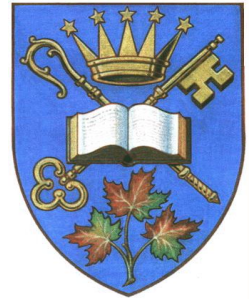




ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

THUNDER BAY—NORTH SHORE DEANERY
DIOCESE OF ALGOMA



ANNUAL REPORT + 2023

Prepared for: **Annual Vestry Meeting**
Sunday February 11, 2024



*We are Ambassadors for Christ, since
God is making his appeal through us.*

~ 2 Corinthians 5:20 ~



Our 2023 Vestry Book is dedicated to the Glory of God and
In Thanksgiving for the Gift of the Life of

Alison Louise Arthur

June 4, 1947 ~ August 13, 2023



“Whoever does the will of my Father in heaven in my sister.”

Matthew 12:50

An exceptional woman of faith, Alison’s warm and generous nature drew everyone to her. Her passion for “service over self” shone in her dedication to St. Pau’s as Warden, Lay Reader, Altar Guild Chair, and to the Garden Committee, Labyrinth and ‘Blessing Box’ ministries she founded. Alison was a devotee of life-long learning, a voracious reader and attender of Bible and Book Studies who loved to give her books away so others could enjoy them. She was also a gentle soul with the trick of putting everyone at ease and was special to many as leader, mentor, and friend.

Alison’s memory lives on at St. Paul’s in the hearts of all who loved her,
as her legacy lives on in the many ministries she loved.

Rest eternal grant unto Alison, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

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Who Are We?

Ambassadors for Christ.

What Is Our Purpose?

As Ambassadors for Christ,
we are called to bring our Lord's
grace, love, and peace to everyone.

St. Paul's CORE VALUES

"We are Ambassadors for Christ since God is making his appeal through us."

[from Paul's 2nd letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 5, Verse 20]

As pilgrims on a journey, we are committed to our Core Values.

1. We are committed to **faith in God through Jesus Christ.**
2. We are committed to **reaching out to the community** and the world in a relevant and meaningful way as compassionate Ambassadors for Christ.
3. We are committed to **bringing heaven down to earth**, and growing as a loving and joyful community of Christians.
4. We are committed to **providing opportunities for spiritual growth** for all ages and life situations.
5. We are committed to the Christian practices of **hospitality, discernment, diversity, beauty, healing, and justice.**
6. We are committed to **maintaining the awe and wonder of traditional Anglican worship and also to incorporating new traditions** into our worship that demonstrate that we welcome all people into our faith community.
7. We are committed to **celebrating and honouring major life passages**, such as baptisms, weddings, confirmations, and funerals.

**THUNDER BAY –
NORTH SHORE DEANERY
DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
ANGLICAN CHURCH
OF CANADA**

Archdeacon's Report 2023

Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2024

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work."

2 Corinthians 9:7-8



❖ **To all the saints in Christ Jesus who are in the Deanery of Thunder Bay – North Shore (adapted from Philippians 1:1)**

Every year in her episcopacy, Archbishop Anne prayerfully selects a motto for the entire Diocese of Algoma to follow. The motto for 2024 focuses on generosity and the sharing of the gifts with which we have been richly blessed. I encourage you to begin all your parish meetings (vestry, advisory board, committee) with a reading of the motto and a quiet moment for reflection. Ask yourself this question: Would I describe myself as a cheerful giver?

I will share with you the key events of 2023. Our Deanery is very active at the parish level and at the Deanery level. We are blessed with many Christ-centred and energetic leaders, both lay and ordained.

❖ **My Semi-Retirement!**

At the end of September 2023, I retired as incumbent at St. Paul's after a very blessed and fulfilling 18 years! I remain as Territorial Archdeacon for Thunder Bay-North Shore, and as Chaplain for the Thunder Bay Police Service. Although Jouni and I are still members of St. Paul's, I am now available to worship at the other churches on Sunday morning. This is a great privilege for me. I have enjoyed every worship experience and find each congregation is filled with many signs of the presence of God. Your love of God and your care for each other is very apparent. May the Lord continue to bless you and to uphold your faith community as you grow as disciples of Jesus.

❖ **Condolences to Gail Pell and folks at *Gathering Table***

Here is the message that Archbishop Anne posted on the Diocesan website on January 5, 2024:

It is with sorrow I announce that the Rev. Gail Clifton died in Thunder Bay Regional on December 27th, 2023. For a number of years Rev. Gail served as the Honourary Assistant at Gathering Table in Thunder Bay. In spite of a number of health challenges, she attended divine worship regularly, celebrating Holy Eucharist and preaching when she was able. She loved good liturgy and was a lifelong learner and frequent attendee at the online book studies which I held during the Covid years.

In her note to the clericus informing them of her death, Archdeacon Deborah wrote: "Gail was a beautiful priest, devoted spouse to Gail Pell, kind friend, wise teacher, and filled with a deep faith."

The incumbent of Gathering Table, the Rev. Ann Camber, will be presiding at Rev. Gail's funeral service when she returns from her Christmas break. "We pray for Gail (spouse) in her loss and are thankful for the years Rev. Gail was part of our parish."

Rest eternal grant unto Gail, O Lord, and may light perpetual shine upon her.

An update: Rev. Gail's funeral service was held at *Gathering Table* on Friday, January 19 at 11 am. Rev. Ann Camber preached and she and I co-presided.



❖ **Parish Vacancies**

With the exception of *St. Paul's*, I am happy to report that all of our Deanery parishes have clergy incumbents.

❖ **St. Paul's**

St. Paul's is blessed with a clergy team of the Rev. Nancy Ringham as Priest Associate, the Rev. Anne Carr as Deacon Associate, the Rev. Gordon Holroyd as Honorary Assistant and the Rev. Rob Smith as Preacher/Presider.

At the end of January 2024, the Concurrence Committee will be elected. I ask for your prayers for this new committee and for their hard work as they prepare the parish profile.

❖ **We welcomed two new deacons!**

We were blessed with the ordination to the diaconate of the Rev. Jan Latham and the Rev. Deborah Everest, along with the Rev. Thomas Ferris from the Sault, at the opening service of synod on Wednesday evening, May 10, 2023.

❖ **Congratulations to the 3 celebrations of new ministry in 2023**



April 30 ~ *Gathering Table* with Incumbent the Rev. Ann Camber

August 6 ~ *St. Mary's Nipigon* and *St. John's Schreiber* with Incumbent the Rev. Jan Latham (photo to the left)

October 1 ~ *St. Michael and All Angels* with Incumbent the Rev. Elizabeth Sipos

All 3 celebrations were filled with joy, laughter, and prayers. The new ministries are going very well, and bearing fruit.

❖ **Archbishop Anne's Visit in November 2023**

Following a mid-November Executive Committee Meeting in Sudbury, Archbishop Anne came to Thunder Bay for the weekend of Nov. 18-19. She met with church leaders at *St. Paul's*, did a confirmation at *St. Michael's*, and broke bread with the members (and spouses) of Deanery Council at a Nov. 19 dinner at the *Italian Cultural Centre*. Her visits are always very much appreciated.

❖ **The Ontario government released another Anti-Hate Security and Protection Grant**

St. Paul's applied for the grant and received \$7,500 to continue to upgrade security measures designed to keep people safe. The money will be used to purchase additional security cameras and lights around the perimeter of the church.

❖ **We had 3 Deanery Council Meetings in 2023 (February 25, April 15, and October 14).**

The first meeting was held on Saturday, February 25 at *Gathering Table* and it was a hybrid meeting between in-person and zoom. Our youth synod delegates were acclaimed at the meeting and two were able to attend ~ Hollie Davis and Anna DeVries.

Our pre-synod meeting was held on April 15 and we welcomed an in-person visit from our Diocesan Treasurer, Jane Mesich, and Vice-Treasurer, Jennifer Baron. They spoke about the diocesan budget and the financial realities that are facing Algoma. We pray that our parish finances will not decline so that our apportionments will continue to support the work of the Archbishop and the Synod office.

At the April meeting, we acclaimed Brenda O’Neill (*Gathering Table*) as a new Lay Steward. She replaced Lay Steward Dale Sparkes, who was at the end of his term. Continuing on as Lay Steward is Laurie Sandham (*St. Paul’s*). The Rev. Gordon Holroyd commenced his second term as Regional Dean and our new Chair of Deanery Council is the Rev. Canon Ed Swayze.

❖ **Rest in peace dear Dale**



On August 7, 2023, Dale Sparkes (of *Gathering Table*) passed away. Dale was a devoted husband to Sharon, a loyal friend to many, a man of faith, and committed to social justice. Dale served on many church boards and committees, including his time as Deanery Lay Steward. I will always cherish my time with him on the Episcopal Election Committee and on the Executive Committee. His wisdom, commitment to all his responsibilities and his laughter will forever remain with me.

❖ **Weekly Clericus**

Your clergy (incumbents and honorary assistants) continue to meet every Tuesday morning from 9 – 10 am by ZOOM. We worship together and then share updates and news. It is a great way to build our relationships and to stay in touch.

❖ **Deanery Council Missional Objectives for 2023**

The Missional Objectives for 2023 were developed by the members of Deanery Council at the February 25 and April 15 Meetings. Progress was reviewed at the October meeting.

Community Building within the Deanery

- Rebuild the Communications Committee with a rep from each parish. Deanery events and activities are to be communicated to parishioners through newsletters and announcements.

This initiative has started

- Plan an annual Men’s breakfast for all Deanery Anglican men.

The first Deanery Men’s Breakfast is scheduled for Saturday, Feb. 3 at St. Paul’s

- Plan a Deanery Day.

Scheduled for the afternoon of April 20, 2024 with Archbishop Anne as the speaker

Create a Welcoming Environment

- Support an Indigenous Gospel Jamboree.

The Jamboree did not happen in 2023

- Participate in the June 17, 2023 Pride Parade.

Completed. A number of Deanery Anglicans came out to the Pride Parade and participated with great gusto. We were joined by a Presbyterian group, under the leadership of Rev. Joyce Yanishewski.

Feed the Hungry

- Plant a row or an extra row of vegetables during summer 2023 and donate the produce to a local food bank.

A number of congregations and individuals supported this initiative. They grew and donated veggies and/or helped distribute food to those in need,

Some examples:

St. James grew and donated 74 lbs of potatoes to the Family Giving Centre at St. Thomas

St. Mary's in Nipigon donated two boxes of tomatoes, that they grew, to the local food bank in Nipigon

St. Stephen's and Gathering Table both had abundance at Harvest Thanksgiving to feed the hungry

- ❖ **Additional objectives, arising from Archbishop Germond's Charge, were passed at Synod 2023 and are for all parishes in Algoma**

That every parish in the diocese be expected:

To identify at least one area of formation or education which needs to be further developed in the congregation(s), bearing in mind the Archbishop's Charge for the parish ordained and lay leadership to take concrete steps to address the area(s) of development and to report to their Deaneries and to the diocesan office the step(s) they have already taken (or are committed to taking before the next diocesan synod); and that this reporting process on progress be undertaken no later than the next regular parish Vestry meetings in early 2024

That an Episcopal Fund Committee be established, consisting of at least one member from each deanery, to begin the work of resourcing a secure financial future of the episcopacy in Algoma. As *Thunder Bay – North Shore Deanery* members for this new committee, we have given the names of Chris Heikkinen and Canon Ed Swayze to Archbishop Anne. They were acclaimed at our fall 2023 Deanery Council Meeting and are looking forward to promoting the growth of the Episcopal Fund.

That every parish set aside a minimum of .1% of their annual budgets to support layreaders between 2024 – 2029. Please include this initiative as a separate line item in your 2024 budgets.

Bearing in mind the “Communion Forest,” we ask that each deanery provide some education about the Christian stewardship of creation; and that each parish undertake at least one initiative, before the next diocesan synod.

❖ In Conclusion

I am here to walk with you and to support you however I can. You are welcome to contact me anytime. Thank you for the warmth and love you continually show Jouni and myself. We are both very appreciative and very grateful.

May we always walk together in love and in the light of God.

God bless!

Archdeacon Deborah Kraft

Here I am walking
with my 6 granddaughters
July 2023 at our cottage
on *One Island Lake*



Primates World Relief & Development Fund

Carol Knox, *Deanery Coordinator*

Raising money to support national and international relief and development projects

Activities During 2023:

- ✚ during Lent, fundraising toward the purchase of a water truck for *Kingfisher Lake First Nation*
- ✚ presentation to 10:00 am congregation on the history and work of *PWRDF* and Deanery projects
- ✚ St. Paul's joined the special "**Wild Ride**" project for Refugee support in memory of Deanery Lay Steward **Dale Sparks**. 39 people and 1 dog walked from *St. Michael's* to *Gathering Table*, followed by a reception. Deanery target of \$5,000 dollars exceeded with a final total of \$5,065
- ✚ St. Paul's participated in a visit by *PWRDF* partner **Foodgrains Canada** by having a speaker at the 10:00 am service, followed by informal discussion over lunch.

Objectives for 2024:

- ✚ St. Paul's to participate in all *PWRDF* Deanery projects

Deanery Annual Lenten Retreat

Chair: Carol Knox, *St. Paul's*

Members: Janet Pike, *St. Michaels*; Rev. Ann Camber, *Gathering Table*; Christine French, *St. Paul's*

Activities During 2023:

- ❖ Silent 'Quiet Afternoon' held via ZOOM on March 25, with Sr. Doreen McDuff, *Sisterhood of St. John the Divine*, as leader. 48 participants from Dioceses of *Algoma* and *Moosonee*, half clergy and half laity

Aspirations for 2024:

- ❖ return to in-person day long pre-COVID format, if possible
- ❖ increase funding from Deanery Council from \$500 to \$750 for increased travel costs

Reflection Booklets

Carol Knox, *Editor*

Reflection Booklets for use during Holy Week and Advent began as an initiative of St. Paul's parish and have now expanded as *Thunder Bay—North Shore Deanery* and *Diocese of Algoma* projects, along with the participation of the national *Anglican Fellowship of Prayer*

Activities During 2023:

- ✦ "Reflections for Holy Week" written by **Archbishop Anne**, Territorial Archdeacons in Algoma, and *AFP* Executive, with printing costs covered by Deanery Council grant for use in Deanery and online posting for rest of Algoma
- ✦ "Reflections for Advent" written by **Archbishop Anne**, Diocesan Bishops for whom she is Metropolitan, and *AFP* Executive, with printing costs covered by parishes and online posting on Ontario's Diocesan websites and *AFP* website

Aspirations for 2024:

- ✦ continue Holy Week and Advent Reflection Booklets with diverse contributors; distribute widely

Deanery Reports Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol Knox, *PWRDF Deanery Coordinator*,
Deanery Lenten Retreat Chair, "*Reflections*" Editor

Chair Pastor Matthew Diegel
Treasurer
Chaplain The Rev'd Canon Ed Swayze

January 2024

To: Churches and faith groups supporting the Mission to Seafarers

Thank you for your support over the last year. The Mission to Seafarers continues to provide the best service possible to the seafarers of ocean-going ships. They are people like us, working to support families. Most make about \$1,400 US per month.

Your on-going support ensures that the Mission cares for seafarers in the Port of Thunder Bay through our Chaplain, Canon Ed Swayze and volunteers. Free transportation ensures that seafarers get shore leave, which allows them to shop and see people. The Seafarers' Centre is a sanctuary for all seafarers, foreign or domestic, regardless of religion or race. Christians are encouraged in their faith and those who are not of the Christian faith receive the hospitality of Christ. Seafarers are strangers to our city and country, and deserve hospitality.

2023 was our busiest year since 2000. We ministered to the seafarers from ocean-going ships, which in 2023 included working with 132 ships and transporting 1,359 seafarers. The Seafarers' Centre at Keefer Terminal was open on 140 evenings with 202 sailors visiting. Our Christmas Gift Bags are an important part of our ministry and we appreciate everyone who knitted toques and mitts and donated to our gift bags; 226 bags, including 3 for women, were delivered to 12 ships.

Our regular community building events have resumed: Open House, Fund-raising Dinner, Eucharist and Lunch on the 1st Wednesday of the month by Zoom and a St. Nicholas' Day Eucharist was held at St. Saviour's Lutheran Church on December 6.

Our 26 volunteers were active: 11 of these are Driver/Watch Keepers. In terms of volunteers, we are modifying our practises; instead of a team of Watch Keeper and Driver on for a shift, we are moving toward a single Driver/Watch Keeper. In order to keep our pool of volunteers healthy we are looking for 3 new Driver/Watch Keepers each year.

Canon Ed took over the role of treasurer until a new one is found. Three volunteers are helping as bookkeepers and counting the petty cash. We are searching for a new treasurer, and if you know of a suitable candidate, please let us know.

In terms of finances, we extend a thank you to all those individuals and groups who generously donated funds and supported our fund-raising efforts. Thank you to those who donated clothing or other items.

Thank you to those who have supported the Meat Sale. A big thank you to the Congregational Reps who make the Meat Sale a success! For this year's sale, canvasser's forms will be available after March 1. Orders are due on May 1 with pick-up on May 15, in time for barbequing on the long weekend.

The Mission to Seafarers Fund-raising Dinner is scheduled for Friday, April 19, Symposium 5:30 p.m. and Dinner 6:15 p.m. at the Current River Community Centre, 450 Dewe Ave. (off Arundel St.) Buffet with Cash Bar (Wine).

The **Annual General Meeting** is tentatively scheduled for Wednesday, 10:00 am May 29 by Zoom and in-person at the Seafarers' Centre. The Constitution and By-Laws are posted on www.missiontoseafarers.ca/thunderbay.

The **Blessing of the Fleet** is tentatively scheduled for 10:30 am Saturday, June 22 at Pier 3, Marina Park. Boaters and vessels are invited to take part and spectators are invited to participate on Pier 3.

Please continue to keep seafarers and the Mission to Seafarers in your prayers.

Yours in Christ,

Pastor Matthew Diegel
Chair, Board of Directors

The Rev'd Canon Ed Swayze
Chaplain



**Caring for seafarers
around the world**

MISSION TO SEAFARERS

Port of Thunder Bay

Suite 450, 100 Main St.

Thunder Bay, ON P7B 6R9

Tel: (807) 344-8241

E-mail: flyingangel@tbaytel.net

Web Site: www.missiontoseafarers.ca

Facebook: www.facebook.com/missiontoseafarersbay

missiontoseafarersbay



CAMP GITCHIGOMEE

“One in Spirit, Fun and Love”



Camp: Sandstone Lake
Email: campgitchigomee@gmail.com

Mail:



PO Box 29018
Thunder Bay, ON, P7B 6B9



(807) 622-0020
(Voicemail)

January 2024

I would like to start by saying thank you for your continued support through COVID; this allowed us to do much needed maintenance. This made the experience for the campers a lot more enjoyable, and we were able to put a lot more resources back into the kids.

The number of campers was down compared to pre-COVID, but that was to be expected as we hadn't run for two years. But the positive feedback we all received from each one of our camps' campers makes us predict 2024 camper numbers will be back to normal.



In October we ran our first “Gitchy Gathering” at *Gathering Table*. We hope this will keep camp in the camper’s minds throughout the year and help them get excited and invite their friends to come out to camp to see what it's all about.

Some of the maintenance we performed over the downtime was a rebuild of our generator. Unfortunately, due to the age of



the generator and the lack of parts, this will be the last time that we will be able to rebuild it. Starting this year, we will be running a fundraiser to raise funds to purchase a new propane generator to replace our aging one. If you'd like to donate to the camp to help run the camp

or specifically for the generator, we do offer EOP through the church or on our camp website.

Once again, I'd like to thank you for your continued support; we cannot run the camp without your help.

Michael Wolfe, Camp President
Camp Gitchigomee Board of Directors

	2023 Budget	2023	2024 Budget
INCOME			
Deanery Levy	5,225	5,225.00	4,825
Bank Interest		3.65	
Donations			
TOTAL INCOME	5,225	5,228.65	4,825
EXPENSE			
Deanery Levy Rebate 2023		2,479.66	
Administration			
Bank Charges	100		100
Mileage	150	100.00	400
Stationery and Postage	50		50
Total Administration	300	100.00	550
Communication			
Hosting Deanery Website	125	31.24	125
New Initiatives	500		500
Total Communication	625	31.24	625
Projects			
Bishop's Dinner with Deanery Council	200	3,202.42	1,200
Amount collected for Dinner		- 2,030.00	
Total expense for Dinner		1,172.42	
Deanery BBQ	1,000		
Advent and Lenten Reflections			
Lenten Retreat	500	515.35	550
Wages for staff support to projects	500	141.80	500
Total Projects	2,200	1,829.57	2,250
Seed Money	1,000		1,000
Other Expense			
Appreciation Gifts (Note 1)	400	200.00	400
Deanery Youth Delegates to Diocesan Synod	700	688.18	
Lay Readers' Conference (Note 2)		495.00	
Total Other Expense	1,100	1,383.18	400
TOTAL EXPENSE	5,225	5,823.65	4,825
NET INCOME	-	- 595.00	-

every Synod year

RECONCILIATION STATEMENTBank Balance as at January 1, 2023 6,735.42**Deanery Fund**

Fund Balance January 1, 2023 6,442.07

Funds held in trust for Lay Readers Conference applied 195.00

Deanery Levy Rebate 2022 (cheques cashed in 2023) - 1,217.07

Net Income - 595.00

Fund Balance December 31, 2023 4,825.00**Accounts Payable 2023**

Uncashed cheque (from Lay Readers' Conference) 100.00

Account payable to Gathering Table for Deanery Website 31.24

Deanery Levy Rebate 2,479.66**Bank Balance as at December 31, 2023** 7,435.90**Note 1 gift for Kathleen Aitken****Note 2 Total expense 495.00 (uncashed cheque 100.00) 195.00 held in trust applied**



The Most Reverend Anne Germond

**Call to Prayer
for the violence in
Israel and Gaza**



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
619 Wellington Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6

DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE
331 5th Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 5L6

Monday October 16th, 2023

Dear people of God,

The sea of violence in Israel and Gaza continues to escalate with innocent civilians caught in the midst of this political and military crisis. Already living in fear and uncertainty the events of the last week have only exacerbated their suffering and desperation.

Thousands of innocent people have already died and families anxiously wait for news of those who are missing. The images we see in news casts are horrendous to our eyes. Imagine the horror of children and young people, of the frail elderly, of ordinary citizens who are experiencing that devastation and turmoil every moment of their lives.

Our Primate Linda Nicholls and the Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada National Bishop have issued a Statement on the situation in the Middle East which can be found here:

<https://www.anglicanlutheran.ca/wp-content/uploads/Statement-on-War-in-the-Holy-Land.pdf>

In his pastoral letter from the City of the Resurrection, Anglican Archbishop in Jerusalem and the Primate of the Province of Jerusalem and the Middle East, Hosam E. Naoum, has sent out a call to all congregations, institutions, and parishioner families to observe Tuesday October 17th, 2023 as a day of fasting and prayer for peace in the Land of the Holy One.

As we accept this invitation let our prayers be for justice, reconciliation, peace, and an end to hatred and violence, for God, "Is not the God of disorder but of peace." (1 Cor. 14.33)

Let our prayers be for God to work in the hearts of decision makers, peace makers, and those who are working at ground level to bring humanitarian aid to those whose lives are on the very brink of collapsing. In this time of anguish, let our prayers also be for hope so that death's sting is not the only word that is heard.

Please organize a group of parishioners to pray with on Tuesday - either in person or online. There is a noon Eucharist at St. Luke's Cathedral to which those in Sault Ste. Marie are invited. On Wednesday evening (18th October) at 7pm we will mark the Feast of St. Luke with Eucharist in the Bishophurst Chapel and offer prayers for peace. There will also be an opportunity for those in attendance to be anointed with healing oil.

The Archbishop of Canterbury has written the prayer below for our daily use. I commend it for your personal and public prayer.

