

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter November 19, 2022.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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Christian Joke

Q: *What did pirates call Noah's boat?*

A: The Arrrrrrrk.



Now may the God of hope fill
you with all joy and peace in
believing, so that you will
abound in hope by the power of
the Holy Spirit
Romans 15:13

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)

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT



Advent

“Advent” means “coming.” In 2022, the season of Advent runs from 27 November to 24 December. We’re getting to celebrate an amazing event: God came to us in the person of Jesus of Nazareth, so we can be changed and live with him forever.

During Advent, we are getting ready to celebrate the birth of this wonderful baby, our Saviour. For many Christians, Advent is also a time to prepare to meet Jesus Christ again – not as a tiny baby, but as a perfect Judge.

To help us get focused this Advent, there will be some special services and events:

- **Church Dinner:** Saturday, December 3 (service, 11am; meal, noon). If you would like to attend, please use the sign-up sheet in the narthex. (If you can help with a food item, or by giving a hand, please use the same sign-up sheet.)
- **Advent Service of Lessons & Carols:** Sunday, December 11, 10am. (*Please note:* This Sunday will be a combined service at 10am, instead of 9am and 11am.)
- **“Blue Christmas” Service:** Sunday, 4 December, 4pm. Some of us find the season leading up to

Christmas, and Christmas itself, difficult. Perhaps someone close to us has recently died – or there may be some other reasons. This service is especially for you.

Please note that one can request favourite hymns for this service – please see the request forms outside the Church building, in the narthex.

- Archbishop Anne’s brother-in-law, Bishop Brian Germond, will be offering an **on-line pre-Advent retreat** – this coming Saturday, November 26, beginning at 9am. Here is the information you need to join:
 “Pre-Advent Quiet Day with Bishop Brian”
 November 26, 2022, beginning at 9:00 AM

[deleted for the website, for security reasons]

- Many of us know **Danielle Strickland**, a Toronto-based Christian teacher/ evangelist/ artist kind of person who wants to honour God in surprising but deep ways. She is offering an Advent journey, described like this:

Join us on an Advent-ure this December as we partner with World Vision to welcome the Christmas season through the postures of Surrender, Generosity & Mission.

For more information, please go to: <https://www.daniellestrickland.com/>

- The Rev. Linda White will be offering an **Advent Quiet Morning** on Saturday morning, 17 December, for Temiskaming Deanery. Called “Dwelling in Living Hope: Reflections on Luke 1,” it will be held at Christ Church on December 17, 9am-12:30pm, finishing with a simple soup and bun for lunch.

She writes, “There will be 3 short reflections followed by time for guided silence, prayer, journaling and/or art work as people find helpful for their own walking toward living hope. Since there will be food provided, it would be helpful if people let me know if they'd like to attend. There is no cost. It is intended for anyone who would care to take a brief rest from the busy-ness of Christmas preparations.”

- There will be a **Service of Carols** at Christ Church, Greenwood Ave., Sunday December 18, 7pm.
- Here is a notice from the Quilters’ Group: The Quilter’s Group will have **cards and quilts** available to purchase this Sunday, November 20, between the 9 am and 11 am services. As a reminder – these items are also available every Monday in the hall until approximately 2pm. Get a head start on your holiday gifts!

Christmas 2022



- December 24, 7pm
- December 24, 10pm (St. John’s, Main St. East)
- December 25, 11am (*Book of Common Prayer* service)

The pro-Cathedral plans to offer a Christmas Day dinner. More details will be shared as they become available.

Communion Bread

Please note that we have received some wholewheat communion wafers. They are about identical to what we used before, but are slightly darker in colour.

COMMUNITY HEALTH

As we are all likely aware, the St. Brice’s neighbourhood has evolved in the past few years, and there are more folks in the neighbourhood who are dealing with homeless, addictions, and mental health issues. We know we have a



responsibility as Christians to care for all people, but some of us are uncertain about the right way to engage with people who are dealing with significant living challenges.

The St. Brice’s Advisory Board agreed to ask people with training and experience to come to St. Brice’s -- to learn more about what is taking place in North Bay, and how best to provide a local environment which is safe and hospitable for parishioners (and safe and hospitable for marginalized people).

