



ST. GEORGE'S ANGLICAN CHURCH ANNUAL COVID-19 VESTRY REPORT

SUNDAY FEBRUARY 7TH, 2021



ST. GEORGE'S
ANGLICAN CHURCH
The Oldest Church with the Youngest Ideas

Agenda for the 229th Session of St. George's Vestry

Sunday February 7, 2021

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 year 2020
6. Parish Budget for the year 2021
 - A) Presentation
 - B) Discussion and adoption: Resolution #2
7. Election of Peoples' Warden and Deputy Peoples' Warden: Resolution #3
8. Election of Synod Delegates: Resolution #4
8. Announcement of Appointments for 2021, Rector's Warden, Deputy Rector's Warden and New Parish Council Members
9. Organizations and Committee Reports
10. Adoption of all Reports: Resolution #5
11. Gratitude: Resolution #6
12. Appointment of Signing Officers for 2021: Resolution #7
13. Resolution #9
14. Resolution #10
15. Adjournment

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

Resolutions for the 229th Session of St. George's Vestry

Sunday February 7, 2021

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 2021.
3. That David Bingham be elected Peoples' Warden and Lori Martin be elected Deputy Peoples' Warden for a one-year term.
4. That Neil Culp, Lori Martin, and Lindsey Wilton be elected Synod delegates for a two-year term.
5. Be it resolved that the Reports presented to this Vestry be adopted as written or amended.
6. Be it resolved that this Vestry record with gratitude the efforts of the many members of this congregation who work diligently in providing leadership and service in the many areas of parish life and worship.
7. Be it resolved that the 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 2021;

And be it further resolved that two members of the Corporation sign all cheques on the parish bank accounts, with the exception of the Rector's Discretionary Funds.
8. Be it resolved that this Vestry authorizes the 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.
9. Be it resolved that all acts, contracts, proceedings, appointments and payments enacted, made, done and taken by the Corporation of St. George's since the date of the Vestry Meeting of **February 2, 2020** be hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.

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Office Hours

Monday to Friday: 8am to 4pm

Rector: The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Associate Priest: The Reverend Scott McLeod

Lay Pastoral Associate : Matthew Gillard

Deacon of the Parish: The Reverend Lorenzo Cromwell

Sub-Deacons: Anita Djurkovic and Mary Jo Schmidt

Bishop in Residence: The Right Reverend Walter Asbil

Honorary Assistant: Archdeacon Marion Vincett

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant: The Reverend Dr. Doreen McFarlane

Office Manager: Linda Telega

Treasurer: Jim Jenter

Organist & Choirmaster: Brad Barnham

Children's Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Youth Ministry: Tanya Schleich

Nursery Care Provider: Chandra Langley-Smith

Caretaker: Johan Braun

Rector's Warden: Rob Welch

People's Warden: David Bingham

Deputy Rector's Warden: Liz Cunningham

Synod Reps: Cheryl Bergie, Corwin Cambray, John Bullivant

Interim STEP Counselor: Carrie Vanderform

Step Program Assistant: Shannon Monger

Proposed Parish Council for 2021

Voting Members:

Rector - The Reverend Martha Tatarnic

Rector's Warden – 1 year – Rob Welch

People's Warden – 1 year – Dave Bingham

Deputy Rector's Warden – 1 year – Liz Cunningham

*Deputy People's Warden – 1 year – Lori Martin

*Synod Delegates (3) – 1st year of 2 year term – Neil Culp, Lori Martin and Lindsey Wilton

Chair of Stewardship Committee – Nora Jenter

Chair of Communications Committee – Tyler Deane

Chair of Technology Committee – Neil Allyn

Chair of Finance Committee- Paul Chapman

Chair of Property & Grounds Maintenance Committee – Gina Schafrick

Members at Large (1 year term) –Corwin Cambray, John Bullivant

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

Breakfast Program Representative – Duncan Moffett

Staff Members (Non-Voting):

Treasurer - Jim Jenter

Office Manager - Linda Telega

Associate Priest – The Reverend Scott McLeod

Lay Pastoral Associate – Matt Gillard

Deacon – The Reverend Deacon Lorenzo Cromwell

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant – Doreen McFarlane

All I Can Say Is Thank You



In some ways, it might seem hard to plan for the coming year. We hardly know what is happening day to day in this pandemic, let alone trying to imagine what a whole year in parish life could look like. And yet, when I look back on 2020 and consider the ways in which we experienced God's blessings, even as our lives were thrown into such turmoil, I realize that we actually have a remarkably strong foundation to guide our energy and future direction.

Let me share with you just a handful of my own thanksgivings for this past year, and please, in reading through my list, consider the gratitude you might add to mine:

Thank you for generosity in the face of difficulty. When we were going into lockdown for the first time and thrust into one of the great collective challenges of our time, the primary response of St. George's was generosity. The Breakfast Program didn't miss a day or a beat. Duncan and Co. exemplified the word "pivot," not only immediately figuring out how to continue serving breakfast, but also adding on a Wednesday night take-out supper too. Other groups joined us to extend our feeding ministries to other nights of the week too. At the same time, offerings not only continued but increased across our church. Again and again, I have been amazed and inspired by that faithful response to turmoil across our community: "what might I be able to do/offer/pray in response?"

Thank you to Charles Burton who, so many years ago, led the charge on figuring out livestreaming our services. Thank you to Charles, Reverend Scott, Tom Wilga and others who spent countless hours figuring out the right technology and ironing out the (many!) wrinkles. The livestream has been an important connection for our community for years, and in 2020, it became an absolute life-line. So many people have been leaders of this ministry all along, and since March, Allison Kelly and Aiden Deane have been our behind-the-camera stalwarts. The faithfulness and long-range vision of this whole team made it possible not just for us to continue to worship and pray together all year, but also to work with Jeremy Elliott and PSI at the end of 2020 to improve our technology and the clarity and closeness of the worship experience for our congregation. We hope our new tablet lending library will allow more of our congregation to connect to our worshipping life in the coming months.

Thank you to the best staff and leadership team that a parish could ever ask for. We have the most incredible group of creative, talented, faithful, caring and wise people working each and every day in leading our church, strengthening our outreach, and joining us together in faith and prayer and praise. Wow. Words can't express my gratitude to our wardens, staff and parish leaders.

Thank you for how physical distance has taught us just how connected we really are. May we never again take for granted the blessing of being able to extend a helping hand to one another. May we continue to rediscover the essential importance of kindness. May we become ever more aware of the realities of loneliness and isolation for so many people, even when we're not in a pandemic; and may God direct our steps in reaching out in love.

Thank you for the extraordinary freedoms we have barely noticed: the freedom to gather in peace and the freedom to worship our God and practice our faith. Thank you for the invitation to see and appreciate these gifts in a profound and new way.

Thank you for unstable circumstances which allow us to centre ourselves once again in what--or more importantly Who--is truly unchanging. Thank you to God who continues to say, "See, I am doing a new thing!" and for the new possibilities, voices, leaders and ministries God continues to raise up, even as we grieve those

saints in our midst who have, this year, been called home. Whether in a pandemic or not, our lives are fleeting and fragile, and our hope is always and forever found in God's great and constant love.

This coming year's plans are guesswork, in some ways. And in some ways, the past year has allowed us to focus again on the truth on which we can always and forever count. All I can say is Thank You.

Respectfully submitted, The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Priest Associate Reverend D. Scott McLeod



2020 has been one of the strangest and most challenging years for all of us, and in spite of the challenges there have been points of light. The Church and its ministry continues. I believe that the last year has greatly underlined and reinforced those things that are essential for us. Specifically though, that work has been made very difficult by the necessity to proper physical distance, the various necessary protocols preventing in person visits to parishioners, care homes and hospitals and the limitation of in-person pastoral visits to the very-ill, and dying has massively reduced pastoral care to phone calls, emails, and video calls.

Thankfully St. George's was well positioned when it came to the live streaming of services, as we have been doing that for the last few years, but whereas the number of viewers previously was less than 20, and often less than 10, with the stay-at-home order of last spring, we saw our average views of the live streamed services jump to over 100 people/households viewing at a time. There has been a lot of focus on troubleshooting and refining and fixing various aspects of the live streaming, especially the audio, and I have been working on that since March. I am very pleased that we are now moving into a new phase with the live streaming, and that the reliability and quality of the audio especially, but also the video, is vastly improved with the new equipment.

I continue to work with Martha in support of offering of our services online, and worked with the team that planned the return to in-person worship this past fall. I have also supported the Visitors Group in their ongoing ministry of reaching out to parishioners.

Where appropriate and possible, we have continued to offer funerals according to the restrictions and guidelines of public health and the Diocese.

I assisted in running the Revive program and the Lenten study, both of which started out in-person, and finished as online gatherings using video chat software.

I have continued the work of coordinating the Diocesan Refugee Sponsorship Initiative. Although we have only seen the arrival of two cases in the past year, there has been an increase in the number of new case submissions, and the number of requests for cases to be taken on is ever increasing. While we have no hope of ever meeting the demand for resettlement, we focus on what we can do, and will help the families that we have the capacity and power to help as the church.

Some of the greatest personal challenges of time have been with the balance between having a young child at home during the pandemic while trying to do school at home, the lack of summer programming for him, and balancing that off with necessary work for the parish. This has not been easy, and has had a significant impact on time, more so than at any other time in my ministry.

I am looking forward to the days ahead when we can see each other in person without fear of the impacts of the virus on our lives.

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

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild at George's is a ministry of service. The current membership is 24 active members and 7 associate members. The Guild members work closely with the clergy to prepare the church for weekly regular services as well as the special services.

