



VESTRY REPORT 2024

FEBRUARY 23RD, 2025





Dear St. George's,

"It is such a beautiful church." This is a comment that I hear regularly from parishioners, visitors, guests, and passersby alike. This is a multi-layered comment. It's about the aesthetics of our church—the wood carvings, the historic architecture, the intricacy of the stained glass, the quirks of hidden doors and secret hallways. Each bespoke feature of the building says something about the history of this city and community of faith, about how God has been experienced at work in the lives of the faithful, about inviting people here and now to pause in their busy lives and to contemplate, to pray, to wonder, to look beyond the everyday and consider the presence of the living God. Each generation that has gone before us has invested in architecture, artisan and artistic works. In doing so, they sought to give expression to their walk with God, and all of those contributions have added up to a building that is completely unique and that is priceless because it could never be replicated.

But those comments about the church's beauty say something more. You don't have to spend very long in our church building to get a sense of presence, prayer, service, witness. I say it all the time, and so do others who have lived in and loved this church: It is a thin space. The bricks and mortar have soaked up something of the prayer and praise and friendship and community that has been shaped and offered here. It feels just a little easier here to feel God's closeness. I can just about see out of the corner of my eye those faithful friends whose lives were so intimately woven into the fabric of this community, whose imprint helped to shape who St. George's is, and whose voices are surely now joined with the saints in heaven and gathered even more fully around God's great banquet. When we are here, they don't feel so far away.

And finally, the beauty that people name isn't just about how the church looks and what it has done in the past. The beauty is about the here and now engagement with the most critical needs and greatest challenges people face. It's about doors open every day of the year to offer food and welcome to the people of St. Catharines. It's about bells ringing and organ pipes filling, words and songs being lifted up, people gathering and livestream connecting, oatmeal cooking and coffee percolating, so that we can wrap our community in prayer, so that people of all ages can bring the heartbreaks and challenges and deepest questions of life and be met by the love and promise and guidance of God.

This coming year will be about many things, particularly as we continue to develop our four ministry priorities of Outreach, Fellowship, Music and Youth. We look forward to the many spectacular offerings of our choir, the developing voices of Little Dragons Children's Choir, the creative opportunities for faith exploration at Advent Café and our various studies. We seek to be faithful in how we show up every day ready to serve our

community and bear witness to God's love in concrete ways. We expect to have new ministries develop as we attend to God's leading in our community's life.

And supporting all of the things we are continuing and developing will be our Restoration Project, which is this generation's invitation to care for the gift of faith that has been passed on to us, and to leave our imprint on this building so that it can strengthen faith and equip loving service now and for generations to come.

The scaffolding is going up on the day that I write this letter. This work will take us through the first half of this year and will repair historic woodwork and stucco on the exterior of our church, as well as preserving it against wear and tear and damage for the years ahead. It is a massive project, and it is a sacred responsibility for our community today to be able to treasure the gift of this church, giving thanks both for what we are doing now and investing in the future to come.

This time last year, and based on our best projections, we forecast this work costing us \$434,000 and were able to budget to pay for this from a generous bequest the church had received. Because of escalating construction costs generally, and the expertise required to work on our historic building specifically, we had to enlist the support of St. George's to approve an extra \$200,000 for this work. Money has started to come in to address this shortfall. Some people are choosing to make a memorial donation in thanksgiving for a loved one. Others are choosing to make an offering directly to the project and simply in recognition of the value they place in this church and what it means. The year ahead will see that invitation to giving at the forefront of life at St. George's. It is our hope and prayer that both the people of our church and the wider community will take stock of how God's blessings have been made known in the beauty and the resource that is this church building and that we will have more than enough financial resources to equip this exciting and important work.

Please join with us in considering that beauty that is always noted when discussing St. George's. What beauty do you feel and experience here? How do you see faith strengthened, loving service equipped and a history of Christian witness in St. Catharines made possible in this beauty? How can you be part of this generation's sacred responsibility in caring for this building—now and for generations to come?

The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic +





Dear St. George's

When I say thank you to parishioners, one of the responses is often "Oh, it's nothing, really!" It occurs to me that we frequently overlook how something seemingly small can be seismic in touching lives with the love of God.

Malcolm Gladwell's book *The Tipping Point* examines how small things can end up having a massive impact. He reflects on how a stone thrown into a pond leads to ripples that extend to the water's edge or how fashion trends lead to significant shifts in style. Throughout the book he explores how the smallest things lead to the biggest results.

In a Christian community, we might feel like a phone call, work on a committee, or contributions in a meeting are small things. But they all have ripple effects here at St. George's, and beyond, for God's kingdom on earth. These gestures contribute to the beautiful life in our community as followers of Jesus. These moments are grace-filled moments, when God's goodness and love flow. It's beautiful and it's generous, and it's all about making those ripples that spread God's love.

As I reflect on 2024 in our beloved community, I see countless ways we can experience God's grace. Perhaps it's during a hymn with the organ building to a crescendo; at the breakfast program when observing an act of kindness; or within the parish office when an unexpected note arrives. These are just a few of the ways God pours blessings upon us as we create that ripple effect.

We create this ripple effect via a spirit of cooperation, which I see throughout our community. An example of this cooperation can be found in the formation of the Little Dragons children's choir. An animation team worked with Brad to do the groundwork to launch the program while Tanya and Melissa supported Brad on Thursday night rehearsals. With a team approach, there has been a strong beginning to the program. And, again, it's the little things that end up being seismic in their impact, furthering the kingdom beyond our community.

We continue to see this theme in the four pillars of outreach, music, youth, and fellowship. From two rectors working in tandem, to our staff, wardens, and parish council working together, there are so many instances in which we cooperate together to further the kingdom within our community. May I say that it continues to be an honour to share in ministry here and to serve as co-rector of this beautiful community.

Thank you to everyone who contributes to building this Christian community, creating ripple effects that lead to profound impacts in the lives of all God's people.

Blessings always,

Tom+

NEWCOMER'S AND CONCIERGE REPORT



What does it mean as a congregation to demonstrate radical hospitality?

We can ask questions such as:

How do we invite people into our congregation?

How are we helping newcomers feel comfortable in our worship?

How are we inviting new people to experience Christian life among us?

Our newcomers' program in 2024, run by the support of the Reverend Alan Maclean and Sandra Legarde, met every few months and hosted lunch after worship. During the lunches, name tags were issued, pizza was served, and we invited everyone to introduce themselves. We also provided space to talk about how God is at work in our lives. We frequently heard common threads such as the steady hand of God, as well as the disruptive Holy Spirit breaking in when we least expected it! The clergy present at the lunches took the opportunity to share how we were led to St. George's and our experience of feeling honoured and privileged to be clergy at St. George's.

I often ask myself, when people visit on Sunday, what are their expectations of the experience? My assumption is that they wish to experience God's loving presence, to be welcomed graciously, and to be given assistance in navigating the practical matters of worship.

Thinking of these practical matters, in the fall, we made our latest addition to our newcomers' program by introducing a concierge ministry. With Lindsey Wilton's organization, this new team has been equipped to greet visitors on Sunday by beginning with a friendly message during the announcements; the team keeps an eye out for any needs during the worship service, such as worshippers arriving through the side door who need a bulletin. The team members keep in mind the questions posed above and look for opportunities to create a welcoming, inviting worship experience.

