



St. Francis News

Volume 14, Number 1

February 2025

Message from Reverend Mike and Reverend Gloria

We'd like to thank the wonderful parishioners of St. Francis By the Lakes, for an amazing six months of ministry with you. You have been welcoming, cooperative, innovative, and supportive which has made our experience and time here a blessing to us both.

During our time here, we've had to say goodbye to some long-time parishioners and just this past week we were able to welcome a new member to the parish through the sacrament of baptism. Such is the life of the church. We continue to change and grow.

We have both learned from you as you have continued to grow the ministry of the church and to reach out to the community at large in your various programs. You have continued to move forward in your goals to provide a safe and inclusive place of worship for all who wish to be part of the SFBTL community.

We know that these past couple of years have been a challenge as you've worked through the process of creating a vision of the future and then worked towards the goals you have set. You are now in the process of interviewing and choosing the right person to help you move forward to another exciting chapter. We wish you every success and we will be praying for you as you approach the season of Lent and Easter.

As it is written in Micah 6:8

He has told you, O Mortal what is good; and what does the Lord require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God.

Indeed, you are a people who reflect these words. As you continue to move forward on your journey of faith, we leave you with this prayer,

May you know the warmth of God's loving embrace

May you know the joy Of God's ever presence

May you know the peace of God's gentle whisper

May you know the strength of God's spirit within you today and always. Amen

~Reverend Mike and Reverend Gloria

Easter Services

- * Ash Wednesday (March 5th): 7:00p.m. - Imposition of ashes (Bishop Sandra Fyfe)
- * Maundy Thursday (April 17th): 7:00 p.m. (Archbishop Ron Cutler)
- * Good Friday (April 18th): 10:00 a.m. (Archbishop Ron Cutler)
- * Easter Sunday (April 20th): 10:00 a.m. Eucharist Service (Archbishop Ron Cutler)

Newsletter Dedication Space

To have your Newsletter Dedication (Memorials, Anniversaries, Birthdays, etc) placed here, please email wandajoudrey@outlook.com and place your donation on the offering plate

Letter From Your Wardens

As Senior Warden, I am pleased to welcome Garry Rideout as our new Junior Warden.

~Jane Nauss

As Wardens, it brings both of us great joy to welcome Shelley Brushett, Norm Wieggers, and Scott Luff to Parish Council, as well as to all new members joining our church committees. We appreciate your willingness to serve.

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.

Rev'd Gloria and Rev'd Mike will have completed their stay with St Francis by the end of February. We would like to thank them for their kind support over the past number of months and wish them well in future endeavours.

At our recent Annual Meeting, we had the pleasure of celebrating three Parishioners of the Year: Elaine Laurie, Evelyn Perry and Donna Parsons. These individuals have worked hard for decades, and their dedication has not gone unnoticed.

So far this year, Parish Council has met three times as of this writing. At the top of our to do list has been looking for grants (Finance has a sub-committee of three individuals who are researching) to support financing any future renovations upstairs. If we do find a permanent rental downstairs, the upstairs will have to accommodate a myriad of activities and events to enable us to function. We have had to decide between floor plans and any tweaks, and we now await further information on costing on an eventual design. We will share the designs with the congregation as soon as we are able, and we will hold a congregational meeting to discuss.

Parochial Committee has been extremely busy fulfilling its mandate in finding a priest and they will have more to report as we continue to move forward.

A heads up that effective March 1st, Primate's World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF) will be known as Alongside Hope. Each Sunday during Lent, the Sunday School children will be collecting coins. They love the sound of loose change from the congregation falling into the bucket. They love the quiet sound of bills as well! Please give what you can to support this initiative.

As we move forward into 2025, let us continue to spread Hope, Peace, Joy and Love. Together, we can make a difference in the lives of those within our walls, and the surrounding community.

May God bless you as we continue to serve together.

~Wardens Jane Nauss and Garry Rideout

Spring Market

We will be holding a Spring Market on Saturday, April 5, like the Christmas Market. In addition to the Vendor tables, we will once again have baked goods table and, new to the Spring market will be a ticket auction table. The ticket auction is like a penny auction. You can purchase 25 tickets for \$2 then drop the tickets in the bag that corresponds to the item you would like to win. To help with these tables we will need baked goods and auction items (NEW). There will also be a 50/50 draw and lunch available for purchase. For more information please contact Jane Nauss at 902-209-1195

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 grade categories: Junior High and Senior High.

