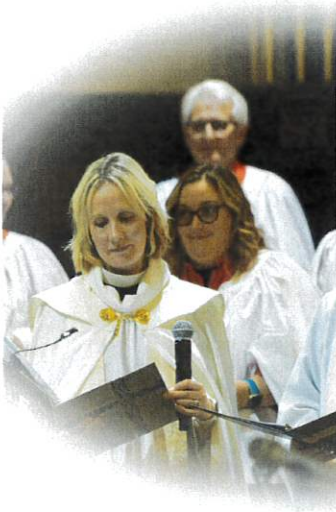




ST. GEORGE'S VESTRY MEETING 2024

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 25TH



83 Church St., St. Catharines,
ON L2R 3C7 905-682-9232

Email:

info@stgeorgesanglican.ca

Website:

<http://stgeorgesanglican.ca>

Facebook: "St. George's
Anglican Church"



Agenda

- Introduction
- The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic Report
- The Reverend Tom Vaughan Report
- Vestry Reports for 2023

Special thank you to Gary Mus for always being available to be our photographer at our services and all special events. Your work is greatly appreciated.

Thank you to Heather Sloan and Susan Arnedt for their editing skills. A job well done.



Introduction

St. George's Priorities

In 2022, the leadership of St. George's which led to meet together for a day of visioning and planning, articulation of four priorities for our life together as a community.

In 2023, we extended that conversation to parish-wide gatherings which created space and time to consider what is most important to us as we go forward and what resources we need to get there.

As you read through this year's reports, as you hear about our ministries, and as we consider our 2024 budget, we ask you to keep at the forefront these four priorities. We hope that these will inform our decisions, allocation of resources, conversation and prayerful discernment for the year ahead.

1. **Community Building** – We need authentic and inclusive spaces of fellowship, fun, learning and friendship—online and in person.
2. **Outreach** –St. George's is a force for goodness and care in the heart of our city.
3. **Youth, children and families** –The message of God's love and the call to be people of compassion and service needs to be shared across the generations.
4. **Music** - We connect with new people, share our faith more widely and equip our own lives of prayer through the gift of music.



*The door is always open
Your picture's on my wall
Everyone's a little broken
And everyone belongs*

Crowded Table, The Highwomen

The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic, Co-Rector

As we were planning our Celebration of New Ministry for January 28th, it was the song “Crowded Table” by the Highwomen that kept coming into my head. The song speaks of a home with a joyful crowd gathered around a table. The welcome is unconditional, the fireplace is warm and inviting, everyone there has a story of blessing and brokenness they bring with them, and there is always room for one more.

The song speaks to me of the long and faithful ministry of St. George’s in the heart of St. Catharines. Through God’s great generosity, and the faithfulness of generations past and present, we are able to open our doors each and every day of the year to offer food—both spiritual and physical—to nourish our whole community and to stand as witness to the power of God’s love.

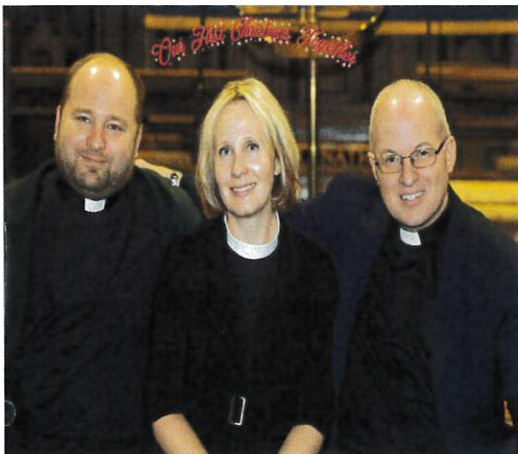
The song speaks to me of what has sustained St. George’s through the highs and the lows, and particularly to where we have found our compass and centre for the last few turbulent years of loss and rebuilding through COVID. Our church community has found rich and varied ways to continue to extend the blessings of God’s welcome and friendship, even when so many of our normal patterns fell apart. As I look around St. George’s today, I give thanks for the ongoing presence of new people finding a home and a place at St. George’s and for the joy and hospitality of our long-time members putting faith into action as we worship, serve, and share what we have with the community around us. And I still see, out of the corner of my eye, our faithful departed, whose voice and offering is forever imprinted on our St. George’s family.

The song speaks to me of this new chapter in ministry and our welcoming of the Reverend Tom Vaughan and his family to the life of St. George’s. St. George’s has a long and happy history of team ministry and has seen many wonderful collaborations with the clergy of our church. I have been so blessed to serve with Val, with Scott, and with our exceptionally gifted honorary assistants and staff over the past nine-and-a-half years.



And now I feel so blessed to begin this new model and new chapter, with Tom and I explicitly sharing equally in the pastoral care and leadership of this amazing community. I am confident that Tom's caring and wise ways, his passion for ministry, his insights into deepening the church's welcome to new people and connection to the wider community, as well as his hard work and dedication will provide a powerful offering in how St. George's is strengthened for following with joy where God would lead us.

The song speaks to me of the challenges ahead for us at St. George's and why I feel such hope in embracing those challenges. I am thinking particularly of the enormous expenses required for our beloved church building in the coming year. Major restorative work is needed to ensure that this building will be able to serve the needs of this community and beyond for the years and generations to come. While these costs are significant, we have been planning for them now for many years. I feel glad in being able to plan for this restorative work, knowing that doing so is an act of gratitude for what has been passed along to us, an act of loving service for the wider community we feed and welcome, an act of friendship in continuing to house our church community, and a witness to our whole city to this "crowded table" of prayer and love, where anyone can come—bruises, wounds, shortcomings and all—and find a place to be blessed and to serve. **Martha +**





“Blessed to Be A Blessing” Reverend Tom Vaughan Co-Rector

In the book of Genesis, we are introduced to Abram and Sarai: faithful servants of God who would be called to journey into something new. They were called by God to leave behind that which was familiar and to journey into something new. God says to them something profound about how generations will be blessed, and they are blessed to be a blessing. This ancient story of the Bible speaks to me as I come to my first vestry report, and I reflect on blessings. We are doing something new with co-rectors, while building on previous blessings.

As I write this report, we are all gearing up with excitement for the Celebration of New Ministry on January 28th. In the planning process I saw so much of the vision for this co-rectorship unfolding. In the response of St. George’s parishioners, priests, deacons, and bishops there is this excitement with what we are doing here. So much is going into this special day with all the planning for the service and the reception. We are blessed! And I keep hearing this echoed in my conversations with people: “St. George’s is so blessed!” I am well aware I am living into that blessing day by day as this vision unfolds... a vision of a place of blessing for all, with room for more.

First, I am well aware that the blessing I am living into as co-rector of this parish is to stand in a long line of loving, faithful servants who have served St George’s as deacons, priests, and bishops in the church. Their ministries have touched hearts, taught the Christian faith, and journeyed through the pains and joys of the lives of the people here. They have served and experienced blessing here and been a blessing to others. Rectors, associates, and curates have served with distinction here. I am aware of the humbling footsteps that put me as your co-rector in this new book we are writing.

Secondly, I am aware of the blessing of working with Martha and all her gifts. Her caring and heartfelt leadership is experienced everywhere at St. George’s. I recognize her brilliance as a writer, preacher, and a faithful follower of Jesus who seeks to grow as a life-long learner.



I appreciate her openness to share this parish with me in trust and friendship. Most of all, I'm deeply aware of the gift that she and I have been given to work together in faithfulness and service with God's people.

Lastly, I am aware of the blessing we have together as I get to know the members of this parish and folks get to know me. I am aware of the love in this church community, the sense of humour, and celebration often expressed in our social gatherings. I am aware of the hunger to grow as followers of Jesus and the intention brought to our worship services. I am blessed by the ministry groups of St. George's who make the Sunday services, programs, and outreach such a blessing to others.

To live into blessing is to live with the understanding of God's protection, love, and favour as a community, that then brings the same to others in the ministry of Jesus. I count myself blessed to join in this journey at St. George's!

Blessings to all,

The Reverend Tom Vaughan

Co-Rector



COMMUNITY DINNER PROGRAM REPORT 2023

The Community Dinner Program held its 7 monthly dinners from April to October. This year we had 502 guests and served over 750 meals, an increase in the number of meals of 33% over 2022. Out of the Cold took over November 1st. We will return on April 24, 2024.