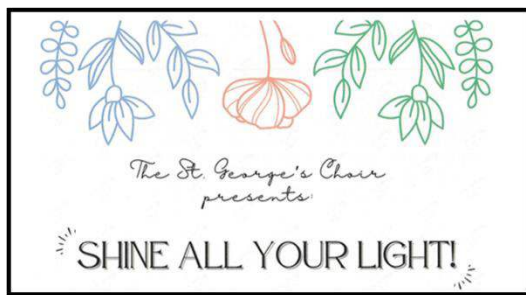
The concierge ministry is one example of the radical hospitality all of us are called upon to provide. We all have a role to play: the clergy, the staff, and parishioners all have opportunities to practice this radical hospitality, through the example set for us in Jesus. The next time we're at coffee hour and we see someone standing alone, can we hear God nudging us forward to offer a smile and friendly words?

As a community, let us continue to be guided by the Holy Spirit so that we can offer radical hospitality to everyone who enters the doors of St. George's!

The Reverend Canon Tom Vaughan, Co-rector

The Music Ministry of St. George's Anglican Church

For the music ministry and the choir of St. George's, the past year has been a delightful expression of community, worship and joy. Meaningful services, concerts and fundraisers were met by an enthusiastic congregation/audience, symbolizing the foundational significance of our music program in the parish but also in the community at large. It has been deeply encouraging to witness the growth of the choir and the music program, and to be supported by so many parishioners, clergy and community members, consistently showing up to the choir's events and giving support in a myriad of ways.



The year's achievements, accomplishments and highlights included a full roster of festival services including a fulsome Holy Week (featuring choir, soloists, brass, timpani and organ), Remembrance Day Requiem (this year featuring the Faure Requiem with strings and organ), and one of the year's biggest highlights - Lessons and Carols,

welcoming a full church and offering a wide variety of Christmas carols and anthems to ring in the season. Many said it was one of their favourite Carol Services they've ever attended, and the choir worked incredibly hard to offer something special to the community. We had three Christmas Eve services that were all well-attended, with special musical offerings at each.

A new and exciting endeavour this past term has been the launch of the "Little Dragons Children's Choir", which, since starting in June, has already seen numbers upwards of fifteen and counting. The mission of "The Little Dragons" is to engage children and youth in a free, inclusive and affirming musical community, with the aim of improving musical skills, and providing opportunity for the children of our city. The 4pm Christmas Eve service marked the choir's first performance, which was received by an enthusiastic congregation of family, friends and parishioners. 2025 will see the continued growth of "The Little Dragons", and we look forward to welcoming more choristers and providing our congregation with more musical offerings.



Last spring was the inaugural “Shine All Your Light” fundraiser concert in benefit of the music program of St. George’s, which was a rousing success. We filled the church with an enthusiastic audience, and the choir sang a selection of varying lighthearted and fun pieces, interspersed with dazzling solos, duets and small group performances. The talent on display was inspiring and the concert was a testament to the dedication of this choir and the support received by the community. We raised around \$4000 for the program and look forward to the next one this coming spring.



2025 is brimming with possibility and many exciting plans are on the horizon. Upcoming highlights include plans to host a regional church choir workshop, a new choral scholar mentorship program, more substantial engagements with the Niagara Symphony Orchestra and other regional arts organizations, Evensong collaborations with Christ Church Cathedral and the Royal School of Church Music, new grant opportunities with the support of the Diocese of Niagara and the Anglican Foundation “Say Yes to Kids” campaign, and of course, more engaging music and worship offerings to our city and our church.

By: Brad Barnham, Director of Music



The Choir of St. George’s and their beautiful performance of the Faure Requiem for Remembrance Sunday.

Assistant Curate



The most significant event for me in my ministry and personally was my ordination to the Priesthood in September. Thank you to all of you who showed me so much kindness at the time, it really meant a lot. The most obvious way that this has changed my ministry is that I began undertaking sacramental ministry, principally presiding at the altar on Sundays and Wednesday. I also had the privilege of baptising for the first time this December. Less noticeably, I am able to anoint and lay on hands when visiting people. Visiting continued to be a major way that I used my time over the last year and one that gave me great joy. All this is in addition to the activities I began as a deacon and lay pastoral associate such as preaching and leading morning prayer.



I continued my involvement in the Breakfast Program: I was a host every Wednesday and have been a member of a team that volunteers on the first Tuesday of the month. Along with the Co-Rectors I was a pastoral presence in the Swan on Sundays. I enjoyed the company of many of our guests who made time to talk to me. If nothing else I hope I have brightened the day of a few people and helped in the work of creating a generous and welcoming space, which is the core mission of our Breakfast Program. I also assisted Duncan and Nancy Moffett in organizing a monthly service of worship for guests. The face that God shows to the world in Jesus is one of compassion; when I am visiting and helping with the breakfast program, I have felt closest to Jesus, and for that I am very grateful.

I continued conducting a monthly service at Henley House, a long-term care home. In 2024 I was joined in this work by MJ Schmidt, who brings many gifts to this ministry which is greatly appreciated by the residents who attend.

I continued assisting with the leadership of Super Tuesday; I led the study of the Bishop's Lenten Book, Being Disciples: Essentials of the Christian Life by Rowan Williams. In Easter I helped Alan McLean lead a book study on God and You: Prayer as a Personal Relationship, by William A. Barry. In the fall, along with the Co-Rectors, I helped lead our discussion on the TV series The Chosen. I always look forward to our Tuesday night discussion, often I end the evening seeing the topic we discussed differently than at the start. I also shared in the leadership of the Families Group, which is now a lively community of young parents who get together monthly to enjoy food and each other's company and to discuss God and life together.

Additionally, I contributed through my membership on the Visitors Committee, Social Justice Committee, and the Prayer Chain.

By the time you read this it is likely that my appointment as your Curate will have concluded and I will have moved on to a new parish. I arrived at St George's in April 2022, first as Lay Pastoral Associate. I am very grateful to the investment you made in me and my ministry over that time. Moreover thank you for making me and my family so welcome here. I am much more myself for having been formed by this parish. If my future ministry is in any way useful, a large part of it will be because of what I have learnt from this warm and vibrant community. I will always carry a bit of St. George's with me and I will look from afar with joy and gratitude as you continue to be a home for hope in St. Catharines.



Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Degan

Wednesday Noon Service

The Wednesday noon hour Service has been a fixture at St George's for many years. Largely staffed by Honorary Assistants, it was traditionally held in the chapel until COVID intervened when it was transferred to the chancel so that it could be video-recorded. We have remained there and online since that time.

We offer an abbreviated version of the Book of Common Prayer Communion service with a short homily, and we have a faithful and varying group of attendees.

We are grateful to Rev. Mike for his tech support, to the ubiquitous MJ for her reliable diaconal assistance and to the Altar Guild for their ever-faithful service.

With Rev. Mike's departure to his own parish in the near future, we need to decide whether to continue in the chancel or return to the chapel since tech. support for our online presence will become an additional budget item once he leaves St George's.

Marion Vincett, Hon. Ass't.