So, **we’ve arranged for two speakers from the Health Unit, along with two helpers, to come to St. Brice’s on Sunday, December 4.** On December 4, there will be the regular combined service at 10am, followed by a pot-luck Linger Lunch. (Parishioners will be invited to make a contribution to benefit Camp Temiskaming if they wish.)

Following the pot-luck lunch, about 12:30pm, for up to about an hour, the speakers will be offering their workshop. This event will be “hands-on” and practical.

There will be two parts to the workshop: First, about how best to engage with people who might be experiencing mental health or substance abuse concerns. It will include information about what is taking place now in the North Bay area. Second, there will be training offered about the use of naloxone.



The facilitators add: “All questions are welcome, as there are no silly questions.”

I recognize that December 4 will be a full day, because there will also be the “Blue Christmas” service, which some people will want to attend, at 4pm. However, for those of us who are in positions of leadership, we hope very much that a wide cross-section of parishioners will make the effort to attend worship at 10am, and then to stay for the pot-luck and the workshop.

Especially if we are uncomfortable meeting troubled individuals in the St. Brice's neighbourhood, the best response isn't to try to avoid people, or to skip the workshop. It is important that we attend the workshop if we possibly can.

Want to learn more?

If we want to learn more, or help, about current social problems like homelessness, addictions, and mental illness, there are three other upcoming events which can be of interest:

- First, St. John Ambulance is offering a two-hour on-line course, which includes:

- Stigma & Harm Reduction
- How to respond to an opioid poisoning
- How to administer nasal Naloxone
- Self-Care after a Traumatic Event

For more information about the program, please visit their website at www.reactandreverse.ca.

- Second, the Compassionate Committee for the Homeless in North Bay will be offering an information session entitled “What you need to know about helping people who are experiencing homeless.” It will be held on Friday, December 2, 2022, 7pm, at Trinity United Church, MacIntyre St. East. It will be a presentation from frontline organizations how they support people experiencing homelessness in North Bay, and what they observe. There will be an opportunity to ask questions at the end of the presentation.
- Third, the local “Souls for Soles” campaign will be receiving donations of outerwear (socks, hats, mittens, etc.; or financial donations to buy boots), in the Pro-Cathedral Parking Lot, on Saturday, December 3, 9am-3pm.

ECUMENICAL MINISTRIES

Hope Awaits



“Hope Awaits” is a Christian ministry which provides shelter for homeless men in

North Bay. They invite prayer and financial support. Information about Hope Awaits is posted on a “missions” bulletin board in the parish hall.

As well, I just received a message that they are looking to hire a male worker (this worker has to be male because of some restrictions in the organization).

For more information, please go to www.hopeawaitsministries.com.

North Bay Pregnancy Help & Resource Centre

The current Executive Director will be retiring in the new year, and the Board is seeking a replacement. This is a part-time permanent position 24 hours/ week (including some evenings or weekends). The NBPHRC Mission Statement: "We demonstrate Christ's love to anyone challenged by an unexpected pregnancy or pregnancy loss by providing hope, emotional and practical support. Accurate information and education is offered in a non-judgmental, confidential and compassionate environment. Interested? Please email NBPHRC@hotmail.com for further information.

Salvation Army – Kettle Volunteers

The local Salvation Army is asking for volunteers for their Christmas kettle campaign.



Volunteers Needed

To stand 'Behind the Shield' this Christmas

2 hour shifts

Various locations in North Bay
November 18 to December 24th

Volunteer Applications available

Please email: northbaysa@gmail.com



The Salvation Army North Bay Ministries
134 McIntyre Street East, North Bay



Christmas Bazaar

Christ Church will be holding a Christmas Bazaar on Saturday, November 26, 11am-2pm. \$8 each. They write, "We are serving soup and sandwich, squares, coffee or tea. There is also a bake table, and craft table. We would love all to come and join us."



PROPERTY

If using the **main exterior door**, please make sure it shuts tightly behind you. Sometimes the door will not close tight. If left ajar, this wastes heat, and also means the door is not locked.

If we're aware that someone used the **lower front hall washrooms**, please make sure the space is empty, and the lights and the extra heat are off, when leaving the building. Thank you.

A big "thank you" to Howes Lighting, and to Rob McDonald, Gary Thoms, and Don Bonenfant, for **installing the new lighting** in the front exterior alcove.