Since this program started at St. George's in 2017 we have served 3,750 meals. The Program carried over from Grace Anglican Church and many of our volunteers today worked on the program there. There was a short break in the program in 2016, but it came back in 2017 and has been evolving since. This year we introduced front lawn BBQs in conjunction with Advent Café. Unfortunately smoke and rain derailed two of our efforts to serve on the front lawn, however the one outside evening was well received by all. Allision from *Infinitely More* commented how great it was to look out and see people sitting on the grass on all sides enjoying their evening, eating, and listening to music. Our final dinner was also held in conjunction with Advent Café. Dinner was served in The Swan and Advent Café was in the large gym. Timing meant we were still serving guests when the Café started. For 2024 we will focus on the BBQs and look for ways to encourage our guests to join Advent Café when it is held indoors in the Bear's Den.

We have maintained an average cost of \$2.15 per meal through generous donations of food for our meals and planning of meals around food sales. Our parishioners each and every month donate fruit which is so enjoyed by our guests.

The team of volunteers is a joy to work with. We who serve are a community and we serve a community. With this in mind, I asked Lori Martin, past Rector's Warden to create a logo for us. Below is the result of her talent.



ST. GEORGE'S GOLF DAY



The St. George's Golf Day was held on June 12th at the Beechwood Golf and Social Club. A total of 37 golfers, some for 9 and some for 18 holes, plus 23 other people who came just for dinner, had a wonderful day. Due to the rain in the morning and early afternoon, the golf portion of the day was cancelled to the delight of some and the chagrin of others. All the golfers were given rain checks.

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 over \$2,700 for the church thanks to those participating plus the financial donations from George Darte Funeral Home, Hulse and English Funeral Home, George Novis and Tom Lewis. Companies who provided prizes and support this year included Beatties Basic; Beechwood Golf and Social Club, CIBC; Schaf Skincare; Niagara Ice Dogs; Pinder's Security, Chocolate Etc; Lancaster, Chown, and Welch; Sullivan Mahoney; Lang and McQuaid, Brock Golf land, Niagara Ice Dogs, and TD Wealth Management (Tim Roscoe and Graham Coveney). In addition, the following parishioners donated golf prizes Harry Collier, Lori Martin, Paul and Sue Chapman, Vic Cicci, Bishop George, Daryl Crosby and John and Lee Delisio.

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 tentatively scheduled for June 10th, 2024.

Submitted by Vic Cicci and Paul Chapman

Golf Day Co-Convenors

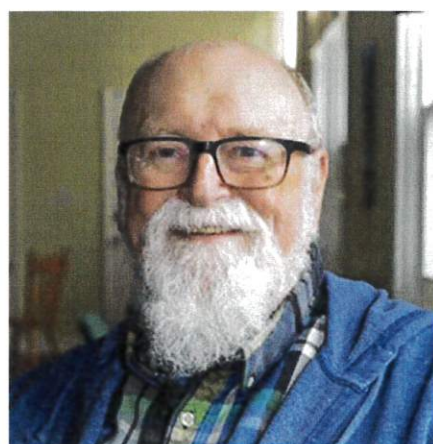
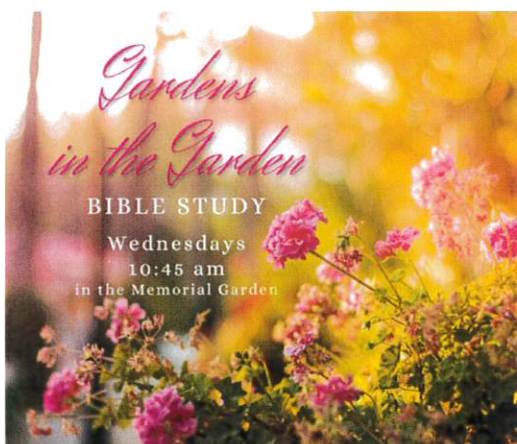
Newcomers Program 2023

St. George's is one of the rare parishes that regularly is blessed with "newcomers" coming into our community looking for a parish home. Many have a background in "church", many do not. Some have happy associations with faith communities and others among us have less fortunate experiences but want to give it another try for various reasons. Some of our newcomers have no experience with Anglicanism and are simply investigating whether it might be compatible with where they are at this point in their life. In short, we are all different, with different experiences, expectations, and hopes. But at base, all of us are desiring some sort of meaningful faith and spiritual community in which we can find a home within which to build relationships with God and one another.

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. Becoming a parish that quickly and graciously helps newcomers begin to know they have a "place" is always a more difficult and nuanced task than merely shaking a hand on a Sunday morning.

Five years ago, we began to develop a program to acknowledge some of people's initial questioning, and to welcome and attempt to help integrate them into the St. George's community. This program, which has had various names has certainly changed and grown over the years. It is still evolving as we learn and grow together.

Given the hiatus over the Covid years, I am happy to report that in 2023 we had three gatherings for newcomers. The numbers varied but probably the average session would be about 5 to 9 newcomers, three leaders, and a handful of longer time members as helpful people to share their knowledge and experience.



Newcomers Program continued...

We think, from the feedback we have received, that participants appreciated the gathering. We provide a lunch, introduce ourselves to one another, and share our “what” and “why” and “hopes” and “histories” on personal, parish and community levels. We talk about some of the many ways people can become part of St. George’s and the various programs and ways they can become involved, both in our worship life and the life of outreach to the needs of the people of the city. As always, we also talk about the hope and work for inclusion and the fact that each of us may hold our faith in a different way, but all are welcome and respected as beloved children of God in Christ.

The program will continue into 2024 (in fact we have already had one gathering this year) and no doubt it will continue to evolve as long as we have the wonderful task of welcoming visitors and newcomers among us. Who knows what we will look like a year from now as we change to meet our growing needs? But life with God is a life of change. We style ourself as “The oldest church with the youngest ideas”. We hope to continue to live out and grow into that ideal as we open our life to all who come to us.

Respectfully submitted,

Alan McLean

Dialing Disciples

The Dialing Disciples 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 28 church members who have a list of eight parishioners to call. Calls are made three times a year – Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas to inquire about your wellbeing, offer assistance and to let you know what is happening at church.

We are always looking for parishioners willing to place some calls a few times a year. If you are interested, please feel free to contact me. I want to thank all the faithful callers who have participated this year on behalf of Dialing Disciples, it has been appreciated by all.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Krafty Korners

On October 19, 2023, Effie DiTello and Sandra Legarde travelled to Mississauga to deliver 150 blankets, numerous pneumonia vests and scarves. Feed the Children Foundation who would be delivering the next day, these items to the indigenous families in the mountains of Peru.

Effie was asked to give a speech about Krafty Korners to students visiting the Foundation and I was told the speech was very well received. There were other students in the warehouse who were packing items into shipping crates for delivery to Peru.

The parishioners from ACW Grace held their 60th Anniversary “Baby Shower”. The items made and purchased would be given to Community Care for the less fortunate new mothers. Throughout the year, homemade baby quilts were made for the baby shower which will be continued for future years with the help from Krafty Korners members.

Some of our members make beaded items which are sold at the St. George’s Bazaar. Members can work on their own projects in the company of Krafty Korners. Critiquing is always appreciated.

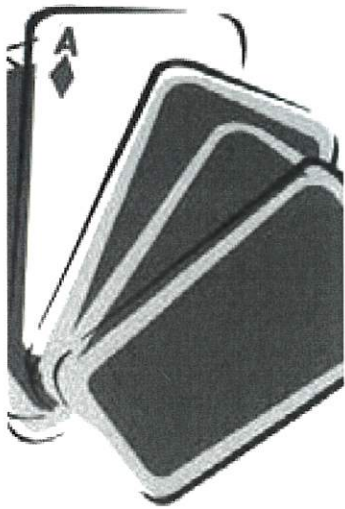
At Christmas time, Krafty Korners decorates the Christmas trees in the Asbil Lounge and the Bear’s Den. We would like to thank Mary Jo (MJ) for all her help.

Krafty Korners collects milk bags and eyeglasses for distribution to other organizations.

As allows, donations of skeins of wool or partial skeins would be greatly appreciated so our skilled ladies can continue to produce items for the neey. We would like to thank the individuals who contributed to Krafty Korners in the past.

Sandra Legarde and Effie DiTello





ST GEORGES CHURCH
MARATHON BRIDGE
2022-2023



We have eight teams this year and we are always looking for more to join us. We take turns playing at each other's homes. There is an annual fee of \$15.00 per person.

We usually donate to the breakfast program, and this year is no exception. We donated \$175.00 to this worthy cause.

If you are a Bridge enthusiast, please consider joining us. It is a fun afternoon enjoying some fellow parishioners.