May the Healer of the Nations and the One who knows and shares the suffering of the world pour upon our spirits the balm of Gilead and anoint us today and always,

+Anne

Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee

**God of compassion and justice,
We cry out to you for all who suffer in the Holy Land today,
For your precious children, Israelis and Palestinians,
Traumatized and in fear for their lives;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For the families of the bereaved,
For those who have seen images they will never forget,
For those anxiously waiting for news,
despairing with each passing day;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For young men and women, heading into combat,
bearing the burden of what others have done
and what they will be asked to do;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For civilians in Israel, Gaza and the West Bank,
that they would be protected, and that every life would count,
and be cherished and remembered;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For the wounded, and those facing a lifetime of scars,
For those desperately seeking medical treatment where there is none;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For medical and emergency personnel, risking their own lives
to save those of others;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For those who cannot see anything but rage and violence,
that you would surprise them with mercy,
and turn their hearts towards kindness for their fellow human beings;
Lord, have mercy.**

**For people of peace whose imagination is large enough
to conceive of a different way that they may speak, and act,
and be heard;
Lord, have mercy.**

**Mighty and caring God,
you promised that one day
swords will be beaten into ploughshares,
meet us in our distress,
and bring peace upon this troubled land. Amen.**



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA
619 Wellington Street East
Sault Ste. Marie, ON P6A 2M6

The Most Reverend Anne Germond

**‘SACRED CIRCLE’
a Report from
Archbishop Anne**

PUBLISHED ON **DIOCESAN WEBSITE**
www.dioceseofalgoma.com



DIOCESE OF MOOSONEE
331 5th Avenue
Timmins, ON P4N 5L6

13 June, 2023

The logo for the 11th Sacred Circle was designed by
Rev. Dixie Bird from Prince Albert, SK.



SACRED CIRCLE

Great Spirit,

Whose breath I feel in the wind, whose voice I hear in the birds, whose eyes I see in the children,
Listen to us.

You are the God of all our yesterdays, all our todays, and all our tomorrows.

You know the plans you have for all your people.

As we gather in the Indigenous Anglican Sacred Circle, show to the Indigenous Peoples of Canada your will for us in the life of your Church. Give us eyes to see the sacred way you have prescribed for us. Teach us to walk in the footsteps of your Son, the Chief of Chiefs. May our hearts beat as one with Yours. You make all things new. May we, your Church, and all creation rejoice in the new way you are preparing for us, and your church in the name of our brother, Jesus Christ. Amen
(Sacred Circle Prayer)

Dear people of God in Algoma and Moosonee,

During the last week of May, I was privileged to attend the 11th Sacred Circle of Indigenous ministries of the Anglican Church of Canada at Fern Resort, on the traditional homelands of the Ojibwe near Rama First Nation.

My time at Sacred Circle was meaningful personally, but also because I represented you, recalling our dioceses commitment to reconciliation, justice seeking and truth telling with the Indigenous peoples of our land as we strive towards a new, hopeful future, and the healing of broken promises and relationships. We cannot change the past, but we must not forget the pain and hurt that is part of our history as a country and Church, here in Canada. To echo the words of the Coventry Cathedral Litany of Reconciliation, “Father forgive.”

Sacred Circles are opportunities for Indigenous Anglicans to meet for prayer and worship, fellowship, discernment, and decision making - which happens by consensus. The Gospel is always at the very heart of Sacred Circle. We spent quality time every morning in talking circles as we engaged in Gospel Based Discipleship. As it always does when we do GBD, the gospel came alive to us, and through the Spirit's power our hearts were opened afresh, burning within as the good news of Jesus came among us.

Every Sacred Circle is unique but this one was also historic for a number of reasons. I was honoured to have been present as Archbishop Chris Harper was installed as the 2nd National Anglican Indigenous Archbishop. This happened in a moving ceremony at the opening Eucharist by our Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls and members of Sacred Circle.

Many bishops from across the Anglican Church of Canada attended that celebration at Sacred Circle to support and affirm Archbishop Chris's new ministry. National Bishop of the ELCIC Susan Johnson was in attendance as well as international partners from Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Amazonia. Their presentations in plenary sessions are available online at www.Anglican.ca

Archbishop Chris and his dear spouse, Tracy, are well known in Algoma having once served as the incumbent at St. Michael and All Angels in Thunder Bay. We are delighted that his office has confirmed he will visit the Diocese of Moosonee from September 30th to October 1st in Waswanapi for the Healing Gathering - "Walking Together in Healing and Hope".



**Our National Indigenous Anglican Archbishop Chris Harper with his spouse Tracy following his installation at Sacred Circle.
Monday May 29th.**

The other reason this Sacred Circle was historic was because members were invited to accept and sign the documents which will guide the way forward for the self-determining

Indigenous Anglican Church in Canada. These documents are called The Covenant and Our Way of Life and can be found here <https://www.anglican.ca/wp-content/uploads/SC-covenant->

These ‘living, organic, guiding documents’ were presented to Sacred Circle members who discussed them in talking circles and then one by one members lined up to add their name and their “Yes” to a new way of life as Indigenous Anglicans within the Anglican Church of Canada. As the document states, *“It is not about going back to an idealized time in our history. Rather, we are reclaiming what was dispossessed from us and what the Creator called us to be. We are coming home.”* (Our Way of Life page 5)



“Coming home”.

**Members of Sacred Circle sign on to The Covenant and Our Way of Life.
Tuesday, May 30th.**

The vision for Indigenous Anglicans through self-determination as expressed in Our Way of Life is to improve the quality of Indigenous Anglicans, ‘spiritual, emotional, physical and mental life’ and to promote healing from the historical trauma that stems from Canadian colonization and oppression. The themes of God’s healing and God’s reconciling love were present throughout Sacred Circle as holy tears and joyful laughter resounded through the gathering times.

It is envisaged that embracing The Covenant and Our Way of Life will result in a new way of living in harmony with one another. They will have expression through these Sacred Teachings:

- Trusting respectful relationships that recognize that conflict is a natural, normal part of life as we strive to rebalance harmony.
- The wisdom of leadership that is invested in Elders.
- Taking responsibility for one another.
- Living out our Indigenous humanity.
- Using honourably the gifts the Creator has bestowed on each person.
- Walking in each other’s shoes instead of judging.

- Consensus in decision making.
- Living in balance with the whole of creation.
- Placing the Gospel at the centre of the Sacred Circle.

(Our Way of Life page 6)

Our dioceses were ably and wonderfully represented at Sacred Circle by Elsie MacDonald (St. Thomas's, Thunder Bay, Algoma), Sandra Fox (St. Paul's, Thunder Bay, Algoma and member of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples), Caroline Chum (Co-Chair of Sacred Circle, Moosonee), Rev. Isabel Dube (St. Stephen's, Constance Lake, Moosonee) and Rev. Canon Grace Delaney (St. Thomas's Moose Factory and Church of the Apostles Moosonee).



Moosonee members of Sacred Circle: Caroline Chum (Co-chair of Sacred Circle), Rev. Canon Grace Delaney, Rev. Isabel Dube.

While we were not in the same Talking Circles, we spent time together during meals and in Plenary sessions finding much to talk and laugh about. From one another and new friends we received fresh strength and renewed energy for our respective ministries.



Algoma members of Sacred Circle. Lay Readers Elsie MacDonald and Sandra Fox. Sandra, on the right, is a member of ACIP.



Membership of the Anglican Council of Indigenous Peoples

In and amongst the many moving moments of Sacred Circle, there was one that stood out in particular as we presented Archbishop Chris with a unique and meaningful gift to mark his installation. Our dioceses purchased a “Healing Blanket” for Archbishop Chris from the Indigenous Friendship Centre in Gravenhurst. Red in colour we remember the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women and Girls. It has Indigenous symbols on it. The back of the blanket is black and the four healing medicines of tobacco, cedar, sage and sweetgrass were sewn onto it.

On Tuesday evening, members from Algoma and Moosonee invited the Archbishop and Tracy to meet us at the Sacred Fire in order to present the blanket and offer a blessing. Canon Grace Delaney spoke first and talked about the significance of a blanket to survivors of Residential Schools for whom a blanket was one of their few personal possessions and a source of great comfort. She went on to explain that when marriage ceremonies take place in some Indigenous communities a blanket is wrapped around the couple and children to mark their becoming a new family.

What happened next was both spontaneous and moving. Our members wrapped +Chris and Tracy in the Healing Blanket while offering good words and blessings to them as they embark on their new chapter in their lives. Thank you to our members for offering such a heartfelt blessing and powerful way to welcome our new National Indigenous Archbishop.



The Healing Blanket – given with love and promise.

On the first day of Sacred Circle, I was pleased to have the opportunity to reconnect with our former Bishop of Algoma, Stephen Andrews, who drove up from Toronto to Fern Resort to attend +Chris's installation. He sends his good wishes and assures me that Algoma continues to be in his daily prayers. We continue to pray for him and Fawna in their daily life and work.

As the National Indigenous Peoples' Day on June 21st approaches, many of our parishes will be offering services of worship or attending celebrations in First Nation communities. Let us mark that day well, celebrating the many gifts and traditions of Indigenous Canadians.

As we did at Sacred Circle, during the week of June 20th - 23rd let's wear red shirts on Tuesday 20th June in honour of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls, orange shirts on Wednesday 21st June in recognition of the children who went to residential school and those who never returned home, and black shirts on Thursday to stand in solidarity with all who mourn those who died in residential school or as a result of violence against Indigenous people.

Living Reconciliation and pursuing peace is a task that is entrusted to each of us. It is our calling as disciples of Christ and a way of being as we live into our baptismal promise to transform unjust structures within our society, challenging violence of every kind. As we continue to walk in harmony with Indigenous peoples may we live reconciliation well, for "The Great Spirit has chosen us to represent him in the sacred task of helping others find and walk this path of peace-making and healing – turning enemies into friends." (2. Cor. 5: 18 FNV).

As we represent God, may we bring the message of healing, harmony, and peace back to others.

Your bishop and partner in the Gospel,

+Anne

Archbishop of Algoma and Moosonee
Metropolitan of the Ecclesiastical Province of Ontario



International partners from Aotearoa (New Zealand) present gifts to our Primate Archbishop Linda Nicholls and the Primate of the Anglican Churches of South and Central America, Archbishop Marinez Bassotto.



Certificates of Appreciation

a Message from Archbishop Anne

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

December 7th, 2023

Dear friends,

I am delighted to offer my sincere and hearty congratulations to the 2023 recipients of the Diocese of Algoma Certificates of Appreciation. Each and every one of these faithful and dedicated co-workers in the church and ministers of the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ are worthy of our recognition and gratitude.



This is the second year that incumbents and wardens across Algoma have submitted the names of three individuals to receive a certificate. A list of all recipients will be provided once we are assured all certificates have been presented.

Thanks to the assistance of my Administrative Assistant, Liz Hamel, the certificates have been prepared and mailed out to the incumbents and will be presented to the individuals receiving them during Sunday worship. Please send photographs of our honoured recipients to Archdeacon Jay Koyle (jay.koyle@dioceseofalgoma.com) so that we can post them on our diocesan Facebook page. A few saints have been recognized posthumously with their family members notified – may they Rest In Peace and rise with Christ in glory.

As I look through the list of those being honoured this year, I see many familiar saints of Algoma whose lives and service embody our diocesan mission to do, “The gathering work of Christ so that his newness of life overflows into our hearts, homes, churches and community.”

They are people of prayer and worship who minister on Sundays and through the week; they are people with generous hearts whose understanding of local needs sees them reaching into their congregations to one another in fellowship and understanding. They are people who carry the message of the gospel outwards to

the world serving as evangelists, teachers and involved in works of social compassion and justice. They are like a city set on a hill whose light cannot be hidden so that others find in them the Christ – the light of the world.

The apostle Paul taught in 1 Corinthians 12 that real effectiveness in ministry takes place when the whole of the body of Christ is working together. “As it is, there are many parts, yet one body.” In the Diocese of Algoma we rely on each and every member to take their place in the body of Christ using whatever gift God has given to them. That gift, offered in love, makes a difference and is a blessing to the entire body.

Hear it from me, your thankful Bishop that your work and your ministry matters. May the Lord Jesus Christ, for whom we wait this Advent, keep you in his love and light.

As we recognize this year’s recipients let us pray:

*Lord God, whose we are and whom we serve,
help us to keep glorifying you in all the thoughts of our hearts,
in all the words of our lips, and in all the works of our hands,
as becomes those who are signed with the cross
and marked as Christ’s own forever. Amen*

+Anne

The Most Rev. Anne Germond
Archbishop of Algoma

Editor’s Note: *We will publish the Archbishop’s full list of Certificate Recipients when it becomes available. Here are the St. Pauls’ honourees ~*

† Thunder Bay–North Shore Deanery ~

St. Paul’s, Thunder Bay

2022	Alison Arthur	Ernie Tilbury	Christopher Willie
2023	Lynda Farquharson	Marty Sauer	Jen Snowden

Diocesan Delegate to General Synod

St. Paul's elected me as one of 3 Lay Delegates to the *Diocese of Algoma* Synod. At Diocesan Synod, I was elected as one of 2 Lay Delegates from *Algoma* to attend the National Synod held at the *University of Calgary* for 8 days in June/July. Afterwards, I made a presentation at a 10:00 am service with photos to illustrate the main resolutions. One was on the authorizing of shared ministry with *United Church* clergy and prophetically included a photo of **Rev. Rob Smith** to represent the *United Church*. Little did we know that 6 months later **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft** would be commissioning him as a lead clergy person on our ministry team of 4 clergy during our transition time following her retirement.

Archbishop Anne Germond asked the 2 Lay and 2 Clergy Delegates to General Synod to write a brief reflection on what stood out for them, and this was posted on the Diocesan e-news. Here is what I wrote . . .

General Synod was far more than a meeting to conduct the “business of the church;” for me it was definitely a spiritual gathering of people who cared about each other, the universal church and the world. The mood for this was set by **Primate Linda Nicholls** in her opening charge, by the obvious friendship between Primate Linda and **ELCIC National Bishop Susan Johnson** and the presence of our Lutheran siblings in our table groups in joint Assembly sessions. **National Indigenous Archbishop Chris Harper** kept encouraging us to say to each other “I love you” when he led worship and throughout the evening session when a number of representatives of the Indigenous Church spoke and presented their Covenant and Way of Life. To end that evening session, he invited about 250 people to form one large circle and enjoy a round dance. It truly was a unifying and fun experience.

Not everyone agreed on resolutions that were presented, and some that I was strongly in favour of were defeated. The Holy Spirit kept nudging me to speak with the person with whom I most disagreed. Finally, I did, when I saw him sitting alone at lunch. We had a pleasant time when I asked about his diocese and he shared about the challenges there. We focused on essentials as siblings in Christ and did not bring up our very strong differences in understanding of scripture, theology, and local church practice. Again General Synod was a spiritual experience.

I met some old friends, made some new ones and generally grew in my own faith as a member of the Body of Christ. Thank you for the privilege of representing *Algoma*.

Respectfully submitted

Dr. Carol Knox
General Synod Delegate

As many of you are aware, the Anglican Foundation of Canada has been in operation for over 65 years, helping dioceses, parishes, and individuals from sea to sea to sea.

The Mission Statement of the Anglican Foundation of Canada states that The Anglican Foundation of Canada supports ministries of the Anglican Church throughout Canada by enabling connections, fostering innovations, stewarding resources and connecting generous donors to their philanthropic goals.

Our plan is based on AFC values of faith, innovation, generosity, trust and inclusivity.

The AFC works in partnership with Dioceses across the country to raise funds, to increase the awareness of the Foundation and to provide loans and grants to ministry initiatives.

2023 was the largest granting year in the 65 years history of AFC. \$1.1 million dollars was dispersed across Canada. Three dioceses were granted monies in the new category C of grants up to \$50,000. The Dioceses were, Huron. with \$50,000 to the Farmworkers Ministry, the Arctic for \$50,000 for training of new, local worship leaders and Moosonee \$30,000 for the Archbishop Memorial church in Cochrane, Ontario.

In the revised granting cycle, Dioceses are allowed four grants a year. The Request For Proposals' is a separate category. This year the RFP theme paralleled the General Synod's theme of God's Greening Power. Eleven projects from 10 Dioceses received funding.

In it's third year, the "Say Yes To Kids" campaign was another success. June 2 nd will be designated "Say Yes To Kids" Sunday with supporting liturgical resources available for churches to use during their services on that day. This year, Camp Temiskaming will be entering a team to raise money for Camp Bursaries and re-placement of equipment.

The Annual Membership appeal generated over \$180,000 with over \$12,000 to various impact zones. Over the past 3 years, more than one thousand new donors have joined our ranks. I would urge each parish and each individual to renew their membership in AFC or join. We need to PASS IT ON!

Please go to the AFC website for more information about the wonderful work that AFC is going on your behalf, with God's guidance. IMAGINE MORE.

Respectfully submitted:

Anne Wilson,

Diocese Representative for Algoma
to the Anglican Foundation of Canada



October 8, 2023

Statement on War in the Holy Land

On Saturday the world watched in horror as Hamas launched a rapid, devastating barrage of violence against Israel. Rockets, drone attacks, the killing of civilians and the taking of hostages have ignited long simmering tensions between Israel and Palestine. Israel has responded with ongoing rocket attacks and the death toll on all sides rises daily.

Our hearts grieve at the resurgence of violence that bereaves both Palestinian and Israeli families. We long for peace and security for the people of Israel who seek a safe place to live free from discrimination, anti-semitism and repeated pogroms. We long for peace and security for the Palestinian people who also long to live in safety, to thrive free from occupation and discrimination. Neither have found that peace in repeated patterns of hatred and conflict.

We stand with Archbishop Hosam Naoum (Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem) and Bishop Sani Azar (Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land) and their people, praying for safety for all who are caught in the middle of this conflict—including visitors and pilgrims. We pray for the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza and the Augusta Victoria Hospital in Jerusalem seeking to provide medical care to any and all in need amidst the chaos.

We urge Prime Minister Trudeau and all international leaders to offer whatever they can toward a cessation of hostilities and a lasting, just peace for Israel and Palestine.

In the face of grief and violence we offer this prayer....

God of peace and justice,
Our hearts weep as the rockets fall in Israel and Gaza,
As families are bereaved
As men, women and children are taken hostage,
As anger and hatred are fuelled again.

In the land you chose for your people and your Son we pray
for those bereaved by the violence,
For the wounded and injured,
For the hostages
That your love will surround and comfort them.

We pray for strength and compassion
for all offering medical care, especially our partners, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital
and Augusta Victoria Hospital.

We pray for Bishop Sani Azar and Archbishop Hosam Naoum and all Christians in the
Holy Land
for their safety and their leadership in this time of crisis.

We pray for all leaders in Israel and Palestine that a just and lasting peace will be
found.

In the midst of our grief and sorrow we trust in your unfailing love for all people, and
for your Land, and ask that your wisdom would prevail, for we ask in the name of
Jesus Christ, who brings the world eternal peace.
AMEN.



Bishop Susan Johnson
National Bishop, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Primate, Anglican Church of Canada



The Anglican Church
of Canada

PUBLISHED ON ACC WEBSITE www.anglican.ca



Evangelical Lutheran
Church in Canada
In Mission for Others

PRAYERS FOR ISRAEL/PALESTINE

A prayer from Archbishop Hosam Naoum of Jerusalem

O God of all justice and peace, we cry out to you in the midst of the pain and trauma of violence and fear which prevails in the Holy Land. Be with those who need you in these days of suffering; we pray for people of all faiths—Jews, Muslims and Christians and for all people of the land. While we pray to you, O Lord, for an end to violence and the establishment of peace, we also call to you to bring justice and equity to the peoples. Guide us into your kingdom where all people are treated with dignity and honour as your children—for to all of us you are our Heavenly Father. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

Prayer petitions in support of ELCIC and ACC partners in Jordan and the Holy Land

From Bishop Susan Johnson, Primate Linda Nicholls, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America Presiding Bishop Elizabeth Eaton and the Episcopal Church Presiding Bishop Michael Curry (November 29)

Restore us, O God; let your face shine, that we may be saved. (Psalm 80:3)

From Bishop Susan Johnson and Primate Linda Nicholls (November 17)

We pray for an immediate ceasefire, for a release of hostages, and an end to Israel's occupation of all Palestinian Territories. We pray for those in authority that their decisions and actions bear the fruit of peace, justice and sanctity of all life for Palestinians and Israelis. We pray for our Christian partners in the Land of the Holy One, and their Muslim and Jewish neighbours who inspire the world with their steadfast hope and faithfulness.

From Bishop Susan Johnson, BC Synod Bishop Kathy Martin, ABT Synod Bishop Larry Kochendorfer, SK Synod Bishop Sid Haugen, MNO Synod Bishop Jason Zinko and Eastern Synod Bishop Michael Pryse (October 20)

God of peace, we pray for peace between Israel and Hamas. We pray for leaders on both sides that their hearts would be changed and there would be

a peaceful ending to this war. God of comfort and strength, we pray for all those who have suffered in this war—those who mourn, the injured, those who live in fear. We pray for those who continue to try to provide aid and medical care—workers who risk their lives. Bring us all hope, bring us all strength, bring us all peace. In your holy and life-giving name we pray.

Amen

From Bishop Susan Johnson and Primate Linda Nicholls (October 11)

In the face of grief and violence we offer this prayer:

God of peace and justice, our hearts weep as the rockets fall in Israel and Gaza, as families are bereaved, as men, women and children are taken hostage, as anger and hatred are fueled again.

In the land you chose for your people and your Son we pray for those bereaved by the violence, for the wounded and injured, for the hostages, that your love will surround and comfort them.

We pray for strength and compassion, for all offering medical care, especially our partners, the Al-Ahli Arab Hospital and Augusta Victoria Hospital.

We pray for Bishop Sani Azar and Archbishop Hosam Naoum and all Christians in the Holy Land for their safety and their leadership in this time of crisis.

We pray for all leaders in Israel and Palestine that a just and lasting peace will be found.

In the midst of our grief and sorrow we trust in your unfailing love for all people, and for your Land, and ask that your wisdom would prevail, for we ask in the name of Jesus Christ, who brings the world eternal peace.

Amen

PRAYERS FOR UKRAINE

In February 2022, when war in Ukraine began, the Archbishops of Canterbury and York wrote a prayer for the country and its people:

A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

From the Church of England: [Prayers for Peace and Hope](#)

For additional ideas for prayer and fasting, please see the following from TearFund UK:

- [How to pray for Gaza and Israel](#)
- [How to pray for Ukraine](#)



In Full Communion

Anglicans and Lutherans working together in Canada



PUBLISHED ON ACC-ELCIC WEBSITE www.anglicanlutheran.ca

November 17, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Church Leaders Urge Prime Minister to Call for Ceasefire

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

Thank you for writing yesterday and for your remarks in response to our letter of October 18th, in which we urged you to call for an immediate ceasefire between Israel and Hamas, and for the opening of a humanitarian corridor to allow potable water, food, medical care and more to reach the people of Gaza.

Thank you for your decisions and statements made in recent days, reiterating the importance of both Israel and Hamas respecting international law, ensuring the swift and unimpeded passage of humanitarian aid, and of protecting Israeli and Palestinian civilians. Thank you for evacuating Canadian citizens to safety.

Much has happened in the weeks since our last letter. The siege of Gaza has worsened, resulting in the deaths of more than 11,400 Gazans, including 4,700 children. All hospitals in Gaza City are now closed, as hundreds of thousands of people require medical care. More than one million Palestinians have now been forcibly displaced into smaller and smaller areas in southern Gaza, where humanitarian aid remains at critically low levels. Israeli settler violence against Palestinians in the West Bank has increased dramatically, and East Jerusalemites live in fear and danger of racist attacks, including assaults upon Christians and Church leaders.

We repeat our appeal of October 18th, and urge you to call for a ceasefire.

We express in the strongest terms, our shame and deep disappointment in Canada's recent voting against United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolutions. While we welcome Canada's renewed support for the November 9th UNGA resolution on Palestinian refugees, this lone vote is insufficient. In that same meeting, Canada voted against four other resolutions, including two supporting Palestine refugees and one condemning Israeli settlements.

