

Advent 2013 Newsletter

Rector's Message

Dear parishioners and friends,

We have enjoyed a marvellous year at St. John's, as both our church and the Town of Lunenburg have celebrated the 260th Anniversary of our foundation. Our Town and Church were founded and built up over time by a whole range of people including woodsmen and labourers, bakers and blacksmiths, politicians and advocates, clergy and homemakers, sailors and fishermen, teachers and traders, young and old and the list could go on. Their faith was important to them and they lived out their faith as they gathered for worship, built the church and reached out to those in need.

Now, 260 years later, our Church and Town continue to be blessed by a wide range of individuals, families, businesses and organizations who share their time, talent and treasure to making our parish and town what it is. As we go forward, our parish will continue to reach out and make connections with a wide range of people, young and old, sharing the faith and helping people live their lives with meaning and hope.

We are about to begin the season of Advent – a season of hopeful expectation. There is so much to be hopeful for in our lives in Christ. We have hopeful expectation as we look forward to the annual celebration of the birth of the Christ child at Christmas. In this newsletter, you will find much information which details the many Advent and Christmas happenings in our parish. Let me assure you, there is much to enjoy and enter into during this Advent - Christmas Season to help us get in the Spirit! Do plan to come out and participate. Don't miss out on our final celebration of the year on December 29th with a special combined service here at St. John's with the Congregation of Zion Lutheran and a celebratory year-end Brunch to follow.

The Scriptures of Advent also call us to be awake and alert to the presence of Christ in our lives and world right now. Advent means 'coming' and so we are invited to recognize Christ's coming in the midst of ordinary life, with its routines, demands, obligations and joys. It can be both exciting and challenging to discern Christ's action in our world in the present moment.



Advent is not only about Christmas and seeing Christ in the here and now, it is very much about staying awake and being vigilant for the final Coming of Christ at the end of time. We know not the day or the hour, which is why scripture urges us not to be anxious, but rather to be hope-filled people who are actively doing God's work in our world here and now. There is so much good work to be done in our community. Let us enter the spirit of this Season and may it lead us to the joys of Christmas.

A blessed Advent and a Merry Christmas to each of you.

Your brother in Christ,

Michael+

Music At St. John's

A note from Barbara

One of the focuses in the past few weeks has been to review our visioning document as it pertains to music. Our central point in discussions at music committee has been the mandate *'Through our ministry of music people of all ages feel the loving presence of God.'* At St. John's we have many generations to be thankful for, from the very young to the young at heart – from traditional families to those who bring new experiences to share. Bringing all the elements together in a meaningful way can be both challenging and rewarding and as always we welcome your comments.

'Music moments' with the children have continued through the fall as well as a music time at Sunday School. These short sessions will hopefully nurture the children to feel a closer connection with Sunday worship through music. I appreciate the assistance of Sharon here and members of the Chancel Choir. It has been wonderful to see expressions of interest on the faces of the children as we all share this time together.

In September we held a special evensong with Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir at St. John's. A second evensong takes place at St. Barnabas in Blue Rocks on November 24. Our choirs are looking forward to the experience of being in the lovely sanctuary at St. Barnabas with Rev. Reg MacDonald and the congregation there.

I hope you will enjoy much of the music we have planned for you for the Advent and the Christmas season. The **Service of Lessons and Carols** will take place on Sunday, December 15 at 10:30 am with the Chancel and Handbell Choirs. A quartet of brass players will join us on Christmas Eve. **Music and Meditation** for Advent will begin on Wednesday, December 4 at noon with well known Lunenburg vocalist **Mary Knickle**. This will be followed on December 11 at noon with 11 year old pianist, **Sacha Arnaud**, a delightful young artist and our final Music and Meditation on December 18 will feature **St. John's Ringers** with Sharon Hill.

We have two major musical events also taking place at St. John's which are presented through Musique Royale.

