



# ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

*The Oldest Church with the Youngest Ideas*

## ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

### ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT

### SUNDAY FEBRUARY 4, 2018



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

83 Church Street

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## **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

**Rector's Warden:** Corwin Cambray

**People's Warden:** Marilyn Pettit

**Deputy Rector's Warden:** George Novis

**Deputy People's Warden:** Neil Culp

**Deputy Rector's Warden:** MJ Schmidt

**Deputy People's Warden:** Sharon Cruttenden

**Agenda for the 226th Session of St. George's Vestry**

**Sunday February 4, 2018**

1. Call to Order and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk: Resolution #1
3. Establishment of Eligible Voting Members as per Canon 4.1
4. Remembering the Departed of St. George's
5. Financial Statements for the 2017
6. Parish Budget for the year 2018
  - A) Presentation
  - B) Discussion
  - C) Resolution #2
7. Merger with Grace Anglican Church: Report
8. Election of Deputy Peoples' Warden
9. Announcement of Appointments for 2018, Deputy Rector's Warden and New Parish Council Members
10. Organizations and Committee Reports
  - 225th Anniversary Project
11. Adoption of all Reports: Resolution #4
12. Presentations to Departing Wardens
13. Gratitude: Resolution #5
14. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2018: Resolution #6
15. Appointment of Financial Reviewer for 2017: Resolution #7
16. Resolution #8
17. Resolution #9
18. Adjournment

**Resolutions for the 226th Session of St. George's Vestry**

**February 4, 2018**

1. Be it resolved that Linda Telega be appointed Vestry Clerk for this meeting.
2. Be it resolved that the Vestry of St George's accept the proposed budget for 2018.
3. Be it resolved that the Reports presented to this Vestry be adopted as written or amended.
4. Be it resolved that this Vestry record with gratitude the efforts of the many members of this congregation who work diligently in providing leadership and service in the many areas of parish life and worship.
5. Be it resolved that the Rector, Rector's Warden, Peoples' Warden and Treasurer be empowered to transact business in the name of "The Corporation of St George's Anglican Church, St Catharines" for the year 2018;

And be it further resolved that two members of the Corporation sign all cheques on the parish bank accounts, with the exception of the Rector's and Vicar's Discretionary Funds.

6. Be it resolved that James Little, C.A., be appointed Financial Reviewer for the year **2017**.
7. Be it resolved that this Vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Church Wardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years in length, inclusive of all renewals. And that this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:

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

That the lease or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance;

The leasee or licensee agrees to hold harmless St George's Church, the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Church of Canada;

The leasee or licensee agrees to abide by the Sexual Abuse and Sexual Harassment Policy of the Synod of Niagara; and that if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization of approval resulting from it, it is understood that the current Canons of the Diocese will prevail.

8. Be it resolved that all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Corporation of St George's since the date of the Vestry Meeting of **February 4th, 2018** be hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.



## Serving our Community 2017



12,000 litre water tank installed in Pikangikum home



5 Children who received clean water in Phase 2



One of 3 waste water trucks



Poinsettias for sale and gifts



Elvis for refugees



Baby Shower donations

Neighbourhood BBQ



Cycling fundraiser

## **Vestry Report , the Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic**

Reverend Phillip Beattie was the Rector of St. George's when the parish was vibrant and growing, although dark and turbulent times were very much still in recent memory: WW2, the Depression, WW1. He said this in his 1951 address to vestry: "We have a great task here at St. George's. Here in this place for 159 years, St. George's has made its witness to the noblest and best things in human life and has held out to men the noblest conception of life – has declared the sole hope of life to be the Son of God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ – has strengthened the weak, succoured the needy, trained the young, comforted the afflicted. The church has been a beacon of hope and healing – and that is its task in the years to come."

The words have a timeless quality to them, remaining as clear a description of our church today as it did 67 years ago. We have just come out of a year of tremendous change and celebration. A year ago at our vestry meeting, we voted overwhelmingly to enter into a partnership with Grace Anglican Church in ministry in this building at 83 Church Street. A similar vote took place, with similar support, in the Grace Community. At the same time that Grace was considering its future, St. James' Anglican Church had already made the courageous decision to disestablish. A number of their community began to worship with us in the new year. Along with Grace and St. James, many other new people began to find a home here - glad for the programs we are able to offer, eager to contribute ideas, energy, gifts and a sense of joy to our collective life of faith.

In a world where secular values seem to turn a blind, or even hostile, eye to religion, we were able to take the bold move of realigning the rich resources of our churches toward increased outreach in our community, to expanding the welcome we offer, and to bearing witness through worship that is lively and meaningful to the power of God's love at work in our lives. Our Sunday School, George Express Youth Choir and Youth Group have all continued to grow in encouraging ways, and to our long-established outreach programs we have been able to add a monthly Community Dinner and the annual Baby Shower for Community Care. Partnership with Grace Church has meant investing in new ministry, exemplified by the position of Director of Social Justice and Outreach. Reverend Michael Mondloch, formerly the Rector of Grace Church, boldly took on an entirely new job description in coming over to St. George's, and has been working hard at getting to know the very vulnerable community of people who frequent St. George's through our Breakfast and Out of the Cold programs, building relationships with other community groups working with those in need, and discerning with our parishioners how we may be using our now amplified gifts to continue in that tradition long ago identified by Phillip Beattie, "to strengthen the weak, succour the needy and comfort the afflicted."

Against this backdrop of restructuring and growth, all of us have been blessed to share in the 225th Anniversary celebrations of 2017. We welcomed home a number of guest preachers – former Rectors and Associate priests of St. George's, as well as some of those who grew up in our church – in our anniversary sermon series. We held a number of fellowship events to gather, celebrate and fundraise for our Anniversary Project. We received generous donations toward this Project: the restoration of our valuable pipe organ and the means to outfit one home in Pikangikum Ontario with clean running water. Our year culminated with a Gala Dinner and Silent Auction at the Holiday Inn Conference Centre and a homecoming Sunday, with honoured guests the Most Reverend Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, along with our current Bishop, Michael Bird, retired Bishops Ralph Spence and Walter Asbil, and the Dean of our Cathedral, Peter Wall. In our fall Super Tuesday study, we looked at the history of St. George's as first and finally a history of faith in action. That faith has seen our people through the darkest of times; that faith has indeed been a "beacon of light" that has connected people to God's love, has lived out that love in the bonds of friendship with one another and in compassionate service to the world around us.

I have jokingly asked if the congregation would be up for a similar 226th Anniversary Year. The reflections on our history, and particularly the reminder this anniversary has been to God's faithfulness and generosity to us

through good times and bad, has made 2017 a truly incredible year, and one which I am sad to see draw to a close. But of course the lessons of 2017 provide all of the guidance we need for beginning 2018, anniversary or not.

We begin this year officially as ONE congregation. The history that the Grace community brings with it lives on at St. George's in some very visible ways, as does the history of St. James. And yet, by the middle of last year, it was abundantly clear that what everyone really wanted was to build on that history now as one people, one community, one church. The way in which all of our people have embraced one another, shared their faith with one another, and looked faithfully together toward the new future God has in store should be a model for congregations across our country looking to realign resources for growth in a changing world. I have been moved beyond measure by the Christian kindness and cooperation I have seen lived out in each of you.

That strength gives me confidence even in the midst of the uncertainty that does present itself at the beginning of this year. We will be electing a new Bishop at the beginning of March. There is at least the possibility that I could be called to a new ministry in the life of the church, depending on the outcome of this election. Then again, it might be God's will that I get to stay with you, to continue as your Rector to build with you on all of the good things God is doing here. I have found that the only prayer I can utter in this uncertainty is simply, "Thy will be done." I hope that you will pray with me the same, and that you will join with me in trusting that, no matter the outcome of this election, all of the resources St. George's needs for continuing in this path of generosity and joy are here and will continue to be provided.

Finally, I can tell you that the anniversary reflections, along with the growth of this past year, have convinced me that the most important thing that we can be doing as a church is exactly what we have always been asked to do, and which Phillip Beattie articulated so well: we need to provide every opportunity for people of all ages and stages to draw close to the God who always seeks to draw close to us, who we know and with whom we walk through Jesus. Regardless of what is happening in the wider church, it is my priority in the early months of this year to build into the fabric of our common life opportunities for Bible study and for connecting the teachings of faith with the challenges of everyday life. We have had so many people express a desire to offer their gifts toward such a goal that I feel truly excited to see the variety of ways in which leadership is going to be shared across our church, even as more people are finding the chance to grow in their knowledge and love of God. Everything else that we do – our outreach, our social justice, our dinners and fellowship, our music and cake and coffee, the friendships that are built here and that extend into our individual homes – has always and will always flow from this reality of God's love drawing near.

