



St. Francis News

Volume 13, Number 1

February 2024

Message from Archbishop Ron Cutler

The season of Lent has two contrasting story lines.

It is a season of penitence, fasting and self denial. A time when we try to clear some space in the midst of over-busy lives, for prayer and discernment. As a scriptural reference we look to the 40 days of Jesus' fasting and temptation in the wilderness. (Same period of fasting for Moses and Elijah). We don't use the "Alleluia" in our worship, we try to live more simply. Many Christian's engage in some kind of added discipline in their life (It does not have to be chocolate).

The other perspective is that Lent is a time of growth. A time to focus on what being a disciple of Jesus really means. The early church connected Lent to the preparation of candidates for baptism. In a sense we are joining Jesus on the journey to Jerusalem. It is a journey where God's kingdom is being both spoken of and also enacted. The contrast between the kingdoms of the earth and the kingdom of God will show up most clearly when Jesus and his disciples arrive in Jerusalem, during Holy Week and at the Cross.

In the Orthodox church these contrasting elements are brought together by the term "bright sadness". Lent draws us to the annual celebration of the redemption of all things at Easter. Easter is so important to us that we need to take the time to prepare for it and we do so with our whole life.

I pray that you are using this time as you most need it and that you will join us in the observance of a Holy Lent and joyous Easter.

Blessings

+Ron

Community Easter Party
Saturday March 23, 2024
2-4 pm

- **Cookie decorating**
- **hot chocolate**
- **Crafts**
- **Easter egg hunt**
- **Face painting**

***Free**

Greetings from Your Wardens

As Wardens of our beloved church, it brings us great joy to extend a warm welcome to all new members joining our Parish Council and church committees. Your commitment to serving our community is deeply appreciated, and we are excited to embark on this journey together.

We also want to take a moment to express our heartfelt gratitude to all outgoing members for their dedicated ministry. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we are grateful for the time, effort, and passion you have invested in our church.

At our recent Annual Meeting, we had the pleasure of celebrating the Parishioners of the Year: Don Brushett, and the Music and Lay Ministry teams. Your exemplary dedication and service have been a source of inspiration for us all.

We are delighted to announce that the revenue generated from the ongoing hall rental, particularly from the day care, has enabled us to undertake several capital projects. These include paying off the roof loan, installing new LED lighting in the hall, offices, and narthex areas, acquiring new speakers for the church, and replacing the hall entry doors with new ones. We anticipate that all these projects will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter.

Our 2024 council has wasted no time in getting to work. We have already convened multiple times to discuss the timeline and the tasks that need to be completed before the parochial committee is selected. It is our collective responsibility to redefine our values, commitment, and ministry to our community.

As we move forward, let us continue to uphold the principles of love, compassion, and service that are at the core of our faith. Together, we can make a meaningful difference in the lives of those around us. May God bless you abundantly as we continue to serve together.

~Wardens Elaine Bishop and Jane Nauss

March Schedule (Easter)

- * Lady Day Service, March 18: 7p.m.
- * Palm Sunday, March 24: 8 a.m. and 10 a.m. Holy Eucharist. Palm Crosses will be available to take home. Fellowship following both services (coffee, tea, hot cross buns).
- * Holy Wednesday, March 27: 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- * Maundy Thursday, March 28: 7 p.m. Holy Eucharist
- * Good Friday, March 29: 10 a.m. Celebration of the Lord's Passion
- * Easter, March 31:
 - o 6 a.m. Sunrise service. Coffee and muffins will be served after the 6 a.m. service.
 - o 8 a.m. Said Service
 - o 10 a.m. Sung Service. We will have an Easter Egg hunt for the young and young at heart

Envelopes in this Newsletter

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 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 "Lent" replaces the old coin folders. Traditionally people often gave up something, such as coffee, and put the savings of that item aside as a special offering during the season of Lent to express gratitude for all that God has given us. **(lent)**

The "Easter" envelope is simply a gift to the church in celebration of hope given us through Jesus' resurrection. **(easter)**

Our H.E.L.P envelope is our church family making an extra donation to help with our heat, electricity, lawn and plowing costs. Plowing/salting costs are up and our contract is over \$5500 this year! **(help)**

Ways and Means Committee Update

The Ways and Means Committee has started off 2024 with a bang. Not only have we held our first dinner of the year (Roast Pork) in February, we also welcomed new members to our committee. Upcoming meal dates to watch out for and get in your calendars include March 16th (Chowder/Hamburg Soup) and after the April performances of the St Francis Players, May 18th will be a Roast Beef Dinner. All these to be followed by the Annual Yard Sale scheduled for June 8th. Thanks to everyone for supporting our fundraising endeavours.