Respectfully submitted

Gini Rigby



NEIGHBOURHOOD BBQ



Neighbourhood BBQ – “God works in mysterious ways.”

The planning began early in the year, setting the date, booking the bouncy castle and face painter; everything booked for the day of the Pied Piper children’s parade. And then one morning in August on the radio they were talking about the Grand Parade, and it was a week earlier than usual. At a meeting we discussed how to proceed. Would we have anyone come to the BBQ? Should we cancel it for this year? After much discussion, contemplation, and prayer we decided to go ahead on the set date. We shifted the event from the upper parking lot in the rear to setting up on the front lawn. The morning of the weather was perfect, we set up and waited for things to begin.

Things started slowly and we started getting into a rhythm. Grilling hotdogs, popping popcorn, and serving up ice cream. There was no doubt when the parade ended, the front lawn was filled with people. Many of whom went inside to see our beautiful sanctuary, and heard a variety of music from the organ, piano and at times the quartet or chimes, while they learned about all the many things that we have to offer from the many boards set up around.

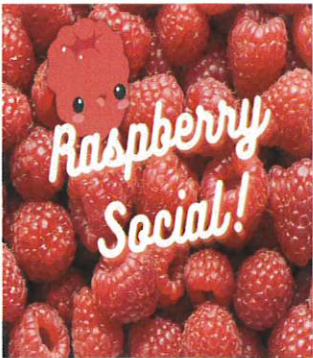
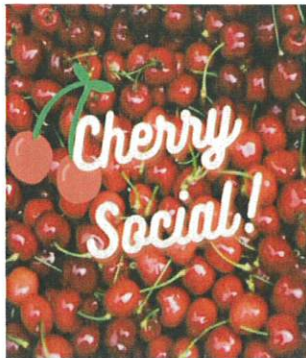
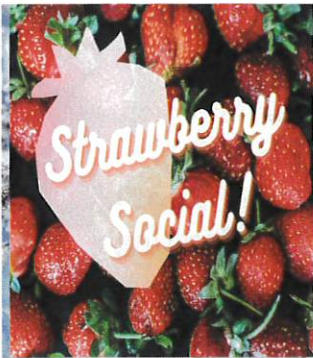
At one point while standing in the middle of this amazing sight, I saw people of all ages, race and social status, mingling about enjoying food, conversation and laughter. I felt a sense of complete peace and serenity. It was like seeing a glimpse of the world God wants for all of us to live in together in harmony.

While we started the day with concerns and worry, we ended the day with hearts filled with joy and love. God truly had a plan for all of us that day. We look forward to seeing how God will guide us in sharing this time again with our neighbours in the coming fall.

MJ Schmidt



Fruit Socials



Living in Niagara we are truly blessed with the wonderful variety of fresh local fruits grown right here in our region.

Strawberries, cherries, peaches, raspberries, and apples. From June to October, we celebrated with a different local fruit social once a month during coffee hour at both 8 and 10am. In the summer months we fired up the BBQ following the 10am to enjoy a lunch with our dessert.

These were fun filled times to share food together.

All proceeds raised from these socials given to help with the cost of the significant building repairs that were undertaken.

Mary Jo Schmidt

BABY SHOWER 2023



Sixty years ago, inspired by ACW Dorcas and her generosity of clothing those in her community. A group of women recognize that the youngest in our community needed their help. In May we celebrated this milestone anniversary in grand splendor.

On Sunday following the services everyone was welcome to come to the gym for the biggest baby shower hosted in 60 years. The room was decorated, and the tables set with fancy teacups. There was delicious goodies and sandwiches along the one side. However, the true marvel of the room was the long wall in the gym laid out with tables filled with donations of every kind. Quilts, clothes, shoes, toys, diapers and so many other things that are needed and appreciated by those bringing home a new baby.

Betty-Lou Souter from Community Care joined us. She reminisced of the many years that she has been attending these showers that started back at Grace and the impact of these gifts to so many families.

While we pray that a day will come that there is no longer a need, we know that day is a long way off. Until that day comes, we will keep hosting this annual event so that even the youngest in our community can know that they are loved.

Mary Jo Schmidt



Prayer Shawl Group

The Prayer Shawl members meet on the second Thursday of each month, from 1:00pm to 3:00pm. We have six members and would like to welcome more. Sharon Crane and Evangeline Horton take turns hosting the meeting in their home. This past year we have given over sixty shawls to those in need. We often receive wonderful messages of appreciation, if you or someone you know needs a Prayer Shawl please contact one of the members or call the church. If you enjoy knitting and would like to knit Prayer Shawls please consider joining our group by calling Evangeline at 905-682-1546.

Respectfully submitted: by Evangeline Horton

Wassail Party

Wassail Party Sunday December 3rd 2-4pm in the Bear's Den, enter through the memorial garden.

What better way to kick off the season of Advent than to come together for an afternoon of hot apple cider, delicious goodies and all of your favourite Christmas Carols.

Mary Jo Schmidt



THE MISHAMIKOWEESH WATER PARTNERSHIP PIMATIZIWIN NIPIANNUAL REPORT 2023

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

Pimatiziwin Nipi (Living Waters)– Who We Are

Pimatiziwin Nipi was formed in 2011 as a response to the reality lack of access to clean, running water in Canada is stridently racialized, affecting a disproportionate number of Indigenous people and Indigenous communities. We are 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

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.

The water truck has been built by Fort Garry Fire Trucks in Winnipeg, an enterprise that has a strong and reputable connection to Indigenous communities. The water truck is now available, final invoicing is in place and plans are in place for the truck to travel to Kingfisher Lake. The truck will be transported to Kingfisher Lake most likely on a long 53 foot flat bed truck... Winnipeg > T Bay > Sioux Lookout > Pickle Lake > Kingfisher Lake FN. There would be a five-week window in which trucks and provisions get sent up to Kingfisher Lake in Feb or March, depending on the ice on the roads. Chief and Council have committed to raising the additional amount for the water truck (approximately another \$80,000) from their own Council funds and / or a supplementary ISC contribution.

In November of this year, we were updated on the progress of our fundraising goal of \$150,000 for this project. With a grant of \$25K from Atlas CopCo, we stood at \$115,000 of the \$150,000 we needed to raise. Confident that the extra \$35,000 would come in by the end of the year, PWRDF gave the leadership of Kingfisher Lake a letter of commitment that the funding will indeed be coming and disbursed for the water truck. A funding agreement was developed and reviewed by Council, signed on January 12 with a disbursement of \$150,000 sent in the following week.



Will Postma, Executive Director of PWRDF, with the new water truck.

Pikangikum

Although Primate's World Relief and Development Fund 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. PWRDF has met with staff from Finance and Capital as well as a representative from a consulting firm supporting Chief and Council on financial accountability across their many projects. The hope is that there will soon be opportunities to draw on the remaining amount of \$250,000 for Pikangikum and leverage it with another sum of money, a federal grant for housing and water infrastructure renovation. PWRDF is also being asked to consider supporting a feasibility study that is near completion for Pikangikum outlining a plan for Water and Wastewater infrastructure improvements across the community. PWRDF may be able to work with the new Chief (Chief Shirley Keeper) and others she may wish to appoint on a focused advocacy strategy with specific asks of Indigenous Services Canada for implementation. There could be important advocacy messages along with increased awareness and engagement of the many individuals, churches and community groups supporting Pikangikum First Nation. This opportunity is in development and is dependent on the timeline within the community.

PWRDF's Leadership

We are blessed to have PWRDF as our partner in enabling connecting 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. Any money raised in 2023 beyond the \$35,000 to complete our commitment to the water truck will go toward the Indigenous Responsive Grant program.

Thank You

Many of the communities in our network focus their fundraising efforts for our work 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 through the year. Thank you for your offerings of prayer, financial support, leadership, and helping to spread the word about this important work. Through your faithfulness, we are confident that we will have raised the \$35,000 to which our network committed and that Kingfisher Lake will see the arrival of their new water truck in the coming months of early 2024!

To donate **online**, visit www.pwrdf.org/water-project and click on the button at the top of the page. You can also **call PWRDF** toll-free at 1-866-308-7973 (leave a message and your call will be returned) or send your cheque marked **Mishamikoweesh Water Project** to The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, 80 Hayden Street, 3rd floor, Toronto, Ontario, M4Y 3G2.

If you prefer to **give through your church**, designate your offering to the PWRDF Mishamikoweesh Water Project. Your church will issue your tax receipt (or include your gift in your annual giving total) and forward your donation to PWRDF.

*PWRDF Charitable Registration No. **BN 8664 34640 RR0001***



PWRDF

The Primate's World Relief
and Development Fund

The Anglican Church of Canada

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.

