

# ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

*The Oldest Church with the Youngest Ideas*



ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
**230TH COVID-19 VESTRY REPORT**  
FEBRUARY 13TH, 2022

**1. Agenda for the 230th Session of St. George's Vestry**

**Sunday February 13, 2022**

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk: Resolution #1
3. Establishment of Eligible Voting Members as per Canon 4.1
4. Remembering the Departed of St. George's (2021)
5. Gratitude to Johan Braun, St. George's Caretaker  
Introducing Jordan McArthur
5. Financial Statements for the year 2021
6. Parish Budget for the year 2022
  - A) Presentation
  - B) Discussion and adoption: Resolution #2
7. Election of Peoples' Warden and Deputy Peoples' Warden: Resolution #3
8. Announcement of Appointments for 2022, Rector's Warden, Deputy Rector's Warden and New Parish Council Members
9. Organizations and Committee Reports
10. Adoption of all Reports: Resolution #4
11. Gratitude: Resolution #5
  - 1) Gratitude to the Congregation
  - 2) Gratitude to The Reverend Scott McLeod
12. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2022: Resolution #6
13. Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2021: Resolution #8
14. Resolution #9
15. Resolution #10
16. Adjournment

It will be proposed that Resolutions #5 through #10 be collated and dealt with, by consent, as one motion.

**2. Resolutions for the 230th Session of St. George's Vestry**

**Sunday February 13, 2022**

1. Be it resolved that Linda Telega be appointed Vestry Clerk for this meeting.
2. Be it resolved that the Vestry of St George's accept the proposed budget for 2022.
3. That Lori Martin be elected Peoples' Warden and Paul Chapman be elected Deputy Peoples' Warden for a one-year term.
4. Be it resolved that the Reports presented to this Vestry be adopted as written or amended.
- 5 (a). Be it resolved that this Vestry record with gratitude the efforts of the many members of this congregation who work diligently in providing leadership and service in the many areas of parish life and worship.
- 5 (b). Be it resolved that this Vestry expresses its collective gratitude to Scott McLeod for his 7 years of ministry at St. George's and express its best wishes to Scott, Su, Theo and Averie for their new life in Kitchener-Waterloo.
6. Be it resolved that the Rector, Rector's Warden, Peoples' Warden and Treasurer be empowered to transact business in the name of "The Corporation of St George's Anglican Church, St Catharines" for the year 2022;  
  
And be it further resolved that two members of the Corporation sign all cheques on the parish bank accounts, with the exception of the Rector's Discretionary Funds.
7. Be it resolved that this Vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Church Wardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years in length, inclusive of all renewals. And that this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:
  - That the agreement may be terminated by St George's upon 60 (sixty) days notice;
  - That the lease or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance;
  - The leasee or licensee agrees to hold harmless St George's Church, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Church of Canada;
  - The leasee or licensee agrees to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy of the Synod of Niagara; and that if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization of approval resulting from it, it is understood that the current Canons of the Diocese will prevail.
10. Be it resolved that all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Corporation of St George's since the date of the Vestry Meeting of **February 13, 2022** be hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

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**Facebook: "St. George's Anglican Church"**

**Rector:** The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

**Associate Priest:** The Reverend Scott McLeod

**Assistant Curate :** The Reverend Matthew Gillard

**Deacon of the Parish:** The Reverend Lorenzo Cromwell

**Sub-Deacons:** Anita Djurkovic and Mary Jo Schmidt

**Bishop in Residence:** The Right Reverend Walter Asbil

**Honorary Assistant:** The Venerable Marion Vincett

**Honorary Assistant:** The Venerable Val Kerr

**Ecumenical Honorary Assistant:** The Reverend Dr. Doreen McFarlane

**Office Manager:** Linda Telega

**Treasurer:** Jim Jenter

**Director of Music:** Brad Barnham

**Children's Ministry:** Tanya Schleich

**Youth Ministry:** Tanya Schleich

**Nursery Care Provider:** Chandra Langley-Smith

**Caretaker:** Johan Braun

**Rector's Warden:** Rob Welch

**People's Warden:** David Bingham

**Deputy Rector's Warden:** Liz Cunningham

**Deputy People's Warden:** Lori Martin

**Lead STEP Counselor:** Carrie Vanderform

**STEP Youth Worker:** Katherine Kerley

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## **Proposed Parish Council for 2022**

### **Voting Members:**

Rector – The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Rector's Warden – 1 year – Liz Cunningham

***Past Rector's Warden – 1 year - Rob Welch (February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022)***

People's Warden - 1 year – Lori Martin

***Past People's Warden 1 year – David Bingham (February 13<sup>th</sup>, 2022)***

Deputy Rector's Warden – 1 year – Peter Schafrick

Deputy People's Warden - 1 year—Paul Chapman

Synod Delegates (3) – 2<sup>nd</sup> year of 2 year term – Neil Culp, Lori Martin, and Lindsey Wilton

Chair of Stewardship Committee – Nora Jenter

Chair of Communications Committee - Tyler Deane

Chair of Technology Committee – Neil Allyn

Chair of Finance Committee – Marilyn Pettit

Chair of Property & Grounds Maintenance Committee – Gina Schafrick

Co-Chair of Community Social Justice & Outreach Committee – Anita Djurkovic

Breakfast Program Representative – Ann Koppel

### **Staff Members (Non-Voting)**

Treasurer – Jim Jenter

Office Manager – Linda Telega

Associate Priest – The Reverend Scott McLeod

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Matthew Gillard

Deacon – The Reverend Deacon Lorenzo Cromwell

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant – Doreen McFarlane



*Do not fear, for I have redeemed you;  
I have called you by name, you are mine. (Isaiah 43:1)*

**Dear Friends,**



I have been thinking back. Almost two years ago, we gathered in our packed gym on a Friday night to express our gratitude to the Reverend Michael Mondloch for his ministry among us as he began his next chapter in church leadership. We breathed each other's air and smudged our germs all over plates, glasses, and smooth surfaces with abandon. I had just that morning cancelled a trip overseas because of the threat that COVID was becoming, but I didn't understand the kind of shut-down to regular life that was around the corner. We certainly had no idea that this would be the last St. George's gathering for the foreseeable

future, that so much of the in-person communal expressions of our prayer and fellowship were about to be so dramatically interrupted.

Now, almost two years later, we have had another significant farewell. Our church has been so tremendously blessed by the ministry of the Reverend Scott McLeod—by his faithfulness, integrity, hard work, exceptional skill set, and great loving care for our church—and yet, as the pandemic rages on, we will wait and hope for the time when we can be crowded together again to tell him, in person, how much he and his ministry has meant to us.

We have spent the past two years worshipping mostly online, with only sporadic opportunities to re-open our sanctuary. We have continued fellowship and Christian learning and prayer practices over Zoom. We have adjusted our primary ministries to our community—our daily breakfast and feeding programs, our STEP Centre—to be able to continue to safely show up and offer this critical help to those struggling the most. We have watched significant milestones come and go. We have honoured those who have died as best as we can. We have faced the crushing disappointment of having Christmas services moved online at the last minute--not one year, but two years in a row. We have pivoted and pivoted and pivoted again.

We have weathered COVID better than most churches. God has blessed us with the financial resources we have needed and, most importantly, with the creative dedication of our people to be able to adjust and pivot for the sake of continuing together in prayer and service. None of this has been easy, and yet my heart is so full of gratitude for you, for God working in you, and for how great things have happened in this church during such a fraught time.

Our task now is to look forward. It's hard to do that when we are still processing so much of what we have been through, what has been lost. It's also hard to do when we don't know what is happening with this pandemic or what end might be in sight. It is easy to feel hamstrung by uncertainty, to choose disengagement when so little of how we are church right now is what we would choose if it were up to us. And yet, in the face of all that we don't know, there is a lot that we do know too.

What we do know is that we have rebuilding to do. We have worked hard at creating a budget for 2022 that reflects both realism and hope. We are grateful that we have resources, including from the generosity of past generations, as we use this year to rebuild our in-person worship, our ministry with youth and children, our music program, and our offering to new people just beginning to consider if faith and church might be for them. We believe in this rebuilding because, although these times have been difficult and the road ahead challenging, we are also clear about some other fundamental truths.

The truth is that God is calling us to serve and bless. We have seen the impact that our feeding ministries and STEP Centre have. We have seen the lifeline we can provide when others are struggling so much. We have seen the powerful impact of our worship, the message of hope and connection we can facilitate, whether we are online or in person. In terms of discernment, the calling of God on this community of St. George is crystal clear.

The truth is that along with that crystal clear calling is also the reality of astonishing blessing. We have inherited a building, a sanctuary, a wealth of resources, that have been laid down for us by 230 years of faithful people before us. And day by day, month by month, even and especially through the turbulence of Covid, we have continued to find that we have enough food, enough money, enough space, enough time and talent, enough care and prayer, to have something of life-giving significance to offer—for ourselves, for our hurting

world.

