

The Anglican Parish of St. Francis

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July 9, 2021

Dear friends,

It is hard to believe that we are half way through 2021 and in the heat of summer. It's even harder to believe it has been almost 16 months since we have worshiped together in our building. In light of the ongoing changes and improvements to the pandemic here in Manitoba, we offer you some updates on our plans going forward.

"Re-opening" Plan:

The Pandemic Response team has been meeting off and on over the past year, evaluating the COVID-19 numbers and provincial & diocesan restrictions. Our team met during the first week of July and we are starting to look at what a reopening plan might look like, assuming that things continue to improve and restrictions are loosened. While things can change quickly (as we have seen in the past), it is our hope to gather to worship in the church building in September. At this time, we are not sure what the protocols will be in regards to gathering size, distancing, wearing of masks or other gathering criteria. While we probably could gather before that with more limited restrictions, it was felt that starting up in September would give time to increase the number of those vaccinated and help us prepare for a safe reopening. More details will be provided as we get closer to this date. In the meantime, please continue to join us for our virtual services which are posted to YouTube each Sunday morning.

Financial Situation:

At the Annual Meeting in February, we presented a deficit budget of \$26,500 which at that time had many unknowns. We have some good and bad news on that front. The good news is that we have received government subsidies (Manitoba Bridge Grant, the Canadian Emergency Wage Subsidy (CEWS) and the Canadian Emergency Rent Subsidy (CERS) which has help us significantly over the first half of the year. The bad news is the offerings are approx. \$6,000 below budget to the end of June. With this mailing we have included a statement of your offerings to the end of June 2021. If no statement is included in this mailing, it's because we have not recorded any donations from you to date. Please ensure your 2021 offerings are up to date, and if your financial situation allows for it, please consider making donations as soon as possible. Donations can be mailed to the church (address noted above) or dropped off in the mail box slot by the single north door facing Aikins. As always, if you would like to consider going on the PAR (Pre-Authorized Remittance) program, please contact the church either by email or phone.

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St. Matthew's Food Bank:

St. Matthew's Food Bank continues to need our help with donations of non-perishable goods. They are very grateful for our continuing support. Items can be dropped off at the church Thursdays around 7:00 p.m. while the taping is going on. If you would like someone to pick up your items, please contact the church.

Looking ahead to St. Francis Fair 2022:

Fingers crossed that we will be able to have our annual fair in the spring of 2022. In preparation for that if you or your neighbors have extra rhubarb or apples off the tree, we would be happy to take them off your hands so we are ready for pie making next year.

We hope everyone is keeping safe and staying well. Again, fingers crossed that we will be able to meet in person as a parish family very shortly.

Take care!!

