

St. George's

Vestry Reports

February 9th, 2020

St. George's Anglican Church

The Oldest Church with the Youngest Ideas

Annual Vestry Reports





Last year, I had named our ministry of welcoming new people as a focus for St. George's in 2019.

Specifically, I broke that goal into two parts:

1) To become more intentional in how we welcome, invite, and follow up with new people. 2) To develop clear steps that parishioners, whether new or seasoned members of our community, can take in order to grow in faith.

Over the past year, we have had the great privilege and blessing of welcoming 35 new members into the fellowship of St. George's, and many others are still in the process of discerning if they are ready to commit to a faith community. I give thanks for the nudgings of the Spirit that have been leading people through our doors. I give thanks for the commitment of this whole community to opening their arms in response, the friendship and faith that is shared across our church each and every day—with new people, with long-time members, with people of all ages. I give thanks for all that we are continuing to learn in how we can invite, encourage and follow up with people who come to us searching for a spiritual home. It is in our baptismal vows, in the mandate of Jesus, in the DNA of what it is to be church, that our faith is meant to be shared. Thanks be to God that we have had so many opportunities this year to share our faith!

The second part of the goal that I named last year is intimately connected to the first. Our welcome has to be connected to our faith. For Christians, we experience a radical hospitality in the person of Jesus. We claim that God so fully gave God's entire self to us in Jesus, that Jesus in turn so fully received God into his life, that we meet our Creator, see the Living God, in Jesus' life. Furthermore, we see in Jesus the possibility of what our lives can look like. Our hospitality to others, then, is found in recognizing the gift God wants to give us – the gift of His own self – and committing ourselves to creating a space of welcome in our own lives to receive this gift. When we look at the story of Jesus, the hospitality that starts in his very person then extends outward in life-transforming, community-transforming, world-transforming ways. Jesus breaks down the barriers of table fellowship and eats with those who had previously been alone. Jesus questions rules and customs that have labelled some as outsiders and some as insiders. Jesus envisions and enacts a world where every person is valued and fed. Every step of the way, Jesus makes clear that all of his actions are based in the intimate and life-giving relationship he has with God.

With our focus on welcome, then, this past year has also come with an ongoing focus on faith formation and discipleship. We offer a range of Christian study options at our Super Tuesday night. A culture has been developing in our Advent Café worshipping community whereby we regularly hear a whole variety of people—at different ages and stages on their faith journey—sharing their story of how God has been active in their life. We are in now in our second cohort of Revive—a year-long program to equip our parish leaders as spiritual leaders; and our first Revive cohort took responsibility for leading the fall Bible Study on the Gospel according to Matthew.



We regularly offer the New Journeys program now as a resource to people just beginning their walk at St. George's. Among other things, New Journeys gives new people a chance to name the spiritual journey that has brought people to us, to ask for the spiritual resources they need to meet life's challenges, and to be assured that there is a community of spiritual support here available to walk with them. Meanwhile, Mari and Tanya have blessed this church so richly by offering programming and opportunities to our young people that provide them with the language, prayer, stories and friendship of our faith.



The challenge about opening our hearts to God is that God rarely allows us to stay where we are. God calls us to see, hear, respond and love in new and evolving ways. Our ancestors planted St. George's over 225 years ago in what would become the heart of this city. The city has seen escalating problems with mental illness, addiction, suicide (including youth suicide) and homelessness, particularly in our downtown core. Because of our long tenure in outreach ministry in this city, particularly through the daily offer of a meal through our Breakfast Program, we have been on the front lines of seeing how these needs have been changing and growing. It was becoming harder and harder to walk by people hurting so much—and we began to notice especially how many of these people were very young—without asking ourselves if there was more God was asking us to do.

With the support of our Parish Council and Staff, St. George's entered this year into an ambitious and faith-led response to the need in our city, which came to be christened the STEP Centre. In partnership with Suzanne Court and the RPC Foundation, we have been able to bring Louis Muscat, a full-time addictions counsellor, on staff, renovate Lower Broughall Hall into a beautiful resource centre, and begin to develop a team that is available to offer not just practical support to young people in need, but also the care and friendship of our community. While the design and structure of STEP continues to be a work-in-progress as we get to know the community we are serving, it is encouraging indeed to see the concrete ways that vulnerable youth are receiving help through this new ministry.

The community around us has been noticing what we are doing here at St. George's. It's not just that new people continue to come through our doors (in an age where it is increasingly rare for churches to see influxes of new people), it's also that our community partners speak well of us and the wider city sees and knows that this is a place that doesn't just talk the talk, but also walks the walk. It was a particularly encouraging honour to be selected as St. Catharine's number one church in the Standard's annual readers' poll. Of course, we do what we do to be faithful to the gifts with which God has blessed us, not to win popularity contests. But in a world where despair and division can so easily have the upper hand, it was a moment of feeling like we have the support of a whole city of people as we continue to go forward into the work of compassionate service to which we are called.



work together in faith

I was at supper at the end of 2019 with two people connected to our parish. One of them asked me, "What is your greatest hope for St. George's going forward?" I thought of the things that I regularly hope for in my work here—that new people continue to come in and find a home, that we have the resources of time and talent and treasure to be able to respond to God's call, that our faith would grow and our service to God become even more generous. I hope for all of these things, that people will know God's love in concrete and tangible ways through this church. The thing that I named at the top of the list, however, is also intimately connected to the welcome that we find in God and that we seek to offer in our church. "I hope for young people to grow in faith here." We see the difference our faith makes to us and to our community. We see the needs of our world. And thanks be to God, we have seen our ministry with young people grow. May the faith that gives us life, and the welcome that we have received in God's arms, be shared far and wide—into our city, and down the generations, to our children and our children's children.



Prayer Chain Vestry Report 2019

The prayer chain is a group of 13 members currently, each with a firm belief in the power of prayer. We are a private prayer group, respecting the privacy of those who ask for our prayers. We discuss those we are praying for with no one, other than other group members. Not even our nearest and dearest, or theirs. What is said to us in confidence stays in confidence. The request may come from the person themselves, or from a friend who has permission to make that request. We only ask that those making the request keep us informed as long as the prayer request exists. We currently have about 20 on our list. We encourage people we are praying for to ask for prayer shawls or lap robes so they can actually feel the warmth of God's love while they pray. Several have taken advantage of this. We do get results, sometimes not the ones we prayed for, but we do try to accept that God's will be done, not ours. We meet on the third Thursday of the month in the Asbil Lounge at 11am. Some bring a bag lunch and attend the Thursday noon Eucharist. Coordinators this year are Reverend Al McLean and Tom Owens. Contact person if you want to make a prayer request is Judy Kingsley, 905-646-7717. Our prayers are important to those who ask for them and for us. We pray at least once a day by name and by problem. We know it is worthwhile work. Join us in that work, simply by coming to a meeting.

Respectfully submitted by Judy Kingsley





Reverend Scott

Vestry Report,

2019 has been quite a year! This has been the fourth year that I have served the community of St. George's in my role as priest associate. As you are well aware, this consists of assisting Martha in whatever capacity I can, and specifically with presiding and preaching at the regular Sunday and weekday services, as well other services when they occur - Evensong, Advent Café, services at care facilities (Tufford), Ina Grafton, and new this year – a Christmas service at Pioneer Eldercare), funerals, weddings and others. There are occasions when clergy colleagues in other parishes ask for a guest preacher, or for someone to cover, or fill in, and there are also occasional requests to preach or present in other parishes about the Diocesan refugee sponsorship initiative. The Pastoral Visitors group in their ministry supports the outreach to shut in's-and

those who are unable to get out to church services and functions and I continue to support them, and appreciate their support in my visiting of parishioners at hospitals, homes, and in care facilities. I have been working to support the communications committee and this year, we have seen some real growth in our social media engagement namely on the platforms of Facebook, Instagram and Twitter – these are developing tools that we see as tools of ministry to add to the life of St. George's. The video team continues in its work of live-streaming and recording of services and I continue to support the and its coordinator, Sue Wilson. This past year, working with our Super Tuesday program, I was able to offer a series of studies using the Pilgrim study books from the Church of England, as well as offer an adult confirmation class, which saw the confirmation of three adults at the Cathedral last spring. This fall, it was my pleasure to be a part of the second REVIVE series and look forward to good things ahead. I continue to try to make myself available to parishioners and others who come to the church seeking to speak with a clergy person for any reason as needed. In service to the wider Diocese, I continue to coordinate our Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative, supported by Cannon Bill Mous, Secretary of Synod. The work this past year, culminated in a very busy fall, and the goal this year is to see that work a little more spread out, especially so that it has less of a concentrated impact on my parish duties at any given time. The sponsorship our parish was involved with concluded in the summer of 2019. The family continue in their work to settle to life in Canada, and continue to gain education and work experience. Now that they are safely settled here, they are no longer refugees. They have been here for over one year and a half, soon, we can't all them new-comers either! In another year- and a half, they will be eligible to apply for Canadian Citizenship, and we wish them well in all of their work and endeavours! We will definitely see them from time-to-time, and you may even see Ahmed regularly, one of the young men, as he is working here at St. George's on the weekends, cleaning. I am eager to see what is in store for 2020, and also to what the many gifts and blessings that our parish has for our wider community. As always, it is a privilege and an honour to serve this community, in ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend D. Scott McLeod,
Associate priest



Reverend Michael



Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch, Director of Social Justice and Outreach

St. George's responded to the vulnerable and marginalised in effective, generous, and sometimes unexpectedly demanding ways in 2019. The breadth of the justice and outreach is demonstrated by the various reports that you will find in this Vestry package, including reports from the Community Breakfast, STEP and Community Dinner Programs and others.

