



ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH THUNDER BAY, ONTARIO

THUNDER BAY-NORTH SHORE DEANERY
DIOCESE OF ALGOMA



ANNUAL REPORT + 2024

Prepared for: **Annual Vestry Meeting**
Sunday February 9, 2025



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

~ 2 Corinthians 5:20 ~

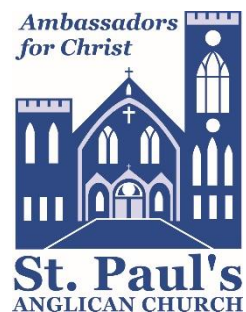


TABLE OF CONTENTS

DIOCESE OF ALGOMA:

- Archbishop Anne's Letter for Vestry 4

PARISH STATISTICS:

- Ministry Team & Parish Officers 2024 6
- Lay Readers and Eucharistic Assistants 2024 7
- Parish Passages 2024 8
- Parish Statistics 2024 9

MEETING MINUTES:

- 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes ~ February 9, 2024 10

MINISTRY REPORTS:

- Priest Associate's Report 18
- Honorary Assistant's Report 21
- Deacon Associate's Report 22
- *Screening In Faith* Committee 23
- Livestreaming Ministry Report 24
- Music Director's Report 25
- Memorial Choir 26
- Bell Ringers Report 27
- Lay Readers, Lectors, EAs, POP Readers Report 28
- *PWRDF* Parish Rep's Report 30
- *Inter-Church Refugee Committee [ICRC]* Report 31
- *St. Paul's Café* Coffee Fellowship 32
- Memorial Recording Secretary's Report 33
- *Parish Prayer Chain* Ministry 34
- Youth Ministry 35
- Children's Ministry: *Nursery; Sunday School; Children's Bible Study* 36
- *"Blessing Box"* Community Outreach 38
- Sidespersons Ministry 39
- Property Committee Report 40
- Garden Committee Report 44
- Labyrinth Report 46
- *Camp Gitchigomee* Report 47
- Deanery Events Report 48

TABLE OF CONTENTS *[continued]*

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

- Offering Secretary’s Report & Financial Charts 50
- Financial Examination re: 2023 Financial Reports 52
- Balance Sheet 2023 & Summary of Charitable Donations 53
- Summary of Fund Activity 2023 54
- Summary of Investment Holdings 2023 55
- Statement of Offerings & Expenses 2023 / Budget 2024 56
- Investment Policy 58

ARCHDEACON’S REPORT:

- Archdeacon Deborah’s Deanery Report for Vestry 62





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 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.



DIOCESE OF ALGOMA

From the Archbishop

We give because we bear the name of Christ.

We give with JOY, delighted to be able to offer with outstretched hands gifts in abundance.

We give in HOPE, for the gift will be blessed and multiplied – a single seed becomes a head of wheat.

We give in FAITH, this blessed gift will be enough, because we bear the name of Christ.

27th January, 2025,

John Chrysostom, Bishop of Constantinople

Dear people of God in Algoma,

We are in the midst of the Annual Vestry Meeting season of our congregations. I write to offer my heartfelt thanks to each and every one of you for your unwavering commitment, your boundless energy, and your enduring faith. In this past year, we have faced challenges and uncertainties, but we have also witnessed remarkable acts of grace, strength, and resilience in the life of our diocesan family.

Here in the north unpredictable weather has caused havoc for many communities planning community events over the winter months. Your ability to 'pivot' and remain faithful has been a testament to your love for Christ and his Church. You have truly lived out the call to serve with humility and joy, and for that, I am deeply grateful.

To our faithful clergy and lay leaders, I give thanks for your dedicated service in the various ministries that make up the life of our parishes. You have worked tirelessly, to lead worship, provide pastoral care, ensure the smooth running of church administration, manage finances, and provide outreach to those in need. I also want to acknowledge the many volunteers who, in their quiet and steadfast ways, continue to embody Christ's love within our communities. Your dedication to the work of the Gospel has made an immeasurable difference. Whether through teaching, mentoring, organizing, or simply offering a kind word, you have been a witness to the goodness of God in our midst.

With you, I pray for the repose of the souls of the faithful departed whose deaths we mourn and who are deeply missed.

With your faithful financial contributions over the years, you've demonstrated your deep commitment to the mission and ministry in your parish and to the wider church. Although there is no way to fully express our gratitude, I am continually inspired by your loyalty and your ongoing generosity, especially as many of you are living on fixed incomes.

It is always encouraging when we receive the Annual Vestry booklets in the Synod office to read the missional objectives you have taken the time to prayerfully consider for the coming year, and to reflect on the ones you set in the last year. If your parish is electing or the incumbent appointing new wardens, I extend a special word of welcome to the new leadership. You are assuming vital leadership roles within the parish which comes with great responsibility. Thank you for your willingness to take on these roles.

2025 is a Synod year. We will gather in Sault Ste. Marie from the evening of May 7th – to noon on the 10th. If you are allowing your name to stand to be a Synod delegate, please note these dates as well as the fact that you will be representing your parish on Deanery Council and have the potential to be members of the Diocesan Executive Committee. We are looking for diversity within the diocesan leadership. If you have gifts to offer the wider councils of the church do allow your name to stand for election. I am hoping that we will welcome many young people to diocesan synod this year as revitalizing youth ministry in Algoma is going to be a strong synod theme.

As we move forward, it is natural to feel a sense of trepidation about the future. Much of what lies ahead is unknown, and yet we trust in the faithfulness of the God who walks with us. While the future may be uncertain, we take heart in the truth that it is never unknown to God. He who holds the past and the present in His hands will also guide us into what is to come.

In baptism, each of us is marked with the sign of the cross and sealed as Christ's own forever. This is the unshakeable foundation upon which we stand. The promises of God are sure, and His love is steadfast. Even during the unknown, we are never alone.

I urge you, dear friends, to remain steadfast in your faith. To continue to serve with joy, to love with kindness, and to proclaim the hope of the Gospel to a world in desperate need of it. May we lean into God's strength and remain faithful to the call of Christ, trusting that God's Spirit will guide us as we walk into this new chapter.

May God bless you and keep you in the days ahead, and may you continue to shine as lights in the darkness, reflecting the love and grace of our Lord Jesus Christ.

In Christ's love and service,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Anne Germond". The signature is written in black ink and includes a small cross symbol above the first letter of the first name.

MINISTRY TEAM 2024

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

PARISH OFFICERS 2024

Rector’s Warden	Dorothy Piccinin
Deputy Rector’s Warden	Candace LaFrance
People’s Warden	Deborah Victor
Treasurer	Adrienne Davis
Assistant Treasurer	Judy Lundberg
Offering Secretary	Ernie Tilbury
Memorial Recording Secretary	Linda Veinot
Altar Guild Chair	Deborah Victor
Altar Servers Chair	Scott Meredith
‘Food for the Soul’ Co-ordinator	Laurie Sandham <i>[January – June]</i>
Bell Ringers Chair	Jim Stewart
Garden & Labyrinth Committee Chair	Lynda Farquharson
Men’s Breakfast Chair	Christopher Willie
“ “ Executive	Marshall Farquharson, Derrick Tirschmann
Nursery Supervisor	[vacant]
Prayer Chain Ministry Co-ordinator	Sandra Rejall
Property Co-Chairs	Christopher Willie Marshall Farquharson, Derrick Tirschmann
‘Blessing Box’ Chair	Jen Snowden <i>[dissolved in October]</i>
Bell Ringers / Sidesperson Scheduler	Dorothy Piccinin
Hospitality Coordinator	Charlene Shuttleworth
Camp Gitchigomee Rep	Sandra Rejall
Mission to Seafarers Rep	Suzu Thornes
PWRDF / Alongside Hope Rep	Jasmine Sandham <i>[“Primate’s World Relief & Development Fund”]</i>

Lay Delegates to Synod *[attendees]:* Adrienne Davis Carol Knox *[alt]*
 Alicia Sandham Marty Sauer *[alt]*

‘CLAY’ Home Team Reps Belle Benoit *["Canadian Lutheran*
Waterloo, ON – August 2023 Hollie Davis *Anglican Youth"]*

Advisory Board Members *[elected]:*

Levina Collins	John O'Brien	Jim Stewart
Carol Knox	Laurie Sandham	Jen Snowden
Mark Tilbury	Marty Sauer	Christopher Willie

“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.”