It was the COVID-19 pandemic that led to only online services and eventually restricted numbers of parishioners attending church services. Now again we are in strict lockdown with only live streaming of services.

Our service has been limited this year because of COVID-19. We still prepared for the Eucharist, we ordered and arranged the flowers for the weekly Sunday worship services and for the festivals such as Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas on a much smaller scale. The Guild members continued to launder and iron altar worship linens, polish the brass and silver, dust the sanctuary, and cleanup following the services.

A new green frontal altar cloth will be dedicated in memory of our former rector the Reverend Canon Rob Fead. Unfortunately the making has been delayed because of the pandemic.

I congratulate the members of the Guild for their continued dedication to this ministry throughout the pandemic.

Our sincere appreciation goes to the clergy for their understanding and guidance throughout this challenging time. We also thank Linda Telega and Johann Braun for always being available to assist us.

The Altar Guild welcomes anyone interested in being involved in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Sharon Crane, President

Sidespersons

The duties and responsibilities of the Sidespeople were the same this past year as they have been in other years for the first few months only. In March, activities stopped. When services began again in September, the Sidespeople were asked to be Ushers and/or Greeters. Some of our volunteers willingly returned to meet this need. Thank you to all the Sidespeople who have helped out this year with all the different services and with all the changes we have had to face and work through. It has been a very different and, in many aspects, difficult year.

It is with sadness and regret that one of our faithful volunteers has died. Bill Ryman has been a dedicated member of our group for many years and in the past couple of years along with his wife Rosalind regularly assisted at Evensong. Your gentle way, kindness and humor will be missed by all.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Pettit

Christmas Bazaar



Well, this is a year to remember and I must say on behalf of Devon Culp and myself, Liz Cunningham, your bazaar convenors, it was a "Christmas Bazaar" we will never forget! It all started back in the summer of 2020 when Devon and I realized and received confirmation of the fact that we would not be allowed to have a conventional bazaar this year due to COVID-19. Devon and her family and David and I were in a "bubble" at that time, so we were permitted to get together to discuss the situation. We both agreed that the money usually raised by the bazaar was too important to St. George's to ignore.

So, we started to brainstorm different ideas and seemed to always find problems or roadblocks with them. Then it came to us. We decided to write a letter to the members of the congregation. We explained our situation and then took them on a "virtual tour" with words, of past bazaars in the hopes that it would make each parishioner

feel as if they were there at the bazaar seeing, tasting, and touching. After a few cups of tea and lots of laughter our letter was composed.

Devon and I hoped and prayed, and I do not mind admitting worried a little as to whether it would generate some success, but we were absolutely thrilled by the response. Yes, we came up with the idea, but it was all of you who made it happen. Your incredible generosity and your kind words were appreciated more than you will ever know. So, it is our pleasure to announce that you raised \$11,120.00 for our beloved St. George's. Devon and I thank you from the bottom of our hearts and know that nothing is impossible with this congregation.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Cunningham and Devon Culp

Bereavement Group

In 2006, Rev. Val Kerr began an open-ended Bereavement Group to help people who were grieving to vent their feelings and to better understand the stages of mourning and grief. She recognized that there were many people who were grieving, felt very isolated, abandoned and that "their tears would never stop." The Group was open to members and non-members of the congregation. She also affirmed that we grieve because we had loved and cared for an incredibly special and unique individual who has died.

In grieving, we feel the loss of the person who has died but also all the roles that person played in one's life, making the relationship so unique and strong. Grieving can impact one's identity, one's confidence and one's loss of support.

People attending the Groups are doing so out of grief and searching for strategies for coping. The average number of people attending any of the groups is about six. The length of time that griever come varies from one session to eight years. Many of those attending are grieving multiple deaths and the trauma of sudden, very tragic deaths. Some of those attending can hardly talk about the new reality of their lives while others need to repeat the details as a way of confirming the death of a loved one.

In 2020, there was a six week long grief group held at the Church. The grief groups that are held are a combination of discussion, activities, and journaling. All participants are asked to be aware of how their life has changed since the death of their loved one and are given suggestions as to ways of coping.

Presently, all in-person groups are cancelled due to the lockdowns because of the pandemic. If you are interested in being part of a grief group, please let one of the clergy know. You can also call the office or phone me at 905-937-7170. Some consideration could be made of holding a grief group on Zoom. Grieving takes a great deal of energy, strength, and courage. It also takes time and support.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Chapman, Bereavement Group Facilitator

Travel Club

The theatre stages were darkened, the restaurants only offered pick-up and the attractions were shuttered. Our travels this past year were limited to one's own home and backyard/balcony.

In the not-too-distant future, our travels will once again take us out to explore Southern Ontario as we visit theatres, wineries, orchards, Fall colours and the hidden treasures in nearby towns and cities. 'Til then, continue to dream of outings and send your ideas my way.

Yours in learning through travel, Grace-Ann Cambray

Dinner Club

Most groups in the Dinner Club had only partially completed their schedule before the shutdown in March. When we are once again able to meet and share a dinner, we will continue to use the groupings for 2020-2021 for the

next year, 2021-2022. Then in June 2022, we will meet, share a potluck dinner and regroup for the new year.

If you are new to St. George's and would like to join the Dinner Club, please let me know. Four couples, picked at random meet over the course of a year in each other's homes to share a meal prepared by all. It is a 'delicious' way to get to know fellow parishioners.

Respectfully submitted, Grace-Ann Cambray

Bishop Beattie Fellowship

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

The Executive Committee normally meets in February and looks forward to presenting an interesting and varied program for the year with guest speakers and evenings filled with fellowship and fun. This year the executive was not able to meet as the pandemic caused us all to stay safely in our homes.

Usually a Dinner for members is planned in June at Hernder Estate Winery and in December the Fellowship enjoys a Christmas Party with music and song but these were cancelled. As the World remains on pause so do we.

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

We were also unable to prepare Gift Baskets for the Bazaar. Instead, donations were given to the Bazaar in lieu of Baskets. The Fellowship was also unable to collect and donate to our Community Partner Organization - Community Care. Hopefully next year will see us continuing this tradition.

Bishop Beattie Fellowship's main objective will always be to develop an opportunity of Fellowship for all women of the Parish. New members are always welcome - no test, no essay required, and permission is not necessary to join. Simply show up at a monthly meeting!

We look forward to the time when we can resume our meetings. Wishing all members a healthy and safe 2021:

Executive

President: Louise Cross

Devotions: Rita Hatcher

Secretary: Val Kuhns

Members List: Liz Cunningham

Treasurer: Tina Valentyne

Remembrance: Myrna Holman

Receptions: Mary Crawford

Phone Convener: Hazel Johnson

Respectfully submitted, Louise Cross, President

Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC)

The BAC normally has a year of socializing, eating great meals and being educated and stimulated by guest speakers from both the Parish community and the Niagara Region. This year was cut short by the COVID-19 pandemic when we could not gather together as a group from February on.

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 held five times a year on the second Tuesday of January, February, April, October, and November. We normally average 25-30 per meeting. The cost of a full roast beef meal with accompanying salads, roast carrots and potatoes, and including dessert is \$25.

We would like to thank the volunteers who help set up and 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 for January and February, 2020, were: Lori Martin on cartography, January 14, and the former head of the STEP program, Louis Muscat, February 11, to talk about the successes and challenges of the program. Hopefully we will be able to start meeting once again by the fall of 2021.

Our major fundraising activity is the annual Christmas poinsettia plant sales program. Unfortunately due to COVID-19 we were not able to undertake this important project in 2020. Normally we are able to donate about \$1,000 to St. Georges, including \$500 towards the Water Project. Perhaps we will be able to provide the poinsettia program in the fall of 2021. Stay tuned.

For 2021 the Executive Committee will be:

- Tom Owens - Past Chair and Membership - (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
- Ron Duggan – Treasurer – (905) 646-9703 rgfduggan@gmail.com

Respectfully submitted, Dave Bingham, President

Community Breakfast Program

2020 has been a year of changes for the Breakfast Program.

Our long-time friend, convenor and leading force behind the Breakfast Program, Janet Veale, retired and leadership passed to a new team.

We modified our breakfast service three times, beginning with our regular dine-in service in the Swan, moving to the Gym to allow for greater distancing, changing to carry-out service with no access to the Church, and finally, by providing bagged breakfast handed out at the door.

Our funding changed significantly with the largest category being donations from individuals, including many regular donations from St. George's parishioners. Funding from local churches, long a source of funds, is continuing to decline.

Our operating costs increased markedly because of the need for pre-packaged food and take out cups, bowls, bags and spoons.

Despite these challenges, we served breakfast to all comers every morning of the year, no questions asked. In 2020, we provided breakfast to an average of 60 guests daily, slightly down from previous years. In addition, in December we increased our service and strengthened our relationship with Out-of-the-Cold by providing 30-40 bagged breakfasts each day for the overnight shelter at Westminster Church.

We can feed our guests only as God provides us with the needed volunteers, food and money. While many things change around us, we can bear testimony to God's unchanging and abundant provision for the Program. It is a real privilege to see how we are equipped and used "for good works, which God prepared beforehand to be our way of life." (Ephesians 2:10.) Further, it is a joy to see how He moves the soft and generous hearts of our many volunteers and donors to provide the resources necessary to sustain the Program.