Out of the Heat (OOTH) was an unanticipated addition to the outreach activities taking place at St. George's. Out of the Heat Niagara is a community-run emergency shelter, and after-hours service hub. It provides a snack and a safe place to sleep, as well as access to mental health supports, addictions workers, housing workers, etc. When no other suitable sites were available, parish council and the corporation offered Luxton Hall (the gym) as a location for OOTH. During July and August, OOTH offered 3,118 "sleeps" to 386 unique individuals. This level of service exceeded expectations resulting in unexpected demands placed on OOTH volunteers and the parish. Parish staff and volunteers were incredibly responsive to these demands. Reverend Scott, Linda Telega, Johan Braun, Louis Muscat, Jim Jenter, Jim Streadwick, Breakfast Program volunteers and mentors all rose to the challenge. I am grateful to each of them. OOTH made the front page of local papers and was a topic of discussion on local radio. The level of need pricked the conscience of many in St. Catharines and across the Niagara Region. Difficult, but necessary discussions were spawned that will hopefully bear fruit as our community grapples with affordable housing, mental health and addiction crises.

The large number of guests at the Community Breakfast program, many with addiction and mental health conditions, have benefited tremendously by the generous service of a number of volunteer "mentors." These volunteers from within and outside our faith community, circulate among and befriend our guests. Some of those new relationships spill over to the Community Dinner program, and St. George's reputation as a place of caring community grows. Thank you to Anita Djorkovic for her help in organizing the mentors.

I am also grateful to a small group of parish members who I refer to as the St George's Social Justice and Consultative Council, with whom I meet on a regular basis to check-in, dream, and trouble-shoot. Thank you to Stephen Bedford, Faye Perkins, Nancy Little, Anita Djorkovic, Alan McLean and Sharon Demarko for their regular participation in this group, and for others who have joined us or indicate a desire to get involved. A number of these individuals and others also participate in the Greater St Catharines Social Justice Network, expanding our parish's contribution to the wider community. To them, and all of you who contribute to justice and outreach by how you share your time, talents, and treasure, thank you!

I am confident of this, that the one who began a good work among you will bring it to completion by the day of Jesus Christ. Philippians 1:6



Kindness



Giving

Helping

Sharing

Caring

Comforting



Advent Café



Over the course of 2019 we have had two spectacular speaker series. Every Wednesday at 7 pm, the gates of the meditation garden are opened to welcome the parishioners of St. George's and to all community friends to enjoy a warm place to stay for an hour or two. To enjoy some refreshments and join us in our lively and inspired conversations that follow our sermon and Eucharist. We were able to see and hear the gifts that God has bestowed upon our parish members who preached. Conversations that followed were filled with love, prayer and a lively sharing of ideas. Our conversations during the hour-long reflection after refreshment time, seemed to be a catalyst to growing deeper friendships and community within our small Wednesday night Gatherings.

Friendships that one can witness being sewn together by our one common experience, which is our love for God and church. Over the course of 2019, Advent Cafe has brought an empowering responsive Ministry within the Parish of St. George's. There is another invaluable Ministry that is offered to all during our Wednesday night gatherings.

Advent Cafe offers a casual approach to traditional worship and also offers a perfect example of the inclusivity and unconditional love offered by the parish priests and parishioners. The first one called , "the Bible the sequel" and the next in the fall months was called " Images of God". During the winter months not only do we have the opportunity to gather in the cosy and welcoming Bears Den. We also have the chance to worship, share stories refreshments and fellowship with our community members who access the out of the cold meal prepared at St. George's Church during the winter months. All who were so brave and offered incredible insight into their faith by giving their time to us with their writing and speaking. Standing in front of us all behind the pulpit ready and willing with their microphones on. Their gift of words and reflection astounded, inspired and offered insights into our faith as well as opening our hearts and minds to thought process that may have been very new. We enjoyed sermons based on Bible passages and expanded with our own experience. This gift comes to us in the form of music. Music of praise and inspiration, choirs and small live bands. Music that inspired us, sometimes with a more worldly flavour within modern artists and lyrics that may be more familiar to us on the radio then in a traditional hymn book. Both these forms of music inspired and brought connections as all music does. Whether it was the joys of a Irish jig, songs written by composers with Canadian heritage or our beloved traditional Anglican hymns, Advent Cafe filled our souls with music's Joy. Another thing of beauty within Advent Cafe is in witnessing the community feel that it brings to each and everyone who takes part in running this ministry. There is a dedication within this Wednesday night service that is felt by everyone who participates. Candles being lit, refreshments offered and served, helping with clean up, offering assistance with video with PowerPoint and with technological needs. Nothing seems to be left undone. And as 2020 is here now may God continue to bless all those involved in this powerful, loving Wednesday night Community.

- Sincerely Anita





SUNDAY



Nursery School Youth Group

Nursery

Our nursery program had a new staff member hired as our past childcare provider had to leave for school. Chandra has taken on the role and the transition has gone smoothly. Nursery is still receiving young children steady. Typically, 1-4 are in attendance.

Sunday School

Our Sunday School program is going well. We have two groups of children/youth. We have one group ages 4-10, and another group 11-15. This allows the lesson to be better suited to ages. Su McLeod volunteers her time to teach the older group lessons on Sunday. We offered Communion classes for the children/youth looking to receive First Communion or to learn more about this Sacrament. We had two PA Day programs at the Church and we also provided a week of camp (Vacation Bible School) in August. Our PA Day and VBS programs not only provided education and fun for our children and youth that are active in the church, but also for new children who have not attended St. George's. We also, have a parenting group that runs monthly which allows young families to gather together to eat and share common stories while their children are provided with childcare. This program is going very well. The families that regularly attend seem to enjoy it very much.

Youth Group

Our youth group is very active and growing. We typically have 10-18 youth per event now. In the past it averaged a lot less. This is very exciting and great to see the participation and the excitement and the friendships developing. The youth like to suggest events and activities and they seem to be taking some ownership to the group. I love to see the bonds between the youth. Our youth group meets monthly at the Church on Tuesday nights for pizza and time together. In addition to this we do outings, and extra events. This past year our youth group participated in *WEDAY* in Toronto (an all-day concert, celebrating making a difference in the World), virtual reality gaming, rock climbing, Halloween party, restaurant and a movies outing, hiking, games nights, gymnasium fun. Our youth group also assisted in the Welcome Back BBQ; they ran the car wash fundraiser to raise money for Pikangikum Water Project. Our youth group also ran their first Games, Grub and Fellowship event. This was a lot of fun and very successful. Many youth volunteer their time at St. George's through serving for events, parenting group babysitting, nursery helpers, assisting in Sunday school and being part of our Sunday service. It is so wonderful to see all these children and youth getting involved and enjoying their time here at St. George's.



Faith & Light



"Faith and Light is founded on the belief that each person with an intellectual disability is fully a person with all the rights of a human being : above all the right to be loved, recognized and respected for himself or herself and in the choices he/she makes. Faith and Light believes that every person, able-bodied or disabled, is equally loved by God and that Jesus lives in them." (Faith and Light Charter II, 1)

Faith and Light Niagara is part of an international organization (Faith and Light International) for individuals with intellectual disabilities, their friends and families, which was founded by Jean Vanier. It is a sister movement to L'Arche and the spirit of the two movements is the same. Both are ecumenical movements rooted in the Christian tradition. They are founded on the belief that every person, and in a special way the person with a disability, has unique gifts to offer. There are about 1700 Faith and Light communities in over 70 countries.

This year Faith and Light Niagara celebrated its first year of meeting at St. George's Church and its 10th year of meeting together as a community in Niagara. The group consists of persons with an intellectual disability, family members and friends. It is a time of coming together to share and celebrate each other's gifts. The group ranges in age from newborn to seniors although most attenders are young and not so young adults! We meet together to share a meal, share our joys and concerns, pray, have fun and laugh (a lot), sing, make music and listen to God's word for us. While we follow a curriculum each year that is used worldwide by Faith and Light groups, we modify activities and content to best use the gifts and skills of our group members. We have no problem doing things 'differently' to ensure that those attending are comfortable and feel welcome whether that means adjusting expectations for participation, modifying materials and/or using communication devices. People attending who require special support are expected to have a family member or friend with them to provide that support. Friends and family members are an important part of the group, not just for the support that they provide to their loved one but also for the support that they receive and the contributions they make to the group.

We have developed strong bonds of community within our group and are always ready to welcome visitors and those interested in becoming a part of our group.

Stephanie Wilton-Duncan
Coordinator, Faith and Light Niagara





Step Program

The Step Centre has been in operation since September 2019. The initial intake for Step Clients saw an age range of homeless and at-peril individuals from 17-65 years of age. The Program initially focussed on dealing with the immediate needs of the clients with access to housing, identification, food resources and access to financial means to help meet their basic needs.

After a few months of working with the various clients, some days having 18-20 people visiting throughout the day in varying age ranges, the Step Team made a decision to move our Program to focussing on our core vision and mission, which is for the youth population. What we have clearly noticed is the youth would like to make changes and be engaged in our programming for advancement of their lives in a positive, meaningful and constructive way.

Our greatest struggle currently is finding consistency in the youth attendance at the Program due to circumstances out of our control, and many times out of the control of the youth also in their dealing with the very broken social system in place currently.

With our revived focus on the youth, we have been able to assist with 4 youth moving into sustainable housing and are focussed now on budgeting, life skills, spiritual guidance, nutrition and job searches. We have also assisted clients with serious mental health issues accessing the system properly to assist with their stabilization, as our Program does not have the expertise to deal with many of these serious illnesses. We are extremely engaged in assisting these clients for the best resolution and treatment for them. Our main focus for the majority of our clients has been on housing and job searches, as well as providing spiritual support in connection with St George's Clergy.

Our 2020 goals are to continue building our agency support system through our contacts made to date, to further our knowledge and research on the resources that our Community offers, to create stronger partnerships to enhance our available Community resources and services, to cement our policies and procedures and to align ourselves closer to our vision and mission on a daily basis, as well as getting our clients involved in volunteering opportunities within the Church.

We are still keenly interested in furthering our volunteer roster and are looking for volunteers with any educational, mental health or life experiences that may align with our clients and Program. We have limited our donation items to be of benefit to our Clients who will be moving into a new place (bedding, dish wear, pots and pans etc); winter socks, coats, boots, hats and scarves. All other clothing needs are serviced for Clients from other Community agencies.

