



TRINITY WEEKLY NEWSLETTER

October 8, 2026

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

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.



Thank-you Reverend Peter Gillies for officiating at Trinity last Sunday, 19th Sunday after Pentecost. Always a welcome back to one of Trinity’s own from the onset of Rev. Peter’s ministry.



Your parish family wish Bryan Ezeocha, Diane Cameron, Donna Spragg and Phillip Christie a very memorable birthday this coming week. May you all enjoy the friendship of family and friends on this, your special day. Happy birthday!



Happy Thanksgiving Wishing all a very healthy, spiritual and memorable Thanksgiving. We have much to be thankful for that we too often take for granted - our ability to actually celebrate Thanksgiving, we have the basic needs - power, water, food and drink, we have transportation, and we have family and friendships. So many in our world and in our local area do without some of these on an ongoing basis. Stop and say thank you for the basics we have on this Thanksgiving weekend.

E-Offering Stewardship Option Trinity currently has 19 members using the E Offering Stewardship method. 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. If you are not

currently a subscriber your Vestry members encourage you to check it out. By doing so no matter what happens during your week, month or year, once signed up you can rest assured your Trinity is being supported. Should you wish to join the E offering program, you can do so from your home by contacting the Parish Office at 506-693-8558 or trinsj@nb.aibn.com. Thank you for your continued support.



Prayers

We offer special prayers for:

Prayers for the Middle East: Holy One, we seek your mercy. For those in fear, bring safety. For those in pain, bring consolation. For those awaiting news, nurture hope. For those providing care, bring resilience. Loving God, we seek your peace that passes all understanding. May the violence cease and Your deep peace come. Amen

Prayers for Ukraine God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace. Amen (Archbishop Justin Welby / Archbishop Stephen Cottrell).

We continue to pray for Victoria, Alex, Samuel and Daniel who were with us and then returned to Russia as missionaries – we pray for their safety – their health – and maybe one day soon – we pray that they may find their way back to Canada which is their wish.

Prayers for Russia We pray for all those in Russia who have been affected by this ongoing war of Ukraine. For the lives lost, the families torn apart and for those Ukrainians who reside in Russia along with Viktoriia and Alex and their boys. We ask for their continued safety, a speedy resolve to this unjust attack and for a lasting peace between these two countries. Amen

Anglican Cycle of Prayer: The Anglican Church of Burundi, Archbishop Eraste Bigirimana. Anglican Church of Canada, Archbishop Shane Parker. Diocese of Eastern Newfoundland and Labrador, Bishop Samuel Rose. Diocese of Ho, Bishop Matthias Meduadues-Badohu, Coadjutor Bishop Selorm Mereku. Diocese of Yukon, Bishop Vincent Fenga, Watson Lake: St. John the Baptist; Swift River, Upper Liard and Lower Post. Archbishop David, retired bishop William, all clergy in this diocese and their families.

Prayer for Israel and Palestine we pray for the current peace actions. We hold both communities in our prayers as they commence rebuilding their lives and that the peace presently experiencing will live on. Amen

Parish Prayer Requests Allison Homer, Ruth Corston, Melita Freeze, Judith Miller, Katie Kassner, and Bryce Neill. We also pray for those who suffer from any form of addiction that they may have the strength to overcome their desires and return to a healthier state of life. I would ask your healing prayers for Taylor who is in hospital in Ontario, having a failed liver transplant and now unconscious from a heart attack – at the young age of 42 – childhood friend of my son when we lived in Thunder Bay.

Thirteenth Anniversary – Ordination into the Diaconate – October 10, 2013.



1st Picture: Bishop Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips, Rev. Steven Scribner & Rev. Ian Peterson

2nd Picture: Full assembly of Clergy at my Ordination into the Diaconate Oct 10, 2013