The truth is that this matters. The church matters. It matters for us. That's why we keep figuring out how to show up for one another, how to make this work when so many of the givens of how this works have fallen by the wayside. But most importantly, this matters for the world. If we think we have rebuilding to do, that is nothing compared to the rebuilding ahead for us as a people. Mental health has been shattered for too many. The isolation, disconnection and rampant uncertainty of these past few years has taken its toll on all of us economically, physically, emotionally, mentally and spiritually. God is calling us to be part of rebuilding and healing, not just St. George's, but our world. Covid has revealed a lot about who we are, what matters, and what needs to matter more, while at the same time pulling the rug out from underneath us in terms of many of the givens we have taken for granted. More than ever, our witness—of God's loving presence at work in all of us, of our biological and spiritual connectedness, of the power of prayer, of the healing possibility of our own little gifts of time and talent and treasure—needs to be resolutely, generously, courageously on offer.

I am sure that I am not the only one looking back at this juncture, considering what has been lost, what we didn't know and how much we took for granted. I give thanks that, even as we now look forward with so much still unclear and uncertain, we also know the things that matter most.

Yours in Christ's love, Reverend Martha

### **Associate Priest's Report**



The 2021 year continued the challenges set out in 2020 for all of us. Certainly there were moments of lessening tension and stress, and somewhat regained freedom. Yet, here we are at the beginning of 2022 and currently everything looks and feels a lot like the beginning of 2021. In the midst of, and in the face of all of this though, the Church and its ministry continue. The ongoing challenges of ministry and trying to do and be the church have continued for all of us. We have continued to offer as much as we can in the way of services and pastoral visits,

including hospital visits.

We made as much use of our live streaming equipment as possible and have been thankful for the new technology that we have invested in. It has allowed us to have improved quality of video and audio for the live streamed services as well as the in-person services for the four-month period when we had them in the fall. As with any technology, there continues to be the need for troubleshooting and refining.

I am glad to have been able to continue to support our study programs and have been very pleased to work on them with our Assistant Curate, the Rev. Matt Gillard, offering support to Matt in developing and presenting programs himself.

As in 2020, I have continued coordinating the Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. Due to the ongoing complications of International travel and a reduction in the speed of processing cases, it has been a much slower year for the program. And yet, the needs of refugees continue to rise and escalate. We continue to focus on what we are able to do and are reassured knowing that helping one family at a time is making the change that is needed, one family at a time.

As I am facing down my last few weeks of ministry at St. George's, I would like to offer my utmost and sincere thanks for the privilege and honour of being able to serve this parish and all of you. It has truly been the best parish I have had the opportunity to serve in, and I give thanks to God for all of you. It is exciting to move on to new challenges, but it is also sad to be leaving you. You have loved and supported my family and I, and I cannot possibly thank you enough for all of that, and for all that you have taught me and shown me about the love of Christ. You all are truly a city of light, shining on a hill, who, together, routinely do more than we could ask or imagine. May God continue to bless you all. I offer this blessing from the Northumbrian Community:

*May the Peace of Christ go with you, wherever he may send you. May he guide you through the wilderness, and protect you through the storm. May he bring you home rejoicing at the wonders he has shown you. May he bring you home rejoicing, once again, into our doors.*

Respectfully submitted, the Rev. Scott McLeod

## **Assistant Curate**



2021 has been a mixture of challenges and changes amidst the isolation of COVID. I have experienced all of this while being involved in many aspects of ministry at St. George's. Some of these have been traditional aspects of a curacy while others have been unexpected.

Between last Vestry and the summer, I continued to assist with worship and our Christian education programs. It was a joy to be able to share in a variety of book studies from Rowan William's *The Dwelling of the Light* and Holly Whitcomb's *Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting*, or Bible studies on the various Resurrection Appearances. Our regular worship has greatly depended on technology as a lifeline connecting us to the homes of our worshipping community.

I have worked with Reverend Scott, personnel from PSI, and our team of volunteers to help keep this functioning to the best of our abilities. When I entered theology I never thought that I would get another chance to use my experiences from film class and stage crew. It has been interesting to see the gifts, knowledge, and experience that have been shared by the whole team of people who fight the Gremlins and keep our livestream working.

This year included a number of professional Milestones. In April I was recommended by the Anglican Committee on Postulants (ACPO) for ordination. Then in September, I was ordained as a transitional deacon. This ordination has meant that I have also been able to take on an increasing number of roles in the parish and that I will continue to serve here as an Assistant Curate. Another role that has changed over the past year has been my involvement in the STEP centre. In February I started going there as a regular part of my work. While there, I assisted Carrie with some of the program development, welcoming clients of the center, and a number of other parts of that job. As summer approached, STEP was able to hire Katherine and my work with the parish started to increase, so my involvement with the STEP centre decreased to a few hours a week. It has been an incredible privilege to work alongside Carrie and Katherine in service to the youth who use the centre. I am excited to see how the STEP centre continues to develop in its service.

This fall we had the challenge of both Martha and Scott being on leave. I am grateful for the trust that Martha and Scott placed in me during their absence but I am exceptionally thankful that they have returned. I am also grateful for all the support that everyone showed while they were away.

Respectfully submitted, The Reverend Matt Gillard, Assistant Curate

## **Ad Hoc Finance Committee**

The Ad Hoc Finance Committee's mandate is to advise Corporation and Parish Council when requested and to monitor the financial status of St. George's investments.

A proposal to consider how to provide a stable source of funding from the Foundation Fund was prepared and forwarded to Corporation. The new method would ensure a more consistent flow of funds for programming but still fulfill the requirement of ensuring that the capital of the fund is protected.

The Committee monitored the investment activity of our accounts held by the Dioceses throughout the year. In 2021 the rate of return to the end of November on our investments was 11.8 %. The return this year is good, but the investments are subject to market forces. St. George's investments, with careful management and monitoring, should be available to support parish programs for the future.

I would like to thank our committee members Dave Bingham, Chuck Burke, Corwin Cambray, Wes Gray, Fred Hanam, Jim Jenter, Sandra Legarde, James Little, Marilyn Pettit, and Canon Martha for their valuable input and support.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Chapman, Chair



### **Altar Guild**

2021 has been a very trying year for everyone. I am happy to say the Altar Guild has been fortunate to have had the privilege of preparing the sacraments for the in-person Sunday services and other duties such as dusting, and arranging the memorial flowers. The Altar Guild members were able to meet as a group on two occasions for meetings. The Covid restrictions were followed and it appeared as though we were all very happy for the time and fellowship.

Vicky Bradshaw and I were able to secure a cast iron bench, which we will have dedicated in memory of Dorothy Dundas, hopefully this spring. Unfortunately we have had to say goodbye to fellow members who have left the guild. They are Hazel Johnston, Margaret Cavan, Sharon Cruttenden, Anita Djurkovic and Jane Burke. I thank them for their dedicated service and wish them well.

At this time I welcome our newest member Ruth Skrypiuk to the guild and extend an invitation to the ladies in the church to join the altar guild.

Respectively submitted, Sharon Crane, President

### **Bereavement Groups**

There were no bereavement groups held in 2021. The resumption of this program will be determined at a later date based on Public Health Regulations and Diocesan Directives.

Submitted by Sue Chapman, Program Co-Ordinator

### **Bishop Beattie**

Bishop Beattie Fellowship normally meets in the Asbil Lounge on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:30 p.m. from March to June and September to December. Attendance at meetings averages around 35 to 45 members.

The executive meets in February. Louise Cross and her Executive Committee look forward to presenting an interesting and varied program for the year with guest speakers and evenings filled with fellowship and fun. The Executive meets to share their vision for Bishop Beattie Fellowship for the new year. Input from all members of the Executive is encouraged and welcomed. The Fellowship is not run by one person but rather the entire Executive Committee. This year the executive was not able to meet as the pandemic caused us all to stay safely in our homes.

*As the World remains on Pause so do we*

We were again unable to hold our dinner in June at Hernder Estate Winery or our December Christmas Party.

Normally the Fellowship sponsors receptions for all Bishop Beattie Members and immediate family members - This year found us grieving the loss of some members and their loved ones in our own private ways - respecting pandemic protocols.

Gift Baskets for the Bazaar were not prepared by our members this past year - donations were given to the Bazaar in lieu of baskets. The Fellowship was also unable to collect and donate to help our Community Partner Organization - Community Care - hopefully next year will see us continuing this tradition.

Bishop Beattie Fellowship's main objective will always be to develop an opportunity for fellowship for all women of the Parish; no test, no essay or permission are required to join. New members are always welcome.

Looking forward to the time when we can resume our meetings - Wishing all members a Healthy and Safe 2022.