Sunday, December 8 at 4 pm - A KING'S CHRISTMAS

King's College Chapel Choir - Director: Paul Halley

A Feast of Seasonal Song and Story

Tickets are \$20 advance, 634-9994 and at Shop on the Corner; \$25 at the door

Saturday, December 21 at 7 pm - TO BETHLEHEM WITH KING'S

Capella Regalis Men and Boys Choir - Director: Nick Halley

An invitation to attend a traditional and heartwarming evening of carols for Christmas

Donations of food and monetary gifts will be gratefully accepted for area food banks

On behalf of everyone involved in our music program I extend warm wishes to all of you during this Advent and Christmas season.

Warm Regards,

Barbara



St. John's Heritage Foundation Update

We are very fortunate that a legacy of the November 1, 2001 fire that nearly destroyed St. John's Church was the establishment of St. John's Heritage Foundation Incorporated in 2004.

The not-for-profit corporation was incorporated as a registered charity to support the congregation of St. John's with the ongoing maintenance and preservation of its historic church properties. The initial gift was a very substantial gift directed for permanent investment, the income from which is to be used for the stated purpose of the Foundation. Subsequent gifts have been added to the Foundation assets.

The Foundation is managed by an independent Board of Directors. Three Directors are appointed by the Parish of St. John's, three are appointed by Foundation members at large and together the six Directors appoint a seventh to Chair the Board of Directors. The Rector of St. John's is an ex-officio member.

The Parish makes an annual request to the Foundation to support qualifying Parish expenses. The amount of support has varied from year to year but is generally in the range of \$34,000 to \$40,000 per year. The 2013 Parish budget included the requested contribution of \$34,000. An additional amount of \$1,400 was requested in June of this year. A property inspection of the rectory revealed necessary work that must be carried out. In response to these urgent repairs at the rectory, the Foundation will partner with the parish in an amount of up to \$12,500. This will bring the Foundation's 2013 support of Parish expenses to a total of \$47,900. That amount will exceed the Foundations projected annual income of approximately \$43,000.

Our Parish has come to rely very heavily upon the Foundation's financial support. We are very lucky to have this support available to help our Parish. We must be clear however, it is the Parish's responsibility to maintain church properties, not the responsibility of the Foundation. The Foundation is a generous financial partner, willing and able to assist with property maintenance. It should not be the Parish's expectation, nor is it the responsibility or ability of the Foundation, that the Foundation fund all of the maintenance costs of the Parish.

If you have any questions or comments with respect to St. John's Heritage Foundation please feel free to contact the Board Chair, Jim Eisenhower or any of the Directors, Jane Ritcey-Moore, Mary Meisner, Rev. Reg MacDonald, Ed Jordan, Peter Allen or Ben Smith.

Foundation Directors



New Ways To Support St. John's

Support St. John's From Anywhere In The World

Would you like to make a donation to support the life and mission of St. John's Church? A simple and convenient way is to make a donation online at: www.canadahelps.org. You will be asked to enter the charity you want to support. Please enter 'The Parish of St. John's Anglican Church' and follow the directions to make your donations.



You can choose to make a onetime donation or a monthly donation. Your donation makes a difference and helps to ensure that the ministry of this church continues and that our historic buildings are well maintained.

Thank you for your generous support of St. John's Church.



Support St. John's And Do Laundry?

Yes you can do both at the same time. A new product "Dizolve" lets you do both. Joseph Carnevale came across this product and brought it to our attention.

The product comes in a package of strips (no bulky powder) each package contains 64 strips of "fragrance free" or "fresh linen"; enough for 64 loads of laundry. A package costs \$12.99 plus HST, there is free shipping for orders of more than \$20.

Big cleaning power; Tiny footprint; Dizolve is perfect for travel, student dorms, small apartments, and every laundry room. Readily biodegradable; Safe for septics; Hypoallergenic; Phosphate-free; Free of added dyes; Free of chlorine bleach; Free of 1,4-dioxane; Paraben-free; Vegan ingredients; no animal testing.



Joseph and Anne have tested Dizolve and are very satisfied with the results, ask them.

So how does this help support St. John's? When you order on-line at www.mydizolve.com you are asked to look for the campaign you wish to support. In the campaign section you will see St. John's listed as one of the charities, select St. John's and go on to place your order. All future purchases will automatically go to the charity you chose. St. John's will earn 20% on every initial sale, and every repeat purchase by the same customer.

We all have to do laundry, now we can help support St. John's at the same time.

That old saw "The Better The Day; The Better The Deed"

now becomes "The Bigger The Wash; The Bigger The Fundraising.

Christmas Legend, True Or False

If you watch the morning news you will know that one of the weathermen has a segment he calls “What I learned on the internet today”. Well here’s what I learned on the internet today. You decide if it is true or false.

The old Christmas Carol “The 12 Days of Christmas” has a fairly modern legend attached to it. Supposedly, it was written by, Roman Catholics in England, for use as a catechism song for young Catholics. From the late 16th Century until the early 19th Century Roman Catholics were not allowed to practise their faith, hence the song. What have ‘leaping lords’ and ‘French hens’ got to do with Christmas anyway?

The theory is that the song is supposed to have two levels of meaning. The hidden meaning contains an element that is a code word for a religious reality which the children could remember.

- The partridge in a pear tree was Jesus Christ.
- Two turtle doves were the Old and New Testaments
- Three French hens stood for faith, hope and love.
- The four calling birds were the four gospels of Matthew, Mark, Luke & John.
- The five golden rings recalled the Torah or Law, the first five books of the Old Testament.
- The six geese a-laying stood for the six days of creation.
- Seven swans a-swimming represented the sevenfold gifts of the Holy Spirit - Prophecy, Serving, Teaching, Exhortation, Contribution, Leadership, and Mercy.
- The eight maids a-milking were the eight beatitudes.
- Nine ladies dancing were the nine fruits of the Holy Spirit - Love, Joy, Peace, Patience, Kindness, Goodness, Faithfulness, Gentleness, and Self Control.
- The ten lords a-leaping were the ten commandments.
- The eleven pipers piping stood for the eleven faithful disciples.
- The twelve drummers drumming symbolized the twelve points of belief in the Apostles' Creed.

This theory was proposed in Canada around 1979. Have fun checking it out on the internet today.

Christmas Spider



Christmas Spider

Ukrainians decorate Christmas trees with an artificial spider and web.

Ukrainian legend holds that tinsel originated when a spider wove cobwebs all over a Christmas tree at night and the rising sun turned it to silver.

Finding a real spider web on Christmas morning is considered good luck.

Tinsel was first created by taking silver bars and stretching them until they were formed into thin strips. Seems like an expensive way to decorate a tree don't you think?

Advent Calendar And Other Resource For Advent

Calendar

For those of you who want an interactive Advent Calendar you can follow the one recommended by Bishop Sue at <http://www.pinterest.com/iamepiscopal/advnt-calendar/> . Sign up now and follow through Advent.

Beginning December 1, visit each day during Advent. Every day a new window opens offering you a moment of solace and reflection as to the true meaning of Advent and the coming Christmas Season. Each window will reveal a special Advent word, meditation and beautiful image. Beyond Advent, you can continue receiving a daily meditative word from the Society of Saint John the Evangelist's, Brother, Give Us A Word. Visit ssje.org/word to subscribe or follow @ssjeword on Twitter.

Other Advent Resource

Also on line you can access more resources for Advent at <http://anglicansonline.org/special/advnt.html> .

This site has lots of information and covers all of the Anglican Community world wide. Why not reach out and see what is new and what is yet to happen in the communion we belong to.

Advent - Christmas

Schedule of Services and Events

Every Wednesday at 10:00am

Holy Eucharist (BCP)

MUSICAL MEDITATIONS

Every Wednesday in Advent at Noon

(December 4, 11, & 18th) Musical Meditations with Barbara Butler and guests

December 1st

Advent 1: Wait upon the Lord with Hope



White Gift Sunday - Gifts to be shared through the Salvation Army

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) in Traditional Wording. Lighting of the Advent Wreath. Sunday School.