Heather and I moved to Winnipeg MB in the fall of 2006 on a Friday evening after an ice storm. On our very first Sunday Heather found our place of worship, St. Mark's Anglican Church, Old St. Vitale Wpg. where we were made welcomed from our first minutes we sat in the pew. It is here that I started answering the call to Ordained Ministry, although not fully signed up for sure. Our minister was the late Rev. Ian Peterson, you see seated beside me in the above photos. Rev. Ian introduced me to the Rev. Dr. John Stafford you see standing to the far right of the 2nd picture. Rev. Dr. John Stafford was the Dean of St. John's College – the Anglican Seminary in Wpg. I enrolled in religious studies the summer of 2007 at St. John's College to further my knowledge as a Layreader – nothing more – so I thought. Well, after a couple of years and well into completing my Diploma in Applied Theology, I started to listen to God's call on my life having ignored it in Thundery Bay for certain – even after a short discussion with Bishop Stephen Andrews, then Dean of Thorneloe University Sudbury ON. On I continued with my studies with Rev. Dr. John Stafford and St. John's College completing both the Diploma in Applied Theology and the Advanced Certificate in Applied Theology and moving to the University of Winnipeg to complete my Masters of Divinity studies. During these later years, I knocked on the door for Discernment – seeking out the call to Ordained Ministry. Studies continued as did my various iterations of Discernment. Now one can add the formal years of preparation studies 2007 thru to Oct 2013 – six years to the point of standing before my Bishop, Rt. Rev. Donald Phillips on the Thursday evening in my home parish of St. Mark's Anglican to be Ordained as a Transitional Deacon (one destined to be ordained Priest in the future).

What a special evening this was on a number of fronts; **First**, I was to hear upon arriving at the church, having been at a twenty-four-hour retreat prior, that my Priest Rev. Ian Peterson was planning to be with us to present me to the Bishop for my Ordination. What you would not know, is Rev. Ian discharged himself from ICU that evening to be with me, he being terminally ill at the time (Rev. Ian Peterson went to his eternal home Nov 10, 2013 just a month later). **Second**, as one can see, I was joined by a great number of Clergy all of whom I had special connections with through my six years of studies, various ministry placements and my own parish members. **Thirdly**, St. Mark's Anglican Church was at this time 98 years old, a church planting from All Saints Anglican Church

downtown Wpg. back in the day and it held 115 tightly seated and there was not an open seat in the church on that Thursday evening. What was even more pleasing that evening for me to see many of my work mates, Wpg government members of whom I interacted with in my daily engineering roles all there to support me. And **Fourth**, at the reception following, I was totally taken off guard as I was presented a very special Stole hand crafted by Diane Trenholm, Organist from our sister church, Holy Trinity Headingly MB. She was commissioned by Loraine Demchuk, then living in Calgary, to create this Stole a year prior to my Ordination – to be presented to me at my Ordination as a Deacon which I wear with great pride. Loraine was St. Mark's Layreader, volunteer extraordinaire and the leader of the Pastoral Ministry. She had such deep faith – even to the point of having this Stole created for me long before the church had signed on for me to be ordained.

So, on this Saturday, October 10th as we, I, offer a prayer of Thanksgiving with our family around the table, I will be offering a prayer of thanksgiving to all those who have had a part of my journey to this wonderful life I presently live, that being of Ordained Ministry in Christ's Church.

TRINITY's SERVICE CALENDAR

	Sunday	Service	Readings
Oct 4	19 th Sunday after Pentecost	BCP HC	Exodus 20:1-4, 7-9 Psalm 19 Philippians 3:4-14 Matthew 21: 33-46
Oct 11	20 th Sunday after Pentecost Harvest Thanksgiving	BCP HC	Deuteronomy 8:7-18 Psalm 65 2 Corinthian 9:6-15 Luke 17:11-19
Oct 18	21 st Sunday after Pentecost	BCP MP	Exodus 33:12-23 Psalm 99 1 Thessalonians 1:1-10 Matthew 22:15-22
Oct 25	22 nd Sunday after Pentecost	BAS Eucharist	Deuteronomy 34:1-12 Psalm 90:1-6,13-17 1 Thessalonians 2:1-8 Matthew 22:34-46
Nov 1	All Saints' Day	BCP HC	Revelations 7:9-17 Psalm 34:1-10, 22 1 John 3:1-3 Matthew 5:1-12

Last Sunday's Message: The following is a Thanksgiving Message I delivered at Trinity in 2020 as we were still dealing with COVID and its' ramifications on our lives. This can be a primer for you as you prepare to settle into this Thanksgiving weekend – let it be more than just another long weekend.



Harvest Thanksgiving Message

Where does one's faith fit with the long honored celebration of Thanksgiving?

As a starting point, we may need some of a reminder of the origins of Thanksgiving and its' recognition as it relates to Canada. History will tell us it goes back to the period of the explorer (pirate) Martin Frobisher who gave thanks for his and his crews safe journey of 1578 when he landed in what is now Newfoundland – Frobisher Bay. It was not until 1859 when Canada's Protestant ministers petitioned the

Colonial Government for an official day to thank God as they pointed their request towards the bountiful harvest being a solid sign that God did exist in the world today. It was the safe deliverance of many souls from the US Civil War of Independence that gave more purpose to the already placed request for a day of recognition. So, it became a holiday, highly religious with newspapers of the day printing the Thanksgiving sermons the following day for all to read.

