

# St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter November 5, 2022.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 5 November 2022.

## Table of Contents

<i>Spiritual Development</i>	p. 3
<i>The Wider Church</i>	p. 10
<i>The Local Community</i>	p. 14
<i>Odds &amp; Ends</i>	p. 15
<i>Property</i>	p. 16
<i>Neighbourhood Changes</i>	p. 18
<i>Monitors</i>	p. 24
<i>Financial update</i>	p. 27
<i>Photo</i>	p. 28



### **St. Brice's Visioning Scripture**

“Above all, clothe yourselves with love, which binds us all together in perfect harmony. And whatever you do or say, do it as a representative of the Lord Jesus.” Colossians 3: 14, 17 (NLT)

### Christian Joke

**Q:** *Why didn't anyone want to fight Goliath?*

**A:** *It seemed like a giant ordeal.*

### Philippians 4: 6-7

Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

#### *Upcoming Women's Breakfast*

Many of us know Dr. Marion Taylor, who taught Old Testament at Wycliffe College, Toronto, for many years until her recent retirement. (Marion's husband Glen also led South River area congregations in the Deanery of Muskoka.) Marion is hosting an **on-line Women's Breakfast and Bible study, on the morning of Saturday, 12 November, beginning at 9:30am.**



Be ready to be surprised! It will be a discussion of "Paul and the Queen of Navarre," followed by meeting some "women currently studying at Wycliffe and hear more about their personal stories of calling as well as their journey of spiritual formation."

For more information, or to register for this event, please contact [karen.selvaraj@wycliffe.utoronto.ca](mailto:karen.selvaraj@wycliffe.utoronto.ca) The registration deadline is this coming Monday, November 7.

#### *Prayers for Salish*

*Many of us have been praying for Sandie MacDonald's grandson Salish, who was badly injured in a recent car accident. I asked Sandie to provide us with an update. -PA*



As many of you know, one month ago, my grandson Salish from Smithers B.C was involved in a horrific, single car accident on a foggy night when he hit a bear. Salish is broken in so many places from head to toe. He has traumatic brain injuries.

Many of you prayed so hard for him. God's healing hands

never left him. The power of your prayers lifted Salish to a level of healing that can only be considered miraculous. Salish can walk, feed and bathe himself and converse appropriately. His road to full recovery will be arduous but he will do it. Please continue your meaningful prayers. They are working!!  
Many thanks and much love,  
Sandie

#### *Update about the Auction*

Last August 19, the Christ Church, St. John's and St. Brice's went together to put on a supper and a silent auction and a live auction. It was all a great success. I understand that St. Brice's share of the proceeds was about \$2400, which is designated for Outreach.

There were some items left over from the auction, which were divided among the three parishes. St. Brice's share is in the outer office, downstairs. Many thanks to Jen Auger, Amanda Adams, and everyone who contributed to or who attended the event.

#### *Advent Events*



The season of Advent will begin on Sunday, November 27, this year. We are planning a number of events. We

haven't planned all the details yet, but will share them once they are firmed up.

- ANNUAL CHURCH DINNER, Saturday, December 3: Service at 11am, lunch at noon. (The organizers will likely want to know numbers. If you plan to attend, please leave a message at the parish office – 705-474-4005.
- BLUE CHRISTMAS SERVICE: The Christmas season is not easy for many of us – especially if there has been a recent death in our family. Several lay people are planning to offer a “Blue Christmas Service” on a weekend evening in early December. Members of the congregation will have the opportunity to request favourite pieces of music in advance.
- ADVENT QUIET MORNING: As a change from the rush of Christmas preparations which so many of us face, we are planning an Advent Quiet Morning in mid-December. (We are waiting for the conductor to confirm availability before announcing the time.) This will be a time for rest, quiet worship, and reflection.
- ADVENT CAROL SERVICE: In the Advent season of Hope, we will have a joyful joint service of music and readings, tentatively planned for Sunday, December 18, 10am.

