



St. Francis News

Volume 14, Number 3

November 2025

Message from Reverend Will Ferrey

The winter season in Nova Scotia is always a little funny. On the one hand, as we get farther into winter, there is less and less happening outside our windows – the busyness of summer fades, the trips to the cottage gradually cease, the trees lose their magnificence and are bare. But at the same time, the inside world ramps up – this is the season of church activities and events, of fun times with church family and friends.

As much as I love the summer, there is something wonderful about the winter. We are often able to sink into a routine of regular life, of the ordinary day to day activities that make up our lives. We get to celebrate the wonderful feasts, like Christmas, and even the colder weather can be a gift, as nature rests and hibernates and generally prepares for another growing season next year.

This year in particular I am excited to experience winter at St. Francis by the Lakes! I am looking forward to discovering for myself what the winter will bring for us as a parish. This is such a wonderful community, and so far, I have known it only in the summer and early fall. I am particularly looking forward to Christmas, which I'm told is always a wonderful celebration at St. Francis by the Lakes!

I hope you enjoy this newsletter, which is filled with all sorts of information about all the wonderful ministries that we are engaged in, and things that are coming up. If you're curious about any particular item or would like to be involved in a particular way, please never hesitate to give the church a call, or email me.

Letter From Your Wardens

As we move into the winter season and approach the end of the year, we reflect on a time of transition, celebration, and preparation within our parish community.

Looking Ahead - We encourage all parishioners to consider joining a committee or work group. Your gifts and talents are needed, and the Wardens are happy to speak with anyone interested in getting involved.

Celebrating Milestones - This year has brought much to rejoice over:

- We welcomed our new priest whose presence has already begun to enrich our spiritual life.
- We accepted delivery of new chairs for the church.
- We marked our 50th anniversary as a parish—a remarkable milestone — on Saturday, November 1 as part of our Celebration of New Ministry. Commemorative candles are still available (see Ways and Means article)



Let us move forward together in faith, serving God and each other.

~ Jane and Garry

Advent Reflections

When the Lord Comes Back, I'm Gonna...

Please join us during the Advent Season for a time of quiet prayer and reflection. The preparation for Christmas can leave us exhausted. Gift yourself a quiet time of prayer and reflection each Wednesday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

- ✧ November 26th - I'm gonna Be Real
- ✧ December 3rd - I'm gonna meet the Spirit
- ✧ December 10th - I'm gonna be fed
- ✧ December 17th - I'm gonna love my neighbour

Coffee and tea will follow in the Narthex.

Timeline for Christmas Outreach Projects 2025

At the time of this mailing, we have already collected our 200 cans of Cranberry Sauce for the Beacon House Christmas Hampers!

Nov 2- 23	Seafarer items for Missions to Seafarer Shoeboxes
Nov. 16-Dec. 14	Money donations for "The Turkey Tree" for Beacon House
Nov. 30-Dec. 21	Money donation for "Blue Lights" in memory of loved ones

Blue Light Memorial

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. The lights change from blue to white to represent the move from Advent (blue) into Christmas (white)



Turkey Tree

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.



Mission To Seafarer Christmas Shoeboxes

Mission To Seafarer Christmas Shoeboxes is a Parish project lead by Mothers' Union. Requested Items (Size small or medium): Hat, work gloves, mitts, socks, scarf, soap, body wash (no larger than 375 ml), toothpaste, toothbrush, shampoo, shaving foam, razors, deodorant, lip balm, pen/pencil, small packages of tissues, comb, mementos of NS, PEI or Canada, wrapped hard candy (no chocolate).

We have a donation of playing cards for each box and Mothers' Union provide a Christmas card and pack up the boxes at their November meeting.

They are also in need of size S winter coats for men. All items can be put in the bin in the narthex between Nov 2-Nov. 21. Monetary donations can also be placed on the plate, cheques to St. Francis, label clearly with your envelope/PAD number and direct funds to Mission to Seafarers. We will take in one cheque from any monetary donations. This saves you the shopping and the Mission purchase items for the shoeboxes that they need to fill them.

Memorial Carol Sing

Our Annual Memorial Carol Sing will take place on Sunday, December 7 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 30.