We join many other Canadian voices asking how Canada's voting on these resolutions indicates a serious commitment to addressing the human catastrophe that Israel is creating in Gaza. We ask

why, as a state supporter of the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA), Canada has failed to directly condemn Israel for its attacks on UNRWA schools, which have killed over 90 UNRWA staff. Of the more than 1.5 million Palestinians in Gaza that have been forcibly displaced since October 7, many thousands are sheltering in UNRWA facilities, which have been repeatedly bombed.

The resolutions which Canada voted against on November 9th session include:

1. A resolution which recognizes UNRWA and urges the international community to support its work. It passed 160-4.
2. A resolution which reaffirms that Palestinian refugees are entitled to their property, and asks the UN to protect Arab assets and property rights in Israel. It passed 156-6.
3. A resolution to condemn Israel's illegal settlements in occupied Palestinian territory. It passed 145-7.

It is shocking to us that Canada would vote in support of Israeli settlements in a year of unprecedented settlement expansion, and as attacks by Israeli settlers and soldiers have forcibly displaced at least 15 herding communities in the West Bank. This vote belies Canada's official policy against illegal settlements. Israel's ongoing colonization of Palestinian land is directly creating new refugees, with Canada's support.

Mr. Prime Minister, why is there no room in Canada's contribution toward ending this conflict and responding fully to the needs for humanitarian aid to recognize both Hamas' egregious actions and the decades of Israel's illegal and violent military occupation of Palestinian Territories in Gaza, the West Bank and Jerusalem? Surely Canada's political leaders have the moral courage and conviction to say to both Israel and Hamas 'enough is enough', in the interests of peace and justice for both Israelis and Palestinians.

We pray for an immediate ceasefire, for a release of hostages, and an end to Israel's occupation of all Palestinian Territories. We pray for those in authority that their decisions and actions bear the fruit of peace, justice and sanctity of all life for Palestinians and Israelis. We pray for our Christian partners in the Land of the Holy One, and their Muslim and Jewish neighbours who inspire the world with their steadfast hope and faithfulness.



Bishop Susan Johnson
National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop & Primate,
Anglican Church of Canada



In Full Communion

Anglicans and Lutherans working together in Canada



PUBLISHED ON ACC-ELCIC WEBSITE www.anglicanlutheral.ca

December 14, 2023

The Right Honourable Justin Trudeau, P.C., M.P.
Prime Minister of Canada
House of Commons
Ottawa, Ontario K1A 0A6
Justin.Trudeau@parl.gc.ca

Church Leaders Thank Prime Minister for Support of Ceasefire

Dear Prime Minister Justin Trudeau,

We write today to express our thanks for Canada's vote on December 12 to support the UN General Assembly Resolution demanding an immediate humanitarian ceasefire between Israel and Hamas. Though the resolution, with its additional demands, is not binding, the vote is significant for its moral weight and the glimmer of hope it represents for Israelis, Palestinians and the whole world. We are grateful for Canada's alignment with other nations to act now, as the President of the General Assembly said, 'on one priority -only one- to save lives'. Canada's recent pledge of \$60 million dollars to the work of the UN Relief Works Agency in preparing and delivering aid shipments and other acts of compassion and care will certainly help in this catastrophic time.

We also join many other Canadians seeking your leadership in concrete, concurrent actions toward a permanent peace. We believe it is only through an end to the occupation and a just, comprehensive and lasting peace settlement that the security of both Palestinians and Israelis can be assured.

From decisions endorsed by our assembled church bodies in June 2023, we call upon the Government of Canada to:

- take active leadership with other nations to end the illegal Israeli occupation of East Jerusalem and West Bank since 1967, including settlement construction and expansion in these territories, and by challenging increasing settler violence, upon Palestinian persons and properties, with the full authority of international laws,
- make strong commitments to protecting the human rights and safety of children and youth, to closely monitor and report on the treatment of Palestinian children arrested by Israeli forces and prosecuted in the Israeli military court system, and on the increasing numbers of Palestinian children killed by Israeli soldiers in the occupied territories where a climate of impunity and an almost total lack of accountability persists, and
- take leadership and support local women's peace building initiatives as reflected in the [Feminist International Assistance Policy \(FIAP\)](#) and [National Action Plan of Women, Peace and Security](#).

As you know, the effects of the war are devastating, and a ceasefire is essential to addressing the humanitarian crisis in Gaza and to building a lasting peace. The members of our churches continue to earnestly pray for peace. Let us all take every opportunity to choose peace and work for peace.



Bishop Susan Johnson
National Bishop,
Evangelical Lutheran Church in Canada



The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls
Archbishop & Primate,
Anglican Church of Canada

Pierre Poilievre, Leader of the Official Opposition Pierre.Poilievre@parl.gc.ca

Jagmeet Singh, Leader of New Democratic Party jagmeet.Singh@parl.gc.ca

Yves-François Blanchet MP, Leader of the Bloc Québécois YvesFrancois.Blanchet@parl.gc.ca

Elizabeth May, Leader of the Green Party Elizabeth.May@parl.gc.ca

Melanie Joly, Minister of Foreign Affairs Melanie.Joly@international.gc.ca
Melanie.Joly@parl.gc.ca

David DaSilva Representative of Canada to the Palestinian Authority
David.DaSilva@international.gc.ca

Archbishop Hosam Naoum, Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem bishop@j-diocese.org

Bishop Sani Azar, Evangelical Lutheran Church in Jordan and the Holy Land
bishopazar@elcjl.org

Archbishop Justin Welby, Archbishop of Canterbury, Anglican Communion
Raquel.hitchman@lambethpalace.org.uk

Rev. Dr. Anne Burghardt, General Secretary, The Lutheran World Federation
Anne.Burghardt@lutheranworld.org

December 19, 2023

St. Paul's Anglican Church
808 Ridgeway St E
Thunder Bay, ON P7E 5H5

Dear people of St. Paul's Anglican Church,

I want to thank you for your generous gift of \$250.00 to the Anglican Foundation of Canada (AFC).

I also want to take a moment to share with you a conversation I had recently with one of our grant recipients. She wanted to thank me—and our generous family of members—for the 2022 grant her church received for their community outreach program.

She is a priest whose church, like so many Anglican churches in Canada, is deeply engaged in food security and poverty reduction. Demand for these programs has grown, and churches across Canada are increasingly turning to AFC to help fund creative and compassionate responses to serving the vulnerable.

She spoke about the need to find joy in the burden they carry—the needs in their downtown community are great—and that receiving much-needed funding from their church's national Foundation made the load they carry feel lighter.

Each of us in our local context has a different experience of what it means to be the hands and feet of Christ in the world. At AFC we see the breadth and diversity of the church's call to serve—to be a place of comfort and belonging—and we exist to support that, but we cannot do it without you.

Through your donations to AFC, you play the most important role of all in our effort to fund transformational ministry. AFC members are the backbone of our grants program, and I want you to know that you are contributing in a very direct and meaningful way to our efforts to fund a hopeful future for the Canadian church.

On behalf of every grant recipient whose vision for a local ministry project will be affirmed and supported by an AFC grant in 2024 and beyond because of your support, we thank you!



Dr. Scott Brubacher
Executive Director

Acknowledging receipt of \$250.00 on 2023-12-06.

The Most Rev. Linda Nicholls, Chair, Board of Directors | Dr. Scott Brubacher, Executive Director
80 Hayden Street, Toronto, ON M4Y 3G2 | (416) 924-9199 x322 | foundation@anglicanfoundation.org

PARISH STATISTICS

MINISTRY TEAM 2023

Rector	The Venerable Deborah H. Kraft <i>[January – September]</i>
Deacon Associate	The Reverend Anne Carr
Honorary Assistant	The Reverend Gordon Holroyd
Priest Associate	The Reverend Nancy Ringham <i>[October – current]</i>
Visiting Minister	The Reverend Robert Smith <i>[October – current]</i>
Music Director	Dr. Sean Kim
Parish Administrator	Christine French
Office Assistant [volunteer]	Alicia Sandham
Children’s Ministry Co-ordinator	Laurie Sandham
Youth Ministry Leaders	Jen Snowden, Laurie Sandham
Caretaker	JJ LaHaise

PARISH OFFICERS 2023

Rector’s Warden	Dorothy Piccinin
People’s Warden	Christopher Heikkinen
Deputy Rector’s Warden	Deborah Victor
Treasurer	Adrienne Davis
Assistant Treasurer	Judy Lundberg
Offering Secretary	Ernie Tilbury
Memorial Recording Secretary	Linda Veinot
Altar Guild Chair	Alison Arthur <i>[January – August]</i> Deborah Victor <i>[September – current]</i>
Altar Servers Chair	Scott Meredith
‘Food for the Soul’ Co-ordinator	Laurie Sandham
Bell Ringers Chair	Jim Stewart
Garden & Labyrinth Committee Chair	Alison Arthur <i>[January – August]</i> Lynda Farquharson <i>[September – current]</i>
Men’s Breakfast Chair	Christopher Willie
“ “ Executive	Marshall Farquharson, Peter Globensky
Nursery Supervisor	[Vacant]
Prayer Chain Ministry Co-ordinator	Sandra Rejall
Property Co-Chairs	Christopher Willie Marshall Farquharson, Derrick Tirschmann
‘Blessing Box’ Chair	Alison Arthur <i>[January – August]</i> Jen Snowden <i>[September – current]</i>
‘Underground Gym’ Clothing Ministry	Carol Anuik
Coffee Team Scheduler	Dorothy Piccinin
Bell Ringers / Sidesperson Scheduler	Dorothy Piccinin <i>[January – October]</i> Charlene Shuttleworth <i>[November – current]</i>

Camp Gitchigomee Rep	Sandra Rejall	
Mission to Seafarers Rep	Suzy Thornes	
PWRDF Rep	Jasmine Sandham	<i>["Primate's World Relief & Development Fund"]</i>
Lay Delegates to Synod <i>[attendees]:</i>	Adrienne Davis	
	Daniel Klein	Carol Knox <i>[alt]</i>
	Alicia Sandham	Marty Sauer <i>[alt]</i>
'CLAY' Youth Delegates	Belle Benoit	<i>["Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth"]</i>
	Hollie Davis	
Advisory Board Members <i>[elected]:</i>		
	Alison Arthur <i>[January – August]</i>	Candace LaFrance
	Levina Collins	John O'Brien
	Carol Knox	Laurie Sandham
		Marty Sauer
		Jen Snowden
		Jim Stewart

“O Eternal God, enlighten with your grace the Ministry Team, Parish Officers, Lay Readers, Eucharistic Assistants, and Vestry of this congregation, and so rule their minds, and guide their counsels, that in all things they may seek your glory and promote the mission of your church; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.”

2023 LAY READERS and EUCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS

“The blood of Christ, the cup of salvation.”

Diocesan Lay Readers ~	Carol Knox	Ida Mekanak
	Jessie McKay	
Lay Readers ~	Alison Arthur <i>[January – August]</i>	Doug Oshimo
	Sandra Fox	Alicia Sandham
	Scott Meredith	Marty Sauer
	Don Shuttleworth	
Lay Reader-In-Training ~	Daniel Klein <i>[New Ministry]</i>	
Lay Readers Emeritus ~	Ralph Davis	Art Evans
		Ruth Douglas
Eucharistic Assistants ~	Karen Christie	Candace LaFrance
	Chris Heikkinen	Dorothy Piccinin
	Violet Holroyd	Jen Snowden
	Don Shuttleworth	Deborah Victor
	Laurie Sandham <i>[Summer]</i>	

PARISH PASSAGES 2023

BAPTISMS (3)

"I sign you with the cross and mark you as Christ's own forever."

Baptismal Candidates

Date of Baptism

 Rylee Leo Cordes	January 22, 2023
 Christina Elizabeth Stangier	January 22, 2023
 Henry Eugene Lloyd Jewiss	April 9, 2023

LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST (6)

*"The body of Christ, the bread of heaven.
Amen"*

Candidates

Date of First Communion

 Scarlett Elizabeth Deborah Vera Brun	July, 2023
 Elaina Oksana Cham-Klein	July, 2023
 Ethan Henry Ezack	July, 2023
 Greyson Douglas Heikkinen	July, 2023
 Bridgit Jane Sachiko Oshimo	July, 2023
 Bella Mintrude Pelletier	July, 2023

CONFIRMATION (0)

"Strengthen, O Lord, your servant with your Holy Spirit."

WEDDINGS (1)

"Pour out the abundance of your blessing upon this couple."

Bride & Groom

Wedding Date

 Laura Anne Houlton & Nathan Roy Hogan	July 8, 2023
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PASSINGS (11)

“Rest eternal grant unto them, and let light perpetual shine upon them.”

St. Paul's parishioners “called home” to Jesus during 2023.

* Not recorded in 2022; Service held June 23, 2023 / † Service to be held in future

Name of Deceased

Date of Passing

† David Bigelow Coulson *	December 29, 2022
† Lillian Cooke	January 30, 2023
† Eva Shirley Orok	March 15, 2023
† Margaret “Peggy” Pentney	March 18, 2022
† Tony Whitehead	March 27, 2023
† Richard Freitag	May 9, 2023
† Susan Eleanor Nancekivell	July 3, 2023
† Alison Louise Arthur	August 13, 2023
† Elizabeth “Betty” Martin †	November 12, 2023
† Jean Arthurs †	November 26, 2023
† Elizabeth Ann “Betty Ann” Shuttleworth †	December 31, 2023

2023 PARISH STATISTICS

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017
Total on Parish Roll <i>[baptized]</i>	427	426	430	422	445	455	532
Baptisms	3	14	16	9	13	18	11
Life In The Eucharist <i>First Communion</i>	6	8	9	N/A	12	10	0
Confirmations	0	3	2	N/A	0	05	5
Marriages	1	6	2	4	3	37	7
Funerals/Memorials/Interments	8	9	12	5	8	24	11

Worship Services Offered:

† 1 ‘Livestream’ Service ~ **Sunday 10:00 am Eucharist** *“YouTube/St. Paul’s Media” & Shaw Community TV, Cable 10 , 7 pm Tuesdays*

† 3 ‘In Person’ Services ~ **Saturday 5:00 pm ‘Praise & Worship’** *[Jan 8 – June 18, not held after summer break]*
Sunday 8:30 am Eucharist
10:00 am Eucharist

MEETING MINUTES

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING ~ February 19 2023

The **Annual Vestry Meeting** of *St. Paul's Anglican Church* was held February 19, 2023 in-person for the first since the pandemic began and offered via ZOOM for those who could not attend. The meeting opened at 11:55 am with **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft** as Chair. She told attendees that **Archbishop Anne** was extremely pleased with our digital Report she read online and that she'd never seen one like ours. The meeting was delayed for a week as **Christine French**, our *Annual Report Editor* who puts the book together in hard copy and digital formats, was sick, but it was well worth the wait.

1. **Archdeacon Deborah** began the meeting with a prayer and a thanks to **Christine French** for her hard work on the *Annual Report* for Vestry.
2. Thanksgiving was offered for the lives of parishioners who died or had funerals in 2022. **Archdeacon Deborah** named those who had passed away in the past year and lit a candle in their honour.
3. Rules for Vestry Meetings (**Canon J-1**) were outlined.
4. Election of a *Vestry Clerk* was held. **Fiona Gardiner** was nominated by **Carol Knox** and accepted. As there were no further nominations, Fiona was acclaimed *Vestry Clerk*.
5. Our historic *Vestry Register* was circulated and signed by all in attendance. There were 41 in attendance.

6. **Acceptance of Agenda** ~

As there were no additions or alterations to the Agenda, it was accepted as printed.

MOTION: Moved by: **Jennifer Snowden**
Seconded by: **John O'Brien**

"That the Agenda for Vestry be accepted as printed." **CARRIED**

7. **Special Presentations** ~ "**Ambassador Awards**"

We have two special "*Ambassadors for Christ*" in our midst, introduced by our Wardens, who described aspects of their character and ministries to give people a chance to guess who they were.

Rector's Warden Dorothy Piccinin announced the first 'Ambassador Award' is for someone who was born in Thunder Bay, is involved in many church activities, was on the first Parish Pilgrimage to Israel, is an aspiring author, an active fundraiser and our *PWRDF* Rep ... **Jasmine Sandham**.

People's Warden Chris Heikkinen announced the second 'Ambassador Award' goes to someone who is a past member of the Advisory Board, likes

to sing, has 2 children, has been a member of St. Paul's since the mid-70's, has travelled extensively and lived in Europe, and currently serves on the Altar Guild ... **Linda Veinot**.

8. Approval of 2022 Vestry Minutes ~

Moved by: **Alicia Sandham**

Seconded by: **Laurie Sandham**

CARRIED

"That the Minutes of the February 6, 2022 Annual Vestry be approved."

9. Approval of Agenda and Business Arising from 2022 Minutes ~

Archdeacon Deborah asked if anyone felt there were any outstanding issues from the 2022 Minutes or if any improvements were needed. There were none.

10. Review of 'Missional Objective & Outcomes' for 2022 ~

Archdeacon Deborah said that the term "Missional Objectives" refers to our church's focus.

Chris Heikkenen spoke about the **Archbishop's Motto** for 2022 ~ (2 Corinthians 5:17). **"So if anyone is in Christ, there is a new creation; everything old has passed away; see, everything has become new!"**

2022 was a year of gradual and patient diligence, along with risk management, as we moved back into some semblance of our pre-pandemic life.

Community Building – We brought back the **Food for the Soul** program. We tried to maintain our connections even though we often couldn't be physically together. We offered Indigenous scholarships. **Margie O'Brien** mentioned our support of a Water Truck for *Kingfisher Lake*, which does not have potable drinking water. Carol Knox mentioned we used our resources to help other parishes in the Deanery that were struggling. **Margie O'Brien** also mentioned all the "Family Nights" (*'Game Night,' 'Family Movie Night,' FUNtastic Friday Family Night'*) that bring families together at low or no cost.

Supporting the **7 Resolutions** from **Synod 2021** – As **Archdeacon Deborah** alluded to in her Report, we did support all 7.

Care for Creation – We planted a maple tree as part of the *Queen's "Tree-bilee"* in June. **Alison Arthur** noted our work to save our old trees in the garden along with the flowerbeds. Alison would like us to celebrate "Earth Day" (April 22nd) once again.

Support And Embrace Our Indigenous Brothers And Sisters – our "Mini-Camino" fundraising walks more than doubled our fundraising goals for Indigenous education bursaries. We gave away 4 bursaries in 2022 and will be giving more in spring 2023. In support of **"Every Child Matters"** we planted a

new “orange” themed garden by the office door. **Dorothy Piccinin** also mentioned the *Kingfisher Water Truck* fundraiser. The late **Eva Kakapetum** bequeathed her husband’s art to *St. Paul’s* when she passed. These were sold and funds will be put towards Indigenous ministries. **Jim Stewart** commented that he was amazed and thrilled that more than half the attendees at the 11 pm *Christmas Eve* service were our Indigenous brothers and sisters. He felt it was validation for our outreach as a church. He felt our best efforts are seen when we connect one-on-one with our neighbours.

11. Questions Arising from Individual Reports ~

Archdeacon Deborah thanked everyone for their excellent Reports.

This year the *Annual Report* was once again produced in both digital and printed formats. This makes reading people’s Reports more convenient as the Vestry Book can be accessed online without having to pick up a copy at church. A link to the digital book was emailed to the parish a week before the meeting and is posted on our website. Printed books were also made for people who don’t have online access or who might prefer a paper copy.

Archdeacon Deborah thanked all the committee leaders and ministry teams for their excellent reports. **Christine French** said she felt this year’s Reports were some of the most well-written she’s compiled.

Moved by: **Christine French**
 Secoded by: **Marty Sauer**

“That the parochial reports be adopted as written.” **CARRIED**

12. Adoption of the ‘Screening In Faith’ Participation Report ~

Archdeacon Deborah asked **Jim Stewart** if he had any further comments on his Report; he did not. The Archdeacon explained that a “*Vulnerable Sector Police Check*” for volunteers and staff in certain ministry categories (ie: children’s ministries, financial recording) is mandatory and important.

Moved by: **Ernie Tilbury**
 Secoded by: **Doug Oshimo**

“That the ‘*Screening in Faith*’ Report be adopted.” **CARRIED**

13. Questions Arising from ‘Incumbent’s Charge to Vestry’ ~

Archdeacon Deborah spoke about her Rector’s Report. There were no questions raised.

14. Approval of Parochial Lay Readers and Eucharistic Assistants ~

Parochial Lay Readers: **Alison Arthur, Sandra Fox, Scott Meredith, Doug Oshimo, Alicia Sandham, Marty Sauer Don Shuttleworth**

Lay Readers Emeritus: Ralph Davis, Ruth Douglas, and Art Evans

Lay Reader-in-Training: Daniel Klein

Eucharistic assistants: Karen Christie, Levina Collins, Sharron Forshaw, Christopher Heikkinen, Violet Holroyd, Candace LaFrance, Dorothy O'Donnell, Dorothy Piccinin, Laurie Sandham, Jen Snowden, Jim Stewart, and Deborah Victor

Moved by: Alicia Sandham

Seconded by: Geoffrey Hudson

"That all listed above be affirmed in their various roles for 2022." **CARRIED**

15. Financial Statements ~

a. **Balance Sheet** — (pg. 140 of the Annual Report)

We have a new reviewer, **Dale Mead** who is retired from the banking industry and is Treasurer at *St. Michael's*.

b. **Summary of Investment Fund Activity** — (pg. 142)

We received \$200,000 for the "Lenora Aedy Memorial Fund" from her estate. The closing balance was \$1,555,507.

c. **Income Statement** — (pgs. 144-145)

We did experience a small shortfall in our Offerings and Receipts. We spent less than budgeted in our expenses. Our insurance total looks very small because it was mainly paid at the end of 2021.

Total surplus of \$73 for the year.

Treasurer **Adrienne Davis** was thanked for her meticulous work in preparing these statements.

Moved by: Alison Arthur

Seconded by: Christopher Willie

"That the 2022 Financial Statements be accepted as written." **CARRIED**

Adrienne explained the "Alarm and Security" line item was for **Apex Security**, who monitors our security system, detects, false alarms, does repairs & maintenance, issues keyfobs, etc.

16. Announcement of Rector's Wardens ~

Archdeacon Deborah announced that her Rector's Warden and Deputy Rector's Warden are staying on in their roles. She announced that **Dorothy Piccinin** has agreed to be her new Rector's Warden. **Deborah Victor** has agreed to stay on, moving from People's Warden to Deputy Rector's Warden for this year.

17. Elections ~**a. Synod Delegates and Alternates:**

Adrienne Davis, Daniel Klein, Alicia Sandham – Delegates (3)
Carol Knox, Marty Sauer – Alternates (2)

Carol Knox and Marty Sauer will join the Advisory Board.

Moved by: **John O'Brien**
Seconded by: **Rose Farrow**

“That the election ballots be destroyed.”

CARRIED

b. People’s Warden:

Deborah Victor nominated her current Warden **Christopher Heikkinen**, who she has known for more than 20 years. As there were no other nominations, **Christopher Heikkinen** was acclaimed as the People’s Warden.

c. Advisory Board Members-At-Large:

Deborah Victor also offered the following names for the Advisory Board:

Carol Knox	Candace LaFrance	Marty Sauer
Alison Arthur	John O'Brien	Jen Snowden
Levina Collins	Laurie Sandham	Jim Stewart

Jasmine Sandham moved *“that all the above names be acclaimed to the Advisory Board.”* **Karen Christie** seconded. **ACCLAIMED**

d. Offering Secretary: Ernie Tilbury

Deborah Victor nominated **Ernie Tilbury** to continue for his 35th year! Ernie graciously accepted the nomination. As there were no other nominations, Ernie was enthusiastically acclaimed.

Further Acclamations:

Memorial Secretary:	Linda Veinot
Altar Guild:	Alison Arthur
Altar Servers:	Scott Meredith
Bell Ringers:	Jim Stewart
Food for the Soul:	Laurie Sandham
Men’s Breakfast:	Marshall Farquharson, Peter Globensky, Christopher Willie
Garden/Labyrinth:	Alison Arthur
Prayer Chain:	Sandra Rejall
Property Co-Chairs:	Marshall Farquharson, Derrick Tirschmann, Christopher Willie
Underground Gym “Clothing Cupboard”:	Carol Anuik
PWRDF Representative:	Jasmine Sandham
Mission to Seafarers Rep:	Suzy Thornes
Camp Gitchigomee Rep:	Sandra Rejall

Moved by: **Candace LaFrance**
Seconded by: **Adrienne Davis**

"That all the above nominees be affirmed."