2024 LAY READERS and EUCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS

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

Diocesan Lay Readers ~ Carol Knox Ida Mekanak Jessie McKay

Lay Readers ~ Sandra Fox Alicia Sandham
 Scott Meredith Marty Sauer
 Doug Oshimo Don Shuttleworth

Lay Reader-In-Training ~ Daniel Klein

Lay Readers Emeritus ~ Ralph Davis Ruth Douglas

Eucharistic Assistants ~ Susan Anderson * Candace LaFrance
 Elaine Beardy Dora Morris *
 Karen Christie Marion Morris *
 Sharron Forshaw Dorothy Piccinin
 Chris Heikkinen Jen Snowden
 Violet Holroyd Deborah Victor

[New Ministry]*

PARISH PASSAGES 2024

BAPTISMS (4)

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

Baptismal Candidates

Date of Baptism

- | | |
|-----------------------------------|-----------------|
| • Kalias John Masakeyash | January 1, 2024 |
| • Dallas Tommy Christian Anderson | June 23, 2024 |
| • Theodore James Lucas | August 9, 2024 |
| • Luella Gizaagi'in Yesno | August 11, 2024 |
-

LIFE IN THE EUCHARIST (2)

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






Candidates

Date of First Communion

- | | |
|---|---------------|
|  Aliana Beatrice Maletta | July 14, 2024 |
|  Isla Lilley MacAdam | July 14, 2024 |
-

CONFIRMATION (5, at Gathering Table)

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

- | | |
|--|-----------------|
|  Andrew James Benoit | August 24, 2024 |
|  Gregory John Ezack | August 24, 2024 |
|  Jayalathge Esher Shenal Gunasekara | August 24, 2024 |
|  Dayton Seton Buckley Lipinski | August 24, 2024 |
|  Eric Roy Nygard | August 24, 2024 |
-

RECEIVED INTO THE ANGLICAN CHURCH OF CANADA (1, Gathering Table)

"But those who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength."

- | | |
|---|-----------------|
|  Cheonga Caitlyn Lee | August 24, 2024 |
|---|-----------------|
-

WEDDINGS (5)

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

Bride & Groom

Wedding Date

- | | |
|---|--------------------|
| ♥ Penny Ellen Moran & Glenn Gordon Jennings | July 20, 2024 |
| ♥ Nancy Wallace & David Nock | August 23, 2024 |
| ♥ Sandra Fox & Lewis Yesno | August 27, 2024 |
| ♥ Lindsey McGuire & Hubert Dziekonski | September 21, 2024 |
| ♥ Jacintha Mekanak & Lance Baxter Jr. | November 19, 2024 |

PASSINGS (10)

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

St. Paul’s parishioners “called home” to Jesus during 2024.

Name of Deceased

Date of Passing

† David Robert Burrows	January 28, 2024
† Veli Allan Partti	March 1, 2024
† Douglas Martin	April 16, 2024
† Lyle Damian Fox	May 21, 2024
† Hazel Marjorie Purves	May 22, 2024
† Charles Thomas “Tom” Wright	July 26, 2024
† Dorothy “Dot” Jones	September 9, 2024
† Eleanor Ruth Gardiner	September 27, 2024
† Robert Joseph Ambro	November 25, 2024
† Alma Lambert	December 10, 2024

2024 PARISH STATISTICS

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018
Total on Parish Roll <i>[baptized]</i>	429	427	426	430	422	445	455
Baptisms	5	3	14	16	9	13	18
Life In The Eucharist <i>First Communion</i>	2	6	8	9	N/A	12	10
Confirmations	5	0	3	2	N/A	0	0
Marriages	5	1	6	2	4	3	3
Reception into the A.C.C.	1	-	-	-	-	-	-
Funerals/Memorials/Interments	10	8	9	12	5	8	24

Worship Services Offered:

- † 1 ‘Livestream’ Service ~ **Sunday 10:00 am Eucharist** *“YouTube/St. Paul’s Media” & Shaw Community TV, Cable 10, 7 pm Tuesdays*
- † 2 ‘In-Person’ Services ~ **Sunday 8:30 am Eucharist**
10:00 am Eucharist

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING OF ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH FEBRUARY 11, 2024

People's Warden **Chris Heikkinen** began the meeting at 11:59am and **Reverend Nancy** began with an opening prayer.

Thanksgiving for parishioners who died in 2023.

Reverend Nancy prayed for and named those who passed in the past year.

Rules for Vestry Meetings (Canon J-1) were outlined by **Chris Heikkinen**. He also outlined the what the meeting would entail ... operating business such accounts, budgets, elections and community engagement and service for 2024.

Election of a Vestry clerk was held. **Fiona Gardiner** was nominated by **Dorothy Piccinin**, seconded by **Carol Knox** and was accepted. As there were no further nominations, **Fiona Gardiner** was acclaimed as Vestry Clerk.

The vestry book was circulated with 52 in attendance.

Acceptance of the Meeting Agenda

Dorothy Piccinin suggested a discussion of adding a volunteer pamphlet to the agenda which was added after #22 Missional Objectives and Outcomes. The revised agenda was accepted.

Moved by: Candace LaFrance

Seconded by: Marty Sauer

CARRIED.

Special Presentations

We have two special Ambassadors for Christ in our midst from our People's Warden **Chris Heikkinen** and Rector's Warden **Deborah Victor**.

People's Warden **Deborah Victor** honoured Parochial Lay Reader and member of the Indigenous Council who is very active bringing the faith to northern communities bringing prayer services in Cree: **Sandra Fox**.

Chris Heikkinen honoured long-time choir member and dramatic actor who is an inspiration to all and kept services going during COVID as Dr. Science. Despite being unable to receive this honour in previous years due to "conflict of interest", we are pleased to give **Jouni Kraft** this long-overdue award.

Approval of the Minutes from Feb. 19th, 2023 at previous Vestry Meeting.

Moved by: John O'Brien

Seconded by: Jen Snowden

That the minutes from the 2023 Vestry meeting be approved.

CARRIED.

Approval of Agenda & Business Arising from Vestry Minutes

Chris asked if anyone felt there were issues or improvements needed. There were none.

Review of Missional Objectives & Outcomes for 2023

Chris reminded all that the retirement of **Archdeacon Deborah** as our rector mid-year had a definite impact.

Community Building/Fellowship

Deborah Victor reminded us that there was a get-together to celebrate **Archdeacon Deborah**'s retirement and we are trying to start "celebrating" more often again. **Christine French** also reminded everyone of the Advisory Board Christmas party that was brought back. The Men's Breakfast are now working with The Gathering Table for their get-togethers, alternating each month. The Sunday School end-of-year party and the fall Blessing of the Pets continued this year. **Alicia Sandham** also mentioned that members participated in the June Pride March with Thunder Pride.

Care for Creation

Dorothy mentioned buying milkweed for the butterflies this summer and a garden clean-up with EcoSuperior. The plan for the St. Paul's waterbottles didn't succeed as was hoped. **Jasmine Sandham** did a marigold initiative with great success. The garden itself was divided up with groups managing their little areas which kept the garden thriving. (Late) **Alison Arthur** was acknowledged for her years of dedication to our garden.

Discipleship

Dorothy felt that the Pride March was also an example of our discipleship and belief in equality for all in this community. **Chris** discussed the reflection booklets that Carol Knox puts together each year for different seasons. Deborah also talked about the PWRDF walk and our generosity with missions outside our church such as Mission to Seafarers, Camp Gitchigomee. The uniting of The Men's Breakfast with The Gathering Table has made their activities further reaching. (i.e. Camp Gitchigomee). **Linda Veinot** reminded everyone that St. Paul's never keeps any money from our fundraisers.

The theme for St. Paul's seems to be "collaboration".

Questions and Comments from the Individual Annual Reports

Chris congratulated all those who worked so hard to create such detailed reports.

Moved by: Amy Bottos

Seconded by: Marty Sauer

That the parochial reports be adopted as written.

CARRIED.