Children and Youth Programming

Sunday School

We decided this year that children and youth programming was one of our four main focuses on rebuilding. We made many changes to try to implement growth and continued success. During the Pandemic, when we returned to church our numbers in the Sunday school classroom were 0-3 usually. However, by the end of 2024 we averaged 9-15. Definitely quite a drastic change in numbers. Some of the changes that we have made to our children and youth programming are monthly meetings: I meet with clergy members to go over schedules, plans and ideas. We support each other and use this time to implement new ideas and strengthen the current ones.



We have also brought back Children's Liturgy. We have made some changes; however, we are getting the children involved in the service during this time. We had the Sunday School participate each Sunday of Advent, by lighting the candles and listening and participating in a brief lesson from our Clergy team.

We have also started a children's choir. "The Little Dragons". Brad and I are running this program as a team. We meet weekly, practice music and play games. It has been a great success so far. 9-13 children in attendance weekly. We had our first performance at the Christmas Eve family service.

When we have a Baptism at St. George's, I am part of the preparation for the Baptism. This allows me to meet the family, discuss our children/youth programming and show them the classroom and make connections. I then follow up afterwards with information regarding upcoming events and dates.

We offered Communion classes this past year. We had 3 participants. It was a great success. This will be offered again in the spring 2025.

We had a very successful Vacation Bible School "VBS" this past summer. We had 15 children attend, 8 of those children had never been to St. George's before. We also had 4 youth helpers for the week. It was wonderful. We also had 3 of those attendees join the children's choir.



We have continued our Family Group as well. Meeting monthly, with pizza, learning and the parents getting time to discuss a book and enjoy fellowship with one another. The children get time to play as a group. A very high energetic evening. This program has grown well, 4-6 families per month.

Overall, we have come a long way with our Sunday school program. So many more exciting things to come.

Youth Group



Our youth group has grown as well. We have 4-8 for most events. We have a very exciting new initiative program for our youth. We have amazing basketball nets that were so graciously purchased from a generous donation. This has allowed us to begin basketball programming, excitement, fun and exercise. This game has not only built stronger bonds with our current youth group but has also allowed us to bring in new youth that do not normally attend St. George's. The adult versus youth basketball games have been such a great success and we plan to continue this healthy competition for years to come.



We offered Confirmation classes as well and had 3 youth confirmed in October. Such a celebration. Our group had a successful hike this past fall, with Jim Streadwick as our leader. It was so fun and engaging. The group dynamic was fabulous. We had 8 youth and 7 adults and 1 dog join in on the walk. We are so thankful for that time spent together as a group.

Our youth group will continue to meet for fun events, basketball games, and helping out at the Church. The bond the youth have has grown so much this year. One of our very own youth said, "Our group is like a family"

We are very thankful to the support from our St. George's community. The children and youth feel supported, and we are very appreciative for the kind gifts, time and care.



Tanya Schleich
Children/Youth and Family Coordinator

St. George's Church Marathon Bridge 2023-2024

This year we have eight very enthusiastic teams playing bridge. We would love to have more join us. We play seven times a year, usually September, October, November, December, March, April and May. We take turns playing at each other's homes. There is a fee of \$15.00 per person. We take the winnings out of that and give the rest usually to the breakfast program.



This year we were able to give them \$175.00. You don't need to be a member of the church to play so if you know someone who is a bridge enthusiast, please ask them to join us. It is an entertaining afternoon of bridge, fun, and fellowship.

Respectfully submitted,
Gini Rigby

Christmas Bazaar 2024



I am delighted to present the vestry report for our Annual Christmas Bazaar, a festive and community-centered event held on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 10:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. This report highlights the remarkable collaboration, dedication, and generous spirit of our church community, volunteers, and donors.

Overview:

The Annual Christmas Bazaar once again proved to be a remarkable event, bringing together members of our church family and the broader community in a celebration of the holiday season. This year, under the dedicated leadership of Bazaar Chair Cheryl Bergie and Memory Lane Café Chair Celeste Allyn, the event utilized all our lower-level hall spaces, creating a warm and welcoming atmosphere filled with laughter, goodwill, and the true spirit of Christmas. A notable new addition this year was a silent auction featuring a stunning nutcracker display and a beautiful Christmas village, which added a unique and festive touch to the event."



Key Achievements:

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to the volunteers and donors who's generous contributions of time, talent and treasure were instrumental to the success of the bazaar. Their support not only elevated the quality of the event but also amplified its positive impact on our community.

Dedicated Volunteer Support:



The success of the bazaar would not have been possible without the unwavering dedication of our volunteers. From setting up and taking down booths to managing activities, coordinating parking, assisting in the kitchen, serving, providing tech and audio support, contributing creative ideas, and handling advertising, their tireless efforts ensured the event's smooth execution. We are profoundly grateful for their commitment, hard work, and enthusiasm.

Community Engagement:



The bazaar provided a wonderful platform for community engagement, welcoming parish members past and present, neighbors from the community, and individuals visiting our beautiful building for the first time. It also offered attendees the opportunity to learn about the positive impact their support has on our parish and the broader community.

Financial Impact:

The funds raised during the Christmas Bazaar will be instrumental in supporting us in our ongoing ministry and community outreach initiatives. The financial success of this event is a testament to the generosity of our community members and their heartfelt commitment to making a meaningful difference in our parish and in the lives of others.



Next Steps:

As we look ahead, we will build upon the success of this year's Christmas Bazaar by leveraging our experiences, celebrating our achievements, and addressing areas for improvement. These efforts will help us create an even more vibrant and successful bazaar next year.

Gratitude:

In conclusion, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to everyone who contributed to the success of our Annual Christmas Bazaar. Your generous support not only filled our event with joy and fellowship but also strengthened our church community by fostering connections and contributing vital financial resources. We are deeply grateful for your involvement in making the bazaar such a meaningful success.

Submitted by: Cheryl Bergie



Labyrinth Vestry Report 2024

“And when you turn to the right or when you turn to the left, your ears shall hear a word behind you, saying, ‘This is the way; walk in it.’” (Isaiah 30:21)

In the fall of 2024, regular monthly labyrinth walks resumed after a pause during the years of Covid.

Walking the labyrinth is the spiritual discipline of setting aside a time and a space to walk meditatively with God. The labyrinth at St. George's is a large, 40' diameter canvas pathway modelled after the labyrinth in Chartres, France. It is not a puzzle; it is a single path to be followed to the centre and then out. Many people can journey at the same time but most often each is on their own personal journey. It can be a time of prayer, meditation, relaxation and spiritual refreshment.

The themes of spiritual journey and following God's way are common in the scriptures. Our faith journey is seldom a linear process. The twists and turns of the labyrinth can represent our faith journey and facilitate our prayer and reflection.

The labyrinth group meets monthly from September through May on the fourth Saturday afternoon of each month. In September and May, weather permitting, the group uses an outdoor labyrinth in the community to provide a different experience. This year we added a walk on May 4 in recognition of World Labyrinth Day. This is a day when people around the world walk a labyrinth at 1:00 p.m. in their respective time zones, a moving meditation for world peace.

While each person's journey is an individual one, we begin and close the group with prayer and a reflection or scripture reading. This past year we also introduced the concept of walking with a common intention. We dedicated one walk to an intention we developed together. Labyrinth walks are facilitated by Stephanie Wilton-Duncan or Deb Kostialik. We are extremely grateful to Jim Jenter for liaising with St. George's and for his guidance in setup and clean up.

New walkers are always welcome, and brief instruction is provided as needed.

