



TRINITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

December 19, 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.

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.



Pearl Grace Hazen – on December 7, 2024 Pearl went to be with her Lord and Saviour. Pearl was the sister of the late Ven. Harold Hazen who was the Honorary Assistant with us and myself at Trinity and as we got to know one another, found out that their 4th great grandfather and mine were brothers. It is a small world after all. Pearl would always greet me as ‘cousin’ which was said with great fondness when ever we would meet. The celebration of Pearl’s life was held in her church, Trinity Anglican Church, Sussex NB on Tuesday, December 17th. Rest Eternal Grant unto Pearl O Lord and Let Light Perpetual Shine upon Her. Amen.



The Trinity family wishes to extend to Fran Bambury and Holly McKenna a very happy birthday this week and hope your special day is made even more special with family and friends sharing the day with you.

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.

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 Third Sunday of Advent. We lit the third Advent Candle – the pink candle for JOY. We are now in the mid point of the season of preparation -the season of Advent and by design of the early church, they recognize that the early church was deep into a sense of repentance and reflection to the point many might get a little down if not depressed with life.

The early church would be somewhat different than Trinity is today. There would be no 'greening' of the church what so ever, and certainly no evergreen tree trimmed and lit. There would be no uplifting hymns played. All of this would come in a sudden - immediately after the 4th Sunday of Advent. As one can see, I don't prescribe to the early church so much on the decorations and the music, however I fully embrace that the season of Advent is truly a time for preparation – a time for me and others to take stock on where we are in our faith journey, where we are as Christ's voice, arms and legs in His world today extending His love to others. Then I come to grips with this and make some moves to align more closely to the teachings Christ has given me. What better time for us to turn over a new leaf – as we prepare to welcome once again the mysteries that surround the birth of Christ.

So, the early church and we today, take a pause and focus on JOY – however are we truly able to achieve JOY in our present lives with the cares that we carry around with us daily. Christmas time seems to be a time when these cares are the heaviest.

Sometimes we get a little confused that happiness and joy are the same. Not so, happiness is circumstantial and we can be happy one moment and a few moments later not so much. But JOY is rooted deeper in that JOY for us as Christians is rooted in our faith of the Messiah. We find JOY in God's faithfulness which brings us hope. We find JOY in our current circumstances by choosing to remember the joy of what Jesus holds for each of us as our strength in this life that will carry us through this life's ups and downs with the promise to live eternally with Him.

We need to ask ourselves, what are the ways we can choose JOY this week? What stands in the way of us choosing JOY? Are there areas in our life where choosing JOY is harder than choosing other options? As we go forward, keep watch for opportunities to choose JOY when fear and frustration would be easier.

This Sunday at Trinity This Sunday we will be celebrating the Fourth Sunday of Advent – and we have a special service – Lessons and Carols Sunday. Come out and bring a friend to hear the uplifting music and the special scripture readings that will help us get all get ready for the Messiah's birth.

Christmas Services:



Are we ready for Christmas yet? Well, someone is ready for the Family Service – with the sleigh all packed!

Christmas Eve Dec 24 Family Service	Eucharist	4:30pm
Christmas Eve Dec 24 Candle Light Service	Holy Communion	11pm
Christmas Day Dec 25 Christmas Morning	Holy Communion	10:30am

Come out and hear those joyous Trinity Bells spill out the beautiful Christmas hymns that they first played on Christmas day 1882.

Looking forward to having you all, you, your family and friends joining in at Trinity for these special Christmas services.

Prayers

We offer special prayers for:



they journey in faith going forward.

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

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 Church of the Province of Uganda, the Most Rev Stephen Kaziimba, Archbishop. Anglican Church of Canada, Acting Primate Anne Germond. Ecclesiastical Province of British Columbia and Yukon, Archbishop Lynne McNaughton and the Provincial Council. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu. Diocese of Yukon, Bishop Lesley Wheeler-Dame, Old Crow: St. Luke's, the Rev Jeffrey Mackie-Deernsted and the Rev Marion Schafer. 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, Edmund Gallant, Helena Gomke, Katie Kassner, Richard (Dik) Coates, Theresa Wanamaker, Shirley Shaw, Winston Wilson, Ann Campion, Grace Gogan, Frank Rodgers, Kristin Gushurst, Alex Gushurst-Moore, Hannah Gushurst-Jones, Stephen James Du Plessis, Robert Signoretti, Jenny Bishop 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.



12th December 2024 - Appreciation Gala



On Thursday, December 6th the Chiming & Timing into the Future campaign held an appreciation evening for the purposes to thank all who have supported this campaign over the past year to enable Trinity to return the 1882 Steeple Tower bells to play their notes out over this city for the decades / centuries to come.

Kyle Wells, Chair and Jennifer Waldschutz worked tirelessly all year long to bring this project to its' successful completion. On this night over 150 were in attendance to hear and see much of the history displayed and discussed as the historical timeline was shared. On display as shown in the picture adjacent – shows the 1926 clock hands which were replaced by the same design with the upgrade of the Tower Clock which was part of the Tower Bell project.

Once the hour-long presentation concluded all were invited to assemble in the west end of the church lot holding sparklers as Susanne Sutton, Trinity's new bell ringer, played the Peels of the twelve bells – which rang out loud and clear announcing the return of Trinity's bells to this uptown community.

Thanks to both Kyle Wells and Jennifer Waldschutz for their leadership on this very significant, and yes history making project for Trinity. Thanks to all who supported the project with Time, Treasury or Talent – it took many to make this project a reality in just a year to the day December 6, 2023 – December 6, 2024.

Well done, and come out on Christmas Eve or Christmas morning to hear the Christmas hymns played for the first time since the bells were silenced over two years ago. And be part of history, as the twelve 1882 bells first rang on Christmas morning 1882 and they will once again play hymns Christmas 2024.



