

# St. Brice's Anglican Church Newsletter November 30, 2024.



## 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)



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St. Brice's Anglican Church

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St. Brice's Newsletter: 30 November 2024.

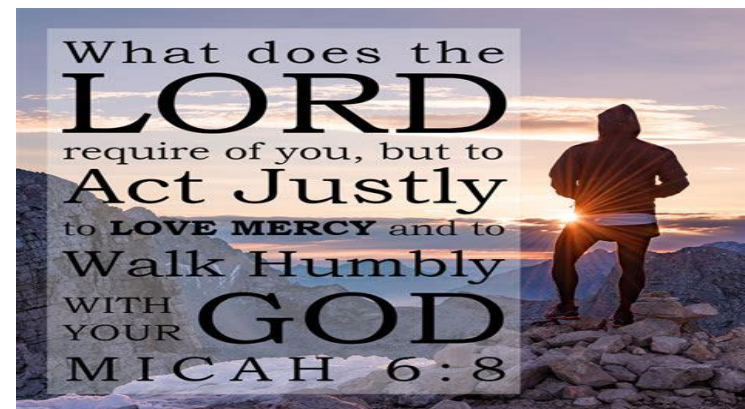
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## Something To Make Us Smile

A church had a picnic and invited the entire community to come. The clergyman placed a basket full of apples on one end of a table with a sign saying, "Take only one apple please -- Remember that God is watching."

On the other end of the table was a plate of cookies where one of the children had placed a sign saying, "Take all the cookies you want -- God is watching the apples."



## SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

### *Alpha Course*

The Alpha Course is a light-hearted introduction to, or review of, Christianity. We plan to offer the Alpha Course again on Wednesday evenings, beginning Wednesday, January 8, 6pm. The format is having a meal together, then watching a video, and then a discussion. (No one has to say anything, but anyone is welcome to!)

The Alpha Course runs over a course of 11 weeks. Each week is a different theme (“Is There More To Life Than This? How Can I Have Faith? Does God Heal Today” and so forth). The course is free.

If you have never taken an Alpha Course, or have not taken one for a very long time, I encourage you to come and check it out.

People can come to the first gathering, and then decide if they want to continue. (If time allows, most people who come to the first evening enjoy it, and continue to attend.)

If you have any questions, feel free to reach out to me at the parish office (705 474-4005; [stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca](mailto:stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca) ). -PA



### *Refugee Family*

As most people know, St. Brice’s was approached this past summer to help sponsor a refugee family to come to Canada, with financial support from an American congregation. We agreed to undertake a sponsorship application, which is being coordinated through the Resettlement Committee.

Besides submitting the application, if the application is approved, we would help the family get settled when they first arrive in Canada. The family unit is made up of parents and two young adult sons.

There are 2 significant obstacles: First, the rest of the money has to be raised by the Methodist congregation. This money is held in trust and disbursed to the family monthly

(if the application is successful). Appropriately so, the federal government wants to have assurance that sponsored families or individuals will not be a drain on public resources. Second, there are significantly more applications submitted each year than there are space allotments. Through no fault of their own, some applications are denied.

Canadian immigration policy for all types continues to evolve. I am aware that many students and families connected with St. Brice’s are affected by these policy changes.

Your prayers are appreciated, not only for the Alkhazraji family, but for displaced and separated families throughout the world.

### *Food Bank*

Some parishioners are aware that the number of clients who use St. Brice’s Food Bank has increased very significantly over the past few months. While use varies from week to week, we have seen the number of clients climb from 30-50/ week to about 80/ week. Of course, we are determined to provide some food for everyone who asks. However, our expenses have increased, both because of the price of food, and our need to purchase more.

We would like revenue for the Food Bank to increase approximately \$2000-\$2500/ year. Shane and Jen Auger, the coordinators, have applied for a municipal grant, and are also inviting some other local churches to support the St. Brice’s Food Bank, if they choose. Without taking away offerings from other ministries at St. Brice’s, financial contributions from the



congregation are welcome. As well, there is a large box under the table near the front door, into which people can contribute grocery items. Any contributions are gratefully received.

Please note too that there is a display near St. Brice's front door, about some food items to donate for Christmas.

*Choir*

Several parishioners met earlier this fall, to practice singing together. It's clear that among us there are parishioners who have the gift of beautiful voices. However, it's challenging to find a time when people are consistently available to come to practice – and that includes me (PA). I've decided that this can be a good thing, but I am not the one called to coordinate this. If there are one or more people who want to take on coordinating a parish choir, you certainly have my blessing. If not, then perhaps the message is “not at this time.”

*Christmas Services*



St. Brice's plans to offer two Christmas services: Christmas Eve at 7pm, and Christmas Day at 11am. If there is someone who knows they intend to attend the Christmas Day service, please speak to the rector.

*“Building a Healthy Church” Update*

Archbishop Anne Germond visited St. Brice's last month, for a gathering of Anglicans in the deanery. During the small group discussion, the St. Brice's laypeople suggested that as we have a number of Nigerian parishioners, we might offer a Nigerian Anglican service, with their substan-

tial participation. As well, there was some interest in trying some Nigerian cuisine.

The Spiritual Development Committee has gone over the Nigerian liturgy, and recommended that we try it out. (It is somewhat like the format of the Canadian B.A.S. liturgy, but with more recognizable traditional B.C.P. elements.) The next steps will be to plan a service, and to get permission from the bishop -- which is required before a new liturgy can be used in the diocese. We will keep people informed.