Screening in Faith Participation Report

Jim Stewart has led this initiative to ensure all those who work with vulnerable populations be cleared

Moved by: Don Shuttleworth

Seconded by: Deborah Baughman

That the Screening in Faith report be adopted.

CARRIED.

Questions from the Incumbent's Charge to Vestry

No questions.

Approval of Parochial Lay Readers, Lay Readers Emeritus and Eucharistic Assistants

Bishop Lydia who is up north will often ask **Susan Anderson, Marian Morris, Elaine Beardy** and **Dora Morris** to bring song and prayer to those from northern communities who come to Thunder Bay for care and are in need of their support. **Carol Knox** asked that those individuals become Eucharistic Assistants also.

Parochial Lay Readers ... Sandra Fox, Scott Meredith, Doug Oshimo, Alicia Sandham, Marty Sauer, and Don Shuttleworth

Lay Reader Emeritus ... Ralph Davis and Ruth Douglas

Lay Reader in Training ... Daniel Klein

Eucharistic Assistants ... Susan Anderson, Elaine Beardy, Karen Christie, Sharron Forshaw, Christopher Heikkinen, Violet Holroyd, Candace LaFrance, Dora Morris, Marion Morris, Dorothy Piccinin, Jennifer Snowden, and Deborah Victor.

It was clarified that while **Archdeacon Deborah** has retired, until St. Paul's gets a new incumbent, she will still be on the lay readers' licenses.

Moved by: Laurie Sandham

Seconded by: Margie O'Brien

That all listed above be affirmed in their various roles for 2024. *CARRIED.*

Year-End Reports

Financial Statements:

Pg. 105 Balance sheet was identified. Cash donations are not part of the Summary of Charitable Donations.

Summary of Fund Activity (pg. 106) which outlines the different funds and endowments. Our balance from 2022 to 2023 shows an increase to \$1,819,900.

This is an increase of approx. 15% thanks to **Don Skochinski's** enthusiastic efforts.

Christine French asked that the Investment Policy at the end of the book be reviewed by all. This policy gives guidelines for what the church is investing in.

Statement of Offering and Expenses (pg. 108-109) ... We did not meet our Parochial Offering budget. Total Offerings and Receipts showed quite a deficit. Our Diocesan Expenses were also higher than anticipated. **Archdeacon Deborah's** stipend was less than budgeted due to her retirement mid-year. This allowed us to spend slightly less than budgeted in Ministry. We also cut expenses in Administration. So our Expenditures were overall in line with our budget. Our final deficit came from lower cash receipts. Fortunately, we have an accumulated surplus from previous years which we were able to use to cover 2023's loss.

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

Moved by: Alicia Sandham
Seconded by: Carol Knox

That the 2023 financial statements be accepted as written. *CARRIED.*

Resolution re: Endowment Fund

That the *Margaret Shuttleworth Endowment* be renamed the *Margaret and Betty Ann Shuttleworth Endowment*, and that the funds received from the Estate of Betty Ann Shuttleworth be added to the Endowment.

Moved by: Don Shuttleworth
Seconded by: Olga Deschamps *CARRIED.*

Announcement of Rector's Warden

Archdeacon Deborah will appoint this person as there is no incumbent at this time. **Dorothy Piccinin** will be the Rector's Warden for **Reverend Nancy**.

Elections

Lay Reader, Lector, and EA Scheduler **Carol Knox** was added to the list.

People's Warden

Christopher Heikkinen is stepping back from this role. Deputy Rector's Warden, **Deborah Victor** has agreed to put her name forward for this role. The complete list of roles with the addition of **Carol Knox** were given.

Offering Secretary ... Ernie Tilbury

Memorial Secretary ... Linda Veinot

Altar Guild ... Deborah Victor

Altar Servers ... Scott Meredith

Bell Ringers ... Jim Stewart

Food for the Soul ... Laurie Sandham

Men's Breakfast ... Marshall Farquharson, Christopher Willie ... Derrick Tirschmann was nominated by Christopher Willie as Peter Globensky is no longer attending St. Paul's

Garden/Labyrinth – Lynda Farquharson

Moved by: Dorothy Piccinin
Seconded by: Carol Anuik

Christine French noted that Blessing Box Chair was omitted from the list. **Jen Snowden** has taken this over since **Alison Arthur's** passing.

Prayer Chain ... Sandra Rejall

Property Co-Chairs ... Marshall Farquharson, Derrick Tirschmann, Christopher Willie

PWRDF Rep. ... Jasmine Sandham

Mission to Seafarers Rep ... Suzy Thornes

Camp Gitchigomee Rep ... Sandra Rejall

Current Advisory Board Members:

Levina Collins, Carol Knox, Candace LaFrance (Board Chair), John O'Brien, Laurie Sandham, Marty Sauer, Jen Snowden, Jim Stewart

Christopher Willie & Mark Tilbury have been nominated. The addition of these two gentlemen would fill the roster.

Charlene Shuttleworth moved that all names be acclaimed to the board.

Seconded by: Kim Fuzzen

The four Lay Delegates to Synod and their alternates will continue their roles in 2024 to complete their two-year term. **Daniel Klein** was a third delegate but he is unable to continue this role in 2024.

Motion to Affirm all nominees.

Moved by: Charlene Shuttleworth
Seconded by: Kim Fuzzen

CARRIED.

Treasurer

Deborah Victor asked **Adrienne Davis** to continue as Treasurer with **Judy Lundberg** as her assistant. **Adrienne** agreed for both of them in **Judy's** absence.

Priest Associate's Address to Vestry

Reverend Nancy said this was her first address of this kind. She discussed how she has been tired and ready to retire from St. Michael's when she was called by **Chris Heikkinen**. She came for a Sunday service and felt like this was home. As of January 1st, she accepted the covenant of leading St. Paul's 40% of the time. She feels this mission continues to evolve in her and she feels blessed to be at St. Paul's.

She wants to challenge the congregation to take on new challenges in 2024, to be open to new things in our community. She looks forward to conversation about potential new objectives and missions in 2024.

Overview of Missional objectives and outcomes for 2024

Dorothy Piccinin referred to the beautiful brochures which have been produced, based on what she'd seen at another church. The pamphlet outlines the various ministries and "Ways to Serve" which St. Paul's offers. The pamphlet gives people a form to fill out as a volunteer in these areas. **Dorothy** wants parishioners who enter the church to know there's more to being a part of the church than just sitting in the pew each week.

Chris led a discussion on what the objectives should be starting with the Warden's Report. From this, he started with:

1. Leading the church in a thoughtful and prayerful manner
2. To create opportunities for fellowship and discipleship growth

Levina Collins suggested a "Calling & Caring" program to contact individuals in the church who are lonely and need more social contact. **Chris** suggested **Levina** kick-start it at the Board Level.

Christopher Willie suggested we follow the Archbishop's Motto: 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)

Candace LaFrance felt that following this motto will help with our financial bottom line.

Lynda Farquharson felt that Food for the Soul fell by the wayside during COVID. She would like to see us re-invigorate this program. She would also like to see more prayer missions related to global conflicts.

Charlene Shuttleworth would like to see a driving program for parishioners who cannot drive themselves to services. **Levina** felt this could be rolled into the “Call & Care” program she suggested.

Laurie Sandham feels we need to be more financially-giving.

John O’Brien wants us to look at how we grow our congregation. We need to adapt our service to the younger demographic. **Reverend Nancy** mentioned the story of the retiree who just spoke to his neighbours to personally invite them to visit the church or join a celebration of some sort. **Levina** said that young people who volunteer as children are more likely to volunteer later in life. So getting them involved will carry on in the future. **Margie O’Brien** said there are a lot of “fun” activities that could use the help of younger “muscles” and once they’re involved and helping, they can be introduced to other activities.

Final areas of focus:

- Bishop’s Motto
- Discipleship and Community-building
- Youth component
- Food for the Soul

Moved by: Margie O’Brien

Seconded by: Sandra Rejall

That the initiatives for 2024 be approved.

CARRIED.

Items for approval

Operating Budget for 2024 (pg. 108-109)

Adrienne Davis went through the budget explaining that they look at what happened last year and make adjustments based on what they feel might change this year compared to last.