CARRIED

e. Treasurer and Assistant Treasurer:

Deborah Victor asked **Adrienne Davis** to continue on as **Treasurer** with **Judy Lundberg** as her **Assistant Treasurer**. Both agreed.

18. Overview of 'Missional Objectives' & Outcomes For 2023 ~

Chris Heikkinen spoke of the items developed by the Board and encouraged more input. Live **Archbishop Anne's Motto**; Pray for Generous Hearts; Support the "*Blessing Box*" and other community projects.

Levina Collins spoke of a "Community Building" project she works on, connecting with seniors who are shut-in. **Margie O'Brien** said we should connect with parishioners from other churches which have closed.

Kim Fuzzen spoke of our "Caring for Creation" objective and the importance of its connection to our physical health.

Jasmine Sandham thanked everyone for their support of **PWRDF**. She said her 6-month goal has already been reached in February.

Alicia Sandham spoke of meeting someone who was here for grad school and didn't have a church in Thunder Bay. This person is LGBT2Q+ and hadn't found a church who would be welcoming to them. Alicia invited this student to come to our **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** and stressed they would be very welcome here.

The Archbishop's Motto for 2023 could be seen as "Discipleship."

Archdeacon Deborah asked everyone to make a commitment to grow spiritually and reach out to others. "*Discipleship in keeping with the Archbishop's motto*" was **Archdeacon Deborah's** suggestion.

Alison Arthur felt it was imperative that "*Food for the Soul*" be re-built as a voice for communicating our goals. It was noted that it connected with many of our different focuses.

Community Building, Care of Creation, and Discipleship were listed as the top three missional objectives.

Moved by: **Doug Oshimo**
Seconded by: **Jen Snowden**

"That the initiatives for 2023 be approved."

CARRIED

19. Items for Approval ~

a. Operating Budget for 2023 — (pgs.144–145):

Chris Heikkinen went through the budget explaining that the financial team looks at what happened last year and makes adjustments based on what they feel might change this year compared to last.

Chris felt it was difficult to have to subsidize our finances \$9,000 from a fund despite prepaying our insurance ahead of time in 2021. Essentially, we were almost \$22,000 short in 2022.

Despite this difficulty, our General Offering budget for 2023 is \$28,000 higher than last year.

Our Diocesan/Deanery expenses are almost \$1400 higher. There are minor increases to some of our Ministry expenses. Our Building Operation expenses are certainly higher. We will have to pay insurance for this year.

The total expenses are budgeted to increase by \$14,000. However, thus far the heating costs have been lower due to a mild winter and may reflect lower total heating expenses at the end of 2023.

Our total Budget will increase by \$17,000, to \$316,946.

Chris explained that the Board did not feel there was anything cut-able in the budget. They also did not feel the budget was unreasonable.

Christopher Willie mentioned that the cost of living is going up for everyone. This budget for 2023 is based on fact and some faith.

Ernie Tilbury discussed **EOP**. His records go back to 2009 for EOP. He reminded everyone that there are a lot of us who have not increased their giving for many years. He said an increase of as little as \$5 a month could make a huge difference if everyone took up the challenge.

Candace LaFrance reminded everyone that our personal “home” expenses increase each year. The church is our “spiritual home” and needs that care also.

Moved by: **Kim Fuzzen**
Seconded by: **Beverley Saverin**

“That the budget be approved.”

CARRIED

b. Financial Reviewer:

Adrienne Davis asked that the Advisory Board discuss this at a later date as there was no one at the meeting with accounting experience to fulfill this requirement.

Moved by: **Mark Tilbury**
Seconded by: **Rose Farrow**

“That Dale Mead continue as Financial Reviewer if he agrees.” **CARRIED**

c. Investment Manager for 2023:

Don Skochinski of **RBC Dominion** has put together a very conservative portfolio. He's done very well with St. Paul's investments and doesn't charge us a fee to manage our portfolio. **Dorothy Piccinin** nominated Don to continue.

Moved by: **Candace LaFrance**
Seconded by: **Jouni Kraft**

"That Don Skochinski continue as Investment Manager." **CARRIED**

d. Diocesan Lay Reader:

Archdeacon Deborah bestowed a new license on **Carol Knox** as a Diocesan Lay Reader under the jurisdiction of **Archbishop Anne**.

20. Other Business ~

Christopher Willie thanked **Archdeacon Deborah** for her assistance during the Vestry Meeting preparation and process. Everyone has thoughts and opinions that she must manage and she does so with grace and faith.

21. Adjournment ~

Archdeacon Deborah asked everyone to "unmute" and say "*The Grace*" together.

Motion to Adjourn: **Rev. Anne Carr** *Affirmed.* **CARRIED**

Meeting closed at 1:43 pm with the saying of *The Grace* ~



(Length of Vestry Meeting: 1 hr & 48 mins.)

Respectfully submitted,

Fiona Gardiner
Vestry Clerk

MINISTRY REPORTS

INCUMBENT'S CHARGE TO VESTRY ~ YEAR 18 IN OUR SHARED MINISTRY
The Venerable Deborah H. Kraft



ARCHBISHOP ANNE'S MOTTO
FOR 2024

“Each of you should give what you have decided in your heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to bless you abundantly, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work.”

[2 Corinthians 9:7—8]

[Editor's Note: In lieu of her usual “Rector’s Report.” Archdeacon Deborah requested her final Sermon as Rector of St. Paul’s before her retirement be published here, along with a transcript of her ‘Video Thank You’ of September 24. Excellent idea!]

“My Swan Song” ~ It is time after 18 years of faithful ministry as incumbent at *St. Paul’s, Thunder Bay*

Sunday September 10, 2023

Through the written word and through the spoken word may we know your living word, our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

“For everything there is a season and a time for every matter under heaven.” This powerful and prophetic scripture from the Old Testament in the 3rd chapter of the Book of Ecclesiastes rings true on this day. And I must tell you that many emotions are swirling around inside of me.

What is holding me faithful to God’s call are the words of the psalmist in Psalm 149:

*“Sing a new song unto the Lord
Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord,
Singing Alleluia.”*

It is time for a new song to be sung at St. Paul's. And this new song is to be sung with hope, with faith, with trust in God's providence and also with tears of sadness and tears of leaving and tears of change.

It is particularly difficult to end our chapter of nearly two decades together when we have been so happy and so blessed. Blessed to share our journeys and to grow together. Blessed to laugh together, to go on 5 pilgrimages together, to share together, to worship together, to weep together and carry each other's burdens.

"For everything there is a season." It is time for me to go. Why? I need to leave while I still have the joy and the passion and the energy to be your incumbent. Why? I need to leave to spend more time with our 12 beloved grandchildren who are growing by leaps and by bounds. There are so many life lessons that I wish to teach them.

My 18th year anniversary of serving as your **Rector** was on August 20. I remember my first day with great clarity . . . I was so nervous. After spending 5 years at my delightful and joyful ministry in the *Parish of West Thunder Bay* which included *Church of the Good Shepherd* (now closed), *St. Mark's* in Rosslyn and *St. James* in Murillo, God had called me to the big city parish. I had grown to love the people in *West Thunder Bay* and God had built us together from a part-time parish back to a full-time parish. This enabled us to dream of building a much-needed addition to *St. Mark's*.

However, when **Bishop Ron Ferris** asked me if he could bring my name forward to be considered as Rector at *St. Paul's*, I said yes. I was then, and am now, obedient to my bishop.

I remember walking inside the nave and looking around and thinking to myself, *"Dear Lord, what are you asking me to do? Please give me strength!"*

I knew that the foundation had been built with the 13 Rectors who had preceded me since the church opened in 1908. I am grateful to my predecessor, **Canon Paul Carr**, who dreamed dreams and had visions, in the spirit of the prophet Joel, as to what this parish could achieve.

And then we hit the ground running. I have been blessed with 18 years of outstanding Wardens and 18 years of dedicated Advisory Board members and Parish Officers, and 18 years of faith-filled Lay Readers, and 18 years of glorious church Musicians and 18 years of each and every one of you. We have truly been blessed with 18 years of plenty, enjoying balanced budgets and actualizing our dreams.

Here are some of the special moments from my ministry here that will remain in my heart. I was going to read over all the Annual Reports from 2005 until now to remind myself of all that we did together, but I changed my mind as I wished to give freedom to my memories.

I will share with you 18 poignant memories ~

1. Using the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Corinthians to define our purpose as *"Ambassadors for Christ."*

2. Our parish pilgrimages to the Holy Land, to Greece, to Turkey, to Italy, and to Spain. To travel with you, to eat with you, to experience the world with you are treasured memories.
3. Moving the font in 2005 from the back of the church to the front. I was scared that the heavy marble font would break through the floor of the nave into the church hall below during *Coffee Hour*, and that would be the end of my ministry.
4. Watching people grow into their callings as disciples of Jesus. This parish nurtures calls into lay leadership and into ordained ministry.
5. The 100th anniversary Chapel and the 100th anniversary Labyrinth. I remember praying with people in each of our side transepts and we all agreed on the location for the new Chapel. The east transept and not the west transept. Then we converted the west transept to our *Sacred Circle* which was blessed by **Bishop Lydia Mamakwa**. I treasure my relationship with her and with our Indigenous brothers and sisters.
6. The improvements to the church. New sound system, new carpet, new hardwood in the Sanctuary, new digital Organ, new outdoor and indoor lights to name a few.
7. The weddings, the Funerals, the Baptisms, the Confirmation Classes. What a privilege and blessing to share in these significant moments. I will forever see the faces and remember all the people of this parish whom the Lord has called home. I look forward to continuing our Indigenous baptisms with **Lay Reader Sandra Fox**.
8. I will forever treasure my pastoral visits to you in your home and in the hospital. Anointing you and praying with you and giving you communion.
9. Book studies and Bible studies, and all the snacks we enjoyed together.
10. “Dragonboat” racing at *Boulevard Lake*.
11. My honorary membership at the monthly *Men’s Breakfasts*.
12. The annual *ACW Fall Tea & Bazaar* and pouring tea at the high table.
13. The special services ~ dressing in costumes for *All Hallows’ Eve*, and the *Service of Light*, and the **Live Nativity on Christmas Eve**. Remember the time that the duck got away inside of the church? Remember the evening we lost hydro when **Bishop Stephen Andrews** was here for the *Blessing of the Animals* service when the Bishop was here?
14. Our Vestry Meetings and all the celebrating we did to confirm the nearness of God.

15. Our call to be a *Spiritual Growth Centre*, to offer workshops as “*Food for the Soul*,” to teach, to grow, to instruct. To discover that mission, all we had to do was to look at the central stained glass window in the Sanctuary that was installed in the church in 1908. The teaching window of Jesus instructing us in his ‘Sermon on The Mount.’
16. The *Life in the Eucharist* classes and the privilege of learning from the parents and their children. The grace of listening to the children as they developed the Prayers of The People and to know that our children have a deep faith, a real faith, an authentic faith.
17. Our “Drive-By Blessings” during COVID. I will never forget the time that vehicles lined up for blocks to receive a blessing and a palm branch. Thank you **Fr. Gordon** and **Deacon Anne** for always being willing to participate, and thank you for your friendship and support to bring heaven here on earth. You are both a gift of grace to the *St. Paul's* community.
18. Your never-ending love and support for **Jouni** and our family and me.

That's 18 wondrous moments, and you will have many more. I could go on . . . Our jury-rigged filming and lighting equipment before we bought the fancy stuff. All the fun I have enjoyed with **Christine** in the office each and every day.

I learned from you, and for that I am forever grateful.

Here is my advice for the future ~

- ♥ Keep praying and keep worshipping.
- ♥ Stick together.
- ♥ Continue to honour and respect each other's differences knowing that Jesus calls us to be one.
- ♥ Applaud your new **Incumbent's** way of doing things. You are not being disloyal to me if you celebrate the new and distinct way that your new Incumbent will lead. They will do things in their own way, and so they should. This is part of what it means to “*sing a new song unto the Lord.*”
- ♥ Please, please do not reinstate reserved parking spots! Please, please do not lock up this church and its cupboards! I guarantee that this is the easiest way for the Spirit of God to make a quick exit. Trust in God and always begin by thinking the best about people.
- ♥ Don't take yourself too seriously. 😊
- ♥ “*Speak the truth in love*” from Ephesians 4:15. Deal with bad behaviour in a loving, Christ-centred way. Don't ignore it or sweep it away.

I have been deeply humbled and moved by all of your comments to me on our *St. Paul's Facebook* page, your notes, cards, and phone calls. In fact, as I have been reading them, I have been thinking *"Well this can't be about me! Who is this person they are describing? I would like to meet this person!"*

You have been servants of God in reaching out to Jouni and me after his devastating stroke in Spain in 2022. My family (**John and Carrie, Paul and Crystal, Laura and Jan, Thomas and Riitta**) and Jouni and I are eternally grateful for your never-ending support, love, prayers, and kindness. You are angels. You are messengers from God.

Our gracious **Archbishop Anne Germond** knows this and that is why she is allowing us to continue as members of *St. Paul's*. As you are aware, I am remaining as her *Territorial Archdeacon* for the *Deanery of Thunder Bay– North Shore*.

It is time. It is time to sing a new song unto the Lord. It is time to put a new song of opportunities and dreams into action. It is time to know that you, the lay people of *St. Paul's*, have been blessed with spiritual treasures and gifts through your baptisms. You are powerful. You are blessed. You have tasted and seen the goodness of the Lord. You are God's beloved children and I love you. God will put the new song into your mouth, your heart, your soul, and your mind. And know that in the words of Jesus from today's gospel, *"For where two or three are gathered in my name, I am there among them."* Matthew 18:20

When the curtain closes on my life and *"the day thou gavest Lord is ended, the darkness falls at thy behest,"* I know that I will reflect back and give thanks for these unforgettable 18 years with you. Wondrous, glorious and life-giving years.

Amen. Amen. Amen.

I know that I will hear the fruits and the refrain of your new song as you walk hand in hand.

*"Sing a new song unto the Lord
Let your song be sung from mountains high
Sing a new song unto the Lord
Singing Alleluia"*

Outgoing Rector's Video Thank You

September 24, 2023

To my Dear Ambassadors for Christ:

*"Give thanks in all circumstances for this is the will of God
in Christ Jesus for you."* 1 Thessalonians 5:18

Our patron saint, the Apostle Paul wrote these words at the end of his letter to Christians in Thessalonika, the letter that we know as First Thessalonians.

It is very easy for me to give thanks to each of you for the farewell tribute that you extended to me out of grace and out of love and out of friendship just two weeks ago on September 10, 2023.

I was overwhelmed and your kind words filled me with deep joy, a joy that I will carry in my heart for the rest of my life.

On Monday, September 11, Jouni and I drove to Toronto, stopping along the way in Thessalon at the *Carolyn Beach Hotel* and then on to *Lake Simcoe* to stay with my close friend Heather from my undergrad days at *Trinity College* and her husband Joe, and then on to Toronto where we enjoyed several days with two of our children John and Paul and their spouses Carrie and Crystal and 6 of our grandchildren. We returned home on Monday, September 18. You were never far from our hearts as we enjoyed your *Esso* gift cards and your *Tim Horton's* gift card and eating chilled Southern Ontario peaches from our personalized lunch bag. You truly travelled with us!

I will never forget the tribute that our Wardens, Chris, Dorothy, and Deborah made. We are blessed with Wardens who live as disciples of Jesus and show compassion, insight, and kindness in everything they do. Thank you Chris, Dorothy, and Deborah. With the three of them at the helm, you are in good hands.

I will never forget the slides and photos that Christine and Daniel put together with great care and consideration. The photos that Daniel chose matched the words.

Sean, thank you for the outstanding music, and for the trumpet player Brian. Thank you Kim for your original song, "*In The Silence*" that touched my heart, and thank you for bringing the '*dorion singers*.' Our choir sang their hearts and souls out to the glory of God and I thank you.

The reception was amazing. And the food included two of my favourite food groups ~ hot dogs, and plain potato chips.

I loved the table decorations and the photos that were all lovingly put together by Lynda, Carol, Laurie, and Christine. Thank you to Marshall, Christopher, and Jasmine for all your capable assistance.

Thank you for the gift cards, for the insulated lunch bag so beautifully painted by Candace, for the memory book put together by Dorothy, the welcome mats Christopher had bound from pieces of our aisle carpet, and the #18 'Kraft' jersey arranged by Deborah and Christine.

Thank you for coming to church on September 10, for watching the service on the livestream, for your cards, messages, emails and phone calls.

Thank you Archbishop Anne for your video message that took my breath away.

I will carry each of you in my heart forever. You are a community that turns love from a feeling into action.

I let St. Paul have the initial word and I will let him be part of my closing . . .

Colossians 3:15 ~ *“And let the peace of Christ rule in your hearts, to which indeed you were called in one body. And be thankful.”*

May you continue to grow as *“Ambassadors for Christ.”* May God’s spirit of gratitude, and of thanksgiving, carry each of you into the future, rejoicing in the plans that God has for St. Paul’s and for each of you.

I will close with the Celtic blessing:

*May the road rise up to meet you.
May the wind be always at your back.
May the sun shine warm upon your face,
may the rains fall soft upon your fields.
And until we meet again, may God hold you
in the palm of His hand.*

Respectfully submitted in gratitude for 18 glorious years of shared ministry,

Deborah+

The Venerable Deborah Hope Kraft
B.Sc., MBA, B.Th., MTS, DSL
Rector of St. Paul’s
(August 2005 – September 2023)
Archdeacon of Thunder Bay – North Shore



**Archdeacon Deborah
& Jouni Kraft**
“Ambassadors for Christ.”

DEACON ASSOCIATE'S REPORT ~ THE REVEREND ANNE CARR

*"And whatever you do, in word or deed, do everything
in the name of the Lord Jesus, giving thanks
to God the Father through him."*

[Colossians 3:17]

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

I continue to help at the 10:00 am Sunday Service, and am assisting **The Reverend Rob Smith** with the liturgy, using the Reserve Sacrament twice a month.

I am also assisting **The Reverend Nancy Ringham** with Communion Services twice a month.

I visit and telephone seniors, and give them Communion when they request it.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

In 2024, I hope to continue helping at the services.

As long as I can, I will continue to visit.

I wish to thank our Wardens, **Dorothy, Deborah** and **Chris** for their continued support and look forward to a new Incumbent. I thank **Archdeacon Deborah** for her support these past years.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Anne +
The Reverend Anne Carr
Deacon Associate

HONORARY ASSISTANT'S REPORT ~ THE REVEREND GORDON HOLROYD

"A light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it." [John 1:5]

As we enter the year of 2024, St. Paul's is faced with many changes, but we trust in the Lord to lead us.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

For me, 2023 was a year of serving in different parishes, and as **Regional Dean** of our *Thunder Bay – North Shore Deanery*. Of course, my first responsibility is to you, the people of *St. Paul's*. I celebrate at the 8:30am service each Sunday, but I also lead worship at *St. Thomas'* and *St. Georges'* once per month.

As well as carrying out my duties of Regional Dean, I took home communions to some parishioners all year and administered some Christmas Communions.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

The goal I set last year to assist where and when needed has been accomplished and has expanded. I remain available to assist whenever asked.

I am sure 2024 will present many challenges, but as it always does, *St. Paul's* will meet them with the help of very dedicated people in so many roles.

Respectfully submitted,

Fr. Gordon +

*The Reverend Gordon Holroyd
Honorary Assistant*

WARDEN'S REPORT

“So let us not grow weary in doing what is right, for we will reap at harvest time, if we do not give up.” [Galatians 6:9]

Warden Ministry: **Dorothy Piccinin**, *Rector's Warden*;
Deborah Victor, *Deputy Rector's Warden*
Chris Heikkinen, *People's Warden*

The **Wardens**, along with the **Rector**, are responsible for the parish. In our role we act as navigators, helping to establish a path for the parish. We seek solutions to any obstacles that arise and try to seize opportunities that will benefit the parish to the Glory of God. This was a year of transition during which we bid farewell to our beloved Rector, **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft**, after 18 years of faith-filled service to St. Paul's. This brought on unique challenges that we faced as a team, leaning on the diversity of our unique perspectives and making decisions as a group.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Missional Objectives Were ~

1. Community Building
2. Live the Archbishop's Motto for 2023 ~ *Luke 4:18-19*
“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, because he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives and recovery of sight to the blind, to let the oppressed go free, to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.”
3. Continue to grow in Discipleship
4. Indigenous Ministry
5. Care for Creation

Our Outcomes Were:

- ✧ We did our best. We strived to maintain the status quo as much as possible, understanding we are in a period of transition and some things will change, at least temporarily.
- ✧ We facilitated the gathering of a devoted **Ministry Team** to walk with us as we search for a new **Incumbent**. We are thankful for the clergy and lay ministry who have helped so much over the past few months and have dedicated themselves for the next six months.
- ✧ We welcomed newcomers to our parish every chance we had; we are thrilled every time we see new faces at church!

- ✦ We focused on Community Building by bringing back our Parish Luncheons after the 10 am Service. We have been blessed to break bread with our church family again.

MISSIONAL OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

The Missional Objectives for the coming year, to be presented to Vestry for discussion and approval:

Our Goals Are ~

1. To lead the church, always in a thoughtful and prayerful manner
2. To continue building the Community of God by creating opportunities for fellowship and discipleship growth
1. To have a Balanced Budget for the year 2024. We believe and hope the parish can support a full-time Incumbency in the future.

It has been a privilege to serve in this Ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy, Chris, & Deborah

Dorothy Piccinin
Rector's Warden

Deborah Victor
Deputy Rector's Warden

Chris Heikkinen
People's Warden

DIOCESAN SYNOD, May 11 – 13, 2023 ~ DELEGATES' REPORTS

“Jesus said to them again, ‘Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.’”

[John 20:21]

Delegate Adrienne Davis ~

Synod 2023. This was my first Synod experience and I hope it will not be my last.

As a “freshman” Synod Delegate I was utterly confused when I received an email asking me to be on the “**Bishop’s Charge Committee.**” Bishop’s Charge? What is that? Surely there must have been a mistake, because I don’t even know what this is! A couple of texts later to **Archdeacon Deborah** and I soon discovered what it was. I accepted the call while still not fully understanding what I would need to do. A couple of weeks later I received an email containing a top secret document, the **Bishop’s Charge.** The 2023 Bishop’s Charge was a cornerstone document written by **Archbishop Anne Germond** outlining her observations since the last Synod, a reminder that we are “People of Promise,” reflections of the Signs of God’s Activity in Algoma, recognition that we are a “Holy Saturday” church, and her desires of where we should be placing emphasis in order to build our spiritual house.

We learned more about the **PWRDF** and how we are all “*working towards a truly JUST, HEALTHY, and PEACEFUL world.*” Aid has been provided not just to those overseas (\$1.4M support by Canadian Anglicans for Ukrainians), but also to those close to home (supporting Indigenous Communities).

We learned about the **Anglican Foundation of Canada** and it’s striving to “Imagine More.” In 2022 over \$1M in grants was disbursed, the second highest ever, and the largest grant in its history was \$25,000 to **CLAY** (Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth) to support Indigenous youth. **Archbishop Anne** asked Synod to consider making a gift to the *Anglican Foundation* at a Parish level.

In closing, here is a quote by **The Rev. Cannon Dr. John Gibault** (President of *Thorneloe University*) ~ “*Every baptized Christian is a theologian.*”

Thank you, *St. Paul’s*, for your support in electing me as one of your Synod representatives.

Respectfully submitted,

Adrienne Davis
Synod Delegate

[Delegate Daniel Klein](#) ~

Without the heavy issue of Same-Sex Marriage of the last in-person Diocesan Synod, and the less personable nature of the prior, ZOOM-based, online Synod, the return of the in-person gathering was a joy-filled occasion of learning, decision-making, worship, and fellowship.