This year we focused on finding a firm that would undertake the job of reviewing our books. We are pleased to announce that the accounting firm of Durwood, Jones, Barkwell, (Welland Office) have now completed a review of our 2022 finances and have agreed to review our 2023 books in time for Vestry. I want to thank our audit team of Paul Chapman, Chuck Burke, Bruce Whitehouse, and Jim Jenter for all their hard work and time spent in setting up the meetings and overseeing this task.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members, Chuck Burke, Corwin Cambray, Jim Jenter, Sandra Legarde, Bruce Whitehouse, Paul Chapman and Canon Martha for their support, time and valuable input. Our committee is always looking for volunteers.

If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Rev. Canon Martha, Paul Chapman or Marilyn Pettit.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Pettit

SIDESPERSION'S
REPORT

I am pleased to report that we have ten teams participating regularly as Sidespeople this year, allowing for a commitment of five to six times during the year. If you would like to be part of our welcoming team, we are always looking to increase our numbers.

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 assist in welcoming our parisheners and also their cooperation and help when it comes to scheduling. It is a privilege to be a part of this enthusiastic and eager group.

Respectfully submitted Marilyn Pettit

SOUP SUNDAYS

Soup Sundays are held up to seven times per year after the 10 a.m. service in the Luxton Gym. Between 8 and 15 people contribute soup, chili, and bread and rolls to the event. The events are both community building and fund raising. In a typical year over \$2,000 is raised and donated to the Ministry Fund. There are people who also help set up and take down the chairs and tables. They are fun days!!

Volunteers are always needed!

Contact either Sue Chapman
(chapman6467@yahoo.ca)

or

Lydia Gallaway
(douggallaway1@cogeco.ca).



ST. GEORGE'S DINNER

CLUB

Since its beginning in 1988, parishioners have enjoyed delicious dinners and deepening friendships as participants in the St. George's Dinner Club. Presently there are 45 members in the Club. Each May, members and soon-to-be members meet at a potluck supper to draw the names of the next year's groupings. The Club's new year starts in September. Three or four couples meet in each other's homes three/four times over the coming nine months. The food preparations are shared by all so that the work does not fall to one couple. The end result is a series of opportunities to enjoy delicious meals while at the same time becoming better acquainted with one's fellow parishioners. A couple may be a couple or a pair of friends. New members are always welcome. If you would like to join, please come to the reorganizational potluck in May. You do not need to be a gourmet cook to enjoy this Club!

Respectfully submitted,
Grace-Ann Cambray

St. George's Travel Club



Now in its 26th year, the St. George's Travel Club affords parishioners, their families and friends the opportunity to go on a variety of day trips. Under the blue skies of a lovely Spring day, we explored the backroads of Niagara as we stopped to sample some of the great foodstuffs that Niagara produces - cheese, wine, maple syrup products, cherry products and flowers.

In the Fall, through the magic of theatre, we travelled to the Argentina of Eva Peron's day (*Evita*) and to a small village in Russia to learn the story of Tevye and his daughters (*Fiddler on the Roof*). Dieting is not an option on our trips as we eat well! What a pleasure it is to leave the driving to the professionals. If you have an idea for a trip, why not share it?

Yours in learning through travel,
Grace-Ann Cambray

A Year in Review

Property Management Committee Report



The Property Management Committee was formed in 2019. As stewards of the church and parish buildings at St. George's, 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 are needed for any specialized work.

Last year was a busy year for the Property Committee, as we completed some substantive maintenance projects.

A new digital controller for the carillon bells was replaced in the spring and paid for mainly from our insurance claim. Our community is happy to hear our bells ringing once again.



In April, the majority of our existing HVAC units had been replaced, throughout the church and parish buildings. This improved our indoor comfort considerably in the cooling and heating seasons while minimizing maintenance calls to repair our ageing units.

Another considerable maintenance project was completed in late summer with the re-roofing of the flat roof above the Asbil Lounge and Grace Meeting Room. This important roof maintenance was overdue as there was constant ponding on this roof.

Property Management Committee Report Continued...

Our gardens and landscaping also saw some improvements over the summer. A new hose bib was installed for our watering needs as the previous hose bib had been damaged. Our youth Cecilia and Gordan Tatarnic led the efforts to clean up and to plant our gardens, keeping our planting beds looking their best. Thanks to Cecilia and Gordan for making the grounds look beautiful again!

Our upper parking lot received new parking lines and accessibility signage painted this past fall by Algoma.

A few improvements to the church office were completed by Committee volunteers. Peter Schafrick, Terry Colburn and Neil Allyn skillfully repaired and re-painted the office door wall and added glass to the office interior doors.

As a committee with sage guidance from Rob Welch, and the hard work of Graeme Leach, we settled an insurance claim for the structural damage done that had occurred due to nearby construction vibration in the Bear's Den. This was a huge accomplishment for the church. Once a permit is issued, this structural work will be going ahead in these winter months to come. A big thanks to Rob and Graeme!

Neil installed a very much needed back door buzzer and improved the lighting above the back kitchen door. Thanks Neil!

This year will bring even more improvements to the church and its buildings so that St. George's can continue to do all its good works.

Regards,
Gina Schafrick
Property Management Committee Chair

Report for the Music Ministries of St. George's Anglican Church



With the loosening of Covid's grip on our parish, our community and our world, 2023 proved to be a time of reinvigoration and of regaining momentum. The music ministries of St. George's were a beacon of hope in our community, as we collectively forged a new path ahead, post-pandemic. The St. George's Choir grew in numbers and in spirit, ringing in a new season for us, and instilling a refreshed sense of enthusiasm in us. Highlights of this past year include a joyfully vibrant Easter Sunday with organ and brass; a moving and emotional Remembrance Sunday, featuring the choir, organ, piano and players from the Niagara Symphony and beyond, as they collaborated on the stunning Rutter Requiem; an unforgettable candlelit Lessons and Carols service, and a packed church for Christmas eve.

We were so glad to formally welcome Adam MacNeil as the newly-appointed Associate Organist at St. George's. His involvement with the music of this parish meant a deeper and vaster offering to our community. Having played a big role in the major festival days of the church year and beyond, Adam was instrumental in the growth and success of this ensemble this past year, and we are grateful for his continued involvement with us.

In 2023 Advent Cafe took a hiatus, allowing the team to reconnect and re-envision what that contemporary and intimate service might look like again in the future. Now, in 2024, the Advent Cafe team has relaunched the service on a monthly basis and are eager to implement these changes in the services to come, with a deeper focus on theme, discussion, and cosiness! Having had one service already since the relaunch, we are enthusiastic about what the future of Advent Cafe holds for us at St. George's.





Other notable events of the year that pertain to the music ministries of St. George's included a heartfelt funeral service for Bishop Walter Asbil, which brought the greater community together, and included a combined choir of singers from St. George's, Christ's Church Cathedral, as well as other community members. Brad's new role as assistant conductor of the Avanti Chamber Singers has allowed for an overlapping community of singers between the places he works or has worked, casting a wider net and welcoming singers from many different places. And finally, this past fall we had a wonderful celebration of the music on my album "Flowers on the Wall", which included performances, stories, interviews, and cake! I was very grateful to share that side of my life with this community, and to sing my songs to a full house meant the world to me. To witness that kind of support from this parish was so encouraging.



Looking back on 2023 makes me smile. To be reminded of the many ways the music ministries of St. George's supported the well-being of our parish and community is something I am proud of, and something we should all be proud of. For without the community, our music ministry mission would be irrelevant. Thank you to all who are involved in the musical programs here, and to all who appreciate what we do. We look forward to this year with eager plans and enthusiastic hearts, and plenty of momentum.

Written by Brad Barnham



Assistant Curate's Report

When 2023 began I was Lay Pastoral Associate, which I was appointed the previous April. With my ordination to the Diaconate in June the Bishop appointed me Assistant Curate. My role as Curate is to help the Co-Rectors in their ministry and continue my formation under their supervision. In that I am fortunate to have two very gifted and attentive priests as supervisors but also to be serving a very loving and supportive congregation who are committed to their vocation as a teaching parish.

The most visible work I do is on Sunday mornings, preaching and participating in worship, a task I also undertake at Advent Cafe and other special services, such as funerals and midweek services. I also do pastoral work: meeting with parishioners and neighbours, visiting people in their homes, and along with Parish Visitors Ron Duggan and Marilyn Pettit visit the hospital weekly to check if anyone on the parish list has been admitted. I also sit on the Parish Visitors' Committee.

