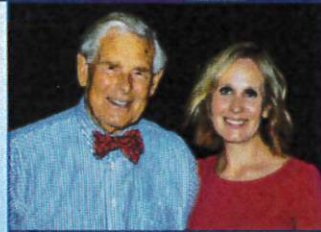




St. George's

Vestry Reports





St. George's



IN MEMORY OF

Those in our community who have died this past year: 2022

ANGUS STUBBERT
RON VERMOLEN
MARY BELFORD
DOROTHY MCCORDICK
PAULINE SMITH
WILLIAM "BILL" VERKAIK
BARBARA MAY GRAY
MARY ELIZABETH WILLIAMS
SHIRLEY MARGUERITE NEELIN
JOANNE FEASBY
WESLEY GRAY
EVELYN THOMPSON
ALAN VEALE
GALDYS GOSSON
MERILYN BALL

MONA SCHULZ
RON & JOANE MACKENZIE
DOUGLAS SMITH
MURIEL WORTH
EDGAR STYCH
JOHN BULLIVANT
MASTER WARRANT OFFICER DAVID GEARY
GEORGE HOSTICK
REV. CANON ELAINE HOOKER
BILL HULL
JEAN SCOTT
JEFFREY DENNIS
GLENN SAWYERS
CARL CHRISTENSEN
JOHN VAN EVERY

Rest in Peace But Not Forgotten





GIVING TO ST. GEORGE'S

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Tax Receipts are issued for your financial gift.



THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

Your Gift Today:

Makes prayer, compassionate service and community possible in the heart of our city

Supports feeding programs for the most vulnerable

Strengthens the history and tradition that has been entrusted to us

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

Sunday February 12, 2023

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 (2022)
5. Strengths and Priorities of St. Georges:

In a Parish Visioning Day in October 2022, strengths and priorities emerged in the prayerful discussions of some of our church's leaders. Now at our Annual General Meeting, Vestry 2023, we share these discernments with you, asking for your voice to be added to our next steps forward.

Strengths:

Across people both newer to our parish, as well as long-time members, different ages and stages, the strengths of St. George's were consistently named as being

Community – Whether it is living in an age of social media or having weathered these COVID years, the need and value of authentic community is more than ever obvious. We crave connection and belonging. We value the different perspectives that come from being part of a church where we don't belong because we all agree on everything, but because we know God loves us. We look for the patterns of prayer and worship to centre our lives in God's love. We value the friendship and fun of fellowship events. We seek to support one another in life's losses and difficulties.

Outreach – We don't want a faith that is just for ourselves. We want faith in action: being able to care for and serve others. At the heart of St. George's life is our 365-Days-of-the-Year Breakfast Program. Out of this feeding ministry, we have been instrumental in birthing the STEP Centre to offer support to young people in our community, as well as offering the Community Dinner, housing Out of the Cold meals, partnering with Indigenous Communities around safe water, and supporting many other initiatives that are founded in our belief that we can be part of how God's love is multiplied in the world.

Ministry to Families, Youth & Children – prior to the pandemic, our youth and family ministries were healthy and hopeful. We value our intergenerational community, as well as our calling to pass our faith to the next generations, just as faithful generations before us passed it along to us.

Music – Music is a vital and powerful form of prayer. We are grateful for the strength, dedication and diversity of our music program. Some of the most hopeful moments coming out of the pandemic have been services (Requiem, Lessons & Carols) where music was centred in our community's worship.

Priorities:

While we were able to maintain online worship and Christian learning opportunities throughout the pandemic, we seek to build back our patterns of in-person gathering, while also connecting meaningfully with our online community.

Our Outreach ministries continued throughout Covid, with our Breakfast Program not missing even one day of service. We look to strengthen both our church's support of these important ministries, as well as to continue the legacy of St. George's as a force for goodness and care in the heart of our city.

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

Sunday February 12, 2023

1. Be it resolved that Marilyn Pettit be appointed Vestry Clerk for this meeting.
2. Be it resolved that the Vestry of St. George's accepts the proposed Budget for 2023 as presented at Parish Council on January 23rd, 2023 to Vestry for approval and specifically the following draws for Trust Fund Income (the church's investments):
 - a. Rectory Fund - \$21,000 Housing Allowance for Clergy
 - b. Rectory Lands Fund - \$750 Housing Allowance for Clergy
 - c. Grace Fund - \$2,500 Support for worship
 - d. Endowment Fund \$197,000 Part 1 \$150,000 to be used to pay part of the cost of replacing 8 furnaces and 5 air conditioners and the roof over the Asbil Lounge. Part 2, \$47,000 shall be used for the overall Ministry (Note the total estimated cost of the two projects including a contingency is \$197,000. The remaining \$47,000 of the cost of the two projects will be funded from the Building Fund which is held by the Church independent of other Trust Funds).
 - e. Foundation Fund \$175,775 This draw includes a regular draw of \$97,775 and a special draw of 75,000. This draw has been specifically approved by the Diocesan Treasurer. The special draw is funded from the past accumulated growth which as of December 31st, 2022 was over \$540,000. No capital from the Fund is being used. The money will be used for purposes identified in the Fund including the support of the music program, Christian education, for the life and worship within the St. Georges parish and for any general purpose approved at Vestry as part of the budget.
3. That Paul Chapman be elected Peoples' Warden and Janet Veale 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.
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 2023;

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:

2. Our ministry with youth, children and families has been the most impacted by Covid. We prioritize providing those leading this ministry with broad support and prayerful discernment for how we rebuild and grow going forward.

We see ample opportunity to connect with new people, share our faith more widely and equip our own lives of prayer through our Music Ministry—both in-person and online.

Questions:

1. **What did you miss most during the COVID years of lockdowns and exclusively-online church?**
2. **What is your response to the Values and Priorities identified from our Parish Visioning Day? Are there other values or priorities that you would add to these?**

6. Financial Statements for the year 2022

7. Parish Budget for the year 2023

A) Presentation

B) Discussion and adoption: Resolution #2

8. Election of Peoples' Warden and Deputy Peoples' Warden: Resolution #3

9. Announcement of Appointments for 2023, Rector's Warden, Deputy Rector's Warden and New Parish Council Members

10. Organizations and Committee Reports

11. Adoption of all Reports: Resolution #4

12. Gratitude: Resolution #5

1) Gratitude to the Congregation

13. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2023: Resolution #6

14. Resolution #7

15. Resolution #8

16. Adjournment

- That the agreement may be terminated by St George's upon 60 (sixty) days notice;
 - That the leasee 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.
8. 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.

83 Church Street

St. Catharines, Ontario L2R 3C7

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Matt Gillard: mgillard@stgeorgesanglican.ca

Mike Degan: mdegan@stgeorgesanglican.ca

Website: <http://stgeorgesanglican.ca>

Facebook: "St. George's Anglican Church"

Rector: The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Curate: The Reverend Matthew Gillard

Lay Pastoral Associate: Mike Degan

Sub-Deacon: Mary Jo Schmidt

Bishop in Residence: The Right Reverend Walter Asbil

Honorary Assistant: The Venerable Marion Vincett

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant: The Reverend Dr. Doreen McFarlane

Office Manager: Linda Telega

Treasurer: Jim Jenter

Director of Music: Brad Barnham

Children's and Youth Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Nursery Care Provider: Andrea Bergie

Caretaker: Jordan McArthur

Rector's Warden: Lori Martin

People's Warden: Liz Cunningham

Deputy Rector's Warden: Peter Schafrick

Deputy People's Warden: Paul Chapman

Scan ME with a QR code reader for a Virtual Tour of St. George's



Proposed Parish Council for 2023

Voting Members:

Rector – The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Rector's Warden – 1 year – Peter Schafrick

Past Rector's Warden – 1 year - Lori Martin (February 11th, 2024)

People's Warden - 1 year – Paul Chapman

Past People's Warden 1 year – Liz Cunningham (February 11th, 2024)

Deputy Rector's Warden – 1 year – Cheryl Bergie

Deputy People's Warden - 1 year—Janet Veale

Synod Delegates (3) – 2nd year of 2 year term – Neil Culp, Lori Martin, 3rd Synod TBA at Vestry

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 – Valear Howsam

Breakfast Program Representative – Ann Koppel

Staff Members (Non-Voting)

Treasurer – Jim Jenter

Office Manager – Linda Telega

Curate: The Reverend Matthew Gillard

Lay Pastoral Associate: Mike Degan

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant – Doreen McFarlane



Dear Friends,

On a Saturday in October of 2022, a group of leaders representing ministries from across our parish gathered for a day of prayer, discernment, sharing and listening. The Reverend Rob Duncan, prior member of St. George's and now priest at Holy Trinity, Chippawa, led our day with great wisdom and care. Mike Degan, our new Lay Pastoral Associate, compiled the notes and distilled the day's insights.