At the outset of the pandemic a number of volunteers and some entire teams decided to step back from service because of concern for their personal safety. Many of these volunteers have subsequently returned to service demonstrating their confidence in the safety and hygiene procedures put in place in the kitchen and the Swan. Shortage of volunteers was mitigated by a team of "shift bosses" who worked to keep the Program running: Ann

Koppel, Dianne Chisholm, Daryl Crosby, Wendy Northcote, Stephen Bedford, and Duncan Moffett all served faithfully more than once a week for many months through October when we returned to once-a-month teams of five volunteers.

We continue to receive donations of cereals from Post Foods in Niagara Falls and bread and milk from Latcham PML in St. Catharines. St. Thomas' Day Care and Trinity United Church in Thorold regularly donate fruit. Life Together Church on Pelham Road provides us with a variety of breads weekly. We received a Christmas bounty from Hastec Inc. and boxes of granola bars through Shannon Monger at STEP. We receive many regular donations of boxes of cereal, 20 kg bags of sugar or jars of peanut butter or Cheeze Whiz. We are truly grateful for our many partners.

We have three teams regularly purchasing and stocking our pantry. Marlyn and Sheldon Pettit, and Nancy Little and Jackie Sinclair have faithfully carried out this weekly task for years. We are pleased to welcome Jan Tanouye and Janice Slade as a third team. In addition, Neil Allyn has taken on the responsibility of purchasing and restocking the many thousands of cups, bowls, plastic bags and spoons we use monthly.

Financially the Program relies entirely on donations from the community. In 2020 we received \$66,345 in donations with almost 70% coming from individual donors, including many St. George's parishioners. Our cash costs increased by about 17% compared with 2019.

We are very thankful to St. George's Church for allowing us use of the kitchen and the Swan auditorium. We appreciate the practical and cheerful support provided by our custodian Johan Braun and security guard Adam Pierce, both of whom are always ready to lend a hand.

Respectfully submitted, Duncan Moffett

Mentor Team—Breakfast Program

I would have to say that the theme over 2020 would have to be stability within chaos. Just like every other ministry within the church, the volunteer mentors had to be very adaptable to change.

We watched our breakfast program change this year. When the year began, we had 10 mentors covering seven days a week. The team is now down to five people working seven shifts per week. This amazing and dedicated team needs very little direction. Every person on this team is motivated, dedicated and a group of the most caring people you could ever imagine. When the breakfast program needed to suspend service in the dining room and move towards a grab and go format, the mentors moved right along with that initiative gladly.

Over this past nine months while following protocols due to COVID-19, this team has gathered up their strength and worked their abilities at a more fantastic pace than ever.

Wendy and I enjoy working alongside this team of now five mentors covering the seven days. It has been an absolute blessing. Though our team is smaller, we are mighty! The guests that come to our now pre-bagged breakfast have also lovingly adjusted to this new format and they share their gratitude with us on a regular basis.

I can only speak for myself, however I am sure that the rest of the team would agree that we all get so much joy out of this most important initiative within the church, the Saint George's breakfast program.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Djurkovic

Wardens (Corporation)

Corporation at St. George's is composed of five people: The Rector; Peoples' Warden; Rector's Warden; Deputy Peoples' Warden; and Deputy Rector's Warden. This past year Dave Bingham, Rob Welch, Kelly Belford, and Liz

Cunningham joined Canon Martha as the Corporation. Regrettably, Kelly had to withdraw from Corporation late this past year due to illness.

Until the initial lockdown in mid-March, Corporation assisted with the smooth functioning of Sunday services and did so again when the lockdown was lifted in September. The Corporation, though, also and primarily acted as the Executive of the Parish, and involved itself in budget preparation and financial management, personnel issues, and provided other input and assistance to the Rector, other clergy, Parish Council and various committees on temporal (non-liturgical) matters at St. George's.

As can be guessed, this year has been a particular challenge. Canon Martha and the Corporation have met almost every week, and sometimes more than once a week, always by virtual ZOOM platform, to navigate the various issues, protocols, limitations and surprises resulting from the COVID-19 Pandemic. We have tried to approach our work with openness, flexibility and in good humour. This past year, Canon Martha and the Corporation worked with a search committee to interview candidates for the Director of Music position, which led to the hiring of Brad Barnham. The Corporation also joined with the Lay Delegates to Synod as the Parochial Committee to interview and then recommend to the Bishop the engagement of Deacon Lorenzo Cromwell.

Several members of the Corporation participated in the 2020 stage of the Revive Program for Spiritual Development which was very uplifting and enjoyable.

We would like to thank Canon Martha for her tireless leadership of St. George's this past year, as well as Reverend Scott. Thanks as well are offered to our Treasurer Jim Jenter for his work during what was anything but a normal year. Gratitude is also offered to our Office Administrator Linda Telega, along with all other staff members, committee members, and the people of the Parish.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Welch, for the Corporation

Counting Team

The Counting Team was formed in 1987 to assist the Wardens with the counting of the weekly offerings and thus relieve them of this time-consuming duty over the years. Prior to 1987, the Wardens were entirely responsible for opening the envelopes and counting the collection. This usually meant that two of our wardens spent most of each Sunday morning counting. At this time during COVID-19, Jim Jenter has taken on responsibility for the weekly counting of the envelopes and Wardens take turns in coming in to do deposits for Jim. A huge thank you to all who have stepped in to help during the last nine months to keep our counting team safe. We look forward to having our team back together sometime in the near future in 2021.

Respectfully submitted, Joe Steinman

Faith and Light



This is the Faith and Light logo, which was designed by Meb, an individual with an intellectual disability. Meb created a simple painting. A boat in which he put a number of figures. He painted twelve of them. Jesus must be sleeping somewhere in the bottom of the boat. Then there was the sun and the clouds. Meb was certainly very inspired. He could not count. His idea: we are in a boat and we are travelling together. Sometimes the sea is rough, sometimes it's dead calm, sometimes you need to row, and sometimes the wind blows in the sails... Meb had understood all that. Here is the caption that goes with the drawing :

"The clouds parted and Your light, oh Lord, shone down upon us" (From faithandlight.org)

"Faith and Light is founded on the belief that each person with an intellectual disability is fully a person with all the rights of a human being: above all the right to be loved, recognized and respected for himself or herself and

in the choices he/she makes. Faith and Light believes that every person, able-bodied or disabled, is equally loved by God and that Jesus lives in them." (Faith and Light Charter II, 1)

Faith and Light Niagara is part of an ecumenical international organization (Faith and Light International) rooted in the Christian tradition and founded on the belief that every person, and in a special way the person with a disability, has unique gifts to offer. There are about 1700 Faith and Light communities in over 70 countries.

In March, our regular monthly meetings where those with intellectual disabilities, their families and friends meet together to share a meal, share joys and concerns, pray, have fun and laugh (a lot), sing, make music and listen to God's word for us were put on hold due to Covid. We soon realized that we still needed to meet – enter Zoom. We began monthly Zoom meetings in the late spring with a summer break. What joy and excitement we had in seeing and sharing with one another again! Initially our meetings were social in nature and consisted of sharing our sun and clouds (our version of the Jesuit practice of the Examen), of identifying our sun, something that has been positive and lifegiving in our recent lives, and our clouds, something that has been more of a struggle. All the while recognizing God's presence in both of these aspects of life.

We were able to add more structure as our Zoom skills progressed including an online bingo game and praying the Lord's Prayer with actions. Our Christmas celebration included eating together via Zoom, with each family having a chili dinner and sharing in conversation. This was followed by singing of Christmas Carols, Sun and Cloud, each person showing a favourite Christmas decoration from their home and a dramatic presentation in which all families participated in the Christmas Story. We continue to explore creative ways of coming together in spirit and connect with one another through technology but look forward to the day when we can come together in person as well.

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

Ecumenical Honorary Assistant

Mine will be, as you might guess, a short report this year. Still, I want to say a few words to let each of you know that I continue to keep you in my thoughts and prayers during this trying time of COVID-19. The year started out with my usual activities at St. George's. Once the lockdowns began, I felt it best to stay out of the way as our devoted priests worked so hard with the continual shifts and changes in the rules for operating the Church. I keep in touch by joining the staff and Church Council meetings on Zoom, "attending" worship online, and burning out my telephone - giving and receiving support. I continue to serve my own church of St. Paul's Lutheran in Niagara Falls in our own unique ways during the Pandemic. My greatest wish for all of us is that this scourge may soon be only a bad memory. And I encourage you with all my heart to continue to, in every way, support Martha and Scott and all those leaders who have been serving you so lovingly throughout this time. And, as a last word, through it all, I urge you to find the little joys that this complete change in our lifestyles has brought. If you look closely, you will find them, because God is good all the time!

Respectfully and prayerfully submitted,

Rev. Dr. Doreen McFarlane, Ecumenical Honorary Assistant

Labyrinth Walking Group

Micah 6:8 "He has told you, O mortal, what is good; and what does God require of you but to do justice, and to love kindness, and to walk humbly with your God?"

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

twists and turns of the labyrinth can represent our faith journey and facilitate our prayer and reflection.

This year has certainly been one of twists and turns although not one with many opportunities to be together to pray on the labyrinth. Monthly meetings were cancelled in March when gatherings were no longer permitted.

Many thanks are extended to Deb Kostialik, a regular labyrinth walker who shared a link to the Veriditas organization (www.veriditas.org) which has been leading a weekly finger labyrinth walk weekly since April. While this is a different way of doing a labyrinth, it has allowed people from all over the globe to come together in prayer and meditation. More information and recordings of past walks may be found at www.veriditas.org. Many thanks are also extended to Jim Jenter for his faithful practical help in organizing, setting up and cleaning up the labyrinth.

There is an outdoor labyrinth at the Niagara-on-the-Lake Public library. Deb organized a few walks in the fall at this labyrinth for any who felt comfortable coming together for a socially distanced labyrinth walk outside. This may be one way of coming together when it becomes possible to meet together in person again in the spring.