Prepared and submitted by Louise Cross, President

## **Breakfast Program**

The Community Breakfast Program at St. George's Church seeks to serve breakfast every morning of the year to all comers, no questions asked. We achieved this goal in 2021, ending the year filled with amazement, giving thanks to God that we were able to meet the needs of so many guests. Throughout the fears and worries of the pandemic, we persevered in the knowledge that we are doing a good work "which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life". We depend on God's provision to sustain the Program through the responses of his people, anticipating how he uses the soft hearts and kind intentions of our volunteers and donors. Thank you to all who share our vision and responded with generous donations of money, food and service.

In 2021 we provided our guests with 33,200 bagged breakfasts, a record daily average of 91. We served a generous breakfast of orange juice, milk, porridge, cereal, toasted sandwiches of Cheeze Whiz or peanut butter and jam, and coffee or tea, opening our door promptly every morning at 7:30 am. Breakfast was prepared and served, food and supplies purchased and delivered, and the Program managed entirely by volunteers — no one received any financial remuneration for their service. All of our over 150 volunteers are fully vaccinated.

The Program is entirely funded by donations of money and food from numerous kind-hearted donors, including many St. George's parishioners who have continued to support the Program over the years. Our food purchases were supplemented by generous donations from individuals, local organizations and food drives organized by Paul Chapman in June and November. We ended the year with a well-stocked pantry. Since we neither sought nor received any money from any level of government, we must balance our income and expenditures. We achieved this in 2021 with donations of \$104,450, about one-third of which came from St. George's parishioners. Overall, the cost per breakfast served is approximately three dollars. We made a monthly donation of \$550 to St. George's towards the cost of operating the kitchen. We appreciate the facilities and support we receive from the church, including the help provided so cheerfully by Johan Braun.

We are so thankful for the faithful service of our volunteers. In particular, three parishioners have provided a continuing example of tireless service, commitment and encouragement that exemplifies the spirit of Christian service. Thank you Dianne Chisholm, Daryl Crosby and Ann Koppel.

We begin 2022 with confidence and optimism knowing that our loving heavenly Father will continue to show his provision and care; God has not given us a spirit of fear but rather 'a spirit of power and of love and of sound mind.'

Submitted by Duncan Moffett, Breakfast Program Chair

## **Brotherhood of Anglican Churchment (BAC)**

The BAC normally has a year of socializing, eating great meals and being educated and stimulated by guest speakers from both the Parish community and the Niagara Region. Since the onset of COVID-19 in February, 2020, we have not been able to meet to enjoy the fellowship of the meetings.

We have approximately 50 members and are happy to welcome any men of the Parish who would like to join us. When we are able to meet, meetings are held five times a year on the second Tuesday of January, February, April, October, and November. We normally average 25-30 members per meeting. The cost of a full roast beef meal with accompanying salads, roast carrots and potatoes, and including dessert has been \$25.00. Because of rising food costs, we may have to adjust the price.

We would like to thank the volunteers who help set up, serve during our dinners and clean up afterwards. Also we would like to thank those who kindly take time to bake pies for our dinners. Hopefully we will be able to start meeting once again by the fall of 2022. Our major fundraising activity is normally the annual Christmas poinsettia

plant sales program. Due to COVID we were not able to undertake this important project in 2021. We are normally able to donate about \$1,000 to St. George's. Perhaps we will be able to provide the poinsettia program in the fall of 2022. Stay tuned.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Bingham, Chair

### **Children/Youth Ministry**



#### ***Sunday School***

Well, it has been a whole year of virtual Sunday school programming. Definitely challenging but some great moments for sure even though we are virtual. I run a weekly Sunday school lesson/class on Zoom on Wednesdays at 4pm. I have been using the curriculum from Sparkhouse Digital and it is great in that we have a weekly video and a weekly Bible story which we watch and read together online. The children love the videos, and they get excited to see what the characters are up to. We discuss the lesson, relate it to our daily lives and share amongst the group. After we finish our lesson, we play virtual games, which have been a lot of fun. Although we are very excited to one day re-enter our Sunday school classroom, we are making the best of our technology and staying connected.

In addition, I have been working with CYFM (Children, Youth and Family Ministry), which consists of other Sunday school and Youth workers within our Diocese. We have worked together on many projects. We made Lent boxes to engage the children in our Lenten season from their homes. As well as Vacation Bible school boxes and Christmas Advent boxes. They turned out amazing and were loved by all who participated. We also run a Facebook page/group for the CYFM to run all together and we provide Sunday school lessons, information, photos, events, and much more. We have provided weekly programs such as Sunday School lessons, youth group meetings and much more. We even had a Zoom Halloween party which was so much fun! We will continue with these programs, and we look forward to in-person learning hopefully soon.

#### ***Youth Group***

Our youth have been so patient, but in all truth, we are ready to get back in the church and in the community. Our youth group has been meeting bi-weekly to chat, catch up, Bible lessons, games, trivia and much more. We had a book study that was interesting and enlightening. It is a lot of fun getting to hear their stories and watch them gather and connect even though in an online form. We are planning on more trivia challenges and continuing to meet. We have been talking about all of the fun activities we would like to do when we are able to meet in person again.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Schleich (Children and Youth Ministry)

### **Christmas Bazaar**



Once again, our Christmas Bazaar was forced to be a virtual bazaar because of Covid 19. Last year we wrote a letter to all of you taking you on a "virtual tour" of a Saturday spent at St. George's Christmas Bazaar, encouraging you to imagine the money you might spend in that day and donating. As a congregation you came through for your St. George's Church. As all of you know, the bazaar is the largest fund raiser of the year and very important to the church.

This year my co-convenor and daughter Devon and I, wanted to change our letter to you and give something back to show our appreciation for your incredible support the year before. Our letter this year focused on "Days Gone By" with our church bazaars, hoping we were able to share some interesting and fun facts related to this. Devon came up with the idea of making 5 tabletop Christmas arrangements and drawing 5 winners from the

contributors of this year's bazaar. We set December 17th as the draw cutoff and on the 18th drew the five names. We were very grateful to Jim Jenter who kept track and gave us the list of names only for the draw. The winners were: Sue Bartlett, Val Kuhns, Linda Telega, Sue Chapman, and Mary Crawford. Devon informed the winners and went to work on making the arrangements. We made our deliveries safely on the Tuesday and Wednesday before Christmas. Everyone seemed quite pleased. As well this year we were very grateful to our "Jam Lady" Helen Fisher who sold her well-known homemade jam to parishioners. All proceeds went to the bazaar.

It is our pleasure to announce that you raised \$9000.00 for our virtual bazaar this year and once again Devon and I thank you all from the bottom of our hearts.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Cunningham and Devon Culp

### **Coffee Hour—Virtual**

I have been running a coffee hour Zoom group bi-weekly after the Sunday service. We meet at 11:15 and get together to chat and have coffee. We have on average 10-15 people attend, but at times we have had over 20. We discuss the service, the music, but mainly we discuss whatever is on our mind that day. Covid has been a popular topic. It is nice to stay connected, to see each others' faces and smile and laugh. We will continue this as long as we are not able to have coffee hour in the church.

Submitted by Tanya Schleich

### **Columbarium**

There were no niches sold during 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Arnedt (chair, columbarium committee)

### **Community & Social Justice**



The community and Social Justice team at St. George's got off to a great start in early January 2021 with a small group attending the first meeting. We discussed how we might expand and support the leadership of the many social justice initiatives within the parish and within the greater community. With attendance rapidly growing, we pride ourselves on being a group that supports the ministries of all members.

During the Monday afternoon Zoom meetings, the team grew in its interests. Over the months, we discovered and were drawn to many other social justice initiatives. This inspirational group of leaders offer their time and talents in the hope that their diligence, activism and love of the Lord propels them forward as they work, speak and act in ways that support justice for those who find themselves carrying very heavy burdens.

We discussed and acted on topics such as giving support to youth, to food insecurity, to 2SLGBTQ2+ rights and advocacy training. Many walked for The Coldest Night of the Year. We pursued education for ourselves in matters of addiction, homelessness and Diocesan training for 2SLGBTQ+ issues as well.

One of the greatest educational experiences came when Archdeacon Val Kerr, Reverend Matt and I put our heads together and invited people to "Explore Indigenous Canada" with us for 8 weeks in response to the tragic discovery of the unmarked graves and previously uncounted deaths of innocent children who were in residential schools all across Canada.

Over the course of 2021 we welcomed multiple guest speakers who were gracious enough to share their wisdom, experience and support. We plan to welcome 3 new speakers during our 2022 meetings.

The team members support each other. We share truths of what we have done, of what we have left undone, and most importantly, we listen for what the Heavenly Father calls us to do.

Submitted by Anita Djurkovic, Chair, Community & Social Justice

### **Community Dinners**

For the second year in a row, the Community dinner offered monthly bagged take-out dinners on the 4th Wednesday of each month from April to October. With the lockdown in March 2020, we switched to bagged take-out dinners from the sit-down meals previously offered in the large gym. Who knew the same process would continue through 2021?