In thinking about this day and what we gleaned from it, the first thing I need to note is that there was grief. The last few years have been hard for everyone. Millions of lives have been lost to COVID, and the losses incurred in our mental and emotional health are incalculable and really just beginning to be more fully evident. Here at St. George's, we have seen so many of the patterns of worship and friendship that we value most collapse and change. We have lost so many faithful and beloved members, and many of them—because of COVID—we were unable to mourn properly or together. Rebuilding has been slow. There are new broader realities of online living and the institution of the church's position in the world that are becoming evident.

At the same time, we were able to articulate clearly the things that we value most about our life at St. George's, to see how those values and priorities bless not only us, but bless and resonate with those outside of our community too. We understand that the church can still play a vital and life-giving role in our city and our world. There are things about our parish life that we treasure more deeply because of the years of COVID exile. And there are signs of return, as well as possibilities emerging for St. George's that bring us hope and joy.

In my report this year, I want to focus on three areas: 2022 Milestones, St. George's Strengths & St. George's Priorities. The strengths and priorities emerge from our Visioning Day and are reflected in the milestones of the year. We look forward to Vestry 2023 being a time to hear more broadly from our parish about how you feel about the offerings of our church, what needs to be prioritized going forward, and how we each see ourselves in participating in the rebuilding and strengthening of our community.

2022 Milestones

1. **Ash Wednesday Return to In-person Worship** – after 2 years of being mostly unable to gather for in-person worship, we were grateful to open our doors again.
2. **Farewell to Reverend Scott, Welcome to Mike Degan** – We were so blessed to have Reverend Scott with us as Associate Priest for the past seven years. We gave thanks for Scott's ministry and wished him and the McLeod family well in their next chapter as Scott was appointed chaplain at Renison College in Waterloo. In April, we welcomed Mike Degan and his family to St. George's. Mike hopes to be ordained in our church this year and is serving currently as Lay Pastoral Associate. Along with Reverend Matt, our Assistant Curate, we are living into our calling to be a teaching parish where new leaders can be raised up, equipped, encouraged and strengthened for ministry in our church.
3. **Return to In-Person Dining at Breakfast Program** – without missing a beat, our Breakfast Program pivoted to a take-out model when COVID necessitated doing so. With incredible thought and planning from the Operations Team, we were once again able to provide the other offerings so vital to Breakfast: a safe and warm place to gather, along with the fellowship and friendship of community.
4. **Fun & Fellowship Comes Back** – we hosted our Neighbourhood BBQ again this fall after two years' hiatus. The Bishop Beattie Women's Group began gathering again too, with astonishing numbers at each gathering. Krafty Korners came back to their Tuesday weekly routine and were able to send over a thousand pneumonia vests to Peru. The Christmas Bazaar was like a journey back in time with the whole place buzzing with the joy of offering such a beautiful variety of gifts for this enormous fundraising effort. And the Brotherhood of Anglican Men just resumed their in-person gatherings this January. Each and every return to in-person gatherings brought with it enormous gratitude for the gift of being together again.
5. **STEP is Independent** – in the fall, the STEP Youth Resource Centre-- which opened its doors in 2019 to respond to the needs we were seeing in young people across our city-- moved out of St. George's, now independently incorporated and doing amazing work in offering free counselling to young people in St.

Catharines. We keep them in prayer and give thanks for their incredible work.

6. **Reverend Matt is Priested**- September 25th at our Cathedral in Hamilton, along with three others, including Rob Duncan, friend and former member of St. George's.
7. **Choir Flourishes** – we welcomed new members to our choir and were finally able to hold rehearsal and make plans consistently. Two of our most beautiful services of 2022 were the Remembrance Sunday Requiem and the Lessons & Carols in December.
8. **New Prayer & Worship Opportunities**- we saw the return of summer Advent Café, then in-person Advent Café in the fall with a sermon series on Promised Land & Return with approximately 14 different preachers from across our congregation helping us to connect our lives and our COVID journey to this theme of Scripture. We also began opening our doors on a daily basis for Morning Prayer in our sanctuary. We developed a schedule whereby we can have clergy presence and pastoral support in the Breakfast Program on Sundays as part of how we see the whole of our Sunday church gathering.
9. **Christmas Together** – after two heartbreaking Christmases apart, we offered the full complement of in-person Christmas services, and it was glorious!

St. George's Strengths:

Across people both newer to our parish, as well as long-time members, different ages and stages, the strengths of St. George's were consistently named as being:

1. **Community** – Whether it is living in an age of social media or having weathered these COVID years, the need and value of authentic community is more than ever obvious. We crave connection and belonging. We value the different perspectives that come from being part of a church where we don't belong because we all agree on everything, but because we know God loves us. We look for the patterns of prayer and worship to centre our lives in God's love. We value the friendship and fun of fellowship events. We seek to support one another in life's losses and difficulties.
2. **Outreach** – We don't want a faith that is just for ourselves. We want faith in action: being able to care for and serve others. At the heart of St. George's life is our 365-Days-of-the-Year Breakfast Program. Out of this feeding ministry, we have been instrumental in birthing the STEP Centre to offer support to young people in our community, as well as offering the Community Dinner, housing Out of the Cold meals, partnering with Indigenous Communities around safe water, and supporting many other initiatives that are founded in our belief that we can be part of how God's love is multiplied in the world.
3. **Ministry to Families, Youth & Children** – prior to the pandemic, our youth and family ministries were healthy and hopeful. We value our intergenerational community, as well as our calling to pass our faith to the next generations, just as faithful generations before us passed it along to us.
4. **Music** – Music is a vital and powerful form of prayer. We are grateful for the strength, dedication and diversity of our music program. Some of the most hopeful moments coming out of the pandemic have been services (Requiem, Lessons & Carols) where music was centred in our community's worship.

St. George's Priorities:

While we were able to maintain online worship and Christian learning opportunities throughout the pandemic, we seek to build back our patterns of in-person gathering, while also connecting meaningfully with our online community. I would like to see us eat more cake together again!

Our Outreach ministries continued throughout Covid, with our Breakfast Program not missing even one day of service. We look to strengthen both our church's support of these important ministries, as well as to continue the legacy of St. George's as a force for goodness and care in the heart of our city.

Our ministry with youth, children and families has been the most impacted by Covid. We prioritize providing those leading this ministry with broad support and prayerful discernment for how we rebuild and grow going forward.

We see ample opportunity to connect with new people, share our faith more widely and equip our own lives of prayer through our Music Ministry—both in-person and online.

What We Need YOU to Do to Prepare for Vestry

The challenges before us are real, but so is the hope. There are financial implications to the turmoil of COVID, and this past year has not been a good one financially. That being said, we are dealing with the financial pictures honestly and prudently and we have excellent leadership helping us navigate these questions and needs as faithfully and wisely as possible. While Vestry will give us a chance to present our multi-pronged approach to financial health and congregational vitality, we also hope it will be a time when we can hear from you, particularly in terms of how you resonate with the strengths and priorities discerned in our Parish Visioning Day this past October.

In preparing for Vestry, February 12th, please read the reports in this package, as well as looking at the **2023 Budget**. *And please give some prayerful thought to these questions:*

1. **What did you miss most during the COVID years of lockdowns and exclusively-online church?**
2. **What is your response to the Values and Priorities identified from our Parish Visioning Day? Are there other values or priorities that you would add to these?**

Yours in Christ's love, Reverend Martha

Rector's Statistical Report 2022 for St. George's

	2021		2022	
Households on Parish List	338		320	
Number of Identifiable Givers	340		317	
Baptisms	13		5	
Confirmations	0		0	
Marriages	3		2	
Funerals by St. George' Clergy	31		27	
	In Person + Live Online	Post Online	In Person + Live Online	Post Online
Average Sunday Attendance	114.9	133.6	118.5	142.9
Average Weekly Attendance	19.9	89.5	94.1	69.9
Average Total Attendance	134.9	223.1	212	212.9
<u>Christmas Attendance</u>				
Christmas Eve – December 24	67	137	400	244
Christmas Day – December 25	35	114	69	76
	50	273		
<u>Easter Attendance</u>				
(Maundy Thursday – April 14, 2022)	51	169	66	96
(Good Friday - April 15, 2022)	92	282	114	149
(Easter Vigil - April 16, 2022)	57	169	135	56
	171	371	293	219



Curate's Report

This past year I was often reminded of the passage from John 21:18. "When you were young, you were able to do as you liked; you dressed yourself and went wherever you wanted to go. But when you are old you will stretch out your hands, and others will dress you and take you where you don't want to go. Perhaps a better phrase would be "where you expect to go". I never went any where I didn't want to go this past year, but it felt like the sort of year where I simply stretched out my hand and was often led to many unexpected places, where I felt like a "Jack of All trades" and "Master of none".

