



## TRINITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 12, 2024

### TRINITY CHURCH A Warm – Thriving – Christian Community

**We are on Facebook! We invite you to “like” us!**

<https://www.facebook.com/TrinityChurchUptownSJ>

**Our Parish Events Calendar is available on our Webpage!** <http://trinitysj.com>

*You are receiving this weekly Trinity Newsletter as you are a member of the Trinity family.*

*Should you not wish to receive this, please indicate by return e mail.*

*Photo Credit – Uptown Saint John*

**Trinity OFFICE HOURS:** Our parish administrator works in the church office Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, 12-3 pm while working from the home office on Monday and Friday. All telephone messages regarding church business are to be directed to the office 506-693-8558 or [trinsj@nb.aibn.com](mailto:trinsj@nb.aibn.com).

**You Tube Trinity Services:** You can view Trinity’s recorded services by going onto YouTube and typing in Trinity Anglican Church SJ. That will bring you to our channel and all of the previously recorded services.

## Trinity Financial Update



**October – Revenue** – was \$3.2k under budget with regular offering showing still positive against plan. Donations were over plan by \$3.2k with Fundraiser income under plan by \$8.8k – due to the timing in the budget – the Union Club Dinner happened in the spring however budgeted in the fall.

**October – Expenses** – Salaries and Benefits on plan. Programs was under plan by \$6k attributed to fundraising expenses that did not occur associated with the aforementioned timing of the Union Club Dinner. Office and Administration along with Utilities were both basically on plan. Maintenance was over plan by \$1k. Total Expenses came in \$5.9k under plan mostly attributed to the fundraising expenses not incurred.

**October – Net Income** was improved by \$2.7k

**Year to Date – October– 2024 – Revenue** – YTD is \$19.4K ahead of plan. **Expenses** – were \$1k under plan. This results in a **Net Revenue** of (-\$18.8k) against a budget Net Revenue for Sept YTD of (-\$39.2k).

## E-Offering Stewardship Option

Thank you to all who are supporting Trinity through their regular stewardship, as this helps the Treasurer meet the ongoing financial needs of Trinity’s ministry. Should you wish to join the E offering program, you can do so from your home by contacting Denise at 506-693-8558 or through the church email, [trinsj@nb.aibn.com](mailto:trinsj@nb.aibn.com).

As of year-end 2023 Trinity had 16 parishioners utilizing the E Offering option for ongoing stewardship. Can we move this number upwards of 25 in 2024? **As of this week, Trinity remains at 17 on E-Offering.**

Thank you for your continued support.

**Last Sunday at Trinity:** Last Sunday Trinity celebrated the Second Sunday of Advent.



Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, Annas and Caiaphas. Men of history that most of us don't hear much about except in this week's Gospel reading and some in the recounting of Christ's Passion.

At the time of the writing of Luke's Gospel, it was important to include these details as they made contextual sense to the original audience. To us today, they are just passing details before getting to the heart of the story: John the Baptist as the voice crying out in the desert, fulfilling the prophecy of Isaiah. These are names we know!

Last week we talked about keeping Christ in Christmas – remembering the Christmas's of our past and what made them great and Christ' centred. When we think back to these days we quite often focus on the highs of our life and less on the lows and that is a good thing – that is what God would wish for us. To celebrate the gifts, the blessings we have had at His mercy.

Here today I can't help but think about the world we live in, our own country's politics and those near to us, the world at large, how we get so caught up and divided at times and even depressed at times. It's quite disheartening to see how easily so many Christians across the political spectrum forget ultimately who we are and to whom we belong especially in an election year for us provincially, as it is south of us and will be for us next year federally. We get caught up on the emotions of winning or losing and lose the perspective of the larger picture. We worry about our lot in life at times when the powers shift, however just recently talking to the investment world, the shift in powers close to home or abroad rarely if ever have had a lasting affect on the world when one looks historically. However, we still have anxieties over change.

As serious as the politics of a given time are, this Gospel speaks about how they are also fleeting in the face of God's everlasting message and plan. The political climate changes, has changed and will continue to change and we will be okay.

That is sort of what John is talking about. He's fulfilling a prophecy that came some 700 years before he was born! Seven-hundred years before I was born was the year 1256, our country wouldn't exist for another 611 years. Yet, people were proclaiming the Word of God then as they were in John's time years earlier and in Isaiah's time centuries before that, and as they are now.

It is a call relevant to every believer through the ages, ***“Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.”*** What is “the way of the Lord”? It is through the human heart. That is the path we're called to prepare, to make straight, to untangle. This is the essence of the work we are called to do in this season of preparation which we call Advent. We started this work on the Thursday evening prior to Advent at the Service of Light where we focused on self-care. Life is not straight-forward by any means. In this world, it is so easy to get twisted around, to believe that things are as bad as they could be, to despair looking into the darkness, or to feel lost in a desert, disagreeing and disconnecting from those around us. We could very easily want to coil up on the couch and will the day, week, year to pass. That is precisely where God's word comes to us as it did to John.

