



# St. Francis News

Volume 15, Number 1

March 2026

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## Message from Reverend Will Ferrey

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As I look back on the last several months, I am still so grateful to be the rector here at St. Francis by the Lakes. We have moved together through the initial months when I was still finding my way around and now are beginning to settle into life together. There is still a lot that I need to learn, and I am still figuring out a few things, but we are getting there together. This remains such a friendly, wonderful, welcoming parish that it feels like I have been here much longer.

I am working with Parish Council and the Wardens to do a lot of taking stock of where the parish is, and where we are called to go next. The history of this parish, although shorter than some, is still pretty storied, and I do not believe that the best days are behind us. In fact, I see potential all around us, from new parishioners who are attending services and getting involved, to wonderful new ideas all over the place. It feels like hardly a week goes by without someone coming up with a really great new idea.

One of the problems that we come up against is resources, both in terms of people and money. The budget is eternally tight, and many of our most faithful and stalwart volunteers are having to slow down for their own reasons. We will have to work together as a parish to address these problems in creative and forward-thinking ways.

Fundamentally, in my experience in parish ministry, two of the hardest things to overcome are not money or volunteers, but energy and enthusiasm. Those are two things which this parish has a lot of. I have seen so much excitement, so many ideas, so many good, outward looking, thoughts and ideas that I can't help but be excited for what is to come!

I hope you read this newsletter remembering that, and remembering all the things that we talk about in here, all the ideas, all the events, even the fundraisers, are all about building our Christian community in Lower Sackville, are all about building the kingdom of God that Jesus proclaimed, and are all about welcoming and inviting in all who are interested.

~Will

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## Easter Services

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| * Palm Sunday (March 29): 8:00 and 10:00 a.m. | * Good Friday (April 3): 10:00 a.m.   |
| * Holy Monday (March 30): 11:00 a.m.          | * Holy Saturday (April 4) 7:00 p.m.   |
| * Holy Tuesday (March 31): 11:00 a.m.         | * Easter Sunday (April 5): 6:30 a.m., 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. Services and 9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt |
| * Holy Wednesday (April 1): 11:00 a.m.        |   |
| * Maundy Thursday (April 2): 7:00 p.m.        |   |

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## Letter From Your Wardens

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St. Francis held it's AGM on Feb 1, 2026. This was the first one with our new rector Rev. Will. Approximately sixty congregants stayed after the 10 a.m. service to take part in the meeting. Three new members joined parish council, two new members at large, Pam Luff and Lisa Herritt. Mary Belle Hann is our new warden. Mark Grandmaison has also decided to stay on as a member at large. Welcome to you all and thank you for volunteering to fill these positions so we can continue our work here at St. Francis. Please do not hesitate to approach us if you have any questions or concerns. We will do our best to try and address your concerns.

We would like to acknowledge those finishing their terms on parish council, Jane Nauss and Elaine Laurie. Thank you for all the work and knowledge you have given, while on council. We hope both of you will continue to be involved with future endeavours.

Thanks to the two individuals who provided the great tasting and beautiful decorated cookies for the AGM. They were enjoyed by all, along with tea and coffee.

Congratulations to our 2025 Parishioners of the year, Elaine Bishop and Glenna Paynter-Parsons, for their work in preparing weekly slides for our services. It takes everyone who volunteers to make all the events and services we enjoy here happen. A great big "THANK YOU" to all!

Parish council has approved the 2026 budget as it relates to proceeding with the renovations slated for the Narthex. Alan will provide updates on the renovations and start dates as information becomes available.

May God fill your life with peace and happiness and strengthen our faith.

~Garry and Mary

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## Ways and Means

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Our January 17<sup>th</sup> hybrid Chowder/Soup meal was a success, and the February 28<sup>th</sup> Roast Beef dinner sold out.

The Spring Market will be held March 28<sup>th</sup>. Jill Wall is once again coordinating table rentals. We will work around the staging which will be in place for this year's play in the hall. For the Ticket Auction we are planning on having twelve themed baskets along with any singular items. We will be asking the congregation to donate items for each themed basket as well as singular items. Cutoff date for donations is March 15<sup>th</sup>. There will also be a baked goods table and once again we will be looking to our fabulous St Francis bakers for donations. Watch for sign-up sheets. Lunch will be available for \$5 (Hamburger Soup and Turkey Soup, served with a roll).

Our next meal will be in May followed by the annual Yard Sale in June.

We have confirmed a John Snyder concert for November 28<sup>th</sup>. Make sure to get this in your calendar now!