Submitted by,

Stephanie Wilton-Duncan

MEAL KITS – 2025 - Supporting Community Care

In 2020 Anglicans in Action (six Anglican Churches in St. Catharines) led a community-wide response to help address food insecurity in Niagara with the Meal in a Bag project. Five churches now Involved are Church of the Transfiguration, St. Barnabas, St. Columbus, St. George's, and St. Thomas. Each week volunteers pack bags at home or in a church group then deliver them to Community Care at 12 North St. St. Catharines or Community Care in Thorold for distribution to their clients. The easy-to-prepare recipes with the food provided in the bag can be prepared either in an oven, or on a stovetop, and will feed a family of four. A copy of the recipe is included in the Meal Bag. Each recipe closes - Packed with loving care especially for you by Anglicans in Action ENJOY! Since 2020 through the end of 2024 up to 177,504 individuals have been fed. In 2024 the bags have fed up to 55,324. Of these St. George's produced 2,496 bags feeding up to 9,984 Individuals.

Another Meal Bag Project of Anglicans in Action – Single Bags



In the fall of 2021 Community Care made Anglicans in Action aware of the need for a food bag to feed those who are single and who had nowhere to cook food and often no utensils. These bags required special care as the food must all be packaged but only accessible for those eating it. A single bag was decided with items that could be eaten without having to heat it and if in a can it is easy to open. This means flip-top cans of meat, beans etc. a spoon and a napkin. In 2024, 5096 bags were done feeding 5096 people.

This program has also brought community and fellowship to some of the volunteers as they work together to shop and make bags. The program is Christ's love in action.

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

Jan Kaye

St. George's Dinner Club

2024 was the 36th anniversary for St. George's Dinner Club. This past year, 52 parishioners were members of the Dinner Club.

In May, members and soon-to-be members meet for a potluck supper at which the names of the next year's groupings are drawn. The Club's new year starts in September.

Three or four couples meet in each other's homes three/four times over the coming nine months. The food preparations are shared by all so that the work does not fall on one couple. The result is a series of opportunities to enjoy delicious meals while, at the same time, becoming better acquainted with one's fellow parishioners. A couple may be a married couple or a pair of friends. Single folks are very welcome too.

New members are always welcome. If you would like to join, please come to the reorganizational potluck in May. You do not need to be a gourmet cook to enjoy this Club!

Respectfully submitted,
Grace-Ann Cambray, Convenor

St. George's Travel Club

Now in its 26th year, the St. George's Travel Club affords parishioners, their families and friends the opportunity to go on a variety of day trips.

The musical genres of this year's trips were very diverse. In February, Cherish the Ladies transported us to Ireland through their virtuosic instrumental talents, beautiful vocals and stunning step dancing. Our trip in April took us from the streets of New Jersey to the Rock and Roll Hall of Fame, as we followed the career of the Jersey Boys. With the music of Irving Berlin, White Christmas filled us with the hope and joy of Christmas. And tap dancing. Wow!!!

Dieting is not an option on our trips as we eat well! What a pleasure it is to leave the driving to the professionals.

If you have an idea for a trip, why not share it?

Yours in learning through travel,
Grace-Ann Cambray

Bishop Beattie Fellowship Report



The group enjoyed a busy and entertaining year. At our first meeting in March, we enjoyed a slideshow trip to Canterbury and the Cotswolds presented by Lois Marsh Duggan. Our April meeting was cancelled due to the eclipse but at the May meeting we had the pleasure of hearing from Father Tom about his life and career. We were moved by the inclusion of members of our group who passed on when the new altar linens were blessed. Our group dinner in June was held at

Johnny Rocco's, a good time had by all. In September, we had our corporate communion, always a beloved part of our fellowship, and Alice Degan talked to us about her career as an author. We have enjoyed Alice's participation in the group and will miss her company very much. At our October meeting, Bishop George came and regaled us with many anecdotes and life lessons learned from his years of service to God and the church. Linda also joined us for a very pleasant evening of fellowship. November's meeting, as always, was given over to make gift baskets for the bazaar. Thanks to all who stepped in to help in Sue Chapman's place, and our prayers go out to Sue and Paul. The December meeting was a Christmas party held in the lounge with Brad providing some lovely caroling accompaniment for us.

Our group meets 8 times a year, the first Monday of the month, March to June and September to December, to enjoy good fellowship with one another and to expand our knowledge through speakers and other activities.

Respectfully submitted by,
Tina Valenteyn, President

COMMUNITY DINNER PROGRAM REPORT 2024

The Community Dinner Program is part of the meal ministry at St. George's. It is a free meal for anyone who wants to participate, no questions asked. It is also an intentional time of offering a tasty meal using dishes and tablecloths in a friendly caring space.



We held 7 monthly dinners from April to October, on the fourth Wednesday of each month. This year we had over 400 guests and served over 650 meals, a decrease in the number of guests and the number of meals served over 2023. A program organized by NorthEnd church operating out of St Barnabas Church offered a meal each Wednesday. It is our belief that this impacted on our numbers. Out of the Cold took over in early November. We will return in April 2025.

Since this program started at St George's in 2017, we have served 4,400 meals. The Program carried over from Grace Anglican Church and many of our volunteers today worked on the program there. There was a short break in the program in 2016, but it came back in 2017 and has been evolving since. Again, this year, we attempted three front lawn BBQs in conjunction with Advent Café. Unfortunately, rain derailed all our efforts to serve on the front lawn,

Our average cost was \$2.50 per meal, an increase from \$2.15 in 2023. It is because of the generous donations of food for our meals and planning of meals around food sales, that we were able to operate the program on what is today, a reasonable cost. Each month our parishioners donate fruit which is so enjoyed by our guests.

A team of volunteers is a joy to work with. We who serve are a community and we serve a community. We highly encourage anyone in our St George's community to join us for these dinners and to be part of how we create a warm and welcome space in our church around the gift of food.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Koppel, Coordinator

RECTOR'S STATISTICAL REPORT 2024

Rector's Statistical Report 2024 St. George's, St. Catharines

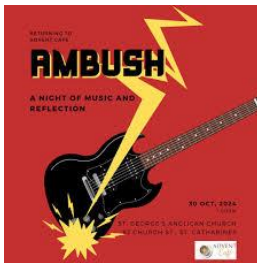
	2024		2023	
Households on Parish List	322		323	
Number of Identifiable Givers	257		288	
Baptisms	9		11	
Confirmations	3		0	
Marriages	3		1	
Funerals by St. George's Clergy	14		24	
	In Person + Live Online	Post Service Online	In Person + Live Online	Post Service Online
Average Sunday Attendance	180.18	182.58	170.5	95.7
Average Weekday Attendance (Weekly)	50.68	81	72.6	75.1
Average Total Attendance	231.42	256.54	243.1	170.8
Christmas Attendance				
Christmas Eve- December 24	444	217	403	204
Christmas Day- December 25	34	86	23	54
Total	478	303	426	258
Triduum & Easter Attendance				
Maundy Thursday - March 28, 2024	118	103	103	102
Good Friday - March 29, 2024	116	124	101	80
Easter Vigil - March 30, 2024	86	140	64	91
Easter Day - March 31, 2024	279	475	306	369
Total Easter	365	615	370	460

Advent Café, Annual Report 2024

I often say that although I am not a member of St. George's Church, I am a member of Advent Café. I am not an original member, but certainly one of the very early ones.