We are all called to continue the work John the Baptist started and that being – sharing the God's invitation to have us and others join with Him in community and faith. God pours his grace and mercy out on the world through the love and work and prayers of each of us and for all of us.

***“Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low.”*** All shall be level; all shall be equal. There are many graphics out there that show us that no matter who we are or what we have done or

accomplished in this life, in the end we are all equal in God's sight. As we come into another season of Advent, God is inviting us to rest in his great constancy. With His foundational message the shifting tides of the world should not disturb us.

We are to come to God with our minds troubled by sin and evil, to repent, and to allow him to smooth the ways of our hearts so that his love and his message can travel to us, through us, and to others. In order for this to happen, myself personally, I have to make room, let God handle what I am not able to handle, so there is room, so there is an opportunity for myself to actually hear God in my life.

I remember when I was in seminary studies back in Winnipeg once saying to one of my professors, "I have hit the saturation point in my mind, not unlike my computer presently as the memory is full, and in order for something more to be retained, something has to go." We get our minds and our hearts full of life issues ongoing and we leave precious little room for God to enter.

I would like to leave you with these words of St. Teresa of Avila as a reminder to prepare ourselves in imitation of Christ for the blessings that God has for this world in this time, just as he did over 2,000 years ago:

"Christ has no body but yours,  
No hands, no feet on earth but yours,  
Yours are the eyes with which he looks  
Compassion on this world,  
Yours are the feet with which he walks to do good,  
Yours are the hands, with which he blesses all the world."

**This Sunday at Trinity** we will be celebrating the Third Sunday of Advent. JOY.

## Prayers

We offer special prayers for:



**Prayers for Rt. Rev. Geoff Woodcroft Bishop of Rupert's Land.** Bishop Geoff has been recently diagnosed with a terminal illness at the young age of 63. He was a fellow minister in Winnipeg when I was there and his wife was my Archdeacon who jointly presented me to my bishop for Ordination ten years ago. His leadership in his diocese will live on. Please uphold Bishop Geoff, his family and the Diocese of Rupert's Land as they journey in faith going forward.

**Prayers for Ukraine** Most Holy God and Father. Hear our prayers for all who strive for peace and all who fight for justice. Help us, who today remember the cost of war, to work for a better tomorrow and as we commend to you lives lost in terror and conflict, bring us all, in the end, to the peace of Your presence through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

**Special Prayers** ongoing for Viktoriia (34) and Alex (34) Yezerskaya and their children, Daniel (4) and Samuel (7). Let us pray for their safety and the blessings they will share as God's hands, speech, and feet in their answering of His call on them as they continue as missionaries in Russia among their own people.

**Anglican Cycle of Prayer** The Anglican Church of Tanzania, the Most Rev Dr Maimbo Mndolwa, Archbishop. Anglican Church of Canada, Acting Primate Anne Germond. Diocese of Western Newfoundland, Bishop John Organ. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Whitehorse: Church of the Northern Apostles and Christ Church Cathedral, the Very Rev Dr Vincent Fenga, the Rev Elsa Kolm Cheeseman, the Rev Dr Deb Bartlette, lay ministers David Robertson and Monica Dempster. Archbishop David, retired bishop William and their families.

**Prayer for Israel and Palestine** – Isaiah 11:9 “They will not hurt or destroy on all my holy mountain; for the earth will be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea.” God of mercy, we pray earnestly, send your Holy Spirit of peace and comfort, to surround all those whose lives have been torn apart by violence and death in Israel and Palestine. Amen

**Parish Prayer Requests** Arthur Kristoffersen, Katie Kassner, Richard (Dik) Coates, Theresa Wanamaker, Shirley Shaw, Winston Wilson, Ann Champion, Grace Gogan, Frank Rodgers, Kristin Gushurst, Alex Gushurst-Moore, Hannah Gushurst-Jones, Stephen James Du Plessis and Martin Palkovic.

**Prayer Cards** There will be prayer cards for you to fill out on Sunday’s that will enable me to pray during the service for you - or your loved ones and friends by name – if you so wish. Please place them in the offertory plate and I will have them at the Altar for the intercessions. Thank you.