Come out and support your St Francis fundraising events! Any questions please contact Jane Nauss at [jane.nauss@gmail.com](mailto:jane.nauss@gmail.com).

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## Janet Buchanan Bursary

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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 1<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup>. Recipients will be notified and bursaries awarded during the May 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 a.m. service.

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## Outreach

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Thank you for approving our 2026 Outreach/Community Events budget.

We have made donations to Opportunity Place in January and February of shopping cards and family hygiene kits. Unfortunately, Opportunity Place has been closed down. Their community cupboard/fridge will be closed as of February 27<sup>th</sup>. Any items still onsite will be donated to Beacon House Food Bank.

Planning has begun for our Easter Community Party that will be held on Saturday, April 11<sup>th</sup>.

We continue to receive knitted hats from a lady that set up a display at our Christmas Market. She has donated over 140 hats. These hats are being donated to BH Shelter, BH Food Bank and the Sackville Den.

We have begun to purchase items for our family hygiene kits.

On Shrove Tuesday we prepared and served Pancakes, sausages, bacon, and dessert for the residents of the Beacon House Shelter. We also provide desserts for their supper meals on Tuesday evenings. Through the Anglican Foundation and the generous support of a parishioner we have been able to purchase two laptops, desks, chairs, and accessories to support the guests of the shelter.

At our outreach meeting in February, we discussed ways to offer the seniors of our parish opportunities to gather for fellowship and ways to support youth in our community through the "Say Yes to The Kids Project." Details to follow in the near future.

We continue to support Beacon House Food Bank with your weekly donations.

We have also supported a couple of people in our community through our personal assistance program.

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

~Don Brushett

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## St. Francis Players – All Aboard Encore! Celebrating 20 Years

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The St. Francis Players return to the stage this spring with All Aboard Encore! —a special 20th anniversary celebration of theatre, great food, and unforgettable entertainment. Join us for one of four performances:

- Saturday, April 25 at 6pm
- Sunday, April 26 at 2pm
- Friday, May 1 at 7pm
- Saturday, May 2 at 6pm

Tickets are \$30, which includes a hearty meal of chili, salad, roll, and dessert. A vegetarian option is available when requested at the time of purchase. Wine and beer will also be available for purchase at the shows.

Box Office Opens March 21

- Online: March 21 at 1pm through April 20 at 8pm
- In person at 192 First Lake Drive:
  - Saturday, March 21 from 1–3pm
  - Sunday, March 22 from 8:30–10am
  - Sunday, March 29 from 8:30–10am
  - Sunday, April 12 from 8:30–10am

We're delighted that this year's production will be staged right in the hall, with direct hall entry, and comfortable seating for 60, offering an accessible, relaxed setting for everyone!

Come celebrate two decades of music, laughter, and spirit—All Aboard Encore! promises to be a highlight of the season.

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## Easter/Spring Community Party

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St. Francis by the Lakes is hosting a joyful Community Easter/Spring Party on Saturday, April 11, 2026, from 11am–1pm, and everyone is invited to join the fun. The event is free and open to all ages, making it a perfect outing for families, neighbours, and friends.

Guests can enjoy a variety of activities, including an egg-on-spoon relay, colouring table, bingo, cookie decorating, crafts, treats, an Easter Bunny Hunt, face painting, and a photo booth. It's a great opportunity to celebrate the season, connect with the community, and make some springtime memories.

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## Sunday School

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Since September, Sunday School attendance has ranged from three to six children, with occasional participation from parents during our half hour sessions.

We follow the lectionary, using Trueway Kids online lessons along with puppets, music, simple hymns, and hands on activities to bring the stories to life.

In the fall, we explored Thanksgiving and Advent themes, and in December the children joyfully took part in a Christmas pageant.

The new year began with lessons on Baptism, Jesus' first miracle at Cana, and the call of the fishermen—complete with creative play, music, and storytelling.

More recently, we have explored themes such as being the salt and light of the world, building on strong foundations, and Jesus calming the storm through interactive activities using flashlights, Lego, and imaginative play.

During Lent, the children will participate in Coins for Caring, and through March we will continue focusing on Lent while also celebrating spring, Easter, and St. Patrick's Day.

