



**Thursday, January 9, 2025**

You have received this weekly E-News as a means of communicating events at

**St Mary & St Bartholomew's Anglican Church**

646 Westmorland Road, Saint John, NB E2J 2H4  
(506) 696-1347 Email: [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com)

*Building Up the Body of Christ,  
Reaching Out with the Love of Christ.*

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In Church &  
Live-streamed via Facebook,  
You Tube or our website:  
[www.smsbchurch.com](http://www.smsbchurch.com)



*The Baptism of our Lord*  
*1st Sunday after Epiphany*  
Sunday, January 12, 2025

**9:00 am**

**Traditional Service of  
Holy Communion**

**11:00 am**

**The Service of the Word**

**The Message:**



*Isaiah 42: 1-9*

**Pastor Greg McMullin**

**Monday, January 13**

6:45 pm Zoom LIFE Group

**Tuesday, January 14**

7:00 pm Ministry Leaders' Meeting

**Wednesday, January 15**

**9:30 am Holy Communion**

10:30 am Time Out for Women

4:30 pm Food for Life

**Saturday, January 18**

4:30 pm Saturday Supper

*3rd Sunday after Epiphany*

**Sunday, January 19**

**9:00 am Traditional Service**

**of Holy Communion**

**11:00 am Contemporary Service**

**of Holy Communion**

**& Kids Church**



**Annual Reports 2024**

YES, it's that time again! Annual reports (either handwritten or electronic) from our various ministries would be greatly appreciated **by Wednesday, January 29.**



## **Pastor's Perspective**

### **Mission Momentum**

Late last Fall, we were blessed as a church to host a weekend teaching/consultation mission with Pastor Laurel Buckingham, an effective church leader who for over 50 years has been used by God to help grow the Church. Many I think would agree with me that it was very helpful to have a fresh set of ears and eyes, meeting with our church leadership, listening to many of our church members, and worshipping with us at our Sunday morning Services. As a result of “feeling the pulse” of the Body of Christ here in our midst, Pastor Buckingham, in a three-part report, has given us his detailed assessment (strengths, concerns and prescriptions) in order to help us to grow and to have greater Gospel-impact on the local community. The following text of the report has the full support of our Vestry (the governing body of our church):

#### **Strengths:**

1. Outstanding pastoral leadership.
2. Consistent Biblical Preaching and Teaching.
3. A vision for whatever is necessary for the church to fulfil its purpose and potential.

4. A high priority in making visitors to feel welcomed and valued.
5. An unusual openness to change that is necessary to reach the unchurched.
6. The worship options of the traditional and contemporary Services.
7. A wide variety of activities that give opportunity for involvement of everyone.

### **Concerns:**

1. The Contemporary Service be more contemporary.
2. Limited promotion of the church's ministries – a need for the church's story to be told.
3. Weakness in children's & youth ministries.
4. Lack of outreach that connects the local community with the church.
5. A greater emphasis on Tithing.
6. Not high enough percentage of people involved in ministry with accountability.
7. More help for the pastor in his responsibilities.

### **Prescriptions:**

1. Much broader number of vocalists and instrumentalist in the Praise Band team that have an enthusiastic, worshipful spirit.
2. Development of creative and innovative means to share the story of the church and market its ministry opportunities to the unchurched.
3. Develop a clear, doable plan to make children's and youth ministries the highest priority for outreach.
4. Two big days a year(Spring & Fall) with the goal of doubling the Sunday attendance on those days, followed by two great Sunday events. When visitors attend three Sundays in a row, they most likely will continue.
5. Plan a deliberate and intentional Tithing emphasis. Celebrate with testimonies of those who have had a spiritual breakthrough by taking a step of faith and obedience to Tithing.
6. A larger number of people involved in areas of ministry need. Departmental (Team) leaders need clear teaching on how to recruit with a plan to keep in contact with newly recruited

volunteers for the sake of encouragement and accountability. For every one new person involved in a ministry, eventually there will be three more people attend the church.

