idea, and does the fundraising. It's a powerful combination that has resulted in a lot of great kid-focused programs across the country.

At St. Francis by the Lakes, we have always had a strong emphasis on children and youth. For years we have known that ministry for, by, and among young people is crucial part of what it means to be the kingdom of God in the modern Canadian landscape. For our inaugural SYTK campaign, we decided to look out into our neighbourhood, and when we looked around, the first thing we noticed was Cavalier Drive School.

Cavalier Drive School will be familiar to many in the St. Francis community. Not only are they our neighbours, just up the hill and through the forest, but a lot of our parishioners have gone, or still go to school there. Currently there are approximately 400 students at the school.

We all know that food security is one of the most important issues facing families. With the rise in cost of groceries (and everything else), it has become harder and harder for families to feed their children enough food for them to thrive. As a response to this, Cavalier Drive School has a daily breakfast program, which offers a free, no barrier breakfast to any and all kids who attend the school.

Our SYTK campaign this year was designed to support and enhance the breakfast program at Cavalier Drive School. Money raised would be used to enhance the offerings from the school, buy more and healthier food, and purchase

equipment that might make making breakfast a little easier for the volunteers who run the program. We also planned on keeping some of the money at the church, so that we can organize some volunteers who can bake delicious breakfast goodies from time to time.

Our campaign goal was \$2000, and for a couple of days this seemed ambitious. Then the generous folks at St. Francis really got rolling. On one Sunday alone we received over \$1000 in donations. That triggered a matching donation from the Anglican Foundation of \$1000, and suddenly we had hit our goal when we thought we were just warming up! Knowing that all the money raised would go to support kids, we decided to not stop, and we are so glad that we didn't! By the time that the campaign wrapped up at the end of June, we had raised over \$3000, including the generous matching donation from the Anglican Foundation.

On June 14 we were honoured to welcome Vice Principal Lynne Doyle from the school and heard from her about the importance of the breakfast program. We presented her with a \$1200 cheque and will send more money to the school when all the final accounting is done.

A grateful thanks to all the many very generous donors at St. Francis by the Lakes. This is truly a community that has centered the lives and needs of kids, and it is a wonderful thing to see.

Parish Council 2027 Positions

As we look toward a new year of ministry and shared leadership, Parish Council is beginning the search to fill several roles that will be open in 2027 these include: Treasurer, Clerk of the Council, Warden, and Members at Large.

Each of these positions plays a meaningful part in guiding the life of our parish. If you sense a nudge to contribute your gifts, or if you'd simply like to learn more about what these roles involve, please speak with Reverend Will or any current member of Parish Council.

Committee and Volunteer Opportunities

Our parish thrives because so many people share their time, gifts, and goodwill — and there is always room for more helping hands. Many hands make light work, and even a small contribution of your time can make a meaningful difference in the life of our community.

If you've been wondering how to get more involved, consider lending your talents to one of our committees, groups, or Sunday ministries.

Committees: Finance • Ways and Means • Spiritual Development • Ministry Resources • Property • Outreach • St. Francis Players / Dinner Theatre

Other Opportunities: Greeters • Hospitality • Cleaning Team • Altar Guild • Choir • Counting Team • Bakers • Slide Team • Tech Team

If you feel called to help — even occasionally — please reach out to one of the wardens. Your presence strengthens our parish, and we would be grateful to have you join in.

Fundscrip Dates

With the Fundscrip gift card ordering program, St. Francis receives a percentage of each card's value, while you retain the full value of the cards you purchase.

A list of retailers, card values, and percentages earned is available on-line. There are also retailer lists and order forms available in the church Narthex. To order cards you can contact Shelley at brushettsm@gmail.com or 902-452-1536.