The Community Dinner Program started at Grace Anglican Church in May of 2014 and was discontinued after an attempt to offer it at St. George's. Dinners were restarted in May 2018 and to date we have served almost 2,400 meals. In 2021, we were able to provide a dinner including a main course, fresh salad, roll, juice, dessert, and water for just over \$2.50 per person. We offered a different main course each month and we tried some new recipes including beef stew and a deconstructed chicken parmesan casserole.

Through the efforts of a small but strong volunteer team we have been able to continue the dinners and maintain contact with our guests, but the sense of community was lost both by the guests who could no longer sit inside and enjoy their meal and by our volunteers who worked in managed shifts and did not have the same contact with each other. On nice summer nights, you could find people on Wednesday night sitting on the rocks in groups enjoying their dinners. And we had a group of guests that arrived early and socialized before the doors opened. They always asked the volunteers as they came in, what is on the menu tonight?

In previous years we had received the proceeds of the Spring Frolic event to help us fund our program. With COVID, that Event could not take place again in 2021. The generosity of our parishioners made up the difference as over \$1,200 in donations was contributed. We also received fresh fruit, bottled water and ingredients for our dinners from the caring community here at St George's. And the donation of time from all the volunteers, many of whom were there each and every month, is priceless. All these contributions meant that we were able to provide meals and still have a surplus of cash to start off next year.

We look forward, not sure how far, to returning to a sit-down format and would love for others to join this worthwhile community outreach initiative.

Respectfully submitted by Ann Koppel, Convener

### **Contemplative Hour**



A great many hours of prayer time creativity go into designing the programs for contemplative hour. This brings me a great deal of joy. Working on these programs enlightens my prayerful experience and my own time with God.

Over the past year I have been so honored to meet again for the second year via Zoom and YouTube as we explore new methods or truly ancient methods of contemplation. This entire vision was gifted to me by those who in past years have mentored and shown me how to pray. I fully believe that one to whom many gifts are given must in return give to others. I will continue to do my best to honour those who guided me in these practices.

This vestry report is offered as a thank you. I thank not only those who attended our holy hour on Zoom or did the practices by viewing YouTube videos, but I offer thanks to our entire church community. My heart is full as well as my eyes right now as I write this, never having been in the presence of such prayerful and inspirational people. It is every one of you who I have met over these past years who inspire me to bring you what God has



offered me.

Contemplative hour in 2021 started off with a beautiful Lenten series over 8 weeks . It was about waiting, listening, and praying. The chants, psalms and time together uplifted me, as I hope they did you, and are held forever in memory.

In the summer, I was inspired by a book I had purchased and that inspiration brought to light our "Name of God" series. It was a wonderful group of eight people, and we spent eight weeks on Thursday mornings from 11 until noon participating in the pre-recorded YouTube videos. Then for 30 minutes we spent time together in a circle online via Zoom contemplating the Name above all Names. We not only had this circle filled with people from Saint George's, but we were blessed to have guests from outside the church join in with us as well. And I am so grateful that whatever is offered is accepted by anyone who wishes to join.

I would like to thank Brad and Matt for their assistance with music, chanting and for their great leadership. The upcoming year of 2022 will be bring at least another couple of 8-week series and I look forward to once again being able to pray with you.

Submitted by Anita Djurkovic

### **Corporation /Parish Council**

The Corporation consisting of the Rector, two Wardens, and two Deputy Wardens is an executive body in the church which aids in the preparation of the budget, manages finances, deals with personnel issues, assists in the running of Sunday worship services, and provides support and assistance to the Rector, other clergy, and the Parish Council. This past year Canon Martha, Rob Welch, Dave Bingham, Liz Cunningham, and Lori Martin formed the Corporation. It has been another year of Zoom meetings instead of in-person and for most of the year we met every week.

We were all very pleased to witness via live stream the ordination of our Lay Pastoral Associate Matt Gillard as a Transitional Deacon this past Fall. Matt has been a valuable member of the Clergy team. This past year we were pleased to offer a one-year contract to Carrie Vanderform as STEP Program Lead Counsellor and shortly after were able to offer a contract also ending August 2022 to Katherine Kerley as STEP Youth Worker. This ministry of St. George's has seen many new ideas put into practice under the guidance of Carrie and Katherine.

Parish Council consists of the Rector, other clergy, wardens, treasurer, lay delegates to Synod, leaders of various groups in the parish and members at large. The council meets to study and approve the monthly financial statements prepared by our Treasurer Jim Jenter as well as bringing together the various activities of the church. All meetings once again were held via Zoom. Various items on the Parish Council agendas were:

- Last February, under the expert leadership of Tanya Schleich, a ZOOM Coffee Hour was put in place following the 10:00am Sunday Service starting at 11:15. These coffee hours have been very popular. Everyone attending enjoys seeing others and sharing news. I must say it is wonderful to experience the laughter and joy. Everyone is welcome. Please contact Tanya to receive the Zoom invitation.
- Ann Koppel and her team put together a takeout Maundy Thursday dinner after getting permission from the Diocese to do so. It was a very successful venture and very delicious!
- Discussing the Return to Worship and what this would entail
- In May Janet Marshall, Director of Congregational Development for the Diocese of Toronto, joined our Zoom Parish Council meeting. She asked the members of the council what we were envisioning for our church today and in the future. After listening to many thoughts and ideas, Janet prepared a set of questions to think about and in September the Parish Council as well as members of staff joined together

in a visioning exercise. After small group discussions, we met together as a whole to share our findings on these topics: Fellowship, Worship: in-person and livestream, Christian Formation and Social Justice and Outreach.

- A successful "Joyful Giving Campaign" combined with a "Building Fund Campaign"
- A successful "Virtual Bazaar"

Members of Corporation and Parish Council would like to thank Canon Martha, Reverend Scott and Reverend Matt Gillard for their leadership throughout this year. We thank our Treasurer Jim Jenter for his incredible work maintaining our finances and give our gratitude to Office Manager Linda Telega for all her hard work as well as other staff and the people of the Parish.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Cunningham, Deputy Rector's Warden

### **Counting Team**

The St. George's counting team was not able to fulfill its duties once again in 2021 because of COVID-19 protocols. On behalf of "The Team" I would like to once again thank Jim Jenter for going above and beyond the call of duty for tallying the givings of the faithful parishioners.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Steinman

PS: On a personal note, "I know I miss my team". Let's hope that 2022 (or parts thereof) will be different.

### **Dialling Disciples**

Dialling Disciples celebrated its Twenty-fifth Anniversary in 2021. It was started as a way to connect all parishioners of St. George's. Twenty-five members of our congregation have volunteered to faithfully call the people on their lists. Parishioners are called twice a year in usual times, with updates about the life of the church.

As in 2020, this year has left us continuing with the changes we have made, calling more frequently and not always with a church update. Isolation has been felt by many of our church family and the friendly chats have been most welcome. We all feel that desire and need to just reach out and keep in touch. Everyone needs a friendly voice. As our everyday situation improves, we will return to regular calling of two or three calls a year.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

### **Deacons**

During the past year because of Covid-19 and lingering health problems I have not been able to do much Deacon work. I am glad that I was able to serve as Deacon a few times this year during our televised church services. This year we had a small window, where I was able to go and do mid week services at Ina Grafton and Tufford Manor from the months of October through December. I am hopeful that the pandemic will end in 2022 and my health gets better so I can begin visiting and being more involved with the community.

Submitted by Lorenzo Cromwell

### **Dinner Club**

Sharpen your knives, set your table, assemble your favourite new recipes, the Dinner Club will be returning. Date unknown, but soon we hope.

Submitted by Chief Dishwasher, Grace-Ann Cambray

## **Ecumenical Honorary Assistant**



Greetings to our beloved St. George's staff, members, and friends. In my case at least, much of the year has been spent here at home, as we respond to Covid 19. I have been telling my church members at St. Paul's every Sunday by phone for about 90 weeks that it will be over soon! And, I hope at least that, by now, it may even be the truth. This will end! It is my deepest wish and prayer that each of you and those you love will have navigated these dark waters and will come out on the other side of the Pandemic in good health and spirits.

I want to make a sincere "shout out" to all the staff of St. George's for their devotion and dedication to their tasks. Their ministry has been outstanding. I have attended most every online meeting and continue to be amazed at their tenacity and courage. It is truly amazing that so many of our vital programs have been able to continue in one form or another, all this time.

I believe that 2022 will bring us together again. We will worship and celebrate together. And, we have learned more than we realize from this Pandemic; more than anything, that being with each other is a precious God given gift. When the time comes, we will treasure that gift. In the meantime, may God bless you abundantly, and may your quiet time always be good time.