7. A deliberate plan needs to be developed for the involvement of others to assist the pastor by defining areas of responsibility that he does not absolutely need to do himself. In the eyes of many, he is overloaded.

Now with the Christmas Holidays behind us and as the New Year stands before us, we must be diligent in maintaining the mission momentum. On that note, this Tuesday evening there will be a meeting of all our team ministry leaders to discuss and pray about how Pastor Buckingham's Report applies to our respective ministries in order for effective short-term and long-term goals to be set.

Most importantly, in order for us to succeed in gaining momentum in the Lord's work, we need YOU. The most effective thriving churches happen when all of God's people are involved in helping to build up the Body of Christ and to reach out beyond our walls with the Love of Christ. So, come and serve the Lord with us! *Together* we can be a mighty force for Christ in the world!

By His grace,

Greg +

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## **Introducing our New Music Director**



### **Welcome, Paul Oyejide!**

Paul Oyejide is an accomplished organist and accompanist with over a decade of professional experience. His musical journey began with a profound passion for the organ, which inspired him to pursue formal education and training in organ performance. This dedication culminated in earning a diploma in organ performance from the Music Society of Nigeria. He is an active member of both the Nigerian Guild of Organists and the American Guild of Organists, reflecting his commitment to the professional organist community.

As Music Director, Paul's most recent job was at St. John's Church in Lagos, Nigeria, where he led the choir for three years, during which he cultivated a reputation for musical excellence.

Not long ago, he and his wife, Oyinda, relocated to Canada, settling in the city of Saint

John.

This transition marks a significant chapter of Paul's career, driven by his aspiration for artistic growth and professional development. His move is characterized by a vision of promise and the pursuit of new opportunities to further his lifelong passion for music.

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## Vestry

Because our Vestry constitutes the core leadership of our congregation, there are five key requirements for Vestry members in our parish:

- 1. Profess personal faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Saviour;*
- 2. Be an active participant in Bible Study;*
- 3. Be involved in at least one other ministry in the life of our congregation other than serving on vestry;*
- 4. Tithe income to the local church for the work of the Gospel;*
- 5. Embrace the vision of our church through the Church Leadership Training Course.*

If we can discern with you a possible call of the Lord to serve in this ministry, please contact Pastor Greg .

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## Condolences

We extend our heartfelt sympathy to the family of  
**the late Marjorie Moore.**

*Rest eternal grant unto her, O Lord.*

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The **Monday Evening LIFE Group (6:45-8:30) via Zoom** has begun, focusing on the Book of Hebrews. For more information, contact Jean Urquhart 506-696-2624.

Also, **Time Out for Women has resumed on Wednesdays at 10:30 am** in the church boardroom.

If anyone is interested in joining a LIFE Group session, please talk to Pastor Greg or Rev Ann or [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com).





## Communications Liaison

We are currently looking for a committed individual who would be interested in developing a communication strategy between our Rector, Ministry Leaders, Lay readers, Music Ministry leaders, etc. and our Office Administrator. This person would be able to communicate effectively with our church family and regularly be in contact with our ministry leaders, conveying any ideas and/or concerns to the church leaders or the office. For further information or discussion, please contact Pastor Greg.

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## 2025 Budget

The Finance Committee will be working on our 2025 Budget during January. If your group wants money in your budget for new program spending please let the Finance Committee know. If we don't hear from you, we will set budgets based on trends from the 2024 actual results. Please e-mail either Scott Fairweather Chairperson at [fairws@nbnet.nb.ca](mailto:fairws@nbnet.nb.ca) or Carol Anne at the office.

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We remind you that Offering Envelopes are available to those who wish to use them – please contact the Church office to have envelopes issued. Also, the E-Offering or Point of Sale method is a convenient way to make your contribution.