Last year I helped with Super Tuesday as well as leading the Easter Book study of Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality by Julia Gatta

I continue to open the church and lead Morning Prayer daily at 8:45 am Monday to Thursday with the assistance of Jordan McArthur, Valear Howsam, and Rosalind Ryman. I also go to Henley House, a long-term care home monthly to lead a service as well as filling in leading the monthly service at Ina Grafton when needed.

I am a host weekly at the breakfast program and provide a clergy presence there on Sundays on a regular basis. Serving others, especially the hungry and those in need is an essential part of the ministry of a Deacon, so I am grateful to have a way in which to exercise this part of my calling. I also participate in the work of the Prayer Chain and the Social Justice and Community Outreach Committee.



Assistant Curate's Report continued...

After my ordination, my work stayed mostly the same although done under a new title; however, it was a profound moment in my life. The ministry to which I have been called began in a variety ways and places, but I am increasingly conscious that it is a ministry now exercised for the universal Church and in service to all; I am grateful that I am able to exercise that work commissioned by the Church and strengthened by God's grace imparted through the Sacrament. Being made a Deacon involves the confirmation of the gifts which God has worked in a person throughout their life. I am profoundly grateful that many of the gifts that I bring to my office have been nurtured here at St. George's in the almost two years that I have been here, not only because of the care that so many of you have shown towards me but also from being part of this vibrant community that is committed to following God's call and loving each other and God's world. In this way you are doing me and every place I minister to in the future a great service.

Respectfully Submitted,

The Rev. Mike Degan



FAMILY MEAL KITS – 2023

Supporting Community Care



In 2020 Anglicans in Action (six Anglican Churches in St. Catharines) led a community-wide response to help address food insecurity in Niagara with the Meal in a Bag project. Five churches now Involved are Church of the Transfiguration, St. Barnabas, St. Columbus, St. George's, and St. Thomas. Each week the packed bags are then delivered to Community Care at 12 North St., St. Catharines or Community Care in Thorold for distribution to their clients. The approved easy-to-prepare recipes can be prepared either in an oven, or on a stovetop, and will feed a family of four. A copy of the recipe is included in the Meal Bag. Each recipe closes –" Packed with loving care especially for you by Anglicans in Action ENJOY!" Since 2020 through end of 2023 172,512 individuals have been fed. In 2023 the bags have fed up to 50,332. Of these St. George's produced 1,368 bags feeding up to 5,472 people.

Another Meal Bag Project of Anglicans in Action – Single Bags

In the fall of 2021 Community Care made Anglicans in Action aware of a need for a food bag to feed those who are single and who had nowhere to cook food and often no utensils.

These bags required special care as the food must all be packaged but only accessible for those eating it. A single bag was decided with items that could be eaten without having to heat and that if in a can it is easy to open. This means flip top cans of meat, beans etc. a spoon and a napkin. Since the fall of 2021 6,436 single bags have been handed out from Community Care.

In 2023 the bags fed 3,772.

The programs are supported through personal giving donations, the Diocese and Community Grants.

Respectively submitted – St. George's Co-ordinator
Dianne Chisholm





Stewardship Committee

In 2023, the Stewardship Committee decided to try a different path for our Joyful Giving Campaign. To make it more personal, all parishioners were invited to participate at a meeting to understand the reasons behind this appeal each fall and were invited to share their comments.

We feel this went very well with great feedback from attendees as they shared what they enjoy and value at St. George's. We also discussed our vision for the future to ensure we continue to meet the needs our congregation and the community at large.

Thanks to our dedicated Route Managers who called each household to invite them to one of the three meetings where they received their Joyful Giving packages. Other envelopes were distributed by the Route Managers or mailed out.

The St. George's congregation responded generously as they always do. With 135 pledges, the responses totalled \$303,090, an increase of \$9,954 from the prior year. There was another \$7,156 pledged to the Home for Hope Building Fund. Also, 88 households returned their Time and Talent sheets to express their interest in joining groups, volunteering and participating in some of the 50 options listed on the form.

The friendships and occasions for fellowship that St. George's provides are a key strength that continues to draw more people to our parish. More people have joined our church family, which they first experienced through our YouTube channel. In the midst of this secular world, we thank God that St. George's continues to grow and flourish through the generosity of our committed church family.

Submitted by
Nora Jenter
Committee Chair



Sunday School



Sunday school has been growing since the Pandemic. The numbers began with 2-4 children regularly and now with 13-15 attending. It is exciting to see the children and youth bonding and rebuilding. We have created personal bins for the children and youth that attend Sunday school. These bins contain sensory items such as foam, squishy balls and play doh. We have colouring, sketch pads etc. These bins are for their use only. For those children who do not attend Sunday school but remain in the church we offer pew bags which provide colouring and fun. We are continuing with our Sparkhouse Digital Curriculum, and we at sometimes go to the gym after our lesson to burn energy and play some active games. We had a successful Vacation Bible School week this past Summer. We had 13 children in total. We had youth help out and it was a fun week. One of the children who attended end up getting baptised. We were all very happy with VBS's success. We are offering an Ash Wednesday day program and we will offer another VBS this coming Summer. We participated in the Advent services lighting the candles and listening to a short explanation of Advent. This was enjoyable all around. We are excited to be offering Communion classes this Spring.

We had our Family group and Parables and Play program start back up. We are slowly building on these two programs. Parables and Play offers a lesson on one of the Parables in the Bible. Family group allows families to get together, eat pizza and chat together while the children are cared for. These two programs run the first Tuesday of the month.

Submitted by: Tanya Schleich



Youth Group



Youth group is doing very well. We are building as a group but most importantly we are strengthening the bond and developing strong friendships. The youth group is eager and excited to participate again. They like making plans and enjoy any and all of their time together. They are attending church sometimes even when their parents cannot. They are motivated and excited to plan a new fundraiser for our youth group. The energy and spirit within this group is very exciting and motivating. We have many fun activities planned and we are also happy to extend the invite out to new youth within our church and our community.

We will be offering Confirmation classes this May and the ceremony will be held October 27th, 2024 at the Cathedral. These classes run for 8 weeks with a break in the Summer. Our youth are active in many ways at St. George's. They are involved with our younger children and day programs/Sunday school, providing service and help at events such as the Bazaar, BBQ, etc. and to participating in the service. We are also offering to youth within the community a chance to receive their volunteer hours here at St. George's. We look forward to the year ahead. **Tanya Schleich**

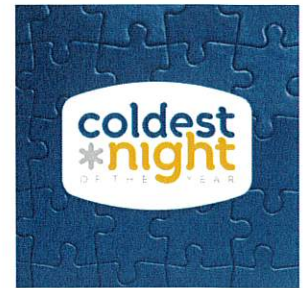
Counting Team

Joe Steinman moved from St. Catharines in August 2023, but not before he had the 2023 Teams in place and everything running smoothly each week.

A huge Thank You to Joe Steinman for his years of service to the Teams and organizational skills, keeping us on track.

Two team members had to step back Richard Lane and Cylvia Powell but we added two new members Sue Bartlett, and Janet Veale to our weekly roster and Vic Cicci came on as a spare. Each Team needs to be thanked for their dedication and service. Your hard work is appreciated by the Wardens and Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted: Dianne Chisholm



Social Justice and Community Outreach

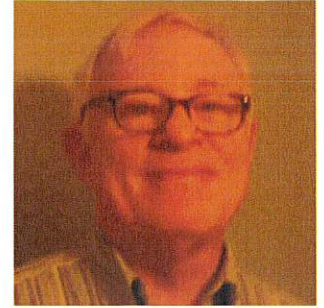
Much of our work for 2023 as a group was reimagining our framework as a Committee. We begin 2024 with a new name and a framework of Christian Outreach that goes beyond direct service, the doing, to include community engagement, awareness-raising, political advocacy, and connection - gathering. The questions we seek to answer are: who we serve? why we serve? and, how do we respond?

As a parish, we primarily focused our service on those who are vulnerable facing food insecurity, as witnessed in the reports from the leaders of the Breakfast Program, Community Dinner and Meals in a Bag. From the inspiration of Rev Alan McLean, we took this witness to the heart of our Sunday service, where a community basket of donated foods for Community Care and the Breakfast Program is brought forward with our monetary gift offerings each week.

We walked, rode bikes, knitted, crocheted, made and served food, and welcomed people to gather on our common ground, our holy ground, for the vulnerable in our local, national and world community: for babies, at risk children in cold climates, those seeking shelter and a fresh start, those needing a meal, those needing clean water, refugees, and those seeking fellowship on their life's journey. We included additional petitions in our prayers, began updates in the Saints Connection, and reached out to other providers in the community to ensure we all were better informed about services available. Small but important steps as we move forward in faith.

