

# What's Up Down at Saint Peter's

A newsletter from the Parish of Saint Peter's, Birch Cove

Vol. 6 No. 7, December 11, 2025

---



Dear St. Peter's Church Community,

As we begin the Advent season again, there is a sense of hush and holy expectation in the air. This season quietly reminds us that God's light meets us right in the middle of our ordinary, busy December days, and gently invites us to make room in our hearts for the coming of Jesus.

Advent is also a beautiful time to invite. Many people in our lives are longing for hope, connection, and a place to belong, even if they do not quite know how to say it. A warm word at work, a conversation at

the rink, or a simple message to a neighbour can be a gracious way to say, "Friend, there is a place for you at St. Peter's this Christmas."

This year, on Christmas Eve, we have two special services where that welcome can be experienced. At 4:00 p.m., we will gather for a fun-filled and joyful Pop-Up Pageant with music and Holy Communion, a family-friendly service where everyone can enter into the story of Jesus' birth. At 6:00 p.m., we will celebrate Holy Communion with beautiful choral music, ending in the quiet wonder of singing Silent Night together by candlelight, sharing the light of Christ.

Please consider whom you might invite to join you: a family member who has been on your heart, a friend who has had a challenging year, or a neighbour who may be spending Christmas on their own. Your invitation could help someone discover, or rediscover, the comfort, hope, peace, and joy of Christ's presence.

May God bless you this Advent season with moments of stillness, joy, and courage to share the good news. And may our church family at St. Peter's be a place where many experience the love of Emmanuel, God with us.

Arran+

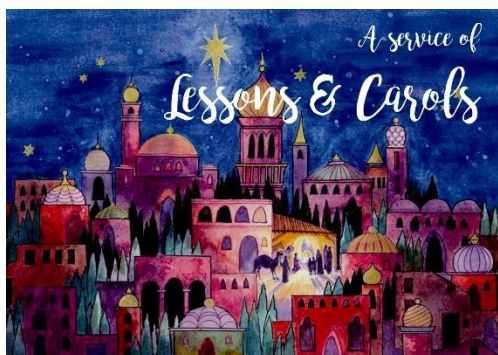
Priest/Pastor

Saint Peter's Church, Birch Cove



### **2025 Christmas Tree Lighting and Carol Sing on Advent One ( photo J Achenbach )**

Parishioners, Friends of Saint Peter's and Neighbours joined the East Coast Carollers to launch Saint Peter's 2025 Advent and Christmas special events with a tree lighting and carol sing on Sunday, November 30<sup>th</sup>. The carol singing began in nearby Harrington's Christmas Tree Lot and then progressed to our parish tree ( kindly supplied and erected by Harringtons ). Afterwards the carollers moved inside to Daking Hall for more singing, hot chocolate and treats plus a visit from Santa. Special thanks is extended to Rebecca and JC Achenbach who put the lights on the tree and a home made star on its top.



**Join the Saint Peter's Choir and Music Director  
Heidi Jury for Saint Peter's 2025 Service of  
Lessons and Carols on Advent Three, Sunday  
December 14<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM.**



## White Gift Sunday

A splendid number of gifts were placed under the parish's Mitten Tree on Advent Two, Sunday December 7th. Following in the tradition of White Gift Sunday, the anonymous gifts were addressed to a boy or a girl, in plain white paper. They have been transported to the Fairview Salvation Army where the gifts will be [distributed to boys and girls in need](#).

The gifts added to the exciting display of mitts, scarves, toques and socks which were already adorning our mitten tree. Donations to the Mitten tree will be collected on December 14<sup>th</sup> and taken to the Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank for distribution.

## Food Insecurity in Clayton Park, Rockingham Birch Cove and Prince's Lodge

Almost 1 in 3 ( 30.3% ) Haligonians live in a household that experienced food insecurity in 2024. Last year the West End Ecumenical Food Bank helped 15,000 individuals . This year in the first 8 months of the year, the food bank has already assisted 12,000 people. Saint Peter's was one of the original churches that formed the West End Ecumenical Food Bank in 1993 and we have supported the food bank ever since. December 21<sup>st</sup> is Food Bank Sunday at Saint Peter's. Donations can be placed in the collection boxes in the narthex. Those able to make a financial donation to the food bank can write cheques to the ' Halifax West Ecumenical Food Bank', 33 Chartwell Lane, Halifax. B3M 3S7 . They can be mailed , dropped off at 50 Gesner Street on Tuesday mornings, inserted in an envelope and place in the collection plate or dropped through the mail slot on the church's main door.

## Christmas Eve Services

**4 PM Family Service with Pop-Up Nativity Pageant**

**6 PM Traditional Service ending with 'Silent Night' by candlelight.**

**Friend there is a place for you at Saint Peter's this Christmas**







## Dates/Events/Information

Dec. 11 – **Guild Christmas Luncheon**  
@ The Redwood Grill – 12 noon ( info  
Peggy Taylor )

Dec. 13 – **Speaking Club** in lounge 12-  
2 ( info Viktoriia Hrushetska )

Dec. 14 – **Advent Two – Service of  
Lessons & Carols** – 10 AM ( + regular  
8 AM service )

Dec. 16 – **Knitters & Crafters** in  
lounge @ 1 PM -incl. special  
**Christmas Potluck** ( info Shirley  
Steeves )

Dec. 17 – **Advent Study & Lunch** in  
lounge @ 11:30

Dec. 20 – **St. George's Hot Meal**  
Programme – Casseroles to St. Peter's  
between 10 and 10:30 AM ( info Eva  
& Paul Rudderham )

Dec. 20 – **Men's Fellowship Breakfast**  
@ Jim's Restaurant – 8 AM ( info John  
Starling )

Dec. 21 – **Advent Three** -services @ 8  
and 10 AM. **Parish Christmas Party** in  
Daking Hall following 10 AM service  
( info Maureen & Dennis Walsh )

Dec. 21 – **Food Bank Sunday**

Dec. 24 – **Christmas Eve – Family  
Service with pop-up nativity play @ 4  
PM. Traditional Service with  
candlelight Silent Night @ 6 PM**

Dec. 25 – **Christmas Day** – no service  
@ St. Peter's . Christmas service @ All  
Saints Cathedral