We look forward to a time when we may again come together and resume our monthly Saturday morning labyrinth walks. In the meantime, we take comfort that God continues to be present and guide us in our journeys,

"You (God) in your great mercies did not forsake (the Israelites) in the wilderness; the pillar of cloud that led them in the way did not leave them by day, nor the pillar of fire by night that gave them light on the way by which they should go."

Submitted by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan

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 normally held once a month from October through to April. In the month of May, we have a potluck lunch and taste test at least 12 birthday cakes (sometimes as many as 18-20). 2020 was anything but normal. We only had 2 soup Sundays due to COVID-19. Over \$875 was raised for the church.

Soup Sundays are an incredible way of enjoying some soups (we usually have 12 to 15 soups and chili) homemade bread and some desserts tea and coffee. It is also an amazing way of meeting new people and getting reacquainted with others. We have had some newcomers comment that they found others at the event so friendly and welcoming that they felt that the event was held in their honour.

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 for only \$10 per volume at Soup Sundays or by contacting Sue Chapman or Lydia Gallaway. In 2020, cookbook sales netted over \$160.00. To date, the sale of the soup cookbooks has netted the Church over \$2550.00

All soups and supplies are donated. Some people want to donate, and all donations are given to the Church for programming needs. Hopefully, we will be able to join together at a Soup Sunday in 2021 and enjoy the tastes of a variety of soups, chilis and breads.

When we return, whenever that is, we will need volunteer soup makers again. If you would like to make a soup, some chili, or some bread, please call Sue Chapman at 905-937-7170 or contact her by email at chapman6467@yahoo.ca. or Lydia Gallaway at 905-934-4816 or dgallaway1@cogeco.ca

Respectfully Submitted by Sue Chapman and Lydia Gallaway, Soup Sunday Co-Convenors

Prayer Chain

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

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

Those who would like our prayers may request help from us directly or through a person they have designated. They may give us as much or as little information about the person we are praying for. We do ask that petitioners keep in touch with us and let us know of any changes or when the situation has been resolved.

If you wish to contact the Prayer Chain, please speak to Martha or Scott or other clergy or call any of the following:

- Tom Owens 905-934-4239
- Rev. Alan Mclean 905-562-6713
- Judy Kingsley 905-646-7717

We normally meet in person once a month but during COVID-19 keep in contact by phone and e-mail. We would like to thank those members who were in the group but who had to leave us to look after themselves or their loved one during 2020. We welcome any new members who believe in the power of prayer Please

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

Be At Peace – Carol's Prayer:

"Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life. Rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are will deliver you from them."

Respectfully submitted, Tom Owens

Ad Hoc Finance Committee

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

The three major items referred to the Committee this year were related to the desirability of having a full audit of the church's financial records, the examination of estimates of future revenue and expenses and a review of the variability of funding from the Foundation Fund to support existing programs. The Committee advised that a full audit would be desirable. Corporation was provided with an estimate for budget purposes to allow for an audit of the 2022 books.

The examination of future revenues was initiated but is currently on hold. A proposal to consider how to provide a stable source of funding from the Foundation Fund is being prepared. The new method would ensure a more consistent flow of funds for programming but still fulfill the requirement of ensuring that the capital of the fund is protected.

The Committee monitored the investment activity of our accounts held by the Dioceses throughout the year. In 2020, the rate of return to the end of November on our investments was approximately 6.4 %. The return this year is good, but the investments are subject to market forces. St. George's investments, with careful management and monitoring, should be available to support parish programs for the future.

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

Respectfully submitted, Paul Chapman, Chair

Super Tuesday

Super Tuesday is a time to gather as a group to study a particular topic or book. The Covid restrictions presented many challenges but did not prevent us from coming together to study with the assistance of the Zoom technology.

"The Way of Life, A Theology of Christian Vocation" by Gary Badcock was our book of study in 2020. Leadership was provided by Matt Gillard. Many of us participating found this a challenging book and appreciated the gifts of other participants, their insights and knowledge. Confusing or complex concepts were clarified. The exchange of ideas and sharing of life experiences added to the depth of our understanding of the material. Participating in this study helped its members to contemplate and pay attention more closely to what, for each of us, was our calling and the meaning of our Christian vocation in our daily lives.

Group study with its shared insights and interpretations enriches and adds depth to the understanding of the material for all participants. The social connection offered makes it fulfilling, enjoyable, even fun.

Super Tuesday, in a time of semi-isolation, provides a time to connect with friends from our church family 'face to face'. We were blessed with leadership in our study and blessed with a technology that allowed us to connect and provide an opportunity to learn, grow, and be together.

Our Super Tuesday learning program is always open to new people, and we love to welcome new voices, ideas and question into our group.

Respectfully submitted, Wendy Northcote

STEP Youth Resource Center



The STEP Center provides service for youth from the ages of 14-24. The STEP youth resource center offers numerous supports and services to the youth in our community. Over the last few months, we have seen a handful of youth that have attended to have their basic needs met. A warm place to sit, a small snack, some socks and gloves to keep warm on these cold days. Sometimes it's simply about not being alone for a little while.

While the STEP center offers support for young people in our community in practical ways, the outpour of support and love outside of the STEP center doors is what makes this community so amazing. The STEP Center was born out of the love for our Community and it is heartening to see the outpouring of love for the youth in our community. I have only been a part of this amazing program for the last few months and have been blown away by the amount of support from community members I have seen and met. The STEP Center is able to offer programs such as cooking, art and gardening because of our dedicated volunteers. The connections within our community that happen in the STEP Center doesn't end at the doors. These connections are vital to uplifting and empowering the youth in our communities. I am forever grateful to our community members, community partners and fellow agencies who reach out and support youth in need.

While we struggle to fulfill the desired vision for this program fully due to the global pandemic, there are ways we have continued to connect with youth. Going forward we had to think outside of the box to continue to engage with youth, STEPs has reached out to other community agencies to let them know we are now offering

Zoom classes on self-care, growth mind set, goal setting, healthy living and mindfulness. We are also offering one to one counselling appointments. In January, 2021 we created hygiene kits for outreach work. When COVID-19 prevents youth from dropping into the center, we have taken to "Stepping" out to meet youth where they are at in the community.

Since 2019 at the inception of the STEP center, we have helped meet the basic needs of youth; food, housing, clothing, a safe space, and supports. We have helped create resumés, apply for jobs, helped get youth integrated back into the education system and have helped navigate services to connect youth with the support they seek. By being able to provide outreach services thanks to the many donations from our community we can find new ways to make these connections and provide supports and services to youth in need.

In Friendship, Carrie Vanderform and Shannon Monger

Music Ministry



The 2020 year brought substantial change to the music ministry at St. George's. What was once a staple element of weekly church was now considered dangerous. For the first time since the Spanish Flu in 1918, we could not sing together. And yet, as it always has, the church has endured through the storm of pandemic. 2020 was an exemplary year of such courage in darkness.

Music has continued to ring out through the halls of St. George's and despite the hardships the world has faced throughout the experience of living through COVID-19, the music program has been anything but diminished. In fact, during a time when many might consider it reasonable to take a step back, the people of St. George's took a leap forward in hiring me as the new Director of Music. They took courage in accepting a young candidate to fill a well-established role. In so doing they invited new energy and vision into the church, while embracing the sacred traditions that have fortified Anglicanism into the bedrock of St. Catharines.

One of the gifts of these unprecedented times has been the opportunity to quietly and calmly integrate myself into the community. To be able to meet small groups of parishoners, volunteers, staff, and to work with individual choristers privately rather than working with the entire choir at once has been helpful in forming meaningful bonds and relationships with those I have met so far. It has been my pleasure collaborating with such thoughtful musicians on a one-on-one basis, discovering their skills, their interests, their quirks, and acquainting myself with them in this way has been nothing but good. I am so fond of this community!

Getting to know the choir via Zoom on a bi-weekly basis has rewarded me with huge anticipation for the bright days ahead when the choir can reunite. The music we will make together will be nothing short of ineffable. It will resonate loud and clear through the hearts and ears of the community, near and far, because we will have so much to sing about. So much to celebrate, so much on which to reflect.

In the meantime, the music goes on here in this place. Singers Lois Marsh, Beth Cooper, Thomasin Moore, Rose Spraggon, Melissa Bowles, Kim Peagram, Martha Tatarnic and Nancy Secord have helped lift up our services in song, each offering something unique and beautiful. Advent Café has been a space for musicians to offer something different yet equally meaningful to its viewers. Musicians "Infinitely More" (Allison Lynn, Gerald Flemming), Brian Kerley, Adam Pierce, Scott McLeod, Martha Tatarnic and videographer Allison Kelly are to thank for helping me continue this tradition of contemporary worship in a warm and welcoming atmosphere.

A highlight for the music ministry this year was the virtual Lessons and Carols service, which offered a whole host of musical selections to its (online) viewers, reflecting the many backgrounds and musical interests within this community. Roaring anthems and hymns richly accompanied by the organ, sensitive a cappella motets, a

jazz standard sung by Laura Revell and her trio (Scott McLeod on drums, Rob McBride on bass and Brad Barnham on piano), and a soft rendition of "Silent Night" accompanied on the acoustic guitar (like it was written) were met with meaningful scripture. It was all captured through audio and visual technology that is continually improving. The intention is so that the congregation is able to experience the clearest visual quality and sound, so that connection is deeper and the experience all the more intimate.