Order dates and times:

MONTH	ORDER (by 6 p.m.)	PICK UP (between 9-10 a.m.)
September	Sunday, September 6	Sunday, September 13
October	Sunday, October 4	Sunday, October 11
November	Sunday, November 1	Sunday, November 8
December	Sunday, December 6	Sunday, December 13

Renovation Update

Our renovation began on June 1st with the demolition of the old Narthex — the first visible step toward renewing our parish home. That same week, our Sunday Service setup was reorganized so worship could continue smoothly throughout construction.

Since then, progress has been steady and encouraging. Early work included framing, stabilizing the floors, and leveling the ceiling. Electrical and plumbing rough-ins followed, along with planning for the new kitchenette and upgrades to our building systems. By mid-July, drywall installation, exterior wall sealing, and siding preparation gave the space a much more finished look.

In recent weeks, the transformation has become even more visible. The structural beam and track for the new bifold doors are in place, and the new outside glass front doors now offer a brighter, more welcoming entrance to the narthex. The heat pump is fully operational, ensuring efficient heating and cooling for years ahead. Painting throughout the building is adding colour and giving each room a clearer sense of its final shape. The kitchenette tile floor has been laid, creating a clean, polished base for the cabinetry and appliances still to come.

A new attic hatch has also been installed, including a thoughtful reworking of the area that once held the “secret cupboard” in the nursery closet. It is now properly framed and accessible, while still preserving the charm of that little hidden nook.

Thank you for your continued prayers and support as we move steadily toward completion.

Sunday School

Sunday School will return this fall, with the start date to be confirmed. This year brings a new format: classes will take place before the 10 a.m. service. More details will follow as plans are finalized.

Save the Date: Renovated Narthex Open House

Our renovation work is moving steadily toward the finish line - please save the date for October 3, from 2–4pm, when St. Francis by the Lakes will host an Open House to celebrate our newly renovated Narthex. Although the project is still underway as you read this newsletter, we look forward to opening the doors of the completed space for everyone to enjoy.

This event is open to all — parishioners, neighbours, friends, and anyone curious about the transformation taking shape at 192 First Lake Drive. Come see the finished space and enjoy light refreshments.

We look forward to welcoming you into our new Narthex.

Mothers' Union: Celebrate with Us!

This year marks two very special milestones for the Mothers' Union. Mothers' Union Worldwide is celebrating **150 years** of faith, service, and fellowship, while our branch at **St. Francis by the Lakes** is celebrating **50 years** of ministry within our parish community.



We warmly invite everyone to join us for this special occasion at our **Anniversary Service on Sunday, October 18, at 2:00 p.m.** as we give thanks for the many lives that have been touched through the work of Mothers' Union over the years.

A reception will follow the service, providing an opportunity to celebrate together and share in fellowship. Whether you have been a member, supported our ministry, or would simply like to learn more about Mothers' Union, we would be delighted to have you join us.

We look forward to celebrating this joyful occasion with you!

Lay Training Fund

St. Francis by the Lakes offers a Lay Training Fund to support parishioners in ministry related learning. The fund can cover up to 50% of registration costs, to a maximum of \$100. Travel and meal expenses are not eligible. To apply, simply complete an application form and submit it to a member of the Executive Council. Applications are reviewed monthly.

Parish List Update: Help Us Stay Connected

We're inviting all parishioners to take part in an important update of our Parish List. Keeping our records current helps us offer meaningful pastoral care, communicate in ways that respect your preferences, and plan well for ministries, outreach, and stewardship.

You may complete the update in whichever format you prefer:

- **Paper form** – attached, available at the church, or downloadable from the website. Return it by placing it in the box by the door, mailing it to the church, or emailing a photo/scan to clerk.stfrancisbythelakes@gmail.com.
- **Online form** – link and QR code provided below.

Both options collect the same information. If you need assistance, please email stfrancisministryresources@gmail.com or speak with Reverend Will.

We ask everyone to complete the form, even if your information has not changed. Thank you for helping us stay connected and supporting the life and ministry of St. Francis by the Lakes.

Online Form Link:

<https://forms.gle/216wWATDhdXer7kX6>

QR Code:

