

The Sanctuary and Chancel have been **beautifully decorated** for our Thanksgiving Festival. Many thanks to **Nancy and Allen Urquhart!**

Due to the rain last Sunday St. George's Outbound has been rescheduled for today. Those interested in will meet for lunch, and then head to the Salisbury Highland Park (one kilometer walk), and then to St. John's Anglican Church for Evening Prayer and supper.

Bible Study has begin again: on **Monday evenings** at 7:00pm and on **Wednesday mornings** at **10:30am**. On Mondays, we plan to study the Old Testament Book of Ruth. On Wednesdays, we will continue with our reading of Hide This in Your Heart on memorizing Scripture. All are welcome!

The **Greater Moncton Hospice** is seeking **volunteers**. If you are interested, please contact Susan Plewes through our Office.

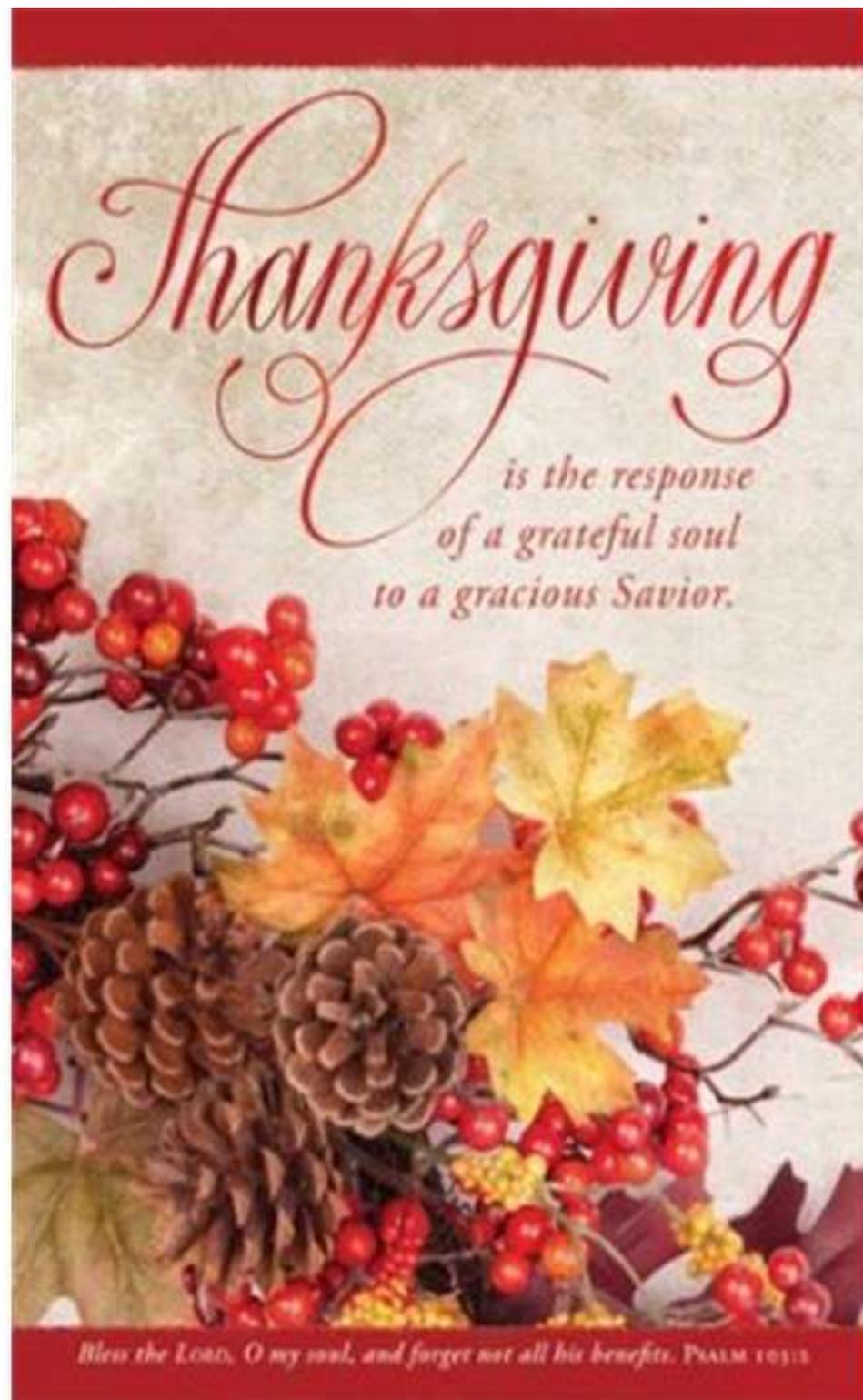
"Sing In and Sing Out!" In an attempt to add some Thanksgiving hymns to the 10am Service, we will sing **outdoors** beginning at **9:45am**, masked and physically distanced. Then, **following the closing Blessing, a final hymn** will be sung **outdoors**. No one will be obligated, just invited!

Next Sunday, God willing, we continue our Thanksgiving Festival by acknowledging God's blessings to us as a nation. **Once again outdoors, we will plan to 'Sing In and Sing Out!'** – hope to see you at 9:45 am on the sidewalk!

We are still in need of muffins for our Community Breakfasts. If you are able to make a few, please drop them off at the Church at your convenience - **please call ahead** to make sure someone is here. Thank you!



St. George's Church is a downtown spiritual center where traditional Anglican liturgy, parishioners and the needs of our community are valued.



St. George's Anglican Church

The Most Reverend David Edwards- Bishop
The Reverend Canon Chris VanBuskirk - Rector
51 Church Street Moncton NB E1C 4Z3 855-5209
Email – office@stgeorgesmoncton.ca
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Jesus Christ the same, Yesterday, Today and Forever

Harvest Thanksgiving

Eighteenth Sunday After Trinity - October 3, 2021

8:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Introit Psalm: 122. 1-5 p. 498
Collects and Lesson pps. 620 & 247
Gradual Psalm: 122. 6-9 p. 498
The Holy Gospel p. 621

9:15 A.M. MORNING PRAYER

Psalms 136 p. 506
First Lesson: Genesis 1 (Pew Bible page 5)
Second Lesson: Revelation 14. 14-19 (Pew Bible page 1001)

10:00 A.M. HOLY EUCHARIST

Hymns (sung outdoors)
Introit Psalm (sung): *Give peace O Lord to them that wait for thee, and let thy Prophets be found faithful: regard the prayers of thy servant and of thy people Israel. I was glad when they said unto me: we will go into the house of the Lord. Glory be.....*
The Lord's Prayer p. 67
Collect for Purity p. 67
Summary of the Law p. 69
Kyrie p. 70
Collects and Lesson pp. 620 & 247
Gradual Psalm: 122. 6-9 p. 498
The Holy Gospel p. 621
The Homily
The Intercession p. 75
Confession, Absolution & Thanksgiving p. 77 & 78
Consecration p. 82

Music during Communion
The Gloria & The Blessing p. 86
Recessional Hymn (sung outdoors)

5:00 P.M. EVENING PRAYER

Psalm 147 p. 518
First Lesson: Deuteronomy 28. 1-14 (Pew Bible page 187)
Second Lesson: St. Matthew 13.8-30 (Pew Bible page 782)

The Sanctuary Lamp burns today to the Glory of God and in Loving Memory of Cherry Howard Schott

“Let us remember before God the faithful departed.”
Rev. Elroy McKillop, Robert Mann, Randy and Sheila DeWare,
Kenny Fram

This Week in the Parish

The Daily Offices of **Morning and Evening Prayer** will be prayed at **8:30 A.M. and 5:00 P.M. Monday – Saturday**, respectively.

Monday	Bible Study	7:00 p.m.
Tuesday	Scouts	7:00 p.m.
Wednesday	Bible Study	10:30 a.m.
	Cubs & Beavers	6:30 p.m.
Thursday	Holy Communion	10:00 a.m.

A warm welcome is extended this morning to **Trevor Goodwin**, the Director of the YMCA Reconnect Street Intervention Program. As has been our custom, we will take some time today to consider the needs of those living on the margins. *“To whom much is given, much will be required.”* (Luke 12:48)

“Our Church has now brought before us the chief internal graces of the Christian character - purity, singleness of heart, patience and humility. But we are not to be satisfied with passive graces, no matter how high, lovely and absolutely necessary, but must rise from these to the practical, active and useful. The life of saintliness must be a life not only of holy emotions but holy activities.”

The Rev. Prebendary Melville Scott D.D.

The Rector's Corner

Making Decisions in the Church

One of the responsibilities of the Priest in the Parish is the Cure of Souls – “immortal souls, which our blessed Lord and Saviour hath purchased with his own most precious blood” – in the words of the Prayer Book. Those three words – Cure of Souls – include a hockey sock full of tasks: everything from praying the Daily Office of Morning and Evening Prayer; to administering Holy Baptism; to celebrating the Holy Eucharist to preaching and teaching the Word of God; to visiting the sick; to instruct the children of the parish in the Faith. And then there are duties that relate to the Diocese, to the neighbourhood, to the city and beyond.

These all are to be carried out under the authority of God's Word, and within the applications given in the Book of Common Prayer. And, for all of it, the Rector is accountable to the Bishop. Ultimately, of course, the Rector is accountable to Almighty God; but in His Word, the Lord set forth the episcopal system – the oversight of Bishops.

I take that accountability very seriously – especially as I get older – for two reasons. First, I am a miserable sinner with all kinds of prejudices and weaknesses. So, I need that oversight and accountability. I need to be answerable to a higher authority -- to have my feet held to the fire, as the old saying goes. Second, I need a way to interpret and evaluate popular opinion. The Bishop can assist in that process, as an impartial advisor.

