

# St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter November 26, 2022.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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## Christian Joke

**Q:** *What is a mathematician's favourite book of the Bible?*

**A:** Numbers.

## Isaiah 12: 1-2

You will say on that day:  
I will give thanks to you, O Lord,  
for though you were angry with me,  
your anger turned away,  
and you comforted me.  
Surely God is my salvation;  
I will trust, and will not be afraid,  
for the Lord God is my strength and my might;  
he has become my salvation.



## **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)

*I didn't plan to produce another parish newsletter one week after the last one, but a number of items to share came up this week. -PA*

### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

#### *Advent*

There are a number of upcoming events in the season of Advent. We want to comment on three events particularly:



• **Christmas Dinner:** This will be held this coming Saturday, December 3. There will be a worship service at 11am, followed by a Christmas Dinner at noon. (There will be a raffle on a basket which is being prepared.)

If you plan to attend, please use the sign-up sheet near the front doors, or call the parish office (705 474-4005).

• **Blue Christmas Service:** This will be held on Sunday, December 4, 4pm. It is intended particularly

for households in which there has been a recent death, or for people who otherwise might find this season particularly difficult.

If you would like a particular hymn sung as a memorial, please use the sign-up sheets which are next to the front door of the Church building. The list of planned hymns has been prepared:

1. "Amazing Grace"
2. "In the Garden"
3. "The Lord's My Shepherd"
4. "What a Friend We Have in Jesus"
5. "The Old Rugged Cross"
6. "Great is Thy Faithfulness"

7. "Jesus Loves Me"

8. "How Great Thou Art"

- The annual **Advent Lessons & Carols Service** will be held on Sunday, 11 December, 10am. *Please note: This means there will be joint services at 10am on both 4 and 11 December.*

#### *Christmas Services*

At the last Board meeting, it was agreed that there will be a service on Christmas Eve at 7pm, and a service on Christmas Day at 11am. (If anyone wishes to attend a service on Christmas eve in late evening, it will be held at St. John's parish, Main St. East, Christmas Eve at 10pm.)



#### *Workshop with the Health Department*

As we are all likely aware, St. Brice's neighbourhood has evolved over the past few years. There are a number of people in the area who struggle with homelessness, addictions, mental illness, or a combination of these. Some in this vulnerable population want to engage with parishioners, or receive some kinds of support from the Church.

The parish leadership has worked very hard to improve security on the property.

We know there are some parishioners who are uncomfortable, or who feel unequipped to engage with this new population. Accordingly, at the October Board meeting, we agreed to look to get someone from the Health Department to speak with parishioners at St. Brice's. The purpose of this workshop would be to help us become better informed about what is taking place around us, and to help us all to

engage effectively and safely with this vulnerable population.

We are pleased that two representatives from the Health Department, and two helpers, will be coming to St. Brice's

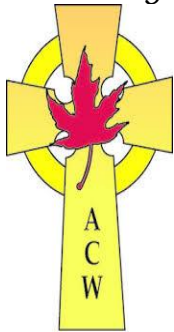


on Sunday, 4 December, 12:30pm, to offer a short workshop. (This will take place just after the pot-luck Linger Lunch.) We realize that this Sunday will be a full day, with a Holy Communion Service at 10am, and some people will

want to attend the Blue Christmas service at the end of the afternoon. Nonetheless, we very much hope that as many parishioners as possible will be able to attend this short workshop.

There will be an opportunity for questions during the workshop. However, if anyone has a question they would like to submit in advance, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

*Anglican Church Women*



St. Brice's A.C.W. held a meeting earlier today (26 November). Cathy Turcotte was elected to chair the meetings, and Andrea Campbell will serve as a secretary. The A.C.W. is very grateful to Don Bonenfant, the parish treasurer, for managing their finances.

Plans are already underway for a Spring Tea with a Bake Sale, on Saturday, 22 April 11am-2pm (\$8/ person). Other fundraisers for the support of missions are expected to follow.

The A.C.W. group decided to support the following missions in 2022:

1. Agreed with proposal from the Board for \$200 for pyjamas for Children's Aid children
2. Agreed with \$500 to Children Believe. Mary Ellen will have a card to include with the donation. We anticipate we will be sponsoring a new child
3. Agreed for \$312.90 for Operation Smile
4. Agreed for \$360 for St. John's Open Arms Café (Wednesday evening dinners)
5. Agreed with \$200 for the Diocese of Tarime, specifically for girls' education (school or trade school)
6. Agreed with \$200 for Salvation Army.

The A.C.W. also arranged to provide some support for incidentals for the upcoming Christmas Dinner.

The next meeting is planned for Saturday, 28 January, 10am. All women are welcome.

*Vestry*

The Vestry (annual meeting) will be held on Sunday, February 5, 2023, following a pot-luck lunch. Parishioners who will be submitting reports for the Annual Report are asked to have them into the parish office (preferably, by email), by Thursday, 19 January.

PROPERTY

*Tree Planting*

As requested by Archbishop Anne at the last diocesan synod, we plan to plant a tree at St. Brice's this coming spring.

### Warming Centre

Along with a number of other churches in the city, St. Brice’s was approached to see if we would be willing to host a Warming Centre once a week this winter. However, we feel that we do not have the volunteer resources for this substantial commitment (10 hours/ week, with an unknown number of clients). As well, there is currently a lack of clarity about use and care of the property, insurance coverage, and safety concerns.

With this in mind, we have chosen not to offer St. Brice’s for this initiative. We do, however, sincerely hope that a suitable, safe place can be found for people, when it is very cold.

### Monitors Display

A previous parish newsletter provided some information about the proposal – first raised in 2015 – to have monitors replace the LCD projector and screen, which are used at almost all 10am and 11am Sunday services. This is a “cookie jar” item. That is, funding is not included in the parish budget, but parishioners occasionally contribute toward this proposal on their own, as they feel led. We are not yet ready to install and to use these monitors, but we anticipate that the full funding will be achieved in the not-too-distant future.

### Natural Gas Bill

Our treasurer, Don Bonenfant, got stunning news this past weekend, that the parish bill for natural gas will increase, beginning next month, by 125%. This means an additional cost of almost \$5000 to our annual budget, to pay to heat the property – which we can ill-afford.



The Board decided to take two steps of action – one immediate, and one medium-term. In the immediate future, two parishioners are going to be applying plastic film on the inside of the stained glass windows. This is very inexpensive to purchase, and will have a slight effect of reducing drafts and heat loss in the Church building.

### Alternative Heating?

As well, the Board has asked the Property Committee to meet, to explore a broad range of options to reduce our heating bill. This will likely include, but not be limited to, exploring having a heat pump (or pumps) installed. It is unlikely there would be a change in our heating system before the summer. If we do change our heating system to something less costly, there would likely be a significant *capital* cost, but this investment would gradually pay for itself over several years. (We are exploring to see if we are eligible for any grants, to offset anticipated capital costs.) We hope that we can make at least an interim report at the upcoming Vestry meeting.

### FINANCIAL UPDATE



St. Brice’s has been dealing with a very substantial deficit for most of 2022, which has been of some concern. The leadership was very grateful for people’s generosity last month, which noticeably reduced the

deficit.

We don’t yet know all the income and all the expenses for the month of November. Unfortunately, it looks as if our deficit is on track to increase slightly again this month. Our aim, of course, is not to have a deficit at all; and ideally, for our revenue to match our expenses for the whole of 2022.