Based on the lack of an incumbent, the budget does not include an amount for a Stipend. We are taking advantage of this lower expense in the budget. But **Dorothy** enforced that this lower expense is not an excuse to lower everyone’s personal financial support. We will eventually have an incumbent that will need to be paid. And it’s important not to rest, but to build. **Margie** is concerned that by keeping it at a zero, it puts the expense in a negative light. She feels it should stay in the budget, perhaps “in holding” to cover the incumbency and to keep the cost “top of mind”.

Chris explained that consistently not meeting budget is having a negative effect on the mental/emotional health of the Wardens. So adding the incumbent expense as a line item that will not be used in 2024 (the belief is that we likely won’t have an incumbent until 2025) may be more detrimental than helpful at this time.

Archdeacon Deborah suggested that we could simply have a goal of a surplus to cover the future incumbent's stipend.

Total offerings/Receipts are listed at \$257,599. Budgeted offerings are much lower than 2023.

Diocesan Apportionment total is supplied by the Diocese. **Adrienne** feels it might go down slightly due to 2023's lower totals.

Administration expenses are budgeted to be slightly lower than 2023's budget, but higher than last year's actual. Building Operation & Maintenance is up approx. \$2000 from 2023. Insurance expenses have fallen slightly.

Total expense budgeted is \$257, 599.

Resolution: That the budget be approved as provided.

Moved by: Candace LaFrance

Seconded by: Jen Snowden

CARRIED. (Not unanimous)

Financial Reviewer ... **Adrienne Davis** nominated **Dale Mead** (treasurer at St. Michael's). He will agree to this. Acclaimed.

Investment Manager for 2024 ... **Don Skochinski** has put together a very conservative portfolio. He's done very well with St. Paul's investments and doesn't charge us. **Candace LaFrance** nominated **Don** to continue. Acclaimed.

Other Business:

Archdeacon announced that **Archbishop Anne** just texted her that she has new bookmarks which she will send out to St. Paul's immediately.

Adjournment

Christine French thanked the Wardens for their efforts continuing to keep everything running in the church during this difficult time.

Motion to adjourn: Scott Meredith

CARRIED.

Meeting closed at 2:20 pm.

(Length of meeting 2hr. 21 minutes.)

Respectfully submitted,

Fiona Gardiner

Vestry Clerk

PRIEST ASSOCIATE'S REPORT ~ REV. NANCY RINGHAM

"But those who do what is true come to the light, so that it may be clearly seen that their deeds have been done in God."

John 3:21

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

My goals were:

- † to abide by the covenant with **Archbishop Anne** to serve St Paul's part time and be faithful in duty and service preaching, teaching and providing the sacraments in regular public worship and as requested by individuals
- † to be mindful of ministry to all generations of the family of faith and keep part time ministry in balance with my personal commitments
- † to be a priest in these liminal times, and witness to the power and presence of God whenever possible, and especially among the Ambassadors of St Paul's!

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

- † to continue to pray for the new Rector that God is calling to St Paul's
- † to continue to journey as Priest Associate, obedient to the covenant with Archbishop Anne, for as long as my service is required at St Paul's, or until the beginning of June 2025

It has been a full twelve months that I have served in this capacity, part time (40% and then 50% time) and with many others who minister in and around St Paul's Anglican Church. My role has been to lead worship twice a month on Sundays, be present in the church one day a week, (where I had time with your long time, long suffering administrative assistant **Christine**, who carries in her an abundance of St Paul's humour, and tradition and history!) and visit or teach a few more hours each week, that are variable and by appointment.

It has been my joy to become acquainted with many new people and refresh friendships of twenty-five years ago before my ordination while **Bill** and I attended St Paul's. These activities have included mentoring Lay Readers, leading Confirmation classes, Life in the Eucharist classes, baptismal and marriage preparation, leading Book Studies and visiting the sick in hospital and shut-ins at home, spending time in the labyrinth blessing and placing bricks and conducting a few funerals. St Paul's is blessed with the full spectrum of Christian family life! Working part time is constantly a challenge of balance to ensure I get my hiking boots on at least once per week!

I love being part of a team, I treasure the Clergy leaders who primarily assist each Sunday; **Father Gordon**, **Deacon Anne** and the **Rev Rob Smith** who was with us until June. The abundant and active Lay Reader team, guided by **Dr Carol Knox** bring many gifts as they lead prayers, read the lections, assist at Eucharist and preach as they feel moved to share their gifts in this way. The servers are ably led by **Scott Meredith** who provides scheduling and guidance at Sunday services, and I love their youthful enthusiasm to serve this way. The Eucharistic Assistants are

plentiful, and among them the parishioners who prepare and offer the Prayers of the People on occasion. Always the music expression of the choir and **Sean's** expertise in all things music, with wonderful assistance of **Patsy Towell** and **Kim Fuzzen** at occasional services is a joy to behold! Many thanks for the cantors who are part of the Sunday liturgy in the singing of the psalms, and special music. Our Sunday School is not large in numbers of children and we are all ever grateful for the passion that one teacher **Brenda Berringer** provides, but their spirit and delight in learning about Jesus and sharing God's love is without a doubt the joy of all of us! The Livestream Team works tirelessly, often nudging me to remember the mics and the postures that will make the services fully accessible to the worshippers in the house and participants on the screens. Repeat reminders are often necessary and I thank you for being so gracious.

One of the first observations I made when I began presiding at St Paul's, was how large the number of generous leadership participants there were at any given 10:00am service! At 8:30am, the worshipping family is smaller and the regular participation of **Doug Oshimo** as Lay Reader makes for an intimate and friendly atmosphere that is filled with God's presence in a particular and welcome way. There are more than enough who I have not named specifically, in the roles you play at St Paul's. Please know I do see what many of you do silently, and in private, and we know God knows about you too! I am humbled by all of you who visibly and invisibly share your gifts. My heart is so grateful.

Looking back on this past twelve months I have frequently made these observations:

1. God calls us to step out of being passive participants and all who I have mentioned are beautiful examples of how people have responded and stepped out! There are always mentors who encourage and assist them taking on new roles. And, if you are one who is still pondering how God is calling you to serve, you are in the right place and I urge you to step out where you are feeling a nudge! You will not be alone!
2. The rhythm of the seasons of the Church are well known to many active, regular participants in community life at St Paul's. People often speak to me about the traditions of seasonal patterns but also, are willing to change those traditions and try something new. This says to me that people are humbly confident in their faith and filled with the joy of actively participating in new ways, living out their baptismal promises! Your nudges have been a great encouragement to me!
3. As the Concurrence process continues to unfold, and even as it is not moving as quickly as some would like, parish leaders and parishioners continue to be active and serve and minister, trusting in God's perfect timing. This takes confidence and a sure faith that God has the right person out there who is being called to Thunder Bay and is preparing to serve as full time Rector of this most precious parish!

I am here by the grace of God and for the purpose of journeying with you in this transition time. It is my privilege and honour to be with you. **Archbishop Anne**, the wardens and the Holy Spirit have created a space where my gifts for ministry have interwoven with your gifts as a parish and I truly believe God delights in all that has happened in the year past; both struggles and delights. The day will come when I will be moving on but we will always be part of the family of God, in the Body of Christ, connected through the Holy Spirit! You have left your mark on my heart forever. Thank you. Thanks be to God for this opportunity.

Submitted with my love and prayers,

Nancy+

Associate Priest



Father Gordon Holroyd (*known well for his thoughtful and on-the-mark sermons*), **Rev. Nancy Ringham** (*whose work in the office and in at-home visits made 2024 easier for many*), **Rev. Rob Smith** (*best remembered by the youngest of us for the toys he brought to every Children's talk*), and **Deacon Anne Carr** (*our joyful and approachable weekly Gospel proclaimer*),

Thank you, St. Paul's Clergy Team 2024!

HONORARY ASSISTANT'S REPORT ~ REV. GORDON HOLROYD

"A light shines in the darkness and the darkness has not overcome it."

John 1:5

My dear fellow parishioners of St. Paul's, 2024 was a very challenging year for me and of course for St. Paul's.

I officiated at the wedding of **Nancy Wallace** and **Dr. David Nock**. I took home communions, visited at the hospitals and led at worship services. I also was on pastoral call during Reverend Nancy's absences. I was on-call for pastoral care at Homes for the Aged and officiated at a large number of funeral services at the funeral homes, and as always, it was a privilege to be of service.

I am on a schedule for leading worship at St. Thomas' Church and was on the schedule for leading services at St. Georges' until the ordination of the **Reverend Deborah Everest**.

I look forward to being of service to St. Paul's and wherever else I may be called. Arrangements are always made through all the respective parish rectors, with my first commitments being to St. Paul's.

I pray that 2025 will be a fulfilling year for St. Paul's.

Respectfully submitted,

Father Gordon +
The Reverend Gordon Holroyd
Honorary Assistant

**A photo from Dr. David Nock and
Nancy Wallace's wedding,
which Fr. Gordon officiated,
with the lovely groom and bride
accompanied by Archbishop Anne.
Congratulations!**



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, assisting **The Reverend Nancy Ringham** and **The Reverend Gordon Holroyd** with Communion Services.

I visit a bit, and keep in touch with some seniors at home by telephone. I have been called to visit some in hospital and have helped with end-of-life.

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 love being and serving at St. Paul's, and will continue to serve God as long as I am able.

Respectfully submitted,

Deacon Anne +
The Reverend Anne Carr
Deacon Associate



‘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 and maintain 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 in 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 2024:

Normally new volunteers and staff are interviewed, Police record checks are requested to be completed and acknowledged by SIF committee member, and follow-up is conducted and completed with those who have already been through the interview stage of the screening process.

This is not always a straightforward path. 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 life evolves.

This year our ability to fully carry out the program was hampered by several factors including on going health challenges, lingering COVID concerns, and the retirement of a long time rector who worked closely with the committee. In short, Vulnerable Sector Check for Sunday School teacher was completed, and no new people presented to trigger the SIF process.

ANTICIPATED OBJECTIVES & OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

This year we will revisit our application of the Screening in Faith program with the new ministry team, to ascertain how to proceed past the current challenges.

Moving forward we expect to complete steps outstanding in open files, and welcome volunteers to new ministries, and update position descriptions according to changing tasks and responsibilities. We continue to pray for a new rector who will be a valuable resource for the committee.

Respectfully submitted,

Jim Stewart

‘Screening in Faith’ Committee

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, Percy Corran, Daniel Klein**

This ministry creates the 10am and special service livestreams, and provides sound and multimedia support for services.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

Our goals were:

- 🖥️ To continue providing live streams for all needed services
- 🖥️ To add at least one more member to the Media Team to add to the sound board rotation

Our outcomes were:

- 🖥️ We provided streams for all 10am services as well as several funeral services
- 🖥️ The team provided support for the Rotary Carol Sing
- 🖥️ We repaired and maintained the sound equipment as needed
- 🖥️ **Percy** joined the Media Team, primarily on the sound board! We are grateful for his willingness to participate and engage in this ministry.

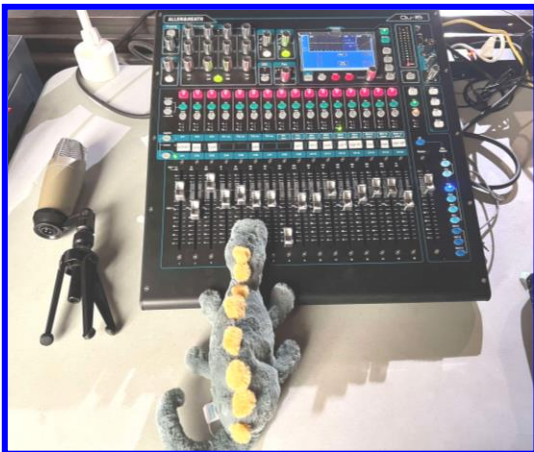
OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

Our goals are:

- 🖥️ To continue to provide this ministry to the parishioners and guests of St. Paul's
- 🖥️ Perform cross-training on the videographer role

Anticipated outcomes:

- 🖥️ Additional folks to provide coverage if/when needed for any given media team role



Respectfully submitted,

Daniel Klein
Livestreaming Ministry

Pictured: A guest appearance from our "Mic-rosaur" assisting on the soundboard!

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 2024:

Our Goals Were ~

- ♪ To provide inspiring and spiritually uplifting music.
- ♪ To upkeep maintenance of musical instruments.
- ♪ To introduce new music for the purpose of congregational singing.

Our Outcomes Were ~

- ♪ The choir actively participated throughout the year, providing music for regular services, funerals, and special events. They performed anthems and were invited to collaborate with the choir at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church for their Christmas Concert.
- ♪ All musical instruments were kept in good working conditions, ensuring reliable performance and enhancing the quality of music during services and concerts.
- ♪ Introduced new hymns that fostered a deeper spiritual connection, embraced a variety of musical preferences, and encouraged greater participation and enthusiasm in congregational singing.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

My Goals Are ~

- ♪ To provide inspiring and spiritually uplifting music.
- ♪ To strengthen community connection through music.
- ♪ To streamline the music library.

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 2024:

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 2025:

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 **807-767-7194**.

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

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

Our **Bell Ringers** are privileged to call the faithful to worship and send them out into the world again with a song! This year, however, has been quiet except for special occasions when the bells were specifically requested. This occurred primarily because of illnesses and absences among our guild members and various other factors beyond our control.

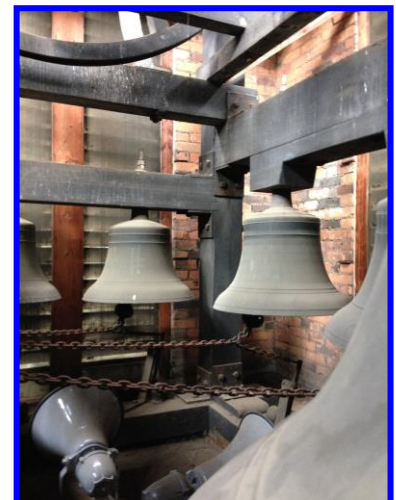
This year, it is our hope to attract new members to the Bell Ringers Guild as it is indeed a pleasure and a privilege to be able to praise and worship our Lord and support our parish family through this blessed music ministry.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

-  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 **(STILL!!)**
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.

LAY READERS, LECTORS, EAs, AND 'POP' READERS REPORT

***"The Lord equips the saints for the work of ministry,
for building up the body of Christ."***

Ephesians 4:2

LAY READERS

Serving as Parochial Lay Readers in 2024 were **Sandra Fox, Scott Meredith, Doug Oshimo, Alicia Sandham, Marty Sauer, and Don Shuttleworth** along with **Daniel Klein** as Lay Reader in Training. Diocesan Lay Readers **Jessie McKay, Ida Mekanak** and myself **Carol Knox** continue to serve in ministry at St Paul's along with their ministries outside the parish.

In the absence of a new incumbent, **Alicia, Carol** and **Daniel** have taken on some preaching and **Marty Sauer** has done some children's talks.

In her last charge to Synod, **Archbishop Anne** stressed the need for Lay Readers to continue in their education. **Daniel** and **Scott** joined me in taking an online course with **Archbishop Lynne McNaughton**, Bishop of Kootenay, on "Crafting Prayers of the People for the 21st Century". Afterwards I taught a number of the Lay Readers how to complement the BAS litanies with petitions based on how the readings can shape our lives as disciples.

In Advent, **Bishop Michael Oulton**, assistant to **Archbishop Anne** during her term as Acting Primate, led an online book study on NT Wright's 2024 book "Jesus and the Powers: Christian Political Witness in an Age of Totalitarian Terror and Dysfunctional Democracies". Very few of our lay readers attended this excellent study.

Goal for 2025 is to find and increase participation of the lay readers in continuing education opportunities.

LECTORS

We have an extensive group of women and men of various ages reading scripture. The last Sunday of each month we continue the practice of having one of the readings in Cree. At the 11 pm Christmas Eve service which has a high number of indigenous people attending, we try to read the gospel in Cree. Diocesan Lay Reader **Jessie McKay** read the gospel in Cree and **Alicia**, who is of Métis heritage, served as lay reader and did one of the readings in English.