Blessings and love to all from your ecumenical honourary assistant, Doreen McFarlane

## **Faith and Light Ministry**

Faith and Light Niagara is part of an ecumenical international organization (Faith and Light International) rooted in the Christian tradition and founded on the belief that every person, and in a special way the person with a



disability, has unique gifts to offer. There are about 1700 Faith and Light communities in over 70 countries. Groups are made up of individuals with an intellectual disability, their families, and friends. 'Faith and light' strives to build a bond among people based on common hopes, difficulties, the sharing of prayers and joyous times through monthly get-togethers.

Since March 2020 the look of our monthly get-togethers has changed dramatically. We no longer gather at St. George's to share a meal and spend time together, to share joys and concerns, pray, have fun, and laugh (a lot), sing, make music and listen to God's word. Like most of society, we have moved to using technology to support our monthly meetings. We gather together on Zoom and although there is no food, we are still able to laugh, have fun, share our joys and concerns (the suns and clouds of our lives – a modified version of the Jesuit discipline of the examen).

In July there was a 3-day Zoom get together with Faith and Light groups all over North America in celebration of the 50th anniversary of Faith and Light. There were various gatherings for and by individuals with an intellectual disability, their families, and friends. Sessions included sharing, praying, singing even crafts (with materials being mailed out all over North America prior to the gathering!) Each participant received a special t-shirt to wear, which increased our sense of community and oneness as we gathered to worship God and celebrate His loving presence in our lives.

We look forward to coming together in person again someday, hopefully soon, but until then will continue our monthly Zoom meetings. Anyone interested in learning more about our group can contact me at [steph8790@cogeco.ca](mailto:steph8790@cogeco.ca).

Submitted by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan, Faith and Light Niagara Coordinator

## **Golf Day**

In 2021 we were not able to hold our traditional golf day but we did host a virtual golf day. A total of 47 “golfers” registered for the event and many purchased raffle tickets as well. Almost \$1,800 was raised for the church and its programs through the event.

Please mark June 6th, 2022 on your calendar as this is the tentative date for our golf day at Beechwood Social and Golf. Hopefully, we will be able to return to our normal format and share a day of golf, a meal and fellowship.

Submitted by Vic Cicci and Paul Chapman, Co-Organizers St. George's Golf Day

## **Krafty Corners**

As with all groups in the church, Krafty Korner has not met since mid-March 2020 because of Covid-19. We still keep in touch through phone calls periodically. Krafty Korner members continue to make pneumonia vests, hats, etc. from home.

Effie and Sandra packed and delivered our knitted and crocheted items to Canadian Food for Children in Mississauga. An excerpt from a thank you letter follows -

“The Canadian Food for Children charity is grateful for all the clothing and blankets which will be of great use and valued by the poor. These items were delivered today (November 9, 2021) and we are happy to let you know that we have sent them to Peru.

On behalf of the poor, we thank you for this donation as we know that they will be very happy to receive them. They are always so excited and looking forward to receive the containers from Canadian Food for Children.”

As specified above, the donation was delivered to southern Peru for the indigenous people. When our items can be delivered to northern Canada, we will ship to the north.

Dish clothes were made and sold with proceeds going to the water project.

Hopefully, we will be back to church soon.

Respectfully submitted by Sandra Legarde

## **Labyrinth**

The labyrinth is a spiritual tool that can be used as a place for prayer and meditation. The themes of spiritual journey and following God's way are common in the scriptures. Our faith journey is seldom a linear process. The twists and turns of the labyrinth can represent our faith journey and facilitate our prayer and reflection.



St. George's is fortunate to have a beautiful canvas labyrinth modelled after one of the most famous and familiar Christian labyrinths which was created in 1215 A.D. in the cathedral of Chartres, just outside of Paris, France. In the past, from September to June this labyrinth was set up in the gym for monthly labyrinth walks, a time to journey both individually and as a group.

With the onset of Covid restrictions, these walks have been suspended. While we have been unable to meet as a group on a regular basis, some in the group have found creative ways to use a labyrinth as a tool for prayer.

The organization Veriditas ([www.veriditas.org](http://www.veriditas.org)) provides information and teaching on labyrinths as well as organized world-wide 'finger' labyrinth guided walks and meditations. You can download and print a paper labyrinth to use for personal prayer. I have included a copy following this report.



A small group of walkers came together in August to visit the outdoor labyrinth at the Public Library in Niagara-on-the-Lake which is available to the public for personal use. It is located behind the library at 10 Anderson Lane, Niagara-on-the-Lake.

We look forward to a time when we may again come together and resume our monthly Saturday morning labyrinth walks and we welcome anyone who is interested in learning more to join us.

"You were all called to travel on the same road and in the same direction, so stay together, both outwardly and inwardly. You have one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all. Everything you are and think and do is permeated with Oneness." (from Ephesians 6, The Message)

Submitted by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan

### **Lay Readers**

As I've said before, one of the great privileges at St. George's is to be a Lay Reader. In my view, a Lay Reader represents the entire congregation in participating in worship. This past year we were involved in both online and in-person offerings of worship.

Throughout the past year, a group of us has faithfully and regularly performed these responsibilities in varied settings. On behalf of us all, a sincere word of thanks is offered to Canon Martha, Reverend Scott, Reverend Matt and our interim priest Archdeacon Bruce McPetrie for their liturgical leadership. Also thanks are extended to Linda Telega for co-ordinating our 2021 assignments with scheduling, and worship and prayer resources.

Respectfully submitted by Rob Welch on behalf of all Lay Readers

### **Marathon Bridge**

After a year and a half of no bridge, this past September 2021 we regrouped. We have 10 teams enthusiastically playing again. We take turns playing in each other's homes. There is a \$15 annual fee per player. This year, we donated \$235 to the Breakfast Program.

We were saddened to learn of the sudden and untimely death of Angus Stubbart. Angus was a delightful person who love to play bridge. We are always looking for new players to come and join us. It's a fun afternoon and we get to know our church friends through different eyes.

Respectfully submitted, Gini Rigby

### **Music Ministry and Advent Cafe**

#### ***Choir***

The year 2021 at St. George's was another to be remembered as one that took endurance, persistence and vision. The pandemic was relentless. It kept us all on our toes in nearly every aspect of our lives, and because of that there was a great sense of unease and worry about the unknown.



Through all of that, St. George's remained a beacon of hope and of light to our greater community. We persisted through the storm (and continue to do so) as the work of our many ministries shone bright. No one came short of doing their part, either the staff or the parishioners, and for that we should be proud and thankful to our friends and fellow Christians.

As a prominent voice of the church, the music ministry was very present through this turbulent year. We for a time welcomed our parishioners back into the pews which was a blessing, and along with that a brief return to choir. I had the good fortune of relying on steady and gifted cantors throughout the year including Thomasin



Cooper, Lois Marsh-Duggan, Beth Cooper, Jon Dick, Michael Sinton, Bill Hodgins, Laura Revell-Grant, Kim Peagram and others, and as a team they were able to shape some thoughtful musical offerings during a substantially “locked-down” year, without congregating with more than a handful of musicians at a time. So when news of a full return-to-choir arose in the Fall, the excitement was mutual for everyone. Both new and returning choristers (who were both fully-vaccinated and felt comfortable/safe returning to the stalls) were able to meet at a distance to sing in the church again after nearly two years of not singing together, if at all. The pastoral leadership were going to once again be supported spiritually by a choir singing with reverence and joy and parishioners were going to be met again with one of the most exciting and beloved parts of church: choral music!

Highlights of the year's choral activities included the Faure Requiem Service of Remembrance, where members of the choir collaborated with organist Trevor Price and violinist Jaedon Daly, with me at the podium. The service was well-attended and viewed online, and was the first substantial choral endeavour since Covid had struck and since I was appointed Director of Music. The music provided a taste of the large-scale works that I am interested in offering with a full musical team. I look fondly to a future where we can include symphonic forces as well as the potential to collaborate with other choirs from the area and within the Diocese.

The year did in fact offer an opportunity to collaborate with Christs' Church Cathedral. Some of their choristers joined our choir for a wonderful Lessons and Carols service with guest organist and Director of Music of the Cathedral, Michael Bloss. The service was very well received and offered both the worship team and the parishioners a chance to enjoy some truly glorious choral music and Christmas carols, evoking fond memories of church and Christmastime to many, and giving us all a chance to sing a new song of hope.

### ***Advent Cafe***

This Wednesday evening service is a chance to connect with our community in a new and fresh light. This year, despite no in-person services, was brimming with joy. The musical team was steady and invested, and always brought their best to each service. Allison and Gerald of Infinitely More were filled with spirit and brought a pure love to worship. Brian Kerley was key in teaching a small team of keen volunteers to help with audio and visual support, which has allowed the Advent Cafe team more independence and freedom to explore and expand.