I have been part of the planning and execution of Advent Café for quite a few years, and I have seen interest and participation wax and wane over that time. It seemed we had a good thing going for a while, with a steady group of attendees, including many from the Out of the Cold program, and then, of course, Covid-19 caused a global shutdown of in-person gatherings, and Advent Café had to move to an entirely online event, with videos produced in our own homes, and after that, livestreamed from the Bear's Den with no audience in attendance. It never really recovered. When we were finally able to gather again in person, attendance was very poor. It seemed that perhaps Advent Café's time had come and gone. I think some of us (me included) were about ready to throw in the towel, but fortunately cooler heads prevailed, and instead of quitting we decided to revamp our offering.

Advent Café has always been about an alternative means of worship, and yes, it is worship, but not like Sunday morning. Advent Café is an offering for a different audience, a different congregation, St. George's or not, Anglican or not, and we don't want it to be just "one more church service to attend every week". With all this in mind, the Advent Café planning team (Martha, Tom, Brad, Greg, MJ, Allison, Gerald and myself, along with the input of a few others) decided on a new look for 2024.



We decided that Advent Café should be a monthly, rather than weekly, event. We decided to make it theme based. We decided to put the emphasis on the music, with narrative woven in between the songs to amplify the theme. Each month, we try to explore God's role in our modern world, and how we can live our lives mindful of our Christian faith, in today's social and economic climate. There is no longer an eucharist, no homily, nor anything much resembling a traditional church service apart from some prayers near the end. We bracket the evening with song, opening and closing with music, to try and establish a true café atmosphere. Sometimes we highlight a particular songwriter (e.g. Taylor Swift, Billy Joel, the Staple Singers), not just with random songs, but always an underlying idea that brings all the music together and illustrates some point of learning. Sometimes we use songs from various sources to highlight a theme (e.g. Anne Boleyn and her role in the creation of the modern Anglican Church). We have welcomed a new band, Ambush, into the rotation of performers. We paid considerable attention to promoting Advent Café via social media as well as word of mouth, and we emphasized a welcoming atmosphere for the attendees. We flirted with a post-café discussion group, then abandoned the idea. We put our heart and soul into this endeavour. What was the result?



Online attendance jumped immediately. The Taylor Swift Advent Café, for instance, had over 150 views within a few days, and attracted attention across the Diocese of Niagara (and beyond). In-person attendance built a bit more slowly, but build it did, and the last Advent Café at which my band (Tracadie Cross) performed, the Anne Boleyn themed night,

had arguably the best in-person attendance in many years. Each group of performers (Infinitely More, Tracadie Cross, Ambush, Brad Barnham) has developed its own following, but there is now once again a loyal group of attendees that come each month no matter who is performing. The technical aspects of the evening (sound, livestream, Powerpoint) are ably handled by Greg Maddison, MJ Schmidt, Lindsey Wilton and myself, with the occasional expert assistance of Shawn Clement. Music selection is done by the performers, and narratives are usually written by the performers with the assistance of Martha and Tom. A hospitality team ensures that coffee, drinks and finger foods are available and that a welcoming presence greets our attendees at the door.



It is clear to me that Advent Café is undergoing a resurgence, with strong leadership from Martha and Tom and the entire planning team, and I am excited to be part of it. The planning team is now turning its attention to better promoting what we are doing. It was pointed out to us that, while people may be aware that there is an Advent Café on a particular Wednesday, they often have no idea what that means, nor what really happens in the Bear's Den on those evenings. To that end, we are planning a "Mini Advent Café" after the Sunday morning worship on February 9, 2025, as a bit of a demonstration project to try and entice more people to come out and participate.

It's a time of renewed growth for Advent Café. Those of us involved in producing it intend to grow it even further in the 2025 church year. We would love to see you there! All of which is respectfully submitted.

Brian Kerley,
Bandleader, Tracadie Cross





Tuesday Evening has long been a “study time” for the people of St. George’s. It was no different than usual in 2024. We had several diverse and well attended groups in the past year.

Martha led us in a multi week look at “Who was Mary Magdalene”. We looked at questions being raised by current biblical scholars who were asking just who Mary Magdalene was. She is a rather enigmatic figure who carries a lot of baggage through centuries of misunderstanding and misinterpretation. It was a very thought provoking look at this woman who could be described as the almost forgotten disciple. It became obvious to us that Mary Magdalene was one of the major followers of Jesus during his ministry on earth. For some of us it was a rather difficult study in trying to get our heads around so many new ideas. Whether we agreed or not with them all it was certainly thought provoking and we cannot look at Mary in the same way again.

We had two different groups going on concurrently in the winter and spring. Both Tom and Martha led us through a study of “Christian Basics”. Rev. Tom led one group which was reflecting on Daily Prayer while Martha led discussions about Basic Christianity using some of the thought-provoking videos connected to the Alpha Program. Tom rejoined that group after his prayer group was finished with their study. It was a good introduction or reintroduction to the main points of the Christian Faith. The discussions were fruitful and helpful for many of us.

While the Christian Basics group were meeting in the Bear’s Den, another group of us were in the Asbil Lounge with Mike Degan discussing Rowan Williams short book “Being Disciples”. It was not an easy read, but it occasioned worthwhile wrestling with the ideas of the former Archbishop of Canterbury.

Later Alan McLean led a reading and discussion of a little book by William A. Berry SJ entitled “God and You: Prayer as Personal Relationship”. It is a simple yet profound look at prayer, how we prayer, and being aware that prayer is based on acknowledging a relationship with God which develops and grows like any relationship. Many in the group found that it “demystified” and honoured the many ways we pray. God is there for us however we consciously do it. It was very reassuring for some of us, and a helpful reminder to all of us.

Finally, in the Fall of 2024 Tom led us through some of the videos from the series “The Chosen”. Although we only did the first season of the videos it gave many of us a new and imaginative way to think about the story of Jesus and the people he encountered.

You can see that it was a busy and varied year in our learning together. We are fortunate to have such rich and varied learning opportunities at St. George's and I look forward to all we have to offer in 2025.

Daytime Bible Study

Our daytime Bible Study continued throughout 2024. We have a good group of around 12 – 14 people who read various books of the Bible together and discuss them. It does not presuppose any deep theological or Biblical knowledge, just a curiosity to read God's Word together and talk about what it might mean to us in our lives. During 2024 we read several books from the Old Testament Apocrypha, and we then moved to Genesis and then Exodus. It is a friendly and welcoming group, we often find ourselves talking about our faith without judgement in a spirit of support and friendship, often with much laughter. Everyone is welcome to attend. It is held at 10.30 AM on Wednesday morning. We would love to see you there.

Alan McLean

Extramural Worship

Those of us who are able to attend regular worship at St. George's really appreciate the communal worship life that we experience there. Our Sunday Morning liturgies with the Eucharist, our Wednesday Noon Eucharist, our occasional Evensong or other special liturgies are important to all of us in our faith journeys.

I am grateful that we also remember those people in senior residences of various types who are unable to go out to worship with others. They are often people who have had a rich and meaningful church life in their past, but it is no longer an option for them. A group of people at St. George's are trying to ameliorate that situation with regular extramural worship services at some of the local residences in the church's surrounding area.