Goals for 2025 are to continue the practice of reading a scripture in Cree once a month at the 10 am service by someone from the congregation when a Lay Reader is not available and to continue having the gospel proclaimed in Cree at 11 pm Christmas Eve.

EUCCHARISTIC ASSISTANTS

In 2024 we have returned to offering the common cup at both the 8:30 and 10 am services. With the rise in a number of severe viruses as well as continuation of COVID, only about half of the congregation feels comfortable receiving from the common cup. Those who do not want to drink are encouraged to touch the base of the cup as the words of institution are said. Both lay readers and eucharistic assistants can bring holy communion to people who are home bound or in hospital. This way, they can also feel safe to receive from the cup as they can be the only person drinking from it. At the present time, our wardens and lay readers, as well as **Karen Christie** and **Jen Snowden** for the 10am service, serve as the main eucharistic assistants. At the 2024 Vestry meeting four Indigenous EAs were approved and later trained. They are often away in northern communities or ministering to local families in times of distress.

Goal for 2025 is to discern and train more EAs from the congregation.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE

Early in 2024 United Church minister the **Rev Rob Smith** split leadership of the 10 am services with **Rev Nancy**. He wrote the prayers he read, which the congregation loved. His style paved the way for teaching concepts from the "Crafting Prayers" workshop. After he left town, the Lay Reader or a congregant trained in the new approach such as **Deb de Bakker**, **Karen Christie**, **Levina Collins**, **Bonnie Schiedel**, or **Mark Tilbury** led the prayers.

Goal for 2025 is for POP to reflect our desire to become more 'Christlike' and embrace the needs of the world.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol Knox

Coordinator for Lay Readers, Lectors, Eucharistic Assistants, and Prayers of the People readers



**Diocesan Lay Reader
Ida Mekanak
reading from the
book of Revelation
in Cree at our
National Day of Truth
and Reconciliation
service**

PWRDF / Alongside Hope 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**

Note: This year, **PWRDF** ["Primate's World Relief and Development Fund"] officially changed their name from **PWRDF** to **Alongside Hope** following complaints that the name **PWRDF** is too hard to remember.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

Our goals were:

- 🌍 To 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
- 🌍 Pick fundraising goals that meet current world needs

Our outcomes were:

- 🌍 Hosted a very successful "Refugee Sunday" on June 23rd to both educate the parish on the refugee crisis and kick-start our Read-a-Thon for the **Wild Ride** Campaign. Five parishioners raised pledges to read an amazing amount of books for the months of August and September. Altogether, \$2360 was raised to aid refugees around the world. In thanks for their efforts, each received a \$25 giftcard to local store **GameShelf** (graciously sponsored by **GameShelf** themselves)
- 🌍 We also ran a "Bath Fizzies" sale for Mother's Day, raising \$650 for the **Al-Ahli Arab hospital** in **Gaza**, following a huge bombing of the area
- 🌍 For Christmas, the *Bee Merry* Fundraiser raised \$1211 to buy beehives for women in Colombia to have an independent income and to help pollinate local crops

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

- 🌍 Reduce the number of yearly fundraisers to two, in order to more fully participate in the Deanery **Wild Ride** Walk.
- 🌍 Continue to raise money and awareness for important issues
- 🌍 Find new and innovative fundraising ideas
- 🌍 Promote the *Canadian Foodgrains Bank* Gala in November
- 🌍 Run a "Climate Change and Gender" seminar

Respectfully Submitted,

Jasmine Sandham

PWRDF/Alongside Hope Parish Rep



**Alongside
Hope**

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

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

2024 was an exciting year. Our most recent family, the **Slibis**, became well-established in life in Thunder Bay. Dad **Kamil** and Mom **Sahar** were successful in their English studies and are now employed full-time. Kamil is working for Turner Bus Lines and Sahar is a hairdresser at Walmart. Son **Roy** completed his college training to operate heavy equipment and is working at a mine near Geraldton. The family has become self-sufficient, are now renting a house, and are an asset to our Thunder Bay community. The bonus with them is that they came as a Christian family without our knowing their religious affiliation.

In October, the committee decided that we were ready to undertake another sponsorship. Within weeks we were assigned a UN refugee partially sponsored by the federal government. Moustapha Niang, called Djamil, is a native French-speaking 32-year-old man from Senegal. He fled for his life to Morocco, while doing PhD studies in economics and banking in Senegal.

The committee sprang into action to raise another \$5,000 to complete our financial component and to acquire some immediate housing. A very successful fundraising dinner with silent auction was held at **Trinity United** church on **November 30**. Thanks to St Paul's parishioners for their donations of desserts, auction goods, purchase of tickets and auction offerings as well as additional financial donations.

Djamil arrived on **December 17** and the committee has worked hard to shepherd him through much paperwork and hands-on arrangements. He is a very charming, independent man whose English skills are considerable. His English is being assessed in keeping with his desire to get a job as soon as possible. He would like to be financially able to rent larger accommodation and to learn to drive. He has been to a hockey game but prefers basketball so if any of you love that sport I'd love to connect you with him.

Goal for 2025 is to increase the number of Anglican congregations on the committee. St Paul's was the only one until Deb Everest from St George's joined about a year ago. Other congregations involved are **Our Saviour's Lutheran**, and **Broadway, First-Wesley, Trinity, St Paul's** and **Westminster United** churches.

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." 1 Peter 4:8-10

Coffee Hour is an important part of the hospitality shown by St. Paul's Volunteers to worshipers after the 10 a.m. services.

In 2024 the volunteers provided snacks and coffee as well as periodic lunches after the 10 a.m. service each Sunday over the winter, spring and fall seasons. They also hosted outside groups for weddings, funerals and special events such as the Police memorial.

This past year the Hospitality group has offered a special **Dinner on Earth Day** along with quizzes on Conservation and recycling. They hosted several delicious lunches after the service as well as a **potluck lunch** in **December**. Thanks to all who brought wonderful food to share with others.

If you have time to provide coffee after the service let Charlene Shuttleworth know that you are interested and she gratefully schedule you into the mix. All volunteers are most welcome.

Thanks go to **Charlene Shuttleworth** who graciously offered to the chair the Hospitality Ministry. Her knowledge and expertise is greatly appreciated. We are thankful for the efforts and generosity of the volunteers. This practice will continue throughout the 2025 year.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

Our goals were:

- ♥ To provide a warm welcoming environment.
- ♥ To provide coffee, treats, and fellowship after the service.
- ♥ To assist outside groups with the use of the kitchen for special occasions.

Our outcomes were:

- ♥ Coffee and treats were provided on a weekly basis.
- ♥ Special meals were served throughout the year.
- ♥ Groups who required kitchen assistance were accommodated.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

- ♥ To continue to offer hospitality to our parishioners through coffee hour, lunches, and special occasion events.
- ♥ To grow the hospitality team and the services that it provides.

Respectfully submitted,

Dorothy Piccinin
Coffee Fellowship
Scheduler

**Our 2024 "Earth Day
Dinner" Long Table**





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 2024:

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 2025:

I have the same goals for 2025 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



*With Love
and Memories*

PARISH 'PRAYER CHAIN' MINISTRY REPORT

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

"Pray without ceasing."
1 Thessalonians 5:17

The prayer chain has six current members ("prayers") and we wish to increase to **nine** members by encouraging our family and friends to come and join in this effective ministry. We have received more than 25 requests from parishioners, clergy, and lay readers. It is noted that a parishioner or clergy may request prayers for several people. The requests come to **Sandra Rejall** at **807-629-3431** or **sandrarejall@hotmail.com** and are then sent to "the Prayers"

I have received many "thank you"s for prayers from both recipient and requestor via phone calls and emails. One comment stands out and also sums up the purpose, helpfulness and effectiveness of our prayer chain:

"Prayer is magnificent."

2025 goals are to continue recording numbers of prayers and to include a description of the prayer chain and a request for additional prayers as an insert to the bulletin and on our St. Paul's Facebook page.