I began building on a repertoire of recurring songs through the year that folks at home were encouraged to sing along to each week he was leading. I invited my friend and roommate Maddie Webber to sing at multiple services, and look forward to more collaboration in the near future when the opportunities arise. The team continues to grow and so do the ideas and plans. The energy is alive, even if personal closeness is not on the table right now. Through the spirit we are united.

We continue to look toward a day when we can all be together again. A warm reunion that will be! One where the halls of St. George's yet again echo with the sounds of happy people sharing in happy community. Where hymns are openly and passionately sung out by a standing congregation, smiling and hugging, maskless, fearless, and filled with gratitude, having made it through. As a Music Ministry, we promise to make our goal in 2022 to carry the spirit of worship forward, and as the church we promise to carry the love of Jesus forward.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Barnham, Director of Music

### **New Journeys**

New Journeys is a program to welcome and “orient” newcomers to St. George's which was begun about three years ago. We would seek out and bring together people who were relatively new to the parish as well as those who had been here for a longer period of time. It was an attempt to make newcomers feel more integrated into the life of the parish, to think about where they would like to be involved and to make them feel more at home

and connected to others and to our common life.

Of course two years ago, with the coming of the pandemic, all that needed to change. We did one New Journey's program on line. Although it was appreciated by those who took part, it was certainly not as satisfactory as it was in person.

In 2021 therefore, given our inability to have any "in-person" worship or programs, and then for a brief period to have some very limited in-person gatherings following the best Health Department rules, we were unable to offer the program last year. However, the people who have been involved in the program are still here, waiting until time and circumstances are ripe to offer it again. We hope that in 2022 we may be able to reactive "New Journeys" once we are able to do so safely, whether it is in person or online.

So we are waiting in hope and faith that it will be soon. Until then, God bless us all, and keep us in health and supportive love.

Respectfully Submitted, Alan McLean

### **Prayer Chain**

This report will be very similar to last year's as not much has changed. However we wish to remind those who know of us that we are still functioning despite COVID restrictions and to let anyone who is not familiar with Prayer Chain know how we might be of service to you, your family and/or friends.

Prayer Chain currently consists of about eight members who firmly believe in the power of prayer. Studies have shown that people who know that they are being prayed for often have remarkable outcomes. We are inspired in our prayer life by missives like an Evening Prayer composed by St. Augustine: "Watch, oh Lord with those who wake, or watch or weep tonight and give your angels and saints charge over those who sleep".

Our group keeps all prayer requests strictly confidential. Information is only disseminated among the group. We try to individually pray daily and include the names of our petitioners in our prayers.

Those who would like our prayers may request help from us directly or through a person they have designated, such as a member of the clergy. They may give us as much or as little information about the person we are praying for. We do ask that petitioners keep in touch with us and let us know of any changes or when the situation has been resolved. To contact the Prayer Chain, please speak to Martha, Matt or other clergy or call any of the following members of the Prayer Chain:

Tom Owens 905-934-4239

Rev. Alan Mclean 905-562-6713

Judy Kingsley 905-646-7717

We normally meet in person once a month, but during COVID keep in contact by phone and e-mail. We would like to thank those members who were in the group but who had to leave us to look after themselves or their loved ones during 2021. We welcome any new members who believe in the power of prayer .

Call the persons above, if you are interested or have questions.

Be At Peace –Carol's Prayer:"Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life. Rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God , whose very own you are, will deliver you from them "

Respectfully Submitted by Tom Owens

## **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

The Prayer Shawl Ministry team currently includes Sharon Crane, Doris Fraser, Janice McKenzie, Janet Veale, Lois Marsh-Duggan and myself, Evangeline Horton. Over the past year, we have continued to create prayer shawls and have them blessed by St. George's Clergy before giving them to people in need of a loving, warm hug. Our ministry has given out 120 shawls since it began, most of them to members of St. George's but occasionally to others in need who we were made aware of.

Although we have not been able to knit and pray together in person, we were able to get together twice during the year between lockdowns: an afternoon spent at Sharon Crane's and a Christmas gathering at my home in December.

This year, we are looking for donations to help pay for yarn and would appreciate gifts in the form of gift cards to Michael's. Please no donations of yarn except "A Pound of Yarn" from Michael's as our requirements are quite specific.

Respectfully submitted by Evangeline Horton

## **Property Management Committee – A Year in Review**

We entered the year in lockdown, and the Return to In-Person Worship Taskforce continued to be prepared with ever evolving COVID protocols for our eventual return to in-person worship in September. We had a mere four months together at church until our next lockdown just before Christmas.

We thoughtfully avoided having to install new vinyl flooring in the Swan in lieu of refinishing the existing wood floors by Len Hume in May. The refinishing will extend the lifespan of this hardwood flooring, and the Breakfast Program volunteers commented that they were quite pleased with the results.

Roof repairs to the low-slope roof above the church office were completed by Dykstra Roofing in June alleviating all the water intrusion problems occurring over time.

In July, the uneven brick pavers of the east ramp were removed and replaced with poured concrete, by Jack Harper Construction. Also, the steeple lightning arrest system was inspected, and all was found to be in good working order.



Work was done to upgrade the sound and video equipment in the church. After testing out new equipment in late December, 2020, permanent installation of the new equipment was completed in early 2021. Two new cameras and the computer system to run them for livestreaming of services, and a new sound mixing console including new wireless microphones, as well as two microphones to capture the choir were set up and installed professionally by local business, Production Service Industries.

Surveys were sent out to kitchen stakeholders for future re-design considerations. The re-design is currently on hold until further notice. Also, the oven temp calibration was repaired for the stove in the main kitchen.

In September, windows and doors at the rear of church were painted by Neil & Celeste Allyn, Peter and Stella Schafrick. Also in the summer, Celeste Allyn did most of the weeding of the front garden beds, and clean-up by removing problematic juniper bushes as well as other gardening work like planting fall mums. Peter Schafrick in his role as Fire Safety Coordinator updated all defibrillators with new batteries and paddles. CPR training is to be organized when possible with COVID protocols.

In October, the church experienced extensive noise and vibrations from construction next door at the Folk Arts

Multicultural Building. This caused some collateral damage with broken ceiling light fixtures and considerable movement in the structure of the Bear's Den. A claim was opened with insurance as well as a claim with the City of St Catharines. The Fire Department inspected all Orders to Comply, and officially closed out the file. As a result, the Change of Use permit application was closed out as well.

In November, Peter Schafrick skillfully put fresh new coats of paint in the Asbil Lounge, ready for use when we meet in the space again. New carbon monoxide detectors were also installed throughout the lower level by Johan. This was to follow up on a recommendation made by our insurance company.

Respectfully submitted, Gina Schafrick, Property Management Committee Chair



## **Revive**



Revive is a program designed to develop spiritual leadership. People were invited to be part of a year long program with a cohort of others interested in developing their faith and growing in their relationship with God. The combination of peer support, an opportunity to learn from and with our clergy, and the material from the program itself all help to enrich people's experience of their faith.

Revive consists of three six-week modules, and we have offered it as part of our Super Tuesday program. Like all of our programming in 2021, Revive was run over Zoom. Using this technological medium, we were able to share conversations and the video lessons for Revive. Our learning included material on prayer, the Bible, and discerning God's call in our lives.

The Revive program for 2020-2021 was team-taught by Martha and Alan McLean. Starting in the fall, Matt assisted Martha with the 2021-2022 cohort. When Martha went on leave Matt continued to lead the Revive program. It has been very fulfilling to see people develop in different parts of their faith. If this sounds interesting to you, please contact either Martha or Matt to get involved in our next cohort of Revive.

Submitted by The Reverend Matt Gillard, Assistant Curate

## **Sidespeople**

Sidespeople, with the exception of a few, have been inactive this year due to Covid-19. For most of 2021 our church has been closed to In-Person Worship. When services began again, a few of our Sidespeople returned but in the roles of Ushers and/or Greeters. Thank you to all the people who have been able to help out this year in these roles, with the different services and with all the changes we have had to face and work through. It has been a very different and, in many aspects, difficult year.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Pettit

## **Souper Sunday**

There were no Souper Sundays held in 2021. Due to Public Health and Diocesan regulations these events were cancelled. 2022 ???

Submitted by Sue Chapman and Lydia Gallaway, Co-ordinators, Souper Sundays

## **STEP Centre**



For the STEP Centre, 2021 was a year filled with interesting challenges and opportunities for growth. We continued to fulfil our mandate to provide services to youth in our community, while adapting to their specific needs and expanding the Centre and programs within the restrictions imposed by the

pandemic.

Our response to the COVID-19 pandemic had to balance the continuing needs of our community members and clients while keeping everyone safe and protected as much as possible. It was our decision to remain open to in-person services throughout the pandemic as many other agencies closed or offered online services only. We were able to continue to offer warm clothes, space, and services for all youth who needed it. We served a small group of regular visitors, while also welcoming a number of folks who would visit sporadically for specific needs.