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**Do you have an Interest in Technology?  
Tech Ministry Volunteers Needed!**

Our Tech Ministry Team is in need of volunteers to work the Tech booth during our Sunday Services. Training is easy - will be provided. If you feel a call to this ministry, please contact Crystal Harris 506-654-3377 or the church office 506-696-1347.

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If anyone is interested in offering their time to assist some of our new international members in learning basic English (either one on one or in a group setting), please let us know at the office 506-696-1347.

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***"Building Community Together"***

**The SMSB Mission Centre**



**If giving by offering envelope, please indicate  
"Mission Centre" on the 'Other' line of the envelope.**

Otherwise, if indicated on the Mission line, your offering will be recorded to that fund. If you have any questions about this, please contact the office (506-696-1347).

For more information on the SMSB Mission Centre, please visit our website at:

**<http://smsbmissioncentre.com>** or visit the Facebook page: SMSB Mission Centre.

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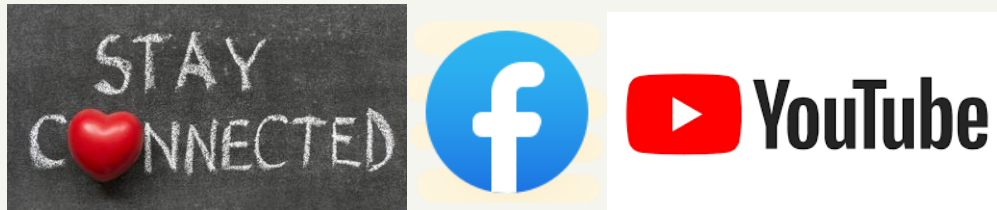
## How Do We Give When We're Not in Church?

There are options.

- 1. To begin (or modify) E-Offering.** Choose weekly or monthly giving. The amount or frequency can change with a quick message or phone call to our Church Secretary, who will provide you with options on how to start this method of giving.
- 2. Interac E-Transfer - via email: [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com).** Please make a note when you send your etransfer if you wish to have your donation sent to a specific fund.
- 3. Pay Pal via our Church Website** - An easy, safe and secure method of giving is available through our church website via *Pay Pal*. Log into the website: [www.smsbchurch.com](http://www.smsbchurch.com). Go to the bottom of the home page, to the link 'Donate' and follow the instructions for Pay Pal.
- 4. Hand deliver or surface mail** your offering to the Church Office, 646 Westmorland Road, Saint John NB E2J 2H4. Mail will be picked up each day.
- 5. Point of Sale** - Donations may be made on Sundays prior to each service. Also, the church office will be open Monday to Friday (9 am-1 pm) for anyone who wishes to make a donation during the week.

We want to do everything we can to make consistent giving as easy as possible. Contact the Office  
(506) 696-1347 if you have a question.

**Thank you so much for your tithes and offerings.**



**'YouTube' - SMSB Church (streamed services)**

**Church Website - [www.smsbchurch.com](http://www.smsbchurch.com)**

**'Facebook' - St. Mary & St. Bartholomew's Church**

**Church Office - Email: [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com)**

**Phone: 506-696-1347**

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### **Weekly E-News**

We hope you enjoy receiving your weekly E-News in your email. For full details on announcements and upcoming events, please refer to your weekly E-News (emailed on Thursdays). If anyone who does not have access to the internet and would like a copy, please let us know so we may drop one off to you.

**If you would like to begin receiving the E-News electronically, please give your email address to the office 506-696-1347 or [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com).**

### **Communications**

Submissions for the E-News and other publications or requests of communication during services can be sent to the office via email: [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com) or phone 506-696-1347 by Wednesday at noon.



**Our mailing address is:**

**646 Westmorland Road, Saint John, NB E2J 2H4**

**Phone: (506) 696-1347**

**Pastoral Contact: Canon Greg (506) 645-7517**

**Email: [smsb.church@bellaliant.com](mailto:smsb.church@bellaliant.com)**

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