### *Food Bank Update*

Thanks to the initiative of Shane and Jen Auger, a North Bay Dollar Tree store has agreed to promote St. Brice's Food Bank in their store (see nearby photos). As resources allow, a “hygiene kit” (soap, toothbrushes, etc.) is now being distributed once every 3 months, which has been



deeply appreciated by the clients. Thank you to the parishioners who contributed to the Harvest Thanksgiving drive. For households using the Food Bank who have children, there are also some food items provided to help make children's birthdays special, even during difficult times.

### *Sidespersons Policy*

The Advisory Board recently adopted a new Sidesperson Policy – please see below. Offering bags will now be handed around by the sidespersons on duty, for the 11am and 10am services. (Offerings during the 9am services will continue to be received at the back of the Church building.)

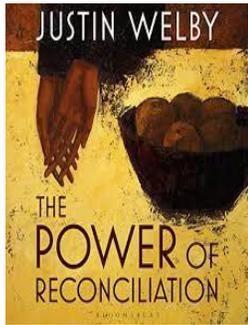
### Sidesperson Duties Policy

- Welcome (please try to arrive no later than 20 minutes before the services begin)
- Hand out books and bulletins
- Offertory (bring forward elements of bread and wine; pass the offering bags)
- Monitor back of Church building/ narthex
- Count number of people
- Act as guides for those receiving Communion
- Tidy up and ensure that windows are closed

### *The Power of Reconciliation – and the role of Archbishop Welby*

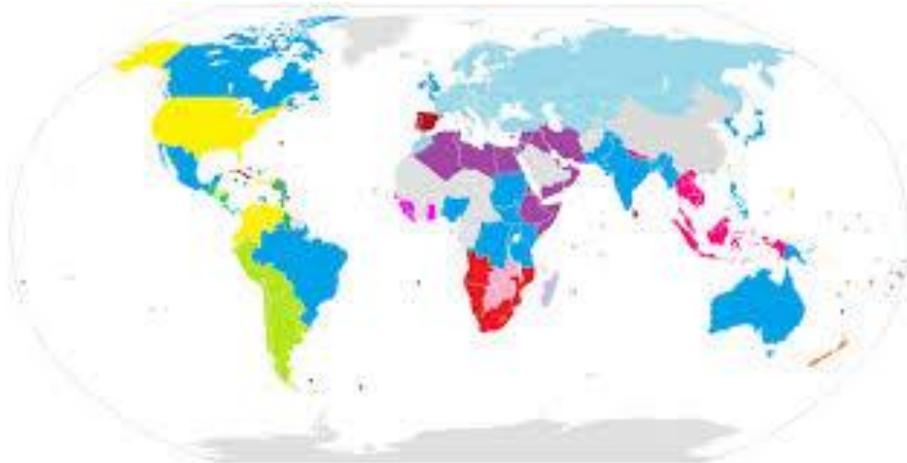
Justin Welby, the current Archbishop of Canterbury (England, UK), recently published a book I've been reading, called *The Power of Reconciliation*. “Reconciliation” has been an important theme of





Archbishop Welby’s ministry. In light of the gospel, the book addresses reconciliation on the “macro” level (among nations), and the “micro” level (within households), and includes discussion questions. I believe this book is suitable for individuals or for small group studies, and am happy to recommend it to people.

I recently heard a radio interview about relationships between indigenous and non-indigenous Canadians. The speaker, who evidently didn’t know much about Anglican Christianity, called the Archbishop of Canterbury “the Pope for Anglicans” – an unfortunate misunderstanding which annoyed me. Many of us are accustomed to thinking there must be a C.E.O. somewhere in a large organization.



However, the Anglican Church is not structured hierarchically, with one boss over a manager over a worker. Rather (following the model of the early Church), dioceses are geographic regions with the bishop responsible for ministry within his or her diocese. Parish

priests are responsible for pastoral and sacramental care within their parishes. Groups of dioceses are organized into ecclesiastical “provinces.”

