



## St. Brice's Anglican Church Office

1225 Cassells St.  
North Bay, ON  
P1B 4B8

web-site: <https://www.stbriceschurch.com/wordpress/>  
office email: [stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca](mailto:stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca)  
rector's email: [peter.armstrong@ns.sympatico.ca](mailto:peter.armstrong@ns.sympatico.ca)  
office phone, 705.474.4005; fax: 705.474.1322

January 20, 2022.

Dear Friends,

Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and the sin that clings so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus the pioneer and perfecter of our faith, who for the sake of the joy that was set before him endured the cross, disregarding its shame, and has taken his seat at the right hand of the throne of God (Hebrews 12: 1-2a).

These Bible verses are often used on weekdays when we remember saints – particular heroes of the past, who help point us to Christ. However, I thought they would be particularly suitable during this season when we are in a pandemic. We are encouraged to persevere, looking to Jesus Christ. We recall the joy which follows suffering. These verses also tell us that as we run the race, there is a huge company of witnesses – angels, saints, or both.

I imagine this to be like a big stadium, with the fans roaring in the bleachers as the runners circle the last lap of the track. Just as they persevere in a physical contest, we persevere. We receive encouragement and blessings now. Most of all, we receive eternal life, our great reward.

### Thank You

I want to write a **sincere “thank you”** for people who participated in parish life as they were able, this past year. Thank you also to those parishioners who were able to contribute financially – many of you, generously and sacrificially. I think it is providential that in a difficult year, we ended up in the black – by \$61! – at year's end.

### Annual Reports

I want to let you know about the Annual Reports and the Vestry meeting this year. The **Annual Reports will be ready in time for Sunday, January 30**. We expect that all the reports will be on-line in a large document. If you would like to have a printed copy to read, please let the parish office know (call 705-474-4005, or email [stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca](mailto:stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca)). We will arrange either to deliver a copy to your home, or for you to pick up a copy.

*(Please turn over the page.)*

## Vestry 2022

Because of the pandemic, the Vestry will be held on-line again this year. We encourage all parishioners who can, to “attend.” (If you would like to attend, but are not confident of how to sign on with your computer or device, please contact us by the end of the month, and we will help you get connected.)

The on-line **Vestry meeting will begin at 1pm on Sunday, 6 February**. Please contact the parish office about information how to join us. I expect there will be important items to discuss and to vote on, including:

- Electing some officers and Advisory Board members,
- Plans for ministry and outreach in 2022 (Sunday mornings and weekday ministries, during and after the pandemic)
- Information about the Anglican Foundation of Canada, and the Primate’s Fund – both of which affect us
- Considering the proposed exterior sign.

## Lent Book

Lent can still seem some time off. (In 2022, Lent will begin on 2 March.)

The past few years, the Spiritual Development Committee has recommended a book to read. This year, we encourage people to read *Lent for Everyone: Luke, Year C*, by **N. T. Wright**. (We are reading through the Gospel according to St. Luke this year, Year C, in our lectionary cycle of Sunday Bible readings.) The cost to read this book on a tablet or other device costs about \$10. There are some copies arriving in the parish office – please contact us to get a copy while they last. These hard copies are about \$18 each. We have a couple of “bursary copies,” if you would like a printed copy, but can’t afford it at this time.

*Luke* is a series of short readings from Luke and from some of the psalms. The intention is to read a couple of pages each day. The author, Bishop N. T. (“Tom”) Wright, is considered one of the best accessible Bible teachers of the Anglican Communion.

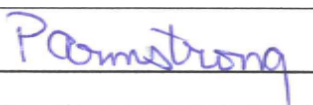
### Small Group Option, To Discuss *Lent for Everyone: Luke, Year C*

Sometimes talking about what we read, helps us to dig deeper. That is certainly true of material in the Bible. I plan to provide weekly gatherings, to chat about the readings from the previous week. (These will be hosted on-line. Whether or not we can also hold in-person gatherings depends on how the pandemic develops this spring.) They will be quite short – 20 or 30 minutes each week. You can join us on **Thursday evenings beginning at 6:30pm**, or **Sunday evenings beginning at 6:30pm**.

I hope you are all healthy, and will stay that way!

Please be assured on my on-going prayers for you. In turn, I am deeply grateful for any prayers which you might offer for me.

In Christ’s love,



Peter Armstrong