

St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter August 19, 2023.

-2-



St. Brice's Anglican Church

<https://www.stbriceschurch.com/wordpress/>

Office email: stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca

Rector: peter.armstrong2023@outlook.com

Phone: (705) 474-4005

St. Brice's Newsletter: 19 August 2023.

Table of Contents

<i>Spiritual Development</i>	p. 3
<i>The Wider Church</i>	p. 7
<i>Property</i>	p. 7
<i>Financial Update</i>	p. 8

Something To Make Us Smile

If anyone needs an ark, I Noah guy...



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)

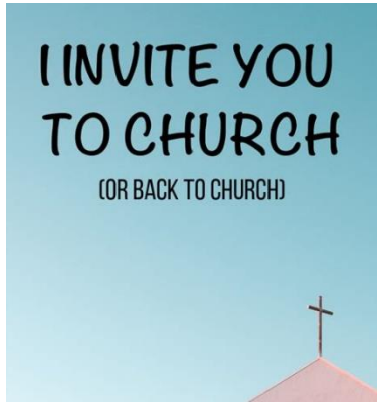


SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

Ministry of Invitation

Lately, I have been reading an interesting book about Bible translation. Some of what I am learning will probably come out in future sermons.

As well, I have been reading a short course about “invitation.” The course authors – a couple of Anglicans



from a neighbouring diocese – explain that part of the ministries we all have is to *invite*. We can (1) invite people to join our parish fellowship, and (2) invite people to consider that (we believe) there is a God who loves us, in spite of our foibles and our failures.

Along with this, we want St. Brice’s to be a place of genuine

hospitality and warmth. I believe this course can help us overcome our fears of getting it wrong, and help us to become more natural “inviters.”

I hope we can participate in this course, or use parts of this course, in the months ahead.

To begin, there are several assumptions to consider:

Core Assumptions of the “Invitation” Sessions

- ✓ We offer the love of God out of the overflow of what we ourselves have been given and experienced.
- ✓ We offer this invitation from a community into a community —this is not an individualistic evangelism course.
- ✓ The process of invitation is grounded in relationships.
- ✓ Invitation is a process that often happens over time.
- ✓ Invitation is not a program, it is an attitude of heart and

- ✓ mind.
- ✓ These sessions are based upon an adult learning model that involves discussion and application, and a serious study of scripture.
- ✓ That God is reconciling the world to himself through Jesus.
- ✓ That Jesus has called us to make disciples of all nations.

How do you feel about these core assumptions? Have you tried “inviting”? How did it go?

Confirmation 2024

I have written Archbishop Anne, asking if she can visit the parish to offer Confirmation, in 2024.

Bible Studies

Our on-line Tuesday evening Bible Study will resume on August 29. If you would like the link to join, or to check it



out, please contact the parish office (705 474-4005).

For people available during the day on Mondays, Linda Langdon (a parishioner at Christ

Church) is offering a Bible study on Mondays from 11am-noon (Old Testament) and then 1-2:30pm (New Testament). To participate, or to get more information, please contact Linda at 705 476-0791, or e-mail langdon@ontera.net.

Men’s Ministries

The Deanery Camp, Camp Temiskaming, offers a children’s camp, and a camp for women (the women’s camp begins this coming Thursday). Right now, there is no camp for the guys. Plans are developing to offer a



weekend camp for guys in August-September 2024 (after the blackflies). Please stay tuned for more details in the future.

There are tentative plans to hold a men's breakfast at St. Brice's, on Saturday, 4 November, 9am. Details about the speaker will follow.

Sanctuary Course

Several parishioners and I viewed *The Sanctuary Course*, about supporting people with mental illness. The course is interesting on the whole – some parts more than others. We don't plan to offer the course as a whole in the future, but believe that some parts are helpful to share. Some material will be passed on, in the months ahead.