Monthly worship services are held at Tufford Manor, Henley House, Ina Grafton Gage, Loyalist Residence. This includes both Eucharist or Prayer Services. They are very much appreciated by the residents who want to continue to have an active and supportive communal spiritual life. Involved and leading in those services are Rev. Martha, Rev. Tom, Rev. Mike, M.J. Schmidt, Valear Howsam and Alan McLean.

I would also be remiss if I did not mention the videos of the 10 AM service which Janet Veale shows to her neighbours in Heatherwood. There is also an "in person" communion service at Heatherwood twice a year.

I am grateful to be part of a parish that tries to respond to the faith needs of those who are unable to attend the church building in person.

Respectfully submitted, Alan McLean

Community Breakfast Program at St. George's Church

With the hard work of over 175 volunteers, breakfast was served with kindness every morning in 2024 to all who came, no questions asked. Thanks go to all who contributed and responded with generous donations of money, food and service.

In 2024, we served an average of 91 guests daily (a total of 33,379) up from a total of 31,340 guests in 2023. Our budget for 2024 was \$90,000 and we did exceed that number by about \$18,000, however as we received donations of over \$95,000 and had a surplus in 2023, the Program is in good financial shape. The Program is entirely funded by donations of money and food from many donors including many St George's parishioners who have continued to support the Program over the years. Continuing with the tradition, we have neither sought nor received any money from any level of government.

Major changes to The Operations Team occurred in 2024.

Marilyn and Sheldon Pettit retired from the Purchasing Team mid-year. We thank Marilyn and Sheldon for their many visits to Giant Tiger, picking up bread and rotating stock.

Alyssa and Donald Sewell and Nancy and Duncan Moffett joined the Purchasing Team.

Duncan Moffett retired as Program Chair after 5 years in the role and a total of over 12 years' service to the program. Duncan provided leadership during a time of change, COVID requiring a change to service at the door and then hybrid versions finally returning to in person dining. Duncan led with clear direction with no break in breakfast service.

Faye Perkins assumed the role of Treasurer, January 15th, joined by Dianne Chisholm. They managed the transition of the banking to Meridian Credit Union and installed QuickBooks to manage the finances. The banking transition has allowed the Program to receive and make payments through e-transfers, an especially important feature during the recent postal strike.

Kelly Bailey took on the Chair's role, effective January 1st. A Search Committee selected Kelly from 5 candidates. She brings a high energy level and a passion for our work.

Dawn Peters is now working with Nancy Moffett to take over the Volunteer Coordinator Role. Dawn is Team Leader on two teams and is a very energetic volunteer who is always willing to step in and help wherever needed.

Paul Chapman stepped down as Publicity and Fundraising Co-Coordinator. Paul led successful cereal drives over the years and was always able to get publicity for the program. His efforts are missed.

Duncan continued to lead short church services with one of the clergies monthly. Guests arrived early as we opened our doors for coffee and a snack at 7 AM. Guests sang and prayed with our leaders.

In 2024 we increased our monthly donation to St George's to \$1,000 (a 54 % increase). This is provided as our contribution towards the support we receive from the Church, particularly the janitorial services so cheerfully provided by Jordan McArthur and his assistant Dale.

We begin 2025 with new leadership and confidence. February marks the start of our 30th year of operation and we will be celebrating all our volunteers on February 17th at a Gratitude Breakfast Event. We are truly blessed.

Kelly Bailey, Breakfast Program Chair

Ann Koppel, Co-Chair

Stewardship Committee

The annual Joyful Giving Campaign provided opportunities for parishioners to participate at meetings to hear about the wonderful work happening at St. George's and to share their comments. The Stewardship Committee helped to arrange and host the meetings assisted by our dedicated route managers who called each household to invite them to attend a meeting where they received their Joyful Giving packages. They also helped to distribute packages to those who could not attend. My sincere thanks to the Stewardship Committee members and all our route managers for their work on this campaign.

The St. George's congregation responded generously as they always do. With 130 pledges returned, the responses totalled \$232,770, an increase of \$12,274 from the prior year. One of the projects discussed at the meetings was the Restoration project. It is important that we maintain this historic building to ensure it can be a place of worship and hope for us and for future generations. Generous donations totalling \$9,070 were pledged to support this work.

St. George's is blessed that we continue to draw new people to our parish. In this secular world, we thank God that St. George's continues to grow and flourish through the generosity of our committed church family.

Submitted by:

Nora Jenter, Committee Chair

Ad Hoc Finance Committee

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

We had an interesting year with the focus on the budget and the work needed to be done on the restoration of our church building. We are thankful that for the most part the Markets have done well during 2024. This has allowed us to draw on the interest earned in our Trust funds to help with the church projects.

It is with great sadness that I mention that Tom Lewis, one of our members has died. He will be greatly missed.

This past year, we were also able to have a Review of our Financial Statements available for our Vestry Meeting.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank our committee members, Chuck Burke, Corwin Cambray, Jim Jenter, Sandra Legarde, Bruce Whitehouse, Paul Chapman, Rev. Tom and Canon Martha for their support, time and valuable input. Our committee is always looking for volunteers. If you are interested or would like more information, please contact Rev. Canon Martha, Paul Chapman or Marilyn Pettit.

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Sidesperson's Report

The members of the assigned team arrive at St. George's Church half an hour before the service is to begin. Each team member gathers the material that the people will need for the service and goes to a transept door entrance where they will welcome the arriving people. They are also available to help with the opening of doors, helping with wheelchairs or walkers, giving directions or answering questions that people may have. During the offertory hymn the assigned Sidespeople for that Sunday, aid the Wardens by taking the collection at the side isles. At the end of the service, they help with the clean-up of the pews.

This year we had ten teams participating regularly as Sidespeople, allowing for a commitment of five to six times during the year. If you would like to be part of our welcoming team, we are always looking to increase our numbers.

I want to thank all of our Sidespeople for their willingness to assist in welcoming our parishioners each Sunday, and also for their cooperation and help when it comes to scheduling. It is a privilege to be a part of this enthusiastic and eager group.

Respectfully submitted,

Marilyn Pettit

Visitors Group

The visitor group works in conjunction with the clergy to ensure that all members of our parish who are unable to attend regularly scheduled worship services or request a visit, receive at their discretion, a personal visit at their residence or in hospital. Our goal is to share the spirit and fellowship that we all enjoy as members of the St. George's family. All visits are kept in confidence.

It is with deep regrets that we have had to say good-bye to a few of our long-time members of this year. They will be missed as members of our group and most of all by those they faithfully visited.

The clergy as well as two team members are designated hospital visitors. They minister to those in the St. Catharines General Hospital and the Hotel Dieu Shaver Health and Rehabilitation Centre. Visits usually last from a few minutes to an hour, depending upon the patients wishes. Members of our group also visit in the parishioner's homes or in the senior and long-term care facilities where they live.

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

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

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Dialing Disciples

Dialing Disciples began in 1996 to share information and to keep in contact with all parishioners in a personal way. Twenty-seven members of our congregation have volunteered to faithfully call the people on their list. Each list contains eight to ten people from our congregation. Parishioners are called about three times a year, with updates about the life and events happening in the church.