The opening worship in the Cathedral saw the blessing of three Deacons, and subsequent worship times were led by members throughout the Dioceses, including *St. Paul's* own **Alicia Sandham** presiding.

Every *St. Paul's* Delegate and attendee had some role at Synod, whether it was serving on committees, organizing the prayer room, or helping with elections. I am proud and humbled to be part of such a team and the tremendous impact made in the proceedings.

I would encourage the parishioners of *St. Paul's* to read **Archbishop Germond's Charge to Synod**, and the motions brought forward to support it:

- ✝ That every parish in the Diocese identify areas of spiritual formation or education that need to be further developed, and to report the same to the Deanery and the Diocesan office the progress on this no later than our 2024 Vestry meeting,
- ✝ That an Episcopal Fund Committee be established, consisting of at least one member from each deanery (NB: **Chris Heikkinen** is the representative from our Deanery),
- ✝ That every parish set aside a minimum of 0.1% of their annual budgets to support Lay Readers between 2024 and 2029,
- ✝ That each Deanery provide some education about the Christian stewardship of creation and that each parish undertake at least one initiative before the next Diocesan Synod.

I thank the people of *St. Paul's* for choosing me as their representative and hope that I have served in this role to their satisfaction.

Post Script: Alicia, in her Report, was unable to find a spot to mention the most excellent job she did in helping to organize the Youth Reception at Synod and, in particular, for formulating a trivia game that entertained and engaged all who attended, so I'm adding it as a 'post script' here.

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Klein
Synod Delegate

[Delegate Alicia Sandham](#) ~

In May 2023, myself and two other elected representatives from *St. Paul's* (**Adrienne Davis** and **Daniel Klein**) visited Sault Ste. Marie along with other Clergy and Lay Delegates from across the Diocese. We attended a series of meetings and workshops in order to better understand what the Diocese is up to: things that we are doing well, things that have not worked, and things that we have yet to try.

In preparation for this Synod, we were asked to provide information on events or ideas that *St. Paul's* has attempted to execute since the last Synod in 2021 ~ things that worked well for us at *St. Paul's*, and things that have not worked so well for us. Your representative "Ambassadors" worked hard on those points, and we noted many wonderfully successful endeavors such as our "Mini-Camino" fundraiser and our "Blessing Box" initiative. Other parishes were impressed to see our lists! We strive to continue those things in 2024 and beyond.

At Diocesan Synod, I was elected as a Lay Delegate to both Provincial and General ("National") Synods, in 2024 and 2025 respectively, and one of our Deanery Youth Representatives ~ our very own **Hollie Davis** from *St. Paul's* ~ was elected as the Youth Delegate for the Diocese of Algoma at Provincial Synod in 2024 as well. So, as it turns out, Hollie and I will have another trip to Sault Ste. Marie together this upcoming fall!

In 2024, my fellow Synod Delegates and I will continue to serve on the Advisory Board to bring our voices to the parish, and continue to serve on the Deanery Council to bring our parish voice to the Deanery.

Additionally in 2024, I will personally continue to serve on the Diocesan Executive Committee as the Youth Representative; I hope that the joy and faithfulness that I build in that position is as beneficial for everyone else as it is for my own spirit.

Thank you so much for your support, "*Ambassadors*"!

Respectfully submitted,

Alicia Sandham,
Synod Delegate

‘SCREENING IN FAITH’ COMMITTEE REPORT

“Finally beloved, whatever is true, whatever is honourable, whatever is just, whatever is pure, whatever is pleasing, whatever is commendable, if there is any excellence and if there is anything worthy of praise, think about these things.”

[Philippians 4:8]

All parishes are required to implement a **‘Screening in Faith’** program in compliance with direction from our *Diocesan Synod Office*. This is an important parish responsibility, integral to building a faith community founded on integrity and mutual respect. The *Screening in Faith* program follows a ten step process designed specifically for screening those who wish to serve the church in various roles, providing guidelines for the recruitment, selection, and management of volunteers and staff. Following these guidelines helps us strive to establish a safe environment for worship in the church and service to the parish.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Normally new volunteers and staff are interviewed, *Police Record Checks* collected and filed, and follow-ups conducted with those who have already been through the interview stage of the screening process. This is not always a straightforward path, as the roles of volunteers and staff can rapidly change and evolve when people cycle through new ministries, and existing programs can expand or shift focus as the parish grows.

This year our ability to fully implement the program was further complicated by several other factors, chiefly lingering COVID concerns, on-going health challenges, and the retirement of our beloved **Rector, Archdeacon Deborah**, who works closely with the Committee. Regrettably, planned interviews were postponed, follow-ups could not be undertaken, and existing files remain incomplete.

ANTICIPATED OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

This year, we will revisit our application of the *Screening in Faith* program with our new **Ministry Team** to ascertain how best to move past the current challenges hampering progress. Moving forward, we expect to complete steps outstanding in open files and welcome volunteers to new ministries as we return to the joy of conducting interviews with enthusiastic and inspiring parishioners.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Stewart

‘Screening in Faith’ Committee

MUSIC DIRECTOR'S REPORT

"Bless the Lord, you servants of the Lord; sing praise to him and highly exalt him forever."

[Daniel 3:85]

The St. Paul's **Music Director's** Ministry is mainly, but not limited to, leading choral and congregational singing; providing musical accompaniment for worship services, weddings, and funerals; to occasionally lead the **Senior Choir** in singing anthems; coordinating the maintenance of all instruments; and managing our music library.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~

- ♪ To provide accompaniment for Sunday worship and special services
- ♪ To lead the congregational singing with the return of our **Choir** after the easing of COVID lockdown restrictions
- ♪ To sing anthems in person at *Easter* and *Christmas*

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ♪ I provide accompaniment on the organ and piano for the congregational singing at all services throughout the year. When I was not available, **Patsy Towell** and **Kim Fuzzen** stepped up to lead the congregation.
- ♪ The choir not only sang anthems at *Easter* and our *Christmas Eve* services, but also at other services as well.
- ♪ The choir sustained their leading of the congregational singing even through the summer months.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

My Goals Are ~

- ♪ To provide inspiring and spiritually uplifting music
- ♪ To upkeep maintenance of musical instruments
- ♪ To secure *Guest Musicians* for special worship services
- ♪ To introduce new music for the purpose of congregational singing

I would like to thank the members of our Choir for their continued dedication to making joyful music together. And I am grateful to the congregation for your continued support appreciation of the Preludes and Postludes

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Sean Kim
Music Director

MEMORIAL CHOIR REPORT

“Lift up your voice with strength . . . lift it up, do not fear.”

[Isaiah 40:9]

The **Memorial Choir** sings for special occasions such as Funerals or Memorial Services, the **Annual Police Memorial**, and other such services when they are held at *St. Paul's*. Each member on the list is called and given details of the service, time to assemble, etc. This is an easy task as I enjoy the camaraderie of our dedicated group.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goal Was ~

🎵 Last year's most important goal was to grow the number of Choir members

Our Outcome Was ~

- ☒ No new members came forward
- ☒ Our numbers were slightly reduced

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

We are blessed to have a group of people willing to share their gifts and time but we would like to add to our roster. A good-size choir is important to grieving families; they are comforted by the special music they have chosen to celebrate the life of their loved one.

Our Goals Are ~

- 🎵 To grow the number of Choir members
- 🎵 To welcome all types of voices

I'd like to personally thank St. Paul's Memorial Choir members for your continuing dedication to this meaningful ministry, and I invite anyone who would consider singing with us occasionally to contact me at [767-7194](tel:767-7194).

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Veinot

Memorial Choir Chair

BELL RINGERS GUILD

“Let us come into his presence with thanksgiving; let us make a joyful noise.”

[Psalm 95:2]

Our **Bell Ringers** are privileged to call the faithful to worship and send them out into the world again with a song; an important and essential music ministry! What a blessing to our dedicated team to be able to perform before and after church services once again now that pandemic restrictions are a thing of the past . . .

Members: **Stacy Cham Klein, Fiona Gardiner, Dorothy Piccinin, Marty Sauer, Don Shuttleworth, Jim Stewart**




ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Due to illnesses and absences among the ranks, and various other factors beyond our control, we made little progress on last year's objective of attracting new members to this ministry. That goal will be carried over into 2024.

Happily, a 2023 “Bell Ringers Schedule” was developed and circulated, so this objective was obtained, thanks to the kind assistance of **Dorothy Piccinin**. Many thanks for coming to the rescue once again this year. Much appreciated!

I also extend heartfelt thanks to all the **Bell Ringers Guild** members for their faithful service at worship services and other community events where the bells of St. Paul's peal out a welcome. It is indeed a privilege to be able to praise and worship our Lord and support our parish family through this blessed music ministry.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

-  Invite new members
-  Continue our ministry
-  Praise the Lord!

Respectfully
submitted,

Jim Stewart
Bell Ringer's Chair



Donated and installed in 1913, St. Paul's bell console is 1 of only 2 manual Carillons from Toronto to Winnipeg. Consistently played for over a century, the wooden cabinet and bell levers and the ornate silver music stand are still in beautiful condition.

EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS' REPORT

"Blessed are you, O God, now and forever. The Cup of Blessing which we bless is a sharing of the Blood of Christ." [prayer for Covenanting of Eucharistic Assistants]

Members: 8:30 am ~ **Sharron Forshaw, Candace LaFrance**

10 am ~ **Deborah Victor, Dorothy Piccinin, Chris Heikkinen, Violet Holyroyd, Jen Snowden, Karen Christie, Laurie Sandham** (summer)

Traditionally, **Eucharistic Assistants** have been lay people trained by the Rector to administer the chalice of wine during communion. They are governed by Canon I-4 which states that anyone desiring to be commissioned as a Eucharistic Assistant must be active in worship and in support of St. Paul's and they are encouraged to deepen their prayer life. Appointed on the recommendation of the Incumbent and Vestry, a Eucharistic Assistant is covenanted to administer the chalice at services and also permitted to bring communion to parishioners no longer able to come to church.

Archdeacon Deborah asked me to assume the oversight of this ministry for 2023. Thanks to **Lynda Farquharson** for her work in the past few years.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

With the lifting of COVID restrictions, the chalice has been returned to being offered at the altar rail during worship. At the Invitation, the celebrant stresses that the benefits of the Holy communion are fully received in the bread alone. People are offered a prayer if they so desire instead of receiving the consecrated bread and wine. At the beginning of the year, masking was required for all offering the elements. This was not consistently practiced towards the end of the year, although it was encouraged.

At the 8:30 am worship service, the celebrant or a Lay Reader, if present, administers the chalice. At the 10 am service, the chalice is administered at the altar rail by a designated **Eucharistic Assistant** and also by an **Indigenous Diocesan** or **Parochial Lay Reader**. The Lay Reader of the day usually goes to the congregation with a chalice along with **Deacon Anne** who offers bread and sometimes a special prayer for healing.

On the 8:30 am roster we have two Vestry-approved Eucharistic Assistant, as well as any Lay Readers who are present. On the 10:30 am roster we have our three Wardens as Vestry-approved Eucharistic Assistants, as well as 4 others.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2022:

A goal for 2024 is to invite and train some Indigenous congregants to be added to the regular Eucharistic Assistant roster. Additional training and **Archbishop Anne's** permission will also allow them to exercise the usual EA function of taking Holy communion to Indigenous people in their homes when they go to sing as support people. Three ladies have been identified as potential candidates for this ministry and with **Archbishop Anne's, Archdeacon Deborah's,** and the **Wardens'** permission, they will be invited to let their names be brought forward for approval at Vestry.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Carol Knox
Eucharistic Assistant Coordinator

LAY READER MINISTRY

“The Lord equips the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ.”

[Ephesians 4:12]

Lay Readers can be identified by the blue scarf they wear over their white alb. **Diocesan Lay Readers** have the large *Algoma* crest at the bottom of their scarf. Our Parochial and Diocesan Lay Readers are a blessing to *St. Paul's*.

‘Parochial Lay Readers’ are elected by the annual Vestry and covenanted with both the Rector and the Parish. Their ministries take place within their parish ~ in our case, *St. Paul's*. **Alison Arthur, Sandra Fox, Scott Meredith, Doug Oshimo, Alicia Sandham, Marty Sauer, Don Shuttleworth** were affirmed at our 2023 Vestry along with **Daniel Klein** as a new *Lay Reader-In-Training*. Alison was faithful in this ministry, as in all her many areas of service at *St. Paul's*, until her passing in early August; she is greatly missed by so many in the parish. Our Lay Readers read scripture on Sunday, assist at communion, and perform many other ministries essential to our parish life. They bring communion to those at home or in long-term care, train Servers, shop for the *Blessing Box*, teach Indigenous Confirmation class, sing in the Choir, and produce our Livestreams.

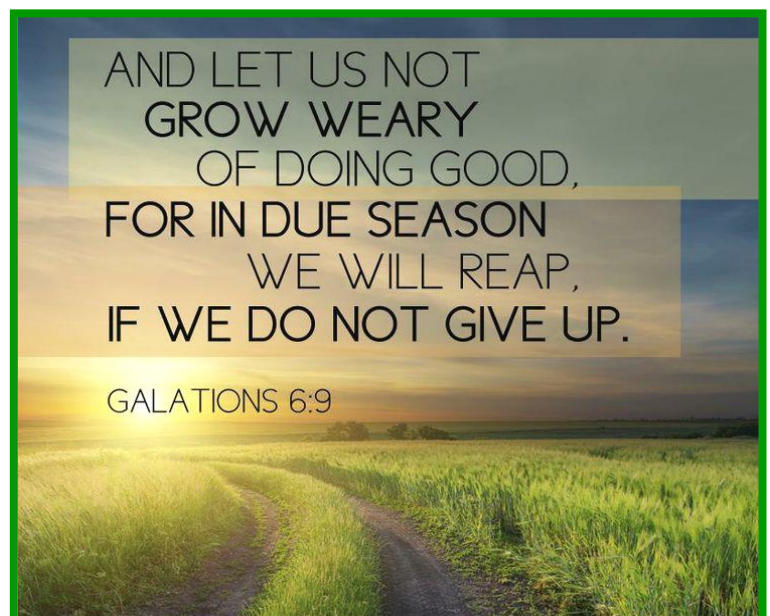
‘Diocesan Lay Readers’ are recommended by *Deanery Council* and appointed by **Archbishop Anne Germond**, who licenses them to their ministries. Diocesan Lay Readers are permitted to lead services in parishes other than *St. Paul's*, and to lead services with Reserved Sacrament in long-term care homes, and in communities where an Anglican church is not available. Our Indigenous Diocesan Lay Readers **Jessie McKay** and **Ida Mekanak**, are a great support for Indigenous people in the community, and also read scripture and sing in Cree at church services. **Tony Whitehead** was faithful in this ministry until his passing at the end of March; we miss his beautiful smile and singing voice, and his Oji-Cree greeting video at our 10 am worship. Diocesan Lay Reader **Dr. Carol Knox** also schedules *Scripture Lectors, Eucharistic Assistants, and Lay Readers*, and produces the Lenten & Advent *‘Reflections’* booklets, and organizes our *Deanery Lenten Retreat* among her many ministries.

*“May the work of these your
servant Lay Readers so build up
your church, that they may
faithfully serve you and
show your love in all the world.”*

[from the Covenanting of Lay Readers]

Respectfully submitted,

Christine French
Annual Report Editor



INDIGENOUS MINISTRY REPORT

“Behold, I am doing a new thing . . . I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert, to give drink to my chosen people, the people I have formed for myself, that they might declare my praise.” [Isaiah 43:19; 20-21]

There was no Vestry Report in 2022, so I will describe what was done during 2023.

ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- Our **Land Acknowledgement** is read out at the beginning of each worship service and also at funerals and other gatherings.
- Parochial Lay Reader **Sandra Fox** assumed more responsibility for this ministry:
 - organized and assisted with monthly baptisms by **Archdeacon Deborah**.
 - co-taught ‘Confirmation Class’ for 14 youth with **Elsie MacDonald**.
 - *Confirmation* by **Bishop Lydia** has been postponed until early 2024.
- Diocesan Lay Readers **Ida Mekanak** and **Jessie McKay** continued to serve:
 - began reading the second scripture in Cree at the 10 am service on the last Sunday of the month.
 - Gospel read in Cree at 10 am *Easter Sunday*, 10 am ‘*Orange Shirt*’ Sunday, and 10 pm *Christmas Eve* services. This was well received by the congregation, who were offered English bibles to follow along.
 - Ida and Jessie administer a Chalice each Sunday at 10 am. Parishioners like hearing the Words of Administration in their Indigenous language.
 - “*Four Directions*” Litany prayed by **Sharon Angecone** at ‘*Indigenous Day of Prayer*’ Service on June 18 and ‘*Orange Shirt Day*’ Service on Oct 1.
- Indigenous youth were trained as Altar Servers.
- **Bishop Lydia Mamakwa** of *Mishamikoweesh* requests ministry for Anglicans coming into Thunder Bay for medical reasons or because of a death.
 - On request of Bishop Lydia, parishioners **Dora Morris**, **Marion Morris** and **Elaine Beardy** sing and pray with people in the parish or community needing crisis support.
- **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft** and **Fr. Gordon Holroyd** do prayers for the sick and dying, and conduct services or funerals for the deceased prior to burial in their home communities.
- **Carol Knox** continues to mentor Sandra in providing *Reserved Sacrament* holy communion in home or hospital settings.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- Continuing collegial episcopal working relationships between **Archbishop Anne Germond** and **Bishop Lydia**.
- Expand Indigenous involvement in parish life as Sidespeople.
- Train indigenous Eucharistic Assistants to take home and hospital communions.

Respectfully Submitted

Dr. Carol Knox
Indigenous Ministry Team

LIVESTREAMING MINISTRY REPORT

“Let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven.”



[Matthew 5:15]

Members: **Deirdre Carlson, Alicia Sandham, Jennifer Snowden, Jasmine Sandham, Laurie Sandham, Daniel Klein**




This ministry creates the livestreams and provides sound and multimedia support for worship services, etc. Our 10 am Sunday Services are available on our **YouTube** channel, “**St. Paul's Media,**” both live and as archived videos. Services also air Tuesday evenings on **Shaw Community Television**.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~

-  To continue providing live streams for all needed services
-  To ensure the Media Team was well-supported and trained on sound equipment



Our Outcomes Were ~

-  We provided streams for all 10 am worship services, as well as for several funerals
-  The team also provided support for the annual **Rotary Carol Sing**
-  We repaired and maintained the sound equipment as needed

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

The Media Team is committed to consistently creating high quality multimedia content to support the ministry and outreach of *St. Paul's* to our faith community, at home and in person.

Our Goals Are ~

-  To continue to provide this ministry to parishioners and guests of *St. Paul's*
-  To add at least one more member to our Media Team to add to the sound board rotation

Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Klein
Livestreaming Ministry

PWRDF [“PRIMATE’S WORLD RELIEF & DEVELOPMENT FUND”] REPORT

*“Since there will never cease to be some in need on the earth, I therefore command you,
‘Open your hand to the poor and needy . . .’” [Deuteronomy 15:11]*




Coordinator: **Jasmine Sandham**

The ***Primate’s World Relief & Development Fund (PWRDF)*** is the Anglican Church of Canada’s agency for sustainable development, relief, refugees, and global justice. With the support of Anglican parishes across Canada, **PWRDF** makes financial and human resources available at home and around the world.

PWRDF strives to be a part of the outreach ministry of every Canadian Anglican parish, an expression of our Baptismal Covenant to *“strive for justice and peace and to respect the dignity of every human being.”* (Baptismal Service, BAS pg.159)

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~




-  To meet our goal of \$1,000 towards the *“Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership”* to help purchase a water truck for Kingfisher Lake
-  Employ visual aids to help people keep track of fundraising goals
-  Spread awareness for PWRDF and what we do.

Our Outcomes Were ~

-  We reached our \$1,000 fundraising goal for the *“Mishamikoweesh Water Partnership”* by June; funds went towards a water truck for *Kingsfisher Lake*. The fundraising puzzle we had made with photos of the project appeared to be quite effective. We gave it to **Sandra Fox** to take up to *Kingfisher*.
-  Finishing this project early meant we were able to participate in two additional fundraising projects: the Deanery-wide *“Walk for Refuge”* Wild Ride (\$735 raised) and St. Paul’s *“Christmas Midwives”* Fundraiser (\$1,655 raised).
-  We also sold Orange Marigolds for the same price once again this year (approx.. \$340 raised). This fundraiser is really popular.
-  We were able to host Guest Speaker from the *Canadian Foodgrains Bank* (a partner of PWRDF) at a 10 am Sunday service. This was followed by a Parish Lunch, where the nearly \$400 in freewill offerings raised went to the *Canadian Foodgrains Bank*.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are ~

-  Have a seminar or two about specific causes to reach more people
-  Once again participate in the *“Wild Ride Campaign”* with a new fundraising idea
-  Choose fundraising goals that meet current world needs

Respectfully submitted,

Jasmine Sandham
PWRDF Parish Rep

INTER-CHURCH REFUGEE COMMITTEE [ICRC] REPORT

“You are no longer foreigners and strangers, but fellow citizens with God’s people and also member of his household.”

[Ephesians 2:19]

ICRC Chair: **Shane Judge**, *Trinity United Church* and **Carol Knox**, *St. Paul's*

Anglican, Lutheran and United churches bring UN designated/Federally sponsored refugees to Thunder Bay with 1 year of financial and personal support.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- † Support for the **Slibi Family** financially and personally was met. Formal sponsorship ended September 2023; family is doing well.
- † Dad works full time performing maintenance on school buses and studies English; Mom works half-time at a nail salon and studies English. Son Roy works long hours making food deliveries and finds it difficult to finish the three Gr. 12 courses needed for college admission.
- † Sponsoring another family was postponed because of lack of housing
- † Goal of another Anglican church was met by **Rev. Deb Everest** of *St. George's* joining the committee.
- † Continuation of accepting financial donations for future ministry was met.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- † Explore sponsoring the brother of a previous sponsor-ee which would not be impacted by housing issues. This would involve raising about \$7,000 dollars to top up our existing funds.
- † Help for Roy, possibly from a retired teacher, to gain Gr. 12 English, Biology, and Chemistry credits so as to apply for paramedic or trades courses at *Confederation College*.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol Knox
ICRC Steering Group

'ST. PAUL'S CAFÉ' COFFEE FELLOWSHIP REPORT

"Above all, keep loving one another earnestly, since love covers a multitude of sins. Show hospitality to one another without grumbling. As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace."

[Peter 4:8–10 NLT]

'Coffee Hour' is an important part of the hospitality shown by St. Paul's volunteers. This ministry provides coffee & snacks after the 10 am Sunday Service and each *Coffee Team* is rotated throughout the year.

Coordinators: **Dorothy Piccinin** (Jan – Oct), **Charlene Shuttleworth** (Nov – current)

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~

- ♥ To grow the number of Coffee Teams
- ♥ To provide the snacks for the *Coffee Hour*
- ♥ To be able to sustain the *Coffee Hour* throughout the year

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ♥ We still have a similar number of Teams but **Charlene Shuttleworth** has taken over the coordination of this ministry and has encouraged new people to join Teams
- ♥ Snacks are provided should the Coffee Team require them and are kept in the kitchen
- ♥ We sustained the *Coffee Hour* through the winter, spring and fall. *Summer Lemonade Fellowship* in the garden had few people stay

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are:

- ♥ To encourage more people to become providers of the *Coffee Hour*
- ♥ To encourage more people to come downstairs for *Coffee Hour* fellowship

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Piccinin
Coffee Fellowship
Scheduler



WE SERVE
Thunder Bay's
BEST COFFEE!

the **walleye**
Thunder Bay's arts & culture alternative
BEST OF 2023

Best Roastery:

#1. St Paul Roastery*
* since 2017

Best Coffee:

#1. St Paul Roastery*
* 2017-2020 & 2022

☞ ... Just imagine
what **WE** could do!