When Scott left last year, there were a number of his duties around technology and communications that I took over. Communication and social media have been an integral part of ministry within the community of St. George's. My responsibilities with this have involved, scheduling videos on YouTube for our live streaming, using Mailchimp to send out regular emails with links to our live streaming, and posts about special services to social media.

The Property Committee, is another parish organization that I am lucky to have been working with. One late afternoon, as the work day was coming to an end, I went into the church to reflect on the day and to pray. May I recommend being very careful about concluding one's prayers with the phrase "show me how I might serve the church better". At that exact moment, God answered me with the sound of dripping from one of the Air conditioners which meant that my day wasn't quite done. Luckily we have an incredible team of people on the property management committee and after a series of phone calls we were able to get the air conditioner serviced. It has been a joy to work with this team, from joining them on meetings, to checking different parts of the building, to welcoming contractors.

I believe that music is a very important ministry within this Church community and it has been fulfilling to support it through both the Choir and Advent Café. Joining the choir for rehearsals, and worship services has been a Great Joy. Assisting with Advent Café, has been an other opportunity to contribute to the Music program by offering various logistical and technical support. Thank you to Brad and all the people who work to make the musical team a prayerful community of beauty and fellowship.

There were a variety of other aspects to ministry this past year. Revive was a Christian Education program that I was involved with this past year that involved helping participants to walk through a variety of spiritual exercises. It was very fulfilling to see what various participants identified with, and to watch all of them develop in their spiritual lives. I continued to offer support within the STEP centre until it moved to a new location at the end of August. I organized a preaching series for Advent Café, this autumn, and the theme for this series was the idea of Promised Land and Return. I also arranged to have a security consultant do a training session with our Parish leadership on communication strategies and de-escalation techniques.

This autumn I had the privilege to be called to the Priesthood, and was ordained by Bishop Susan Bell on September 25. It was wonderful to see so many people from St. George's at the ordination, and to feel so much support. Since that Ordination, my responsibilities for Sunday worship have increased to include presiding at the Eucharist and other responsibilities. One of the joys I experienced while celebrating my first Eucharist was having my family's dogs present, as my parents brought them here to attend the Feast of St. Francis and the blessing of the Animals.

Blessing to all, and thank you for helping to make it a great year,

Reverend Matt Gillard

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.

We want to thank Dave Bingham for his many years of service on our committee and wish him well. It is with sad regrets that Wes Gray is not with us. His contributions and help will be greatly missed.

This has been a very financially challenging year as we are in transition. We are facing a substantial deficit for the year 2022. Our long-term investments have suffered as well and are now starting to recover.

We have been following up on our research into a full audit of the church's financial records but as of yet have not found an Auditor who does Church Audits and able to take on our Church. Currently, we are looking for someone to do a financial review instead.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members, Dave Bingham, Chuck Burke, Corwin Cambray, Jim Jenter, Sandra Legarde, Paul Chapman and Canon Martha for their support, time and valuable input. Our committee is always looking for volunteers. Please let Canon Martha, Paul Chapman or Marilyn Pettit know if you have any interest.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a ministry of service to St George's Church.

It was in 2022 when finally many Covid 19 restrictions were being removed. It was like a rebirth for the Altar Guild , we could now meet as a group, able to share our fellowship as well as sharing our duties in preparing the Altar for Communion and memorial flower arrangements.

The Altar Guild is a group of 21 faithful members and four Associate members loving their commitment and always excited to welcome new members. The Altar Guild continues to launder and iron the Altar worship linens, polish the brass and silver, dust the sanctuary and clean up following the services.

The Altar hangings in memory of Reverend Canon Rob Fead have been several years in the making due to Covid restrictions. We are happy to announce that the Altar hangings will be dedicated in the near future.

Members of the Altar Guild met and enjoyed their annual spring luncheon at the St. Catharines Golf and Country Club along with members of St. George's clergy.

Thank you to Mary Crawford and the festival flower members, St. George's was again graced with the beauty of many flowers for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas festivals , although on a much smaller scale than previous festivals.

It was in the spring that the Altar Guild was able to have the memorial garden bench dedicated in memory of longtime member of St. George's, Dorothy Dundas.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the clergy for their understanding and guidance of the Altar Guild. We thank Linda Telega and Jordan McArthur for always being available to assist the members of the Guild.

We invite and welcome any ladies in St. George's to join the Altar Guild ministry.

Respectively submitted, Sharon Crane, President

Bishop Beattie Fellowship

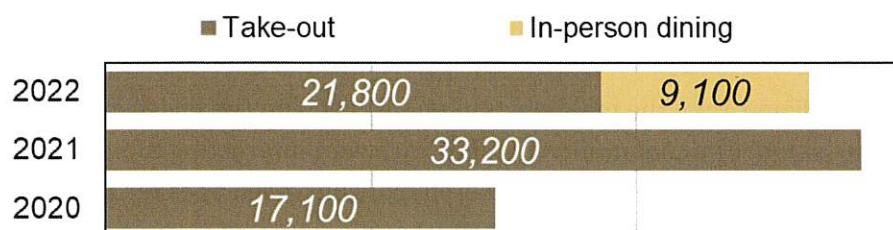
With great joy, the Fellowship began meeting again in September with an average of 30 members per meeting. We have thoroughly enjoyed seeing our friends in person again, as well as having Lay Pastoral Associate Mike Degan come to share his story with us. We spent an evening making gift baskets for the bazaar. We celebrated Holy Communion together in December with Martha presiding, followed by a lovely Christmas tea and carol sing. We are looking forward to more gatherings and activities in 2023.

Respectfully submitted, Tina Valenteyn, president.

Breakfast Program

Breakfast served with kindness every morning to all comers, no questions asked. We achieved this goal in 2022. Thank you to all who share our vision and responded with generous donations of money, food and service.

In 2022, from January through August we provided our guests with 21,800 bagged breakfasts — a daily average of 90. Between September and December, when we returned to in-person breakfast in the Swan dining room, we



served an average of 77 guests daily (a total of 9,100 guests over the four months) opening our door promptly every morning at 7:30 am.

We are so thankful for the faithful service of our volunteers. We have a total of more that 150 volunteers with morning teams generally at full roster. We are pleased to have added more than 30 new volunteers this past year, 12 of whom are members of our parish. The program is overseen by an Operations Committee, comprised largely of members of our parish. I am very thankful for the support and encouragement provided by Ann Koppel who so enthusiastically took on the mantle of leadership as needed.

With the return to in-person dining we faced a number of challenges relating to drug overdoses and psychotic incidents. We are very thankful for the faithful oversight provided in the dining room by our mentor teams who do much to ensure a safe and calm environment and who know how to both prevent and react to any incidents. Rev. Sandra Thompson, a deacon at The Church of the Transfiguration, has taken on the responsibility of coordinating this aspect of the Program.

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. Since we neither sought nor received any money from any level of government, we must balance our income and expenditures. We achieved this in 2022 with donations of \$100,800, over one-quarter of which came from St. George's parishioners. As a result of both cash donations and contributions of food, we ended the year with a well-stocked pantry.

We appreciate the use of parish facilities and the various levels of support we receive from clergy and staff each morning throughout the year. We will increase our monthly donation to St. George's to \$650 as our contribution

towards the support we receive from the church, particularly the janitorial services provided so cheerfully by Jordan McArthur and his trusty assistant Dale.

We begin 2023 with confidence and optimism knowing that our loving heavenly Father will continue to show his provision and care - He truly is our provider and protector.