Our activities of the parish that put our faith into action included the Coldest Night of the Year walk for Start Me Up, the Baby Shower, our fabulous community BBQ and dinners, the open doors of Advent Cafe, the Wild Ride, Prayer Shawls and Blankets sent to children overseas, the Advent Conspiracy (the Living Waters Project), the Advent Giving Tree, and our everyday opening of our doors to those in need.

Valear Howsam, Team Leader



CORPORATION/PARISH COUNCIL

As of the end of 2023, the Corporation consisted of the two co-rectors, two wardens and two deputy wardens. The group is the executive leadership group in the church which aids in the development of a budget, deals with personnel issues, manages church finances, assists in the running of Sunday services, and provides support and assistance to the Co-rectors, other clergy, and Parish Council.

The 2023 Corporation consisted of Canon Rev. Martha, Rev. Tom, Peter Schafrick, Paul Chapman, Cheryl Bergie and Janet Veale. Regular meetings were held either in person or by

There was a significant change in staffing this year with the creation of the position of Co-Rectors which was celebrated in January of 2024. The Rev Tom Vaughan joined Rev Martha as Co-Rectors at St. Georges. The Corporation requested the Bishop to create this position and after careful consideration the Bishop supported the request. Corporation believes that this new model is a worthwhile experiment to provide improved service to the congregation and support the Ministry team. We also see this model as being a support to the future of the wider church as we live through a time of transition regarding the church's position in society. In 2023 we also saw Mike Degan beginning his role as Assistant Curate in our parish after being ordained.

The year was marked by the return to a normal cycle of weekday services and a revised format for Advent Café. An 8:45 a.m. service was added 4 days per week.

The year saw many initiatives related to Christian formation. The clergy and honorary assistants lead many of these programs. These were done in conjunction with Super Tuesdays plus during the week. These initiatives are also a valuable tool for community building.

A major maintenance initiative for 2023 was the completion of two major repair/replacement projects, the first was the replacement of most of the heating and cooling systems in the church and parish hall and the second was the replacement of the flat roof over the Asbil Lounge. Both these projects were completed within the budgets approved at Vestry. The process to repair the structural damage to the Bears Den was initiated. This project is ongoing. Most of the cost of this work will be paid from the settlement of an insurance claim. We want to thank Gina Schafrick and the Property Committee for their leadership. In 2024, there will be a major program for the restoration of the exterior of the church building if approved at Vestry.

The choir continued to grow and perform at an elevated level under the leadership of Brad Barnham. The service for the Festival of Lessons and Carols continued the run of outstanding performances.

CORPORATION/PARISH COUNCIL CONTINUED...

Members of your Parish Council include Rev. Martha, Rev Tom, Mike Degan, the four wardens, our Treasurer Jim Jenter, lay delegates to Synod, Chairs of standing committees, leaders of other groups such as the Breakfast Program and members appointed at large. The role of Parish Council is advisory, and they review monthly financial statements, provide advice on existing and new initiatives, and provide feedback on “what is happening in the church.”

Corporation would like to thank Rev Martha and Rev Tom, Mike Degan, Jim Jenter and Linda Telega for their dedication and service to St. Georges. We would also like to thank our custodial staff, Jordan, and Dale, for their efforts.

In addition to the staff there are many volunteers who keep the church running, members of Altar Guild, counting teams, greeters, lay readers, sides people and coffee hour and soup Sunday volunteers who all add their special touches to the St. Georges Community. The wardens would like to thank all the volunteers at the 8 a.m., 10 a.m., weekday services and Advent Café who gave so freely of their time to ensure the operation of the church services.

The church could not operate without all of those who so generously give their time. In addition, our programs meet the needs of others beyond our doors and our parishioners rely on volunteers. The Breakfast Program, our meal programs all operate on a volunteer basis. Thanks to all.

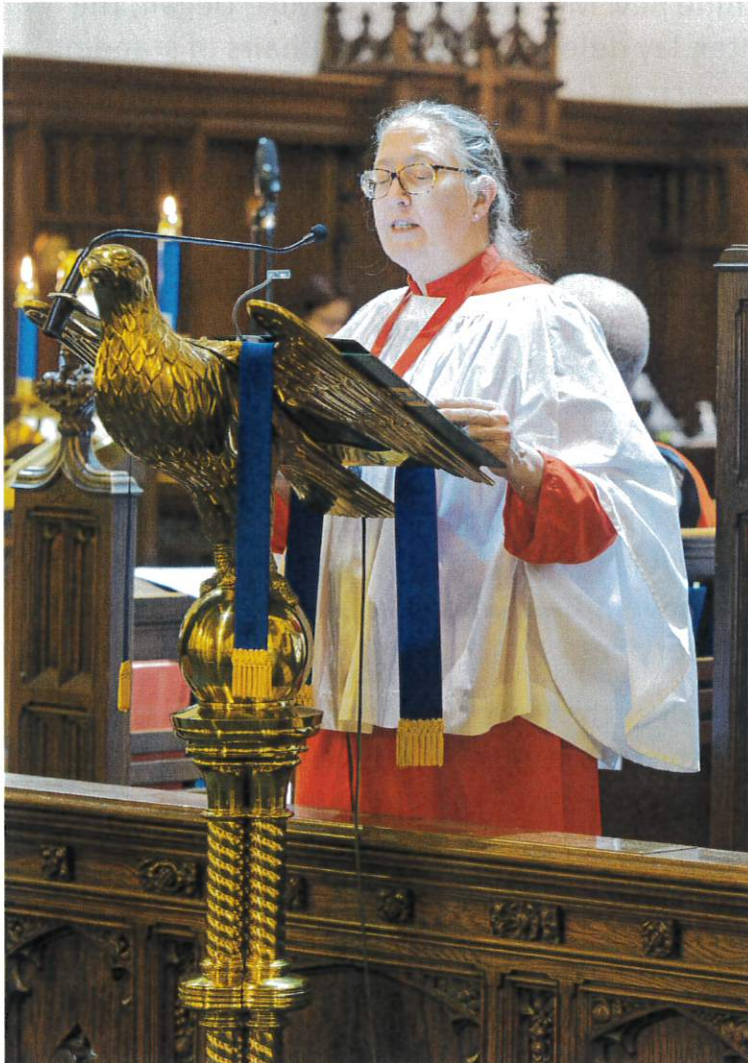
Respectfully Submitted

Paul Chapman, People’s Warden



CHORISTER REPORT

To the congregation of St. George's:



Thank you for giving us the weekly opportunity to sing old and new arrangements of hymns and anthems, by old and new composers. Thank you for continuing to support the St. George's tradition, started by John Butler, of presenting a Requiem annually on Remembrance Sunday. The guest singers and musicians take us levels up in our singing.

Thank you for supporting Brad who brings thoughtfulness and passion to worship music. His coaching and conducting bring all of us further in our technique and musicianship.

Thank you for the joy of singing together and sharing the music we prepare with our church community.

By Beth Cooper

Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC)

BAC was dormant during COVID but we came back well with five dinner meetings in 2023; which is our normal schedule. Besides good dinners generously facilitated by Paul Chapman and Doug Gallaway, we were entertained and edified by five guest speakers. In January Tim Rigby informed us of his front line observations on the politics and policies of Niagara Regional Council. In February Paul Chapman used his expertise to give us a history and importance of local railroads. April's meeting introduced us to Peter Jennings and his hobbies of travelling while paragliding. In October Ron and Lois Duggan shared their slides and memories of a visit to Canterbury. Lastly in November we heard from Francis Richardson of the Anglican Diocese of Huron, where he is the BAC Diocesan Secretary and Membership /Communications Chair. He told us about their success in having 14 active BAC chapters.

Meetings normally begin at about 6 PM for socializing, then the meal starts at about 6:30 PM 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.

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 five times a year on the second Tuesday of January, February, April, October, and November. We normally average 20 members per meeting.

Anyone from St. George's and family/or friends who would like to join BAC should call the office at 905682-9232 or contact any of the executive below

For 2023 the Interim Executive Committee was:

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

Breakfast Program

“...my God will supply every need of yours according to his riches in glory in Christ Jesus”

Breakfast served with kindness and generosity every morning to all comers, no questions asked. Once again, we achieved this goal in 2023. Thank you to all who share our vision and responded with generous donations of money, food and service.