Respectfully submitted,
Sandra Rejall
Prayer Chain Coordinator



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."***

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, to explore their faith, ask questions about anything, play games, and just talk.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

Goals ~

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

Outcomes ~

- We completed the resources obtained in 2023/2024
- We have restructured our meetings to once a month for 2024/2025
- We continue to average 5 to 6 youth each month
- We were offered a trip to the last pumpkin fest at Gammondale Farm by Rev Nancy. We had a great time and shared some great conversations

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

- To continue to meet once a month and at the end of June the leaders will reevaluate what the fall will look like
- To as always continue to provide a safe space for youth to gather from all over
- To continue to support other youth activities such as Youth Synod and CLAY. To promote any youth events, we are invited to attend. There will be CLAY this year and there are a few youth that are interested in going. There may also be a diocesan youth event that we will encourage the youth to attend.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Snowden and **Laurie Sandham**
Youth Ministry

CHILDREN'S MINISTRY REPORTS

"And whoever welcomes one such child in my name welcomes me." Matthew 18:5

This year was bittersweet to me as I stepped down from the position of **Children's Ministries Coordinator** at the end of the Sunday School year 2024. I have been blessed to be able to serve in this role for many years but felt myself called in a different direction and have taken a position with the **St. Paul's Media Team**. I will always be around to answer any questions that teachers or a future Children's Ministries Coordinator may have.

† NURSERY ★ ages newborn to 2 years

Our Nursery offers a fun place for children 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 before, during and after our 10am Sunday services. The nursery is also used by visitors to St. Paul's and their children during funerals and weddings. There is a television which parents can use to watch the service while using the room with their children.

GOALS & OUTCOMES FOR 2024 (JANUARY TO JUNE):

Goals – To find a volunteer (or two) for the Nursery so that we could offer drop-off care again.

Outcome – We continued to be without a volunteer.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

We are looking for volunteers to offer supervision during worship hours.

† SUNDAY SCHOOL ★ ages 3 to 6 years

† CHILDRENS' BIBLE STUDY ★ ages 7 to 12 years

Using a combination of felt board sets and story books, we were able to teach the **Sunday School** children about key people and events in the Bible. Each week, right after the children's talk, the children would meet downstairs for music, then our teacher would tell a story then do a related craft to help reinforce what had been talked about. **Children's Bible Study** class met in the youth room at the same time as Sunday School. They used their own Bibles to look up and read key passages then completed a craft or activity based on what they had learned about.

GOALS & OUTCOMES FOR 2024 (JANUARY TO JUNE):

Goals – To see the number of children attending Sunday School and Bible Study grow. To find another volunteer to help with the teaching of Sunday School.

Outcome – The number of children attending stayed pretty much the same. We were unable to find another teacher to put into the rotation.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

- ✚ To find a Children's Ministries Coordinator and a few more Sunday School/Children's Bible Study teachers.

Our Volunteers

As of June 2024, we were blessed to have **Brenda Berringer, Bonnie Schiedel, Jasmine Sandham, Charlene Shuttleworth, Patsy Towell** (music), **Marty Sauer** (occasional substitute). Together, they made an amazing team of warm, caring volunteers that teach about the love of Christ in a way a child can follow. Currently, we have **Brenda Berringer** and **Patsy Towell** working with our children.

If you feel called to join us in Children's Ministries, please call the church office at **807-622-4945**.

Respectfully Submitted,
Laurie Sandham
Children's Ministries Co-ordinator



Thank you to all of our wonderful parish children and families for making 2024 a year filled with giggles, songs, toys, and - most importantly - the light of Jesus!

'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

Following several months of conversation around the Blessing Box a decision was made by the board to disband this ministry, we thank you for all for your continued support while this was operational.

Thank you to all of you for you continued support of our blessing box ministry over the past five years

Whether you...

- Were a regular 'filler'
- Were a 'relief filler' who would say 'yes' to **Linda Veinot's** ask for temporary assistance
- Gave financially to support
- Participated in our fundraising
- Upheld the ministry in prayer
- Dropped off food donations
- Shopped for food donations
- Arranged the schedule for fillers and looked for vacation coverage
- Or you were anyone who helped in any way...

We thank you all for your support without which we would have not been able to run this ministry for the last five years. Over that time, we were able to provide a bit of assistance to those in the neighborhood in need or struggling.

After lengthy discussion, the board has decided that this ministry will be dissolved. You may have even noticed the box has been removed. If you still feel moved to support food outreach ministries, the following churches can use assistance: *St. Thomas Anglican Church Food Cupboard* and *Gathering Table Anglican Church Food Cupboard*.

Again, we thank you all for your tremendous support of this ministry over the last five years.

Respectfully submitted,

Jen Snowden

Blessing Box Coordinator

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

This ministry provides a welcome to people entering the church on Sundays at the 10 a.m. service and on special occasions such as funerals and concerts. They take up the offering, bread and wine to be blessed at Communion and other services.

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

They also serve as sides persons at weddings, funerals, concerts, and baptisms when required.

ASPIRATIONS, ACTIVITIES, & OUTCOMES OF 2024:

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 2025:

Our Goals Are ~

- To have a new chairperson for the upcoming year
- 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 Property Committee undertook a number of tasks throughout 2024. Although only one of our planned projects for 2024 was completed, we were able to attend to several other issues with our building as they arose throughout the year. We are pleased to report that the Property Committee, along with the help of others in the parish, persisted through the challenges of this past year to complete the following tasks:

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2024:

- 📌 **Masonry Repointing:** While MMA was booked to continue with brick repairs and repointing again this year, he was unable to carry out any work due to previous commitments. We will continue to aggressively re-visit the required brick re-pointing and repairs each year, to ensure the continued integrity of our historic building. This work will be carried forward to 2025.
- 📌 **Tower Roofs Assessment:** We were unable to secure a flat-roof roofing company to review both tower roofs and provide assessments and recommendations for repairs or replacements. We were hoping this would include the roof drain and associated drainage piping. This work will be carried forward to 2025.
- 📌 **Rainwater Leader Replacement:** Along with the tower roof reviews, we were hoping to get quotes to replace the main rainwater leaders that run down the inner corners of the nave. These open-faced downspouts are in such disrepair they no longer working properly to direct the rainwater away from the building foundation. We were also unable to secure a company to carry out this assessment, and this work will be carried forward to 2025.
- 📌 **Front Steps:** The review and repair spalling of east front stairwell and cracks in main landing slab was not completed and will be carried forward to 2025.
- 📌 **Re-lamp Chancel Pendant Light:** The large hanging light over the chancel/choir area was burned out and needed cleaning. A large-wheeled lift was required and rented to undertake this task. This involved moving the lift into the church, setting it up, removing and cleaning the light cover, installing new 'corn cob' style light bulbs, and removing and returning the lift. This work is now completed.

ACTIVITIES AND OUTCOMES ACHIEVED IN 2024:

Throughout the year **Co-Chairs Christopher Willie, Marshall Farquharson** and **Derrick Tirschmann**, and a few other members helped out our Decorating crews, Garden Committee, and other groups with seasonal tasks, including:

- ✂️ **Outdoor De-decorating:** After Epiphany, Marshall and Derrick took down the Christmas lights and wreaths. Lights were laid out to thaw then sorted, coiled and stored up in the tower. They also brought in the large shelf crèche of lit figures and stored it down in the basement.

- ✂ **Indoor De-decorating:** The large wooden crèche and supporting table were taken down and stored in the new storage room. The big Christmas tree was also disassembled and packed into large boxes, along with the four smaller trees and placed in the new storage room (formerly the pipe organ room).
- ✂ **Snow Shoveling:** Due to the snow removal contractor not being available due to an accident, the stairs, sidewalks and ramp required snow removal near the end of the season.
- ✂ **General Cleanup:** Sprucing of church grounds and gardens happened in the spring and fall. This again involved trimming shrubs, removing branches and 'dump runs.'
- ✂ **Labyrinth Repair:** Due to heavy winds the large maple tree fell over onto the labyrinth forcing a number of bricks out of place. The bricks were removed, new soil was added and the bricks were levelled and reinstalled.
- ✂ **Garbage Cans by Fountain:** As these cans were increasingly being misused, the board decided to have the two cans removed from the area and placed into storage. This was completed in the fall.
- ✂ **Fountain Rebuild and Shut Down:** After many years of service, the beautiful blue fountain top that **Jouni Kraft** built deteriorated and needed some TLC. Christopher rebuilt the fountain top using the spout from the original cover and presented the completed cover mid-summer. It looks and works great; it's a great focal point of our sitting garden. At the end of the season, the fountain was drained, cleaned and covered for the winter.
- ✂ **Tables for Remembrance Day Display:** Tables were brought upstairs and set up for a Remembrance Day display, and later returned to the basement.
- ✂ **Re-Decorating:** What comes down must go up! At the end of the year, our indoor and outdoor crèche and big tree come out of storage to welcome the season, as well as our outdoor lights on the stair railing. Our big Christmas tree shone beautifully for all our Advent and Christmas services and special events.