Submitted by Duncan Moffett, Breakfast Program Chair

Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC)

BAC has been dormant since the onslaught of COVID-19. We had an organizational meeting on November 8, 2022 to decide if we should reactivate our meetings. About 15 members (including two brand new members) were in attendance. A number of other members could not attend in person, but indicated their support.

Any organization that has been dormant faces logistical and other issues to get back on its feet. The major issues discussed were: the loss of our caterer due to a fire; the high cost of food for our dinners; who would set up for and clean up after meals; and how many members could we still count on to attend meetings. Unfortunately many members have passed away, moved away or are in poor health. Despite these hurdles there was overwhelming support to reactivate.

Thanks to Paul Chapman, who volunteered his skills and knowledge, our first meeting on January 10, 2023 included a meal of beef on a bun with salads and desserts costing approximately \$25.

Meetings normally begin at about 6pm for socializing, then the meal starts at about 6:30 and the guest speaker is introduced about 7:30. He or she is often a parishioner or community member with very interesting topics from beekeeping to opera, to travel and foreign affairs. Tim Rigby kindly volunteered to be our guest speaker for January; he discussed the political events related to Niagara Regional Council.

We have a membership of approximately 40 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 20 members per meeting.

In the past our major fundraising has been from poinsettia sales at Christmas and the sale of St. George' crested golf shirts and hoodies for both men and women. With these funds we have donated both to St. George's and the Water Project.

Anyone from St. George's and family/or friends who would like to join BAC should call the office at 905-682-9232 or contact any of the executive below.

For 2023 the Interim Executive Committee will be:

Tom Owens -- (905) 934-4239 towens@sympatico.ca

Dave Smith - (289) 219-1709 dgsmith1917@hotmail.com

Ron Duggan - 905-328-4808 rgfduggan@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Tom Owens

Children and Youth Ministry



Sunday School

Sunday school has been much quieter since Covid. However, lately the numbers have been growing. We have some children and youth that are attending regularly. Our Sunday school received a donated of a Mac computer,



which has been very exciting and helpful. It allows us to play our weekly lesson video. We participate weekly with the Sparkhouse Curriculum. This Curriculum has a weekly video which the children love and enjoy seeing what the characters are doing each week. Our Sunday school had a fun Christmas party hosted by Nancy and Pierce North. It was full of magic and fun. The children enjoyed themselves. Thank you so very much to the North family.



We have started up Parent's Group and we are trying to rebuild this program as well. Parents Group is designed for parents with young children facing the challenge of raising them in our modern day world.

This group has started to slowly begin to build back up. We will continue to keep offering this wonderful program of food, fellowship, fun and support.



Youth Group

Youth group has had a difficult start since the Pandemic. We have Zoom meetings as well as outings. We had a fun celebration to celebrate the youth who completed their Confirmation last Spring. We went bowling and had dinner together as a group. We have had a few events with limited participation. We will be starting a committee to help reignite and flourish our youth group and Sunday school programs. We will meet to discuss ideas and have support with implementing them. We have many exciting events for youth group coming up. Such as continuing our Zoom meetings, and fun outings. We will be participating in swimming, fun games night at the church, and movie night. We have lots to look forward to. Also, on Sundays during the 10am service, Celeste Allyn is teaching our youth group Bible lessons while I am teaching the Sunday school. We are very appreciative of her knowledge, support and kindness. We are very lucky to have her assistance. Thank you Celeste. I look forward to our growing youth group to flourish over time. Unfortunately the Pandemic has changed so much, however there is an increase in numbers and we will continue to work towards building a flourishing youth group once again.



Submitted by Tanya Schleich

Christmas Bazaar

After a hiatus of two years, the St. George's annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday November 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This event was convened by Devon Culp and Liz Cunningham. The bazaar was opened by Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic with a prayer. Once again Sharon Crane was on board to expertly handle all the publicity over the weeks leading up to the bazaar.

Thank you to Bill Holman and his team for setting up the tables and looking after all the signs required to direct people. Bill puts a lot of work into the table set up plans, constantly having to deal with changes in table sizes and reconfiguring. This he always does with a smile! We were able to borrow twenty tables from St. Columba church this year instead of having to rent them. A thank you to MJ Schmidt, Greg Maddison and David Cunningham for coming to our rescue with a U-Haul Van from MJ and all their help to pick up and return the tables. We couldn't have done it without you! We were assisted by so many volunteers.

Our sincere thanks to Ron Duggan and his "parking lot" team who spend a great deal of their time out in the cold making sure our guests get parked and pointed to the right door. Thanks to those who look after the elevator, the sound system, the stage decorations, those who collect the money and count, the table convenors and all who worked on the many tables and of course to the parishioners of St. George's who donated the

many wonderful items to sell. It is truly a parish event. I would be remiss if I did not say a special thank you to our custodian Jordan for all the help he gave Devon and I in the days leading up to the bazaar as well as after the event. Thank you, Jordan, for everything.

The lunch café in the Swan Auditorium was convened by Linda Telega and MJ Schmidt. This was a huge success with a menu of Beef on a Bun, Homemade Soup with a Bun and Chili and a Bun. A big thank you to Celeste Allyn for making our delicious homemade soup. Thank you to all who worked in the kitchen and the waiters who served with excellence! This year in the Café our Music Director Brad Barnham agreed to set up and play a selection of Christmas music while the folks ate their lunch. This was a tremendous hit! Brad played all our favourites and even had a table of patrons singing along with great gusto. Thank you, Brad, for being such a great sport and sharing your talent with us all.

Unfortunately, we had a major snowstorm on the day of the bazaar, but it did not dampen our spirits. It did decrease the number of people coming to the bazaar, but with a couple of mini bazaars afterwards we were able to raise in the neighbourhood of \$9,500.00. If you take into consideration the fact that we did not sell quilt tickets this year we were not far off what we normally raise. Thank you to everyone for a great job!

Respectfully submitted by Devon Culp and Liz Cunningham, 2022 Bazaar Convenors

Coffee Hour

After 18 months living through the pandemic without being able to join together for a coffee and a chat with our church family, in mid September 2022, Coffee Hour was given new life.

The central individuals involved, Effie DiTiello, Bernice Bullen and Linda Porter worked together to provide coffee, tea, and light goodies in the Asbil Lounge after the 10:00am service Helping hands filled in the gaps and helped make for a smooth operation.

Our guests they came, had a quick drink and a snack but most of all, a time to chat and then head off home. Many happy faces, and excitement was in the room. We celebrated special events with cakes and our numbers have been trending up since mid October. There was a break over the Christmas Season, but we are looking forward starting back up in January 2023.

In the new year we will need more volunteers to help with Coffee Hour. Information will be coming out so we can put together teams of 3 or 4 people who will work together. Hopefully we can have enough Teams that we can have each team on duty only every other month.

PS — *Please remember that the cost of coffee hour supplies and sweets are off-set by the donation box. Please donate as your are able when you join us for coffee.*

Respectfully submitted by Effie DiTiello

Columbarium

There was one niche sold during 2022.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Arnedt (chair, columbarium committee)

Community & Social Justice

*He has told you, O mortal, what is good,
and what does the Lord require of you*

*but to do justice and to love kindness
and to walk humbly with your God? - Micah 6:8*

Your Community and Social Justice Team in 2022 was made up of the leadership of social justice ministries including the Breakfast Program, Anglicans in Action, Meal Kits, the Community Dinner program, Step Program, and Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters), Advent Conspiracy and those with a heart for this work. The group supports each other, and looks outward to discern issues that we may address to further our call as people of God.



This year, The Community and Social Justice Committee tackled one of the toughest issues in its short life. After hearing about #ACctoo and researching the breach of confidentiality that occurred in The Anglican Church at a senior level, this team dove into the issue. We followed the limited Anglican Church press stories and met frequently to discuss next steps. In March 2022, General Synod has once again failed to uphold the privacy and respect the dignity of survivors of assault. On Pentecost Sunday, the Primate stated there would be no response to a letter containing 425 signatures for a response to a case that embodied this issue, many from St George's. The National House of Bishops spent some time "discussing the issue of sexual misconduct, especially in light of #ACctoo as reported in October. And here at St George's, the Team grappled with the issue and how to respond. This discussion was not without great personal cost, as almost all had experienced some sort of harassment, exploitation or abuse (the latter is both criminal and reportable).