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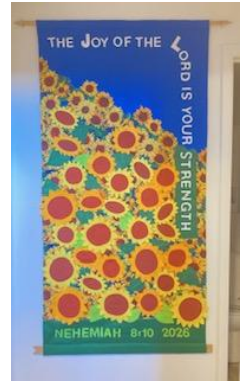
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## Mothers' Union

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On January 18<sup>th</sup> we had the Commissioning of New Officers installed during a church service. The following took on these roles: Bonnie Boutilier, Co-Branch Leader, Debbie Sproul, Treasurer, and Jean Ottosen, Secretary.



At the Feb. 1 Annual Meeting, Jean Ottosen and Sherri Turner unveiled a beautiful Baptismal Banner, The Joy of the Lord Is Your Strength, they handcrafted, which was blessed by Rev. Will and hung in the church.

Join us for our Spring fundraiser on Sunday, April 12 at 11:15 a.m., following the 10:00 a.m. service, for a fun and tasty **Dessert Auction** in support of the Mothers' Union Travel Fund. Bid on delicious homemade desserts with Rev. Will Ferrey as auctioneer. Auction paddle registration begins at 9:30 a.m. Everyone welcome, come enjoy a sweet time of fellowship!

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## Fundscrip Dates

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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](mailto:brushettsm@gmail.com) or 902-452-1536.

Order dates and times:

MONTH	ORDER (by 6 p.m.)	PICK UP (between 9-10 a.m.)
April	Sunday, April 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, April 12 <sup>th</sup>
May	Sunday, May 3 <sup>rd</sup>	Sunday, May 10 <sup>th</sup>
June	Sunday, May 31 <sup>st</sup>	Sunday, June 7 <sup>th</sup>
July*	Sunday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	Sunday, July 12 <sup>th</sup>
August*	Sunday, August 2 <sup>nd</sup>	Sunday, August 9 <sup>th</sup>

\*Pick-up time may change for July and August

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## Parish Council 2026

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We are pleased to introduce the 2026 Parish Council and extend our sincere thanks to all who have agreed to serve. Parish Council plays a vital role in the life and ministry of St. Francis by the Lakes.

- Wardens:
  - Garry Rideout
  - Mary Belle Hann
- Treasurer: Alan Barnhill
- Clerk of Council: Wanda Joudrey
- Members at Large:
  - Shelley Brushett
  - Mark Grandmaison
  - Lisa Herritt
  - Pam Luff
  - Scott Luff
  - Glenna Paynter-Parsons
  - Lloyd Snyder
- Synod Delegate: Patricia Rideout

Please keep our Parish Council in your prayers as they work faithfully on behalf of our parish community. If you have questions, ideas, or concerns, Council members are always happy to hear from you.

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## Committee and Volunteer Opportunities

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We can always use more help on our committees, our groups and programs. Consider 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, St. Francis Players/Dinner Theatre

Other Opportunities: Greeters, Hospitality, Cleaning Team, Altar Guild, Choir, Counting Team, Bakers

## ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES

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

## SPRING MARKET

~ 20 Vendors

**Ticket Auction, 50/50 & Bake Sale**  
**\$5 lunch (hamburger or turkey soup)**

Saturday, March 28 **\$2 Admission** 10:00am - 2:00pm

**Ticket Auction Draws will be at 1:30pm**

Ticket Auction is like a penny auction

\$2 for 25 tickets

A variety of NEW items and theme baskets will be available to put your tickets on.



## COMMUNITY EASTER / SPRING PARTY

Saturday, April 11, 2026 | 11am - 1pm

All  
Ages

Egg on spoon relay •  
Colouring Table • Bingo •  
Cookie decorating • Craft  
table • Treats • Easter  
Bunny Hunt • Face Painting  
• Photo Booth

FREE



St. Francis by the Lakes  
192 First Lake Drive  
Lower Sackville, NS

# HOLY WEEK Schedule



## **PALM SUNDAY • March 29**

8:00 a.m. Service  
10:00 a.m. Service

## **HOLY MONDAY • March 30**

11:00 a.m. Service



## **HOLY TUESDAY • March 31**

11:00 a.m. Service

## **HOLY WEDNESDAY • April 01**

11:00 a.m. Service



## **MAUNDY THURSDAY • April 02**

7:00 p.m. Service

## **GOOD FRIDAY • April 03**

10:00 a.m. Service



## **HOLY SATURDAY • April 04**

7:00 p.m. Vigil Service

## **EASTER SUNDAY • April 05**

6:30 a.m. Sunrise Service  
8:00 a.m. Service  
9:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt  
10:00 a.m. Service



**ST. FRANCIS BY THE LAKES  
ANGLICAN CHURCH**  
192 First Lake Drive  
Lower Sackville, NS