<b>Rector's Statistical Report 2017 for St. George's</b>	<b>2016</b>	<b>2017</b>
Households on Parish List	380	410
Number of Identifiable Givers	305	371
Baptisms	11	15
Confirmations	8	5
Marriages	2	4
Funerals by St. George's Clergy	15	15
Average Sunday Attendance	189	258
Average Weekly Attendance	60	62
Average Total Weekly Attendance	249	320
Christmas Attendance	540	675
Easter Attendance	558	739



### **Vestry Report, the Reverend D. Scott McLeod**

In 2017, my role as priest associate has had me assisting with presiding and preaching at the regular Sunday and weekday services, as well as other services when they occur. This includes care facilities, funerals, weddings, and filling in for clergy colleagues in their parishes, as well as responding to requests to preach or present around the Diocesan refugee sponsorship initiative. I continue in working with our Visitors group in their ministry and in my visiting of parishioners at hospitals, homes, and in care facilities.

I participate in the communications committee with its work of broadcasting to the community the things St. George's is doing. I continue to take a particularly active role in the support and set up of video recording of Advent Café services, and live video streaming of Sunday services.

I continue to support our Super Tuesday and other educational programs that the parish is offering.

I 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 all of this, I work to support our rector, Martha, in all of the work that she does.

I still work with Bill Mous coordinating our Diocesan Refugee program as my service to the Diocese. As expected, the Diocesan program has slowed down a lot over 2017. We still have significant work in monitoring all of the cases that have arrived, but the overall number of new cases that we have taken on is smaller, both due to interest and our allocation of visa spots from the Government to work with.

We continue to wait with great hope and anticipation for the arrival of the refugee group that St. George's is helping to sponsor. We had hoped that the case would arrive in 2017, but sadly, that has not been the case. As they wait in Turkey, in the midst of uncertainty and insecurity, we pray for them, and prepare for their arrival.

As we move into the year ahead and the many ministry opportunities it holds, I am excited and eager to dive into the ministry God is calling St. George's family into.

Respectfully submitted, Reverend D. Scott McLeod

### **"Follow Me" Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch, Director of Social Justice and Outreach – Annual Report**

Whenever I take that leap of faith and respond to Jesus' call to "follow me" I do so with a bit of trepidation and a good deal of hope-filled expectation. "Follow me" doesn't operate like Google Maps where you can pin-point your destination and know ahead of time your exact route. "Follow me" instead often leads us into amazing adventures with unexpected turns and events. This has certainly been the case over the past year.

The privilege of serving and leading a relatively small, faith-filled and loving congregation for 14 years came to an end as I and many of the members of Grace Church chose to share in life and ministry with St. George's at 83 Church Street. During the first few months of our time together we focused upon easing the transition for all involved and learning to work together as an expanded ministry team. It is with a sense of accomplishment and gratitude that "Follow Me" has brought Grace and St. George's to officially become one enhanced congregation. It is now my privilege to serve with a vibrant team of lay and ordained leaders, and to minister with a larger congregation that has an enormous heart for justice and outreach. We are, as we had hoped and expected, able to do more than we could as separate parishes.

I have long had a heart for justice and outreach but the many responsibilities of being the rector of a church limited the time and energy that I could devote to this work. As Director of Social Justice and Outreach I am able to satisfy a personal call to justice and outreach work. As importantly, I am able to use my theological training and leadership experience to facilitate and support St. George's efforts in justice and outreach. On my best days I sense I am following Jesus into Swan Hall to meet those attending the Community Breakfast Program or the 150



or so people in the gym having dinner at Out of the Cold. This work has become a 'holy' adventure. It has been a delight to get to know and work with countless volunteers who are in their own way responding to "follow me."

We know, and are learning more deeply, that "follow me" often involves reaching out to help others and striving to make our world a more just place. I've assembled a small group of parishioners to serve as a Social Justice and Outreach Advisory Council. They have encouraged me to continue to forge connections with social service agencies and with the people whom we serve through our current outreach efforts. I am to seek opportunities to communicate more broadly about the outreach and justice work that is taking place and additional opportunities. I'm working with St. George's communications team on an effective and robust communication strategy for Social Justice and Outreach.

The social ills and needs at the local, national and international level can make us feel as if we are lost in a vast wilderness. Let me remind us all that the precious call of "follow me" doesn't set us on a clearly defined and always smooth course. Rather "follow me" invites us to forge relationships with God who leads us and with others, both inside and outside of St. George's, who also seek to follow God's call. I expect the coming year to involve deepening these relationships, enhancing and expanding the justice and outreach ministries of St. George's and integrating such work with our life as a people who seek to follow Christ.

I thank you for the extraordinarily warm welcome I have received, the support you have offered and the patience you have shown over the past year. I look forward to continuing to serve and ministering with you in the year ahead as we respond to Jesus' call to "follow me".

In Christ's love, Rev. Michael

### **Advent Café Report**

In 2016, St. George's began Advent Café, an innovative new worship service using the best of our ancient traditions with a fresh voice and a different setting. Advent Café is now approaching its second birthday. We have renovated the beautiful Bear's Den (Upper Broughall Hall) in order to accommodate the congregation and the variety of musical ensembles that lead the worship. The simple midweek service has a number of musical groups taking turns leading the worship in different styles: rock, Christian contemporary, jazz, Gospel, bluegrass and roots. We attract a diverse gathering week by week: guests from our Out of the Cold and Breakfast Programs, parishioners who appreciate the midweek opportunity or who can't make it on Sundays, parishioners from other churches, and people who have no faith affiliation but are drawn in by the music and café setting. Our musical leaders experience Advent Café to be a meaningful and supportive community in which to offer their gifts, and a safe place in which to engage with the possibility of Christian faith.

In two years, and thanks to the support of our congregation, Advent Café is a healthy congregation serving a variety of needs and engaging multiple leaders.

We want to do more. We are paying attention to the emerging needs and hopes of the community. We have recently begun to use PowerPoint screens so that we can worship with heads up and hands free, so that newcomers find it easier to follow along and participate, and so the lyrics of songs can be better shared and understood as a vehicle of prayer. There is a desire to engage more interactively with the Scripture reading and sermon, creating space for Bible study and small group discussion in response to worship. This coming year we are going to be more intentional about creating sermon series that allow us to delve more deeply into parts of the Bible, or questions of faith, that we might otherwise not have the chance to explore. Our first sermon series is "Women in the Bible." We have 9 different people – a combination of clergy and lay – who will be acting as preachers and leaders in this initiative. In early January, we will be making a pitch to our Niagara Diocese to receive some funding for improving the sound system at Advent Café, making a few of these projects a little easier to manage, as well as making other initiatives possible for the future.

We continue to look for opportunities to share Advent Café more widely. As always, we ask the question of how the gifts of faith and fellowship that we experience together may be a means by which God is asking us to reach out and be a blessing to others.

Respectfully submitted, The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

### **St. George's Wardens' Report**

Wow! What an exciting year we have had. We celebrated our 225th Anniversary throughout this year in style. How often does a congregation have to be able to say that they hosted Mayor Walter Sendzik, Reverend Rob Fead, Bishop Michael Bird, Dean Peter Elliott, The Very Reverend Andrew Asbil and retired Bishop Walter Asbil, Bishop Ralph Spence, retired Bishop of Niagara, Archbishop Fred Hiltz, Primate of Canada, and The Venerable Val Kerr all in one year. This was only the start. We enjoyed a spaghetti dinner, a social tea, a special wedding weekend all working up to our Gala Dinner and Silent Auction.

In our celebration we also focused on fund raising for the Pikangikum Water Project and also funds to upgrade the pipe organ. Although this has been a notable year in regards to our Anniversary it also has been a memorable year marking new and uncharted areas for not just St. George's but also Grace Anglican. In February, Grace Anglican voted to come to St. George's to worship. This has been a year for sharing joy in new friendships formed as well as for grieving over the loss of a church home. To this end, I believe that we as Wardens benefitted because we gained M.J. Schmidt and Sharon Cruttenden to help us Sunday mornings. Their experience, knowledge and willingness has been invaluable to us and to all of the parishioners. I am very pleased to report that as of January 1, 2018 we are one community.

As you look around the church, not just the Sanctuary, you will see many new features – plaques, altar hangings, furniture and chalices to name a few. These are gifts that we have received from St. James and from Grace. Many more things will be hung and displayed in the future. Please take the time to notice and read the plaques as they are important items in the history of Grace, St. James and St. George's Anglican Churches.

The long-awaited space is here. The Upper Broughall or better known as The Bear's Den is finished. All the work that went into renovating the room has paid off. We use that room now not just for a social coffee hour after church, or a meeting room, but more importantly for Advent Café on Wednesday evening. This is an enjoyable weekly service with numbers varying each week. During the summer it is wonderful to see it out on the front lawn where people walking by will stop and listen. What an out reach for our church community.

Although not finished yet, we eagerly await the finished Grace Meeting Room. Jim Streadwick and the Monday morning men are busy with the painting and then clean up. Another addition to the space we need. We need to thank Jim Streadwick and his Monday morning men for all the work they have done, not just The Bear's Den and the Grace Meeting Room but for all those hidden things that get fixed. Along with Johan Braun, plumbing, electrical, lighting, painting, and general repairs to name a few are all part of their weekly handiwork.