If you are interested in becoming a Dialing Disciple, please feel free to contact me. This is a rewarding and fun way to meet and chat with parishioners you may not have a chance to talk with.

I would like to thank all the faithful callers who participated this year, your calling is greatly appreciated.

Submitted by Marilyn Pettit

Property Management Report 2025



I would like to thank Gina not only for her work on the committee and the restoration project but for her assistance while I transition to committee chair.

I would also like to thank Sheldon Pettit for his participation on the committee in the past years.

We have two new members to welcome to our committee this year, David Bell and Bill English, welcome gentlemen.

We have 10 members, and we try and meet monthly although we do discuss issues as they arise throughout the month.

I'd like to thank all members on the committee for their input, guidance and hands on approach to the maintenance of St. George's church.

It's been a long year preparing for our large restoration project with many discussions on all the logistics and sorting of bids. Thanks to the committee for all their work.

We have entered 2 new service contracts this year, one with Carrier for our HVAC system and one with Regional Fire Service for our fire alarm system.

Although we approved a budget for insulation of 2024, we have put that on hold until the exterior renovations are done.

With the assistance of Neil, the memorial garden lighting has been updated.

Our fire alarm system and extinguishers have been brought up to code specs, thank you Peter.

We have had the structural remediation in the Bears den completed.

We have replaced several furnaces this past year and thanks to carrier and David we now have an accurate list of all our HVAC equipment so we can monitor required maintenance and replacement in the future.

We will be getting the fence line on the east side of the property replaced in the spring, it is owned by the City of St. Catharines, and they will be doing the work.

We had the lighting arrest cables that were stolen from both sides of the steeple replaced.

A new countertop was installed in the kitchen as well as a new dishwasher.

A new sink and hot water tank were installed in the Montessori school

Submitted by Property Management Committee chair

Terry Colburn

Sharing Food and Making Memories

Throughout the bible we see the idea of sharing food. It brings people together, it is used in celebrations, it creates and strengthens the bonds between us.

In January, we began the year with the celebration of our Co-Rectors. Bringing together not only our parish of St George's, but with people from across the diocese. Throughout the year we have celebrated many special occasions including birthdays, Reverend Mike's ordination to priesthood, and honouring Bek who received the youth award.



A wonderful tradition here at St George's is Soup Sundays. After many years of this special ministry our faithful soup leaders (Sue and Paul Chapman, Lydia & Doug Galloway) decided it was time to retire and pass on torch. It was taken up by Linda Potter with great support from many who love this tradition.

While at the core our Soup Sundays remain the same, there are some new things happening. We have tried to connect some of them with other things happening. In December it lead into our Wassail party with an afternoon of singing Christmas Carols and enjoying sweet treats at the Wassail Party.

In May, we celebrated the Community Baby shower with lunch and sweet treats. It was a beautiful display of generosity looking down the wall at all the donations of clothes, blankets, diapers, and so much more that was given to community care to be shared with the newest members of our community.

Over the summer months, we celebrated the blessing of living here in Niagara with BBQ's and fresh local fruit grown in our community. We began with strawberries in June, then raspberries in July and peaches in August.

In September, we opened our doors to our community on the day of the Grape and Wine Parade. The plan was to again set up on the front lawn with the front doors open to welcome everyone in to see and hear the beauty of our sanctuary. With so much rain, we had to quickly change our plans, and like last year it turned out better than we could have hoped. While we had to cancel the bouncy house, we brought everything else inside. We served hot dogs and popcorn in the link, and ice cream at the back of the church with Lucy bringing a smile to all she served. We welcomed hundreds into our space, and it was filled with an offering of beautiful music of the organ, piano and singers. Our space was also enhanced with the joyful sounds of happy chatter and laughter.

Feeling so blessed to have shared meals with you all and looking forward to many more coming.

Submitted by MJ Schmidt

French Elite Montessori (FEM): Nurturing Bright Young Minds



French Elite Montessori (FEM) was born from the passion of its headteacher, Madam Annick, for Montessori pedagogy and her deep love for early childhood education. FEM offers a nurturing environment that respects each child's individuality, rhythm, and developmental stages, all within a fully bilingual English-French environment.

With the support of St. George's Church management team, FEM took its first steps in September 2024 with five children. Since then, a few more preschoolers have joined our growing community.

Rooted in diversity and guided by Montessori principles, Madam Annick believes that every child is a shining star—unique and precious. Together, as parents and teachers, we have the privilege and responsibility to nurture these young stars so they can shine brightly into the future.

While we remain at your disposal for any question you may have, all forms of support from the St. George's faith community are always very welcome and deeply appreciated. www.FrenchEliteMontessori.ca

2024-2025 Vestry Report-Brotherhood of Anglican Churchmen (BAC)

BAC has recovered in the last year and half since COVID. We have had an average of approximately 20 members come out at each of our five meetings in 2024 and 18 for our first meeting of 2025 on January 14. We also have an excellent new caterer Lidia , who provides excellent meals for us. An example is a full roast beef and ham dinner with salads, potatoes, carrots , mixed vegetables, buns and dessert for just \$30 dollars. We charge our members \$35 to cover all costs. We have also started a volunteer system where 4 or so members volunteer to help set up and clean up. It is working very well. Many hands make light the work.

Our membership is around 35. We are eager to welcome any men of the Parish or their friends, who would like to join us. Normally meetings are five times a year on the second Tuesday of October, November, January, February and April. The remaining meetings will be: February 11,2025 (Lois Marsh Duggan and Paul Welford who founded an organization to protect members of Life Lease Agreements); in April Andy Holman (who is a teacher of Canadian History in Boston, on the Life of an Ex-pat in Trump's America); October 14, 2025 and November11, 2025, speakers to be announced.

The BAC welcomes new members. Please contact the BAC through St. Georges office for contact information (905-682-9232).

The executive is: Tom Owens (905)-934-4239 e-mail towens@sympatico.ca Dave Smith (905) 641-3454 e-mail dgsmith1917@hotmail.com

Ron Duggan 905-328-4808 e-mail marsh-duggan@sympatico.ca

Respectfully submitted Tom Owens

Prayer Chain Vestry Report For 2024-25

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

Prayer Chain currently consists of about five 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 confidential. Information is only disseminated among the group. We try to individually pray daily and include the names of our petitioners in our prayers.

Those who would like our prayers may request help from us directly or through a person they have designated, such as a member of the clergy. They may give us as much or as little information about the person we are praying for. We do ask that petitioners keep in touch with us and let us know of any changes or when the situation has been resolved. If you wish to contact the Prayer Chain; please speak to Martha or Tom or other clergy or call any of the following members of the Prayer Chain: Tom Owens 905-934-4239; Rev. Alan Mclean 905-562-6713

We normally meet in person every few months and keep in contact by phone and e-mail in between. We would like to thank those members who were in the group but who had to leave us to look after themselves, their loved ones or moved on to other endeavours during 2024. We welcome any new members who have faith in prayer.