The 2020 year brought substantial change to the music ministry at St. George's...but not for the worse. We have achieved great heights during a time where we could have easily fallen to the wayside. But the faith is much stronger than that. St. George's has been a hub for worship and music and all the fellowship they bring, and nothing - not even a devastating pandemic - can strip this place from the very things that make it what it is.

The future is looking bright for the music ministry of St. George's. When the time has come, we have plans to re-engage the youth choir, to incorporate them into the adult choir community in collaborative ways, to partner with neighbouring community choirs, to hire a brass quintet for Easter and a chamber orchestra for Remembrance Day, to invite guest soloists to sing special services, to host concerts in the sanctuary with the support of a new grand piano, to fundraise, give back to the community, but most importantly: we have plans to sing together. We will sing together as loud and as fully as we can, because it is what we do, and what we are waiting to do again. Here's to 2021 and all the music it will bring to St. George's.

Respectfully submitted, Brad Barnham

Property Management

Despite the past challenging year, the first full year of the recently formed Property Maintenance Committee has accomplished many property improvements over the year 2020.

It was decided by the Rector and Corporation that the Change of Use Building Permit that had been applied for at the City of St. Catharines be put on hold until further notice. This was due to the current climate of the pandemic as it related to the OOTH program, and the cost of the work involved in complying with this Change of Use.

Courtesy of Jim Streadwick, Fire Safety Coordinator and previous Property Manager, St. George's Church Fire Safety Plan was fully updated and its approval finalized by the City of St. Catharines Fire Prevention office. The hardcopy fire safety plan is kept in the fire safety box, with electronic copies now available from the office, if needed. On Sept 23, 2020, Jim Streadwick stepped down as Fire Safety Coordinator (FSC). Peter Schafrick was newly appointed as FSC, with Sheldon Pettit remaining on as Deputy FSC. Jim would remain on the Property Management Committee in an advisor role with his wealth of knowledge of the Church and its buildings.

A sub-committee was struck from this Property Management Committee to form a taskforce that would manage, coordinate, and plan in-person return to worship services which began on September 13, 2020 and continued until December 21, 2020. This taskforce was made up of committee members Ann Koppel, Neil Allyn, and Gina Schafrick. Ann Koppel was our faithful registrar for all services, including funerals and special occasions during this time. Our wardens continued to support our taskforce as ushers to help people enter and exit our services safely, as well as other regular volunteers. Another team behind the scenes consisting of Linda Telega, Dianne Chisholm, Ann Koppel, Tyler Deane and Shannon Monger helped in managing registrations, seating arrangements and communication plans. Our faithful cleaning crew consisted of Richard Malton, the Allyn Family, the Schafrick Family, Winta, and Johan Braun, who carefully

sanitized after each service. In keeping with the extra cleaning required, a new cleaning manual reference for the church and buildings was written and developed by Neil Allyn. In order to maintain social distancing rules in the office, a new office interior dutch door was made and installed very economically, by Neil Allyn. A new security camera-doorbell for the office was also installed courtesy of Peter Schafrick and Neil Allyn to more easily control the office entrance by Linda Telega.

In the main kitchen, a deep clean was undertaken by the Allyn family, and the ceiling was also very well-cleaned by volunteers. Kitchen paint was selected and purchased by Gina and Peter Schafrick. All cabinet door and drawer fronts were painted by Celeste Allyn and Daryl Crosbie. Johan painted all the new fire-rated doors to match all other interior doors, and has also painted the kitchen ceiling. This kitchen painting was much needed, and most users agree that it is looking much fresher and cleaner with a new coat of paint everywhere.

Ongoing roof leak issues above the church office warranted that new larger custom eaves troughs and new downspouts be installed, and this work was finally completed this year. A roof inspection was done and a report for more flat roof repair recommendations is to come. In terms of the ongoing maintenance of the property grounds, the Weedman contract was terminated in lieu of a new contract for garden maintenance with a pair of horticultural students (Janice Currey and friend). Also, a new Garden Guild was formed with Celeste Allyn, and June Streadwick for any new plantings needed in the spring. Over the year, many interior alterations took place in the Bear's Den including much needed electrical work. Most of the work was completed with the outside help of Josh and crew, and our own Johan. A new solid guard was built at the mezzanine to extend the available wall area for projection, plaster repairs, painting.

Respectfully submitted, Gina Schafrick, Property Management Committee Chair

Dialing Disciples

Dialing Disciples began twenty-four years ago as a way to connect all parishioners of St. George's. There are twenty-five members of the congregation who have volunteered to faithfully call the people on their list. Parishioners are called twice a year with updates about the life of the church.

This year has been a year of changes and sad regrets within our group. The death in the spring of Dorothy Dundas, who for many years headed Dialing Disciples. Her hard work and loyal devotion in organizing this group and keeping it running smoothly will not be forgotten. In the calls that I have made I hear repeatedly how much she will be missed by the members of this group and the congregation.

It is with sadness that I report that another of our very faithful callers has died. Marilyn Farner has been a faithful caller for many years. The parishioners that she called on a regular basis miss her friendly chat and caring manner. This year has brought many changes not just with the loss of two devoted members of St. George's but also the isolation and stay home orders we have due to COVID-19. In the fall, I sent out new lists and the volunteers have been trying to call monthly. Not just with updates but with the desire to just reach out and keep in touch. Everyone needs a friendly voice. As our everyday situation improves, we will return to regular calling of two to three calls a year.

Respectfully submitted, Marilyn Pettit

Visitors Group

In 2020, the Visitors group began as usual, with hospital visiting, home visits and phone calls. That was short lived. In March we were asked to suspend all hospital visiting and in-home visits. This was difficult

for the visitors as well as the people we visit because visiting for us is not just a privilege, but also a great source of pleasure and joy. The people we visit also want, need and appreciate in-person visits. We were confined to phone calls, although wonderful, not the same as the one-on-one visits we all were used to. Visits are made monthly and, in some cases, more often now by telephone.

During the year we have tried to find ways to meet the needs and wants of the people we visit and still stay within the mandated limits of our Health System and the Diocese. In August, a few tablets were purchased by the church so that people who do not have computers or internet would be able to watch and enjoy the livestream Sunday Services.

We also thought of ways of dropping off a Communion wafer and written prayers for the people who wanted Communion and then either by telephone or by following the Sunday service be able to take Communion.

This has been a difficult year for everyone but please feel reassured that the Visitor group is still here to talk with you and visit by phone.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

New Journeys

The "New Journeys" program is one in which we invite newcomers (or relative newcomers) to participate in a meeting to help people begin to feel more integrated and welcome to the community of St. George's. It is a process in which we have a mix of "newcomers" and "sojourners" (those who have a longer experience of being part of the parish). This is done in order to provide a friendly contact person to facilitate and walk with those who are trying to figure out what is going on in this busy parish and how they can enter more deeply into our life and fellowship.

We had two New Journeys group gatherings in 2020. Like almost all of the activities reported to vestry for this year, we had to be nimble and very flexible as we attempted to figure out how we are to be faithful to our work in the midst of this pandemic we are still living through. Our first meeting was held in February, pre-pandemic. So its format was very similar to those held the year before. We were all struck with the blessing of newcomers and how wonderful people continue to come to St. George's for a great variety of reasons. After we went into "Lockdown" and moved from in-person worship to online, I admit to being a little surprised to realise that there were still "newcomers" to welcome to our faith community. This is thanks in great part to Allison Kelly and her "live streaming" work. Due to that technology we had people who wanted to participate in the program whose contact with St. George's had been exclusively online.

We were so grateful to welcome several people virtually to our Zoom New Journeys session in May who were feeling themselves to be part of our community but had never yet been inside the church building. It was a great meeting, although, of course we missed being able to meet in person. Regardless of that, however, everyone seemed to feel that it was great to be able to get together in that way. It was very helpful in making us feel connected on personal levels with our brothers and sisters in faith. A real sense of community and appreciation was apparent in our time together.

Our New Journeys program is still working, and although we miss all of you, we will continue to do our best to modify and offer our program in as timely and nimble a fashion as we are able. God is still at work among us and we offer our thanks for that and for all of the people of St. George's whether long-timers, newcomers or virtual members.

Respectfully submitted, Alan McLean

Children/Youth Ministry

Sunday School

At the start of this past year our Sunday School was divided into three classes. Ages 0-4 years was in nursery, with our childcare provider Chandra. Ages 5-11 were grouped together in Sunday school with Tanya and ages 12 and up were participating in a youth-based lesson with Su McLeod. Once the pandemic hit we unfortunately could not meet together as a group any longer. Throughout this year we began weekly Sunday school lessons and get togethers over Zoom, an online virtual meeting. We do lessons, play games and stay as connected as we can, given the circumstances. I provide a weekly lesson to all the families on the email list.

When self-isolation began, the youth leaders within our diocese began to connect regularly. We started a Facebook page called The Anglican Family Hub. This page provides activities, crafts, weekly live lessons and much more. We also had a virtual Halloween party for children within our diocese, not just St. George's. The children dressed up, played games and seemed to have fun. We will continue to learn online and get together. I will be providing Lenten boxes and lessons over Lent for those interested in participating. I have purchased a curriculum through Sparkhouse as well as new Bibles for the children when we return to our Sunday school classroom.

Youth Group



Our youth group has definitely had its challenges this year as well. We are sad to be missing out on our regular get togethers and fun times. I have been offering youth groups over Zoom weekly. We get together weekly to connect, discuss and have fun. We also had three different trivia events online. We had a Harry Potter trivia event: our youth group is very competitive and very knowledgeable regarding the Wizarding world. We also had a Harry Potter trivia session with our youth as well as five other youth from the Diocese.