Deanery Layreaders Survey

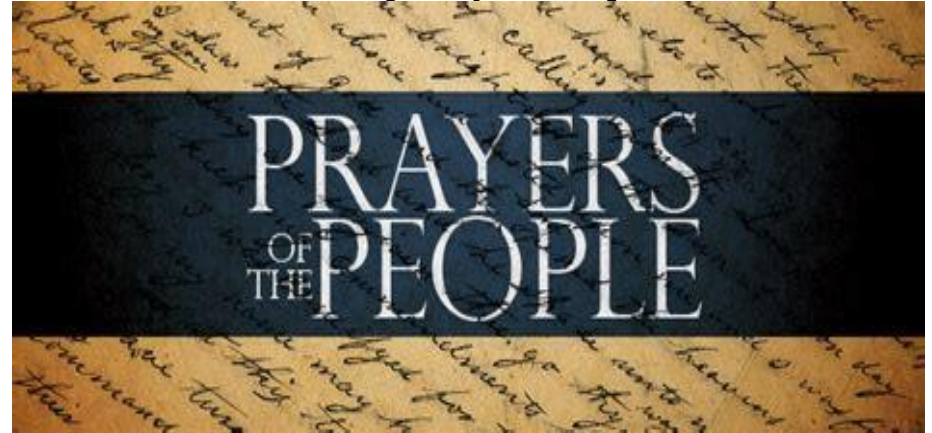
We conducted a survey about what layreaders in the deanery would like to learn, for continuing education topics. There were 16 responses, which is good. Most deanery layreaders who responded have served for eight years or more. Replies:



- Fellowship is clearly important for everyone
- Learning more instructions about leading prayer services, and preaching, was important for most layreaders, but not all
- Learning more about assisting at the eucharist was important for many, but not all
- Teaching the faith to others was moderately important to some layreaders in the deanery

- There were several suggestions about future learning topics (such as, “encouraging”).

Prayers of the People



If we have prayer requests, there is a place to list our prayer requests, on the right hand side as we come in the Church building. At each service, someone in the congregation offers these and other prayers to God on behalf of the congregation.

I would like to offer some training about preparing the “Prayers of the People,” which I hope can be useful for those anyone who would like a review, and anyone who is thinking about offering these prayers, or who would like more information. It is tentatively planned for Saturday, September 16, 11am.

Attending this session doesn't mean that we have to sign up – but we might feel led to participate occasionally, after learning more about it.

All that is needed to participate is a conviction that God wants to be in communication with us, to have a love for God, and love for others.

Yard Sale

Thank you so much to everyone who was involved with the yard sale earlier today (August 19). There were a lot of generous donations. About \$1700 was raised. There were a number of unsold items at the conclusion of the sale. Parishioners are invited to take any items home they wish, after the 10am service on Sunday, August 20. Remaining items will be offered for other Sales, or otherwise disposed of.

THE WIDER CHURCH

Strawberry Jam

Some excellent and tasty homemade strawberry jam is being sold at St. Brice's office (705 474-4005), as a fundraiser to support the deanery camp, Camp Temiskaming. I believe the cost is \$5/ jar. -PA

PROPERTY

New Main Doors

As most people are aware, the new exit doors have been installed. Some minor adjustments were made this past week. There are plans to paint these doors this coming week, and the stained glass will be installed after that. A number of folks feel that the glass area is too high in the door, making it harder for shorter people to see outside. There was some discussion about this at the Board meeting a couple of nights ago.

St. Brice's has applied for a government grant to upgrade our building security. (We have received similar grants in the past.) We will learn by mid-September whether or not we receive the current grant. If we do, we will be arranging for a window area to be installed in both doors, below the current window openings. These windows also would have tempered glass, making it very difficult for someone to break into the building by breaking the window.

Please note that, to use the "wheelchair access" feature, as well as turning on the switch *over* the doors, an entry key needs to be used to depress the panic bar (the horizontal bar we push to exit). So, there are now *two steps* (instead of one), for the inside and outside wheelchair access buttons to work.



Monitors

If anyone has an old flat-screen computer monitor (about 23-30 inches in size from one corner to the opposite diagonal corner) they aren't using any more, and would like to donate to St. Brice's, please contact the parish office.

FINANCES

We are pleased, and very grateful, to report that our financial situation is quite good so far in 2023. Although the month of July (usually a lean month) had a fairly small deficit of \$471, overall we currently have \$2904



more in our bank account at the beginning of this month, than we did at the beginning of the year -- even though our expenses have gone up.

In contrast, at the end of July 2022, we had a \$16 350 deficit.