Think of all the amazing things
our Patron Saint, PAUL did for
the church. And he did it all
without **COFFEE** ... ☞

MEMORIAL RECORDING SECRETARY'S REPORT



"Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted."

[Matthew 5:4]

I help process donations people give to *St. Paul's* in memory of their departed friends and loved ones. As donations are received, our *Offering Secretary Ernie Tilbury* passes on the details and Income Tax receipts, which I send to each donor in a special St. Paul's Thank You card to gratefully acknowledge their gift. I also send the bereaved family a list of names and addresses of all who donated in memory of their loved one, so that they may send a thank you also.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Goals ~


-  Mail out Thank You cards and receipts as soon as possible to all donors
-  Keep updated information on file

Outcomes ~

- I believe these goals have been met

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

I have the same goals for 2024 as I've had in previous years . . .

-  Keep the files up to date and mail out Thank You cards and receipts as soon as possible

It is my privilege to continue to serve the church in this ministry, and I look forward continuing as *Memorial Recording Secretary* in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,

Linda Veinot

Memorial Recording Secretary

PARISH 'PRAYER CHAIN' MINISTRY REPORT

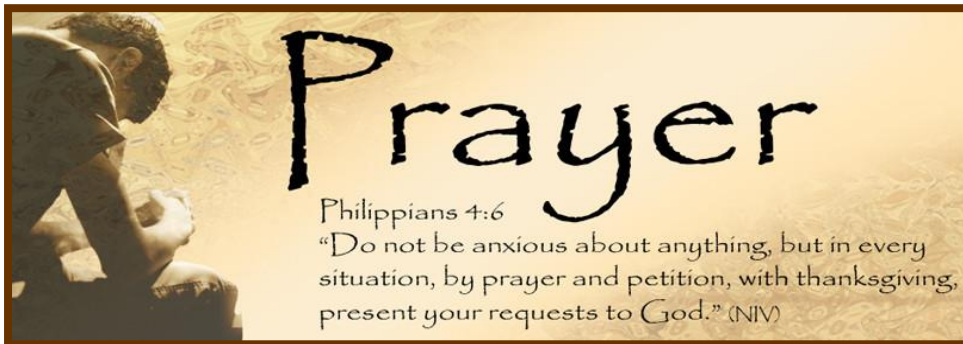
"The prayer of faith will save the sick."
[James 5:15]

"Pray without ceasing."
[1 Thessalonians 5:17]

St. Paul's **'Prayer Chain'** ministry consists of 6 parishioners who pray intentionally for those who requests it. Upon receiving an email request from the coordinator, each 'link' in the chain of "pray-ers" upholds that person in prayer at that time and then throughout the day. Prayers can be for any need, such as healing, comfort, peace, bereavement, or in thanksgiving. Requests can be made to **807-629-3431** (call/text), or emailed to sandrarejall@hotmail.com. All requests are confidential and full names are not required. When we first receive a request, we pray this prayer ~

"Almighty and everlasting God, giver of health and healing: Grant to your servant (name, if known) such a sense of your presence that they may have perfect trust in you.

In all their suffering may they cast their care upon you, so that, enfolded in your love and power, they may receive from you health and salvation according to your gracious will: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen."



As we continue to pray for the person we might keep using that prayer or simply ask God to ***"please bless and restore them to wellness and strength,"*** or ***"walk with them in their time of worry,"*** or ***"bring them safely home."***

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Goals ~

- Increase members
- Review prayers and determine whether we wanted to change them
- Hold an in-person meeting
- Increase number of prayer requests

Outcomes ~

- No new members
- Email poll indicated no change needed
- Email was sent instead
- less than 17

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

1. Increase members by 3 by announcements in Bulletin and *"The Ambassador"* in April and September, re. our need for "pray-ers" and the importance and value of this ministry to the parish and beyond.
2. Announce at 8:30 & 10:00 am services the need for "pray-ers;" talk a little bit about the ministry, in March 2024
3. Keep track of number and type of prayer requests and share with group 3 times

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Rejall
Prayer Chain Coordinator

YOUTH MINISTRY REPORT

"Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." [Joshua 1:9]

Leaders: **Jen Snowden** and **Laurie Sandham**

We strive to provide a safe space for youth to gather to build relationships and explore their faith, ask questions about anything, and to play games and just talk.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Goals ~

- To explore activities suggested by the youth
- To find a program/resource that can facilitate us in having focused conversations
- To continue to meet in person

Outcomes ~

- 😊 There were not many direct suggestions of what the youth wanted to explore
- 😊 Prompted by some questions/conversations we heard the youth having (outside of youth group), we have found and are working through a resource that addresses these comments/questions. Such as we can, we related science and faith, and discussed how reliable the Bible is.
- 😊 We have continued to meet in person

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- 📖 To work through the program resource we obtained at the end of 2023. To continue the insightful conversations this has led to thus far.
- 📖 To continue, as always, to provide a safe space for youth from all over to gather together
- 📖 To continue to support other youth activities such as **Youth Synod** and **"CLAY"** (*Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth*). To promote any youth events we are invited to attend

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Snowden and **Laurie Sandham**
Youth Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORTS

"Truly I tell you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will never enter it."

[Luke 18:17]

St. Paul's Children's Ministry Team is meant to reach out to children with the heart of Jesus. We hope to provide a fun and loving environment for children to learn about Christ's love.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

✝ **NURSERY** ★ ages newborn to 2 years

Our **Nursery** offers young children a fun place with plenty of toys and books, and an on-site bathroom, to use while under the supervision of their parents/guardians. We welcome little ones at our 10 am Sunday Worship; parents can watch the service while using the room with their children. The Nursery is also used by visitors to *St. Paul's* attending funerals and weddings.

Our Goal Was ~

- ★ find volunteers to be able to offer a fully staffed Nursery during 10 am service

Our Outcome Was ~

- ★ we were unable to find a steady volunteer to supervise the Nursery

✝ **SUNDAY SCHOOL** ★ ages 3 to 6 years

Using a combination of 'fuzzy-felt' character board sets and good old-fashioned story books, we teach the **Sunday School** children about key people and events in the Bible. After the *Children's Talk*, "**Miss Patsy**" would lead the children in song, then that week's Sunday School Teacher would tell a story and do a related craft to help reinforce what had been talked about.

Teachers: **Brenda Berringer, Bonnie Schiedel, Adrienne Davis** (January – June), **Alicia Sandham** (January – June), **Marty Sauer** (occasional substitute), **Patsy Towell** (Music)

Last year was a challenging year for our teachers and we are grateful for their efforts in maintaining a consistent program throughout.

Our Goal Was ~

- ★ to see the number of children attending regularly climb
- ★ to find another regular volunteer to join our team

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ★ our numbers seemed to remain about the same
- ★ no new volunteers were found
- ★ after years of faithful volunteering, we saw two of our teachers leave to pursue other avenues of serving at *St. Paul's*

✝ **CHILDRENS' BIBLE STUDY** ★ ages 7 to 12 years

Geared towards children a little bit older (approximately ages 7-12), our “**CBS**” class learns about key events and people in the Bible by using a combination of technology, fun puzzles, and hands-on activities.

Teachers: **Laurie Sandham** (January – June), **Jasmine Sandham** (September – present)

This year we have introduced a bit more ‘tech’ into the classroom, showing short movies and *PowerPoint* presentations based on the weekly lessons. We also have an old *iPad* donated by one of our teachers that we’ll use during lessons as well.

Our Goals Were ~

- ★ to see a more regular attendance from our CBS children
- ★ to see the number of children attending grow
- ★ to find new ways to engage the classroom

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ★ attendance of the children that do come out is still spotty but getting better
- ★ we’ve been slowly updating our curriculum to try and make it more engaging

✝ **YOUTH BIBLE STUDY** ★ ages 13+

Our new “**YBS**” meets downstairs in the Library right at 10 am to discuss God, Jesus, prayer, and the Bible.

Teacher: **Charlene Shuttleworth**

Youth explore how Christian teachings relate to their own lives today, using a curriculum called “*Bible Stories for Modern Teens.*”

Our Goal Was ~

- ★ as Youth Bible Study is a new aspect of Children’s Ministry introduced in 2023, we did not have goals carried over from 2022

✝ **“FUN-TASTIC FRIDAY” FAMILY NIGHT**

A free family event that offers a hot home-cooked meal, crafts, and games, “**FUNtastic Friday**” is the perfect way for families to end a busy week. Children play games, create works of art, and meet new friends, while parents take a break and socialize.

Volunteers: **Stacey Cham-Klein, Laurie Sandham, Jasmine Sandham, Dorothy Piccinin, Lily Luxton, Lynda Wdowiak, Marty Sauer**

Open to the public, this event is a great way to reach out to new families in the community as well as catch up with the ones we know.

Our Goal Was ~

- ★ to start the “FUNtastic Friday” program up again

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ★ we hosted several “FF” family nights and they were quite successful and enjoyed by all. (A **HUGE “shout out” to Stacey Cham-Klein**, who made the entire home-cooked meals completely from scratch each time, and they were incredible! We are so grateful for the many, many hours you put into everything you made with so much love, from meal planning and comparison shopping, to letting your kitchen be overrun by pans of rising dinner-rolls and slow-cookers full of deliciousness. You are a magician! Thank you. 😊)
- ★ with the help of generous donors, we were able to offer the entire experience free of charge
- ★ the successful return of this Children’s Ministry makes us hopeful we can host a few more “FUNtastic Friday” family nights in 2024 and **we are looking for more volunteers to help make it happen!**

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

To help share the load, we are hoping to recruit new volunteers across the various Children’s Ministries programs; they cannot possibly run without your help.

Please prayerfully consider if this could be a calling for you to serve . . .

😊 ***Please talk to Laurie if you’re interested in helping out.*** 😊
Call/text, **707-3048** or email **lauriesandham@gmail.com**.

SUNDAY SCHOOL ‘WIND UP’ & CHURCH ‘PICNIC FOODRAISER’

Our annual Church Picnic is a community outreach ministry where the **Sunday School, CBS** and **YBS** take part in helping stock our **Blessing Box** pantry. Picnic Day is the last Sunday in June, when we hold our ‘Wind Up’ before Sunday School breaks for the summer. It’s a perfect fit, with games and treats and entertainment to enjoy, along with a mission to fill the **Labyrinth** with food for our neighbours.

Although our **Picnic** looked quite a bit different this year, we didn’t let the rain put a “damper” on things. 😊 We were able to carry on simply by making a few adjustments. Rather than bringing the donated food out to the Labyrinth, the children carried all the items; there was enough to line both sides of the aisles and fill up the front of chancel steps! The ‘bouncy castle’ wouldn’t fit in the basement (we got the really big one this year) but it still went up outside and everyone had fun bouncing; thanks to the **Men’s Breakfast Group** for putting up a shelter so the kids could take off their shoes and not get wet. The **MacGillivray Pipe Band** did fit in the basement and we all enjoyed their music, if it was a bit loud for indoors. We still played all our games, won prizes, and had our fill of hot dogs, cotton candy, and popcorn. Overall, the picnic turned out to be a lot of fun and we were able to raise a lot of food for the **Blessing Box** in the process. We also had a group of families having baptisms at 1 pm that afternoon, and we were able to invite them downstairs to share in the fun and have hot dogs and treats.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- ★ we held our event in spite the weather, quickly pivoting to an indoor set-up; thanks to all our helpers
- ★ we raised lots of food and some cash for the BB; thanks to all contributors
- ★ we saved money on renting cotton candy and popcorn machines as we had two very generous non-profit organizations offer to lend us theirs for free
- ★ two very generous donors supplied all the wonderful prizes for the games; these brought such delight to the children and we are very grateful

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are ~

- ★ We're hoping God gives us sunny skies so the neighbourhood can join us.
- ★ We are already thinking of more ways we can make it special, like maybe adding a drumming ceremony for *National Indigenous Day of Prayer*.
- ★ we will carry over our goal of filling every brick of the labyrinth, praying that 2024 is the year we make it happen!

If you feel called to join us in Children's Ministries, please call/text me at **707-3048** or email lauriesandham@gmail.com

Respectfully Submitted,

Laurie Sandham
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator

'FAMILY MOVIE NIGHT' REPORT

*“Whoever becomes humble like this child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven.
Whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me.”*

[Matthew 18:1-6]

Coordinators: **Jasmine Sandham, Jen Snowden** and **Laurie Sandham**

'Family Movie Night' is a free family event where people can come and watch a movie on the big screen in our cozy church hall. Kids often come in “pjs” with blankies and sit up front in a group. We also sell concessions for \$1 per item.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Was ~

- 😊 To increase our turnout to what it was pre-pandemic (30-50 people)

Our Outcomes Were ~

- 😞 We hosted a few Movie Nights this year, trying to show movies that were recently out of the theatre to increase interest.
- 😞 Unfortunately, the turnout was disappointingly low until, eventually, there was nobody attending.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Due to lack of interest, our *Family Movie Night* will be put on hold.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jasmine Sandham

'Family Movie Night' Ministry

CAMP GITCHIGOMEE SUMMER 2023 REPORT

***“The heavens declare the glory of God;
the skies proclaim the work of his hands.”***

[Psalm 19: 1 NIV]



Just over an hour from Thunder Bay outside Nolalu, our Anglican Church Camp nestles on the sandy shore of *Sandstone Lake*. Kids have been making memories at “*Camp G*” since 1945, building lasting friendships with campers and staff. Watersports & archery, arts & crafts, Bible Study, and evening campfires by the water overlooking a spectacular summer sunset . . . the days are packed! At ***Camp Gitchigomee***, we’re “***one in Spirit, Fun, and Love.***”

It was wonderful to have “*Camp G*” was back in full operation after three years of COVID hiatus! We held 3 week-long Camps, *Junior*, *Intermediate*, and *Senior*. Camps. Children in the various sessions swam and canoed, played all kinds of sports including archery, and enjoyed lively evening campfires complete with skits, stories, and songs.

Special thanks goes out to all who volunteered time, funds, and building skills, to make the return to camp a reality after such a long time away. The old place looks great and the children, Board and staff really appreciate all the hard work our wonderful volunteers perform. And thanks to all who bought tickets to our 2023 “2-Bit Auction” . . . teamwork makes the dream work!

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Goals ~

1. To encourage children and volunteers of St. Pauls to attend camp
2. To promote and disseminate promotional materials
3. To secure volunteers to repair buildings, cut grass, and help with other maintenance preparations for campers

Outcomes ~

1. Numbers are not available as record is not kept of which parish or organization campers come from
2. Posters were available; online registration is preferred and promoted
3. Volunteers came and helped at our ‘*Work Weekend*’ in June. Thank you to the guys from our ***Men’s Breakfast Group!***

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- 😊 As your *Camp Gitchigomee* Rep, I plan to attend at least 4 meetings of the *Camp G* Board and general membership, held at *Gathering Table*.
- 😊 I'll be making announcement at church about our plans for Summer 2024, stating in March, when I'll be selling tickets for our annual "2-Bit Auction."
- 😊 Camp dates and online registration process will be announced in The Ambassador newsletter and Sunday bulletin in April.
- 😊 I will talk to our Sunday School and Youth Group in early May when registration opens, to promote the camps and help kids get registered.

Please call or text me [807-629-3431](tel:807-629-3431), or email sandrarejall@hotmail.com if you'd like Auction tickets, or have questions about registering your child for camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Rejall
St. Paul's Parish Rep
Camp Gitchigomee

“FOOD FOR THE SOUL” SPIRITUAL GROWTH WORKSHOPS REPORT

***“I will give you shepherds after my own heart,
who will feed you with knowledge and understanding.”***

[Jeremiah 3:15]

Coordinator: **Laurie Sandham**

‘Food for the Soul’ is how we reach out both to the family of *St. Paul’s* as well as the community outside our walls. We offer various workshops, talks, and activities open to everyone at low or no cost, with a wide variety of topics to appeal to many different interests.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goal Was ~

- To find volunteers of different talents and abilities that would like to teach a workshop

Our Outcome Was ~

- We were able to offer a small number of workshops, travel talks, and monthly events, some of which were well attended and some not.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are ~

- ♥ To find new volunteers and invite past volunteers to share their passions by hosting a workshop
- ♥ To come up with a list of new workshops, talks, and activities that people would be interested in attending

If you have any interest in hosting a workshop, craft class, lecture, book study, or other activity, or if you have an idea of what you'd like to see offered, please call or text **Laurie 807-707-3048** or email FoodForTheSoul@tbaytel.net

Respectfully submitted,

Laurie Sandham
Food for the Soul Coordinator

UNDERGROUND GYM “CLOTHING CUPBOARD”

“Whoever has two coats must share with anyone who has none.”

[Luke 3:11]

St. Paul’s latest community outreach mission was the “*Clothing Cupboard*” at the ***Underground Gym*** drop-in centre for at-risk children and youth. The purpose of this ministry was to assist *UG* by organizing and maintaining a distribution centre for donated household articles and clothing, so that these items would be more easily available to those who require them. They celebrated their first full year of service in this mission in 2022.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

A small group of volunteers worked throughout the year Wednesday and Saturday mornings, sorting items into attractive displays of Clothing & Shoes, Jackets & Outerwear, Toys, Sports Equipment, Linens, and general Household Goods specific to Men, Women, Youth, and Babies. They enjoyed getting to know the clients and their families, and making a positive difference in their lives. Those they served were sincerely grateful, some even returning to help out occasionally.

Offering dignified ease of access to free, clean clothing and housewares for people experiencing financial insecurity is an essential service. Even though the items are free, providing a pleasant “shopping” experience preserves and fosters clients’ self-esteem and reminds them they are beloved children of God, not just vulnerable but valued. This important ministry operated for most of 2023 before coming to an end in early December, just over 2 years since it began in October 2021.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

The dedicated individuals involved remain committed to their on-going objective of providing community outreach, and are currently exploring other volunteer opportunities for their organizational gifts. We’re confident they’ll soon find another ministry to bless with their time, talent, and loving hearts.

***“As Ambassadors for Christ, we are called to bring
our Lord’s grace, love, and peace to everyone.”***

[St. Paul’s Purpose Statement]

Respectfully submitted,

Christine French
Annual Report Editor

MEN'S BREAKFAST GROUP REPORT

"Jesus said to them, 'Come and have breakfast.' "

[John 12:12]

The *Men's Breakfast* Committee is shared between three co-chairs, **Marshall Farquharson**, **Peter Globensky** and myself. However, Peter has unfortunately stepped down from this ministry at the end of the year. He will be sorely missed.

The men of *St. Paul's* and *Gathering Table* meet in the morning, typically on the third Saturday of the month from September to May, for a 'gourmet' hot breakfast and Christian fellowship. We alternate our meetings between the two churches to encourage fellowship (and vary the menu). The men learn about each other, what drew them to their church, and their faith experiences. We also discuss current community events and church events within each parish as well as throughout the Deanery. Occasionally, presentations of interest are arranged by group members and organized by the chairs of each group. We break for the summer in June with our annual 'Work Party' at *Camp Gitchigomee*, where we carpool out to help with any major building projects needed to get the camp ready for summer.

All men of the church are always welcome at any Men's Breakfast, at either church. You are all invited!

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- 🕒 *Gathering Table* and *St. Paul's* met throughout the year; each meeting was hosted with a fantastic hot meal, comradery, and great conversation, and each welcomed newcomers.
- 🕒 We hosted our annual "***Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper***" once again on February 21st for the first time since 2020 (the last in-person event at *St. Paul's* before the COVID shutdown). It was great to get back to this project after a 2 year hiatus and it was very well attended. Over 130 plates of pancakes, sausages, and fruit were served and the "freewill offering" proceeds of \$680+ went to a local charity.
- 🕒 MBG members from both churches went out to "*Camp G.*" at the end of June for our annual 'Work Party' and closing lunch. This year we built a large covered marquee sign and notice board at the entrance to the camp. **Jim Sutton** of *Gathering Table* and *Camp G.* is always glad of our help and this year the blackflies were especially happy to see us.
- 🕒 In September, *St. Paul's Men's Breakfast Group* was invited to participate in organizing a Deanery-wide "Men's Breakfast" by **Jim Sutton** of *Gathering Table*, at the request of **Archbishop Anne Germond**, as a way to introduce this parish ministry to all of the *Thunder Bay – North Shore Anglicans*. The hope is to involve men from the entire Deanery in a "Men's Breakfast" (annually if possible), to encourage and share Christian fellowship within and between the respective church communities, either by starting a new

Men's Breakfast Group, continue an existing one, or partnering with an already flourishing group. With **Canon Ed Swayze** from *St. Stephen's* as Chair, a Deanery Committee was created to plan and host the event and meetings have been ongoing.

- 🕒 In November, we served breakfast for an early morning visit by **Archbishop Anne Germond**. The fantastic gourmet meal was well received and gave the Archbishop, Wardens, and other participants energy and enthusiasm for her positive talk about the health of *St. Paul's* at the meeting that followed.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- 🕒 This year, the combined Men's Breakfast Group will host a **Deanery "Men's Breakfast"** here at *St. Paul's* on **Saturday February 3rd** with a healthy, affordable special menu catered by the men of both *St. Paul's* and *Gathering Table*. A plan has been drafted with an icebreaker, mingling, prayer, our famous gourmet hot breakfast and a Guest Speaker, the owner of "**Sleepy G Farm**" in Pass Lake to talk about sustainable farming. There will also be a discussion of what a "Men's Breakfast" Group is, how ours began and has changed over the years, what it contributes to the life of the church and what the guys get out of the monthly gatherings. Our aim is to demonstrate how easy it is to start up a group and how beneficial it is to a parish, and to offer our support and guidance for any Deanery members who might want to start their own group or join another. We expect this will become an annual event.

Other than the new Deanery-wide initiative, and our annual 'Pancake Supper' and 'Camp G. Work Party', the *St. Paul's* MBG hopes to continue meeting monthly and sharing Christian fellowship and great hot breakfasts. Coffee's on at 8:30 am . . . "**come and see**" (John 1:39).

*"Thank you, Lord,
that You have
called us into
fellowship
with Yourself
and with Your Son,
our Savior
Jesus Christ."
['A Prayer for
Fellowship'
KnowingJesus.com]*



Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Willie
Men's Breakfast Group Executive

'BLESSING BOX' COMMUNITY OUTREACH REPORT

***"If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted,
then your light shall rise in the darkness . . . and you shall be like a watered garden."***

[Isaiah 58:10-11]

Leadership: **Alison Arthur** (until Aug 2023); **Jen Snowden** (Sept 2023 – current)

Our **Blessing Box** mission is to help out neighbours of our church who are hungry; operates 100% with volunteer time and money and supplies. We run our 'BB' mission independently, even as the box remains one of many positioned throughout the city by '**Giant Hearts**' of Thunder Bay.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~

1. Maintain our current level of food quality and quantity in the face of rising food costs and rising number of people relying on food assistance from all sources.
2. Find a way to annually recognize BB volunteers and supporters and do so.
3. Do everything possible to protect the BB from vandalism and repair any vandalism as promptly as possible so that our service is not disrupted.

Our Outcomes Were ~

- Thanks to our fundraisers and the work of our shopper, we have been able to maintain our level of food quality and quantity. We continue to fill the box twice daily with nutritious food suitable for both the homeless and families without funds.
- BB "fillers" have been utilizing the staple items purchased by our shopper; a few also donate fresh items such as bread. Several neighbours and those who work nearby occasionally fill the BB with food as well.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are ~

- Add to our list of volunteer "casuals" and/or regular BB fillers, as we have had a few people who have had to step down.
- Continue to fundraise via the annual Labyrinth "**Picnic FoodRaiser**" at the end of June and the '**All Saints Day**' BB Memorial fundraiser in early November.
- Work through logistics with food storage inside the church to allow us to be good stewards of donations prior to them being placed in the Blessing Box

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Snowden
Blessing Box Co-ordinator

ALTAR SERVERS REPORT

*“The gifts he gave were . . . to equip the saints for the work of service,
for building up the body of Christ.”*

[Ephesians 4:11-12]

The tradition of Serving at the Altar dates back several centuries and continues today. At St. Paul’s, Servers light the altar and processional candles before worship, communicate with the Clergy and Lay Readers about service activities, and carry the cross and torches during the Procession, Gospel reading, and Recessional. Servers are also responsible for assisting at the altar during Communion, receiving the Offerings and assisting at the Credence Table, and other duties as needed. They also assist with cleanup of the altar at the end of worship as needed.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- ☑ Thank you to those who volunteered to help this past year: **David Meekis, Belle Benoit, Olivia Cham-Klein** and **Dominique Kim**. One of our goals was to grow our group, which we were able to do: welcome to our two new Servers **Esther** and **Esher Gunasekara** who joined us during Advent.
- ☑ We also did do more training on an ongoing basis throughout 2023.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- ☑ Continue to grow the number of young people participating in the service as Servers. In order to have a full roster, we would like to increase to between 9 and 12 from our current group of 5. This will allow for a rotation in scheduling to avoid "burn out."
- ☑ Continue with training of new and existing Servers on an ongoing basis.
- ☑ Get suggestions from our Servers as to what they feel we could do to assist in the coming year to grow our church's mission.