For example, St. Brice’s is a parish within the Deanery of Temiskaming, within the Diocese of Algoma. Anne Germond is currently the bishop of this diocese. The Diocese of Algoma is part of the ecclesiastical Province of Ontario (whose boundaries are almost the same as the civil province of Ontario). It happens that Anne Germond was elected to be the senior bishop, or Metropolitan, of Ontario.



The Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario

There are 4 ecclesiastical provinces within the nation of Canada, which cooperate administratively with the Primate (currently

Archbishop Linda Nichols) and staff, through the nation of Canada. Worldwide, Anglicans worship in parishes in dioceses in ecclesiastical provinces. No province or diocese has authority “over” another province or diocese. It’s somewhat like a family relationship – there are brothers and sisters who love one another, and who occasionally squabble, but an adult sibling can’t boss another adult sibling.

The Church of England is organized into two ecclesiastical provinces – York in the north, and Canterbury in the south. Relationships among Anglican Christians worldwide are coordinated through the Archbishop of Canterbury and his staff. For example, the gathering of Anglican bishops every 10 years or so, the Lambeth Conferences, is hosted by the Archbishop of Canterbury. Archbishop Welby has an important

coordinating role, and is a significant moral voice throughout the communion. However, he is certainly not a “Pope for Anglicans” – he has no legal jurisdiction outside southern England.

*Dogs in Church Policy*

Some of us are aware that there was a kerfluffle at St. Brice’s a few weeks ago when a visitor brought her puppy with her to church, including coming up to the altar for communion. The second time this happened, the puppy got away from her. [Although I (Peter Armstrong) think that I’m pretty tolerant of a lot of behaviours, this was too much for me.]



After some research with Ontario law and other Guide Dogs policies, the Advisory Board has adopted the following Dogs in Church Policy.

St. Brice’s Dogs in Church Policy

- When an animal is unruly and disruptful, we can remove the person and animal.
- Animals cannot be loose. They need to be controlled at all times and on a leash no more than six feet long, or securely in a carrier.
- If someone wants Communion and has an animal, he or she cannot to bring them up to the altar. The Sidespersons will let the rector know, who will bring Communion to the dog owner who wants to receive communion.

*Planning Ahead for Lent*

In 2023, Lent will begin with Ash Wednesday on February 22. We are making plans to have a Quiet Day during Lent, and to recommend another book by Bishop Tom



Wright, on Mark. (From 26 November 2022 to 2 December, we will mostly be reading the Gospel according to St. Mark during the Sunday morning services.) We hope to let people know about the price of the book, around Christmas.

THE WIDER CHURCH

*Indigenous Representative on the Diocesan Executive Council*

Archbishop Anne Germond has appointed Carol Nebitt, a



Metis who serves on the North Bay Metis Nation of Ontario Council as the Secretary-Treasurer, to be the indigenous representative on the diocesan Executive Committee. Carol and her husband worship at Christ Church, North Bay.

*Ultreya/ Cursillo*



Many of us are familiar with Cursillo, a weekend retreat which many lay leaders at St. Brice’s have participated in. As long as COVID doesn’t disrupt plans, there are tentative plans to offer a Cursillo for the Deanery in 2023. Cursillos

are run by a kind of local executive committee called a Secretariat. If you would like to learn more about Cursillo, perhaps to attend, please contact the parish office (705-474-4005), and we'll put you in touch with a member of the Secretariat.

“Ultreyas” are informal gatherings, especially intended for people who have been on Cursillo. They used to be held about once a month except in the summer, and more recently, several times a year on Friday evenings. In this Deanery, Ultreyas have included music, a short time of teaching, someone attending sharing their spiritual biography, and fellowship. The Secretariat is considering offering Ultreyas again, when conditions permit.