Earlier this year the church applied for a grant for the transportation for our Ina Grafton parishioners. Unfortunately, it takes time for grants to be processed but the desire by our people was so great that once a month the church arranged for a bus to pick up the people and take them home. This has been a success and hopefully the requested grant will be approved and this service can be increased to every week.

Our Youth and Children's' Music program is alive and growing. The combined efforts of Mari Shantz, Tanya Schleich and their many helpers have once again this year given us wonderful music and plays for our children to perform. We look forward to hearing and seeing more of our youth in plays, singing and the many activities that the youth program participates in.

A hearty welcome was extended to the many members from Grace and St. James that have joined us this year, and

to the many visitors that joined us for a service or two, as well as the people who are looking for a new parish home. We welcome our newest clergy, The Reverend Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch and his family.

A special thank you to Reverend Martha Tatarnic, Reverend Scott McLeod and to Reverend Michael Mondloch for their tireless devotion, help, spiritual guidance and leadership in tending to the spiritual needs of our congregation. Thank you to for the support and devotion that our retired clergy give us not just the congregation but the untiring assistance they give to the clergy.

This is but a few of the many exciting things that we have been involved in this year. Without each and everyone of you helping and supporting us this would not have been such a successful, enjoyable year. We want to say a great big "THANK YOU" to all of our parishioners, and acknowledge each of your individual contributions and encouraging support.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Pettit (People's Warden), on behalf of Corwin Cambray (Rector's Warden), Neil Culp (People's Deputy Warden) and George Novis (Rector's Deputy Warden).

### **Grace Church Wardens' Report**

This past year has been one of huge changes for both Congregations. At the Grace Church vestry the decision was made to make the move to St. George's. It was a very difficult and highly emotional time for the people of Grace. February 26th was the start of joined worship with St. George's, we were welcomed with open and loving arms.

Since our coming together, the members from Grace have embraced all areas of life at St. George's. We are active in all parts of the worship service as members of the choir and altar guild, as readers, chalice bearers, lay reader, sides persons and servers. We have become soup makers, communion bread makers, coffee hour hosts, videographers and hospitality hosts. We have become regular participants at Super Tuesday and the Advent Café. We are members of Krafty Korner, Bishop Beattie Fellowship and the Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen. We have played a part in the Christmas Bazaar and the Neighbourhood BBQ. We enjoyed being a part of many of the 225th Anniversary Events. A few couples from Grace renewed their Wedding Vows. Our children have fun attending Sunday School, Youth Group events and the George Express.

This year has been full of wonderful opportunities for everyone to try new ministries, and while it has had its learning curves and a few challenges, we have grown stronger together. We look forward to what we can achieve together in the future.

Respectfully submitted by MJ Schmidt, Rector's Warden and Sharon Cruttenden, People's Warden

### **Altar Guild Report - St. George's**

The Guild is responsible for preparations for Sunday services, weekday services, and special services such as weddings and funerals. The Guild also decorates the church for festivals such as Thanksgiving, Easter and Christmas.

The Guild is also responsible for preparations for services at Linhaven on Wednesdays in February, July and October and one in December.

The Guild cleans and polishes the brass vessels before Easter, during the summer, before Thanksgiving and before Christmas.

Women of the parish volunteer to serve on the Guild. In 2017, there were 26 active members and 9 associate members. The members are assigned to four teams which are scheduled a week at a time.

We acquired four frontals for the chapel altar from St. James Merriton. These were altered by Mary Crawford

and Louise Cross to fit the altar. We thank them for their diligent work.

We also received two flower vases from Grace church which have been repaired and refinished. In addition we have received several linens and vessels from Grace church and St. James for which we are extremely grateful.

A meeting of representatives from several Altar Guilds in St. Catharines was held to discuss schedules for services at Linhaven.

The Altar Guild Handbook was reviewed and updated.

Meetings were held in January (annual meeting), May (annual luncheon), September (planning for Harvest Thanksgiving) and November (planning for Christmas services).

We want to thank Mary Crawford and her flower team for their work in decorating the church for festivals. We also want to thank the clergy for their guidance and understanding, and Linda Telega and Johan Braun for their continuing and willing assistance.

I would like to thank all the members of the Guild who have so faithfully and willingly given of their time to serve on the guild in preparing God's House for services.

Respectfully submitted, Myrna Holman, President

### **Altar Guild Report - Grace Church**

The end of 2017 brings the closure of Grace Church Altar Guild and some of its members have chosen to join St. Georges Altar Guild. The transition has been an easy one thank you to St. George's members for being so welcoming and helpful as we learn new routines and traditions.

It has also been comforting to be able to bring with us, Grace Church's memorial items such as fair linen, altar frontals, and the silver and brass hardware.

Finally I would like to thank Grace Church members for your many, many years of friendship and devoted service. Our financial statement follows:

#### *Grace Church Altar Guild 2017 Financial Report*

	Receipts	Expenses	Balance
January 1 <sup>st</sup> balance			\$3192.70
Christmas donation from 2016	\$ 60.00		\$3252.70
Wine purchasing float	\$132.50		\$3385.20
Repair of 2 brass vases		\$1246.39	\$2138.81
Yearly maintenance fee		\$ 30.00	\$2108.81
Money order charge		\$ 5.00	\$2103.81
Money order to Grace Church Memorial Fund		\$2103.81	\$0000.00

December 2017 Year end balance is zero. Grace Church Altar Guild account CLOSED.

Respectfully submitted by Barbara Norton

### **Bazaar Report**

The St. George's annual Christmas Bazaar was held on Saturday November 18 from 10:00 am to 2:00 pm in the Parish Hall. The bazaar was opened by Rev. Marion Vincett with a prayer. This year the bazaar was co-convened



by Liz Cunningham, Sharon Vermolen and M.J. Schmidt. Thank you to Tyler Deane who designed a beautiful flyer for our event. The bazaar publicity was handled by Sharon Crane. We were assisted by many volunteers. These included those who set up tables, looked after signs, parking, the elevator, the sound system, stage decorations, collecting money and all who worked on the many sale tables, the café and of course all who donated time, items to sell and food. It was truly a parish event.

The bazaar sale tables were in the main auditorium and lower Broughall Hall. The lunch café was in the Swan Auditorium. This year the café, managed by MJ Schmidt and Linda Telega, had a menu of three simple choices which seemed crowd-pleasing. We were very fortunate to have many of the items donated, therefore keeping our costs down. Dorothy Dundas organized the quilt tickets for the raffling of beautiful quilts. We were pleased to have the George Express and the Advent Café Krehbiel Chorale singing to get us into the Christmas spirit. A mini bazaar was held on November 26 after the 10:00am service. A word of thanks goes out to Johan Braun for all his help. I am pleased to report that after expenses a profit of about \$12,500 was realized. Thank you to everyone.

Respectfully submitted by Liz Cunningham

### **Bereavement Group Report**

Grieving and mourning takes its own kind of courage and strength. Grieving-mourning impact us physically emotionally, spiritually, mentally and psychologically. Many people who are grieving talk about feeling that they are on a roller coaster and wonder if the crying and the myriad of feelings will ever stop.

Over the past year, St. George's Church has hosted two different types of groups for people who are grieving.

The Wednesday afternoon group meets from 1:30 to 3:30pm and it is an ongoing group with no fixed end date. Some of the members of this group have come for shorter periods of time and others have been coming for quite some time. All attending come for the purposes of understanding and dealing with their grief and working through the impact of their loved one's death. They offer support and coping strategies to one another. We certainly learn grieving is done of love, and not out of logic.

The second group was held on Thursday evenings from 7:00 to 9:00pm and the sessions were held over an eight-week period. Topics included: "What is grieving?"; secondary losses; how a sense of fear is part of grieving; and coping and healing strategies.

For more information on the grief groups, please contact Sue Chapman at 905-937-7170 or by email at chapman6467@yahoo.ca.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Chapman, Bereavement Group Facilitator

### **Marathon Bridge**

The bridge group is a lively fun group of 14 couples. There are 2 teams, each team plays once a month September to April.

This past June, Gini and Tim Rigby hosted our end of season party in their beautiful back yard. Thank you Gini and Tim, it was a happy time. Cash prizes were awarded to the first, second and third winners from each team. In July we donated \$332 to the Pikangikum water project.

Cheerfully submitted by Anne Mirynech

### **Greeters Group Report**

We are starting off 2018 with 18 Greeters who welcome everyone to St. George's through the main entry with a warm smile. With a commitment of about 4 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. Only half the year has been scheduled so far leaving room for anyone still interested in joining.

Respectfully submitted by Lindsey Wilton

### **St. George's Dinner Club Report**

Delicious meals! Interesting conversations! Deepening friendships! For over the past 27 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. The result is a series of opportunities to enjoy great meals while, at the same time, becoming better acquainted with fellow parishioners.

Respectfully submitted, Grace-Ann Cambray

### **Bishop Beattie Fellowship Report**

The Bishop Beattie Fellowship meets in the Asbil Lounge on the 1st Monday of each month at 7:00pm from March to June and September to December.

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 2018 with guest speakers and evenings filled with fellowship and fun as well as wonderful refreshments prepared by members. The Executive meets to share their vision for Bishop Beattie Fellowship for the new year - input from all members of the Executive is encouraged and welcomed. The Fellowship is not run by one person but rather the entire Executive Committee.