The day chosen was in the middle of the week and this was prior to having establishing a five-day work week, thus often taking up the only day a worker had for leisure. Ironically, the blueprint for the Canadian celebration was found in the very place that had caused the Canadian's to celebrate 'not being there' and that being the United States of America. In 1879 the Canadian Thanksgiving was officially declared a National holiday to be held on November 6th. This was followed by yet another date change to the 2nd Monday of October where it currently resides largely due to the established November 11th celebration of WWI & WWII and other recognized conflicts as Remembrance Day. This change ensured that the two national holidays would never fall on the same weekend. On January 31, 1957 law was struck that the holiday did not have to be re-proclaimed on the 2nd Monday of October going forward. It was noted "at this time the early autumn timing has been a boon. With the holiday now detached from its' religious beginnings, most Canadians think of it as time to savor the last mild weather before the northern winter starts."

And it is at this point, the topic of this message gets spring-boarded. "With the holiday now detached from its' religious beginnings."

I would start by saying simply this – who do we give thanks to if not God for all our blessings in this life?



When I was the minister at St. Mark's Anglican Church, Old St. Vital, Wpg MB I was approached one day, late November or early December, from one of our parishioners who joined our parish a couple of years earlier having moved to Wpg from Nigeria. She asked if we could have a service of Thanksgiving. I must have looked a little perplexed as I mentioned we here in Canada do honor God in a service of Thanksgiving in the fall each year. I asked her what her traditions were surrounding Thanksgiving and her request. She informed me that in practicing their faith, Anglicanism in Nigeria, they would have a service of Thanksgiving whenever there was an event or experience in which they wished

to express to God their thanksgiving for His hand on their lives. For her, she was making the request for the spring season of the coming year. It was because of their move to Canada, she and her family, that her daughter was able to attend and would be graduating from the University of Manitoba. We had a service of Thanksgiving in grand style. Morin, the graduate, was surrounded by a huge family who came from all parts of the world to give thanks to God for the gift of education to their beloved Morin to be followed by a buffet lunch that would rival any I have experienced at the grandest of hotels.

This was a very visual reminder for me that we far too often compartmentalize our life neatly through routines and calendars when God would have us be more spontaneous.

Let us for a few moments look at scripture for messages of Thanksgiving;

- 1) 1 Corinthians 4:7 – For who sees anything different in you? What do you have that you did not receive? If then you received it, why do you boast as if you did not receive it?

This speaks to the above example of outward worshiping and thanking a generous and loving God. Gratitude is the proper response to an abundance of gifts. Gratitude is the posture of the soul that most readily increases receptivity. Gratitude demands humility, since only those who acknowledge their dependence, their need, and their delight in the goodness and kindness of another can be grateful. Give thanks always and for everything – and be specific.

- 2) Psalm 126:3 – The Lord has done great things for us; we are glad

Thanking God together is an effective guard against ingratitude. On our own, we may be tempted to forget, to take for granted, and to ignore the God from whom every good and perfect gift comes (James 1:17). On our own, we may fall into the ways of the ungodly, who do not “honor him as God or give thanks to him (Romans 1:21). Together, though, surrounded by the thanks of others, we join in and are thankful.

- 3) Acts 2:41-47 – So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls. And they declared themselves to the Apostles’ teaching and the fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. And awe came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were being done through the Apostles. And all who believed were together and had all things in common. And they were selling their possessions and belongings and distributing the proceeds to all, as any had need. And day by day, attending the temple together and breaking bread in their homes, they received their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to their number day by day those who were being saved.

The early Christian church was a rejoicing, praising church that is filled with thanksgiving, magnifying the grace and glory of God. They were a thankful people. But why was this? What is a Christian? Well, Christians are men and women who know that they are what they are by the grace of God. Their sins are forgiven. Why? Christians know that they owe everything to the grace of God in our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. They have received it all as a free gift. Now if you can believe a thing like that and not feel grateful and thankful, then I do not understand. It is impossible.

- 4) Psalm 100:4-5 – Enter His gates with Thanksgiving, and his courts with praise! Give thanks to him; bless his name! For the Lord is good; his steadfast love endures forever, and his faithfulness to all generations.