Carrie offered one-on-one counselling in person to a number of clients over the year. We have received counselling referrals from a variety of sources across the region and are eager to spread the word about the fact that we have no wait list and free counselling to anyone ages 16-24.

We welcomed Katherine Kerley as the STEP Youth Worker in June. Katherine brought a new energy for implementing programming and making STEP the best it can be. Katherine was thrilled to join the STEP team at St. George's, and has been a crucial part of keeping STEP moving forward this past year.

In the summer, we began a series of weekly programs to offer our clients including arts and crafts, music, life skills, and drop-in sessions. We quickly adapted to feedback from clients to make the programs more accessible and suited to client needs. We acquired a number of djembe drums thanks to a generous donation, as well as two full sets of knitting needles, also thanks to a generous donation from a St. George's parishioner. Clients did tie dye, made birdhouses, painted in the style of Tom Thompson, made friendship bracelets, and a number of clients have learned or relearned how to knit.

Summer also brought the opportunity for our clients to help create the STEP community garden. We planted cucumbers, tomatoes, beans, and a number of herbs. It was so fulfilling and exciting for our clients to watch their hard work and care literally bear fruit. We had more tomatoes than we knew what to do with! Our garden was accessible to anyone who wanted to gather from it, and a number of our community members regularly took tomatoes and cucumbers home.



Our Wellness Community Connections program launched this past year, offering weekly Zoom sessions to youth ages 12-15 on a variety of mental health and wellness topics. We had a small core group of participants and some excellent discussions on self care, living through the pandemic, emotions, and more.

In September, we were joined by Lisa Brown, a Bachelor of Social Work placement student from McMaster University. Lisa quickly became a valued member of the team, providing insight and suggestions with a fresh perspective, as well as contributing to program presentations and taking on a counselling client as she became more comfortable and confident. We are so thrilled to have had her with us and wish her the very best as she finishes her degree and graduates this year.

Also in September, we had our initial gathering of the STEP Advisory Board. Our board members come from a variety of backgrounds and have proven invaluable in helping promote STEP, connect us with community leaders and resources, and provide guidance around next steps. Thanks to the persistence of our board members, we had a visit from MPP Jennie Stevens in October, and a visit from Mayor Walter Sendzik in November. Both were eager to learn about the services offered at STEP and provide support to us in getting the word out to other agencies for referrals.

October brought an exciting partnership with Soaring Eagles, an alternative education school in the Niagara Catholic District School Board. We adapted our Wellness Community Connections programs to the specific needs of the students in this school to bring a Wellness Community Circle program to life. We have had two Zoom and one in-person gathering to talk about self care, healthy relationships and boundaries, and dealing with emotions.



With the help of Lisa, we applied in October for a Niagara Community Foundation mini grant to create new signage for STEP that would make it easier for folks to find us. We are so pleased to report that we were successful in our grant application and will be ordering and installing new signs in the coming month.

Our in-person services were temporarily disrupted for the month of December due to some concerns about the building. However, we were thrilled to learn that we were able to return to our space in January. We joined the RRPC Innovation Foundation in December to help with their first Youth Yuletide event. We provided 50 hygiene kits to folks in need across the city and greeted some folks in person who stopped by for a warm beverage or some winter apparel.

In summary, 2021 was a year of tremendous growth for STEP against a backdrop of restrictions and challenges due to the pandemic. We are eager for what lies ahead this coming year and hope to welcome more clients and grow even further to become a household name in the Niagara Region as a provider of services for youth.

Thank you to the congregation and community of St. George's for your continuing and generous support.

Submitted by Carrie Vanderform and Katherine Kerley

### **Stewardship**

Again in 2021, the Stewardship Committee's focus was on the Joyful Giving Campaign in the fall. With COVID-19 still limiting in-person contact, it was decided to once again rely on Canada Post to distribute the packages of information to each household. Our dedicated committee members met and stuffed the pledge forms and information into envelopes. The Communications Committee updated our online forms, and we had more parishioners take advantage of this alternative to mailing back their pledge forms. Many thanks to our marvelous team of Route Managers who called each household to let them know about the campaign and answer questions.

St. George's parishioners responded generously as they always do. With 30 fewer cards returned, the responses included pledges totalling \$262,452. These pledges increased \$10,910 from the prior year. There was also \$9,610 pledged to the Home for Hope Building Fund.

While we have been blessed to be able to continue to worship online throughout the pandemic, we all long for the day when we can come together to share communion and give thanks for this community of St. George's.

Submitted by Nora Jenter, Committee Co-Chair

### **Super Tuesday**

Super Tuesday continued to offer a time to gather and study, as a group, a series of books over the past year. Using Zoom technology we assembled to read, review and discuss topics put forward and highlighted in the books chosen.

This past year we looked at "The Dwelling of the Light, Praying with the Icons of Christ" by Rowan Williams; "Seven Spiritual Gifts of Waiting" by Holly Whitcomb; and passages from the gospel of Luke. These studies present as challenging. The value of coming together as a group to examine the content and ideas put forward is most apparent. The various perspectives, insights, questions and clarifications enrich the growth and understanding of each participant.

Super Tuesday offers a social connection. In the midst of pandemic restrictions, we were able to gather with friends of our church family. A time of learning and growth in the faith. Coming together, face to face, on our little Zoom squares was fulfilling, challenging, enjoyable, and even fun filled.

Submitted by Wendy Northcotte

## **Travel Club**

Alas, the lights are off on centre stage, the restaurant seating size is still limited and the attractions remain shuttered, BUT we will travel again. This, too, shall pass.

Yours in learning through travel, Grace-Ann Cambray

## **Announcement of Johan Braun Retirement and Succession**

### ***Johan Braun and Jordan McArthur – Who Are We?***



Johan needs no introduction to our congregation for he has been labouring amongst us for almost 11 years as our much loved and appreciated Caretaker here at St George's. The reason that I am writing about Johan now is that he intends to retire this year (2022) and it seemed appropriate to both say a special thank you and goodbye to him before introducing his successor, Jordan. As I write this in mid-January, Johan is training Jordan in the role which he will be taking over when Johan feels the time has come for him to leave.

Although, he assures me that he will always be available on speed-dial if Jordan still needs any help once he takes over!

I asked Johan what the best and worst times of his tenure with us had been. He said that the best are always when he is busy because he hates to be bored. And the worst? Well, particularly in this time of Covid when few washrooms are available close by for our Breakfast Program guests, it's cleaning up the "you know what" and it doesn't get left there by dogs! (I guess I shouldn't have asked!)

Johan will definitely not be retiring fully when he leaves us. He is too energetic for that and, besides, his wife Elizabeth is still working, so he intends to do renovations and odd jobs for clients. In fact he already has some jobs lined-up. His other firm intention is to spend more time with his large family (8 grandchildren in particular) and especially time at his favourite fishing and camping haunts with them.

The position of Caretaker is a new one for Jordan who has held a number of jobs over the years including that of Welder for 15 years. He was also a Green Party Candidate in Niagara Centre for the Provincial Legislature when he was 23. It was an experience for which he was not fully prepared and he says he's unlikely to repeat the exercise but he certainly learned a thing or two about politics! The job of Caretaker at St George's became a possibility for him because he had been working part-time for Adam who was heading up our Security service for a couple of years. Adam had asked Jordan to come and work for him at a time when Jordan was not working and he immediately liked the buildings, the programs and, most of all, the people. And the rest is history! He says he knows he is not going to make his fortune as our Caretaker but he really "loves the positivity of St George's which helps to keep him focussed."

A self-described history buff, Jordan finds the stone work and carpentry of our church beautiful and fascinating and he enjoys just being in the space which has a lovely feel to it. He knows that some of the work is heavy and back-breaking (witness the snow shoveling of the past couple of days), but nonetheless feels that the job will suit him well. He is a similar age to our current Rector and Associate so certainly has the energy for the tasks he will be undertaking.

Jordan hails from the Niagara Region and has lots of friends and family nearby including his son, now 18! He knows the city well and is happy to be working close to home. We spoke of some of the challenges he will face when dealing with some of our more unruly guests and he is very well aware of the kinds of things that can happen. Both he and Johan have a knack for approaching those reluctant to leave or to quieten down and he says he has already been grateful for Kerry's assistance with some of the challenging female resisters. He clearly sees his role here as being part of a team and is not afraid to ask for help where necessary.

So welcome, Jordan! Keep up the good work! And bon voyage to Johan but please come back and visit us from time to time. We have really appreciated having you around!