We have continued to offer basic snacks, coffee and juice to Clients in the mornings and have a wonderful relationship with the YWCA, who provides us with soup and other meal items for lunch on occasion. We would like to offer a regular lunch service for the Clients as we move forward and would appreciate any food donations. Across our Country, shelters are full and operating under very pressured systems for funding and support. Our Community Out of the Cold Program and other Agencies are also under the same pressures and have far too many people seeking a safe place to stay and not enough beds or resources. Many of these "solutions" are not places in which our Clients feel safe to attend unless it is an emergency, due to a high level of theft and aggressive behaviour of others.

The homeless situation in our Country, and in our City, is not one that can continue at the rate it is currently. Every day we experience new youth who have become homeless and need support. This epidemic cannot continue without some type of a coming together of the Community supports and communicating to find better solutions.

We know what we have and offer here at The Step Resource Centre is the much-needed filling of a void in our 'community', and our successes to date fill us with an increasing desire to continue to drive forward to meet our vision.



Indigenous Water Programs

St. George's is connected to Pimatisiwin Nipi—the Living Water Group—under the leadership of Archbishop Mark MacDonald, our National Indigenous Bishop in the Anglican Church of Canada. Since 2014, we have been contributing, through Pimatisiwin Nipi, in the Pikangikum Water Project. This year, the focus of this group's work pivoted from Pikangikum specifically to Canadian Indigenous Water Programs more generally. This year, through your generous contributions—including the many people who chose to give the gift of water to your loved ones at Christmas—St. George's contributed \$4693 to Indigenous Water Programs. The following report updates you on this ongoing work:

Pimatisiwin Nipi

At our first meeting of 2019, Archbishop Mark offered this important reflection: "The Gospel clearly claims the compassion of God toward humanity as taking precedence over everything, even over religious law. Compassion sets the agenda and priority for all that we do."

The Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Waters) Group, led by Archbishop Mark MacDonald and supported by The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund, has supported the installation of safe water and indoor plumbing to more than 20 homes in the Northern Ontario community of Pikangikum First Nation from 2011 until 2019. See the end of this report for a full timeline of our Work 2011-2019.

Funds remain available to Pikangikum, raised by both PWRDF (Primate's World Relief and Development Fund) as well as a government grant that matched our funds, to be able to continue with further clean water initiatives in this community going forward. Pikangikum has faced a number of challenges this year, with two evacuations of the community because of wildfires, as well as significant turn-over in the band's leadership. While Pikangikum recovers from these two 2019 wild fire evacuations, Pimatisiwin Nipi, in continued partnership with PWRDF, decided to focus our annual fundraising campaign, Advent Conspiracy, on raising funds to support other Indigenous communities without safe drinking water. We have had to pivot, at least for the time being, from our work in Pikangikum into new partnerships with other Indigenous communities. It was always our plan to expand our partnerships beyond Pikangikum. And while we hope and pray that the work begun in Pikangikum can reach its completion with regards to clean water for this community, we also feel hopeful about the new possibilities for partnership on the horizon. Archbishop Mark has been in touch with Bishop Lydia Mamakwa (Indigenous Spiritual Ministry of Mishamikoweesh) about future partnerships. At this time, a concrete next partnership has not been identified, but our financial gifts could support the purchase of a water truck as well as training community members in water infrastructure and maintenance.

Meanwhile, PWRDF is involved in a number of projects across Canada with Indigenous ministries, including language reclamation, suicide prevention, midwifery, and strengthening relationships with ACIP. The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund's five-year strategic plan includes accompanying First Nations, Métis and Inuit people, guided by the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous People and the priorities of Indigenous communities and organizations in Canada. The learnings from our eight year journey with our Pikangikum partnership will be valuable in helping PWRDF navigate and strengthen all of these initiatives. 2020 And Beyond.

Going forward, with support from faithful and generous people all across Canada, PWRDF can continue to partner with groups that are improving clean water and sanitation, and advocate for greater support from the federal government to address these unacceptable inequities in our own country. Let us pray that God's law of Compassion will continue to set the agenda for all that we do, that partnerships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous Canada can heal and flourish, and that a more just country for all Canadians will be made possible.



New Journeys



St. George's is a parish blessed with new people regularly coming through its doors. 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, and some 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. We began planning near the end of 2018 to see what we could do 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). Jumping off from a program developed earlier by Rev. Dawn Davis and others, we had the initial tryout of our "New Journeys" program in January of 2019. Rev. Martha and Rev. Scott approached "newcomers" and invited them to participate in a group after worship for four weeks. They also asked an equal number of "longer term members" to participate and we paired them with the newcomers. It was a time of learning to share, without judgement or fear, our spiritual journeys with one another. We were 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 was also a time to talk for us to talk about the various programs and activities in which people could be involved. We tried to introduce people to the broad range of possibilities in this place whether it was outreach, justice work, spiritual growth, friendship or any combination of these things. Although the four week program was deemed successful it was difficult for people to be able to attend 4 sessions, so the leaders realised we had to downsize the time commitment for the future. Since that initial program, we have modified things, and it has become a one time meeting with pizza (or soup, if we choose the right Sunday!) lasting about two hours. 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 judgmental" 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. Since our first long program, we have repeated our shortened modified program four times over the rest of the year. In total approximately 23 "newcomers plus an equal number of longer time members and leaders have participated. Some of the participants have found it valuable enough to repeat the program at one of the other sessions. Many of those who participated 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 2020 as long as we have the lovely task of welcoming newcomers and trying to help them to find their place at St. Georges. Thank you to all the people who have participated and trusted us with their experiences, whether new or long term members.

Respectfully submitted,
Alan McLean

My records, while not 100% accurate, have about the following numbers - we averaged about 5-6 sojourners each session, and then there was Alan, Martha and or myself, and Dawn at the first one): Without Sojourners: Session 1 - 8 ppl
Session 2 - 12 ppl
Session 3 - 8 ppl
Session 4 - 7 ppl
Session 5 - 5 ppl

A total of approx 40 new ppl participating
With Sojourners: approx 67 ppl participating (and then 71, if you include Martha, Alan, myself and Dawn).



St. George's Choir Report

"He who sings prays twice."

The year 2019 was another active one for St. George's Senior Choir. As well as providing anthems, psalms and service music for each Sunday, and for special services in Holy Week and at Christmas, the choir participated in a number of special events including three choral Evensong services which were very well received. In September, the choir enjoyed its annual "Christmas in September" workshop in the Asbil Lounge, spending the day getting a good head start on the learning of the music they were going to need at Christmas. Special thanks are due to Lida's Catering from Ina Grafton Village for, once again, providing us with a wonderful Christmas dinner in the Swann Hall to end the day. In November, the choir offered "A Choral Remembrance" on Sunday, November 10, featuring anthems by Daley, Thiman, Aston, Ireland, Guest, and myself. This was accompanied by Catherine Willard on the organ. It was a memorable Sunday that was enjoyed by all who were present. Special thanks go to Tom Johnson for his reading of the Roll of Honour, and to Alex Candler for his fine playing of trumpet descants to the hymns. On December 15 at 4:00 p.m. the choir presented its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, this year featuring music by Woodward, Vaughan Williams, Rutter, Friedell, Daley, and myself. It was very encouraging to see such a good turnout for this service, which gave the choir a boost and made the congregational singing more robust. Thank you for your support, St. George's congregation. In any choir members come and members go. This year we welcomed Trudy and Charles Crowe, Kim Peagram and Allison Kelly. We also said goodbye to Bill Holman and Ann Novis, both of whom retired from the choir after many years of faithful and much valued service. We wish them well in their retirements. We also have been missing long time member Kathy Lane who has been very ill for a while. In June the choir enjoyed its annual spring social at the home of Bill and Myrna Holman. The weather co-operated and everyone had an enjoyable time in their lovely garden. The choir is always ready to welcome new voices. We especially need more tenors, 2nd sopranos and basses. A good 1st soprano soloist would be very welcome too. Please don't feel that you have to be a trained singer to be a part of the choir. Most good choral singing comes from a blend of very normal voices. Also, music reading, which is an asset, is not essential. Please consider joining us – the audition process is not painful, and we do have a good time together working to fulfil our mission of keeping good choral music alive and well at St. George's. Simply speak to John Butler after a Sunday service, call him at 905-397-4886, or email him at jebutler44@gmail.com. Respectfully submitted by John Butler, Organist and Choirmaster



Labyrinth Vestry Report

So many good things happen at St. George's



"And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall behind you, saying, 'This is the way; walk in it.' " (Isaiah 30:21)

hear a word

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

The labyrinth group meets monthly from September through May on the last Saturday morning of each month. In September and May the group uses the outdoor labyrinth at the St. Catharines General Hospital, otherwise the indoor labyrinth is used in the St. George's gym.

While each person's journey is an individual one, we begin and close the group with prayer together, a reflection or scripture reading and an opportunity to share.

This past year we had the privilege of introducing the labyrinth to two groups at St. George's. In the spring, Jeff Child and Stephanie Wilton-Duncan shared about the labyrinth and led a walk with Tanya Schleich and the youth group. After some teaching we had a very energetic and meaningful walk on the labyrinth. In the fall, Stephanie Wilton-Duncan shared information and led a walk for the Revive group.

Looking forward to 2020, our group hopes to continue to have opportunities to introduce the labyrinth to others and share in this spiritual practice.

Stephanie Wilton-Duncan



MUSIC

The George Express Youth Choir

Our young singers have been maturing into truly remarkable musicians and contributors to the life of our parish. Each month they have provided heartfelt songs to share with the congregation in our Children's Liturgy services. Early in February, members of The George Express came out to help lead the singing at the downtown Candlemas celebration.

In March of this year, our youth offered their musical gifts in a service to honour the life of Doug Court, a lifelong supporter of the people and music at St. George's. For Easter, 2019, we had a special, sung presentation by Liam, Bella, Dorothy, Declan, Darcy, Edward, and Diana. It was the first time that this group sang together for our parishioners, so – although some felt a little shy – Fearless Liam guided them to success.

After months of rehearsing, the performances for our youth choir's wonderfully successful spring musical, Long and Pote's "Table for Five Thousand," took place on the weekend of June 1st-2nd. In late June, The George Express led the music for our first outdoor Advent Café service of the summer season. It was thrilling to see how these young musicians have gained in confidence.