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

Be At Peace –Carol’s Prayer:” Do not look forward in fear to the changes in life. Rather look to them with full hope as they arise. God, whose very own you are, will deliver you from them “



Respectfully Submitted by Tom Owens

Coffee Hour Report 2024



Coffee Hour was held in the Asbil Lounge on regular Sundays. Teams of 3 or 4 individuals would arrive early and go in to do the set-up prior to 10:00am Service. Weekly the cookies and sweets provided a quick treat with the Tea and Coffee, and juice. Celebration of special events Cakes marked the day. The fourth Sunday the team assigned would take the Coffee Tea Service downstairs in the gym for the Soup Sunday's and Summer BBQ's in 2024 we had two new teams volunteer to take their turn at Coffee Hour. We are still looking at expanding our teams. If you are interested, please let me know. Please remember that the costs of coffee hour supplies and sweets are offset by the donation box. Sincerely Effie Ditiello, Dianne Chisholm

St George's Altar Guild Vestry Report 2024

The Altar Guild is a ministry of Service.

The current membership is 20 active members and 2 associate members. There are 4 teams in the Altar Guild, each team is responsible for one week's service a month. The duties include setting up the Eucharist for Sunday and the following Wednesday, dusting and cleaning the Sanctuary. Great care is taken in the laundering of the worship linens (Purificators, corporals, lavable towels, and altar cloths.) Another duty is cleaning and polishing the brass and silver.



Under the guidance of Mary Crawford memorial flowers are ordered and arranged weekly for the Altar and there is also a festival team that decorates the church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. In June, we meet for a luncheon and invite the clergy and clerical staff.

The Altar Guild is eager to welcome new members. I congratulate our members on their continued dedication to the ministry. Our sincere appreciation to the clergy for their understanding and guidance.

Thank you to Linda Telega and Jordan MacArthur for always being available to assist us.

Respectfully submitted
Sharon Crane, President



Departed Members and Friends 2024

We remember, by name, those in our church who died this past year. We remember those in our community, particularly guests of our Breakfast Program, who have died this past year.

*Ivan Little
Peter Horne
Marilyn Prentice
Peggy Kingstone
Betty Jean Gray
Jackie Burton
Colin Ford
Muriel Mines
Betty Beachin
John Chapman
Dorothy Sadler
Eleanor Brown
Sharon Marshall
Rob Dundas
Peggy Pickett
Fred Hanan
June Livingstone*

*Mary Ann Krajewski
William Wakley
Anne Spurling
Mario Aubon
Aliesha Catherwood
Stirling Clow
Eric Cromwell
Johnny Cronkwright
Judith
Tenille King
Donald Lunn
Crystal McDonough
Paul Osivu
Kayla Powell
Kylan Sirad
Lacy Villmae
Tom Lewis*



K.E.G.

K.E.G. – Knowledge Enrichment Group is a group of individuals (men and women) who meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month for fun, knowledge and fellowship. During 2024 we met 8 times with: Peter and Gina Schafrick telling us about “Nests”, their little houses; Cathy Mondloch, a Brock professor, discussing facial recognition; Detective Constable Chris Carter of the Cyber Crimes Unit of the Regional Niagara Police Dept. informing us about cyber scams; Paul Chapman spoke of the “Evolution of St. Catharines”; St. George’s staff members Rev. Tom Vaughan and Brad Barnham told us about themselves, their experiences, their hopes and goals for St. George’s; the other gatherings were games afternoons. This was our first full year of meeting. Our attendance was usually in the mid-twenties. We look forward to more gatherings of great interest.

Respectfully submitted: Vicky Bradshaw, Daryl Crosby, Lydia Gallaway, Valear Howsam, Ann Koppel, Pat Matheson, Penny Steinman, Janet Veale.

Warden’s Report

2024 has been a busy year for Wardens as we worked together with the Co-Rectors to meet the challenges of a very busy church in the downtown area of a city. The Wardens and Co-Rectors form the Corporation, an executive leadership group in the church. This group aids in the development of a budget, deals with personnel issues, manages church finances and assists in the running of the Sunday services. The Wardens in 2024 were Cheryl Bergie, Rector’s Warden; Janet Veale, People’s Warden; Tom Lewis, Deputy Rector’s Warden; Jim Streadwick, Deputy People’s Warden. The Co-Rectors were Rev. Martha Tataranic and Rev. Tom Vaughan.

One of our first challenges was to accommodate The French Montessori School. They rented the “Lower Broughall” with occasional use of the gym and began classes in September.

In the fall there was a meeting of the generations as the youth of the congregation challenged the staff and interested parishioners in a basketball game. On two occasions the youth beat the older parishioners who were certainly not disgraced. More games are to follow.

The wonderful music program expanded this year with the formation of the “Little Dragons”. Their first performance was at the 4:00 pm service on Christmas Eve. The choir under the direction of Brad Barnham continues to provide excellent music not only on Sundays but also at the Music Festival, The Requiem and the Lessons and Carols.

The ministries at St. George's continuing to reach out into the community of St. Catharines not only by serving breakfast every day of the year to anyone who comes but also through the Meal Bag Program and Community Dinners. People from the community join existing programs, Krafty Corners, K.E.G., Golf, B.A.C. and Bridge.

The most upsetting and saddest part of this past year was the sudden death of Tom Lewis, the deputy Rector's Warden in December. Tom was quietly present at all things whether it was church on Sunday, the Parish Council, Corporation, Committees or the basketball game Tom's presence was felt. He was well liked by all and there has been a deep sense of sadness and loss.

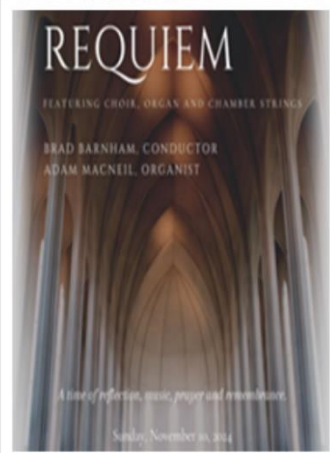
By the end of last year (2023) it was very apparent that St. George's needed to do a massive restoration of the church building. The wear and tear on the building by the weather and time was taking its toll. A committee was struck to investigate, and the corporation was presented with the facts. During 2024 the restoration of the church began. Architects were hired, contractors engaged, and funds began to be collected. Scaffolding is going up and work has started. St. George's is a vibrant part of St. Catharines, and its outreach program is felt far outside the walls of the building.

Monies are being donated to the Restoration Fund sometimes as a memorial gift and sometimes as people realize the positive effect St. George's has had on them and their families.

The Wardens would like to thank all the people, staff and volunteers who do anything at St. George's. We would not try to attempt or be able to achieve the many things that we do without your dedication. Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Veale, People's Warden



Blessing



Advent Cafe

2024 - GOOD TIMES



Game On

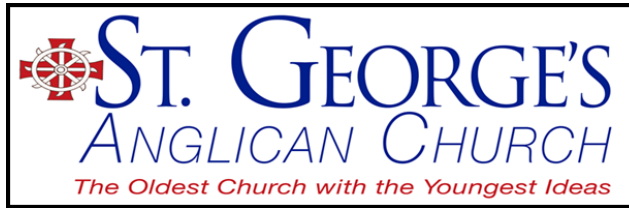


Coach



Bazaar 2024





THOMAS EDWARD LEWIS
(Deputy Rector's Warden)



“A true team player, always willing to lend a hand,” “Your dedication and passion for your work was truly inspiring,” a bright light in our office, your smile will be deeply missed.” “Your kindness and generosity touched everyone at Grace Anglican Church and St. George’s Anglican Church. “We will carry your legacy of excellence forward in everything we do.”

Rest in peace.