Submitted by the Venerable Marion Vincett

### **Water Project—Pimatiziwin Nipi – Annual Report 2021**

*“Anchored in God’s faithfulness, we have sought to respond to an URGENT need in Indigenous communities. Systemic brutalities built into Indigenous life have meant that basic needs, like access to clean water, are not being met. It is this reality which has motivated our response.”*

*– Archbishop Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada*

2021 marked the ten year anniversary of Pimatiziwin Nipi. We came together a decade ago, not because of an idea, but because of a question. “What can we do?” A network developed with Archbishop Mark MacDonald as our leader simply because people across Canada were aware of the systemic injustice and cruelty that sees so many Indigenous communities across Canada without access to clean water, and we believed that there must be something that we could do in response.

The uncovering of unmarked graves on the sites of former residential schools across Canada in 2021 has furthered the bringing to light of truths that Canadians have been reluctant to see about the cost of Canada’s treatment of Indigenous peoples and the need for truth and reconciliation going forward. This is not just part of Canada’s past, it is a truth at the centre of Canada’s present. We hear from Indigenous leaders that they are hearing of youth suicides and overdoses on a daily basis. The resources that they would normally bring in to help communities cope, including pastoral care, can’t be brought in because of COVID. “The reality is that we’re overcome by grief and difficulty,” says Archbishop Mark.

Since 2013, Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters) Group has partnered with the Northern Ontario community of Pikangikum, Ontario and with The Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund to install safe drinking water and indoor plumbing in the homes that need it the most.

In 2021, our work expanded to begin the Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership.

#### **Snapshot of Mishamikoweesh:**

- Bishop Lydia Mamakwa is the only paid clergy person in her diocese. She lives in Kingfisher Lake.
- Many clergy in the diocese don’t speak English. Many children went into hiding when the RCMP came to take children to residential schools.
- Unique area and a lot of needs with regards to water.
- 25 First Nations within its jurisdiction.
- Area on Northern Ontario that is roughly the border of Ontario and Manitoba, all the way to James Bay. Our focus would be in Northern Ontario because the area in time to time. Northern Manitoba has access to other sources of funding currently.
- Mishamikoweesh means Big Beaver House. There is a rock formation that looks like a Beaver House. William Winter, spiritual leader, had this vision many decades ago for this area to have their own bishop, diocese, seminary, and churches, run by Indigenous leadership. This seemed incredible at the time in the 1930s and 1940s. And so when this new diocese came about, it was named after William Winter’s vision.

Across Mishamikoweesh, water safety is a critical need. We see this as an important next chapter in extending the work we began a decade ago.



Mishamikoweesh leadership identify clean water as central to their vision of a good life for their people. In response, our work will:

- partner with PWRDF and Mishamikoweesh leadership to develop Indigenous-led, high impact water projects across these Northern communities.
- each project will be oriented toward the goal of Indigenous communities being able to access fresh and safe drinking water, prioritizing their connection to the abundance of the land.

St. George's contributed over \$3,600 to the Water Project this past December as people chose to give the gift of Water to their loved ones as Christmas gifts. Thank you for your generosity and care, St. George's! We await tallies from PWRDF (which tend to come in from the early months of the new year) regarding the money this new Partnership has been able to raise in our Advent 2021 fundraising campaign. This work with Mishamikoweesh is just beginning, and we look forward with hope and faith for how we can build this partnership for many years to come and in ways that will bring concrete and lasting change.

Submitted by Rev. Martha Tatarnic

## **Visitors**

The visitors group began where we left off in 2020, with no hospital or in-home visits. Phone calls and notes were our main source of contact. As the year progressed, we were once again permitted to resume hospital visits. This was welcomed by both our parishioners and the visiting team. Unfortunately, in-home visits were still restricted.

The lack of in-home visiting was difficult for the visitors as well as the people we visit because visiting for us is not just a privilege but also a great source of pleasure and joy. The people we visit also want, need and appreciate in-person visits. We were confined to phone calls, although wonderful not the same as the one-on-one visit we were used to. Visits are made monthly and, in some cases, more often now by telephone. This has been another challenging year for everyone but please feel reassured that the Visitors group is still here to talk with you and visit by phone.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

**Rector's Statistical Report 2021 for St. George's**

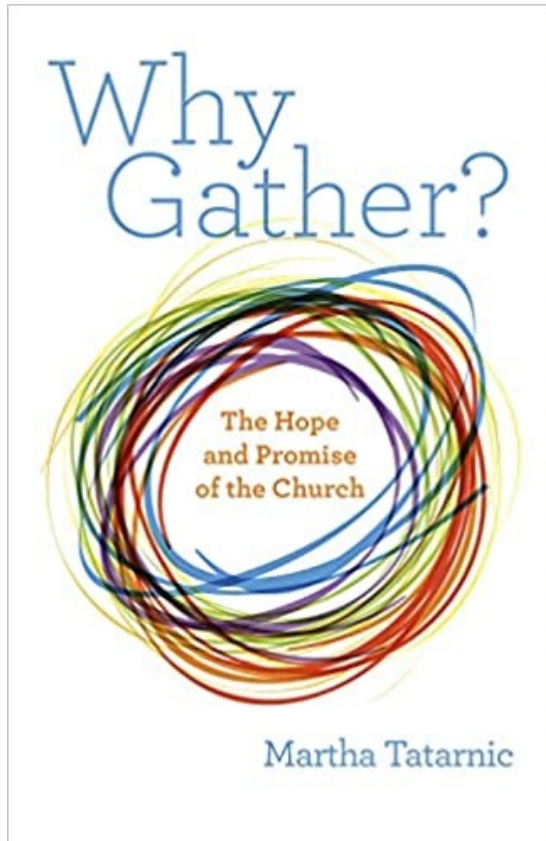
	2020		2021	
Households on Parish List	395		338	
Number of Identifiable Givers	370		340	
Baptisms	4		13	
Confirmations	0		0	
Marriages	1		3	
Funerals by St. George's Clergy	25		31	
	In person + Live online	Post Online	In person + Live online	Post Online
Average Sunday Attendance	71.2	104.6	114.9	133.6
Average Weekly Attendance	15.2	53.4	19.9	89.5
Average Total Weekly Attendance	86.4	158	134.9	223.1
<b><u>Christmas Attendance</u></b>				
Christmas Eve - December 24	72	276	67	137
Christmas Day – December 25	28	229	35	114
			50	273
<b><u>Easter Attendance</u></b>				
(Maundy Thursday – April 1, 2021)	70	204	51	169
(Good Friday – April 2, 2021)	182	456	92	282
(Easter Vigil – April 3, 2021)			57	169
(Easter Sunday – April 4, 2021)	145	476	171	371

The averages from this year look different than those from last year. This is because YouTube offers different metrics to measure viewership, and this year we used different metrics than last year.



# Why Gather?: The Hope and Promise of the Church

Paperback Release– June 14 2022



**As the COVID pandemic began to shut down the world, even within the church we found our busy hamster-wheel lives grind to a halt.**

In the midst of a global crisis, the author found herself in a crisis of vocation, wondering whether or not there might be something else she could do with her life, other than serve the church.

The church as a whole began asking questions of a similar and urgent nature.

Why be together in Jesus' name? Does any of what we do as the church in gathering, in proclaiming, in serving, in being together, in not being together, does any of it matter?

**Stay tuned for more information on Martha's book launch in the Spring!**

## CONGRATULATIONS REVEREND MARTHA!



***IN MEMORY OF***  
***Those in our community who have died this past year:***

*Beverley Williamson*  
*Marilyn Farner*  
*Richard Mawhood*  
*Gloria Gustyn*  
*Patricia Marsh*  
*Bill Ryman*  
*Keith Dixon*  
*Shirley Smith*  
*Roberta Ford*  
*Jean Bullivant*  
*John Walters*  
*Bill McCordick*  
*Harold Holtam*  
*Maida Coull*  
*Robert Enns*  
*Laurie Shugan*  
*Mary Chiborak*  
*Sheila White*  
*Darren Clark*  
*Blake Lethby*  
*Betty Fulton*  
*Sergeant Clifford Priest*  
*Wayne White*  
*Shirley Fredette*  
*Betty Hazley*  
*Mark McLaughlin*  
*Barbara Dawson*  
*Frank Horne*  
*Ron Vermolen*  
*Angus Stubbart*

***Rest in Peace But Not Forgotten***



**Prayer in a Time of Pandemic:**

*God of compassion,  
have mercy upon our world  
in these continuing difficult times:  
we bring before you those who are ill  
and for all who tend to their needs;  
we pray for those who are now in isolation;  
may they know your comfort and company  
and that all of us around them may truly love our neighbours  
by prayer and in works of care and kindness;  
we pray for all health care workers, doctors, nurses and support staff  
as they answer their vocation under increasing pressure;  
and we pray for all of us who are tired and fatigued,  
that your still small voice may be heard;  
we ask this in the power of the Holy Spirit,  
through the One who stretched out his hands to bless and to heal,  
even Jesus Christ our Lord.*

***Amen***







**You will be missed Reverend Scott.**

**St. George's wishes you all the best in  
your new journey in God's path!**