For August's VBS programme, Mari daily taught the children songs, and prepared crafts relating to the theme of the "Fruit of the Spirit." Cecilia, Owen, and Sydney, along with a group of young drummers from Ryson's school of music, provided some delightful entertainment at St. George's "Welcome Back BBQ" in September.

November's Christmas Bazaar provided our young singers with an opportunity to collaborate with The Krehbiel Chorale. The children had the chance to familiarize themselves with the "oldies but goodies" that many members of our faith community love to hear at Christmas time. Singing together with the adults took some of the performance pressure off of our young singers as they learned these seasonal 'musical nuggets.'



MUSIC

On the weekend of Dec 8th, The George Express had an opportunity to present their latest musical. Mari had grown frustrated in her search for a suitable Christmas musical, and, wanting to find a story that showcased the unique talents of our young singers, she simply decided to write it herself! In addition to featuring the young members of The George Express, this latest musical called on the acting talents of Susan and John Smith, Rev Martha Tatarnic, John Bullivant, and Rob Welch. The year finished off with a final collaborative opportunity for The George Express to sing their hearts out with The Krehbiel Chorale on Christmas Eve.

Advent Café



Krehbiel Chorale



In addition to monthly performances from Infinitely More, Tracadie Cross, The Krehbiel Chorale, and Mari and Gary, the midweek service has also seen a wide variety of young guest musicians sharing their creative gifts with our evening worshippers. Kyla Paul, Cecilia and Gordon Tatarnic, Owen Culp, Hannah Colburn, Sydney Cornett, Sarah Kukoly, Jeremy Tang, and Quinn Flavel have all been instrumental in enhancing the spirit of joy in our services.

At September's end, our worshipping community said farewell to one of our beloved former Advent Café music leaders, James Moffett, who has passed into a greater glory.

In mid-October, Mari and Rev. Martha presented "Angel's Share," a compelling duet composed by our congregation's own Gary Mus. The music for December's Taizé service, thoughtfully planned out by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan, was performed by Rev. Martha Tatarnic, Stephanie Wilton-Duncan, and Brian Kerley.

Krehbiel Chorale



The Krehbiel Chorale has grown in numbers, musicianship, and joy since it's inception a few years ago. Regularly providing music for Sunday Evensong and Wednesday Advent Café services, the chorale's singers had (with a little help from some of our young singers!) the pleasure of leading the hymn-singing for members of the wider Niagara Anglican community in the downtown Marketplace at the February Candlemas service.

Surely, the Presence of the Lord is in This Place: In late March God sent an angel to bring choir member Ruth Hay's beloved husband, Teddy, to his heavenly home, and The Krehbiel Chorale members sang for his service.

Maundy Thursday's evening meal was accompanied by music from The Krehbiel Chorale, who also joined with the senior choir in providing musical leadership for the procession back to the sanctuary.

In late fall, The Krehbiel Chorale brightened our annual Christmas Bazaar with their carolling, and also helped the youth choir out with Christmas hymns at their December 8th musical.

Dec 24th saw a truly collaborative effort, with The Krehbiel Chorale and The George Express singers together, offering hearty renditions of festive tunes at the 4 p.m. Family Christmas service.

Mari Shantz

Director of Youth Music and Ministry Development Worker





Coffee Hour



Coffee Hour Report Year 2019

It was a year of constant learning, in the Bear's Den, what worked and what didn't, suggestions, talking and then putting new ideas into place.

I need to give a big shout out to the Team Leaders working with me: Pat & Vic Cicci, Brier Colburn, Effie Ditiello, Dorothy Dundas, Gail Holman, Nancy Hostick, Linda Porter, Pauline Smith, Ruth Skrypuik (my right hand), and all their team members. Thank you for all your time, suggestions, and most of all making Coffee Hour a welcoming event.

The nine teams, learned to work together in a small space as hosting over 75 on Sundays can be tricky. We found out quickly that three people just didn't work. You need at least four on board. The labelling of kitchen cupboards continued and helps.

In May 2019 new furniture arrived. What a treat. Tables with chairs, so our parishioners could sit, have their refreshments, talk and enjoy each other's company, a real café. September saw the addition of a dishwasher to the kitchen. We are working hard to do our part in protecting the environment. The washing of the dishes was not quite what we had expected, as we do have to wash two loads in the dishwasher of cups/glasses and other miscellaneous items for coffee hour, but we are following the Canadian Food Handling Guidelines. I am sure for smaller events it is works perfectly.

A couple of suggestions for people coming in for coffee (1) it does take 24 minutes for a load to go through the system, you can help the duty team by putting your cups on the cart when you are through with them. That way, one load goes in, is washed and unloaded, and we can start on the second load, as you are leaving. (2) Please help us cover the costs of drinks and back up goodies, The Donation Basket, is always out for coffee time in the Bear's Den and every 25 cents adds up. (3) AND this is very important. If you would like to learn more about working on a team, please let me know. Would love to have two more teams of four people.

Now for the numbers - The nine teams served at 26 coffee hours in the Bear's Den, 9 in the Asbil Lounge (summer venue), 7 at Soup Sundays in the Swan, and 7 at special Sunday events. We did have 3 Sunday's off.

Sincerely

Dianne Chisholm
Coffee Hour Co-Ordinator 2019



Sure are a lot
of fine folks here at
St. George's! Mm-
mm!



Thanks,
Dianne and crew!



Soup Sundays!

-superb!



"SOUPER" BOWL SUNDAYS

Soup Sunday was first held in February of 2006 in conjunction with our annual Vestry Meeting. It was also Super Bowl Sunday, and hence the title. Soup Sundays are held once a month from October through to April. In the month of May, we have a pot luck lunch, and *taste test* at least 12 birthday cakes (sometimes as many as 18-20).

Financial donations may be made at Soup Sundays, and in 2019, donations from Soup Sundays amounted to almost \$2,500! Soup Sundays have raised almost \$22,000 since it started for the church. All donations are given to the Church for special programs. All soups, breads and supplies needed for Soup Sundays are donated. We want to express a very warm and sincere thank you to all our soup, chili and bread makers; we could not hold this event without you!!! We are now averaging about 160 people attending Soup Sundays. We serve excellent soups, amazing chili, and wonderful homemade breads. Soup Sundays provide a strong sense of a welcoming community to those who are new to the Church, as well as those who have come many times. We really enjoy all the wonderful comments and suggestions.

Ralph Waldo Emerson said it best; "Cooking is not about being the best or most perfect cook, but rather about sharing the table with family and friends."

Since its inception, we have heard many positive comments about the soups served with requests for recipes. As a result, we now have three volumes of soup cookbooks. Our third volume also includes some salads, casseroles, and dessert recipes. These are available for sale for only \$10 per volume at Soup Sundays, or by contacting Sue Chapman. In 2019, cookbook sales netted over \$140. The sale of the soup cookbooks has netted the Church over \$2,390.

WE WANT YOU!!! Each Soup Sunday now needs about 15 volunteer soup makers. If you would like to make a soup, some chili or some bread, please call Sue Chapman at 905-937-7170 or contact her by email at chapman6467@yahoo.ca, or Lydia Gallaway at 905-934-4816 or dgallaway1@cogeco.ca

Please join us on a Soup Sunday and enjoy the tastes of a variety of soups, chili, and breads. See you there.

Respectfully Submitted
Sue Chapman
Lydia Gallaway
Soup Sunday Co-Convenors





Hey, they even have pet day! What a kind, caring place. Ruff!



Krafty Korners
Every Tuesday from 10am to 2pm you will find 15 women at work in the Asbil Lounge. We continue to pack articles for the Northern Indigenous communities - scarves, toques, clothing, personal items, shawls and Afghans. We are now concentrating on making pneumonia vests to be given to missionaries Dr. and Mrs. Taylor for use in Africa and India. They are badly needed for children during cold nights to prevent pneumonia. Over hundreds of dishcloths have been sold at our twice yearly sales with money sent to the Pikangikum Water Project. Since 2014, we have sent \$2356.00. We are blessed to have our star knitter Pat McLean who has produced in the 100's !! We also collect unused prescription eye glasses sunglasses, hearing aids - even broken can be used. These are given to the Lion's Club who send the articles West where they are repaired and distributed. Our last shipment was over 100 items. We thank all volunteers who have donated articles to our Outreach group. Come and join us - any Tuesday - bring a bag lunch as coffee and tea provided. Happily submitted, Dorothy Dundas.



Stewardship Committee

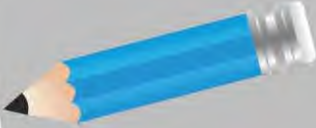
We are thankful for our highly successful Joyful Giving Campaign in 2019. St. George's is blessed with a growing congregation who give generously of their time, talent and treasure to ensure that our church home flourishes. There were 195 Joyful Giving Campaign pledges returned resulting in an increase in pledges of \$13,400 as well as an additional \$34,842 for the building fund. I am grateful to our committee members who worked behind the scenes to prepare the materials for the campaign. A special thanks to our dedicated team of nearly 40 Route Managers who made sure the packages moved smoothly to each home. The Stewardship Committee is pleased to also host the New Member Reception. This is an opportunity for newcomers to meet, find out more information about the church and be welcomed to our community. We were delighted with the return of Trivia Night – a fun-filled evening to fellowship and a chance to challenge your knowledge of diverse topics. We look forward to another successful year in 2020.