## Trinity Building Care

**2024 Focus**



**Chiming and Timing into the Future Campaign**  
Upcoming Campaign Event

## 12 Dec Appreciation Gala 6:30 – 7:30pm

What to expect at the Gala – It is not a dinner and black-tie event, rather it is designed by the Committee as a time to show their gratitude to many who have made this one-year campaign fast paced and very successful bringing the Trinity Clock and Carillon project a reality. History is indeed in the making for sure – in restoring the twelve-bell Carillon along with incorporating the latest of technology upgrading the four-face Trinity Tower Clock. There will be a video presentation, a few short speeches, recognition and a light sweet for our enjoyment. Come out and be part of this historic moment for our historic church. See you there

The target completion for this project has been achieved December 2024! The Bells, originally rung Christmas 1882, will be proudly played once again for Christmas 2024. Let us all ‘chime in’ as we complete the Trinity Tower’s purpose proudly standing tall on our city’s peninsula.



On the very onset of the thought of restoring the twelve-bell carillon which had gone silent over the past couple of years, Susanne Sutton & Father David Kierstead put their heads together and thought ‘what could we do in a small way to bring not only some attention to this valued project but also contribute to its’ financial goal. Susanne found in her research that Lee Valley marketed a quality brass bell from an age-old manufacturer in the USA and off she went. These bells have been ordered over the past year in quantities of 50, 100, and 200 to the point when I pick up our next order in Lee Valley in Halifax NS, those in the shipping department always come out and want to meet the one who is ordering this product in mass. What a wonderful moment results as I can inform them of the significance of this little bell to the twelve -bell carillon system originally installed in Trinity’s 1882 Steeple Tower.

As we prepare to officially close this very successful project – we have for your hard to buy for person this Christmas, or simply to treat yourself with a beautiful reminder of Trinity restoring the musical gifts of the 1882 bells this year – you can pick up one or more at Trinity on Sundays or through the week by contacting the office for a donation of \$20. They are nicely packaged in a black velvet bag with a red ribbon for ease to hang on your Christmas Tree or attach to a special present to those you love.

Let us continue to ring those bells – even at home with this ‘little’ brass bell.

When you hear the bells ring in their fullness for the first time Christmas 2024 you can proudly say, ***“I was there when we announced this project”, “I was a part of this project’s success” and I was there for the Gala as we together restored the Trinity Carillon. Well done!***

## TRINITY’S SERVICE CALENDAR

Date	Sunday	Service	Readings	Presider
Dec 15	Third Sunday of Advent	BCP MP	Zephaniah 3:14-20 C 3 (Isaiah 12:2-6) Philemon 4:4-7 Luke 3:7-18	Rev. Steven Scribner
Dec 22	Fourth Sunday of Advent Trinity Carol Service		Lessons and Carols	Rev. Steven Scribner
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Family Service @ 4:30pm	BAS Eucharist		Rev. Steven Scribner
Dec 24	Christmas Eve Candle Light Service @ 11pm	BCP HC		Rev. Steven Scribner
Dec 25	Christmas Day @ 10:30am	BCP HC		
Dec 29	First Sunday after Christmas	BCP HC	1 Samuel 2:18-20, 26 Psalm 148 Colossians 3:12-17 Luke 2:41-52	Rev. Steven Scribner

## Seafarers Mission 2024



The Saint John Seafarers Mission operates year-round with their office near the port on the West Side of our city. One of the ways in which Trinity has been engaged, which dates back to Chi Rho was in providing Christmas packages in conjunction with a number of other churches and agencies in our city to the crews of visiting ships to our city over the Christmas Season.

Last year we encouraged as we will again this year for those interested in supporting this missional outreach to make a monetary donation through their church offerings if so inclined to support the Christmas Cheer for the Seafarers Christmas program.

### Saint John Seafarers Mission

David Goss has offered to head up this year’s campaign for Trinity by kicking off its fundraising. Donations can be made by placing your monetary gift in an envelope clearly marked specifically for the Seafarers Christmas Campaign. David along with Denise Clapham will tally up the campaign and present the funds to the Seafarers Office on December 18, 2024.

Thank you, David for your generous donation of time and treasury and all of you for your prayerful consideration of those sailors who will be in our port over the holidays and not with their families as this industry continues to support our needs by taking care of our imports and exports.



One of the items of many discussed at our November Vestry meeting this week, Nov 19<sup>th</sup>, was the ongoing efforts of Trinity's offering for a Sunday School program. We have been very thankful for Helen Webb for her support over the past year(s) and also for Lynda Lomax and Judi Harvey-Isaac for their leadership in this ministry. The consensus at the meeting has led the movement towards Trinity having a Sunday School Superintendent and a team of support on a roster rotation prepared for offering an educational experience each Sunday for the children and youth. This program will be designed to follow along with the theme read and discussed in worship as laid out by the Lectionary – for a children's understanding. To this end, Kyle Wells agreed to strike up a committee to set up the future Trinity Sunday School program. Please think about this as one if not the most important ministry Trinity needs to have in place for its' future and consider being part of the solution when the meetings are arranged.