*Dates for General Synod and Diocesan Synod*

Diocesan “Synod” is a gathering of clergy and lay representatives of parishes from around the diocese, which meets every two years in Sault Ste. Marie. Synods are usually a mix of presentations, worship, workshops, fellowship, and quasi-parliamentary motions and debate. The next diocesan synod is scheduled for 11-13 May 2023.



The Canadian General Synod is made up of bishops from across Canada, and clergy and lay people from each diocese. General Synod takes place every three years, and was to have taken place last July, but was cancelled due to COVID. Synod has been re-scheduled for 27 June to 6 July 2023 in Calgary.

*Women’s Retreat*

*A message from the Rev. Linda White (she reminds us that bookings need to take place soon).*

After two winters of Covid-19 restrictions, ladies are invited to get out their beach towels and sun screen once

again and get ready for a winter break from the cold and snow!



This winter’s retreat will be to Cancun, Mexico with Sunwing Airlines. We’ll depart from Toronto at 10:30am on Wednesday January 31, returning at 7:35pm on Wednesday, February

7. We’ll be staying at the Iberostar Paraiso Del Mar. The hotel room all inclusive with Sunwing quotes at \$1415.00 + tax \$60.00 = \$1875.00 per person based on double occupancy.

The theme for our devotions this year hasn’t been decided but you can look forward to biblical reflections that help us to engage with what scripture has to say to us for living as strong Christian women in today’s world.

Further information is available by contacting Rev Linda at 705 475-2426 or [revlinda@bell.net](mailto:revlinda@bell.net). To book your place for the retreat please contact Beth Plaunt at Maritime Travel, [bplaunt@Maritimetravel.ca](mailto:bplaunt@Maritimetravel.ca) or call her at 705 647-7329.

*Diocesan Deanery Council Discussions*

Early in 2023, Archbishop Anne has asked that Deanery Councils through the diocese undertake a time of visioning, called “**What Does It Mean To Be the Church?**” Further information will be shared before or after Christmas.

*Apple Pies at Christ Church*

Christ Church parishioners made a number of ten-inch apple pies, which are for sale as a fundraiser, for \$14 each. Please contact their parish office at 705-495-4659 if you want one.

*Diocesan Zoom*

Throughout the diocese, expression is being expressed to **lay people who have contributed significantly** to the ministry of Christ’s Church over the years. (Tomorrow morning – **Sunday, November 6, at 10am** – the contributions of St. Brice’s parishioners Eva Black, Bill Burton and Aase Jensen will be acknowledged.)



There will be an **on-line diocesan service tomorrow (Sunday) evening at 7pm**, to which all parishioners are warmly invited. Here is the information to join the on-line service:

Topic: Service to recognize recipients of Certificates of Appreciation

Time: November 6, 2022, starting at 7:00 PM

[omit for website]

(Please note that, for security purposes, the link and passcode information will not be included as this newsletter is posted on the parish website.)

THE LOCAL COMMUNITY

*Salvation Army Christmas Kettles*

The North Bay Salvation Army Major, Stephanie Watkinson, has written local churches in North Bay, asking for volunteers to help look after their Christmas kettles in the North Bay area, in the weeks leading up to Christmas. If you wish to volunteer this way, please contact Stephanie at 705-474-7859.

*Hot Chocolate/ Parade*



North Bay will be having its annual parade on Sunday, 20 November, beginning at noon. It’s – well – it’s November in northern Ontario, and it often is a pretty cold ride. There was an idea floated that we might provide some hot chocolate to the parade participants, as a gesture of blessing. However, there needs to be

at least four volunteers.

It’s not confirmed that we would do this – we would still need to get permission from the parade organizers. However, if you want to share some hot chocolate and a smile, please leave a message at the parish office (705-474-4005) by Wednesday at the latest.

*Hope Awaits*

Hope Awaits is a Christian ministry which provides shelter for homeless men. The building is on the corner of Fisher and First Streets. Nicolle, the director, asked if we could publicize this ministry. We weren’t able to get

printed resources in time for this newsletter, but information is available at <https://www.hopeawaitsministries.com/> . I am sure they are grateful for prayer support and financial support.