We all had so much fun. We had a Christmas party online with our youth group and Sunday school. We played charades, trivia and wore our pajamas or Christmas spirit clothing and accessories. We are trying to keep connected. I am offering a book club to our youth as well as Confirmation classes with Matthew Gillard. We will continue our weekly youth groups and we plan on more trivia nights.

Respectfully submitted, Tanya Schleich (Children and Youth Ministry)

Care Closet—Breakfast Clients

I want to say thank you to everyone who so generously donated to this brand new initiative. It is so exciting now to be able to go into this fully stocked closet to give our breakfast program guests things that they so desperately need. We can now offer hats, gloves, toiletries, blankets and socks to anyone who asks for them when they come to eat breakfast.

This could not have happened without the generous donations of so many people. Thank you so kindly for filling this closet with items that were all so clearly gifted with great love. Your efforts and generosity will continue to be appreciated throughout the duration of this cold winter.

We look forward to being able to continue this as an ongoing project here at St. Georges. Keep those gloves, socks and mitts coming!

Submitted by Anita Djurkovic

Krafty Korner

As a group, Krafty Korner has not met since mid-March because of COVID-19. We still keep in touch through phone calls periodically. Krafty Korner members continue to make pneumonia vests, hats, etc. from home.

Bernice, Effie and Sandra packed and delivered our knitted and crocheted items to Canadian Food for Children in Mississauga. The donation was delivered to southern Peru for the indigenous people. When our items can be delivered to northern Canada, we will ship to the north.

During the shutdown, we have lost three of our members: Dorothy Dundas, Nancy North and Mary Coates.

- Dorothy was a leader of Krafty Korner who liked to provide us with jokes at our lunch. In addition, Dorothy played the chimes and headed the Dialing Disciples. She would tidy the pews by straightening the books and papers every Thursday. She was also a former member of the choir.
- Nancy was a prior member of Grace Church. She was a reader at the 10 o'clock service. She joined Krafty Korner and crocheted blankets. Some of the blankets were given to clients of the Breakfast Program and others were sent to the indigenous people of Peru.
- Mary has not been active with Krafty Korner in the last few years but she was a great quilter and made many knitted pneumonia vests and knitted wash cloths. Mary was also a member of the Breakfast Program for twelve years.

Hopefully, we will be back to church soon.

Respectfully submitted, Sandra Legarde

Holy Hour/Contemplative Prayer



Over the course of 2020 we were able to share 25 weeks together having a contemplative prayer holy hour. At its beginning, Holy Hour was supposed to be a group that gathered together each week to share in the reading of Psalms, to pray and hold space for contemplative silence.

Within two weeks, the first lockdown occurred, so plans once again needed to be adapted. The Holy hour then moved on to YouTube. Standing behind the camera without the group there seemed an even bigger challenge to me. Once I was centered, the words came to me through the grace of God and this new challenge became very faith affirming.

At the beginning, I had said that to touch the life of one person was the goal. I thank those of you who joined in and also thank all of you who so kindly sent me emails, letters and messages. They were filled with your encouragement and gratitude. I thank you from the bottom of my heart.

You all kept me going and I am pretty proud to say that 23 videos in total were uploaded to YouTube.

We will continue with Holy hour again this year beginning at the time of Lent, but this time we will gather together once again as a 'virtual circle' on Zoom. Stay "tuned."

Thank you so much for joining with me over 2020. God is so good!

Respectfully submitted, Anita Djurkovic

Prayer Shawl Ministry

We are six women working to make our Prayer Shawl Ministry a success. It was three years ago that I started this ministry at St. George's and we have gifted over 100 shawls to the people of St. George's and to others in need.

Some of us are experienced knitters and others not; but it doesn't matter: all the shawls are lovely and blessed by the laying on of hands and prayers by Reverends Martha or Scott. Current members are myself, Janice MacKenzie, Doris Fraser, Sharon Crane, Janet Veale and Lois Marsh-Duggan.

Prayer shawls are for people in need: illness, grief, pain, loss, loneliness (especially during COVID-19) — things that make life so difficult. If you know someone who would be comforted by one of our prayer shawls, please call the church and they'll contact me. We want to help. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, we are no longer able to meet to knit and pray together over our work, but we are still busy creating shawls.

New members are always welcome. If interested, call me at 905-682-1546. I can provide instructions (they are very simple) and also have a supply of wool to share. It takes many hours to complete a shawl but we believe this to be an important ministry and also a time for great fellowship, not to mention comfort for the knitter during these times of isolation!

Respectfully submitted, Evangeline Horton

Lay Readers

One of the great privileges at St. George's is to be a Lay Reader. In my view, a Lay Reader represents the entire congregation in offering the first reading from the Bible, affirming the Creed and leading in the Prayers of the People. As the Pandemic changed how Worship is presented at our Church (online, limited attendance, and so on), this aspect of the Lay Readers representing the entire congregation has been really emphasized.

Throughout the past year, a group of us have faithfully and regularly performed these duties either in a virtual service, or (mostly) in one with limited attendance. On behalf of us all, thank you to all who have reached out to offer words of encouragement and appreciation as the past year unfolded. A sincere word of thanks to Canon Martha and Reverend Scott for their liturgical leadership and patience, and also to Linda Telega for co-ordinating our work in 2020 with scheduling and worship and prayer resources.

Respectfully submitted, Rob Welch, on behalf of all Lay Readers

Parish Council

Parish Council meetings are held to study and approve the monthly financial statements prepared by our Treasurer Jim Jenter as well as bringing together the various activities of the church. We started in February with calling and thanking parishioners for their financial support to the church. This would be our only in person meeting this year. The rest of the meetings were held on ZOOM due to COVID-19. Other items on the Parish Council agendas were:

- Duncan Moffett taking over the Breakfast Program from Janet Veale
- Saying goodbye to the Rev. Canon Dr. Michael Mondloch as he moved to St. Barnabas
- John Butler retiring
- Hiring our new "Director of Music" Brad Barnham who started in September
- Hiring Adam Pierce of Ignite Niagara Security Services
- The developing Diaconal Ministry
- Hiring Matt Gillard our Lay Pastoral Associate
- A successful "Silent Bazaar"
- A highly successful "Joyful Giving" and "Home for Hope Building Fund" Campaign

Meeting dates of Parish Council are found in the Saints Connection and are open to members of the congregation. Meetings are chaired by the Rector.

Respectfully submitted, Liz Cunningham

Anglican Church Women (ACW Dorcas)

Due to the pandemic, our annual "Baby Shower" in support of the Community Care layette program was cancelled. Although we were unable to solicit items from the wider congregation, we were however able to donate a number of items that were created during the year by our members: 50 baby blankets; six full size blankets and 30+ knit or crocheted baby afghans. These items were dropped off at Community Care in September and gratefully received by their director, Betty Lou Souter. Betty took a photo of the items and included mention of our gift in the Community Care newsletter.

This spring we know it's unlikely we'll be able to hold an in-person event but we are hoping to solicit layette donations for drop off, perhaps in the church parking lot, and then hold a "virtual" Baby Shower on Zoom to celebrate.

Respectfully submitted, Evelyn Thompson

Columbarium Committee

One double and one single niche were sold in 2020. The west wall has three banks of niches and these were purchased in our bicentennial year. There are 1 double niche and 31 single niches available for purchase in this west bank. Because of the need for double niches, an additional bank located in the north wall was purchased in 2016. This bank has several units available for purchase and the south wall was built to accommodate another bank. As a result, there is no need for immediate expansion unless it is deemed financially advantageous.

Respectfully submitted, Sue Arnedt, Chair

Community Social Justice and Outreach

During the course of 2020, some committees temporarily suspended monthly meetings and got straight into action mode! 2020 called many of us to show up where and when needed and to carry on. The need did not stop as the world seems to have done sometimes. The social justice and outreach team is now comprised of four team leaders with various callings: Anita Djurkovic, Chair, Lorenzo Cromwell, MJ Schmidt and Matt Gillard. With God's help, we will water the seeds of our outreach ministry to flourish in this dynamic community.

As a team, we have committed to supporting each other and each ministry. This "Disturbance of Deacons" is ready to get to work; to always be reminded of the greater good; and to always check in with God, not ourselves when choosing to bring next steps to life. May God continue to bless this ministry and all it serves.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Djurkovic

Golf Day Committee

The St. Georges Golf Day Committee had a quiet year last year with the impact of the COVID-19 virus. Our golf day, normally scheduled for the first Monday in June, was cancelled. Given the uncertainty about what public health regulations will be in June, the Committee decided to postpone this year's event as well. We are hopeful that perhaps a socially distanced golf day may be possible in September. Watch the Saints Connection for announcements.

Respectfully submitted, Paul Chapman and Vic Cicci, Co-Chairs

Indigenous Water Project Annual Report 2020

"When we started it was a drop in the bucket, just one small community. Now it is spreading. The support for the gift of water keeps spreading, helping more and more people." – Archbishop Mark MacDonald, Indigenous Anglican Church of Canada

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

The generous offerings and training of previous years make it possible for the community of Pikangikum to move to the next phase on its own. Plans have continued to be underway in Pikangikum throughout 2020 in order to equip more and more homes with clean, running water, using financial resources raised in past years. It is also good to be able to report that Pikangikum was able to institute early and consistent public health safety measures, which have allowed Pikangikum to stay mostly Covid-free, as well as to continue important offerings of church and other meetings in a safe way. Suicides have been significantly reduced this year as well in the community. The school remains closed at this time, and so we pray for its safe reopening in 2021, as well as for the leadership of all of those who are keeping the young people connected and cared for at this time.