In 2017 Bishop Beattie Fellowship celebrated our 65th Anniversary as a Woman's Group at St. Georges Church and we look forward to many more years to come.

A Dinner for the members is planned in June and in December the Fellowship enjoys a Christmas Party with music and song. Attendance at meetings averages around 40 members.

The Fellowship sponsors receptions for all Bishop Beattie Members. Gift Baskets for the Bazaar are purchased, wrapped and donated by all the members. The Fellowship also donates all dues and donations collected in that year to help Community Organizations: in 2017 over \$600.00 was donated to Community Care.

Many Bishop Beattie members participate in and enjoy active roles in various activities of the Church as well: The Breakfast Program, Soup Sundays, Choir, Altar Guild, Parish Dinners, The Bazaar, Parish Visitors, Krafty Korner and Coffee Hour to name a few.

Bishop Beattie Fellowship's main objective in 2018 is to develop an opportunity of Fellowship for all women of the Parish. No test, no essay or permission is required to join....simply show up to a monthly meeting.

New members are always welcome.

### ***Executive***

- President: Louise Cross
- Secretary: Val Kuhns

- Treasurer: Tina Valentyne
- Receptions: Mary Crawford
- Devotions: Rita Hatcher
- Members List: Liz Cunningham
- Remembrance: Joyce Marks
- Phone Convener: Hazel Johnson

Yours in Friendship, Louise Cross, President

### **St. George's Travel Club Report**

In 2017 our group of hardy travelers was praised for its willingness to get off the bus in torrential rains and explore the Rock Garden at the RBG in Hamilton. Several groups of high school students in similar climatic extremes had refused to leave their buses. It added to our adventure as we all enjoyed walking in the rain – we had umbrellas!

Theatre outings rounded out our year of travel.

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

### **Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC) Report**

The BAC had a successful year of socializing, eating great meals and being educated and stimulated by guest speakers from both the Parish community and the Niagara Region.

We have a membership of approximately 50 and are happy to welcome any men of the Parish who would like to join us. Meetings are five times a year on the second Tuesday of October, November, January, February and April. We average 25-30 per meeting.

The cost of a full roast beef meal with accompanying salads, roast carrots and potatoes, and including dessert is \$20.

We would like to thank the parishioners who help set up, serve during our dinners and clean up afterwards. Also we would like to thank those who kindly take time to bake pies for our dinners.

Our guest speakers were: Lori Beech, Executive Director of Bethlehem Place in January, a representative of the Niagara Ice Dogs in February, Dr. Charles Burton on China/Canada relations in April, Doug and Nancy Court's video on the North West Passage in October, and Paul Chapman on his trip with Sue to Vimy Ridge.

For 2018, we plan to have Bishop Walter Asbil speak on the history of St. George's Church, January 9, the Reverend Dr. Doreen McFarlane on the church in China, February 13, and the Reverend Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch on social justice, April 10. We are looking for guest speakers for our October and November meetings.

Ron Duggan coordinated our annual poinsettia sales project, aided by a number of BAC members. Sales netted \$730.00. Thank you for all those who helped with sales and those who supported by buying these items.

In recognition of St. George's 225th Anniversary, our BAC donated \$500 to the Water Project, and \$500 to the Organ Fund. As in previous years, we also plan to make an additional \$1,000 donation to St. Georges.

The BAC welcomes new members. Please contact any of the Executive for information. For 2018 the Executive

Committee will be:

- Tom Owens - Past Chair - (905) 934-4239 towens@sympatico.ca
- Dave Bingham – Chair – (905) 938-1648 dbingham4@cogeco.ca
- Dave Smith - Vice-Chair - (289) 219-1709 dgsmith1917@hotmail.com
- George Hostick – Membership - (905 )938-8457 g.dhostick@gmail.com
- Ron Duggan – Treasurer – (905) 646-9703 marsh\_duggan@sympatico.ca

Respectfully submitted by Dave Bingham, President

### **The Community Breakfast Program At St. George's Church Report**

Breakfast continues to be served at St. George's every morning to anyone who comes, no questions asked. We served 22,000 breakfasts in 2017, the same as 2016.

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 \$1.25 per client per day. 22,000 clients (breakfasts) in 2017 cost \$21,300 plus the Program contributed \$6,300.00 to St. George's toward the cost of running the program. Until 2017, the Program received the proceeds from the parking lot at St. George's which was generally \$5,000 to \$7000. In 2017 this donation stopped and our revenue was down by \$4,500 which was covered this year by a generous reserve.

In 2018 we will be actively looking for donations of the non-perishable foods. Presently we have donations of cold cereals from Post Canada and jam from E.D. Smith. Giant Tiger on Welland Ave. gives a 10% discount on foods other than milk. In 2016 we had a very successful Cheez Whiz challenge and at Christmas this year at St. George's we had a "sugar campaign" (brown & white). A Girl Guide leader organized a cereal campaign. This was comprised mainly of the sweet or fun cereals that 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.

Thanks to Marilyn and Sheldon Pettit, Nancy Little and Jackie Sinclair who do the ordering and picking up of the food every week; to Sheila and Doug Ridge who pick up milk twice a week; to Sandi Legarde in the role of relief milkman 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

### **Chimers Report**

With the placement of the 23rd bell in 2000, our carillon became one of 12 in Canada. Our campanologists are proud to play such a wonderful instrument.

We rotate monthly on Tuesdays and Fridays from 10:30am to 10:50am. Who are we? Anne Miryneh, Rose Spraggon, Barbara Thomas, Bill Holman, Glenn Sawyers, Janet Epp, Keith Whittingham and this year we welcomed Paul Waite. Knowledge of a keyboard is the only prerequisite to joining our "Happy Gang". Interested ?? (905) 684-4486

Joyfully submitted by Dorothy Dundas



## **Report of the Ecumenical Honourary Assistant**

As most of you will be aware, I have officially become a Lutheran pastor, and was installed as pastor of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCIC) on September 10th. This is a part time position. In addition, I was serving First Lutheran in Port Colborne as well until the end of December. This may make you wonder how I can fit in my work with our beloved St. George's as well. I assure each of you that I will never give up my relationship and work with our beloved St. George's church family. It is not always easy but it is always a joy!

This year of the 225th anniversary, of the joining with Grace Church, and the welcoming of others from St. James and elsewhere, has brought so much excitement. I have been preaching throughout the year, most often at the Wednesday evening Advent Café services. If you have not yet come to Advent Café, I strongly recommend you give it a try, at 7pm any Wednesday in the Bear's Den. This service includes a variety of styles of music leadership, plenty of opportunity to sing along, a sermon, communion, coffee time, and a chance to bond with others in a casual and relaxed atmosphere. I also have taught and participated in Bible studies at our Super Tuesdays which start at 6:50pm. The children sing for us every week, and we share in prayer and then study. Join us. There are big plans for this new year, 2018!

I have had the privilege over the course of the year also to visit those who are homebound or hospitalized. For most of the year, I led the Prayer Chain group (the leadership has been taken over by Rose Spraggon). These wonderful people pray at home every day for people on our prayer list. The list is updated monthly or when we receive a call for prayer from someone. Of course, prayer for you, and for St. George's Church and its leadership, is also part of my daily life.

One weekly event that I greatly enjoy is participating in Krafty Korner. This group continues to thrive and grow. I come to share with the women, to lead the prayer of grace before lunch, to keep up with all that is going on at St. George's, but mostly to learn from the incredibly wise women in this group! Their dedication to our church is outstanding.

I also attend staff meetings and church council meetings. As Ecumenical Honourary, my work can vary widely. I try to be available in every way I can, to help out our priests and to be with the congregation.

To each of you, my deepest thanks for the honour of the position I hold at St. George's. And a huge thanks again to each of you who attended or participated in my installation at St. Paul's. Over sixty of you were there that day!

My thanks to Martha, Scott, Michael, my fellow honouraries, and of course Linda and Johan, and our wardens, for being perfect colleagues.

With love and prayers for the holy place and holy people that are St. George's,

Rev. Dr. Doreen McFarlane, Ecumenical Honourary Assistant

## **St. George's Church Choir Report**

*"He who sings prays twice."*

The year 2017 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 Ann Novis for her Christmas decorations, to George Novis for bringing the lunch, and to

Lida's Catering from Ina Grafton Village for, once again, providing us with a wonderful Christmas dinner in the Swan Hall to end the day.

In November, the choir (together with a number of friends who came to help out and to enjoy the experience) sang the Requiem by American composer Mack Wilberg for our Remembrance Day service on Sunday the 12th. This was accompanied by a 16-piece orchestra plus organ. It was a memorable Sunday that was enjoyed by all who were present. Special thanks go to Tim White who played The Last Post and Reveille for us, to Bombardier Andrew Smith for his reading of the Roll of Honour, and to my former student Brenda Carile who served as organist that day so that I could be free to conduct.