### *Operation Warmth*

For a number of years, Redeemer Lutheran parish offered a winter coat program. This year, the program is being coordinated among LIPI, Rebuilt Resources, and the Salvation Army. The coats have already been received. If you know of someone who is in need of a winter coat, please contact the Salvation Army by this coming Tuesday.

### ODDS & ENDS

#### *Ostomy Bags*

Someone contacted St. Brice's to say that they have a number of ostomy bags which they are not able to use, but which are perfectly good. If you know of someone who needs these because of a medical condition, please contact the parish office (705-474-4005), and we will arrange to give them to you.

#### *Collection Material on the Stage*



Eyeglasses, egg cartons, plastic bread tags and stamps are collected on the corner of the stage in the parish hall, near the piano. These are collected by a member of the Deanery Social Justice

Committee, and are used to help various causes. If you have any of these items, please feel free to drop them off, where they will be put to good use.

### *Cards*

We don't want to give away too much, in case someone reads this – we don't want to spoil the surprise. However, we know of a couple of folks connected with St. Brice's who are observing milestones in their lives, and it would be nice for as many parishioners as are available to sign cards for them. The plan is for the cards to be available during the pot-luck Linger Lunch tomorrow (after the Joint Service at 10am). If you can, please take time to add your signature, and a short message, along with the others.

Please also remember that the Quilters (who meet regularly on Mondays at St. Brice's) produce Christmas Cards, Birthday Cards, and so on.

### PROPERTY

#### *Soffit Repair*

A "soffit" (sometimes also called a deplanché, I think) is the underside of a roof, between the top of the exterior wall and the eavestroughing/ vertical fascia boards. The



soffits on the Church building have been damaged for some time – especially on the back garden side, but also at the sanctuary end of the Church building on the Victoria Road side. Muscular pigeons or some other animals squeezed in.

A flock of pigeons having been living at the bottom edge of the roof, and it's been really hard to dislodge them!

Rob McDonald and a friend of his took charge a couple of weeks ago: They removed the damaged soffits, drove out the pigeons (who objected to being dislodged from their posh bedrooms), cleaned out what appeared to be a small

mountain of droppings, and removed a couple of dead pigeons. They then installed new soffits, which look really sharp. It was a thankless job, but on our behalf, I do want to express our deep thanks to Rob for his initiative in this.

*Panic Door Stop Repair*

Speaking of thanks for property repairs, the panic bar exit hardware on the Church building doors lost a tiny but important piece of its mechanism. Bill Burton came up with a repair which we expect will do the job. Thanks, Bill!

*Microphone*

Some parishioners have likely noticed that when the Rev. Marie Loewen is participating in the service along with me (Peter), we have been passing the lapel microphone back and forth between us, depending on who is speaking. A parishioner very kindly, and anonymously, paid for the cost of another microphone.



Gary Thoms, who seems to be a whiz with “sound” matters, has taken on the job of getting the microphone and its associated hardware to be integrated into our current public address system. He tested the system a couple of days ago, but it isn’t up to his excellent standard. He hopes to have everything working together well, later this week. So, parishioners will likely see another microphone in use – and a good quality one at that.

NEIGHBOURHOOD CHANGES

*Neighbourhood Changes: Part 1 – Introduction*

As probably all parishioners know, the neighbourhood around St. Brice’s has changed noticeably in the past few years. We are located between The Gathering Place (which provides 19 or 20 free meals to a large population each week) a few doors from us on Cassells, and the Low-Barrier Shelter on Chippewa Street. A number of folks seem to have settled on the property of First Baptist Church, across the road from us.



A number of folks hang around on the alcove near the fountain at St. Brice’s, or sit on the exterior kitchen steps. Typically, they are dealing with one or

more of the following issues: Homelessness; addictions; mental illness. I think there are three issues before us:

- What is the right response from us?
- What do we do to ensure everyone’s safety?
- What do we do about garbage?