I want to thank all of our young Servers for their dedication and the willingness they have to learn about what we do during our worship services. To have a full complement of Servers, we still need a few more people willing to volunteer . . .

Should you be interested in Serving, please contact **Reverend Nancy Ringham** at ringhams@tbaytel.net or call/text her cell **807-627-5667**. You may also contact me at scotmer@tbaytel.net or call/text my cell **807-620-2084**. We’d love to have you join us.

Respectfully submitted,

Scott Meredith
Servers Co-ordinator

SCRIPTURE LECTORS REPORT

“All scripture is inspired by God and is useful for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, so that everyone who belongs to God may be proficient, equipped for every good work.”

[2 Timothy 3:16-17]

8:30 am: **Sharron Forshaw, Joan Kleinendorst, Mary Richardson**

10:00 am: **Amy Bottos, Karen Christie, Adrienne Davis, Deborah de Bakker, Chris Heikkinen, Geoffrey Hudson, David Nock, Jasmine Sandham, Bonnie Schiedel, Charlene Shuttleworth, Jen Snowden, Mark Tilbury, Ernie Tilbury, Nancy Wallace, Marion Walsh, Chris Willie, Lewis Yesno**

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

As Sunday services resumed more of a normal “pre-COVID” state, so did the ministry of **Lectors**. Masks were still encouraged at times when infections were on the rise in the city. For the 10 am service, there are now 17 on the roster, 10 women and 7 men, and they read the second scripture passage. Because of continuing COVID and other respiratory viruses in the city, confirmations of Lector's availability to function are re-checked and sent out to participants in the service at the end of the week, and this has made the services run more smoothly.

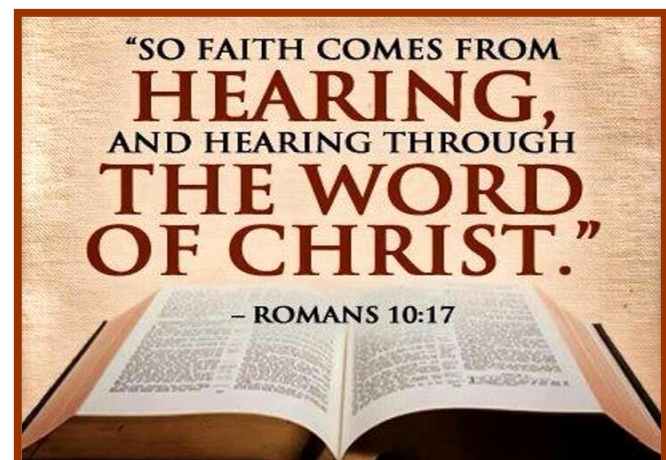
We have been proceeding with more inclusion of our Indigenous parishioners in this ministry and, on the last Sunday of the month, the second scripture reading has been done in Cree or Ojibway by one of our First Nations members. On the special feasts of *Easter, Christmas* and ‘*Orange Shirt Day*’ remembrance, the gospel has been proclaimed in Cree by our Indigenous Diocesan Lay Readers. This has been well accepted. Sidespeople are encouraged to hand out English bibles with the bulletins on these occasions.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2023:

The main goal of more inclusion and diversity within our Lectoring Ministry is being met. A new goal for 2024 is to include some Indigenous parishioners in the regular cycle of readings in English from the lectern.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol Knox
Scripture Lectors Coordinator



ALTAR GUILD REPORT

“They devoted themselves to the apostles’ teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers.” [Acts 2:42]

St. Paul’s *Altar Guild* has been led by **Archdeacon Deborah** until her retirement as Rector this past September. Currently, we follow the direction of the Presiding Minister responsible for that Sunday’s worship. We follow *McCausland’s Order of Divine Service* and also reference our *Anglican Church Calendar*, for direction on service requirements for different seasons and festivals throughout the church year.

We are responsible for preparing the Altar and the Sanctuary for worship services, funerals, and baptisms, and assist Ministry and Sidespersons at Funerals as necessary. We also are responsible for the Altar Linens, Frontals, and the Priest’s Vestments, and the cleaning and polishing of the brass and silver hardware.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

- ☑ Thank you to **Linda Veinot**, who orders the ‘Host’ (communion wafers) and the wine, as well as candles, wicks, and other supplies as needed.
- ☑ A ‘Fair Linen’ (Altar Cloth) was altered to fit the Chapel Altar by **Alison Arthur**.
- ☑ A work party took place to make ‘Palm Crosses’ for *Palm Sunday*; thanks to the volunteers made over 400 crosses the Wednesday before.
- ☑ Thanks to the men of the *Property Committee*, the large wooden Cross that we drape for Lent on the front steps, and the wired wooden Cross that is “flowered” at Easter are moved in and out and stored for us. They also put up the live wreaths at Advent.
- ☑ Thank you to all who support our *Easter & Christmas Memorial Flower* fundraising, and to those who place flowers on the Altar throughout the year.
- ☑ With the passing of our **Dear Friend & Leader, Alison Arthur** this past August, our group is that much smaller. Thank you to **Lynda Farquharson** and **Deborah Victor** who are the regular members of our Altar Guild. Special thanks to those who serve as they are able ~ **Sharron Forshaw, Carol Anuik, Linda Veinot, Candace LaFrance**, and to *Lay Readers* **Scott Meredith** and **Doug Oshimo** for their service and support.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- ✧ We’d like to hold a training session to refresh current members on procedures and practices, and to teach new members why and how we do what we do.
- ✧ We’re in the midst of preparing a new ‘Memorial Flower Chart’ for the back of the church so it’s easy to sign up to put flowers on the altar for a specific date.
- ✧ Most importantly, we really hope to encourage more people to join us this year!

We look forward to welcoming new members and invite anyone who feels called to this Ministry to come and talk to us any time. Please feel free to contact either **Lynda, 807-5773865** or **Deborah, 807-356-1328**.

Respectfully Submitted,

Deborah Victor
Altar Guild Chair

SIDESPERSIONS REPORT

“Whatever you do, work at it with all your heart, as working for the Lord, not for men, since you know that you will receive an inheritance from the Lord as a reward. It is the Lord Christ you are serving.”

[Colossians 3:23-24 NLT]

Scheduler: **Dorothy Piccinin**

This ministry provides a welcome to persons entering the church on Sundays at the 10:00 am service and on special occasions such as funerals and concerts.

Sidespersons take up the Offering, and the Bread & Wine to be blessed at Communion and other services.

They direct people to the altar for communion and help people up and down the stairs to the altar.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2023:

Our Goals Were ~

- To grow the number of Sidespersons members
- To provide a warm welcoming environment
- To provide assistance and security where needed

Our Outcomes Were ~

- We still have the same number of teams but there has been attrition
- Other Sidespersons stepped up to help teams who were short members
- We covered the special occasions when required

ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES & OBJECTIVES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are ~

- To encourage more people to become Sidespersons
- To continue to make regular members and visitors alike feel welcome at St. Paul's

Respectfully submitted

Dorothy Piccinin,
Sidespersons Scheduler

PROPERTY COMMITTEE REPORT

“Then they said, ‘Let us start building!’ So they committed themselves to the common good.” [Nehemiah 2:18]

The mission of the **Property Committee** is too big for one person, therefore, it is successfully shared between three Co-Chairs, **Marshall Farquharson**, **Derrick Tirschmann**, and myself **Christopher Willie**. This makes the Committee more approachable and more effective at achieving our annual goals.

This ministry ensures consistent upkeep and repairs of our church building, creating a warm and inviting atmosphere for the congregation and community. While occasionally undertaking significant infrastructure projects, our primary focus is on addressing ongoing maintenance needs and promptly resolving issues raised by parishioners throughout the year.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES of 2023:

Goals We Hoped To Perform: (“OBJECTIVES” from 2022 Report)

- “Masonry Repointing” ~ ONGOING**

We had tentatively booked our regular mason *MMA* to continue with brick repairs and repointing as soon as they can fit us into their schedule. Mike from *MMA* was unable to get away from their larger out-of-town projects to continue repointing in 2023. We will keep revisiting the required brick re-pointing and repairs each year to ensure the continued integrity of the façade.
- “Kitchen Floor Assessment” ~ COMPLETED: See “Goals Achieved”**

Review sagging middle of kitchen floor. opening a section to ascertain steps needed to reinforce/replace underlying structure and correct tops of cupboards pulling away from walls.
- “Tower Roofs Assessment” ~ ONGOING**

As noted in previous Reports, we have water leaking above the Clock Tower; worse in some years depending on weather. Professional assistance from flat-roof contractor to asses both tower roofs, roof drain and piping, and provide recommendation for repair/replacement. Unable to obtain inspection and pricing as all contractors too busy on larger projects; will revisit until addressed.
- “Rain Water Leader Replacement ~ ONGOING**

Along with roof reviews, get quotes to replace main rain water ‘leaders’ that run down the inner corners of the Nave. These open-faced downspouts no longer direct rainwater away from the foundation. As with roofing contractors, companies all too busy to price our little project. Will try again in 2024.

Goals Achieved:

- Took down large indoor Christmas tree, smaller trees, outside lights and wreaths
- Unloaded assorted church furniture, fitments, and hardware donated from churches in the North-East of the Diocese of Algoma for redistribution to Northern

churches. Made temporary storage area in church hall until these items could be shipped out. (Altar currently remaining in the hall is going to *Camp Gitchigomee* for their sacred space.)

- ✂ Monitored annual fire alarm inspection thanks to **John O'Brien**
- ✂ Changed banner on outside of front steps
- ✂ Removed ice from front steps several times
- ✂ All Co-Chairs met for the annual *Property Committee* planning meeting
- ✂ Opened an 'access hatch' in central portion of **Kitchen Floor** to expose main floor structure and investigate cause of floor sagging throughout kitchen
- ✂ Moved large wooden cross and wired cross out of storage and back, for different events throughout the year
- ✂ Cleaned eaves troughs at the back of the church, off the parking lot, and over the blue Office entrance door
- ✂ Cut down trees and brush around barrier-free access ramp and general area at Elevator entrance door; hauled debris to dump
- ✂ Picked up supplies, built and installed new railings around barrier-free access ramp
- ✂ Removed a discarded mattress dumped at side of maintenance shed beside church garden; hauled to dump
- ✂ Drilled hole through 2 foot thick exterior stone wall and interior wall in the kitchen over dishwasher (with industrial concrete drill!). Plumbed and installed new garden faucet on outside wall adjacent to blue Office entrance door for easier watering of planters and garden
- ✂ Cut second opening in **Kitchen Floor** beneath stove to access end of sagging support beam. Jacked up beam almost 4 inches (with 20 ton hydraulic jack!) to level kitchen floor and installed new support material under end of beam. Kitchen floor now much more level; large gaps between walls and countertops now closed
- ✂ Sweep up broken vehicle glass in back parking lot behind blue Office door
- ✂ Remove vines from two light poles in side garden at request of Garden Committee
- ✂ Checked/tested the 5 'Emergency Lights' throughout church. Ordered new battery packs; will replace these when received
- ✂ Replaced light bulbs in all pendant lights and spot lights with new LED bulbs throughout Nave. Unable to reach large central pendant light in Chancel without a telescopic lift; will source affordable lift and complete when lift available
- ✂ Set up large Christmas tree and 4 smaller trees again for Christmas 2023; put up exterior lit crèche & sign, lights, and large wreaths
- ✂ Sought and found new snow removal contractor ~ Thank you **Marshall** for all your investigations, calls, meetings, pricing and applicant reviews and interviews. We seem to have found an able-bodied gentleman worthy of the task at hand. He is proving to be suitable and reliable.

I am grateful and thankful to all who helped throughout the year, including **John O'Brien** with first aid kits and fire alarm inspection, and **Ernie Tilbury** with lighting; your invaluable contributions are deeply appreciated. Special thanks to **Marshall Farquharson** and **Derrick Tirschmann** for their ongoing dedication to church care. They are truly indispensable. Also, a big thank you to **JJ**, our dedicated Caretaker, for her understanding when our projects leave a bit of a mess. Your hard work is truly commendable. Thank you all.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

Our Goals Are:

 **Masonry Repointing:**

Contact **MMA** masons again this year to continue on-going work.

 **Tower Roofs Assessment:**

Have both tower roofs professionally inspected, and repaired as required.

 **Rain Water Leader Replacement:**

Have rainwater leader in Clock Tower replaced' have downspouts replaced including installation of new 'heat trace' lines to prevent ice dams.

 **Front Steps:**

Review and repair spalling East front stairwell and cracks in main landing slab.

 **Re-Lamp Chancel Pendant Light:**

Due to the height of the fixture, we will rent a telescopic or "scissor" lift for a day, bring it in via the front steps, and up into the Chancel to change the bulb of the large pendant light above the Choir pews. We plan to clean the fixture while we're up there on the lift.

The *Property Committee* consistently volunteers their time and expertise, recognizing the significance of our efforts in "keeping up" our church building and grounds. We are convinced this continuous dedication to maintenance, upgrades, and renovations is a visible symbol of growth and fosters community engagement, which is acknowledged by our parish family and the wider community.

Working alongside this dedicated team is truly fulfilling, and I take pride in playing a modest role in upholding the stewardship legacy of our Church. I am confident that our collective efforts are making a positive impact.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Willie
Property Co-Chair

GARDEN COMMITTEE & LABYRINTH REPORT

“For as the earth brings forth its shoots, and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord GOD will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.” [Isaiah 61:11]

This Vestry Report must begin with thanksgiving for the life of **Alison Arthur**, who was the founder of our expanded church Gardens and our Labyrinth, and our long time *Garden Co-Ordinator*. We will be forever grateful for her vision and her ability to gather volunteers and encourage them to make the grounds around St. Paul's so beautiful. We will miss her dearly, but as we work beside each other in our parish Garden, we will always have wonderful memories of Alison.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES of 2023:

There are so many people to thank this year for how lovely our garden grew as our idea to encourage parishioners to “adopt” a section of the garden worked out very well. Our basic core group consisted of **Marshall Farquharson** and **Derrick Tirschmann** (borrowed from our *Property Committee* fellows) and **Alison Arthur, Carol Anuik, Jane Lucas**, and myself.

Special thanks to all who adopted a section of garden to weed and care for throughout the summer. **Laurie Sandham** and her daughters **Jasmine, Alicia** and **Deirdre** maintained our “half-moon” garden by the fountain, **Christine French & Christopher Willie** did our “*Every Child Matters*” orange-themed garden by the blue back door, **Jane Lucas** kept all the planters at the blue Office door trimmed and watered, **Carol Anuik** cared for the garden under the front sign by our *Blessing Box*, **Candace LaFrance** groomed the front hose area of shrubs and planters, **Chris Heikkinen** groomed the side garden and front steps area, and **Jennifer Boorman** took care of two sections in our “shade” garden by the spot lights. All these gardens and planters looked beautiful and, now that we have the hang of it, I hope we can divide sections and do the same this summer and fall and maybe encourage others who might like to try their hand at a little creative gardening.







Spring clean-up, planting boarders, and Fall clean-up are big jobs and we very much appreciate the help from the *Pathfinder* group that meets at our church weekly. We could not have done such quick, thorough clean-ups without the kind and enthusiastic help of both the girls and their leaders. Thank you also to **Marty Sauer** for digging in the dirt and aiding us all. Thanks again to **Dave Middleton** for *Labyrinth* weed-whacking and to **Bruce McKay** for lawn mowing. And thanks to **Christine French & Christopher Willie** for cutting off big branches of the old maple and trimming it up to let light get to the new maple below, and pruning the dead limbs off the young spruce. Thanks to **Marshall** and **Derrick** for hauling the massive pile of heavy branches to the dump, along with the old rusty and broken ‘garden arch’ the guys removed from the sidewalk by the shed.

Thank you to all who donated border marigolds from the *PWRDF* spring fundraiser. They brighten our garden so much and especially add to the orange and gold colours we want in the newest “*Every Child Matters*” plot by the parking lot. We purchased \$438 worth of annuals for planters and empty spaces, doing our best to keep costs down. Thank you, **Jane**, for doing the shopping with me; I am so grateful for **Alison's** list! This is my first year doing the Garden Report and I had

mostly only my own memory (not always good) to go on, as my written garden notes were scarce. Please forgive me if I have left anyone out . . . All work done is very much appreciated!

I have noted people enjoying our garden from spring through fall and had a lovely visit with **Mary Richardson** and others who come over from *McKellar Place*. **Alison** led a guided “**Labyrinth Walk**” for *World Labyrinth Day* in May but it was cold and rainy, so this event was not well attended. We hope to continue Labyrinth events this coming year.

REVIEW OF OUTCOMES ACHIEVED: (“OBJECTIVES” from *Alison’s 2022 Report*)

-  When **MD Landscaping** did not respond to repeated requests to complete their work from 2020, **Alison** contracted **Termax Service Group** to remove weeds, redo landscape barrier and prune in our front sidewalk garden. This work was completed in August. They did a great job but it was very expensive, so preventing new weeds from growing and pruning in this garden will have to be a project for our Gardening Committee in future.
-  Alison and I were able to find two new planters for the rock area by the blue Office door at the back, so now we have three planters improving this area.
-  Our *Property Committee* installed a new outdoor tap near the blue Office door that will make watering plants in that area much easier this summer. Thank you **Christopher, Marshall** and **Derrick**.
-  Trees and shrubs were pruned, but unsure if we divided larger perennials. Will re-check this in the coming summer.
-  We decided to wait until this coming year to apply more “crusher-fines” gravel to the sitting area around the fountain.
-  There was no demand for a portable fire pit the *Garden Committee* had been thinking about, so we decided not to purchase one.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

1. Appeal to all who adopted a section of the garden in 2023 to do so again, and maybe try to get more parishioners interested in participating.
2. We’d like some rich soil to “beef up” the garden beds before planting. Will look into cost and if getting a truck load is cheaper than buying bags, we will need helpers to move the soil to the garden areas.
3. Improve edging on side garden by fence and clean it up by spacing plants.
4. Clean up and add “crusher fines” gravel in the sitting area around the fountain.
5. Encourage weekly “walk about” to pick up any garbage and clothing left behind, and to call *Superior Points* to collect any needles. Just a “safety check” so that visitors young and old will be able to enjoy the garden.
6. Encourage church events in the garden, like maybe an outdoor summer service would be nice.

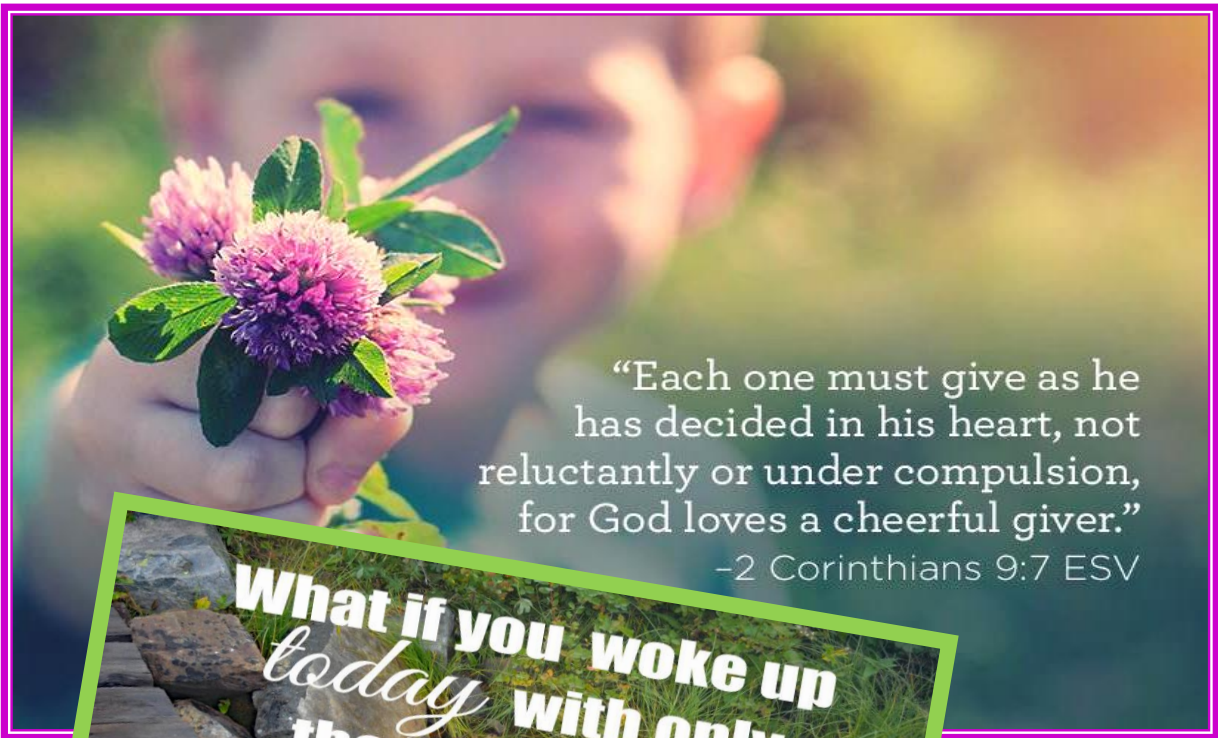
7. Plan a ceremony to place the Labyrinth stone engraved to commemorate **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft's** service as Rector and a second stone in gratitude for her continued service in our Deanery, and to place two memorial Labyrinth stones engraved for Alison Arthur by parishioners. If the ground permits, this would be a nice before the **World Labyrinth Day Walk** in May.
8. Repair our fountain. We have had trouble with people lifting the lid to get water and leaving it tipped on its side, and putting dirt in the fountain. It was continually being cleaned last summer and now needs fixing. (**Christopher Willie** has taken this on over the winter, continuing the work of **Jouni Kraft**.)
9. Check perineal plants and divide as needed, and continue pruning and trimming trees as needed.
10. Check garden equipment and tools for repairs and replacement needs.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynda Farquharson
Acting Garden Co-ordinator

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

~ GRACE NOTES OF GRATITUDE ~



“Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver.”

-2 Corinthians 9:7 ESV

What if you woke up today with only the things you **THANKED GOD** for yesterday?



IT'S NOT HAPPY PEOPLE WHO ARE THANKFUL BUT THANKFUL PEOPLE WHO ARE HAPPY



If we counted our BLESSINGS instead of our MONEY, we would all be RICH.

OFFERING SECRETARY'S REPORT & FINANCIAL CHARTS

“For where your treasure is, there will your heart be also.”

[Matthew 6:21]

This past year was pretty much “back to normal” after COVID, when we all had to make adjustments to the way we gave our Offerings. My thanks to all who continue to use **EOP**, those who transitioned to **e-transfers**, and the dedicated **envelope** users who kept their weekly or monthly offerings up-to-date. I thank all of you for your faithful stewardship during 2023. Your support makes St. Paul's ministry possible.