Submitted by Nora Jenter
Committee Co-Chair



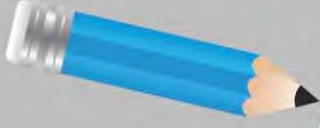
Servers

This year saw renewed vigour and interest as the ranks of St. George's Servers swelled yet again with considerable interest in the roles of Lay Readers, Crucifers, and Altar Servers. All Servers performed duties with considerable dedication and with a warm passion for their well loved and practised roles in the service to Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. Of special note this year, our own Sandra Legarde was awarded the Order of Niagara for her faithful service to our beloved St. George's church and congregation. We warmly welcomed youth to our guild this year, as Grace Child became our newest Lay Reader and Owen Culp joined the ranks of our Crucifers. Members of the Servers Guild include: Lay Readers – Jim Jenter, John Bullivant, Ron Duggan, Paul Chapman, Ralph Steffen, Marilyn Pettit, Cheryl Bergie, Lindsay Wilton, Anita Djorkovic, Rob Welch, Grace Child, Marc Delisio, Wendy Northcotte, Mary Jo Schmidt, Rose Spraggon. Crucifers – Geoff Crane, Richard Lane, Sharon Vermolen, Jeff Child, Owen Culp, Lori Martin, Stephen Bedford, Mary Jo Schmidt. Altar Servers: Sandy Legarde, Effie Ditiello, Sharon Vermolen, Anna Ryder, Chris Ferrier, Dave Bingham, Mary Jo Schmidt, Stephen Bedford, Aiden Deane, Richard Lane, Cecilia Tatarnic, Sharon Vermolen.



Bridge

We have 14 teams consisting of 28 players. We play once a month, from Sept. to April taking turns playing in each other's homes. A fee of \$15.00 each is charged. This fee is for prizes and the remaining monies are to be donated to a charity of our choice. This year the Breakfast Program was the recipient of \$320.00. John Van Every graciously baked 3 dozen delicious rolls which were devoured at the wind up dinner at the home of The Rigby's in August. We are always looking for new bridge players to join our group. Some are good players, some kitchen bridge players, but whatever, it's a fun afternoon of meeting new people & comradery.




Respectively submitted
Gini Rigby



Greeters

We are starting off 2020 with 22 Greeters who welcome everyone to St. George's through the main entry with a warm smile. With a commitment of about 3 times a year the Greeters are scheduled for all 10:00am services along with other special services throughout the year including Evensong, Easter & Christmas. The Greeters not only make all parishioners feel welcome but provide a friendly first impression of St. George's to visitors. A sincere thank you to all who have and currently contribute to this important ministry.



Property Management Report

Property Management Report to Vestry for the year 2019

Projects undertaken during the past year can be broken down into two categories; those that were planned and therefore covered by the approved budget, and those that were unplanned and quite definitely not covered by the budget. First, the planned items were as follows: After many years of enduring the poor acoustic properties of our gymnasium we finally did something about it in 2019. We solicited four quotations from reputable companies which ranged from a high of over \$50,000.00 to a low of just over \$13,000.00, and, thanks in part to valuable input from people at the Church of the Transfiguration, we felt comfortable in accepting the low bid from the same company they had used. The sound absorbing panels which were then installed on the walls and ceiling of the gym have, from all comments so far received, made a significant improvement in the acoustic characteristics of that space. Over the past few years we have gradually removed the old and deteriorated wooden casement windows allowing light into the basement of the church and replaced them with glass blocks permanently cemented into place. During 2019 we completed this project by doing the last two of the ten basement windows, these being the washroom windows below the church office.

· Small amounts as budgeted were spent in replanting the memorial garden beside the Link, and in the continued use of The Weed Man in treating the front lawns.

· The annual inspection of our Fire Alarm and Emergency Lighting systems was carried out, as required, by AATEL. The cost was somewhat higher in 2019 than in previous years as AATEL was instructed to replace any of the nearly 100 heat and smoke sensors throughout our buildings which, in their opinion, were nearing the end of their useful life.

· Hal-Brant was again employed as the contractor responsible for the ongoing maintenance and certification of our Service Lift in the Church Hall.

· During 2019 we encountered some difficulty with the land line connecting our fire and intrusion alarm signals to the monitoring station at Counterforce. In order to ensure greater reliability in the monitoring and security of our buildings we engaged Dumont Security to install a cellular connection to replace the existing land line. Dumont Security has also, therefore, taken over the responsibility for the monitoring of our alarm systems. Although not covered by the budget for 2019 the cost of making this change was not significant, and it is therefore included here.

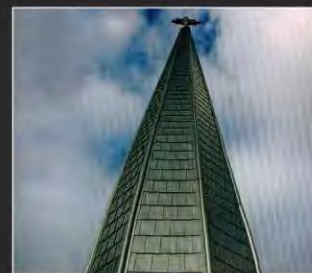
Now, the unplanned expenditures with which we were burdened during the past year. In early summer Parish Council was approached with a request that we open our gymnasium, for the months of July and August, to the Out of the Heat Program. This, essentially, is the summer equivalent of the Out of the Cold Program which St. George's has previously entertained without difficulty: accordingly, Parish Council saw no reasons, beyond the obvious challenges to be expected, not to grant the request and participate in the OOTH Program. Within days of having people sleeping in our gymnasium we were visited by representatives of the St. Catharines Fire Prevention Office who informed us that our buildings would now have to be inspected using the far stricter criteria pertinent to a "residence", as opposed to the previous levels of inspection based upon day time occupancy only.



Property Management Report

Very quickly after these new inspections we were served with several "Orders to Comply", each with stringent time limits, and with which we had no choice but to proceed. The items of work carried out in complying with these Orders were as follows:

- Installing four (4) CO (carbon monoxide) sensors around the gymnasium.
- Installing an additional fire alarm bell in the gymnasium
- Fully enclosing the Electrical Room located in the church basement below the office with fire rated drywall, sealing off all openings into the areas underneath the sanctuary and completely covering and protecting the floor joists above: removing the existing wooden door and replacing it with a steel fire rated door and frame.
- Fully enclosing the Electrical/Furnace Room adjacent to Lower Broughall Hall (the STEP Program) with fire rated drywall, sealing off all openings in walls and ceiling: removing the existing wooden door and replacing it with a steel fire rated door and frame.
- Removing three (3) existing wooden doors giving access into the main kitchen and replacing them with steel fire rated doors.
- Removing one (1) existing wooden door giving access from the main kitchen into the adjacent utility room and replacing it with a steel fire rated door.
- Removing the padlock from the wrought iron gate giving access from the sidewalk into the Chapman Memorial Garden, and installing new expanded metal mesh on the gate so that it could be opened from inside the garden but not from the outside.
- Relocating two (2) existing smoke sensors in the gymnasium ceiling to positions more than 10' -0" away from the ceiling fans.
- Pressure cleaning the steel hood and duct work over the kitchen stove even though there was absolutely no evidence of any grease build-up on their surfaces.
- Installing a new heat sensor on the ceiling of the kitchen, linked to the fire suppression system, ensuring that the fire alarm goes off in the event that the suppression system is deployed.
- Revising the existing Fire Safety Plan to include provisions for OOTH and OOTC Programs.



Property Management Report

As it was vital to have all this work carried out within the short time limits imposed by the Fire Department Orders we proceeded immediately, without soliciting multiple quotations, using known and trusted Contractors, Harper Construction Limited, AATEL, and Sundance Pressure Cleaning. Final costs were somewhat over \$30,000.00. A special Vestry was convened by the Rector, at which a motion was made to allow these costs to be covered by the Endowment Fund: this was carried unanimously. It must be pointed out that, although it was inconvenient and unsettling to have had to incur this unexpected cost at this, or any time, each of the changes made, as outlined above, have inherently improved the fire safety of our buildings. There were two (2) additional Orders to Comply received from the Fire Prevention Office which have been appealed to the Fire Marshal's Office in Toronto and are now under review; these were:

- *To remove the existing wooden bifold doors separating the Swan Auditorium from the Luxton Gymnasium and to replace them with steel fire rated doors and frames.
- *To remove the existing galvanised steel hood and ductwork above the kitchen stove and replace them with stainless steel.

On a more personal note, it is now some eight and a half years since I took over as Property Manager from Bill Holman in 2011, and for a number of reasons I have felt that it is now time for me to step away from that position. It has been a joy and a privilege for me to have been able to serve our Church in this way, and I shall be forever grateful for the opportunity given to me. It has been particularly enjoyable and gratifying serving in this capacity under both our current Rector, Canon Martha Tatarnic, and her predecessor, Canon Rob Fead, for whom we all still grieve. I could not have asked for greater support and cooperation than I have received from Martha, the Wardens, as well as from Linda Telega and Jim Jenter, over the past nearly six years; all I can offer is my profound thanks. I could not have, in any way, functioned as Property Manager without the help and encouragement I have received from a group of like-minded members of our Parish that Rob Fead, in a whimsical moment, called the "Monday Men". You all know who you are, and I'll refrain from embarrassing you by listing all your names here; I'll just say Thank You, from the bottom of my heart. Thanks also to Johan Braun, our capable Caretaker, who has been and continues to be the real "eyes and ears" of Property Management. As of last Fall the responsibilities for Property Management at St. George's have been taken on by a newly formed Building and Grounds Committee, capably led by Gina Schaflick, who graciously accepted the position of Chair. Gina is a practicing Architect who with her husband, Peter, and their two children came to St. George's from the Church of the Redeemer in Toronto about four years ago. She has quickly and effectively established this new committee as a working group made up of both new and long-time members of our Parish. I have been honoured to have been included as a member of this committee, and I look forward to serving under Gina's leadership in the new position of Fire Safety Coordinator. I am confident that Gina Schaflick will receive the same wonderful support from the people of St. George's that has been given to me: I wish her every success and pledge my support in helping her to achieve this.

Respectfully Submitted
Jim Streadwick



Parish Council

Within the Diocese of Niagara, Parish Councils are provided for under Canon 4.2. That Canon sets out the minimum number of members of a Council (in St. George's case, 12), a minimum number of times a Council should meet (quarterly), and its jurisdiction. In the words of the Canon, a Parish Council's function "should be to consider whether and to what extent the Church in the Parish or Mission is fulfilling its purpose among its own members, in the community at large and as part of the Church as a whole, and to recommend such steps as will further these ends."

Here at St. George's we presently have a larger number of members and meet more often. Since the last Vestry, our Parish Council held nine regular meetings, with a special meeting in August. Parish Council did not meet in the summer (other than the August meeting), or in December. Meetings normally last between 1 1/2 and 2 hours and have been reasonably well-attended by the membership. Discussions can often be lively and robust but are always respectful.