Does gratitude characterize your thoughts of God? Thankfulness is a good test of your faith. Its absence demonstrates that your faith is more lip service than experiential knowledge. Your days, whether easy or difficult, should be filled with thanksgiving because while life changes drastically, your God remains the same forever. He is constant – constantly good, loving and faithful.

This is why we as Christians give Thanks to God – not just on this day, Thanksgiving Sunday but every day as we slow down and reflect on the gifts God has given us.

As we prepare for our annual Thanksgiving I would offer the following questions for you to ponder;

- 1) What is your favourite Thanksgiving food?
 - a. My mothers' turkey stuffing _ Heather has it down perfectly
- 2) What's the happiest Thanksgiving memory of your childhood?
 - a. Turkey Dinners – at noon at one grandparents and evening at the others on the farm with all my Aunts, Uncles and Cousins
- 3) What do you enjoy most about the Thanksgiving holiday?
 - a. Families still make an effort to slow down and come together and share a meal
- 4) Who is the most consistently grateful person you know?
 - a. The list is great – too long to single out just one
- 5) What's one experience for which you are most thankful this year?
 - a. The offset of the World's pandemic where we all had a hard stop and slowed down while our Province, Parish Family and my family have been spared the devastation of the COVID virus.
- 6) What's the one book, article, or blog post for which you are most thankful this year?
 - a. The ongoing Facebook remembrance – **We Will Remember Them** 2020 by Lt. (Ret) Bernard Cormier and Harold Wright
- 7) What's the one thing you've learned this year for which you are most thankful?
 - a. By slowing down – not everything I was doing was adding value to me or others
- 8) If you could thank one person today – near or far, living or dead – for their influence on our life, who would that person be?
 - a. My teachers (1 thru 12) who, despite my lack of interest, still continued to teach me
- 9) Who's the one person you've never thanked for their contribution to your life, but would like to?
 - a. My teachers again
- 10) For what do you feel most grateful to God today?
 - a. For the birth of my Grandson, James Sterling on May 6, 2020

We have lots to be thankful for – we just have to slow down and be intentional to our inner self and remember – we give our thanks and praise to the one and only one responsible from our very creation – our birth – and if you ever wondered how incredible Gods' gift to us is through life, just hold a new born and see the beauty God has placed in our arms.

Let us pray:

Lord, as I sit down this Thanksgiving I want to thank you for your goodness to me. Thank you for meeting my needs every day – for food – for shelter – for clothing and for the many extras I take for granted. Thank you for family and friends who make my life complete. Thank you that even when we are miles apart – we are bound by the cords of your love. Thank you that I live in a country where I am free to worship you and to read your Word. Most of all, I thank you for your Son, Jesus Christ,

who is the 'light of the world' that I can face tomorrow with hope because Jesus is living for me. O Lord, how truly rich I am – Thank you - Amen

Maintenance Updates:



Trinity Steeple Bells: The ongoing saga! The part shown here has been returned to the vender for testing. The bells which were all (eleven as the twelfth circuit board has been switched out) ringing a week ago, however stopped again. This week the 240volt fuses were changed and all eleven bells were once again ringing.

Not sure on the issues leading up to this, however we will be diligent in monitoring the ongoing bell operation to make certain we have this issue behind us and anxiously await the replacement circuit board to reinstate bell no 12.

Trinity Centre Air Conditioner Condensers – Copper Theft:



Present A/C Condensers fully caged in with a lockable gate (new lock – keys in the office)
Picture below shows the extension of the top surface protection added.



Last week I reported the costly vandalism that Trinity experienced by having the copper pipes (a couple of feet of copper) ripped out of the A/C system. In preparation for the repairs, it was absolutely necessary to have these A/C Condensers totally guarded from future unwanted visitors. Thanks to Gordon Homer who lined up a metal fabricator, Rock's Welding who was able to complete this required work in short order

– all completed this week. With the area now totally protected, A.E.M, Advanced Energy Management Ltd. Trinity's A/C service provider, will now arrange to restore the A/C system to its' fully operational state.

This event has been fully communicated to the City of Saint John Police department – report and face-to-face communication, as well as the Diocese and the Ecclesiastical Insurance for their follow up. It is anticipated that a portion will be insurable – minus the policy's deductible.

The costs as known are:	Metal Guarding (Rock's Welding)	\$3,450.00
	A/C restoration (A.E.M.)	\$6,289.14
	Total Cost	\$9,729.14

Note: The A/C restoration costs may increase if there has been damage to the pumps being run without a closed pressurized refrigerant circuit. This will be known only once the system is reinstated.