On December 17 at 4:00pm the choir sang its annual Festival of Lessons and Carols, this year featuring music by Stephen King, Healey Willan, Crawford Thorburn, Henryk Gorecki, Mary Caldwell, John Rutter, Edgar Pettman, June Nixon, Michael Praetorius and myself. It was very encouraging to see such a good turnout for this service (185!) which gave the choir a boost and made the congregational singing more robust. Thank you for your support, St. George's congregation. Next year let's top 200!

In any choir members come and members go. This spring we welcomed Bill Hodgins (bass) who came to us from St. James. In the fall we welcomed Julie Giesbrecht (soprano), Carla Hartsfield (alto), and Beth and Kyle Shillibeer (soprano and bass) who sang with us for a short time before family challenges forced them to return to Texas from whence they came. The saddest departure from the choir came with the retirement of Dorothy Dundas, who sang her last services with us on Christmas Eve. Dorothy has been a faithful singer in the St. George's choir for over 60 years, a tenure rarely achieved by anyone and deserving of very special recognition! We wish her a happy and very-well-earned retirement, and we are glad that we will still see her at St. George's on Sundays (and probably on most days in between if I know Dorothy and I think I do!).

In June the choir enjoyed its annual spring social at the home of Bill and Myrna Holman. The weather cooperated and everyone had an enjoyable time in their lovely garden. The choir is always ready to welcome new voices. We especially need more tenors and 2nd sopranos. 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](mailto:jebutler44@gmail.com).

Respectfully submitted by John Butler, Organist and Choirmaster

### **Sidespeoples' Report**

This year we are pleased to report that we have added two new people to our team, Linda Potter and Bev Miller from Grace Anglican. Bill and Rosalind Ryman, have also returned this year to help us during our Evensong Services. This has brought our team number up to sixteen. With the encouragement we see in the increase in number of our teams, it is with regret that we say farewell to the long-time, faithful team of Joyce Marks and Emilie Soyka. You will be missed.

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 the people will need for the service and goes to a transept door where they will welcome the arriving people. They are also available to help with the opening of doors, helping with wheelchairs or walkers, giving directions or answering questions that people may have. During the offertory hymn the sidespeople aid the Wardens by taking the collection at the side isles. At the end of the service, they help with the clean-up of the pews.

I want to thank all the teams for your support, cooperation and dedication throughout 2017. The willingness and teamwork all of these teams demonstrate leaves me with the assurance that we are a congregation of caring and thoughtful people. It is a privilege to schedule this enthusiastic and eager group.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Pettit

### **Labyrinth Walking Group Report**

Labyrinths have provided humankind with a means to connect more closely with the creator for many centuries. Early labyrinths, in their many shapes and styles, have been unearthed in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Europe. They were formed of a single path leading in a circuitous route to a central focal point where one could find a place of solace which offered a chance to ponder one's life with all its complex issues. The return trip followed the same path and presented an opportunity to give thanks for the ways in which the creator has loved and guided us.

St. George's labyrinth is made available in the Luxton gymnasium on the last Saturday morning of most months starting at 9:30 am and ending at noon. You may attend at any time during the morning and you may leave at a time that suits your schedule. If you are new to the program, a leader will be glad to get you started.

We offer our labyrinth each month from January to May and later from September to November. No walks are held in June, July, August or December. Often the May and September walks are held outdoors at the St. Catharines Hospital labyrinth. Our group offers you an invitation to walk the labyrinth in 2018.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Jenter and Stephanie Duncan, Convenors

### **St. George's Golf Day Event**

The St. Georges Golf Day was held on June 12th at the Beechwood Golf and Country Club in Thorold. Our golf day is NOT a tournament but rather a combination fund raising and fellowship event. Serious golfers as well as non-golfers participate. It is a best ball format played in groups of four and although each group submits a "score" there are not prizes based upon score. Golfers can play either 9 or 18 holes.

In addition to the golf, there is also a barbeque at the golf course afterwards. People who have not participated in the golf are encouraged to attend the dinner. It is a time of good fellowship and excellent food.

In 2017, there were over 30 golfers plus people who attended the dinner. The golf day raised about \$2,000 for the church. It was a great success.

The golf day for 2018 will be held on Monday June 4th at the Beechwood Golf and Country Club. More details will be available in the spring. So, mark the date on your calendar. We encourage you to come and play some golf or come for dinner to join in the camaraderie.

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

### **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. The 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 are requested at Soup Sundays and in 2017, donations from Soup Sundays and Thursday lunches which were put on hold in 2017 amounted to over \$3,400. All donations are given to the church for special programs. All soups, breads and supplies needed for Soup Sundays are donated. I 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 190 people attending Soup Sundays. We serve soups, amazing chilis 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 salad, casseroles and dessert recipes. These are available for sale at Soup Sundays or by contacting Sue Chapman for only \$10 per volume. In 2017, cookbook sales netted over \$400.

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.

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

Respectfully submitted by Sue Chapman, Coordinator, Soup Sundays

### **Community Dinner Annual Report**

For the two years prior to coming to share in ministry with St. George's, Grace Church offered a free community dinner on the 2nd Wednesday of each month. Attendance varied between 35 and 80. Attendees included parishioners, people from the neighbourhood around Grace Church and people from around the city who were experiencing food insecurity.

The Community Dinner was different from many of the other food programs offered in the city. After the food was distributed cafeteria style, servers ate their dinners with guests at the tables comfortably spaced around the lower hall at Grace Church.

Over the two years of the Community Dinner a sense of community grew as faces and life stories became familiar. A paid coordinator planned and shopped for the dinners and organized the small team of volunteers necessary to offer the dinner. The coordinator's position was paid through a WOW grant to Grace Church. That grant has been fully spent. The cost of the food was covered by free-will offerings collected at the dinner but largely by donations from parishioners who wished to see this valuable ministry flourish.

An effort was made to migrate the community dinner to 83 Church Street. Beyond the expected disruption of being in a new location, other factors made it difficult to recreate the success of the community dinner. Foremost was the sheer number of people and the volume of sound they generated. Not only was the capacity to provide a nutritious meal severely strained but the challenge to build a sense of community was daunting. Reluctantly the Community Dinner program has been discontinued.

Rev. Michael is exploring other ways to achieve what the Grace Church Community Dinners did; namely to: 1) build a sense of community; 2) offer a nutritious meal to those facing food insecurity and; 3) provide an opportunity for church member and volunteers to spend time with and get to know better those whom they serve.

It has been said “When the face of the other (especially the suffering face) is received and empathized with, it leads to transformation of our whole being. It creates a moral demand on our heart.” This time of transformation



and moral demand are imperative in moving beyond a band-aid for food insecurity to systemic change toward a better and community. If you would like to be a part of developing a follow-up to the Community Dinner, please speak to Rev. Michael.

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

### **Ad Hoc Finance Committee Report**

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 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. In 2017, the rate of return on our investments was approximately 9.9%. The return this year is very good, but the investments are subject to market forces. St. George's investment, with careful management and monitoring should be available to support parish programs for the future. In 2017, the Committee worked with Rev. Martha on an updating of our Legacy Gift program.

I would like to thank our committee members Maureen Hempel, Marilyn Pettit, Corwin Cambray, Fred Hanam, James Little, Jim Jenter and Canon Martha for their valuable input and support.

Respectfully submitted by Paul Chapman, Chair

### **Gentle Chair Yoga/Hatha Yoga**

It has been a great pleasure bringing both gentle chair yoga and an introduction to Hatha yoga class, here to St George's. We practice in the newly renovated Bear's Den.

Our access is from the parking lot through the former Montessori School play area. Our chair class has welcomed on average 4 - 8 people each Monday morning at 9:30 am. Class is drop-in and cost is a free-will offering. The class has generated a modest \$280.00 for St George's in the Fall term.

The evening class has between 2 and six participants and has been slowly gaining momentum. Classes continue on a drop-in basis until the end of May.

Respectfully submitted by Brier Colburn

### **Prayer Chain Report**

The Prayer Chain group fills a very important place at St. George's Church. This group consists of approximately 10 to 12 members, each of whom faithfully prays every day for each of the people whose names are on the prayer chain list. These people are dedicated to the work they do on behalf of those who ask for prayer.

If you feel called to such a ministry, please call the church and join this group or just come to a meeting. The group meets the last Sunday of every month, following the 10am service, usually in the Asbil Lounge.

In 2017, I took the leadership of this group, although, in this particular group, every member is a leader. Due to my not being able to be in church at the usual time of meeting, and because of my busy schedule, the baton of leadership has been passed over to Rose Spraggon; a particularly well suited person for this work.

The group gets together once a month for the purpose of adding names to the list, and removing those who no longer need this special attention. If you (or someone you want prayer for) are in need of prayer, just call Rose or anyone in the group with your request, and the prayer will begin that day.