For a long time, St. Brice’s has been aware that we have a vocation to bring the Church into the world. That is, it is our duty and our joy to carry out Christ’s mandate to make disciples and to establish his kingdom. What seems to be happening now, though, is that the *world* is coming into the *Church*, and that is disconcerting for many of us.

None of this is a surprise to God, of course. God’s nature, and our general response to God, does not change. We know we’re called to love God and to love our neighbours as ourselves – and some of these new neighbours are not easy to love.

I believe that every person in the world ought to be treated with dignity and respect, and that we need to be prepared to show hospitality to all people. That does not mean, however, that “anything goes.” I believe it is appropriate for us to have some minimum reasonable expectations for people who are on our property.

## rest

For example, for people who have been sitting on our front bench in the alcove, I believe that space is intended for people to have a sit and have a meditation for a little while. It is not a place for smoking, taking any drugs, leaving garbage, or for sleeping overnight. I cannot police that

space 24 hours a day. I do frequently speak to people there, try to learn their names and, briefly, their stories, remind them to clean up after themselves, and to encourage them to move on “so that other people have the chance to enjoy this space too.”

We might not realize it, but many of the people who come to the property are fearful *of us*, just as some of us are fearful *of them*. I firmly believe that St. Brice’s is to be a community of physical, emotional, and physical safety. In the next two sections, I want to address the issue of safety, and then the issue of garbage on the property.

### *Neighbourhood Changes: Part 2 – Community Safety*

The leadership at St. Brice’s has taken a number of steps in recent years to help ensure the safety of parishioners to a high degree.



Before writing about *physical* safety, I want to give a “shout out” to Carrie Birtch and Amanda Adams, and Diane McCaskill for her

administrative help, who have been seeing that St. Brice’s is in compliance to the **Screening in Faith** standards.

When committee chairs are being asked to review job descriptions, when some of us are being asked to produce a current Vulnerable Sector Check from the police department, when we’re being reminded about good practices when we’re carrying out a ministry of the Church, these aren’t meant to hassle us. **It’s to help ensure that everyone – especially, youth and vulnerable persons – are as safe as we can possibly make our common life.** If for any reason we are ever uncomfortable or unsettled working with another parishioner, please speak to myself or to one of the parish wardens.

We have been fortunate (and blessed) to have been recipients of two provincial grants to enhance security on our property. Thank you to the people who contributed to the dreary task of completing grant application forms.



I want to stress that [St. Brice’s has taken a number of steps to help ensure the safety of the community and the protection of our property:](#)

- The locks on the property were changed a short time ago, and only the minimum number of people receive keys. Some of these keys only access some of the doors. We have a sign-in and sign-out process for distributing keys
- The internet has been upgraded throughout the

- upper elevation of the property, to enable a portable monitor to be used throughout; new internet security protocols have been introduced
- Church basement windows have been boarded up
- Bars have been installed on all the windows in the office area and hall, to prevent access to the building
- There are security cameras running 24 hours a day, in the back, side and front of the buildings
- We have the capacity to review video footage of the exterior and interior of the property on the parish desktop, and on the phones of several designated parishioners
- The transparent material on the main exit doors has been upgraded to be more vandal-resistant. As we are able to afford it, we intend to strengthen the inserts on the main doors, and to apply a vandal-resistant covering on our stained glass windows
- The exterior handle has been removed from the present hall exterior doors, to make it harder for someone to try to break in from the outside
- New exterior hall doors have been ordered, and we expect them to be installed this month (this alone will be about \$4000 before taxes)
- We will be removing the bench from the front alcove, at least for a time, to discourage people from resting on the bench for a long time
- We have a small group of volunteers who are willing to walk with anyone who feels uncomfortable to or from their vehicle
- We have fostered good relationships with the Street Ambassadors who are hired by the city, and they have visited St. Brice's and engage with folks here
- We are making plans to illuminate the alcove, so bright lights will be on, either all the time, or else whenever someone is occupying the space. It has

been quite a challenge to find a light design which is suitably vandal- and theft-resistant, and we will need to engage the services of an electrician.