Do you have your very own miniature brass bell – great gift or ornament on your Christmas tree? 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 picked up our 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 with the playing of the hymns at Christmas– 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 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

What makes Christmas for you?



What makes Christmas for you? A few Sundays' ago, I mentioned the idea of thinking back to when we were children. Then as we grew into adulthood and then on when we were first married and on to seeing Christmas through our children's eyes. What made these Christmas's special and spiritual. If we can draw on the Christmas's past and bring some of this into Christmas this year -by remembering for ourselves and as important, sharing what brings us joy to those we are so fortunate to have in our physical presence. While visiting a very special lady of our parish this past week, I was in awe, as I have been in previous Christmas's of her Carousel. This Christmas she let me 'play' with it and as we powered it up, with lights blinking, it rotating and the horse figures going up and down to the Christmas music it played she shared its' history for her going back to when it first came to be in her home.

I love Christmas through and through – our Christmas services are the climax of Christmas as we come together and share in the wonders of the birth of the Messiah so many years ago – keeping the story as fresh as it was back then. But also, in the preparation – the storage bins being brought into the house, unpacking those treasured decorations –

which are tied to our memories of past Christmas's and in particular tied to those who may not physically be with us, as we are entrusted with their stories which we are reminded at times through a special ornament or decoration. Treasure these moments this Christmas and share the story that goes with them.

Christmas Trees come in various shapes and styles:





Christmas Trees come in different forms from the pre-lit artificial – no muss / no fuss version in our living rooms, to ones in a boat in the harbour, to the beauty of tree branches showing new life and on to a simple evergreen standing bare in the corner of our homes.

All hold a story of meaning and provide endless hours of enjoyment as we roll back in time to those Christmas's of the past.

Come out on Christmas Eve at the family service at 4:30pm and see / hear the story of Christmas this little evergreen tree will tell us about the true meaning of Christmas.

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 22	Trinity's Carol Service – 10:30am Sunday service
December 24	Christmas Eve Family Service @ 4:30pm, Candle Light Service @ 11pm
December 25	Christmas Day Service @ 10:30am

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>.

On behalf of all of you, I have the great honor to deliver these donations and did so again this past week to a very appreciative team who operate Beacon Cove – they expressed their sincere appreciation for Trinity's continual support for their house. Keep up the great work and remember the great work Beacon Cove is doing in our community.



On Tuesday evening, December 17th Conductor Spencer Belyea presented Handel's Messiah to a full Trinity church. What a perfect setting for such a Christ centred evening of music – those who rebuilt Trinity in 1880 would have been proud of what their efforts continue to support in this faith-based community.

So many of those attending were greeting one another with the JOY of this Christmas Season as this evening brought together friends and family in one place for a single purpose – that being to hear the musical excellence of the Messiah under Spencer Belyea's direction.

There were fifty-one voices in the choir, four soloists, eighteen musicians all at the bidding of their Conductor. There were over 400 comfortably seated in the beautifully rich red coloured cushioned pews. We continue to thank Marie Goguen for sharing her talents in taking on the pew cushion project – which we continue to enjoy.

A couple of comments I over heard;

- There was not a bad seat in the church – the acoustics in Trinity is so rich – as one other mentioned the church was so designed back in the day when there were not the electronic PA systems so projection of ones voice and the music was left to the design of the space. Sitting on the wings or the very back of the church – the sounds were as rich as being in the front pew.
- Several attendees have attended Messiah performances in their past, and commented this performance was by far superior to any other performance they had attended.

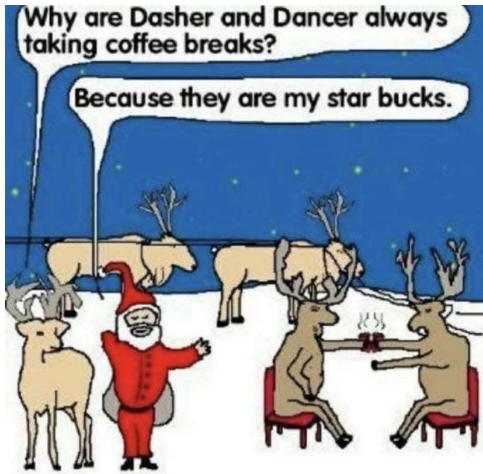
Well done Spencer and your tremendous talented singers and performers for a memorable evening for all. Thank you all.

Seeing the beauty in God's creation:



I know some, if not most who live within the city, and surrounding communities might not see the beauty in this little girl, however while stopping in at a parishioners' home at Dominion Park this week, I was greeted with this young deer and quickly became the subject of her curiosity. No matter what I did or said or slight movement she was trying to figure out who I was or what I was doing in her world. Now if she was a he and had an eight- or ten-point set of antlers, I must admit, I might have been a little more on my guard. However, as it was, I was in awe to be within ten feet of her and she being content to just watch me. What a beautiful moment for me at least, to be in the presence of the beauty God places in His Creation. I was told, it even gets better in this yard with the newly fallen snow, with the rabbits and the other of God's creatures scampering about.

Humour



A DUCK, A SKUNK AND A DEER WENT OUT TO DINNER AT A RESTAURANT ONE NIGHT. WHEN IT CAME TIME TO PAY, THE SKUNK DIDN'T HAVE A SCENT, THE DEER DIDN'T HAVE A BUCK, SO THEY PUT THE MEAL ON THE DUCK'S BILL.

On behalf of all of us at Trinity, your staff, Denise Clapham, Spencer Belyea, Tracy Saunders and myself, we wish you all a very Joyous and Spiritual Christmas Season and look forward to what 2025 has to offer us as we go forward building relationships and serving God's family in our midst. Merry Christmas to all!