Respectfully submitted by Doreen McFarlane

### **Columbarium Report**

There was one sale of a double niche in 2017. We continue to have an abundance of both double and single sized niches as a result of our purchase two years ago. During 2017 we had 4 interments.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Arnedt, Chair

### **Potluck Dinners**

Monthly potluck dinners are new this year to St George's. It is a fun social event that came over with Grace church. From September to June we meet on the third Thursday of the month in the lounge. It is a casual evening with no commitment required. Everyone is welcome to join us. There is no fees, just bring a dish to share (it is "Potluck" so there is no predetermined dish you need to bring, {appetizer, salad, casserole, dessert} this always makes the meal interesting). And to save on work we ask that everyone bring there own dishes and cutlery. Our numbers vary month to month which always keeps things unique and interesting. We hope in time this event will grow.

### **Spring Frolic**

The Spring Frolic is best described as a warm weather bazaar/vendor show. This year was the first time to hold it at St George's, it had been a yearly tradition at Grace Church.

We had a bake sale table and a BBQ lunch. We had 17 paid vendors (including people with things like Tupperware, Epicure and a wide variety with handmade items of jewelry, sewing and knitting) . We also had 4 groups that we gave the table space free of charge. (Krafty Korner, ACW Dorcas, St Thomas jewelry, Special Olympics)

We also had a "Giving Tree:" for the Breakfast program went well. We had lots of donations of cereal, sugar and coffee as well as \$53 in cash. Everyone who dropped off a donation got a ballot for a chance to win a gift basket.

### **Anglicans In Action**

The "Anglicans in Action" team includes anyone who is interested in coming together under one banner to support the community. The team was first started for a Coldest Night of the Year walk. Instead of having small groups under individual parishes, we came to form a larger group and work together. It's a great way to get to know others in the Greater St Catharines community of Anglicans.

The Anglicans in Action team had a great year in 2017. We started the year with the "Coldest Night of the Year" walk in late February. This walk is to raise money for "Start Me Up Niagara". This is a fun walk for people of all ages. Our team has ranged in age from 7 to over 70 years of age.

This year was very mild and the sidewalks were clear so it was a very relaxing walk. In August we headed out to the Pen Centre to be a part of "No Fixed Address" held by the YWCA to raise money and awareness of hidden homelessness in Niagara. We spent 24 hours living out of our cars. This year was a cold and wet, but still lots of fun. In September we hosted a small bake sale held at the Neighbourhood BBQ in September to raise money for "The Breakfast Program".

Respectfully submitted by M.J. Schmidt

### **Property Management Report**

The one major item of work planned and budgeted for 2017 was the repair of some areas of cracked and deteriorated exterior stucco on the east side of the church, both at the Nave and at the Transept gable walls. It was originally intended that this work should be carried out from an extensive system of scaffolding, like that used on the west side in 2016: however, in discussions with our masonry expert, Harm Schonewille and with

Harper Construction, it was decided that the work could be done at a much lower cost using a hydraulic lift rather than fixed scaffolding. In the event, enough was saved from the original budget to cover additional, and much needed, items of work in 2017 that would have had to be budgeted for later; these were the complete refurbishing of the west Transept Vestibule, minor repairs to interior plaster in the Link, enclosing with drywall the heating ductwork in the Grace Meeting Room, and covering the ductwork between the Asbil Lounge and the Grace Meeting Room with a new drop ceiling complete with new lighting. We are very grateful to Harm Schonewille, and to Bill Harper for their continued expertise and cooperation in making all this possible.

During the past year It became necessary to replace the 7.5 Ton HVAC unit on the roof of the Asbil Lounge, which provides heating and cooling to the Lounge, Grace Meeting Room, Nursery and the Sunday School rooms. This was unplanned, and therefore not budgeted: however, it is gratifying to report that this cost, too, was entirely covered by the savings described above.

As part of the ongoing programme of improving and updating lighting at St. George's, all fourteen of the mercury vapour lamps in the lower portion of the main lanterns in the church were replaced in 2017 with brighter, and far more efficient LED units now consuming one sixth of the original wattage. The exterior lights over all the church doors were also upgraded to LEDs in 2017. Many years ago, a 500 Watt lamp was installed on the wall of the Parish Hall, with the intention of illuminating the stained glass window behind the altar during evening services. This has not been supplied with power for some time, and when reconnected in October proved to be quite ineffective. A new, specially focused LED fixture was ordered and installed just in time for Christmas Eve, with far more satisfying results at less than one third of the wattage.

Thanks to a very generous and unexpected gift we were able to undertake in 2017 an extensive refurbishing of the Bear's Den, or as some still remember it, Upper Broughall Hall. Apart from the replacement of the original windows, the installation of new carpeting, and the complete renovation of the kitchen, all of which were contracted out, many volunteer hours were contributed to complete the work: all those involved have already been recognised and thanked in previous reports, but it is fitting that we express our gratitude once again to Peter Schafrick, George Novis, Sheldon Pettit, Cathy Krotky and Bob Kuhns for their tireless and skilled use of the paint brush, and to Gina Schafrick for advice on the choice of colours.

The refurbishing of the Grace Meeting Room commenced as 2017 was coming to its close, but as this will not be completed until early in 2018 it will be dealt with in the Vestry Report for that year. All the annually required inspections of the Fire Alarm and Security systems, Fire Suppression System in the main kitchen, and the Elevator, were carried out during 2017: all certificates and licenses are up to date and in place. There were some fire alarm sensors and emergency light back-up batteries which had to be replaced. As always, this report cannot be completed without expressing gratitude to Johan Braun for his unfailingly willing cooperation and skilled help when it is needed.

Finally, I am profoundly grateful to Sheldon Pettit for the invaluable assistance he has contributed throughout the past year, in every aspect of the Property Management of St. George's, but particularly with respect to electrical work and our sound systems; it is reassuring to know that we can look forward to his continued involvement in the future.

Respectfully submitted by Jim Streadwick, Property Manager

### **225th Anniversary Committee Report**

The year 2017 marked the 225th Anniversary of the parish of St. George's. We celebrated this significant milestone with a year-long celebration of events.

Our Mayor, Walter Sendzik joined us in January to kick-off the year with special recognition from the Mayor's Office. In February, we enjoyed an evening of fellowship, food and a penny sale at a Pasta Dinner. In March, we

decorated the display window at the Centennial Library with artefacts from St. George's archives and advertisements for our upcoming events. One of our keystone events for the year was the Wedding Weekend in May in which a number of couples, as well as our Ministry Team, renewed their wedding vows in one of 3 lovely ceremonies! We went on to enjoy a beautiful and tasty Social Tea in June and finished the year with a Gala Dinner / Silent Auction and Homecoming Weekend in November.

Throughout the year, we also had a number of guest celebrants join us to help mark this special occasion including Rev. Rob Fead, Bishop Michael Bird, Dean Peter Elliot, Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop Walter Asbil, Primate Fred Hiltz and Rev. Val Kerr.

Between all of our events and donations in honour of our 225th Anniversary, we were able to exceed our fundraising goal for the Pikangikum Water Project raising \$22 000 and we have raised almost \$38 000 for the organ refurbishment fund. Thank you to all who helped plan and organize events; donated gifts of time, talent or treasure; or simply joined in the celebration - we couldn't have done it without you!!

Respectfully submitted by Kelly Belford, Anniversary Project Chair

### **Stewardship Report**

The 2017 Stewardship program at St. George's continued to develop a congregational program of year round commitment to financial givings and resources of time & talent.

In October we held our third annual "Joyful Giving Campaign." There were 220 households on the parish relay, 21 personally visited & 85 packages mailed.

Thanks to our route managers, route captain and visitors for making this a successful campaign.

This year, we received 215 household pledges for a total of \$388,208.00 pledged for St. George's ministry. As well we received 49 responses from people who wish to get involved in new ministries in 2018.

Those who pledged last year, on average increased their pledges for 2018 by over 10%. We are so grateful to the many NEW households this year who made up the balance of these extraordinary results.

Thank you to the 2017 committee members for their hard work. Blessings from your Co-Chairs : Nora Jenter & Penny Steinman.

Respectfully submitted by Penny Steinman

### **Super Tuesday Report**

This past year has been a successful one for Super Tuesday events. Numbers are growing and there is always something good in store for youth and adults alike. Our young people begin the short worship time with their beautiful singing, under the leadership of Mari Schantz. After prayers from the clergy and the Lord's Prayer, the children go off to their activities and the rest settle in for a Bible or book study.

This year's Lenten study, in conjunction with St. Thomas Church, was on the book "The Reason You Walk" by Wab Kinew. After Easter, we engaged in a Bible study on the book of Genesis. From May to June, we moved on to study the book of First John. The class switched from 7 pm to 6:50 pm.

We returned in September to complete the 225th Anniversary year of St. George's with a really exciting study on the history of St. George's, engaging the book "Shaped for the Journey" by our retired bishop and friend, Walter Asbil. Walter came and spoke with the group, on the final Tuesday of this section.

Super Tuesday continues in 2018 with the challenging topic "Does God Exist?" ably led by Rev. Dan Tatarnic. This will be followed by a Lenten study. Books for this are available at the office.

Respectfully submitted by Doreen McFarlane



## Visitor Team Report

The visitor team works in conjunction with the clergy to insure 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.