## What is in Trinity's Future you need to be aware of! **Upcoming Events**

Nov 14-Dec 23	Trinity staffing the Salvation Army Red Kettle – Brunswick Square
December 12	Chiming & Timing Appreciation Gala @ 6:30pm
December 17	Messiah at Trinity 7PM
December 22	Trinity's Carol Service – 10:30am Sunday service
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service @ 4:30 pm, Candle Light Service @ 11pm
December 25	Christmas Day Service @ 10:30am

## Trinity's Mitten Tree



It is the time to decorate Trinity's Mitten Tree with those hats, mittens and socks for all ages. As in the past, these items are made available to those who come to Trinity for the Saint John Christmas Exchange – they being so pleased to be able to select items for their children for the winter season. The Mitten Trees will be set up for Sunday, December 1<sup>st</sup>, first Sunday of Advent. Please note, many like to choose those store-bought items, gloves, mittens, socks, hats and they can be reasonably obtained at the Dollar Store. Let us get ready to decorate our two mitten trees in a weeks' time.

## Uptown Sparkles 2024



Up Town Sparkles was an over-the-top success on all accounts and Trinity welcomed nearly 2000 to enter those huge Red Doors. The inviting Loyalist Church provided a very warm and musically welcoming space for many to come in out of the cold and spend a while meeting old friends, admiring the beauty of Trinity and partaking of the Hot Chocolate and home-made cookies. Thanks to all of Trinity who went over and above to make such a welcoming event for those walking about the uptown area this past Friday evening. Special thanks go out to Stephen Mott and friends who played a number of well remembered Christmas selections on the strings along with Spencer Belyea who showcased the Trinity Phoenix Organ in filling the church with beautiful organ music.

## Trinity Evergreen Trimmed



Trinity's Evergreen is up and trimmed. There is lots of room for anyone who would like to add a special ornament from your past Christmas's. Many are on the tree from over the past eight years of those who brought in a special memory to hang on the bows.

**Beacon Cove Donations** Toiletries in larger size (not travel size), feminine hygiene products, deodorant, toothbrushes, toothpaste, shampoo, conditioner and body wash. Also looking for clothing, shoes, socks, blankets and larger towels. Gift cards in small denominations. Paper products, toilet tissue, paper towels and facial tissue are welcomed.

Trinity will collect these products and deliver. Beacon Cove will also accept donations via the diocesan website – choose Beacon Cove from the drop-down menu: <https://www.canadahelps.org/en/dn/13778>. Keep up the great work and remember the great work Beacon Cove is doing in our community.



**City of Saint John Police – Christmas Holiday in a Box Campaign – 4<sup>th</sup> Annual** The City of Saint John Police in partnership with the Five Priority Neighbourhoods, (Carleton Community Centre, Crescent Valley Resource Centre, P.U.L.S.E Inc. Saint John, The ONE Change Inc., the Waterloo Village Neighbourhood Association), started the Holiday in a Box as an annual campaign. Trinity has been with them from the very start and plans to be part of this, the 4<sup>th</sup> annual Holiday in a Box campaign. Trinity delivered thirteen packages to the Police Headquarters on Monday, December 9<sup>th</sup> to a very appreciative team of volunteers who are assembling the Christmas Boxes for delivery. Thanks to all who supported this outreach ministry.

## Trinity staffing the Salvation Army – Red Kettle – Brunswick Square



Trinity is once again staffing the Salvation Army Red Kettle in Brunswick Square – near the Tim Hortons outlet. Thanks again for our Trinity volunteers, Judi Harvey-Isaac, Lynda Lomax, Linda and Philip Webb, Louise Dodge-Hall, Nancy Young, Marie Goguen and Bryce Neill and Rev. Steven Scribner. This team is on duty from 2-4 Monday thru Friday commencing Nov 14<sup>th</sup> thru to Dec 23<sup>rd</sup>. Elizabeth Bastarache is also staffing this same Red Kettle location three days weekly from 12 noon to 2pm, Monday, Wednesday and Friday. What a great way for Trinity to be giving back to our community and wonderful conversations happen daily with those passing by. Thank you all for your gift of time.

## Humour



### On Searching for a Book of Stamps

check in wallet  
check once more  
hunt through bag  
look in drawer

feel coat pockets  
peer in pot  
rifle desk  
find them not

shake out shoes  
lift up hat  
inspect fridge  
ask the cat

scour the shelves  
peek in purse  
turn out cupboards  
swear & curse

go to shop  
buy new stamps  
put in wallet  
next to stamps

*Brian Bilston*