In order to move forward with action instead of reaction, during the summer a raffle fundraiser was held for the Niagara Region Sexual Assault Centre in September. Under Anita Djurokovic's leadership, Rotary St. Catharines South and other sponsors made the tickets, posters and sales possible. Anita supplied the prize: her painting entitled, "All Hearts are Gold to God". The campaign was dedicated to John Bullivant, a faithful member of the team.

Our new year in Advent capped off the year with the raffle generating over \$6,000. Anita is now taking a well-deserved leave. The Advent Giving Tree, put up by Gail Holman and family represented all our work with gifts of Food for the Breakfast Program; mittens, hats, and scarves for Community Cares; new toys for those who are in need; and a gift of Living Waters. For 2023 we will continue to uphold each other and seek to faithfully respond to issues as identified by the group.

Respectfully submitted,

Valear Howsam, Interim Chair, Community & Social Justice.

Community Dinners

For the third year in a row, the Community dinner offered monthly bagged takeout dinners on the 4th Wednesday of each month from April to October. With the Covid lockdown in March 2020, we switched from the sit-down meal to bagged takeout dinners. I mentioned this in last year's report, but who knew the same process would continue for another year through 2022? We are hopeful that 2023 will bring a return to in person dining using the model set up by the Breakfast Program in late August 2022.

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 3,000 meals. In 2022, we were able to reduce our costs per meal through creating a menu focused on sale items and through generous donations of food from our parish and from other St. Catharines community

groups. Our costs decreased from \$2.50 to about \$2.20 a meal. We offered a different main course each month from hearty beef stew in April through to deconstructed cabbage rolls in October.

Through the efforts of a small but strong volunteer team, we have been able to continue the dinners and maintain contact with our guests. 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. As soon as the signs went up for the dinner, our breakfast program guests would ask, what is on the menu Wednesday night?

Our parishioners donated almost \$700. We also received fresh fruit, sweets, 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 month is priceless. All these contributions meant that we were able to provide meals and still have a smaller than last year, but still a surplus of cash to start off next year.

On a very sad note, our team lost a valuable member this year with the death of John Bullivant. John showed up every month to help stuff the bags. In the days of sit down meals, he and Judy Kingsley would set the tables with napkins, placemats and cutlery. When John was there, there was always talk and laughter. He brought his very special spirit to the team and is dearly missed.

We look forward 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

Corporation /Parish Council

The Corporation consists of the Rector, two Wardens and two Deputy Wardens. This group is an executive body in the church formed to aid in the preparation of the budget, manage finances, deal with personnel issues, assist in the running of Sunday worship services, provide support and assistance to the Rector, other clergy, and the Parish Council.

This past year of 2022, Canon Martha, Lori Martin, Liz Cunningham, Peter Schafrick and Paul Chapman formed the Corporation. It was a year of mostly Zoom meetings held first weekly, then every two weeks. The Wardens would like to thank the group of "helpers" working with them each Sunday at the 10:00am service and for taking the reins each Sunday morning at the 8:00 service.

We saw a change in staffing with the move of Rev. Scott McLeod. Due to Covid, Scott's farewell dinner had to be moved from early in the year to June. It was held at the Golf and Country Club. We were very pleased to welcome on board Mike Degan as our new Lay Pastoral Associate. Mike dove right in, leading a Super Tuesday, getting to know the congregation as well as taking part in Sunday services. In February we said good-bye to Johan Braun as he retired. We hired Jordan McArthur as full-time custodian and Dale Henry part-time custodian, both of whom have become valued members of the staff.

We were all very pleased to witness, both in-person at the Cathedral and on-line on September 25th, the Ordination to the Priesthood of Matt Gillard. Matt stepped into the role of Associate Priest. August saw the STEP Centre close its doors to move to a different location on Ontario Street. August also saw the hiring of AAEH Security four hours a day, seven days a week as parishioners were coming back to various groups in person as well as returning to Sunday morning worship.

Under the leadership of Brad Barnham the choir, with the help of auxiliary singers and instrumentalists, gave a beautiful performance of the "Bruckner Requiem" on Remembrance Sunday as well as a gorgeous "Festival of Lessons and Carols" service in December.

Parish Council consists of the Rector, Rev. Matt Gillard, Lay Pastoral Associate Mike Degan, wardens, treasurer, lay delegates to Synod, leaders of various groups and members-at-large. The Council meets monthly to study and accept the monthly financial statements prepared by our Treasurer Jim Jenter as well as bringing together the various activities of the church. Once again, the meetings were held via Zoom. Various items on the Parish Council agendas were:

- Tanya Schleich continued to hold Sunday School and Youth Group over Zoom
- Coffee Hours eventually started up
- More parishioners returned to in-person worship, particularly later in the month of September
- A Visioning Day was held on Saturday October 15th in the lounge under the guidance of Rev. Rob Duncan as our Facilitator. This was a day of “reflecting on the past, present, and future of St. George’s.
- A successful “Joyful Giving Campaign” combined with a “Building Fund Campaign”
- A successful in-person Christmas Bazaar

Members of Corporation and Parish Council would like to thank Canon Martha, Matt Gillard, and Mike Degan for their leadership throughout this past 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, People’s Warden

Counting Team

The St. George’s counting team was able to resume its duties midway through 2022 after a lengthy hiatus because of COVID-19 protocols. I would like to thank the members of the “The Team” for their dedication and service. All appreciate the hard work.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Steinman

Dialing Disciples

The Dialing Disciples group was started in 1996 as a way to connect parishioner to parishioner in a personal way. Volunteer callers contact everyone on the church list by phone, message or in person. There are 25 men and women church members who have a list – some have more than one list. Calls are made twice a year – Easter and Christmas to inquire about your well being, offer assistance and to let you know what is happening at church.

During the last few years, we have been calling more frequently but as the church has reopened and activities started up, we will return to the twice-a-year schedule.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Dinner Club

It’s time to sharpen your knives, set your table, and assemble your favourite new recipes. The Dinner Club will be returning with its pot-luck dinner in the Spring of 2023. At this dinner, the groupings for the Fall of 2023 through Spring of 2024 will be drawn.

Submitted by Co-ordinator, Grace-Ann Cambray



Ecumenical Honorary Assistant

Another year has passed, a year again marked with the stamp of Covid 19 and all the troubles, struggles, and loneliness it has brought. Our lives, our businesses, and even our beloved churches have been profoundly affected by this plague. But, with our new year, hope is returning. We are beginning to gather again, and this is something we will never again take for granted.

There has been little I was able to do during this time, when doors were closed and both worship and all the related wonderful classes, parties, and groups have had to be put on hold. Consequently, I find I have little to report to you of my work with St. George's. Still, I have shared many hours in Zoom meetings, events, and worship. I preached for Advent Café. And, I have connected with members by phone. I am told by many that I, indeed, did do something. And, that was to be a constant, faithful, and enthusiastic cheerleader for the staff and for all things "St. George's."

This job is an easy one for me. The reason is that I always have and continue to this day to truly believe our beloved St. George's is a special place, a unique, place, and shall I say it – even a magical place! Where else can one be sure that all the love is sincere, that the friends are true, and that the trust and hope are real! I admit that, when Covid time got longer and deeper and more difficult, I feared we might lose it! But, in these last couple of weeks, I have come to see that we are coming back to life, and this difficult learning curve will only serve in the end to have made us stronger.

So, I say, let us celebrate that we are being re-born and our church will experience a new life. I hope and plan to be here with you as much as I can. We have so much to be grateful for as we come back to life as a church family. And, as for me, being your official cheerleader is a privilege!

Many blessings for the new year.

Rev. Dr. Doreen McFarlane, Honourary Ecumenical Assistant

Golf Day

The St. George's Golf Day was held on June 6th at the Beechwood Golf and Social Club. A total of 32 golfers, some for 9 and some for 18 holes, plus 13 other people who came just for dinner, had a great day. The rain almost held off long enough. The event is both a fund raiser and a social get together. Your score really doesn't count.

This year we were able to raise \$3,170 for the church thanks to those participating plus the financial donations from Sunshine Express, George Darte Funeral Home, Hulse and English Funeral Home, Burtnik Printing and Swan Dust Control.

Companies who provided prizes and support this year included: Joe Feta's Greek Village; Beatties Basics; CIBC; Inniskillin Wines; Schaf Skincare; Niagara Ice Dogs; Chocolate Etc; Lancaster, Cairns, and Welch; Sullivan Mahoney; A1 Flooring; and TD Wealth Management (Tim Roscoe and Graham Coveney). In addition, several parishioners donated prizes.