However, we believe that we have found a solution. Thanks to Shane Auger for his ideas, and for Murray Howe of Howe's Lighting to "put the meat on the bones"

- In a joint initiative from Shane and Jen Auger for the Food Bank volunteers, and an initiative from the Advisory Board, we plan to have a **workshop** with one or two representatives of the Health Unit. Subject to getting permission from her manager, **Caitlin Dobratz will be visiting St. Brice's on Sunday, 4 December, following the Linger Lunch after the joint service.** (Caitlin might bring another worker with her.) There are several objectives to this workshop:
  - To provide people with some basic facts about marginalized people who live in our community
  - To equip people how to engage with people when appropriate
  - To reduce fear and to increase confidence
  - To educate about mental illnesses and addictions, and how to respond
  - To be hands-on and practical
  - We hope as many parishioners as possible will attend.
- Some people might find the following link from the local Department of Health to be helpful to explore the topic of addictions further:  
<https://www.myhealthunit.ca/en/health-professionals-partners/harm-reduction.asp>

*Neighbourhood Changes: Part 3 – Garbage*

Garbage left on the property is a frustrating issue to me. Anything left behind will be thrown out.

In fairness, about 80% of the people who use our property leave no garbage at all, and often, will try to clean up after others. (Poor man: Earlier this fall on a Sunday morning, an older man who was wheezing and who told me he had Stage 4 cancer of the throat was stooped over, trying to clean up cigarette butts which others had left. It was his little gesture to try to make the world less ugly.)

Much of the garbage is leftover food containers from The Gathering Place. However, The Gathering Place is overwhelmed by the current number of clients. Their maximum seating arrangement is for about 36. They feed 160 suppers each day they are open, on average. They are at least as frustrated about the garbage situation as we are.



Still, there is a minority of people who do not, or cannot, organize themselves to clean up after themselves.

We do have a garbage container near the kitchen steps, which is emptied about five or six times in a typical week. I expect the problem will

decrease somewhat as the weather grows colder -- people won't want to stand around for as long a time outdoors. In the long term, we can work for people to have more housing and more resources, but I don't see any easy or quick solution.

I appreciate when parishioners make an effort to keep the property tidy. On the whole, I think we do a good job. Thank you!

MONITORS

Parishioners with long memories likely recall that about seven years ago, we identified three **projects to undertake when we had the resources**: First, to buy a commercial dishwasher; second, to install a new exterior sign; third, to have monitors to display the liturgy at the later Sunday services (this would replace the projector on top of the plywood box by the front right pew).



To be clear, none of these projects were in our annual budgets over the years. These are what Don Bonenfant the Treasurer calls “cookie jars.” That is, parishioners can choose to support the orphanage at Madagascar Missions, or the Teen Lunch Program, or to contribute to the new exterior sign, or any “cookie jar,” if they wish. (We hope that people *will* financially support initiatives which are important to them.)

However, legally and morally, the leadership at St. Brice's can't take money *from* a cookie jar initiative and put it *into* the General Fund (however much we might want to!). If someone decides they want to make a contribution to the Anglican Church Women, we cannot choose to take that money from the A.C.W. and use it, for example, to pay for the parish insurance premium.

We got the dishwasher some time ago, and the new sign was installed this past summer. (Incidentally, I have had

a number of positive comments about the new sign from people in the neighbourhood.) The Advisory Board has been talking thoughtfully about the “monitors” proposal. We want to include the congregation about our discussions so far.