That being said, COVID-19 has certainly posed significant challenges in Indigenous communities across Canada. Increasing isolation and diminished community resources have been a tragic cost to trying to keep COVID-19 at bay. Our Indigenous networks hear of youth suicides and overdoses on a daily basis. The resources that they would normally bring in to help communities cope, including pastoral care, can't be brought in because of COVID-19. Across Indigenous communities is a tsunami of pain, grief and difficulty.

In order to expand our work in response to these urgent and widespread needs, we were grateful to be able to pivot our fundraising in the fall of 2020 to a new partnership between PWRDF and Water First, an organization that addresses water challenges in Indigenous communities in Canada through education, training and meaningful collaboration.

Our goals:

- Help Water First Identify and support Indigenous youth (with a gender balance) to gain relevant skills and hands-on experience in the operation and maintenance of drinking water infrastructure in their local communities
- Create supportive mentoring networks for Indigenous youth through Water First's Alumni Network
- Work with Indigenous youth to help solve water challenges in their local communities, build confidence, and deepen their connection to the land and their community.

Each dollar donated goes toward training and supporting Water First's interns during 15 months of in-depth hands-on training. St. George's raised \$5682.00 in 2020 towards this expanded work! Thank you for your generosity, which offers life-changing opportunities for young people and contributes to many Indigenous communities having access to safe, clean, living water.

"You anoint my head with oil and my cup overflows" –Psalm 23

Respectfully submitted, Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic

Stewardship Committee

The year 2020 forced the committee to rethink our campaign. The whole premise behind the Joyful Giving Relay was for people to pass the information package along from home to home as a baton is passed in a relay race. However, COVID-19 and the requirements of social distancing made that impossible.

Instead, committee members folded and stuffed the pledge forms and information into envelopes to be delivered through the mail. With the help of the Communications Committee, we created an online alternative for those who did not want to mail back their pledge forms. We engaged our marvelous team of Route Managers to call

each household to explain the new format of the campaign and answer questions.

St. George's parishioners responded generously despite the challenges that many of us faced last year. We received 174 responses with pledges totalling \$416,309, an increase of \$18,034 from the prior year. There was also \$10,592 pledged to the Home for Hope Building Fund.

We have been blessed to be able to continue to worship throughout the pandemic. We look forward to the day when we can once more come together to share communion and give thanks for this community of St. George's.

Submitted by Nora Jenter, Committee Co-Chair

Advent Café



In January, we gathered in the warmth of the Bear's Den for what seemed like the start of another wonderful year of Advent Café. Who knew that, in just a matter of weeks, we'd be dealing with the effects of a global pandemic?

By the end of March, we gave thanks for the ongoing work of Rev. Scott and his dedicated tech team. While many churches were struggling to find ways to

bring their worship online, we were already in good hands as we moved into our full-time live stream format. To make the best use of the technology, we moved our services into the main sanctuary.

Even though our worship was now happening in an empty church, there was nothing empty about it. Our music- and prayer-leaders continued to fill the sanctuary with praises and laments. We grieved the suffering in our world, and gave thanks for God's grace and faithfulness. We started to receive notes and emails: "Hello from my living room in Thorold!" "I'm worshipping with you from Alberta!" "I'm not a church-goer but I loved watching your service tonight!" Over the airwaves, through the tools of technology, God was working to connect us all in worship.

In the fall, we moved back into the beautifully renovated Bear's Den, complete with a brand new sound system! The fall also marked the start of Dessert and Dish - Rev. Martha's interview series. These intimate conversations feature a local or homemade dessert, inspiring us to enjoy the sweetness of life. Rev. Martha brings in a variety of leaders and lay people, sharing their journeys of faith, their experiences in lockdown, and their hopes for the future of the church.

On November 25, we marked a special milestone - the 5th Anniversary of Advent Café! Gerald and I were honoured to lead the music for this special night of worship. We chose songs that were sung at that very first service, as well as songs written specifically for Advent Café over the years. Members of our congregation submitted written memories of how Advent Café has blessed their lives. Our clergy and deacons wove these special testimonies between the prayers.

After the service, Rev. Scott, Brad Barnham, Gerald and I joined Rev. Martha for a special edition of Dessert and Dish. We shared how Advent Café has inspired us, and our dreams for our worshipping community. We greatly miss our Advent Café family!

We are so very thankful for each of you, and we pray you are staying safe and well. We give thanks for the loving and prayer-filled leadership of Rev. Martha and Rev. Scott. We offer a special welcome to music director Brad Barnham! We are grateful for all our music leaders, guest musicians, deacons, tech volunteers, hospitality hosts, lay preachers, prayer leaders, scripture readers, and everyone else who has been part of our worship this year.

In January, we gathered in the warmth of the Bear's Den for, what seemed like, the start of another wonderful year of Advent Café. And in its own special way, it was still a wonderful year. To God be the glory!

Submitted by Allison Lynn (Infinitely More)

Lay Pastoral Associate



Hello everyone, I'm Matt. In November 2020, I started working at St. George's as a Lay Pastoral Associate. I feel extremely privileged to have been welcomed into such a wonderful parish community. I'm sad that I haven't had the opportunity to meet more of you in person, so I would like to take this opportunity to tell you a little more about myself.

As we get to know each other, you will find that I am very curious with a love of learning, reading, and art, and that I deeply love people with all the life stories that they bring. When this pandemic is over I am really looking forward to meeting more of you in person.

Since I connected with Martha back in the summer, I have had the opportunities to lead parts of Sunday worship, offer Christian education, attend various committees, and participate in various forms of outreach. I am very thankful for these opportunities because they have enabled me to speak with more of you through means that also care for each other through social distancing.

So far, the Christian education programs have included sermon feedback groups and book studies. The first book study was on vocation, and the second looked at the use of Icons in the Christian tradition. Although I love learning, I have great compassion for the struggles that can occur with it because of my own challenges with Dyslexia. Therefore, when I offer Christian education I am committed to trying to make it accessible and fulfilling for any who want to participate. In the coming year, I hope to lead more of these discussion groups as an opportunity to meet more of you.

Art is one of those gifts that have been particularly important to me, and it is a gift that I like to offer back to the community when the circumstances are appropriate. Sadly, the art classes that I offered at the Step Centre haven't been able to occur, due to lock down. I hope that all of you have some form of creative outlet to sustain you through our current isolation. Along with encouraging you to pursue it, I hope you will tell me about your interests when we are able to talk

As we continue to meet the world's current challenge, please know that you are in my prayers and I am looking forward to talking with you in person as soon as we are able. Please stay safe, and keep well.

Blessings, Matt Gillard

Community Dinner Program



The Community Dinner program started at Grace Anglican Church in May of 2014 and was discontinued after an attempt to offer it at St. George's. Dinners were restarted in May 2018. We served six dinners in 2018 with a mix of those who brought the experience of previous dinners and those desiring to serve in a new way.

In 2019, we started a month earlier to coincide with the end of the Out of the Cold dinners and served about 600 people.

Then came 2020. With the planning underway for our first dinner in April, the March lockdown happened. Working together, we switched to bagged take out dinners. Many of our recipes from previous years did not work but we were able to agree on recipes that would work well as a takeout meal and were budget friendly. Containers were purchased and the logistics of preparing, cooking, and serving were worked out so that no more than three people were in the kitchen or the Swan auditorium at one time so that physical distancing could be practiced.

Volunteers stepped up and we served almost 550 meals. Although we maintained contact with our guests, the sense of community was lost both by the guests who could no longer sit and enjoy their meal and by our

volunteers who worked in managed shifts and did not have the same contact with each other. COVID-19 changed us. We served almost 550 people over the seven months including some leftovers that were repackaged as lunches and distributed the next day at the Breakfast Program. Our guests were so appreciative of the meal and as there was a consistent need for dinners, the weekly Grab and Go Dinner group was formed as a separate entity.

In previous years we had received the proceeds of The Spring Frolic to help us fund our program. With COVID-19, that event did not happen. The generosity of our parishioners made up the difference as over \$1,700 in donations was contributed. We also received fresh fruit, bottled water and ingredients for our dinners from the caring community here at St. George's. All these contributions meant that we were able to provide meals and still have a healthy surplus to start off next year. Even with the disposable containers and bags which we purchased, we were still able to provide a dinner including a main course, fresh salad, roll, juice, and water for just over \$2.00 per person.

The volunteers did not meet as a group to get together at year end as we had last year for fellowship, pizza and some fun and games. We will return in April 2021 in whatever format is allowed and build on the relationships which we have established over the last three years. We look forward, not sure how far forward, to returning to a sit-down format and would love for others to join this worthwhile community initiative.

Respectfully submitted, Ann Koppel, Convener

Social Media

How fun was the connection on Social media over 2020? St. Georges church has had a very vibrant and visionary social media over the past four or five years. So I was very excited when Reverend Martha asked me if I would be a contributor to the church's online presence. Little did we know that in 2020 the internet would become such an anchor. Sharing and posting on the social media platforms of Facebook and Instagram has offered to bring us together. We have continued to ebb and flow with this past year's trials as well as the treasured moments.

Social media conversations can lead to wonderful connections inside our beloved church and well beyond its walls. A community of new friends and faithful have joined in from faraway places. This earth of ours is not that big anymore; we can come together over little devices and computer screens and feel God's loving presence. Thank you for commenting and sending "Amens" and "I needed this." Thank you for laughing along with silly humorous cartoons. To see some statistics from our social media accounts, please see the page 31 of the vestry report. I look forward to bringing this connection closer in 2021, new initiatives and tried-and-true alike.