If you want to see a copy of the service for yourself, please go to:

[http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Nigeria\\_hc.htm](http://justus.anglican.org/resources/bcp/Nigeria_hc.htm)



Figure 1 St. Brice's A.C.W. at their recent dinner to plan missions distributions





The season of Advent has begun, between now and December 24. St. Brice's is undertaking a number of observances, for us to appreciate more deeply the Advent season:

**Cassellholme Christmas Tree:** Parishioners are welcome to donate suitable modest gifts for the residents of Cassellholme, which will be dropped off a few days before Christmas. The Christmas Tree is just inside the Church building, to the right of the door. This is the place to drop off gifts.

**Christmas Dinner:** The annual parish dinner will take place in a week's time, on Saturday, December 7, at noon. Before this, there will be a parish service at 11am, to which everyone is welcome. If you intend to attend the dinner, but haven't yet signed up, please do use the sign-up sheet outside the parish office door.

**Advent Carol Service:** The annual Advent Carol Service will be held this year on Sunday, December 8, 10:30am. Advent Quiet Morning: Peggy Morrison of St. John's – well-known to many St. Brice's folks – will be offering an Advent Quiet Morning at St. Brice's on Saturday, December 14,

from 9:30am to about noon. The theme of the morning is "Waiting in Hope." Amongst the busy-ness of holiday preparations, parishioners are encouraged to participate in what will be a pleasant and refreshing time. There is no cost to attend. (See p. 10 of this newsletter.)

**Blue Christmas:** We recognize that some people find Advent and Christmas seasons difficult, because of loss of friends or family due to death, because of a bad experience at an earlier Christmas, or for other reasons. A "Blue Christmas" service is open to all, whether people are parishioners at St. Brice's or not. It will be held on Sunday, December 15, 4pm.

**Living Nativity:** There are tentative plans to host a "Living Nativity" for the whole community at the North Bay waterfront, on Sunday, December 22, 2pm. Details will be announced later, when the arrangements are confirmed.

**Reading Luke:** Parishioner Doris Brown is participating in a "Reading Luke" challenge for Advent. She invites other parishioners to join her. (Luke 1 read on December 1; Luke 2 on December 2; and so forth, up to Luke 24 on December 24.) We note that the longest chapter is Luke is the first chapter, so if one completes the first day, each following day will be easier!

## PROPERTY

### *Parish Hall Furnace*

The gas furnace for St. Brice's parish hall is very old, and well beyond its expected life span. This past Thursday night, the Board decided to replace the furnace with a new, 120 000 BTU, 96% efficient furnace, at the cost of \$5237.55.

While there is some money in the Building Fund, this purchase will seriously deplete it. If there are parishioners who want to contribute toward the new parish hall furnace, donations are most welcome, and gratefully received.

*Monitor*

There are currently 3 monitors to display the order of worship and responses for the congregation in the nave, as well as a small one which can be viewed in the sanctuary. Several parishioners would like to have a monitor near the back of the Church building (above the columns), which can be viewed by the Band when assembled, the clergy and layreader, and the congregation for events such as baptisms (when we face the back, as the baptismal font is at the back, near the door). The parishioners who would like to have the monitor have raised the money to pay for it; there is no cost to the parish.

At its regular meeting on November 28, the Board passed a motion, supporting this proposal.

FINANCIAL UPDATE

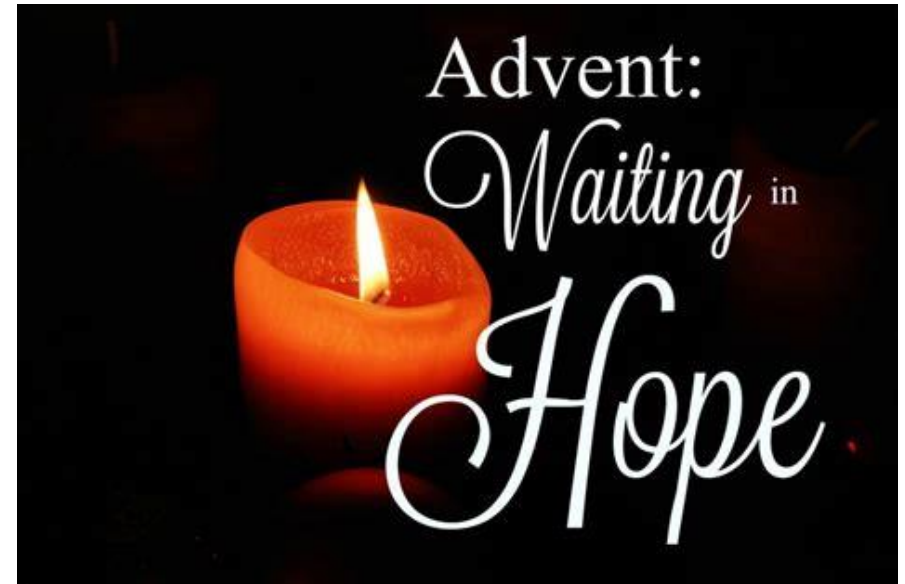


Income (to 30 November)	\$153,641
Expenses (to 30 November)	<u>\$160,943</u>
Deficit (to 30 November)	\$7,302

(We have not yet received the November 2024 bank statement, but these figures will likely be accurate.) This is a notable improvement from when the deficit crested at \$10 004.11 at the end of October, but it will be a stretch to break even by the end of December.

If you have any questions, please contact the Treasurer, Don Bonenfant.

# Advent Quiet Morning



**Saturday, December 14, 9:30am-noon**  
**St. Brice's Anglican Church,**  
**1225 Cassells St., North Bay**

*Please join us as we gather to take time and space, amidst the holiday frenzy, to know the blessings of silence, resting in community, and prayer, as we prepare our heart for Jesus.*