In 2023, from January through December we served an average of 86 guests daily (a total of 31,340 guests over the year) opening our door promptly every morning at 7:30 am. This was similar to the number of guests we served in 2022. We improved the nutritional content of breakfast by offering a choice of fruit on several days weekly.

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 2023 with donations of \$102,900, meeting our budget and allowing us to start 2024 with a positive bank balance. We continue to marvel at God’s faithful and generous provision for our work.

There were three major changes to the Operations Team during 2023.

Nancy Little, a steadfast supporter and advocate for the Program, died in September 2023. We miss her steady influence and generous spirit of service. Nancy’s son James took over leadership of her team as they continue to serve on the second Wednesday of each month.

Ann Koppel expanded her role in becoming co-chair. This gives title to the faithful and selfless support and guidance she provides by participating in the day-to-day leadership of the Program in consultation and partnership with the Chair, Duncan Moffett.

Faye Perkins stepped into the role of Treasurer, initially working with Daryl Crosby who has served as Program treasurer since 2019. Faye formally assumed the Treasurer’s role on 15 January 2024. A big thank you to both Daryl and Faye for making this transition possible.

In an effort to further build the relationship between our guests and St. George’s, we held a short church service on each of the four Sundays of Advent. Up to 20 of our guests attended the services as we opened our doors for “coffee and church” at 7 am each Sunday, some participating in an energetic signing of O Come All Ye Faithful.

BREAKFAST PROGRAM

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 to \$1,000 our monthly donation to St. George's (a 54 per cent increase). This is provided as our contribution towards the support we receive from the church, particularly the janitorial services provided so cheerfully by Jordan McArthur and his assistant Dale.

We begin 2024 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.

Duncan Moffett, Breakfast Program Chair

Ann Koppel, Co-Chair



Prayer Chain

This report will be very similar to last year's report as not much has changed. We wish to let anyone who is not familiar with Prayer Chain, to learn how we might be of service to you, your family and or friends.

Prayer Chain currently consists of about eight members who believe in 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.

If you wish to contact the Prayer Chain:

Please speak to Rev. Martha, Rev. Tom or Mike or other clergy or call any of the following members of the Prayer Chain:

Tom Owens 905-934-4239 Mike Degan 905-682-9232

We normally meet in person about every three months and 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 one during 2023. We welcome any new members who agree with our mission

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 January 2024

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR 2023



Dear Vestry Members and Church Community,

I am pleased to present the vestry report for our Annual Christmas Bazaar, a truly festive and community-centered event that took place on Sat. Nov. 18, 2023, from 10am-1:30pm. This report reflects the collaborative efforts and generous spirit of our church community, sponsors, volunteers, and donors.

Overview: The Annual Christmas Bazaar has once again proven to be a remarkable gathering, bringing together members of our church family and the broader community in a joyous celebration of the holiday season. With new leadership this year, Bazaar Chair - Cheryl Bergie, Co-Chair - Tanya Schleich and Cafe Chair - Celeste Allyn. The event took place in all of our lower-level hall spaces, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere filled with laughter, goodwill, and the true spirit of Christmas.

Key Achievements:

• Generous Sponsorship:

• We extend our heartfelt appreciation to our sponsors, These Architects, Schaf, and Sisters In Sales, whose generous contributions significantly contributed to the success of the bazaar. Their support allowed us to enhance the quality of the event and its impact on our community.

• **Food Donors' Contribution:** • A special thank you to Starbucks and Cobb Bread for providing the coffee and bread that enhanced our cafe experiences. Their contributions added a feel of community generosity to our bazaar, making it a memorable experience for all attendees.

• Dedicated Volunteer Support:

• The success of the bazaar would not have been possible without the dedication of our volunteers. From setting up and taking down booths to managing activities, parking, kitchen help, servers, tech and audio support, creative team, advertising etc, their tireless efforts ensured the smooth execution of the event. We are immensely grateful for their commitment and enthusiasm.



• **Community Engagement:**

- The bazaar served as a platform for community engagement, allowing us to open our doors to our parish members both past and current, community members and people who have never been in our beautiful building before. Attendees had the opportunity to learn about the positive impact of their support on our community.

Financial Impact:

The funds raised during the Christmas Bazaar will play a crucial role in supporting our ongoing community projects and outreach initiatives. The financial success of the event reflects the generosity of our community members and their commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of others.

Next Steps:

As we move forward, we will continue to build on the success of this year's Christmas Bazaar. We plan to leverage our experience with sponsorship and food donors and enhance that next year, understanding better what value add we can provide.

Gratitude:

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our Annual Christmas Bazaar. Your support has not only made this event a joyous occasion but has also fueled our mission to serve and uplift those in need. Thank you for your continued commitment to our church community.

Blessings, **Cheryl Bergie** Bazaar Chair



Coffee Hour 2023



We have been serving coffee Sundays in the Asbil Lounge(except for Soup Sundays when we are downstairs in the Swan to support Soup Sunday, serving coffee.) Coffee Hour right now is not feasible in the Bears Den but perhaps in the future. Our Parish Community can come into the Asbil Lounge after service to have a drink, a sweet and best of all a chance to catch up with others in the parish. Coffee Hour is also a warm and welcoming place for newcomers, an opportunity for them to take part in our parish life. Coffee hours have celebrated special events - Birthdays, Anniversaries, Graduations, special church days with Cakes. Everyone loves cakes at St. George's.

Spring and fall Coffee hours highlighted the fruits of the seasons with cherry crumble, strawberry crumble, peach crumble, and finally our fall apple crisp. In the summer as the temperature started to rise, coffee/tea service switched to lemonade and Iced Tea. Sweets were always available. Thank you to all the Coffee team leaders and Team members who stepped in and made it work in 2023. We had six teams but scheduling can be difficult as all teams have members with other duties which can conflict with being available during the coffee hour time.

Volunteers from the Time and Talent sheets have expressed interest and we will be putting together two new teams. This will allow more flexibility. It would be great to have a roster of backup people also who would fill in occasionally on a one time basis when the unexpected happens and a team member is not available for their scheduled Sunday. Lastly, we honour and remember one of our Coffee Team Leaders Kelly Bedford. Gone but not forgotten. We miss her dig in and get this job done manner, her big smile and her love for our St. George's family.

Effie Di Tiello and Dianne Chisholm – Coffee Hour Co-ordinators 2023



BISHOP BEATTIE FELLOWSHIP GROUP

The Bishop Beattie Fellowship Group is a warm and welcoming forum for women of the parish to come together and deepen their friendships with one another. We meet on the first Monday of the month from March to June and September to December at 7 pm in the Asbil Lounge. We had a number of new members join us in 2023 and others are always welcome.



We had 7 great meetings this year, beginning with a fun mystery auction in March. In April, The Rev. Doreen MacFarlane gave us a delightful talk about her amazing life and in May Martha came to talk to us about her involvement in the indigenous water project. Our June dinner at Johnny Rocco's restaurant was great fun, but also sad as we said goodbye to Penny Steinman, who had been a member of our group for almost 40 years. September's meeting was canceled due to the parish hall roof repairs, but when we met in October, we celebrated 71 years of active service in the church with a cake (of course!) and some history and stories for our newer members. November's meeting is always fun and busy as we create baskets for the gift basket table at the bazaar. In December, we had a lovely Christmas gathering, beginning with corporate communion in the church, followed by a potluck supper and caroling with music supplied by John Butler.



We were also very honoured in April to provide the funeral reception for Bishop Walter Asbil and again in August to do so for Therese Girard, Dan Tataranic's grandmother. We look forward to the beginning of this year's meetings on March 4 at 7pm in the lounge.

Respectfully submitted, Tina Valenteyn, President.

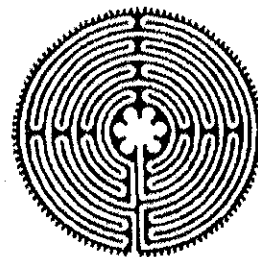


The Mustard Seeds (formerly Faith and Light) in 2023

The Mustard Seeds was a group for individuals with intellectual disabilities, their friends and families which met monthly in the Bear's Den. Meetings resumed last spring at St. George's however after much prayer and discussion, it was decided to disband the group. Strong bonds of friendship and caring were developed over the 13 years since the group began and they will continue to grow.

Many thanks to St. George's for the opportunity to use the Bear's Den for our dinners and meetings. It was a wonderful environment to grow in Christ's love and do all the crazy singing, mimes and dinners that we loved.