Christmas Flower Memorial

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

Ways and Means Committee Update

The Committee is back with monthly meetings. We are currently organizing 2 meals. At the time of this newsletter our roast beef dinner is behind us (October 18th), however our Turkey take-out meal is coming up on November 22. These are followed by a John Snyder Christmas Concert scheduled for November 29. Approximately 40 tickets were sold for this concert during the September 27 Concert. Please see either Elaine Bishop for tickets or purchase them on the church website...\$10.00 or \$15.00 at the door.

We have two fundraisers taking place:

- 1) Quilt (made by Elaine Laurie) – 47 ½ x 57 1/2. Tickets are 1 for \$3, 3 for \$5 or 10 for \$10. There will be a live draw on December 7th during the announcements at the 10 a.m. service. Tickets can be purchased by contacting Jane Nauss, Elaine Laurie or Elaine Bishop.



- 2) Commemorative Candles celebrating our 50th Anniversary. Candles will be \$13 each and available in the several scents: Vanilla, Cinnamon, Lavender, Gingerbread Cookies, Japanese Cherry Blossom and Unscented. Candles can be ordered/purchased in the Narthex on November 9th and at the December 6th Market or by contacting Jane Nauss, Elaine Laurie or Elaine Bishop.



To close out this year, December 6th is our Christmas Craft Market and Ticket Auction (including a Bake Table and a 50/50). There will also be a lunch sold from the kitchen. If you can do some baking or canning for the baked goods table, please contact Jane at jane.nauss@gmail.com for further information.

We can also use more minds around the table. If you are interested in joining this team, please talk to Jane.

Calling for Help for Our Christmas Market

We're hosting a Christmas Market again this year (December 6) with over 20 vendors, plus our bake table and a ticket auction.



Please help by donating homemade baked goods (no nuts or peanut butter) packaged in non-returnable containers and labeled with key ingredients. Suggested items: cookies, squares, cakes, pies, muffins, fudge, etc., grouped in packages of 4-6.

For the ticket auction, we're seeking new items (not used) for attendees to bid on.

To donate or volunteer, contact Jane at 902-209-1195 or jane.nauss@gmail.com. Please drop off all donations at the church hall on Friday, December 5 (6:00–7:00 p.m.) or Saturday, December 6 (9:00–10:00 a.m.).

Sunday School

We are pleased to announce that Sunday School started on September 14th, with six children attending our first session. Led by Clea Douglas and supported by several parents, Sunday School will now be held weekly as long as Clea has at least one parent helper.

We are looking for more volunteers to join the Sunday School Team. With additional help, teaching duties can be shared, making it easier for everyone. If you have fond memories of Sunday School or want to support the next generation of St. Francis, please consider getting involved.

The Christmas Pageant is scheduled for the 10:00 a.m. service on December 14th and the Youth Group will be taking the lead in developing the pageant and the Sunday School children will participate.

Clea is currently using resources recommended by the Diocese for class materials.

Outreach Update

On behalf of the Outreach Committee, we sincerely thank the St. Francis family for your ongoing generosity in supporting our outreach initiatives. Your contributions make a real difference in the lives of those in need within our community.

We continue to aid the community fridge/cupboard at Opportunity Place by supplying Walmart gift cards, funded through both our Outreach budget and \$900 in individual donations. Family hygiene kits are being distributed, and we support youth at the Den at the Sackville Library with snacks and other requested items.

St. Francis continues to support Beacon House Shelter and Food Bank through weekly food donations, clothing, small household items, and desserts. Members also serve meals onsite at the shelter, and our partnership with Cobbs Bakery enables us to provide fresh bread and baked goods regularly. This year, we donated \$815 in school supplies and contributed 246 cans of cranberry sauce for the Christmas Hamper drive, along with generous Thanksgiving donations. Additionally, we have applied for an Anglican Foundation grant to supply the shelter with laptop computers.

On August 30th a group from St. Francis went onsite to St. George's Soup Kitchen to supply about 140 meals of hamburgers, hot dogs, potato salad, roll and dessert to the guests they serve on a weekly basis. After the meal we were able to donate extra food to the Gordon B Isner senior apartments in Halifax and some potato salad to Beacon House Shelter

The Community Events group, now led by Lisa Herritt, organized a very successful Halloween Community Party on Saturday, October 25. A howling great time of games, events, food and candy with almost 100 ghost, goblins and other characters in attendance.

Stay tuned for our plans to support Alongside Hope formerly PWRDF.

We are currently working on our list of 2026 Outreach projects and budget. We look forward to

your continued generous support of our Outreach activities.