6:00pm - Parish Family Christmas Carols beginning at Harbour View Haven then walking to the Church to light our Outdoor Christmas Tree, followed by refreshments. Everyone Welcome

December 6th - Friday at 7:00pm

Ordination of Helen Chandler as a deacon. Cathedral Church of All Saints in Halifax.

December 8th

Advent 2: Wait upon the Lord in Peace

Mission To Seafarers boxes today

8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS) & Sunday School. Lighting of the Advent Wreath.

4:00pm 'A Kings Christmas'

Paul Halley and Kings College Choir

December 16th

Advent 3: Wait upon the Lord with Joy



8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Advent & Christmas Lessons and Carols. Lighting of the Advent Wreath

December 22nd

Advent 4: Wait upon the Lord with Love



8:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BAS)

Lighting of the Advent Wreath

December 24th - Christmas Eve (Tuesday)

4:00pm - Christmas Family Eucharist with a special 'Nova Scotia Christmas'

Our Family Eucharist begins outside in our 'Manger Square' for a 'living manger' with a donkey, sheep, lambs and our children and families participating.

10:00pm - Christmas Eve Candlelight Sung Eucharist (BAS) with Organ, Choir, Brass Ensemble and St John's Ringers.

December 25th - Christmas Day (Wednesday)

10:30am - Holy Eucharist (BCP) with music

December 29th

First Sunday after Christmas

10:30am - Combined Service at St. John's Church with members of Zion Lutheran Church Followed by a Celebration 'Year end' Brunch. Folks are invited to 'dress up' for this year end gathering

Seafarers Requiem: Honouring Those Lost At Sea

The world premiere of the first Seafarer's Requiem will be performed on February 8th at the Central United Church in Lunenburg at 7pm and on February 9th in Halifax at St. Matthews Church at 2:30pm.

This piece brings together parts of the Requiem Mass as well as songs about seafarers and true stories taken from archival information on Nova Scotia's seafarers as well as those left behind. Mary Knickle has written a profoundly haunting piece calling on her ancestry and heritage to honour those lost at sea.

The Seafarers Requiem will be conducted by Wayne Rogers, accompanied by Erin Donovan and flutist is Ann Schmechel. Soloists are sopranos Paula Philips, Hannah Ernst, Alexandria Hillier and Olivia Dakin, Mezzo Nina Scott-Stoddart, Tenor John Ernst, Bass Elijah Ernst as well as a SATB choir consisting of some of South Shores best singers. Story telling by Janet Mason and Tom Gallant.

TICKETS: Available online for both Lunenburg and Halifax at <http://www.eventbrite.ca/e/the-seafarers-requiem-for-those-lost-at-sea-tickets-9179747873?aff=SRCH>

Lunenburg: Adult: \$15; 16 and under: \$10

Halifax: Adult: \$20; 16 and under: \$15

Printed tickets for Lunenburg available in Lunenburg: Shop on the Corner, Mahone Bay: Kinburn Pharmacy and in Bridgewater: Strings and Things - soon.

Staying In Touch With St. John's

St. John's Church now has its own QR code, thanks to the efforts of Grant Dixon, who manages our parish Website.

For those of you who already use them from your smart phone just try it.

For those who have not used them what is a QR code and how does it work? QR code (abbreviated from Quick Response Code) is the trademark for a type of matrix barcode (or two-dimensional barcode) first designed for the automotive industry in Japan. We all know what a barcode is, it's that label stuck on everything (even some bananas) you buy at the supermarket.

A QR code consists of black modules (square dots) arranged in a square grid on a white background, which can be read by an imaging device (such as a camera or smart phone)



The QR Code system has become popular outside the automotive industry due to its fast readability and greater storage capacity compared to standard UPC barcodes. Applications include product tracking, item identification, time tracking, document management, general marketing, and much more.

Want to know more about St. John's click on our QR top right.

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