Thank you to all who participated and supported the golf day. The money raised helps the church to do its important work for the congregation and the larger community. We look forward to seeing even more of you at the Golf Day on June 12th, 2023.

Submitted by Vic Cicci and Paul Chapman, Golf Day Co-Convenors

Krafty Korners

Hallelujah!!! After over two years, Krafty Korners was able to meet in the Asbil Lounge starting June 21, 2022.

The nimble fingers of our members were not still since they made over 1,400 pneumonia vests, 300 woolen caps, 50 scarves and numerous baby blankets. Rita Hatcher made 575 pneumonia vests, and Bernice Bullen made 280 pneumonia vests along with many woolen hats. Meanwhile, we would like to thank Angie, Georgina, Barbara and the individuals of our church community for producing so many articles. Other members worked on their own projects with some items for our bazaar.

On October 18, 2022, Reverend Martha blessed the knitted and crocheted items. On October 25, 2022, Effie DiTello and Sandra Legarde transported the items to Feed the Children Foundation in Mississauga. The items will then be travelling to Peru and given to the indigenous families in the mountains.



Donations of skeins of wool would be greatly appreciated so our skilled ladies can continue to produce items for the needy. We would like to thank the individuals who contributed wool in the past. Bring your own lunch and tea and coffee will be provided.

We meet on Tuesday from 10 am to 2 pm.

Submitted by Sandra Legarde and Effie DiTello

Lay Pastoral Associate Report

My appointment as Lay Pastoral Associate began in April on a half-time basis. Since July 1st, I have been working full-time which has allowed me to participate in all aspects of the life of St. George's. I have attempted to make



pastoral visiting, both in person and by telephone, a large part of my ministry as well as participating in the work of the pastoral visitors team and the prayer chain. I also assist Matt in visiting the Hospital on weeks he is unable to go. I am a mentor with the Breakfast Program and also volunteer on the first Tuesday of the month. Leading and assisting at Super Tuesday has been a great joy and has deepened my spiritual life, a joy only exceeded by being able to participate in the vibrant community life in our parish. This has been enriched by being able

to discover the depth and breadth of our community at the same time everyone else has been rediscovering it as we continue to reopen after the long limitations of the pandemic. The same can be said about delving into the worship of St George's as we return to more familiar and life giving patterns. I have taken up my roles assisting with worship as well as preaching both on Sundays and at Advent Cafe. I have helped organize the new practice of saying morning prayer Monday to Thursday at 8:45 in the Church. I also help with the service we hold monthly, under normal circumstances, at Ina Grafton Gage Village. I have also started visiting Henley House to lead a monthly service at that nursing home.

Part of the reason that I am here at St George's is that I am a Candidate for Ordination so learning and formation is a big part of what I am doing. I am most grateful to you for making this possible. I know this requires patience and teaching on the part of my colleagues and parishioners but it is of great value to me and is hopefully forming me into someone better able to minister to God's Church and world.

When I pray I always try to remember to give thanks for the fact that I have been brought to St George's. This city is fortunate to have such a vibrant expression of the Anglican Church at its centre. I have learnt so much over the last nine months about what a Church can and should be.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Degan, Lay Pastoral Associate

Lay Readers

During the past year, Lay Reader activities have been strongly affected by the ravages of Covid 19. Mask wearing, hand sanitizing, and particular care in handling any sacred vessels or other articles which could spread the contagion have been uppermost in our minds and practices. As Covid restrictions are lifted, our Lay Readers are returning with renewed vigor and enthusiasm to leading the congregation in gospel readings, the Apostles' Creed, and the Prayers of the People. Lay Readers are an important part of St. George's Servers Group, which includes our Crucifers and Altar Servers, providing support to our clergy in the celebration of many church services. Lay reader and server groups have been strengthened in the past year, as new members have joined our ranks. We give thanks to our clergy, technical team, and office staff for their continued support. We grieve for the loss of John Bullivant, one of our dedicated Lay Readers, on August 18, 2022.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Duggan.

Marathon Bridge Group

The St. George's marathon bridge group is an enthusiastic group of eight teams. Our fee per player is \$15.00, which contributes to prizes and an annual donation to the Breakfast Program. Our donation in 2022 was \$175. A wind-up party was hosted by Gini and Tim Rigby in September at which cash prizes were awarded to first, second and third parties.

Anyone looking for fun, fellowship and a good game of bridge, please think about joining us. We always welcome new players.

Respectfully submitted by Gini Rigby

Music Ministry



Another year of pandemic passes. Isolation and stay-at-home orders hit us all hard, among a whole host of shifting realities and regulations. There was a lot of confusion in 2022: questions regarding the safety of reintegrating into society and uncertainty of the future were circling through our heads, which left a lot of reason for disheartenment.

And yet...St. George's was a light in the darkness throughout the Niagara region. Our programs flourished and our community thrived, despite ongoing social and Covid-related turbulence. Not the least of which was the music program, which saw great growth and musical/spiritual/social expansion. The choir, the musicians that comprise our Advent Cafe worship team, and director or music Brad Barnham were eager to return St. George's to its pre-covid glory, which happened in spades. Notable musical offerings and events included a beautiful Holy Week with the full St. George's choir and guest brass musicians; a return to in-person Advent Cafe services; the annual "Christmas in October" rehearsal and dinner event for the choir; a stunning Remembrance Day Service featuring the Bruckner Requiem with guest organist, soloists and orchestral players; and a full house for our biggest service of the year: Lessons and Carols. The church was buzzing with the spirit of music this year and it gave our community joy and hope for the future of St. George's and the wider church.



The tradition of joining together in song has been a ritual that has adhered our communities and congregations together over the course of centuries past and will continue to play the same role in the future. Music brings people together. God does the same. It's no wonder that musical worship is so beloved, and why restoring it to its former pre-Covid glory at St. George's has been anticipated and welcomed dearly. The coming year brings much hope and excitement. The choir is growing steadily, as is the capacity to build and grow the choral program. New

ideas and vision are blossoming around the growth and expansion for Advent Cafe and other musical programs at the church. The choir will tackle ambitious repertoire throughout the year, and will collaborate with guest musicians for notable services and seasons. Director of Music Brad is grateful for an opportunity to make meaningful music with a community of Christ-followers and music-lovers. He looks forward to the coming year as a time of growth and steadiness. And as he said last year in this report: the future is bright for the music ministry of St. George's.

Submitted by Brad Barnham, Music Director

New Journeys

Despite the difficulties occasioned by the Covid Pandemic during the past three years, St. George's is a parish still blessed with new people regularly coming through its doors. We are doubly blessed with our ability to stream services so that even when we were shut down or limited for periods of time we still had new people participating in our worship. Some of those people know they are looking for some kind of spiritual home, but not quite sure what. Some are clear they are looking for a Christian community, but have to make up their mind about what kind of community they desire, and others are clear they are looking for an Anglican parish, and wondering if St. George's is the kind of parish in which they would feel comfortable. Many of them have been "burned" by church in the past, and others have happier experiences of church.

The danger, in a larger parish such as ours, is that as friendly as we may perceive ourselves to be, it is very easy for newcomers to find it difficult to know where to fit in, how to get to know people and build a connection which helps them to find their way into relationships and activities which truly enable them to know they are at home here. To become a parish that quickly and graciously helps newcomers to begin to know they have a "place" is always a more difficult and nuanced task than merely shaking a hand on a Sunday morning.

For the past few years we have been offering a "New Journeys" program as a way to help integrate newcomers (or those who are not exactly newcomers but wish to enter more deeply and deliberately into their "journey with God" in this place). We also ask a number of "longer term members" to participate and pair them with the newcomers. It is a time of learning to share, without judgement or fear, our spiritual journeys with one another. We are always careful to emphasise that St. George's is an inclusive and safe space for exploring our questions, and our diversity. We did this on many levels, both in our theology and in who we are as individual and unique people.

It is also a time for us to talk about the various programs and activities in which people could be involved. We try to introduce people to the broad range of possibilities in this place whether it is outreach, social justice work, spiritual growth, study, friendship or any combination of these things.

Since that initial program, the gathering keeps evolving, and it has become a one time meeting with food. We still match long time members with newcomers and spend a lot of our time sharing spiritual beliefs and perspectives in order to enable a "safe, non-judgemental" atmosphere respecting our differences to develop. It is important that people not feel they "have to conform" to a particular set of beliefs to be welcome here.