Submitted: Stephanie Wilton- Duncan



Labyrinth Vestry Report 2023

Labyrinth walks resumed with one walk in 2023 after a long break during Covid. Due to gym availability walks are now scheduled for the 4th Saturday of the month, September - June from 1:00 - 3:00 p.m. (Any changes to the schedule are reported in the Sunday announcements/newsletter).

Most walks take place in the gym at St. George's however, when weather is comfortable some walks are planned for outdoor community venues.

Newcomers are always welcome and brief instruction is provided.

Submitted: Stephanie Wilton- Duncan

VISITOR'S GROUP

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 or request a visit, receive, at their discretion, a personal visit at their residence or in hospital. Our goal is to share the spirit and fellowship that we all enjoy as members of the St. George's family.

It is with pleasure that we welcomed M. J. Schmidt to our group.

Two team members are designated hospital visitors and the clergy, minister to those in the St. Catharines General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre. Visits usually last from a few minutes to an hour, depending upon the patient's wishes. The remaining team members visit in the parishioner's homes or in any of the senior and long-term care facilities.

The time and duration of these meetings are at the convenience of the parishioner and visitor. The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered by the clergy or a member of the visitor team. Eucharist services are conducted at Linhaven, Ina Grafton and other facilities (upon request) during the year by clergy. Visitors must undergo a screening process and agree to abide by a rule of strict confidence regarding visits. Team meetings are held about five times per year or as circumstances dictate.

A visitor experiences the joy and fulfillment that comes from the expression of appreciation by the clergy and those we visit. Thank you, visitors, for sharing your talent and your unfailing dedication to this important ministry.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

COLUMBARIUM REPORT

Two single sized units and two double sized were sold during 2023. The current prices are \$1500 and \$3000 respectively.

In October niche fronts were ordered from Matthews Inc who have been the supplier for both the niche banks and the niche plates over the years. They are located in the United States and to have any supplies expedited in a timely fashion has been unsuccessful. . Accordingly, an effort was made to find a supplier in the region or in Hamilton who might produce items consistent with our requirements. All local churches as well as the Cathedral who house columbaria gave helpful information regarding their experiences and their suppliers. This research included advice from our engraving service In conclusion, it appears impossible to acquire niches plates from anyone other than Matthews which will meet our needs in terms of size, material, and/or finish.

The committee wishes to thank the current corporation for approving the purchase of 10 double and 6 single niche fronts. It is imperative we have niche fronts available at the time of interment especially given the difficulty in getting them quickly.

Some recommendations have been made by Canon Martha with regard to the content of the engraving. Purchasers will be required to approve their submissions in writing. Purchasers must bear the cost of any changes with the exception of any errors made by the engraver or our committee members.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Arnedt (chair columbarium committee)

St George's Altar Guild

The Altar Guild is a ministry of service.

The current membership is 17 active members and 2 associate members. I am pleased to welcome 3 new members to the Guild recently and look forward to welcoming others. The Altar Guild is divided into 4 teams, each taking a week to prepare for the Eucharist. Members order and arrange the flowers for weekly and festival services such as Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

The Guild members launder and iron the worship linens, polish the brass and silver, dust the sanctuary and cleanup following the services.

On April 30, 2023 the new green frontal altar cloth and accessories were dedicated in the memory and honour of Reverend Canon Rob Fead. I congratulate the members on their continued dedication to the ministry. Our sincere appreciation to the clergy for their understanding and guidance. We also thank Linda Telega and Jordan for always being available to assist us.

Respectfully submitted,

Sharon Crane



DEPARTED MEMBERS

<i>Elaine Hooker</i>	<i>Cheryl Lines</i>
<i>Bill Hull</i>	<i>Olive Thompson</i>
<i>Jeffrey Dennis</i>	<i>Stephen Farnar</i>
<i>Jean Scott</i>	<i>Kelly Belford</i>
<i>Iris Barnham</i>	<i>Pat McLean</i>
<i>Sharon DeMarko</i>	<i>Margaret Miller</i>
<i>Glenn Sawyers</i>	<i>Fred Cross</i>
<i>Carl Christensen</i>	<i>Diana Randall</i>
<i>John Van Every</i>	<i>Janice Brown</i>
<i>Sharon Sebastian</i>	<i>Marion Girard</i>
<i>Anne Mirynech</i>	<i>Nancy Little</i>
<i>Nancy Court</i>	<i>Iris Barnham</i>
<i>Brock Watts</i>	<i>Ivan Little</i>
<i>Edythe Cook</i>	<i>Peter Horne</i>
<i>James Arthur</i>	<i>Marilyn Prentice</i>
<i>Tupman</i>	<i>Peggy Kingstone</i>
<i>Robert Kuhns</i>	<i>Eleanor Brown</i>
<i>Rt. Rev. Bishop</i>	<i>Janette Ellingham</i>
<i>Walter Asbil</i>	
<i>Roy Angle</i>	



RECTOR'S STATISTICAL REPORT 2023

	2022		2023
Households on Parish List	320		326
Number of Identifiable Givers	317		
Baptisms	5		11
Confirmations	0		0
Marriages	2		1
Funerals by St. George's Clergy	27		24
	In Person + Live Online	Post Service Online	In Person + Live Online
Average Sunday Attendance	118.5	142.9	
Average Weekly Attendance	94.1	69.9	
Average Total Attendance	212	212.9	
<u>Christmas Attendance</u>			
Christmas Eve- December 24	400	244	403
Christmas Day- December 25	69	76	23
Total	469	320	426
<u>Triduum & Easter Attendance</u>			
Maundy Thursday - April 6, 2023	66	96	103
Good Friday - April 7, 2023	114	149	101
Easter Vigil - April 8, 2023	135	56	64
Easter Day - April 9, 2023	293	219	306
Total Easter	428	275	370

Agenda for the 231st Session of St. George's Vestry

Sunday February 25th, 2024

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 (2023)
5. Priorities of St. Georges:
6. Financial Statements for the year 2023
7. Parish Budget for the year 2024
- A) Presentation
- B) Discussion and adoption: Resolution #2
8. Financial Review 2023 & 2024: Resolution #3
9. Election of Peoples' Warden and Deputy Peoples' Warden: Resolution #4
10. Announcement of Appointments for 2024, Rector's Warden, Deputy Rector's Warden and New Parish Council Members
11. Organizations and Committee Reports
12. Adoption of all Reports: Resolution #5
13. Gratitude: Resolution #6

Agenda for the 231st Session of St. George's Vestry

14. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2024: Resolution #7

15. Resolution #8

16. Resolution #9

17. Adjournment



Resolutions for the 231st Session
of St. George's Vestry
Sunday February 25th, 2024

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 approves the proposed Budget for 2024.
3. Be it resolved that the Vestry adopt the financial reports of 2023 as reviewed by Durward Jones Barkwell & Company LLP, Chartered Professional Accountants. And be it resolved that Durward Jones Barkwell & Company be appointed as Financial Reviewers for 2024.
4. That Janet Veale be elected Peoples' Warden and Jim Streadwick be elected Deputy Peoples' Warden for a one-year term.
5. Be it resolved that the Reports presented to this Vestry be adopted as written or amended.
6. 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.
7. Be it resolved that the Co- Rectors, 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 2024;

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.

8. Be it resolved that this Vestry authorizes the Co-Rector's 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;

Resolutions for the 231st Session
of St. George's Vestry
Sunday February 25th, 2024

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.

9. 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 12, 2024**, be hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.



*God of light,
you call us into your church to accept the cost and joy of discipleship: to celebrate
your presence, to live with respect in creation, to be your servants in the service of
others, to seek justice and resist evil, to share in Christ's baptism and eat at his table,
to proclaim Jesus crucified and risen ,our judge and our hope. Guide our way so that
we may embody your love for the world. We pray in Jesus' name. Amen.*

Let the celebration continue...





Co-Rector: The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Co-Rector: The Reverend Tom Vaughan

Assistant Curate: The Reverend Mike Degan

Bishop in Residence: Bishop George Elliott

Honorary Assistant: The Venerable Marion Vincett

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant: The Reverend Dr. Doreen McFarlane

Pastoral Associate: The Reverend Alan McLean

Chaplain: The Reverend Heather Whitehouse

Sub-Deacon: Mary Jo Schmidt

Office Manager: Linda Telega

Treasurer: Jim Jenter

Director of Music: Brad Barnham

Associate Organist: Adam MacNeil

Children's Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Youth Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Nursery Care Provider: Andrea Bergie

Caretaker: Jordan McArthur

Rector's Warden: Peter Schafrick

People's Warden: Paul Chapman

Deputy Rector's Warden: Cheryl Bergie

Deputy People's Warden: Janet Veale