

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter June 3, 2023.

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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 3 June 2023.

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Something To Make Us Smile

Q: How long did Cain dislike his brother?

A: As long as he was Abel.

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)

Cast all your
anxiety on him
because he cares
for you.
1 Peter 5:7

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Retreat/ Emergency Pastoral Coverage

I will be away on a silent retreat, from Wednesday, June 14, to Friday, June 23. In the event of a pastoral emergency while I am away, please contact the Rev. Dr. Derek Neal. I would be sincerely grateful for your prayers, that it will be a fruitful time.



Memorial Service

I don't normally put notices of a memorial service in a parish newsletter. However, many of us have been blessed with the presence and music of Rick Dion at St. Brice's. Rick died suddenly early this past Sunday. The service will be held this coming Thursday, June 8, 11am. If you are able to contribute food for the luncheon following the service, there is a sign-up sheet, posted near the front door.

WIDER CHURCH

Archbishop's Charge

The synod for the Diocese of Algoma was held on May 10-13. As is customary, synod received a "charge" – a kind of address – from Archbishop Germond. Four motions related to the Archbishop's Charge were adopted by synod. All four motions affect St. Brice's, either directly or indirectly:

1. The theme of **education and Christian formation** was an important theme in the Archbishop's Charge. Each parish – lay people and priest together – is expected to identify an area we identify we need to grow deeper, and then put a plan in place to learn this, no later than our Vestry meeting in February

2024;



Figure 1 Archbishop Anne Germond at Synod, with the newly installed diocesan canons. Photo credit, J. Auger.

2. There is a long-term project to develop an **Episcopal Fund**, to fund the bishop's ministry. Once established, this will ensure a stable ministry in the future, and will lessen the allotment which parishes pay to the diocese.

At least one representative from each of the Deaneries (including here; St. Brice's is in Temiskaming Deanery) will be asked to serve on this project. Of course, I am sure that donations to this

initiative are welcome. So far, about \$900 000 has been raised, with an ambitious long-term target of a \$4 million investment;

3. The ministry of **layreaders** is important in almost every parish. Each parish is expected to support layreaders in their ministries with an educational opportunity (for example, a book; a course); and to encourage them. To help ensure this happens, each parish is expected to set aside a minimum of a very modest 0.5% of their annual budget, for the next five years;
4. Each deanery is to undertake a time to teach about **Christian stewardship of the natural world**, and then each parish is expected to undertake a project, before the next diocesan synod in the summer of 2025. Like the Motion #1, above, each parish has a lot of latitude to choose what they do.

COVID-19 Protocols

As everyone is aware, there have been restrictions during the COVID-19 pandemic, with the aim of reducing the spread of the virus. I have been dutifully wearing a mask when passing through the congregation (for example, for the opening music – except when I’ve occasionally forgotten 😊), and during the celebration and administration of Communion.

Apparently, those restrictions have been lifted, or left to the discretion of the local parish. (Who knew? Nobody told me.) Accordingly, I propose that I will wear a mask during the administration of the sacrament, but not otherwise, during the Sunday liturgies.

Of course, if COVID-19 re-emerges as a significant health threat, then we will re-evaluate our practices.

OUTREACH

Toilet Paper

I’ve remarked that toilet paper is one of those things we usually take for granted, unless there isn’t any available.



Last month, St. Brice’s participated in a drive to supply the local food banks, including our own, with toilet paper. A very remarkable 2397 rolls were donated. Thank you to everyone who contributed to this, both within the parish and beyond. I want to give a special “shout out” of thanks to Shane and Jen Auger, who were key coordinators for this initiative.

North Bay Pregnancy Help & Resource Centre

In another sign of generosity, we had two large “baby bottles” in May, in which people could contribute to the North Bay Pregnancy Help and Resource Centre. I don’t recall the exact amount which was raised, but believe it was about \$170. Thank you.

PROPERTY

New Main Doors

We expect the new main exterior doors to be installed in the next few weeks. A great deal of effort has gone into ensuring that the doors are robust, while also, we hope, being attractive and welcoming.

The artist who is installing the stained glass come to St. Brice’s this past week, to consult about the proposed windows design. (He continues to work steadily at his craft, at the age of 82!)



