St Brices
ANGLICAN CHURCH

<u>This Week at St. Brices – ADVENT 2</u>

Week of 2025-12-03

Dear friends in Christ,

As Advent continues, we invite you to join us in prayer, worship, and community. May this season be a time of hope and preparation for you and your loved ones.

***********NEWS************

Our website has been updated! Check it out at https://www.stbriceschurch.com and let us know what you think!
(Many thanks to Rev.Gavin and Helen Tyte for their creativity and hard work!)

Worship Services

- Sunday Eucharist and Sunday School: 10:30 a.m.
- Wednesday BCP Eucharist: 10:00 a.m.

This Week's Events

- **Supper Club: Wednesdays at 5:00 p.m.** in the Parish Hall. All are welcome as we share a "bag supper" at 5 and explore the meaning of Advent Scriptures together from 5:30 to 6:30.
- **ACW Christmas Dinner :Thursday at 5:00 p.m**. in the Parish Hall. Ladies contact Cathy Turcotte to let her know you are coming (Cost:$15.00)
- **St. Brice's Annual Christmas Lunch: Saturday 11a.m.** Eucharistic Service; 12:00 p.m. – lunch
- **Sunday 10:30 – Sunday worship and Sunday School** followed by **Linger Lunch** – a shared lunch that supports our Church Camp (Bring a dish to share and, if you can, a donation for Camp Temiskaming)

Advent and Christmas Happenings

- **Cassellholme Christmas Tree:** Each year we bless our senior friends at Cassellholme with some Christmas gifts. Check the Christmas tree near the prayer request desk at the back of the nave. There are tags hanging there and if you are able to donate a gift, just take a tag and then bring the gift to the church before Christmas.
- **Reverse Advent Calendar:** An easy way to help our Food Bank which is always much in demand in January. The calendar is attached to this email, or pick up a copy at the church. Each day you simply put one item in a box or bag at home and bring them all in on Christmas Eve, or over the week of Christmas. This will help our Food Bank get a great start to the New Year
- **Family Support:** We are aware of a family in need who would benefit from some Christmas cheer. If you would like to help out, see Rev. Marie for their specific needs.
- **Service of Lessons and Carols: Sunday December 14, at 10:30 a.m.**This special service will feature a walk through the Scriptures predicting Jesus' coming and his arrival, interspersed with prayers and Advent/Christmas music. It is a once a year treat – Don't miss it!
- **Cookies and Kids: Saturday December 20, 1 p.m.** A time for the children to practice for their Christmas Play and (their idea!) bake some cookies to share with the church on Sunday. Families are invited to share this time with their kiddos. Any bakers in the congregation who would like to help out – see Rev. Marie
- **Children's Christmas Concert and Worship Service: Sunday December 21 at 10:30 a.m.** -Our children and their teachers have been working hard to bring the Nativity to life – and you will be blessed by their efforts
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service: December 24, at 7 p.m.**

- **Christmas Morning Worship: December 25 at 10 a.m.** In the midst of the bustle (or loneliness for some of us) of Christmas Day, this quiet and casual service will connect us with the “reason for the season”.

Parish Matters

- **Pastoral Care:** If you or someone you know needs a visit or call, please contact the parish office. Please remember that the hospital no longer allows us to view the patient register for privacy reasons, so if you or someone you know is in hospital – please let us know! We want to support you with prayers and visits. And if you are homebound and would like communion brought to you, we are delighted to do that. Just call the parish office and you will get connected.

Community Outreach

Friday, December 19 : 10 a.m. Empire Center, 2 p.m. Cassellholme Carol Sing -Bring your smile, your voice and if you can an instrument as we sing traditional Christmas Music with some senior friends.

Contact and Office Hours

- **Parish Office:** Open Monday12:30-2:30, Tuesday 2:30 -5:00, Wednesday 9-5 (Rev. Marie is in these hours and also from 5-6:60 for Supper Club), Friday 2:30-5:00
- **For Pastoral Emergencies outside office hours–** Call the office (705-474-4005) and the phone message will direct you to a contact person.
- **Email:** stbrices.northbay@yahoo.ca
- **Phone:** 705-474-4005
- **Website:** https://www.stbriceschurch.com
- **Rev. Marie’s “Morning Musings with Marie”:** Some writings and devotionals at https://www.marieloewen.ca

Waiting

“How much LONGER!” the little voice from the backseat whines. “We’ve been driving FOREVER! Aren’t we THERE yet?”

If you have ever travelled to Toronto with a small child, you know this moan. And it is only an hour into the trip. What to do?

Well, you can tell the little one to just be quiet and sit there. “We just have to wait.” But that is not terribly helpful, is it? Not any more helpful than it is for us when we stand tapping our foot and sighing deeply when the person in front of us at the checkout can’t make their debit card work. Not any more helpful than when we toss the three year old magazine back onto the side table in the doctor’s office and scowl at the admin assistant who is busy at the

computer. There is much more to be learned in the little waitings – and the long wilderness times of our lives than just to **endure** them.

It does help to begin to help our little one look forward to what is coming, to **expect** the good things. “What do you think Grandma is doing right now to get ready for us? What will be the best thing when we get there?” Looking to what is coming can make the difference between passive, frustrating waiting and joyful anticipation. So it is with our Isaiah reading this Sunday (Isaiah) The people in bondage in Babylon were encouraged to look ahead to what God was going to do. Those same words were whispered in hope and sung with courage by those living when Mary and Joseph were travelling to Bethlehem and they speak to us today in a world many find increasingly fearful.

I suspect that this reading may have an even more profound meaning for our brothers and sisters in Nigeria, as they pray and watch and wait, hoping for the release of scores of school children and their teachers who have been kidnapped. I urge you to pray for those who are living in that terror, and the family and friends who are devastated by this atrocity. How deep must be the longing for the day when the “lion will lay down with the lamb”. We need to be much in prayer about this.

For our little child, even better than telling them just to be still and wait -to **endure** the hardship of waiting, is certainly to encourage them to **expect** all that lies ahead, would be to help them **engage** in some way. One might get them to draw a picture to give as a gift, or for an older child, to write a “gratitude” list, focussing on the person you will see. We know that all of this helps the child grow in their ability to delay gratification, to learn to wait well. And this is what Paul talks about in our Romans reading (Romans 15:4-13). How do we not just **endure** the wait for Jesus’ return and the establishment of his kingdom of peace, not only live in **expectation** but **engage** in the process of being the kingdom of God, here and now. That is the work of Advent and on Sunday we will think about **Enduring, Expecting and Engaging – Making the Wait Work**

Happy Advent!

Rev. Marie