Sunday School



Sunday School has moved into the new year following one of the more successful Christmas Pageants ever! In the new year we saw a continuation of bible stories and activities/crafts - both used to teach the Word of God to the children. Classes are

still being held every second week (approximately). Dates for the remainder of this school year are: Mar 3rd and 24th; Apr 7th and 28th as well as May 5th, 12th and the Closing will take place May 26th. If any new families would like to have their children join Sunday School, please contact Jane Nauss, Superintendent, at jane.nauss@gmail.com.

Janet Buchanan Bursary

The Janet Buchanan Bursary fund was created to honor the memory of Janet, a former organist at St. Francis by the Lakes Church, and to help offset the cost of music study for students. We offer this opportunity to two age categories: Junior (ages 7-14) and Senior (ages 15-19).

Application forms will be in the Narthex, April 7 - May 5, and online in the community section of our website. Applications are due by Sunday, May 12. Recipients will be notified and bursaries awarded during the May 26, 10 AM service.

Fundscrip Dates

The Fundscrip gift card ordering program earned over \$2,700 for St. Francis in 2023, simply by parishioners and their friends ordering gift cards that they use for groceries, restaurants, gas, clothing, gifts, and many other purchases. 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 for a list of retailers, as well as information on how to order. Our team is always ready to assist you.

We thank Barb Dinelle for her work with the Fundscrip program over the past 8 ½ years. And we welcome Shelley Brushett to the team. Shelley will be the main one to take and place the orders for cards. Contact her at brushettsm@gmail.com or 902-452-1536.

MONTH	ORDER (by 6 p.m.)	PICK UP (between 9-10 a.m.)
April	Sunday, March 31 st	Sunday, April 7 th
May	Sunday, May 5 th	Sunday, May 12 th
June	Sunday, June 2 nd	Sunday, June 9 th

Anglican Church Women

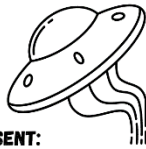
“BRIGADOON BOUND...”

Thank you to all who contributed to the Anglican Church Women Diocesan Board’s last annual project - “Brigadoon Bound”. Brigadoon Village, in the Annapolis Valley, is Canada’s largest pediatric medical camp facility offering over 30 camp programs. At these camps children with the same illness or life challenge attend a camp specifically designed for those with their needs. On January 28th at the Cathedral Church of All Saints a cheque in the amount of \$10,000.00 was presented to the treasurer for Brigadoon Village. It is thanks to the generosity of Anglicans in our Diocese that this gift is possible. “Giving extraordinary kids a chance to be ordinary.”

NOTICE

The St. Francis by the Lakes chapter of the Anglican Church Women has made the difficult decision to disband. A shout out to the members of this group for their service over the years...the impact of their work is immeasurable. THANK YOU!

COMING SOON.....



THE ST. FRANCIS PLAYERS PRESENT:

"SHANTIES IN SPACE"

Friday April 12
Saturday April 13
Sunday April 14

Friday April 26
Saturday April 27

STAY TUNED FOR TICKET INFORMATION



SILENT AUCTION

PRESENTED BY: ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES MOTHERS' UNION

Thursday, April 25, 2024
7-9pm
New items & delicious baked goods.
Refreshments to be served
192 First Lake Drive
Lower Sackville

Proceeds will support members attending the 2024 National Conference

Everyone Welcome!

MARCH TAKE-OUT MEAL



Fish Chowder* or Hamburger Soup (16oz).

Biscuit & Dessert

Pick up Saturday March
16th

To order call Elaine L
902-865-4727

Orders due March 11

\$15 Adults

\$7

Children

***Haddock only, no shellfish**