Parish Council meetings are chaired by the Rector, or in her absence, the Associate Priest. Each Parish Council meeting starts and ends with prayer and a brief study of a particular Bible passage. Other regular agenda items this past year have included the consideration of and discussion surrounding the Treasurer's report and related finances, a review of scheduled upcoming events within the Parish, and a reporting on Parish issues as they arise. Specific matters this year on the agenda dealt with the establishment of our STEP Program, our hosting of Out of the Heat (which was followed up at the special August meeting), and a presentation on the Diocesan Vocational Diaconate Program (2 candidates from our Parish have been identified). As well Council members spent much of February's meeting calling and thanking our Parishioners for their financial support.

It's the practice of the Wardens to prepare a brief report of each Parish Council meeting which has been published in the Saints Connection a week or so after the meeting, and Minutes of each meeting are on file in the Parish office for anyone to review.

Respectfully submitted,
Rob Welch



St. George's Anglican Church!

Community

Breakfast

Program



Report to Vestry
January 2020

Breakfast continues to be served at St. George's every morning to anyone who comes, no questions asked. We served 27,800 breakfasts in 2019, a slight increase of 200 over 2018. Volunteers from the community, including St. George's Church, continue to come daily to prepare and serve breakfast to the needy.

Financially, the Community Breakfast Program relies totally on donations from the community. Our costs are \$1.46 per client per day. 27,800 clients (breakfasts) in 2019 cost \$40,655, which includes a \$6,600.00 contribution to St. George's. These costs were met by the community. In 2020, we continue to be actively looking for donations of non-perishable foods. Presently, we have donations of cold cereals from Post Cereals Canada, and jam from E.D. Smith Foods Limited. Giant Tiger on Welland Ave. gives a 10% discount on foods other than milk. In 2019, we had a new corporate donor, PML Foods, who donated an average of 30 loaves of bread and 25 L. of milk weekly. In 2019, we continued our "sugar campaigns" (brown & white). A Girl Guide leader organized a cereal drive. This was comprised mainly of the sweet or fun cereals which the clients like. We hope to have a campaign or challenge only once per year. These donations and campaigns help tremendously with the cost of serving breakfast.

In September of 2019, I received the resignation of Ann Koppel as the assistant convenor. During her time as assistant convenor we organized workshops and learn leaders meetings. In November, the Executive Board of the Breakfast Program formed a sub committee to determine how the Breakfast Program could be organized so that the present convenor could retire. An organizational chart was developed, with individuals agreeing to take an active role in the organization. Duncan Moffett agreed to take over as the new chair of the organization. He will work with Janet for a few months and then she can retire.

Thanks to Marilyn and Sheldon Pettit, Nancy Little, and Jackie Sinclair who do the ordering and picking up of the food every week; to Marg and Ed Smith, who pick up milk twice a week; to Sandi Legarde in the role of relief milkman, to Lydia Gallaway and Linda and Scott Priddle, who pick up milk and bread weekly from PML Foods, and to Pauline Smith the volunteer coordinator, for their commitment and support of the Breakfast Program here at St. George's.

The Breakfast Program wishes to thank St. George's Church for their generous donation of space. St. George's Church, along with other members of the community, make it possible for the Community Breakfast Program at St. George's Church to help the less fortunate in our community.

Respectfully submitted,
Janet Veale, Coordinator





St. George's Spring Frolic Is Awesome!



Spring Frolic 2019 by Lani Hildebrandt

On Saturday May 11th, 2019, MJ Schmidt and I hosted our 3rd Vendor Show with 25 various vendors attending. It was a beautiful day, and the BBQ that we held outside our doors welcomed visitors with the smell of hot dogs, hamburgers, and back bacon. Thanks to Celeste and Neil Allyn for cooking for us, and for Beck and Liz for working the cash for me.

We welcomed a few returning vendors, as well as many more from the community that we welcomed with open arms to our church family. There were lots of compliments on how smooth our event was compared to others they had attended. We had a variety of vendors, including four jewellery vendors, Tupperware, Thirty One, Costco, Discovery Toys, Sweetlegs, and many handmade items, including doll clothing, Henna tattoos, flower arrangements, and essential oil bracelets. Each vendor paid a nominal fee to attend, but kept all the profits.

We also had a very large penny sale as we do every year. Over 70 items were picked up that day, or distributed at church the following day to the winners. Thanks to Nancy North for running the table, and to Dawn and Chris Ferrier for organizing all the items, and numbering them the day before. We even had additions the morning of the event from the vendors which was not required from them, but we were very grateful. We even had a few copies of Martha's book for sale.

We created an event on Facebook (thru the St. George's Facebook Page) to draw people to come to the church that day, and that our vendors could share. A flyer, created by Bonnie Jeffers, was distributed throughout the community, as well as Social Media venues. Last year on the day of the event, *Niagara 411* (a Facebook group) shared our event with it's over 50,000 followers. That's amazing!

After all the expenses, the total that we donated to the Community Dinner program, (which runs during the months that *Out of the Cold* is not) was \$1,000.00, for which Ann Koppel graciously accepted.

We have planned our 4th annual Vendor Show on Saturday May 9th, 2020 from 10 am until 2 am. (Mother's Day Weekend) I am booking vendors at this time, as we want start as soon as possible, and spots fill up quickly. Last year, I had all the spots filled by end of February, and a waiting list. If you know anyone that is interested in being a vendor, please contact Lani Hildebrandt, and I can arrange for them to have a spot.



SUPER TUESDAY

Super Tuesday is a gathering of youth and adults. The evening is started with a sharing of prayer and song. The young people break off and go to learn and grow through music and song under the leadership of Mari Schantz.

For the adults a variety of opportunities to learn and grow in their faith and spiritual journey has been provided. Book studies on relevant topics, Bible study, and spiritual themes are amongst the studies that have been offered. Those gathered freely share their thoughts, insights, struggles, questions, and doubts in a warm and accepting environment. Most recently the offering was a study of the book of Matthew. Over the weeks a variety of methods for engaging with the bible passage was presented through the leadership of lay people. Whatever the study the challenge was connect its relevance to our living out the Word in our day to day encounters. Super Tuesday provides another opportunity for fellowship within our Church family.

From Wendy Northcotte

St. George's Travel Club

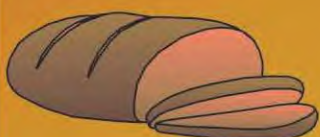
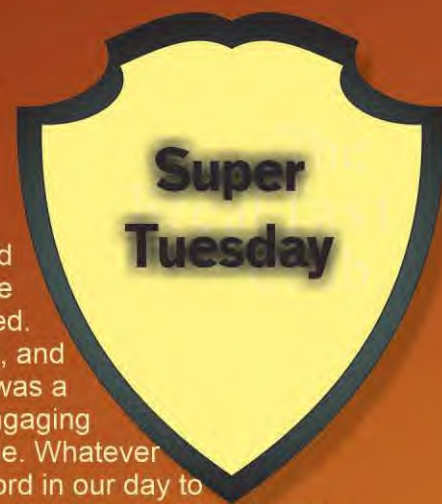
The themes of our live theatre experiences of 2019 had a common bond, as each was filled with hope, love and acceptance: the dreams of a young boy amidst the harsh reality of the bitter British coal strike of the 1980s (Billy Elliot at the Stratford Festival); a story of heart-warming acceptance and self discovery of three drag queens travelling across the Australian outback (Priscilla, Queen of the Desert at the St. Jacob's Playhouse); and through the artistry of black-light theatre, people who have developmental challenges rise above their limitations and prove that dreams really can come true when one believes in oneself (The Famous People Players in Toronto). Dieting is not a consideration on our travels as we eat very well. And what a pleasure it is to leave the driving to the professionals! Our trips are open to St. George's family and friends. Yours in learning through travel,

Grace-Ann Cambray

St. George's Dinner Club

Delicious meals! Interesting conversations! Deepening friendships! For over the past 29 years, members of the St. George's Dinner Club have enjoyed countless meals in each other's homes. Each June, current and new Club members gather for a potluck dinner at which the groupings for the next year are drawn "from a bowl". A grouping of four couples (either a married couple or a pair of friends) meets in each other's homes four times over the coming year. The food preparation is shared by all, so that the work does not fall to one couple. As a result, one not only enjoys good meals, but also becomes better acquainted with fellow parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,
Grace-Ann Cambray





Christmas Bazaar



St. George's 2019 Christmas Bazaar

The St. George's annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday November 16th from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. in the Parish Hall. This event was convened by Devon Culp and Liz Cunningham. The bazaar was opened by the Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic with a prayer. Just when we thought Tyler Deane and his crew could not possibly come up with a more beautiful flyer than they have other years we were proven wrong. In our opinion it was stunning and really highlighted our event. The publicity was expertly handled by Sharon Crane over the months and weeks leading up to the bazaar. Thanks to Bill Holman and his team for setting up the tables and looking after the signs. Bill is always willing to go the extra mile and we certainly appreciated all his help. We were assisted by many volunteers. Our thanks goes out to those who looked after the parking in the cold, the elevator, the sound system, stage decorations, collecting money, the counters, table conveners and all who worked on the many sale tables and of course to all who donated time, items to sell and food. It was very nice this year to see so many new people and young people in our congregation helping out. This was truly a parish event. The bazaar sale tables were in the main auditorium and lower Broughall Hall. The lunch cafe was in the Swan Auditorium. The café and kitchen were managed by Linda Telega, M.J. Schmidt and Sharon Vermolen. It was very successful and had a menu of three simple choices which seemed crowd-pleasing. A slight change this year seemed well received. There was a selection of lovely breads instead of sandwiches with the soup. We would like to give a special word of thanks to Ann Koppel for donating the soup to the cafe this year. We were very fortunate to have many of the items donated therefore keeping our costs down. Moe Raham looked after the raffle tickets. Thanks to Moe, her helpers and all in the congregation who took books of tickets we sold every ticket. A sum of \$2487.00 was raised. Of course, we would not have the raffle without the generosity of Sandra LeGarde for making the beautiful quilt and Evelyn Thompson for making the beautiful afghan. We were pleased to have the George Express and the Krehbiel Chorale choirs singing to get us into the Christmas spirit. This year we changed the stage slightly so the two choirs were in the centre stage for all to see and hear. It was particularly lovely to see the choirs sing together. A mini bazaar was held on November 18 after the 8:00 a.m. and the 10:00 a.m. services. A word of thanks goes out to Johan Braun for all his help and lending us his popcorn machine. Shoppers and workers alike could enjoy water and popcorn for the duration. We are pleased to report that after expenses a profit of about \$13,287.30 was realized. Thank you to everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Devon Culp and Liz Cunningham, Bazaar Conveners