Six team members are designated hospital visitors ministering to those in the St. Catharines General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre. Team members receive an orientation meeting and access cards to both facilities. Visits are scheduled on an alternating basis and usually take place on Mondays or Tuesdays at the visitor's discretion. Visits usually last from a few minutes to an hour, depending upon the wishes of the patient.

Remaining team members visit in the parishioner's homes or in any of the senior and long term care facilities. The time and duration of these meetings are at the convenience of the parishioners and visitors. The sacrament of Holy Communion is offered by the clergy or a member of the visitor team. Eucharist services are conducted at Linhaven and Ina Grafton by the clergy. Team members must undergo a screening process and agree to abide by a rule of strict confidence regarding visits. Team meetings are held about five times per year or as circumstances dictate.

Last year we welcomed four new members to our team bringing our membership total to fifteen plus clergy. To be a visitor team member is to experience the joy and fulfillment that comes from the expression of appreciation by the clergy and those we visit. THANK YOU team for your talent and your unfailing dedication to this important ministry.

Respectfully submitted by Sheila Ridge

## Refugee Report

We continue with hope to wait for word of forward movement in the status of the file for the refugee family we are sponsoring. They remain in Turkey, with hope that they will soon join us here in St. Catharines.

We continue to meet every 6-8 weeks to plan and work on our fundraising efforts.

As part of our preparation, we have most recently watched a documentary called SponsorLand (highly recommended, and easily found online) which follows a family's resettlement in Picton Ontario. The sponsoring group was a community group who came together at the initiation of the director of an local art gallery in the community and they decided to sponsor a family of 11.

After viewing the documentary what stands out in my mind is the task ahead of us of welcoming the family to our community. As one of the volunteers said "It takes a village." St. George's is our village! We do know that it will take many of us to welcome this family into our community and make them comfortable to the extent possible in their first year with us. When we know more about the arrival of the family we are sponsoring, we will approach you with specific needs and tasks that we require assistance with. It will take a community effort, and we know we can count on our community!

One especially poignant moment was the expression of the oldest son that he felt 200 years old because he had seen so much. "I am 20 but I feel 200," he said. My hope is that we can make them feel welcome, and they can truly find a new home and settle in our community, knowing that they are safe, and loved.

Since last year's vestry, we have participated again in the Ride For Refuge, and have raised much needed funds towards' our sponsorship for resettlement project. The other partners, St. Thomas' and Quest Community have also been continuing their fundraising efforts through events, sales and raffles of donated items, and continually seeking donations. We also had a very successful Elvis Night fundraiser, and we raffled off tickets to see Elton

John perform at the Meridian Centre. All of these events have been successful and helped us to raise more of the needed funds.

We continue to work on our plans to raise more of the necessary funds and make preparations for the family's arrival, hoping and praying that it is soon!

Respectfully submitted, Sue Arnedt, Co-chair, Refugee Committee

### **Director of Youth Music/Ministry Development Worker Report**

#### *The George Express*

In the past year, our young choir has become a cohesive unit – actively working together to make beautiful music. While it is not easy for the youth of today to read, understand, and pronounce some of the words found in our traditional hymns, our young singers have been diligent in their efforts to learn the language of worship that is familiar to their parents, grandparents, and caregivers.

*"A new command I give you: Love one another.  
As I have loved you, so you must love one another.  
By this everyone will know that you are my disciples,  
if you love one another."  
John 13:34-35*

The deepening bonds of friendship between our young ones is a delight to watch. Seeing their happiness to celebrate the successes of one another, and their concern when a choir friend needs some extra care is evidence of their commitment to one another. This dedication to one another shone forth in the spring of 2017, when The George Express presented the musical Are We There Yet? This tale - recounting Moses and the Hebrews' exodus from Egypt - was another hilarious, brilliantly-crafted work composed by Tom Long and Allen Pote. The giggling and sense of camaraderie among the performers as they rehearsed made for a joy-filled season of learning. This musical production enabled the youth to make tremendous progress in the development of both their musical and dramatic abilities.

The presentation of the spring musical was greatly blessed by the enormous talents of Andra and Rilla Carpenter, who spent many long hours creating the costumes for our performers. When I saw the beautiful fabrics, tiny stitching, and miniscule buttons that were affixed to the numerous costumes, I was humbled to think of how much time, energy, and resources that Andra and Rilla gifted us with.

The technical support of Rev. Scott – who ran the sound system - was another invaluable contribution to this presentation. He ensured that the efforts of the youth would be heard.

Gayle Neufeld, our gifted accompanist for this production, blessed us with a rock-like reliability on the keyboard, enabling me to focus on directing our young performers.

'Doors Open Niagara' gave an opportunity for a couple of our youth to share their vocal and pianistic gifts – thank you, Cecilia and Sydney R - to people touring St. George's. The children's September presentation of the music for the Welcome Back BBQ was well-received by members of our community, and gave our youth the opportunity to sing in a different setting from that which they are accustomed to.

In November, The George Express shared their musical gifts at the annual Christmas Bazaar, and were joined by a trio of Darlene Brodeur's dancers.

For our December musical pageant, instead of doing a Christmas-themed musical, we opted to present a program of somewhat more complicated Christmas music for a concert. Since our youth choir is comprised

of both singers who read music, and also those who don't, it takes much more time and energy for the children to learn to sing harmonies against melodies. A huge "Thank you!" to the dedicated parents, grandparents, and caregivers who were willing to commit the time it took to ensure their young ones' regular attendance at the Tuesday evening rehearsals: Because of your commitment, the youth were able to learn the more difficult music that was put before them. We could not have accomplished what we did without your faithful attendance!!

I would like to make a special thank you to Rev. Martha for encouraging the presentation of more complicated musical fare for this final concert of the year. You never know what you can accomplish if you don't push yourself a little! Now that the children have accomplished that feat, they are more confident of their ability to handle more challenging fare.

Be prepared for an upcoming announcement about auditions for the spring 2018 musical!

### *Ministry Development*

#### **Advent Café Music**

The musical offerings for the weekly Wednesday service has been consistently varied and delightful, with regular performances from **Infinitely More**, **The Kat Kerley Band**, and **The Krehbiel Chorale**.\* The golden-voiced James Moffett shared his musical gifts with us for the first half of the year before taking some time off in the fall. In between services with our regularly-featured groups, I had other talented individuals join me in song: Gary Mus (guitar), Doug Mundy (jazz piano), Catherine Bovaird (voice), and Sarah Kukoly (flute). Some of our teen musicians included vocalists (Phoenix Norris, Sami Poulsen, Ben McDonald), and singer/guitarists and composers (Evan Dim, Kyla Paul, Hunter Midgley). In the fall, the arrival of Kat Kerley's new baby led to the birth of a new musical group: Tracadie Cross – which features bluegrass music performed by Rev. Scott, Brian Kerley, and Ainsley Colburn.

This coming year, in addition to our regularly-featured musicians, we can look forward to more musical involvement from flautist Stephanie Wilton-Duncan, a Taizé-themed Advent Café service, and the introduction of Andrea Chicas to our musical line-up (Andrea Chicas, a local teen, has been quietly volunteering her time on Tuesday evenings to the organization of the sheet music for The George Express).

\*In addition to their Wednesday evening musical offerings at Advent Café, and musical contribution to the Christmas Bazaar, The Krehbiel Chorale is periodically responsible for the Evensong service.

#### **Ash Wednesday**

The Youth Retreat this past year was blessed with numerous volunteers. Gina Schafrick, Devon Culp, and John Bullivant helped make the day run smoothly. A Holy Walk, participation in the service, numerous readings, stories, and crafts helped us get a better sense of the meaning behind this season of penitence.

#### **Confirmation Class**

Although no confirmation class took place in 2017, learning sessions have begun in preparation for the May, 2018 confirmation service at the Hamilton Cathedral.

#### **Vacation Bible School**

Our summer VBS program held in August, 2018 was a well-attended and successful endeavour. Together with Tanya Schleich, I planned out a week of varied activities, Bible stories, crafts, and music. There was never a dull moment!

With the help of some outstanding volunteers: Catherine Rhodes, Reuben Eshuis, Anne Myrinech, Marion

Vincett, Katy Schleich, Jacob Schleich, and Ingrid Eshuis, we were able to accomplish a tremendous amount.

Respectfully submitted by Mari Shantz, Youth Music Director & Ministry Development Worker

### **Children/Youth Ministry**

#### *Sunday School/Nursery*

Our Sunday School group has grown very much this year. On average we are having 15-30 attending. Our Sunday school has had many new members this year. We are very fortunate to have gained our own learning space for Sunday school and nursery. Our nursery has expanded as well. On average there are 4-6 sometimes even more attending.

We have a volunteer Sunday school team, that helps to teach and assist during our Sunday school lessons. We separate the Sunday school into two groups most weeks. Ages 4-8 in one group and 9-14 in another group. This works very well.

We offer a Tuesday evening children's program that runs alongside the adult Bible study schedule and timing. This group is for children ages 5-12. During group we have fun, learn and develop friendships. On average we receive 3-12 children per week.

#### *Youth Group*

Youth group is very excited to have a space in the Bear's Den balcony for furniture, storage and a place to call their own. We are running weekly youth group meetings on Wednesday evenings, along with monthly outings or events. During our weekly youth group we have 3-9 attend regularly and for our monthly outings we range from 7-15.