There have been two steps forward:

- First, someone made a significant donation to the parish before the summer, but expressed hope that the proceeds would be used to help people view or hear the worship services – for example, to be able to participate in a service if there were an overflow to the parish hall.
- Second, we learned recently that some of the electrical outlets in the front of the Church building were unsafe. These have now been repaired. At the same time, new electrical outlets were added, which were needed. (It’s cheaper for an electrician to come once for two jobs, than twice.)

*What would it look like, if we installed monitors for the congregation to view?*

The screen, the plywood box on top of the shelf between the front pews, and the single projector would be put away. Instead, there would be one monitor above the door to access the organ console, and a second monitor above the door to the A.C.W. room. They would be black when not in use, and not very thick. They would be about 60 inches across. They would be smaller than the single screen we use now, but would be clearer for everyone to view. There would also be a third, smaller monitor – 36 inches – in the back of the Church building, above the pillars -- for people in the very back. After this, all members of the congregation would be able to see the words and images very clearly.

*What is holding us back from installing the monitors?*

- First, we want to be sure that the system works very well, and the monitors have to be connected to each other and to the parish laptop. (A parishioner has offered to install the connections.)
- Second, we want to maintain the beauty of the Church building. A building which is used never stays exactly the same, but we want to do good work.
- Third, we want the right material at the right price. Even though the price trend is downwards, the larger monitors are expensive.
- Fourth, the Advisory Board members know that we currently face a very significant financial deficit. The rector and wardens wrote a letter to the congregation later in September, outlining the current financial challenges. Even though the monitors proposal is a “cookie jar” project which won’t go ahead until we raise enough money to do the job, we are wary – we don’t want anyone to think that we are being reckless or careless. In fact, I believe that the Advisory Board members work hard to ensure that we are very careful with our expenses.
- Fifth, although we have made significant progress, we don’t yet have all the money in place to be able to proceed with the job. Outside of the electrical wiring, the cost estimate is \$2170 or so, and I recall \$1150 has been donated.

The decision to move forward with the monitors was made some time ago. Our discussion isn’t about *what* to do, but *how* and *when*. We are determined to do a good job, and to be good stewards of all that God has entrusted to us. We want to keep you informed of our progress, and will continue to do so.



As already outlined, St. Brice’s has been facing a very significant deficit. That is, we have spent a little more money this year than what we planned at the beginning of the year (the cost of some budget line items went up – the natural gas bill comes to mind). More substantially, though, income did not meet our expenses most months of this year. **The bad news was, our deficit was \$23 348.50 at the end of September.**

A deficit is not the same as a debt. Because we had money saved from previous years, we have used our savings to pay all our bills. However, left unchecked, our savings would dry up, and *then* we would begin to be in debt!

**There is good news**, however. In late September, the rector and wardens wrote the congregation, outlining the situation and asking for people to help if they could. There was no one single miraculous gift, but **a number of people making an effort made a noticeable difference.** During the month of October, there was a significant turn-around: We raised more than \$5000 than what we spent. This means **our deficit is reduced to \$18 057.80.**

We aren’t “out of the woods” yet, and we don’t want people to become complacent. It’s true that December is a month when people tend to be generous. It’s also true that our insurance premium is paid in full during the first ten months of the year, which means we have to raise

about \$1000 less for the last two months of 2022. Even though we got a pandemic wage subsidy for most of 2021, our deficit at the same time last year was a much smaller \$4815 (compared to over \$18 000 now).

The Treasurer reminded me recently that at the Vestry meeting last February 6, we were cautioned that expenses were projected to increase. We adopted the Budget. I had forgotten that – maybe some other folks did too?

We are doing our best to honour God at St. Brice’s. Some people are in a position that they cannot contribute at all financially, and are equally cherished here. Many people have acted sacrificially. In the last five years, in four of those years, we ended the year “in the black.” (On the fifth year, our deficit at year’s end was only a couple of hundred dollars.) As always, I am grateful for your prayers, and we will seek Christ together.

PHOTO

On a personal note, I thought people might enjoy seeing a photo of my grandson, Gordon (about five weeks old).