Community Dinner

The Community Dinner Program started at Grace Anglican Church in May of 2014 and discontinued after an attempt to offer it at St. Georges. Dinners were restarted in May 2018. We served 6 dinners in 2018 with a mix of those who brought the experience of previous dinners and those desiring to serve in a new way. In 2019, we started a month earlier to coincide with the end of The Out of the Cold dinners. With over 30 volunteers who offered their time and talent over the 7 months, we joyfully served about 600 people. The dual purpose behind these dinners was to build community while providing a healthy dinner to those whose budgets are tight as month's end approaches. Many wanted to support the initiative. Proceeds from the Spring Frolic plus a donation from the St. Catharines Rotary Club plus ongoing cash donations from parishioners and guests totalled over \$2,200. We received many homemade desserts and fresh fruit from the caring community here at St George's. Volunteers also helped with the costs of the meals by donating bread, roll, cheese and other ingredients used to prepare our meals. John Belford and Campbell's Soup donated soups for the team to use as a base for our meals. All of these contributions meant that we were able to provide meals and still have a surplus of over \$700 to start off next year. The sense of community that grew among the volunteers spilled over to the guests creating a pleasant dinner experience for our guests. Our volunteers gathered after our last meal in April to share fellowship and enjoy some pizza. We did hold a potato peeling contest, as suggested by John Bullivant which was won by Louise Cross. We will return in the April 2020 to build on the relationships which we established over the last two years. We would love for others to join this worthwhile community initiative.



Great
Stuff!

Ann Koppel, Convener and Canon Dr Michael Mondloch, Director of Social Justice and Outreach

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. The three major items referred to the Committee this year were related to desirability of having a full audit of the church's financial records, the examination of estimates of future revenue and expenses and to review the inflation protection calculations for the Foundation Fund. The Committee advised that a full audit would be desirable. Work is continuing on the other two matters. The Committee monitored the investment activity of our accounts held by the Dioceses throughout the year. This year St. George's can draw on our investments to support our ministry although not as much as anticipated due to the inflation protection in existing policies for the calculations. In 2019, the rate of return to the end of October on our investments was approximately 4.8 %. The return this year is good, but the investments are subject to market forces. St. George's investments, with careful management and monitoring, should be available to support parish programs for the future. I would like to thank our committee members Dave Bingham, Chuck Burke, Corwin Cambray, Wes Gray, Fred Hanam, Maureen Hempel, Jim Jenter, Sandra Legarde, James Little, Marilyn Pettit, and Canon Martha for their valuable input and support.

Paul Chapman, Chair



Doreen McFarlane

Although my primary responsibilities are as pastor of the Lutheran church I currently serve (St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church in Niagara Falls), I am pleased and honoured to continue to serve St. George's in every way I can, as your Ecumenical Honourary Assistant. I do not lead any specific groups at this time, but I find many opportunities to "fill in" as a preacher, group leader, wedding officiant, and hospital and home visitor as needed. I stand ready to help out whenever your priests are called to various events or on vacation. This includes preaching at Advent Café services, weekday and Lenten services, and Evensong. I also attend a variety of church social events, and attend the Tuesday morning *Krafty Corners* knitting group. In January, I gave a lecture on my four years in China for the BAS group, and taught a Bible class with Scott on Tuesday evenings. I participated in the St. George's Dinner Club. I am currently serving as mentor for M.J. Schmidt who is preparing for the diaconate. I also attend monthly staff meetings and parish council meetings. I want each of you to know that I am exceedingly pleased to be a part of this living, growing, and thriving local church. You can be very proud of all you are doing. The very existence of St. George's in the heart of the city serves as a role model for churches of all denominations in the twenty first century. You feed the hungry. You listen to those who are troubled. You bring your children and grandchildren. And, most importantly, you love God and care for each other. To be a part of your ministry here is a great privilege for me and, for this, I thank you with all my heart.

Columbarium Report

Sue Arnedt

Two single niches were sold during this calendar year. Our purchase of an additional bank of compartments a few years ago continues to be sufficient to accommodate requests for niches in the foreseeable future. Should the need arise however, there is space for an additional bank on the remaining free wall. The current prices for single and double niches are \$1500 and \$3000 respectively. These prices have been in place for a few years and will be reviewed by the committee this year and this review will continue on a regular basis every few years.



Corporation Report

Corporation is composed of 4 people: the Rector's and People's Wardens, the Deputy Rector's, and Deputy People's Wardens, plus our Rector, Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic. In 2019, the Rector's Warden was Janice Mackenzie; the People's Warden was Sandra Legarde; Rob Welch was the Deputy Rector's Warden, and Dave Bingham, Deputy People's Warden.

In addition to assisting with the smooth functioning of the Sunday and Holy Day (Christmas and Easter) services, Corporation acts as the executive of St. George's Church. This includes budget preparation and management for the fiscal year, and providing advice to the Rector, clergy, and Parish Council on matters pertaining to the temporal well-being of the Church such as property repairs and maintenance, and staffing issues.

Specific matters we dealt with in 2019 included the establishment of our STEP Program for vulnerable youth, and our hosting the Out of the Heat Program this past summer. OOTH involved coming up with the funds necessary to provide additional fire safety measures, and required a special summer Parish Council meeting for approval. In addition, the installation of acoustic panels in the Gym was completed, and a commercial dishwasher was installed in the Bear's Den kitchen.


Several of the Wardens participated in the Revive Program for spiritual development which was very uplifting and enjoyable. We look forward to the second stage which will get underway on January 14, 2020.

We would like to thank Reverend Martha, as well as Associate Rector Scott McLeod, and Reverend Canon Doctor Michael Mondloch, Director of Social Justice and Outreach, for their ongoing counsel and support.

BAC Report

St. George's Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen has had an active year in 2019. We met the second Tuesday evening of each month, 5 times a year, usually January, February, April, October, and November. This year, weather forced us to postpone our February meeting to March. We meet in Swan Hall for a catered roast beef dinner, with coffee, tea, and dessert, followed by a guest speaker. Our meetings start with fellowship beginning at 6 PM, dinner at 6:30, and our guest speaker normally can begin his or her presentation at 7:15 PM. Presentations last 20 minutes or so, followed by questions. Our meeting turnout maintains a 20 to 25 member level.

Our guest speakers cover a variety of topics. In 2019, Reverend Doctor Doreen McFarlane gave a very interesting presentation on the Church in China, on January 8. Darcy Belanger told us his tragic yet courageous experience as a "Sixties Scoop" survivor on March 12. Cathy Mondloch gave a fascinating presentation on facial recognition on April 9. Niagara Dailies editor Grant Lafleche demonstrated his newspaper's role in the 2018 municipal election by helping to maintain an informed electorate, on October 8. On November 12, Heather Morrison presented the successes and challenges of providing the Out of the Heat program at St. George's this past summer. For 2020, we will have Lori Martin to talk about Cartography on January 14. Louis Muscat will give us an update on the STEP youth counselling program at St. George's, on February 11. On April 14, Susan Venditti will talk about the work of Start Me Up Niagara. We are looking for speakers for our October and November, 2020, dinner meetings. In addition to the fellowship and educational aspects of our meetings, we also endeavour to fundraise for the good of the Church. For many years, our annual Poinsettia sales have provided the bulk of our fundraising, along with the proceeds from our dinner meetings. Unfortunately, due to problems with suppliers, we were not able to have poinsettias available for the 2019 Christmas season. We were able to offer once again "hoodie" sales as an alternative, thanks largely to the efforts of Tom Owens. We will endeavour to solve the poinsettia supplier problem in time for the 2020 Christmas season. The good news is the BAC was able to donate \$500.00 for the work of St. George's by the end of 2019. New members are always welcome. For more information, please contact Tom Owens at 905-934-4239, or Dave Bingham at 905-938-1648.



Respectfully
submitted,
Dave
Bingham

SIDESPERSION



Sidespeople are active and on duty not just at the 10 o'clock service but also at the 8 o'clock and Evensong Services. Members of our congregation may not be aware that there is a group of people who are quietly assuming the duties and responsibilities at these other services on a regular basis. Our thanks and appreciation go out to all the Sidespeople who participate in all of our services. Our routine has not changed over the years. 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 would like to say a special thank you to Fred and Louise Cross, for their time and help over the many years that they have been members of our team and to say what a pleasure it has been working with them. They will be missed. I want to thank all of our Sidespeople for your encouragement, cooperation and dedication throughout 2019. The willingness and support all of these people demonstrate, leaves me with the confidence that we are a congregation of kind and thoughtful people. It is a privilege to be a part of this enthusiastic and eager group.

VISITORS

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. Our goal is to share the spirit and fellowship that we all enjoy as members of the St. George's family. They respond to requests from Clergy or parishioners for visits to private homes, hospitals and long-term care facilities. All visits are kept in confidence. Hospital visitation is usually done on the Monday or Tuesday of the week by one of the six members of the hospital visiting team. Hospital visits can be as short as five minutes or extend to half an hour or more depending on our parishioner's wish. Each visitor is required to have a police check and hospital visitors must attend an orientation meeting and tour at each of the two hospitals that we visit, Niagara Health System, St. Catharines Site, and Hotel Dieu Shaver, before they receive their access cards to the hospital. Home visits are scheduled at the convenience of the parishioner and the visitor. The frequency as well as the length of the visit also depends on what the parishioner would like. Some of these visits may be as short as half an hour while others may extend to two or more hours. Currently, we have fifteen visitors who visit forty people on a monthly basis but this number can and often does fluctuate as we are asked to add other names to our list. Communion Services are provided at Linhaven, and Ina Grafton by our clergy for all the residents, on a regular basis. This year we have also had a few services at some of the other long-term care facilities in the area. For parishioners who cannot get to a service and want to have Communion, it is taken to them by members of the Visitors Group or by the Clergy. Doug and Sheila Ridge retired this year. They have been faithful visitors for many years and will be greatly missed as both hospital and home visitors. Thank you, Doug and Sheila, for your many years of dedication to our group and to the parishioners of St. George's. I want to extend a huge thank you to all of our St. George's visitors. They have volunteered their time and energy so freely and selflessly throughout 2019. THANK YOU, team.

