

What's Up Down at Saint Peter's

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

Vol 7 No 6, November 26, 2026

Dear St. Peter's Church family,

"And the angel answered and said to her [Mary], 'The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore, the child to be born will be holy; he will be called Son of God.'" (Luke 1:35)

Another year has passed in our ministry together at St. Peter's, and what a year it has been. Our 75th anniversary will be remembered in our parish history. So many of you have been generous with your time, talent, and treasure. I am deeply grateful for this year and hopeful about our future together. God has blessed us abundantly.

This Advent, I encourage you to take time for your family and for yourself, and to reflect on your priorities and purpose. What do you hope for? Where do you need peace? How much love are you able to give and receive? Where do you find joy? How will you prepare to receive Jesus into your heart this Christmas?

Years ago, I led a program using Pete Briscoe's A Savior Is Born, and his words on Advent and Christmas have stayed with me. I'd like to share them with you:

"Have you ever thought about the intricate details of the first Christmas? How Mary handled the startling message from the angel Gabriel? Why God saw fit to first appear to the lowly shepherds, and choose a manger in Bethlehem? Or what it would have been like to stand before a multitude of angels?

"God was intentional in every detail of his plan to bring his son into the world. Through Mary, an everlasting hope would come to the nations. Through the little town of Bethlehem, the birth of our Savior would become a reality and be our Prince of Peace. Through shepherds, God would exalt the humble and show us that He is the sovereign shepherd of love. Through angels, God would send good tidings of great joy that would come to all people, everywhere.

"The humble events surrounding Christ's birth glorify all that our Savior is. From the stable to the cross, He redeemed us from sin to give us life. Just as his birth introduced grace and redemption for all people then, the invitation continues for us today. This undeserved gift (GRACE) is truly what the wonder of the first Christmas is all about!"

The angel told Mary that God's power would "overshadow" her. That same presence meets us in our waiting this Advent, and in every season. I look forward to praying and reflecting with you on the Advent themes of Hope, Peace, Love, and Joy, and to celebrating Christmas Eve with you on December 24th at 4:00 and 6:00 pm.

Be a blessing!

Warmly in grace and peace,
Arran Thorpe +, Pastor/Priest



Christmas at Saint Peter's

November 29th Advent 1

Services – 8 am. and 10 am.

Tree Lighting and Caroling 6:30 pm.

December 6th Advent 2

Services – 8am. and 10am.

White Gift Sunday

December 13th – Advent 3

8 am. Holy Eucharist

10 am. Lessons & Carols

December 20 - Advent 4

Services – 8 am. & 10 am.

December 24- Christmas Eve

Family Service 4 pm.

Traditional Service 6pm.

Dec. 27 – Holy Eucharist @ 8am. & 10 am.

January 3 – Morning Prayer 9am.

Dates/ Events/Information

Nov. 28- **Hot Glue Art Workshop**- sponsored by the English Speaking Club –in the Lounge 3-5 PM

Nov. 29 – **ADVENT 1** -services @ 8 & 10 AM

Nov. 29 – **Deadline for Fundscrip** orders (info Lynda or Wally Caldwell)

Nov. 29 – **Parish Christmas Tree Lighting** with hot chocolate & caroling – 6:30 PM * caroling starts in Christmas Tree Lot

Dec. 2 – Advent Study Group in Daking Hall/Lounge from 11:30 am. to 1 pm.

Dec. 3 – **Guild Christmas Luncheon – members & auxiliary members,** @ Redwood Grill 11:30 (info Peggy Taylor)

Dec. 5 – **St. George's Hot Meal –** casseroles to be delivered to church between 10 and 10:30 am. (info Eva Rudderham)

Dec. 6 – **ADVENT 2** -services @ 8 & 10 AM.

Dec. 6 – **White Gift Sunday**

Dec. 9 **– Advent Study Group** in Daking Hall/Lounge from 11:30am. to 1 pm.

Dec. 12 – **Nativity Activity** – for children 3 years and up. 3 to 8 pm. To register contact Monica Stoilov at monicastoilov@gmail.com

Dec. 13 – deadline for donations of scarves, gloves and mittens to the **Mitten Tree** (info Shirley Steeves)

2027 Anglican Church Calendars – limited number still available from the office @ $10. Each

Saint Peter's Christmas 2026 Craft Fair



Congratulations to all those involved in staging this year's Christmas Craft Fair on November 14th. Charmaine MacAusland and Karen Romkey, (shown left) coordinators of this year's fair, report that as of Nov. 23, the fair raised $ 7795.00 ! In all, 36 vendors participated this year. The parish set up a bake table, a crafts table, a preserves table and a canteen. The parish also raised funds from several raffles with items generously donated by vendors.



(left) Murdoch, a nine week old Bernese Mountain dog and Bedford West resident, proudly shows off an early Christmas present, a Nova Scotia tartan kerchief, which he bought at this year's craft show. (right) Coordinating traffic in the church parking lot, parish administrator Donna Lynn demonstrates her highly sophisticated & original hand signals .





Elves Ann, Neil & Doreen



Elves Roger & Mildred with James Gregg



Elves Lynn, Karen & Cindy

Just some of Santa's elves who temporarily left the North Pole to work at our craft fair



Photo: Shirley Steeves



Photo : Jillian Achenbach

On November 13th, Josh Burdett, Pat Beck, Rev. Arran and Shirley Steeves delivered 30 lapghans, crafted by parishioners & friends of Saint Peter's, to the Dixon Centre Cancer Clinic in Halifax . The lapghans will be gifted to patients who are undergoing chemotherapy treatments at the clinic.



Warden Art MacDonald looks on as Jane Murphy, parishioner at Saint Peter's for 75 years, closed out our anniversary year November 22nd by putting out the flame on our anniversary candle. Jane, representing over 7 decades of parishioners, then passed the candle lighter to Elliott Walsh. who represented the future generations of Saint Peter's parishioners. For while our 2026 celebrations are now over, the pilgrimage at Saint Peter's will continue and the anniversary candle will need to be lit again.

On Nov. 15th,Saint Peter's recognized those who are members of our leadership ministry. Left to right Hon. Assistant Rev. Dennis Walsh, Lay Ministers Keith Crocker & Anne Campbell, Hon. Assistant Rev. Mildred Tobin, Rev. Arran Thorpe our priest and pastor, Heidi Jury Music Director & Donna Lynn MacLean, Parish Administrator. Missing - Hon. Assistant Rev. Glen Kent



Nativity Activity

Saint Peter's is offering a five hour, no cost 'nativity activity' session for children 3 years and up on Saturday December 12th. The session, which starts at 3pm. and runs until 8 pm. will involve hands on Christmas themed activities followed by a Christmas movie. Children will also be offered a spaghetti and meatball dinner. Parents can register their children for this free event by emailing Monica Stoilov at monicastoilov@gmail.com