Application forms will be in the Narthex starting March 2 and can also be filled in online via a link in the Community Section of the St. Francis Website. Applications are due by Sunday, April 20. Recipients will be notified and bursaries awarded during the May 25, 10 a.m. service.

Mothers' Union – Easter Hamper

Our Mothers' Union Group are selling tickets on an Easter Hamper--will include everything you need for a ham meal, including a homemade table runner (Made by Patricia Rideout) and other surprises. Tickets are \$2 ea. or 3/\$5. Money raised will go toward our Conference Travel Fund. The date draw will be made LIVE from the church on Fri. April 11, at noon via our youtube site. Perishable items will be purchased after the draw once a delivery date is arranged with the winner. For information on obtaining tickets, call Elaine Bishop 902-864-3634 or ask any Mothers' Union member.

Baptismal Socks Parish Project Led by Mothers' Union



At a Baptismal service, the congregation promises: "to do all in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ."

Baby socks are available if you are interested in participating in this project. You save dimes in the sock throughout the year, 1 for January; 2 for February; 3 for March etc.

Funds raised with this project will help with the cost of materials to make the large banner in the church, small banners given to each newly baptised and possibly other costs, such as the baptismal candle.

In December, change your dimes for bills or larger coin (\$5, Toonies, Loonies) and place the money in an envelope marked "For Baptismal Socks". This is a receiptable giving so include your name/envelope or PAD number.

For more information contact Donna Parsons 902-865-8169 or any Mothers' Union Member.

Thank you for supporting this project.

Envelopes in this Newsletter

Special Envelopes are included for your convenience. You may also use e-transfers to send a donation, send to: stfrancisbythelakes192@gmail.com Please always use the message box when using eTransfer to send money - describe where the money is going and use the correct answer to What is the money for? 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.

The envelope marked "Lent" replaces the old coin folders. (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. (help)

Sunday School

We are seeking two individuals to take over and run the Sunday School program commencing September 2025. An information sheet is available in the Narthex. For enquiries, please contact Jane Nauss at jane.nauss@gmail.com.

Fundscrip Dates

With the Fundscrip gift card ordering program St. Francis receives a percentage of each card's value. 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.)
March	Sunday, March 2nd	Sunday, March 9th
April	Sunday, April 6th	Sunday, April 13th
May	Sunday, May 4th	Sunday, May 11th
June	Sunday, June 1st	Sunday, June 8th

Parish Council for 2025

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Senior Warden: Jane Nauss ▪ Junior Warden: Garry Rideout* ▪ Treasurer – Alan Barnhill ▪ Clerk of the Council: Wanda Joudrey | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Members at Large: <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Mark Grandmaison <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Elaine Laurie <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Lloyd Snyder <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Glenna Paynter-Parsons <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Scott Luff* <li style="padding-left: 20px;">Shelley Brushett* | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Synod Delegate: Norman Wiegiers* ▪ Alternate Synod Delegate: Patricia Rideout* ▪ Sunday School Rep: Jane Nauss |
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*New members of council

Committees and Volunteer Opportunities

We can always use more help on our committees, with our groups and programs. Considering lending your talents and gifts to one of the below. If you are interested, please reach out to one of the wardens.

Committees

- * Finance
- * Ways and Means
- * Spiritual Development
- * Ministry Resources
- * Property
- * Outreach

Other Opportunities

- | | |
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| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * Greeters * Hospitality * Cleaning Team * Altar Guild | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> * St. Francis Players * Choir * Counting Team * Bakers |
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ST. FRANCIS PLAYERS PRESENT:

THE MISFIT LOG DRIVERS

SHOW DATES Saturday 26-April 6pm Sunday 27-April 2pm Friday 02-May 7pm Saturday 03-May 6pm	TICKETS: \$30/PERSON (19+) Includes loggers meal of chili, roll & dessert. Vegetarian option available upon request.
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BOX OFFICE: 192 First Lake Drive Lower Sackville	Online: 1pm 29-March to 21-April Church Hall: 1:00-3:00pm Saturday 29-March 8:30-10:00am Sunday 30-March 8:30-10:00am Sunday 06-April 8:30-10:00am Sunday 13-April 9:00 - 10:00am Sunday 20-April	WINE & BEER AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE
JOIN US AND SING ALONG TO SOME CANADIAN FAVOURITES		