Upcoming Services and Events:



Candlelight Concerts by Fever:

Trinity has entered into a contractual agreement with Fever who will be presenting their fall – winter Candlelight Concerts in historic Trinity Church. The following dates are set for Saturday evenings 2026 – 2027:

Saturday October 24, 2026

6:30pm Candlelight: Tribute to Michael Jackson
8:30pm Candlelight: Queen vs ABBA

Saturday November 21, 2026

6:30pm Candlelight: Vivaldi's Four Seasons
8:30pm Candlelight: Ed Sheeran Meets Coldplay

Saturday December 19, 2026

8:30pm Candlelight: Christmas Carols on Strings

Saturday January 16, 2027

6:30pm Candlelight: Tribute to Adele
8:30pm Candlelight: Queen vs ABBA

Saturday February 20, 2027

6:30pm Candlelight: Tribute to Michael Jackson

Saturday February 27, 2027

An additional date added to the fall / winter program

Tickets are available on line at [Events in Saint John & things to do | Fever](#). Please do not call Trinity's office, as this program is being handled through Fever's ticket sales.

Neighbour Missional Outreach Opportunities

12 Neighbours:

The following items are being asked for in order to make their residents feel at home and cared for;

- Coffee, sugar or sugar packets, coffee cups.
- Feminine hygiene products (pads, tampons, liners)
- Shampoo and conditioner (full size or travel size)
- Personal care items, Irish Spring, razors, shaving cream, towels, face cloths, skin care products
- Non-perishable food items: instant oatmeal, different types of snacks, KD microwaveable, Ramen bowls, bread or bagels, peanut butter, cheese whiz, juice boxes, pop, ensure
- Plastic or wooden cutlery, good winter socks, men and women underwear, flip flops for our showers, Tim cards, paper plates
- Men and Women underwear and socks
- Towels and Blankets - Let us focus on being a contributor to 12 Neighbours throughout 2026.

Trinity's Colours (Sanctuary Colours / Flags)



North Side of Sanctuary



South Side of Sanctuary

On May 13th, once Coastal Restoration and Masonry Ltd. had the Sanctuary scaffolding up to the level of the Trinity Colours, John Logan and myself took the responsibility of carefully removing them and storing them in the Rector's office. As we all were well aware these Colours were extremely fragile and it was highly unlikely that they would be returned to hang once the East Window project was completed.

The straight up facts when it comes to these Colours are as follows:

- Colours are never 'owned' by the church – they remain Crown property in perpetuity
- They are intended to decay naturally – never to be restored or repaired
- When pieces fall off – they lose their sacred status, are to be burned
- If the church can no longer care for them – they must be returned to the Department of National Defence (DND) or other approved arrangement

- There is no deconsecrating ceremony
- Director of History and Heritage (DHH) maintains records for all laid-up Colours
- Practical Advice – aged Colours which are falling apart – their disposition is to be in accordance with the DHH.

Trinity Anglican Church has followed the above and on Monday, October 5th Captain David Hughes, Executive Director - New Brunswick Military History Museum, Canadian Forces Base Gaagetown NB along with an assistant arrived to carefully prepare and transport the eight Colours which previously hung (as seen in the pictures above) in Trinity's Sanctuary up to May 13, 2026.

A letter of 'Transfer of Custody of Regimental Colours' was authorized and signed for their departure from Trinity Anglican Church. Captain Hughes will be forwarding to Trinity a complete historical file on each of the eight Colours and this will be laid up in the Archives of Trinity going forward.



Hesperornis, the earliest diving birds

Two weeks ago, we discussed birds that had survived the asteroid-induced ice age that happened 66 million years ago and are the ancestors of all of today's birds. But another group, hesperonithiforms, were wiped out during that many-year-long winter. They were named after their earlier counterpart, Hesperornis.

Hesperornis lived between 84 and 72 million years ago in the Western Interior Seaway, a giant, shallow inland ocean that split the North American continent in half. They had hardly any wings but powerful legs at the backs of their bodies and webbed or lobed feet that were ideal for diving and swimming through schools of the fish they fed on. These rear legs made it difficult for them to walk on land, however, so they usually only left the water to nest. They lost ground as their Seaway began to dry up and eventually went extinct due to loss of habitat. Other Hesperonithiforms did survive until the winter following the asteroid hit, and then they died out due to the cold.