During 2022, in spite of everything, we have been able to hold two newcomer events, on May 1 and November 6. In total approximately 15 "newcomers" plus a number of longer time members and leaders have participated. Many of those who took part are still involved and have become an active and a valued part of the life of St. George's. The program is continually evolving and we will be repeating it in 2023 as long as we have the lovely task of welcoming newcomers and trying to help them to find their place at St. George's. Thank you to all the people who have participated and trusted us with their hopes and fears and questions.

Respectfully submitted, Alan McLean

Prayer Chain

We are pleased to report that we have been meeting monthly in person, since June 1, 2022. Until then, throughout COVID-19 restrictions, we were active remotely.

Prayer Chain currently consists of about seven members who are committed to prayer together as a community. 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 give us as much or as little information as they wish, 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.

If you wish to contact the Prayer Chain with prayer requests or with questions, please speak to:

Martha, Matt or Mike through the office (905-682-9232) or call any of the following members of the Prayer Chain:

Tom Owens 905-934-4239; Alan Mclean 905-562-6713; Nancy Moffett-905-321-5456; Marion Vincett-905-308-6360

We normally meet in person once a month on the first Wednesday of each month between 10:30 AM and 11:30 AM in The Asbil Lounge.

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 February 2023

Prayer Shawl Ministry

The prayer shawl ministry continued its mission in 2022 to give comfort to those who suffer from illness or loss by creating and donating almost 50 beautiful shawls. After being blessed by St. George's clergy, they were donated to people identified by the Prayer Chain team, as well as others both inside and outside of our St. George's community. We started meeting in person once Covid was on the wane and enjoyed a Christmas lunch together.

Our team is happy to welcome others who like to knit. Contact Evangeline Horton at 905-682-1546 for information. We would greatly appreciate donations of gift cards from Michael's to purchase more of the yarn we use, as we recently lost a generous sponsor.

Respectfully submitted by Evangeline Horton

Property Management Committee – A Year in Review

The Property Management Committee was formed in 2019. As stewards of the church and parish buildings, this Committee is responsible for the maintenance, repairs, and renovations needed on an ongoing basis. We meet together on a monthly basis (with a short hiatus in the summer) to discuss the buildings' needs, and to carefully discern if we can accomplish these needs with the hard work of our kind volunteers and committee members, or if contractors need to be hired for specialized work.

In March, Peter Schafrick re-painted Brad's office in the lower level. Thank you Peter!

In April, a new metal exterior office door was installed by CMF doors. This door was replaced due to the collateral damage caused by water intrusion above the office roof, the year previous. The stucco needed to be repaired at the door jamb, and various other areas at this office door entrance. This Wet Dash stucco repair work was kindly completed by Harm Schoemer in June. These repaired areas of stucco will need to be coated with paint in the near future, to properly seal and protect the exterior stucco walls of the church.

In May, Neil Allyn and Peter Schafrick installed additional security cameras and signage around the church in addition to those we had. This was done in an effort to combat the ongoing graffiti and damage caused to the buildings.

The donation of a grand piano occurred in June. The location and position of this piano was carefully considered through consultation with Brad. It has been put to good use and blends in beautifully with all the woodwork at the front altar.

In the summer, much clean up and weeding work was done by Linda, Matt, Jordan, and a new Horticultural student Krystal. Many thanks! Weedman was also called back to weed/fertilize our lawns so that we are in better shape come spring.

In the fall, we are happy to report that an existing member of St. George's church, Terry Colburn, joined our building committee. We are blessed with his knowledge, and expertise as a contractor who contributes so much to our group.

Much discernment went into the consideration of a new replacement for the Carillon Bells digital controller system. The bells were not working any longer due to a power surge which damaged this system. A new system was deemed necessary as the existing could no longer be repaired. This would cost the church a whopping \$29,500 Cdn. We made an insurance claim for this item and we were notified in October that the cost to replace the system would be mostly covered by our insurance company, with a small shortfall. This saved our beloved St. George's the tidy sum of \$25,000, and we were all quite pleased with this outcome.

A storm window at the front of church was damaged in October. This was expeditiously repaired by Lows glass.

As a committee, and with sage guidance from Rob Welch, we continue to pursue the Broughall Hall structural claim made with the City. Some progress has been made on this front, but discussions are still ongoing.

Also in the fall, the committee carefully considered estimates for the capital project repairs that would be needed this coming year, and years to come. TR Hinan helped us with a budget estimate to inform us on our budget numbers. HVAC servicing companies were also approached to help us with estimates to replace all our HVAC units in the church and parish halls which are at the end of their service life.

Submitted by Gina Schafrick, Property Management Committee Chair

Sidespersons' Report

This has once again been a year of inactivity for the most part for our people. For part of the year, our church was closed to in-Person worship, and when we reopened, the need for Sidespeople was not there. It is good to see our Congregation returning and with it the return of Sidespeople. We started our regular Sunday morning schedule at the beginning of November.

Our routine has not changed. The members of the assigned team arrive at St. George's Church half an hour before the service is to begin. Each team member gathers the material that the people will need for the service and goes to a transept door where they will welcome the arriving people. They are also available to help with

the opening of doors, helping with wheelchairs or walkers, giving directions or answering questions that people may have. During the offertory hymn the Sidespeople aid the Wardens by taking the collection at the side isles. At the end of the service, they help with the clean-up of the pews.

I want to thank all of our Sidespeople for their willingness to again participate and their cooperation in scheduling as we once again began our duties towards the end of 2022. It is a privilege to be a part of this enthusiastic and eager group.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Pettit

Stewardship Committee

The Stewardship Committee's focus was on the Joyful Giving Campaign in the fall. As the COVID-19 threat lessened, we resumed personal deliveries of many packages but did not go back to the relay format.

Our dedicated committee members met and stuffed the pledge forms and information into envelopes while the Communications Committee updated our online forms. Many thanks to our marvelous team of Route Managers who called each household to let them know about the campaign and answer questions as well as delivering the packages where possible. The St. George's congregation responded generously as they always do. With 136 pledges, the responses totalled \$262,950, a modest increase from the prior year. There was also \$8,487 pledged to the Home for Hope Building Fund.

It has been a blessing to return to in-person worship and come together to share communion. It is great to see people we have missed during the shutdown and to welcome newcomers to our family. While the online option continues to fill a need for those who cannot get to church, we give thanks for this community of St. George's. May it continue to grow and flourish for years to come through the generosity of our committed donors.

Submitted by Nora Jenter, Committee Chair

Super Tuesday

Super Tuesday, the adult Christian education programme of the parish, continued to meet throughout 2022. It is a time for fellowship and discussion based on a book or other reading done by the participants. From January to May the group met via Zoom.

The Lenten study was on Desmond Tutu's book, "God Has a Dream: A Vision of Hope for Our Time" and was led by Alan McLean.

After Easter, Mike Degan lead a discussion entitled "Four Burning Questions" where participants discussed some common questions about the Faith:

1. What is Prayer?
2. Why should I go to Church on Sunday anyway?
3. Why does God's personality seem to change between the Old and New Testaments?
4. Who is the Holy Spirit?

In the Fall we were finally able to meet in person again in the Asbil Lounge. A Zoom option was also offered. Martha led a discussion of her new book entitled, "Why Gather? The Hope & Promise of the Church".

All sessions were well attended and the discussion was always lively and thought provoking.

Respectfully Submitted, Mike Degan, Lay Pastoral Associate

Travel Club

What a thrill it was to take our first Travel Club trip in nearly three years when, on December 6th, we travelled to Cambridge to see a production of "The Sound of Music". Many in our group commented that the quality of the show was the best they had ever seen, as they compared it to shows in Toronto and New York City. The beauty of the music and the inspiring story lifted our spirits and gave us hope that the new year would see a further resumption of our travels.

Yours in learning through travel, Grace-Ann Cambray

Visitor Group

The visitor group began 2022 with no hospital or in-home visits. Phone calls and notes were once again our main source of contact. Hospital visits and in-home visits were again permitted as we moved into the spring. This was welcomed by both our parishioners and the visiting team.

The visitor group works in conjunction with the clergy to ensure that all members of our parish who are unable to attend regularly scheduled worship services receive, at their discretion, a personal visit at their residence or in hospital. This has been a year of change for our group. It is with sadness that I announce that a number of our members have resigned this year. They will be missed by us as well as the people they have faithfully visited.