Respectfully submitted, Anita Djurkovic

Marathon Bridge

Our marathon bridge started off with great enthusiasm. There were 14 Teams, mostly members of our Church. Our fee per player was \$15.00. We play once a month from September to April, each taking a turn in our homes hosting.

Unfortunately, this year was cut short with only one couple completing their schedule as one of the players was going on a wonderful cruise. The Corona virus descended upon us and games were not completed. We took a poll and decided our winnings would be donated once again to the Breakfast Program.

We were saddened to have lost Bill Ryman, he was an ardent player and he will be sorely missed by all.

Respectfully submitted, Gini Rigby

Revive



The purpose of Revive is to reignite a close and intimate relationship with God so that this relationship can continue to grow and deepen within us. We are all at different stages in our journey of faith and of knowing God more intimately. This program helps us come alive in our relationship with God. It truly is a profound and transformative experience.

Revive is a 10-month program contained in 3 modules. It uses a combination of sequential videos along with small group discussion and work sessions. Module 1 is communicating with God, largely through prayer. Module 2 is engaging in Scripture through an overview study of the Old and New Testaments. Module 3 culminates in our responding to the call to Ministry of Stewardship within and outside the Church.

I personally found Module 1 with its focus on prayer to be very helpful to me. Being able to have a personal conversation with God, as well as being able to lead a group in prayer for a particular moment or event, is very satisfying.

A new Revive series is expected to start in the fall of 2021. If you are interested in joining this wonderful program, contact Reverend Martha.

Respectfully submitted, Dave Bingham

Social Media Statistics—St. George's Facebook and Instagram Accounts

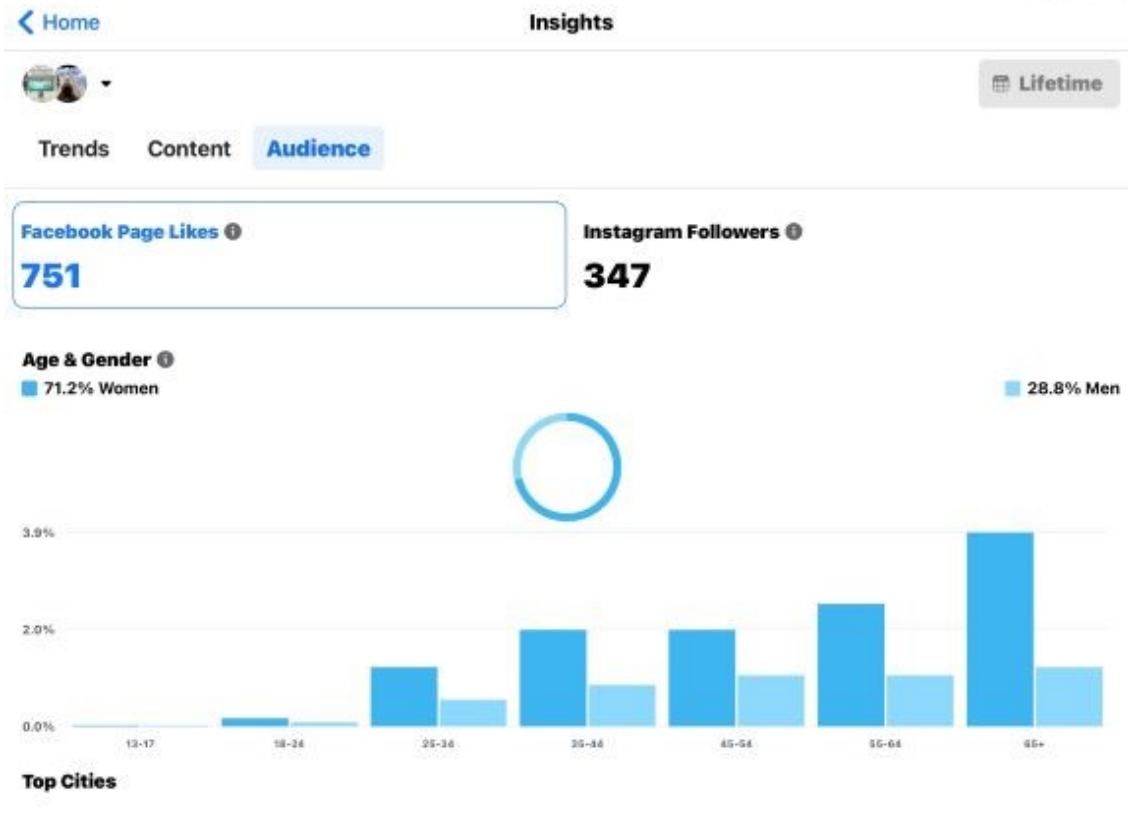
1:17 PM Mon Jan 18

70%



12:17 PM Mon Jan 18

75%

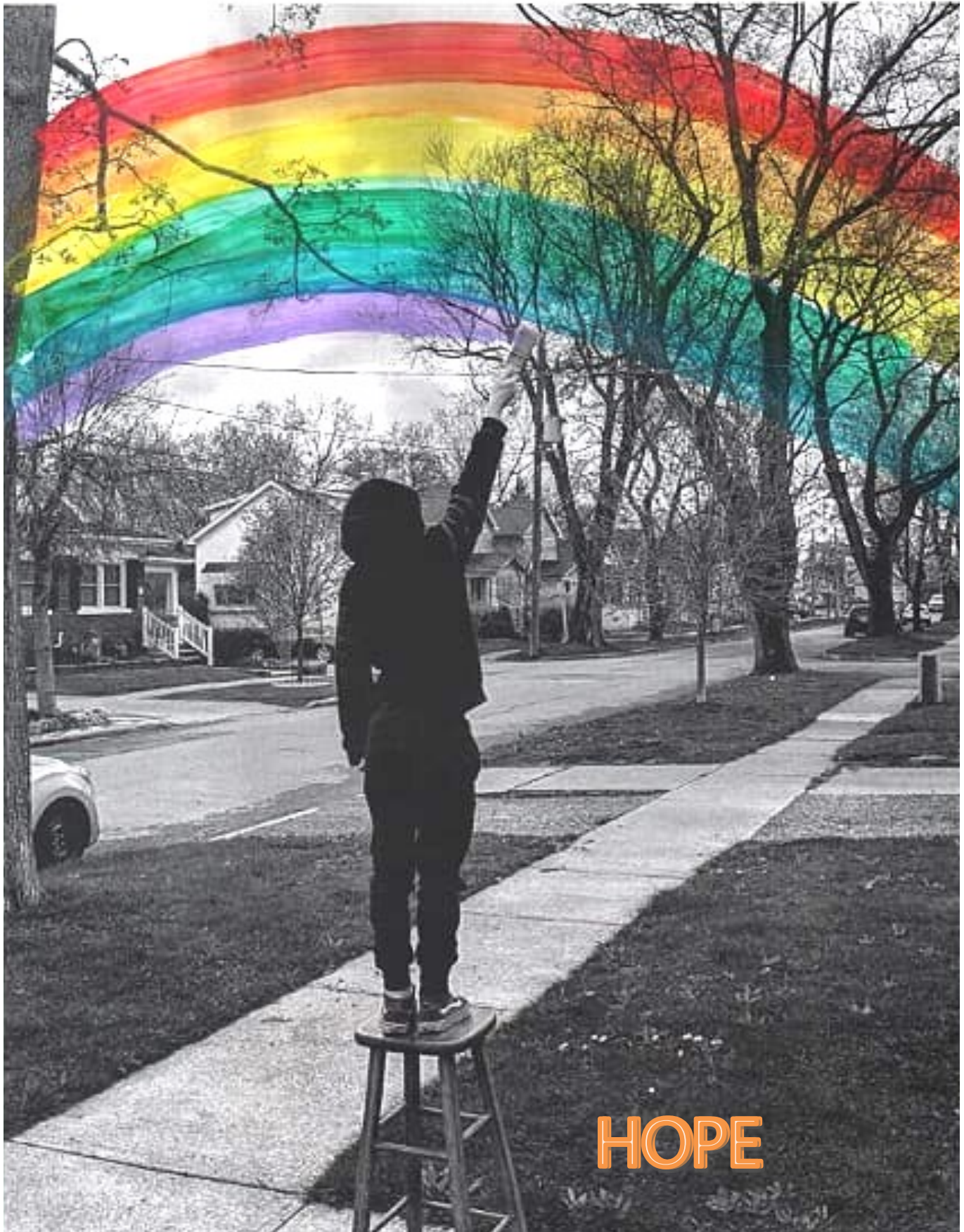


IN MEMORY OF
Those in our community who have died this past year:

Clifford Reid (Kip)
Nancy Cameron
Kathleen Lane
Esther Rose
Elizabeth Christensen
Dorothy Pilcher
William Heatherton
Dorothy Dundas
Bev Williamson
Joyce Marks
Sheldon Fulton
Barbara Brown
Joan Wilson
Pamela Cicci
James "Jim" Jones
David Court
Joan Sinton
Bruce Tweddie
Norma Didemus
Fred Kingsley
Nancy North
Ann Novis
Mary Frances Richardson
Raymond Nield
The Reverend Canon Paul Brillinger
Jim Burke
Bob McDonald
Patricia Marsh
Dianne Lucas
Marilyn Farner
Clifford McMillan
Mary Coates
Bill Ryman
Alice Murray

Rest in Peace But Not Forgotten







**THANK YOU ST. GEORGE'S FRONTLINERS
FOR YOUR DEDICATION AND HARDWORK.
GOD BLESS YOU ALL!**



COMMUNITY