Our youth had a fun-filled year. We went on many outings and participated in many events. Some examples are, hiking, Sermon by the campfire, games night with other local Anglican churches, Port Dalhousie fun, Halloween Party, bowling, swimming.

Our youth were involved in helping with the September BBQ running activities for the young children. They also volunteer in the nursery, as well as helping out at soup Sunday and videotaping services etc. Many enjoy getting involved. We also have youth helping out with our new young parents club starting this year to care for the children.

Our youth ran a car wash fundraiser for Pikangikum Water Project. They raised over \$400.00. It was a great turnout and fun event.

Respectfully submitted by Tanya Schleich (Children and Youth Ministry)

### **Krafty Korner's Report**

KRAFTY KORNER'S is a group of women who meet every Tuesday in the Asbil Lounge. Our mandate is "Outreach". Over 200 pneumonia vests have been given to missionaries Dr. and Mrs. Taylor for shipment to places such as Africa and India to keep children warm during the cool nights.

There is a shipment ready to go this spring to a central area where goods are organized for 29 aboriginal communities in far northern Ontario. These boxes contain prayer shawls, blankets, toques, clothing and hygiene products. Over \$1,000 has been raised for the Water Project since 2014 with purchases of dishcloths.

Krafty Korner's also organizes the Quilt Raffle at the yearly Bazaar. A collection of used eye glasses is also one of our projects. We thank everyone who has helped us attain these milestones.

Come and join us on Tuesday from 10am to 2pm. Bring a bag lunch - coffee and tea are provided. Join us for conversation, fellowship or any project you are working on !! Call me !! Dorothy (905)684-4486

Respectfully submitted by Dorothy Dundas

### **Servers' Report**

What a WONDERFUL 225th year it was. We saw all kinds of special services and important guest preachers. Our Server Guild was there for all of these occasions and enjoyed serving in this capacity. We are small but mighty and would WELCOME any new members both young and old.

Happily submitted by Sharon Vermolen

### **Counting Team Report**

Once again "Thank You very much " to our "Counting Teams" for their diligent, loyal, conscientious service to St. George's on a weekly basis. Your hard work and dedication is greatly appreciated.

Respectfully submitted by Joe Steinman, Team Captain

### **Gardening Guild Report**

In the fall of 2016, 150 red and white tulip bulbs were planted in the bed under our electronic sign in honour of Canada's 150th anniversary. I'm happy to report that all of them survived the local squirrels and bloomed beautifully. All the trees that were planted in 2016 also made it through the winter and are growing well. During the summer, we were fortunate to get help from a number of people to keep the front shrub beds weeded -- this is a very big job, and we're hoping to get additional help this summer. We also put in a new flower bed in remembrance of St. James Merriton using two of the rose trellises that were brought over to St. George's. Two pillar roses, lavender and old fashioned perennials were planted in the new bed.

Next year, we have a formal budget for maintaining the lawns and beds and we plan to re-mulch all the beds.

Respectfully submitted by Lois Marsh-Duggan, Gardening Guild Chair

### **The Water Project**

"There is a growing hope in Canadians that there is positive change we will see in our future with First Nations. Hope is a powerful motivator." This comment from our National Indigenous Bishop Mark MacDonald could be a synopsis of our work with the Water Project. Since 2011, Anglicans across Canada have slowly questioned, discerned, wondered and hoped our way toward a partnership with Pikangikum Ontario, a partnership that we ultimately hope will lead to the strengthening of relationships between Indigenous and non-Indigenous people across Canada. St. George's has been involved in the Water Project since Advent 2014. This year, we made it a goal of our 225th Anniversary Project to raise \$20,000 to equip one home in Pikangikum with clean running water. I am thrilled and grateful to report that we over-achieved this goal, raising over \$22,000 this year!

The partnership between the Anglican Church of Canada with the leaders of Pikangikum Ontario, as well as Habitat for Humanity Manitoba, has successfully now led to the completion of Phase 2 of the Pikangikum Water Project, with 10 more homes receiving running water and waste water removal capabilities in their homes. Upgrades have been made to the systems we are using since Phase 1, with water tanks in the homes now holding twice the capacity of water from what was used in 2013. We hope to see a similar number of homes funded in the near future by the federal government in matching our funds.

As the work is taking place, young people from Pikangikum are being trained in new skills in carpentry, plumbing and electricity. These young people, PWRDF reports, are now expressing "interest in being involved in other community programs that the Band Council at this remote Northern Ontario First Nation community might initiate in the future." Two of the trainers for Phase 2 were trainees on Phase 1, which outfitted 10 homes with indoor plumbing in 2013.



There is more money that has been raised by PWRDF for this project, although not enough to yet initiate another phase of the work. By October, we had raised over \$600,000 in total for this work, an astonishing number considering the fact that overhead for this project is so low and our communication work has been done on an almost entirely volunteer basis. Initial word coming in from other parts of the church for 2017's Advent Conspiracy campaign is extremely encouraging. We look forward to sharing more concrete numbers in early 2018. We do know that our long-term commitment to Pikangikum, and to other Indigenous communities lacking clean water, is of utmost value and importance and it is making a difference.

In other Pikangikum news, intimately related to the water crisis, over \$60 million in funding has been announced by the federal government to connect Pikangikum to Ontario's power grid. Work on Phase 2 of the Water Project was almost grounded several years ago because the diesel generators currently powering Pikangikum were at maximum capacity. This new funding will be an important support to the people of Pikangikum and all of the partnership work with them.

There were four more youth suicides in Pikangikum this summer, a terrible tragedy for a community that continues to find itself in crisis. Across the Canadian Anglican Church, the crisis in our First Nations' communities has been identified as primarily spiritual. The spiritual response toward which we are working is self-determination in our Anglican Indigenous church. We believe that the leadership that is coming from these communities will be a blessing not only to our Indigenous people, but to our whole church which is also very much discerning how to better respond to the spiritual needs of all people.

*Subscribe to our newsletter*

We have updated our mode of communication regarding Bishop Mark's Pimatisiwin Nipi (Living Water) Group and our Water Project work. We are using the Mailchimp program to more effectively share our updates and materials. This will allow people to subscribe directly to our mailing list from our website and facebook page. It also allows people the option of unsubscribing at any time.

Use this link: <http://eepurl.com/c74tlf>

In the hope and light of Christ, Martha Tatarnic

### **Parish Council**

With eighteen members, Parish Council held 9 meetings to initiate, review and approve a variety of activities at St. George's Church. Council oversees all activities through its review and approval of the monthly financial statements prepared by the Treasurer, Jim Jenter. 2017 ended with a surplus of \$6,792. The proposed budget for 2018 was reviewed and recommended by Council to Vestry for approval. No deficit is proposed for 2018.

The various activities associated with St. George's 225th Anniversary Celebration were considered by Council. The merger with Grace Church was an ongoing topic at Parish Council, resulting in unanimous support for the successful merger. The Boardroom was renamed the Grace Meeting Room with funds for the refurbishment donated by a former Grace Church member. Use of the room is open to all.

Parish Council approved the funding and renovation of the Bear's Den to a multi-purpose room. The Joyful Giving Campaign was reviewed along with the informative Narrative Budget. The successful Campaign received pledges of over \$388,000, in addition to numerous offers of time and talent.

Other activities on the Parish Council Agenda included:

- the departure of the Montessori School due to our growing space requirements
- paving of the upper and lower parking lots and snow plowing through an agreement with the Algoma

### Central Properties

- various property maintenance issues
- weekly summer barbeques in the Lower Parking Lot by a non-parishioner to support the neighbourhood.

Members of Parish Council are the Wardens, immediate past Wardens, Synod Delegates, Chairs of the Stewardship, Communications and Finance Committees, Property Manager, Parent Delegate, Youth Delegate and two members-at-large. Parish Council is chaired by Rector Martha. The new Parish Council is established at Vestry.

Respectfully submitted by Corwin T. Cambray, Rector's Warden

### **ACW Dorcas**

This group is dedicated to outreach while maintaining a friendly and welcoming atmosphere by women of several denominations.

Annual activities are:

- Baby Shower for Community Care (54th year)
- Wassail Christmas Party
- Spring Frolic
- Bazaar (Bazaar earnings go to the Bazaar Committee).

In 2017 donations were made to Community Care, Gillians' Place, YWCA Women's Shelter, Women to Women, and St. George's Breakfast Program.

Most sewing is done in members' homes. Tuesday afternoons provide a short business meeting, time to assemble quilts, knit and of course "Tea at Three" always with yummy baked goods.

We welcome anyone ready to smile, laugh and enjoy good company.

### *ACW Dorcas Wassail Party*

Thank you to the many food donors and workers who helped make this a fun afternoon of refreshments and song. Thirty-eight people enjoyed John Butler's music and Doreen McFarlane's as master of ceremonies. Mulled Cider with home baked goodies and music. What could be better!

Hope to see you again in December 2018! Respectfully submitted by Evelyn Thompson