If you have any questions or would like to become a member of our Outreach Committee, please contact Don Brushett at either email brushettdf@gmail.com or 902-930-3074.

Update From Our Treasurer

We have all been blessed with Time, Talents and Treasures. God's desire is that we use these gifts to make a difference. How can we make a difference here in our community?

Giving of our Time, Talents and Treasures to St Francis enables the St Francis Family to make a difference – we need all three to make a difference!

In the last two and a half years we at St Francis have been through a transitional phase in our journey. We rose to the occasion and increased our outreach. Outreach was only successful as we collectively gave our time, talents and treasures. We made a difference!

Treasures (money) is nothing by itself. It is what we achieve with it. This afternoon as I write this, we took delivery of new "Church Chairs". Persons with physical challenges now have the ability to be comfortable and take their place with dignity during the service. We look forward to the day when our washrooms and doorways can accommodate everyone. Persons who cannot always join us for service can participate through Livestream – a result of many persons' generosity of their time, talents and treasures.

St Francis by the Lakes has been good stewards of the donations given us. As a result, we were able to hire a full-time priest and in July welcomed Rev Will and his family.

What does next year bring? I am excited what the future might have in store for St Francis and what we can accomplish.

I wish you and your families a blessed Advent and Christmas season ✝

Fundscrip Dates

The Fundscrip gift card ordering program is available at St. Francis. Please consider purchasing your Christmas gift cards through the church. St. Francis receives a percentage of each card's value, and the purchaser retains the full dollar amount of each card ordered.

For a complete list of retailers, please visit our website (www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca) or pick up an order form in the narthex of the church.

Our contact person is Shelley at brushettsm@gmail.com or 902-452-1536 to place your order.

Order dates and times:

MONTH	ORDER (by 6 p.m.)	PICK UP (between 9-10 a.m.)
December	Sunday, November 30	Sunday, December 7
January	Sunday, January 4	Sunday, January 11
February	Sunday, February 1	Sunday, February 8
March	Sunday, March 1	Sunday, March 8
April	Sunday, April 5	Sunday, April 12

ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES ANGLICAN CHURCH
PRESENTS

Nova Scotia Country Music Hall of Fame
Inductee

JOHN SNYDER

LIVE IN CONCERT
SPECIAL GUESTS

Saturday November 29 th
2 - 4:30 PM

192 FIRST LAKE DR. LOWER SACKVILLE

Tickets:
Advanced \$10
At the Door \$15
e-transfer via web site
stfrancisbythelakes.ca

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

Made with PosterMyWall.com

St. Francis by the Lakes

**TAKE-OUT
TURKEY DINNER**

\$18
Adult

\$8
Child

ROAST TURKEY, DRESSING, POTATOES, CARROTS, PEAS,
TURNIP, CRANBERRY SAUCE, ROLL, GRAVY AND DESSERT

Order before November 17 by calling
Elaine L @ 902-865-4727 or by email through link on
the church website stfrancisbythelakes.ca

PICKUP 4:00-5:30 PM | 22 NOVEMBER 2025

St. Francis By The Lakes Anglican Church
192 First Lake Drive
Lower Sackville, NS
stfrancisbythelakes.ca

ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES

**CHRISTMAS
MARKET**

DECEMBER 6, 2025
FROM 10 AM TO 2PM
192 First Lake Drive, Lower Sackville

20+ Crafters
50/50 and Ticket Auction
Bake Table
\$5 Lunch (Soup and Roll)

ADMISSION: \$2

Christmas

AT ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES

Advent Reflections
Nov. 26, Dec. 3, 10, 17
@ 2:00 p.m.

**Christmas Craft Market &
Ticket Auction**
December 6 - 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Memorial Carol Sing
December 7 @ 7:00 p.m.

Christmas Pageant
December 14 @ 10:00 a.m.

Longest Night Service
December 21 @ 7:30 p.m.

Christmas Eve
December 24
4:00 p.m. - Eucharist
(Family Service)
8:00 p.m. - Eucharist

Christmas Day
December 25
@ 10:00 a.m.
(Eucharist)

December 28
Eucharist 8 & 10 a.m.

**Lessons and Carols for
Epiphany**
January 5 @ 10 a.m.

Let's celebrate together!

www.stfrancisbythelakes.ca
152 First Lake Drive
Lower Sackville
Nova Scotia