Here's how you can use to make your Offering to *St. Paul's*:

- ✓ **E-Transfers:** Online banking; deposit to stpaulsthunderbay@outlook.com
- ✓ **Electronic Offering Program (EOP):** Automatic no-fee bank withdrawal on 12th – 15th of each month. Contact **Ernie, 577-3104** to sign up
- ✓ **CanadaHelps.org:** Online; click on “*St. Paul's Anglican Church*” to make a donation. Receipts issued immediately by *CH*
- ✓ **Tithe.ly phone app:** free download. Receipts issued immediately on the app
- ✓ **Weekly Envelopes:** Available any time, contact **Ernie, 577-3104**

Please maintain your Offerings for 2024 and prayerfully consider an increase, if possible, during the year, using the method you prefer.

OFFERINGS “IDENTIFIABLE SUPPORTERS” <small>[incl. E-Transfers, Tithe.ly; CanadaHelps; United Way]</small>						
OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
\$2,000 to \$7,000 *	2	4	6	2	1	5
\$1,500 to \$1,999	0	0	1	2	2	0
\$1,200 to \$1,499	0	0	0	2	0	3
\$1,000 to \$1,199	3	3	0	0	1	0
\$800 to \$999	3	1	3	2	2	1
\$600 to \$799	1	4	3	0	1	4
\$500 to \$599	4	6	4	2	5	5
\$400 to \$499	4	3	1	1	5	2
\$300 to \$399	3	4	8	6	5	1
\$200 to \$299	11	6	5	8	13	7
\$100 to \$199	15	19	17	16	24	26
\$50 to \$99	11	9	11	11	20	23
\$25 to \$49	9	10	7	3	10	11
\$10 to \$24	<u>27</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>	<u>19</u>
TOTAL	93	78	70	60	95	107

* Formerly “\$2,000 and UP”

REGULAR PARISH OFFERINGS <small>[E-Transfers, EOP, Envelopes, Ttithe.ly; CanadaHelps; United Way]</small>		
OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR	2023	OFFERINGS CALCULATED BY WEEK
\$10,000 to \$11,000	1	\$192 – \$211 Weekly Offering
\$9,700 to \$9,999	1	You give the church \$186 – \$192 weekly
\$9,000 to \$9,699	1	\$173 – \$186 Weekly Offering
\$8,000 to \$8,999	1	You give the church \$153 – \$173 weekly
\$6,500 to \$7,999	0	\$125 – \$153 Weekly Offering
\$6,000 to \$6,499	2	\$115 – \$125 Weekly Offering
\$5,500 to \$5,999	2	\$105 – \$115 Weekly Offering
\$5,000 to \$5,499	1	You give the church \$95 – \$105 weekly
\$4,500 to \$4,999	2	\$85 – \$95 Weekly Offering
\$4,000 to \$4,499	2	\$77 – \$85 Weekly Offering
\$3,500 to \$3,999	3	\$67 – \$77 Weekly Offering
\$3,000 to \$3,499	5	\$58 – \$67 Weekly Offering
\$2,500 to \$2,999	5	You give the church \$48 – \$58 weekly
\$2,000 to \$2,499	6	\$38 – \$48 Weekly Offering
\$1,500 to \$1,999	15	\$29 – \$38 Weekly Offering
\$1,200 to \$1,499	17	\$23 – \$29 Weekly Offering
\$1,000 to \$1,199	11	You give the church \$19 – \$23 weekly
\$800 to \$999	6	\$15 – \$19 Weekly Offering
\$600 to \$799	24	\$12 - \$15 Weekly Offering
\$400 to \$599	12	You give the church \$7 – \$12 weekly
\$200 to \$399	24	\$4 – \$7 Weekly Offering
\$100 to \$199	7	\$2 – \$4 Weekly Offering
\$50 to \$99	2	\$1 – \$2 Weekly Offering
\$25 to \$49	<u>0</u>	50¢ – \$1 Weekly Offering
TOTAL	150	

* Note: Offering Totals on chart do not include donations to PWRDF or 'Blessing Box'

Once again, my thanks to our **Treasurer Adrienne Davis**, **Assistant Treasurer Judy Lundberg**, our teams of **Offering Counters**, and **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft**, who continues to administer our **e-Transfers** and **CanadaHelps** Offerings. Your year-round dedication to these volunteer ministries is greatly appreciated.

2023 Income Tax Receipts should be available for pick-up in early February.

Respectfully submitted,

Ernie Tilbury, *Offering Secretary*



“Tithing” Is Giving 10% Back To God . . .

“I give what I give because of what God has given me: salvation, forgiveness, faith, courage, beauty in the world and in the lives of others I have known. You can’t attach a price to such things, so I just offer back to God from the abundance received at His hands.”

~ Anonymous “Joyful Tither”

FINANCIAL EXAMINATION

“Without counsel, plans go wrong, but with many advisers they succeed.”

[Proverbs 22:15]

I have examined the financial records of *St. Pauls Anglican Church*, including the **Balance Sheet**, and the **Statement of Offerings & Expenses** for the year ended December 31, 2023 as related to the bookkeeping records and independent third party statements.

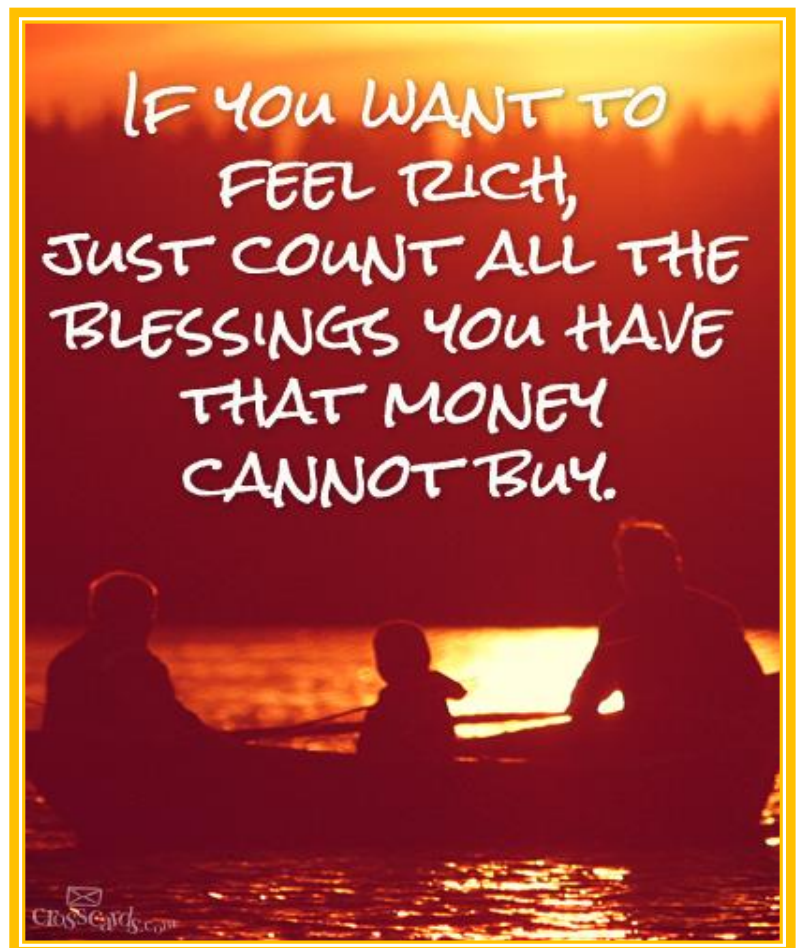
Overall, I found the reports fairly presented the financial picture for 2023.

Respectfully Submitted,

Dale Mead

Treasurer,

St Michael & All Angels Anglican Church



BALANCE SHEET As at December 31, 2023		
Bank	54,613	
Royal Bank Investment Portfolio	1,855,118	
HST/PST Recoverable	16,484	
Flow Through Payable		134
Special Funds		1,819,900
Archdeacon Deborah Retirement Gift		2,272
Abe Kakepetum Gifts		6,160
Grand Piano		1,086
Rector's Special Fund	140	
Men's Breakfast		1,189
Labyrinth Recoverable	5,589	
Parish Assistance Fund		229
Blessing Box		9,604
Food for the Soul Mission		835
Youth Mission		11,262
New England Indigenous Fund		5,062
Vacation Bible School		2,004
Anti Hate Security Grant		5,282
Anglican Foundation - Indigenous Bursaries		3,008
Previous Years' Surplus		93,456
Current Year Loss	29,539	
	1,961,483	1,961,483

SUMMARY OF CHARITABLE DONATIONS

Donations made to charities from the proceeds of Men's Breakfast Group fundraisers and other parish events. Includes amounts donated through St. Paul's. Does not include amounts paid out in cash.

Camp Gitchigomee	1,000
Anglican Foundation	250
PWRDF	1,405
Lakehead Mission to Seafarers	555
	<u>3,210</u>
Blessing Box Opening	5,257
Donations	7,073
Purchases	2,726
Blessing Box Closing	<u>9,604</u>



SUMMARY OF FUND ACTIVITY For the year ended December 31, 2023

FUND / ENDOWMENT	Balance Dec 31 2022	Donations	Disbursed	Cash & Dividend Earnings	Balance Dec 31 2023	
Balfour Endowment	13,601			642	14,243	
Bird/Owens Endowment	26,949		475	1,249	27,723	1.
General Endowment	72,316		1,627	3,336	74,025	2.
Building	13,745	50		651	14,446	
Organ Endowment	7,199			340	7,539	
Memorial	4,201	2,325	569	281	6,238	3.
Donor-Directed Reserve	83,109			3,922	87,031	
Harvey & Noni Johnson Fund	22,577			1,066	23,643	
Florence Higgins Memorial Fund	10,882			514	11,396	
Dick Jones Memorial Fund	7,191			339	7,530	
Betty Childs Memorial Fund	26,666			1,258	27,924	
Shirley H. & M.O. Nelson Endowment	63,615		1,327	2,940	65,228	4.
Mary Nock Endowment Fund	12,101			571	12,672	
Geraldine Geravalis Memorial Fund	6,434			304	6,738	
Linda Strey Endowment	5,774		104	268	5,938	5.
The Rev Robert Brown Memorial Fund	55,135		1,432	2,534	56,237	6.
The Landon Endowment	281,928		1,875	13,217	293,270	7.
Olive Pratt Fund	61,640		400	2,890	64,130	8.
Margaret Shuttleworth Endowment	6,542			309	6,851	
Ruth Sutherland Memorial Fund	5,675			268	5,943	
Heritage Endowment	569,142		18,294	25,997	576,845	9.
Lenora Aedy Memorial Fund	200,000	204,247	962	19,033	422,318	10.
Olive Ede Rector Endowment Fund	28,379			1,339	29,718	
Undesignated (from unrealized gains)	-29,292			1,568	-27,724	
	1,555,510	206,622	27,065	84,836	1,819,900	

Earnings are pro-rated based on percentage of book value.
 Funds held less than 6 months are not attributed any earnings.
 Opening amounts may be different due to rounding corrections.

2023 Disbursements:

1. Daniel Klein resource material
2. Year End Yearbook additional wages & Sage 50 accounting program.
3. Robes and ropes.
4. Family in need & Life in the Eucharist
5. Choking rescue device.
6. Website fees and laptop for site administration.
7. Carbon Monoxide detector & Archdeacon retirement lunch.
8. Thank you gifts.
9. Masonry repairs, handrails, video system.
10. Laptop & Archbishop Anne breakfast.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT HOLDINGS

As at December 31, 2023

<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>			Market Value
Cash	24,869	1.4%	24,869
<u>Fixed Income</u>			
CDN Western Bank	65,000		76,436
Peoples Trust	35,000		36,434
Royal Bank of Canada	90,000		33,521
Canadian Tire Bank	<u>32,000</u>	222,000	12.0% 90,096
<u>Equities</u>			
<u>Preferred Shares</u>			
Altagas Ltd.	94,031		76,600
BIP Investment Corp	77,311		65,460
Bank of Montreal	25,407		24,400
Brookfield Office PPTYS Inc.	20,371		5,920
Canadian Utilities Ltd	51,343		35,980
Enbridge Inc	59,493		40,340
Enbridge Inc Cumulative	31,248		33,425
Emera Incorporated	51,901		43,800
Emera Inc	26,030		16,890
Intact Financial Corp	<u>91,136</u>	528,271	73,223
<u>Common Shares</u>			
Automotive PPTYS Real Estate	31,752		32,340
Algonquin Power & Utilities	32,693		15,048
Brookfield Infrastructure	54,735		46,740
Bank of Montreal	27,496		26,222
Bank of Nova Scotia	28,398		32,250
BCE Inc	26,685		26,085
Canadian Pac Kans City Ltd	23,829		26,210
Definity Finl Corp	29,513		37,540
Element Fleet Management	19,410		21,560
Enbridge Inc.	40,941		38,160
Emera Inc.	66,930		65,390
Exchange Income Corporation	94,470		90,200
First Capital Real Estate	33,578		30,680
Fortis Inc	22,645		21,804
Intact Financial Corp	20,143		20,386
Keyera Corp	37,207		38,436
Pembina Pipeline Corp	36,998		45,620
Royal Bank of Canada	34,449		73,700
Smartcentres Real Estate Inv. Trust	29,690		24,890
TC Energy Corp	22,343		25,880
Toronto-Dominion Bank	31,554		25,686
Westshore Terminals Inv. Corporation	<u>20,355</u>	765,814	27,420
<u>Mutual Funds</u>			
Pimco Monthly Income Fund	125,678		112,862
RBC Investment Savings	<u>144,288</u>	269,966	144,288
<u>Foreign Securities</u>			
Brookfield Infrastructure	3,377		44,600
VISA Inc	<u>20,485</u>	23,862	25,863
	1,587,913	86.5%	
Total BOOK VALUE of Investments	<u>1,834,782</u>	100.0%	
Total MARKET VALUE of Investments			<u>1,797,254</u>
2022 Book & Market Values	<u>1,589,510</u>		<u>1,564,340</u>
<i>Increase in value from 2022 to 2023</i>	245,272		232,914
<i>Increase in value from 2022 to 2023 as a percentage</i>	15.43%		14.89%

STATEMENT OF OFFERINGS & EXPENSES			
For the year ended December 31, 2023			
	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
<u>OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS</u>			
Receipts			
Open Offering	5,000	5,072	5,000
Parochial Offering	273,533	231,667	224,899
Total General Offering	278,533	236,739	229,899
Christmas Offering	7,500	5,940	6,000
Lenten Offering	600	445	500
Easter Offering	7,500	6,386	6,500
Harvest Offering	5,000	630	4,000
Miscellaneous & Interest	200	20	200
Interest from Rectory	6,000	3,313	3,500
Music	1,200	1,520	1,500
Wedding & Funeral	5,000	2,079	3,000
Children & Youth	500	415	500
Hall Honorarium	2,000	1,740	2,000
Transfer from Balance Sheet	2,913	2,910	0
Total Other Offerings/Receipts	38,413	25,398	27,700
Total Offerings/Receipts	316,946	262,137	257,599
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Diocesan, Deanery and Other			
Diocesan Apportionment	69,132	73,324	67,047
Camp Gitchigomee	500	500	500
Blessing Box	500	0	0
Deanery of Thunder Bay	1,058	2,075	2,000
Anglican Foundation	250	250	250
Lakehead Mission to Seafarers	555	555	560
Total Diocesan, Deanery and Other	71,995	76,704	70,357
Missional Focus – Food for the Soul	1,000	0	1,000
Ministry			
Stipend – Archdeacon Deborah Kraft	49,193	36,895	0
Stipend – Future Incumbent	0	0	0
Stipend – Rev. Nancy Ringham (40%)	0	0	18,326
Stipend – EI/CPP	4,600	3,761	2,085
Honorarium – Rev. Gordon Holroyd	4,000	5,150	5,000
Honorarium – Rev. Anne Carr	3,000	3,000	3,000
Honorarium – Rev. Rob Smith	0	0	4,500
Honorarium – Other	500	100	0
Car Allowance – Rector	7,831	5,873	3,226
Living Allowance – Rector	20,000	15,000	6,592
Pension Plan	9,224	6,918	0
Payroll Benefits & Costs	2,978	1,016	1,405

	2023 Budget	2023 Actual	2024 Budget
Health & Dental Benefits	4,851	3,638	0
Music Director/Organist	13,709	13,709	14,120
Music Director/Organist – EI/ CPP	920	920	954
Music - Resources & Supplies	750	1,595	1,500
Guest Musicians/Relief Organists	2,500	2,325	2,500
Altar Supplies	800	1,099	1,000
Conferences & Synod	1,500	1,511	3,100
Lay Reader Fund	0	0	300
Youth Ministry	200	211	200
Educational Resources	1,000	539	1,000
Discretionary Fund	1,500	1,300	1,500
Fellowship	5,000	3,893	5,000
Garden Committee	1,000	1,590	1,000
Total Ministry	135,056	110,043	76,308
Administration			
Parish Assistant	26,965	26,965	27,774
Admin & Technical Support	7,500	6,240	6,427
Parish Assistant - EI/ CPP	2,421	2,317	2,399
Office Supplies/Paper Products	2,500	1,025	1,500
Office Equipment & Software	500	878	1,200
Internet & Telephone	3,000	2,236	2,500
Postage	1,750	943	1,500
Photocopier	2,500	2,103	2,200
Bank Charges/EOP Cost	2,100	2,013	2,100
Miscellaneous Expenses	100	487	500
Total Administration	49,336	45,207	48,100
Building Operation & Maintenance			
Alarm & Security	1,500	1,060	1,200
Custodian/Caretaker	18,554	18,554	19,111
Caretaker/Custodian – EI/ CPP	1,319	1,319	1,365
Snow Plow/Exterior Maintenance	3,000	2,513	3,000
Church Heating	15,000	16,657	18,000
Church Power	4,000	3,971	4,000
Church Water	1,200	1,237	1,400
Church Repair & Maintenance	2,500	1,913	2,500
Elevator Operation	1,450	1,461	1,500
Insurance	11,036	11,035	9,758
Total Building Operation & Maintenance	59,559	59,720	61,834
TOTAL EXPENSE	316,946	291,674	257,599
TOTAL OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS	316,946	262,137	257,599
TRANS. FROM ACCUMULATED SURPLUS	0	29,537	0
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	0	0

~ **NOTES** ~



ST. PAUL'S INVESTMENT POLICY

Approved by the Wardens and Advisory Board ❖ June 8, 2021

Reviewed ❖ January 2023

Purpose ~

To establish guidelines governing the investment of funds used for the ongoing care and maintenance of *St. Paul's Anglican Church*.

Preamble ~

St. Paul's is blessed with funds that have been received through several sources:

1. **Memorial Donations** given in honour of someone who has died
2. **Bequests** from people's wills
3. Money received from a **Living Donor**

The monies received are invested in order to generate income that can be used as the donor stipulated. The majority of donors request that the money they give be invested. Some donors request that only the income be spent, while others stipulate that both the capital and the income may be spent.

Although we have 23 named Endowments/Funds, the money is all put together in one fund for investment purposes. As of December 31, 2022, **our average annual return is 4.5%**

Why Do We Invest At All? ~

We don't put our money in a bank account and sit on it. We don't believe that this is good stewardship. We follow the 'Parable of the Talents' in which a landowner encourages his slaves to invest their money, saying: "***You ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and on my return I would have received what was my own with interest.***" Matthew 25:27

Process ~

Every year at our parish annual meeting (the annual Vestry), a financial advisor is elected to manage the fund. Our funds are currently managed by **Don Skochinski, Investment Advisor, RBC Dominion Securities**.

The **Summary of Fund Activity** and the **Summary of Investment Holdings** are listed every year in our **Annual Report**. The Report is posted on the parish website and on *facebook* for accessibility.

The majority of the annual income generated by the Investments is used to support capital projects that are not part of the operating budget.

Finance Committee ~

The **Parish Finance Committee** consists of the Wardens, the Financial Advisor, one elected member from the Advisory Board, Dr. Mary Richardson, and the Incumbent. The committee meets as needed to discuss the investments and to ensure that the asset allocation and the investments are aligned with the investment strategy.

Policy Review ~

This policy shall be reviewed annually by the Finance Committee to ensure that it remains consistent with the overall objectives of the Parish and with careful, ethical, conservative and “**ESG**” investment practices (***Environmental, Social, and Governance Sustainability and Accountability***). This policy may be reviewed and updated more frequently as necessary.

The Finance Committee will present the Investment Policy Statement to the Advisory Board annually for their review. This report is scheduled to be presented in January in order to prepare for the annual Vestry meeting at the beginning of February.

Reporting ~

Monthly statements will be prepared for and distributed to the Finance Committee as requested and will contain the following:

- ❖ **Complete inventories of all portfolio investments and percentage breakdown** by each type of investment and credit rating.
- ❖ **Average term to maturity** of the portfolio.
- ❖ **A list of all transactions**, whether matured or not, including opening balances, maturities, dispositions, purchases and accrued interest.
- ❖ **Details of any impact** to the stated investment policy.

We suggest a target of an in-person or virtual bi-annual review or as requested by the committee.

Exceptions ~

Under certain circumstances, the Rector and Wardens may conclude that though an investment may not meet the criteria outlined in the investment policy statement, the investment may be within keeping of the spirit of the policy subject to the following conditions:

- ❖ Full disclosure of the details of the investment is made to the Advisory Board at the immediately subsequent meeting of the Advisory Board.
- ❖ Any such individual investment will not exceed 5% of the portfolio and the total of such investments will not exceed 10% of the portfolio.

Overall Approach ~

- ❖ **Conservative/Balanced portfolio**
- ❖ **Maximize annual income**
- ❖ **Ethically responsible.** Investments will be avoided in those companies that abuse human rights through child labour or political oppression. Investment in companies with a business focus in the following areas will be avoided: gambling, pornography, and tobacco

Asset Allocation ~

60% – 65% Fixed Income (cash, bonds, preferred shares, GIC's)

35% – 40% Equities (common shares and mutual funds)

Eligible Investments ~

Investments may be made in:

- ❖ Government obligations (i.e. Treasury Bills Notes, Strip Coupons, Debentures and/or Bonds) issued directly or indirectly by the federal government or an agency (Canadian and U.S.) or any of the provinces which hold appropriate credit ratings.
- ❖ Canadian Chartered Bank Securities, being Bearer Discount Notes, Deposit Receipts, Term Notes, Certificates of Deposit, Bankers Acceptances, and short term bonds and strip coupons.
- ❖ Commercial paper and other short term obligations including bonds and strip coupons of Canadian industrial companies, utilities, financial institutions, consumer loan companies.
- ❖ Equities would include preferred and common shares of established Canadian companies or established foreign companies with dividends of 3% or better at the time of purchase in the portfolio.

Investment Objectives ~

We consider the protocols of **ESG** and strive to invest in companies that measure:

1. **Environmental**
2. **Social**, and
3. **Governance Sustainability and Accountability**

Environmental ~

We are committed to investing in companies that actively support the targets on reductions in the carbon footprint, as identified by the 2015 **Paris Agreement on**

Climate Change. The Paris Agreement is a global framework on limiting global warming and in particular, by reducing greenhouse gas emissions.

Social ~

We are committed to investing in companies that are trying to do the right thing and to be responsible. We value diversity of employment practices and increasing diversity in Boards of Directors.

We recognize and affirm those companies that are committed to living the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. If applicable, these companies engage in meaningful dialogues with Indigenous peoples and respect traditional lands and resources.

Governance ~

We are committed to investing in companies that have Boards of Directors who are accountable and diverse, and actively have committed to environmental and social factors.

Sustainable Investing ~

For the long term, we will continually ask our Financial Advisor to look for companies that are committed to **ESG** and are using renewable energy (wind, solar), practice safe disposal, and are searching for green technologies. We wish to support companies with employee safety policies and ethical treatment of employees, including diversity in hiring and promotion. These companies have good corporate governance that is responsive to the employees, the customers, and the shareholders. These companies must also generate sufficient earnings through interest, dividends and capital gains.

The Current Reality ~

We are Christians and we believe that God calls us **to strive to safeguard the integrity of God's creation and respect, sustain, and renew the face of the earth.** (*BAS*, p. 159). This promise was added to the *Anglican Church of Canada's* Baptismal Service in 2013.

As a parish, we must balance the wishes of our donors and the needs of the parish for annual income for special projects with our desire to support companies that are committed to **ESG**.