It is with pleasure that we welcomed two new visitors to our group, Nancy Moffett and Heather Whitehouse. Their time and talents in visiting are much appreciated.

This has been another challenging year for everyone but I feel that we are slowly getting back to what we once considered normal.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Water Project

THE MISHAMIKOWEESH WATER PARTNERSHIP

PIMATIZIWIN NIPI

ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Water is Life. Water is dignity. Water is opportunity. Water is justice.

Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters)– Who We Are

There is an easily mapped connection between the individual and communal lives so shattered by residential schools in past generations and the grave injustice of so many Indigenous communities in Canada living under boil-water advisories and without running water. There is an easily mapped connection between the injustice of this racialized reality in a country as richly resourced as ours and the astronomically high suicide rates that also exist in these communities. Lack of clean, running water impacts physical and mental health, hygiene and access to education.

Pimatiziwin Nipi is a network of concerned Christian communities who want to walk the road of reconciliation with Indigenous people in our country and whose focus on securing safe, clean, running water for all Canadians is centred on these pillars:

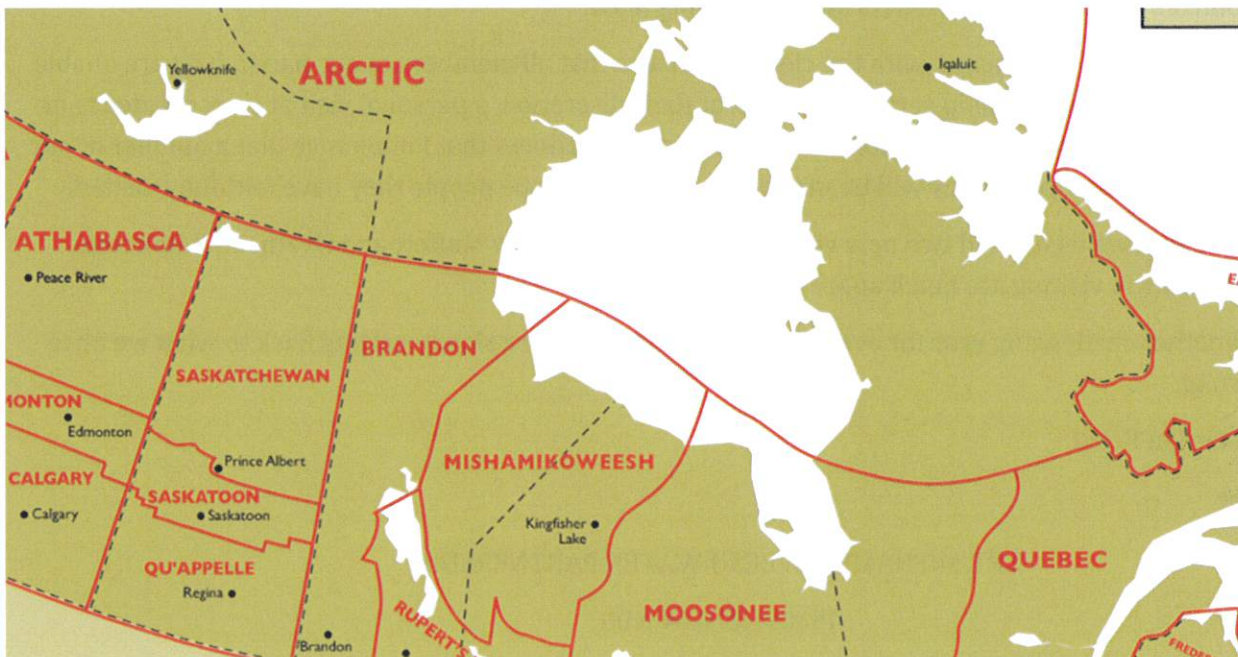
1. Education
2. Advocacy
3. Strategic Giving

4. Partnership

Pimatiziwin Nipi was formed under the leadership of Mark MacDonald, former Indigenous Archbishop of the Anglican Church of Canada. With his resignation this April, we have been in a time of transition in our leadership and look to build more ties between Indigenous leaders and Pimatiziwin Nipi. St. George's has been part of Pimatiziwin Nipi and supporting this work since 2014.

The Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership

In 2013, we began a partnership 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, the project expanded to become the *Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership*. The Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh of the Anglican Church of Canada includes 25 First Nations in Northern Ontario and Manitoba, where access to clean water is extremely challenging.



Mishamikoweesh leadership identify clean water as central to their vision of a good life for their people. In response to the needs articulated by Mishamikoweesh leadership, our 2022 goal was to raise \$150,000 towards a water truck in Kingfisher Lake.

Kingfisher Lake has a population of 500 people on reserve, most of whom access water through tanks attached to their homes and a water delivery system from the treatment plant. Roads are rough, wear and tear on the vehicles is significant, repair parts are hard to come by, and the population is growing. A new water truck will significantly increase the reliability of clean, running water in this community. PWRDF hopes to use funds raised for this work to encourage support from government and non government agencies in addressing and providing funds for long-term water needs in northern communities.

Pikangikum

Although PWRDF no longer is receiving funds toward the work in Pikangikum, money from funds previously raised continues in the development of clean, running water and indoor plumbing in the community's homes. In August of 2022, a delegation (Martha, David Franks, Ophelia Kamenawatamin) was invited to accompany Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, to Pikangikum to see the water systems and talk with community

members. Approximately 15 homes are being retrofitted in Phase 4 of the work and we were able to see that construction underway during our visit. A fifth phase, again using funds previously raised, was also discussed. For more details about the trip and its learnings, you can read here: <https://pwrdf.org/connecting-the-dots-between-residential-schools-and-boil-water-advisories/>

PWRDF's Leadership

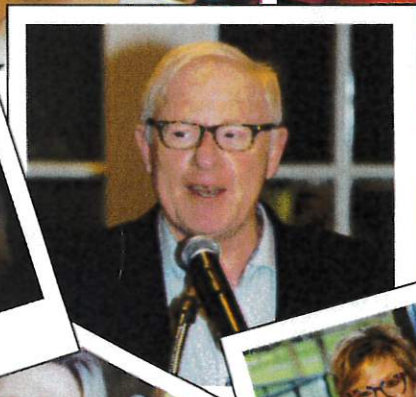
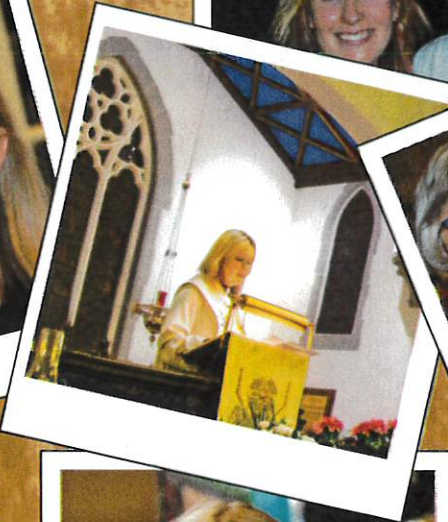
We are blessed to have PWRDF as our partner in enabling the connection with Indigenous communities, identifying and implementing projects, and collecting and dispersing funds raised. PWRDF has been steadfast in using their impressive expertise and their specialization in leading small high-impact community-led initiatives to make this group's work possible. Their partnerships with Indigenous Canada extend beyond Mishamikoweesh and Pimatziwin Nipi and Indigenous Responsive Grant program offers funding for small Indigenous-led projects in the areas of safe water, youth engagement, climate action and community health. PWRDF's Indigenous Program Advisory Committee (IPAC) was created to hear from Indigenous leadership in articulating their needs, as well as the initiatives in which they want support.

Thank You

St. George's raises money for this work primarily through the Advent Conspiracy—inviting people to give the Gift of Water to their loved ones in lieu of more standard Christmas present offerings. Thank you to every person across our community who supported the Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership this Advent, or who looks forward to supporting this work in 2023. Thank you for your offerings of prayer, financial support, leadership, and helping to spread the word about this important work. Through your faithfulness, St. George's raised \$5,070 in Advent of 2022 toward our national goal of \$150,000. Final numbers are still being compiled through PWRDF for the total money raised across the Anglican Church of Canada. We look forward to reaching this goal and being able to take on new initiatives in this partnership going forward into 2023.

Submitted by the Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

St. George's Anglican Church



St. George's Anglican Church