This episcopal model of Church governance is different from the congregational model. At its best, it provides pastoral support and spiritual direction for the Cure of Souls – for all the souls in a parish, including the Rector's. It serves as a ‘check valve’ for the Rector and people as they seek to follow the Lord Jesus Christ. Without that check valve, the congregational model can be susceptible to the competing influences of money, power and popular opinion. Specifically, within the congregational model, the Pastor can be voted out at the Annual Meeting if he does not appease the people. That looming possibility can make it difficult to speak the truth.

Why am I talking about this? For two reasons. First, as I visit in the parish, during the afternoons, I have had some excellent questions about St. George's outreach ministry to the homeless; and about conducting worship during the pandemic. I want to thank those who have taken the time to think and pray about these issues; and to engage me in conversation. It is important to talk about every aspect as we seek to live the new life *together* as the Body of Christ.

In two such conversations this past week, you suggested that it might be helpful for me to talk to Archbishop Edwards. Thank you for that reminder! He and I talked on Thursday morning during a break in the House of Bishops' sessions which he is attending virtually. He shared with me some points from a presentation by the Rev. Michael Garner, a Priest in the Diocese of Ottawa. From 2006 to 2019 Michael worked as an Infectious Disease Epidemiologist at the Public Health Agency of Canada, beginning as a Field Epidemiologist, and working primarily in research and control of emerging infectious diseases – such as COVID-19. According to him, we need to realize that the pandemic will continue until 90% of the global population is vaccinated.

In considering this advice, Archbishop Edwards talked about safety protocols AND trusting in God's Providence. In terms of safety, he is firm and definite about us following either of the two proposals presented by Public Health. By adhering to the protocols, we demonstrate our love for each other. Masking is key. In terms of trusting God's Providence, the Archbishop was referring to the gift of faith: faith that our Heavenly Father will provide what we need. Within this perspective, faith and science can fit together.

In discussing our ministry to those on the margins, Archbishop Edwards recognizes our challenges. In fact, he has been personally involved in similar outreach. In spite of the messiness, however, he believes we are doing what the Church is called to do. Jesus said, “*Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brethren, ye have done it unto me.*” (St. Matthew 25.40) That said, we do need to provide oversight on the sidewalk, before and after the Sunday Services, so that people feel safe when they come to Church.

In his paper, “The Church and the Collapse of the Western Roman Empire in the Fifth Century”, R.P. Hanson made an important point.

He said, “The fifth century, as a time of peculiar misery and wretchedness for masses of

people, a period of wrecked houses, displaced persons, enforced movements of populations, economic decline and widespread insecurity and despair, brought out in the Church that which ought to be its characteristic note, and as it were, signature, a sense of **compassion**. This had not been much in evidence ever since the state had begun patronizing the Church.”

Basically, he is saying that when the Church enjoyed the protection and support of the government and culture, it was less compassionate. As the Roman Empire fell, however, the Church rediscovered her calling to be the compassionate hands and feet and lips of Christ.

I don't think that we are in the same state as the fifth century Christians. However, we definitely have our challenges with: a widespread rejection of the Christian Faith; our continuing struggles with COVID-19; the need for truth and reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples; climate change; declining moral standards; the breakdown of the traditional family unit; rampant drug addiction and affordable housing. These are uncertain days, but God the Holy Trinity is faithful. His truth and His mercy endure forever. As our parish motto says, “Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today and forever.” (Hebrews 13.8) So, let us go forward in Him as we seek the Cure of our Souls. Let us walk cautiously and together, and with the advisement and encouragement of our Bishop.

Daily Bible Readings

A modified schedule from the Prayer Book's Table of Lessons

Sunday	Ezekiel 3:1-14	John 21
Monday	Ezekiel 3:15-end	Hebrews 1
Tuesday	Ezekiel 8	Hebrews 2
Wednesday	Ezekiel 9	Hebrews 3
Thursday	Ezekiel 11:1-13	Hebrews 4:1-13
Friday	Ezekiel 1:1-16	Hebrews 4:14-5:10
Saturday	Ezekiel 12:17-end	Hebrews 5:11-6 end

Got a beef with the Rector? Please give him a call! He would be glad to listen.



A Pastoral Letter from Archbishop Edwards (dated September 24th) was attached in the **weekly parish email**. Paper copies are available at the back of the Church.

‘The Acorn’, the third episode of **Beauty and Mystery** is available at ‘St. George’s Church Moncton – You Tube’. Enjoy!

Happy belated birthdays to Fran Cormier (September 28th) and Helen Staples (September 29th). Happy Birthday to you...and many more!

Mount Royal United Church has contributed \$1000 in gift cards to the daily breakfast program. ***Praise God from Whom All Blessings Flow!***

Parish Prayer Chain: To pass a message on to the Parish Prayer Chain, from Monday to Friday, 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. please the Office. After Office Hours, please contact Cathie @ 855-7969 or cdingwell@gmail.com

Wardens:	Sheila Searle	856-9419
	Kelly VanBuskirk	
Associate Priest	Rev. Dr. Dan Goodwin	(danielcorey.goodwin@gmail.com)
Deacon	Rev. Norm Dupuis	386-1324