Jump ahead roughly 46 million years (big jump!), and modern-day loons began to develop. Although they came from birds that survived the long winter, the Neornithes, which did include some waterfowl, they developed with many similarities to the Hesperornis. We'll explore loons next week . . . and maybe get a little loonie ourselves!



Hesperornis on land and swimming deep. You can see why far-rear legs made movement on land so awkward for them.

Humour

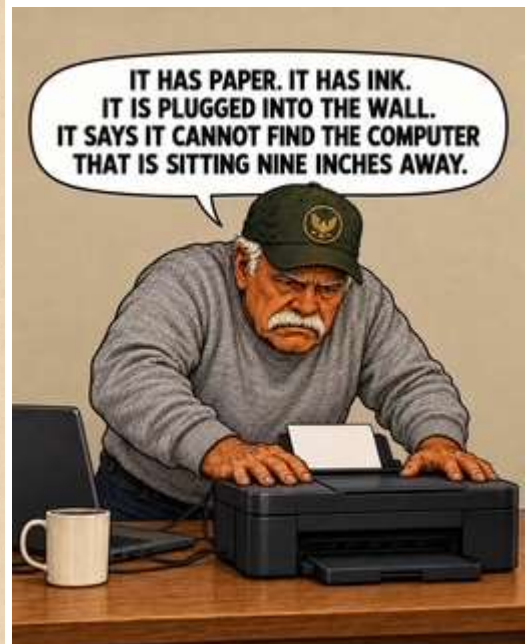
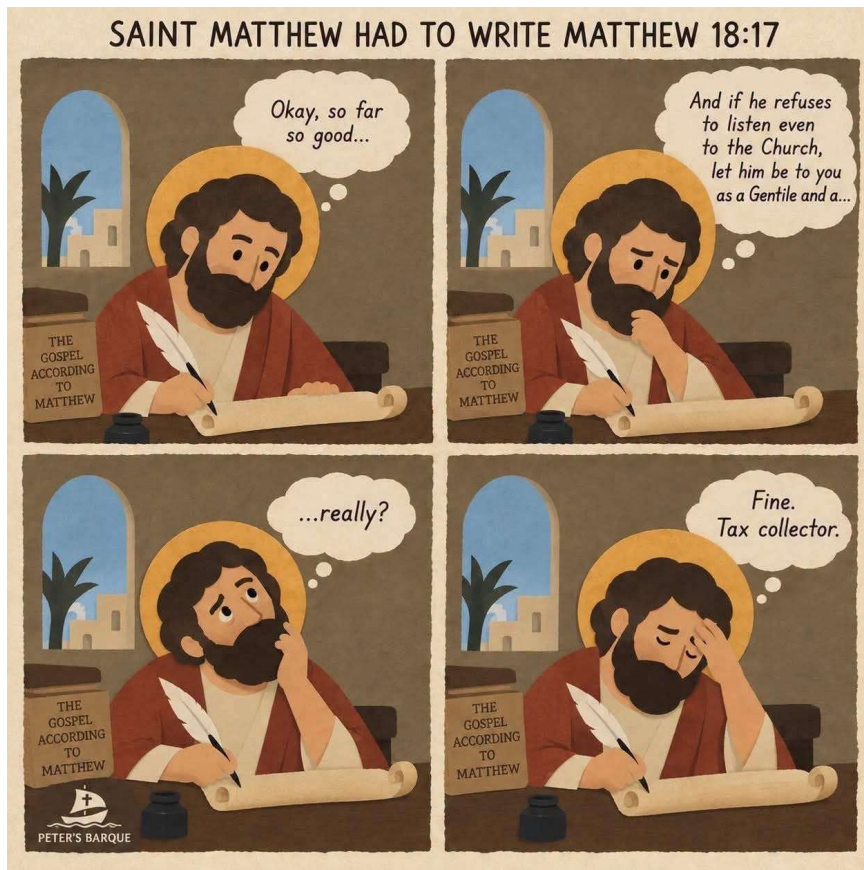
The following by way of Facebook humor

BREAKING NEWS! Man gets hit by a rental car. Said it Hertz.

In the near future, AI is gonna tell a woman she's wrong, and that, my friends, will be the end of AI.

I woke up this morning determined to do the laundry, clean the house, and exercise. But that was 4 hours ago when I was young and full of dreams.

A man was injured while playing peek-a-boo. He's currently in the ICU.



Thanksgiving Blessings to all.

Rev. Steven Scribner