Both submitted respectively
by Marilyn Pettit



Dialing Disciples

The Dialing Disciples were 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 30 men and women church members who have a list of 10 calls - some do 2 lists - one shut-in does 4 !! We call twice yearly before Easter and Christmas to inquire of your well being, offer assistance and can relay a current list of church activities. Our Dialing Disciples retain their lists if required in an emergency.

Chimers

Did you know that we have one of the 12 carillons in Canada? Such a melodic, happy, glorious meaningful way to praise the Lord !! We chime each Tuesday and Friday from 11:30 to 11:50, and before the 10 am Sunday service. We play at weddings, funerals and special occasions. You can also hear the bells at 1pm and 5pm every day when the computer takes over. We rotate monthly for weekly chiming Who are we? Rose Spraggon, Keith Whittingham, Paul Waite, Janet Epp, Ian Ellingham, Dorothy Dundas. Can you play a keyboard ? Come join our happy group of campanologists !

Both joyfully submitted, Dorothy Dundas



Counting Team

The Counting team was formed in 1987 to assist the Wardens with the counting of the weekly offerings and thus relieved them of this time consuming duty over the years. Prior to 1987, the Wardens were entirely responsible for the opening the envelopes and counting the collection. This usually meant that two of our wardens spent most of each Sunday morning counting. At this time I would like to welcome Cylvia Powell, Grace-Ann Cambray, and Geoffrey Crane our newest members to the team. A Huge "Thank you" to George Novis and Paul and Sue Chapman for their many years of faithful service.

Respectfully submitted by,
Joe Steinman



Prayer Shawl Ministry

The group consists of seven super knitters. We meet in the Advil Lounge on the third Thursday of each month from 1 to 3 p.m. There are no meetings in July or August. New members are always welcome. Prayers are said during our afternoon of knitting and fellowship. At the close of each meeting, we form a circle and hold each other's knitting and recite a special prayer. Later, at a church service, the shawls are blessed by clergy. Those who have received prayer shawls tell us how amazing it is as they feel the love, prayers and comfort they provide. If you have a family member friend or acquaintance who is ill, grieving, depressed lonely or going through a difficult time please let us know. We would be happy to provide them with a prayer shawl. You can contact me or another member of our group.

Sincerely,
Evangeline Horton
(905-682-1546)



Bishop Beatty Fellowship



Respectfully Submitted by Louise Cross

Bishop Beatty Fellowship meets in the Asbil Lounge on the first Monday of each month at 7:30 pm., from March to June, and September to December. Attendance at the meetings averages around 38 to 45 members. An executive meeting is held in January or February at the president's home. Louise Cross and her Executive Committee are looking forward to presenting an interesting and varied program in 2020, with guest speakers, and evenings filled with fellowship and fun. The Executive meets to share their vision for Bishop Beatty Fellowship for the new year. Input from all members of the Executive is encouraged and welcomed. The Fellowship is not run by one person, but rather the entire Executive Committee. A dinner for the fellowship is planned in June at the Hernder Estate Winery, and in December the Fellowship enjoys a Christmas party with music and song.

The Fellowship sponsors receptions for all Bishop Beatty members. Gift baskets for the Bazaar are purchased, wrapped, and donated by all members. The Fellowship also makes a donation to help community organizations. In 2019, a total of \$500.00 was donated to Community Cares. Many Bishop Beatty members participate and enjoy many active roles in various activities of the church as well. Members participate in: The Breakfast Program, Choir, Altar Guild, parish dinners, The Bazaar, Parish Visitors, Crafty Corners, and Coffee Hour, to name a few. Bishop Beatty Fellowship's main objective in 2020 is to develop an opportunity of Fellowship for all women of the parish. No test, essay, or permission is required to join; simply show up to a monthly meeting. New members are always welcome.

Executive:

President: Louise Cross

Receptions: Mary Crawford

Remembrance: Myrna Holman

Secretary: Val Kuhns

Devotions: Rita Hatcher

Phone Convener: Hazel Johnson

Treasurer: Tina Valentyne

Members List: Liz Cunningham

Mid Week Services

The 12:10 PM services on Wednesday and Thursday at St. George's have much to offer. Firstly, for those of us who are late risers, the time is right. More importantly, in Julie's family, the Rymers, it is a family tradition. Julie's grandmother, mother and aunt religiously attended.

We followed because we find these services intimate, with normally only around five attendees. Participation in the service is encouraged by all celebrating clergy including: discussing the readings; getting side tracked with Biblical and theological questions, and seeing how our Christian values are affected by current events and culture. We also get to participate in the Prayers of the People by adding our own thoughts and intercessions .

Try it out and join us,

God bless

Tom and Julie Owens

Name Tags

Currently, we have name tags for everyone on the parish list. They are at the back of the church and we ask everyone to take them home and wear them to church. They are colour coded: Blue tags for new parishioners - we supply a blue tag and a white tag so we can identify new parishioners. When they get comfortable they can switch to the white tag. Also, this gives the congregation the opportunity to identify new members by their blue name tag and take the time to introduce themselves.

Parish council are identified by yellow name tags. Mentors are identified by pink tags. It is important that older members of the parish wear their tags as it is always embarrassing when you introduce yourself, and ask someone if they are new to the church and find out they are 3rd generation members. It's not always easy to remember 200 face and their names. It is a great help to the clergy to identify and remember parishioners names, so lets all make an effort to wear our name tags every Sunday and also to committee meetings. If you do not have a name tag, please contact the Office and we will have one printed.

Kent Chisholm
Co-ordinator Name Tags



Trivia Night

After a three year hiatus, we welcomed the return of St. George's Trivia Night in October 2019. We had approximately 80 participants and enjoyed an evening of food, fellowship and fun. The event generated just shy of \$1800 in revenue towards ministry projects at St. George's. Many thanks to the volunteers who helped make this evening a success.

Kelly Belford, Chair

Historical Tours

Historical Tours of St. George's Church

During 2019, St. George's was the site of many exciting events which has drawn the attention of numerous families and new single members to our spiritual home. These events have included the Newcomer's Wine and Cheese Party, our Welcome Weekend BBQ, as well as a couple of impromptu tour events centered on church get-togethers. At each of these events, our guides have provided walking tours of the long and distinguished history of our pastoral home, and its distinguished history as the Regimental Church of our Lincoln and Welland Regiment. St. George's is a wonderful example of 18th century church design with a spectacular array of stained glass windows, beautiful wood carvings and thoughtful, loving dedications of artworks to the glory of God. The extensive building complex of St. George's has been thoughtfully built over many years and is a prime example of a church whose time has come again as a focus of faith and growth in the 21st century. Our tour guides during 2019 included Jim Streadwick, Tom Owens, Eric Crawford and myself.

Respectfully submitted by Ron Duggan



Altar Guild

Altar Guild Vestry Report

At St. George's the Altar Guild is a ministry – a ministry of service. The members serve the Church under the direction of the clergy and are responsible for such tasks as:

- preparing the altar and credence table and laying out the vessels for worship
- ensuring that the altar is dressed in the proper colour of the day
- ordering and arranging flowers for weekly Sunday worship and for festivals such as Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas and other special occasions.
- laundering and ironing altar and worship linens, polishing brass and silver, dusting the sanctuary, cleaning up after services,
- preparing for the next service and other tasks as required.

Currently there are 28 active members and 9 associate members. We are pleased to welcome new member, Diane Bingham. We are thankful to Anne Mirynych for her years of active service in many capacities and for her continuing contribution as Corresponding Secretary. This year we mourn the loss of long-time active member Shirley Chamberlain and associate members Barbara MacDonald and Phyllis Rymer. We miss them!

For some time, we have been working on changes regarding the responsibilities of flower buying and arranging. There are now three levels of responsibility: Festival Flower Team: Memorial Flower Convenor: Memorial Flower Team. This change has been overseen by Mary Crawford and we are grateful to her for her insight and her on-going service to our ministry.

Recently, St. George's received a wonderful gift. We are especially thankful to Altar Guild member Shirley Densham and her friend Pam Mundy for their time, talent and treasure in the creation of our new Advent frontal for the chapel altar. It was dedicated by Rev Martha on the first Sunday of Advent in thanksgiving for 126 years of ministry at St. James, Merriton.

I would like to thank the Clergy for their patience and guidance and Linda Telega and Johann Braun for all the 'extras' they do for us. I would like to thank especially, all the members of the Altar Guild for their faithful service. We would welcome any who are moved to be active in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted
Sheila Ridge





St. George's Anglican Church (Est. 1792)

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Martha Tatarnic: marthatatarnic@hotmail.com

Scott McLeod: smcleod@stgeorgesanglican.ca

Website: <http://stgeorgesanglican.ca>

Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 8am to 4pm

Rector: The Rev. Canon Martha Tatarnic; **Associate Priest:** The Rev. Scott McLeod

Director of Social Justice & Outreach: The Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch

Bishop in Residence: The Rt. Rev. Walter Asbil

Honorary Assistant: Archdeacon Marion Vincett

Honorary Assistant: The Rev. Canon Paul Brillinger

Ecumenical Honourary Assistant: The Rev. Dr. Doreen McFarlane

Administrative Assistant: Linda Telega

Treasurer: Jim Jenter

Organist & Choirmaster: John Butler

Youth Music & Ministry Development Director: Mari Shantz

Children's Ministry & Youth Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Nursery Care Provider: Chandra Langley-Smith

STEP: Louis Muscat

Caretaker: Johan Braun

Rector's Warden: Janice MacKenzie

People's Warden: Sandra Legarde

Deputy Rector's Warden: Rob Welch; **Deputy People's Warden:** David Bingham

Synod Reps: Cheryl Bergie, Corwin Cambray, John Bullivant



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