Organ Tuned

The organ was tuned recently, as part of its annual maintenance. It is an old instrument, which needs care. The costs of the organ tuning are paid for from a special fund (what Treasurer Don Bonenfant calls a “cookie jar”).

If you would like to contribute occasionally to this fund, this is welcome. However, we ask that parishioners not donate to “cookie jar” funds as a replacement for contributions to the general funds.

Exterior Bench

After quite a bit of effort, the exterior bench near the water fountain was removed last fall. We are not planning to put

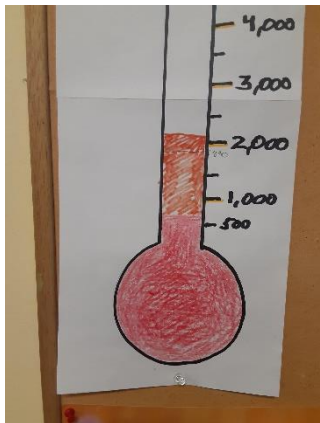
it back outside in the immediate future. However, I expect that the fountain will be flowing again soon.

Sump Pump

Many parishioners will remember that we put in quite a bit of work a few summers ago, to dig out debris near the basement hallway below the main office area, to install a new sump pump. Although the new sump pump is working, water is still penetrating into the basement area, especially during the spring melt or after long, steady rains.

After some discussion, the Property Committee recommended the installation of another sump pump, near the entrance to the Reading Room. The Advisory Board accepted the Property Committee's recommendation. This is a project we will undertake ourselves, but it will require some volunteer labour. The costs are estimated in the \$2500-\$3000 range, paid for through the capital upgrades funding.

Parishioners might notice a large coloured "thermometer" posted on a bulletin board in the parish hall. This indicates



how much money we have raised for capital upgrades, toward our \$10 000 goal. We are pleased that the thermometer is looking "warmer," as donations are received with appreciation. The biggest projects this year, besides replacing one of the furnaces, is some roofing work, the new sump pump, and brick work near the hall front doors.

Grant

Once again, we are making plans to apply for a provincial government grant, to upgrade security on the property. Of course, we won't know if we will receive the grant until

after the close of applications. However, we are hopeful.

Mowing

Thank you to the volunteers who have mowed the lawn so far this year. If you're willing to take a turn mowing the lawn, please use the sign-up sheet near the front door.

Tenebrae Hearse

"Tenebrae" is a meditative prayer service, customarily held early in Holy Week (the week leading up to Easter weekend). Part of the liturgy is the Church building gradually becoming darker – a sign of the chaos coming upon the world with the betrayal and crucifixion of Jesus Christ. Candles are extinguished during the service, and a sharp sound reminds us of the nails being pounded.

Parishioner Gary Thoms is constructing a "Tenebrae Hearse," a special stand for the candles. It is a beautiful work of wood craftsmanship. I expect we will be dedicating it, in the near future.

Community Supper

We will be holding a community Spaghetti Supper, this coming Friday, from 4:30-6:30pm. Proceeds from the supper will be for the parish capital projects. If you can donate any food items, or if you can help with set-up or clean-up, please use the sign-up sheet near the front door. Of course, please feel free to come for a wonderful meal, and invite your friends.

FINANCIAL UPDATE



We are pleased to report that St. Brice's had a very positive income flow in the month of May, 2023.

With all the expenses paid for, we have ended up with a surplus of \$1977. That is, we have \$1977 more in our general bank account at the end of May, than we did at the beginning of January. (At the end of May 2022, last year, we had a deficit of \$11 874.) We are very grateful to everyone who were in a position to help make this happen – as well as people who contribute to our common life in other ways.

The leadership at St. Brice’s continues to be committed to ensuring that we are good stewards of all that is entrusted to our care. Thanks be to God, who is the Beginning and the End of all things.



A photograph of St. Brice’s, taken this past Sunday. Please note the tree in full bloom, in the front yard. (Photo credit: W. Richard)



St. Brice's Spaghetti Dinner

Friday, June 9th, 2023, 4:30 – 6:30 pm

Menu

Caesar Salad

Dinner Rolls

Spaghetti



Dessert - Apple Crisp and Ice Cream

Price: \$15.00 per person

\$10.00 per person (10 and under)

\$50.00 per family (up to four people)



Come and bring a friend

All proceeds will go Capital
Projects for St. Brice's



Gluten free pasta and vegetarian sauce available on request