In addition to the seasonal tasks, the following projects were also completed:

- ✂ **Kitchen Sink Faucet:** Due to the ongoing leaking of the old faucet, a new faucet was installed.
- ✂ **Emergency Light Batteries:** The annual safety inspection identified the need to have new batteries installed in the emergency lights over the doorway exits. Four of the five locations were completed with the remaining location by the doorway by the access ramp requiring some electrical wiring to be completed first.
- ✂ **Kitchen Floor Repair:** After completing the repair to the sagging beams in 2023, the *Property Team* was able to brace the two sections of flooring opened up to access the beams, level the new subfloor, and install new tiles (see our pictures at the end of the report).
- ✂ **Cleaning the Cross over the Stairs:** While the rented lift was available, it was placed into position to be able to wash and clean the cross over the stairway at the front of the church.
- ✂ **Repair Hinges on Pew Kneelers:** A number of kneelers had broken hinges that required replacement or had hinges with loose screws. The broken hinges were replaced and those hinges with loose screws were tightened.

- ✘ **Repair Book Brackets on Choir Pews:** Several brackets were loose and required gluing and retightening.
- ✘ **Repair Hinge on Lock on Outside Sign:** Due to vandalism, the hinge was broken and required replacing. A new hinge was installed.
- ✘ **Light Bulb Replacement:** As light bulbs burn out throughout various locations in the church, they are replaced with new ones.
- ✘ **Outside Tap Leaking:** The outside tap located near the rear door developed a leak. The tap was disassembled, Teflon tape was added to the threads and the tap was reassembled.
- ✘ **Framing to Outside Water Timing Box:** With some recent change being made inside the box, the door could no longer be closed. The box was removed, additional framing was installed and the box replaced.
- ✘ **Blessing Box and Storage Shelves:** The Blessing Box and related inside storage shelves box were removed as directed by the board, and placed into storage in the church basement.

I would again like to thank **JJ**, our tireless Caretaker, for being so understanding when the Property Team makes a mess. Although we make every effort to clean up after our projects, there is always a bit of mess left behind (dust normally). She's the best! Thanks for all your hard work, JJ.

OBJECTIVES & ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES FOR 2025:

The *Property Committee* hopes to focus on the following projects this year:

- 📌 **Masonry Repointing:** This project is carried forward from 2024 and we will continue to aggressively re-visit the required brick re-pointing and repairs each year, to ensure the continued integrity of our historic building.
- 📌 **Tower Roofs Assessment:** This project is also carried forward from 2024 and we are going to ask flat-roof roofing companies to review both tower roofs and provide assessments and recommendations for repairs or replacements. We are hoping this will include the roof drain and associated drainage piping.
- 📌 **Rainwater Leader Replacement:** Along with the tower roof reviews, this project is also carried forward from 2024 and we are hoping to get quotes to replace the main rainwater leaders that run down the inner corners of the nave. These open-faced downspouts are in such disrepair they no longer working properly to direct the rainwater away from the building foundation. The *Property Committee* will bring these quotes to the Advisory Board for review and action, when available.
- 📌 **Front Steps:** Review and repair spalling of east front stairwell and cracks in main landing slab. This project is carried forward from 2024.
- 📌 **Doors Review and Weatherstripping:** Review all exterior doors and repair or replace weatherstripping and door sweeps to upgrade and ensure weather-tight seals.

The *Property Committee* continues to graciously give freely of their time and talents and believes our work is important to maintain our church building and allow our parish family to interact with the community. We believe our ongoing maintenance, upgrades and renovations are seen as a sign of growth by the parish family and the community alike.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher Willie
Derrick Tirschmann
Marshall Farquharson
Property Co-Chairs



Above: Completed repair of our kitchen floor.

Below: Refurbished fountain top with co-chairs Christopher and Marshall – and helping-hand dog, Nunzio!

Well done, property committee!



GARDEN COMMITTEE 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***

Note: Last year the garden and labyrinth were reported together. It was decided to split them, and I thank **Deborah Victor** for coordinating all things Labyrinth. Thank you to **Carol Knox** for her workshop on Labyrinth walks and history of its use. It was very interesting and helpful in learning to walk and meditate in our Labyrinth.

Last year's Lenten book study was a book called 'Act Fast', and it gave spiritual practices for a climate in crisis. Encouraged by this book to do what we can, the Garden committee focused on the fifth mark of mission for the Anglican Church: "To strive to safeguard the integrity of creation and sustain the life of the earth".

We know that gardening helps sustain life on earth. One way is by focusing on plants that will attract pollinators like bees and butterflies. This can help other plants and vegetables grow. Our garden already had some great plants that helped with this but this year we took out some older bushes and aggressive fiddleheads along our neighbour's fence to replace it with shrubs that have more flowers and some plants that attract bees. Marshall and I had some extra posts so we donated them to put up a couple of bird houses in this garden. We have named this section 'the Bee Garden'.

A big thank you to all who adopted a garden section. **Laurie Sandham** and daughters **Jasmine**, **Alicia** and **Deirdre** who cared for our half-moon garden, **Christine French** and **Christopher Willie** taking care of the 'Every Child Matters' garden, **Jane Lucas** covered all the planters by blue door, **Carol Anuik** cared for our garden by front sign, **Candace LaFrance** groomed the front 'hose area' with shrubs and planters, and **Jennifer Snowden** and **Jennifer Boorman** who cared for the side gardens. Special thanks to **Rev Nancy**, **Brenda**, and all who came to help with cleaning out the garden before planting and helping spread some new soil. Thank you to **Barb and Walter Kutcher** for weeding and caring for the garden on their way to service. It was a big job, but many hands really helped.

Deborah Victor and I shopped and brought all the annuals and new perennials to plant the end of May, ready for help from Karen Watt and the Pathfinders. The girls came on the date we set, but it was raining too hard to do planting and even though we had a very early spring it was too soon as our nights were too cold. I have now learned it is better to wait till around June 6th to plant even if weather makes us want to start earlier. Keeping our plants healthy inside for a few weeks was difficult but with help they were all planted.

Special thanks **Dave Middleton** for labyrinth weeding and trimming, and to **Bruce McKay** for lawn mowing. Thank you to the property committee for installing water hoses at the back making watering easier, to Christopher for repairing the water fountain, to Derrick and Marshall for helping with so much trimming, and to **Charlene Shuttleworth** for donating so many flowers from thinning her own

garden. We appreciate anyone who would like to do this but please consider we must be careful of aggressive plants that may take over. We would like to avoid these types of plants. Finally, thanks to the Pathfinders and all other helpers in cleaning out the fall garden.

As you can see by this report, gardening here is really a community effort. Please forgive me if I left anyone out!

Besides enjoying interactions from visitors to our garden from McKellar Place and our neighbouring community, we enjoyed our book study offered by **Daniel Klein** called the "The Vanishing Song", a book of poems by Jay Hulme. It was nice to hold this study outdoors in our garden.

Unfortunately our annual summer picnic had to held indoors due to rain. Hope it will be an outdoor event in 2025!

GOALS FOR 2025:

- 🌱 We have reached out for prices on crusher fine to replenish the sitting area but have not heard back any quotes as of yet. We need to do this area for sure this summer.
- 🌸 Continue to work on the 'Bee garden' plants.
- 🌱 Thinking of trying some border flowers from seed to save money.
- 🌸 Unfortunately one of our hoses was stolen and will need replacing. The property group are trying to think of a way to lock these hoses in place to secure them. Asking people to water and disconnect each time is too heavy of a job.
- 🌱 We have had problems with people who have torn out plants from our planters and replanting has made them difficult to grow well. We are planning a garden committee meeting to come up with an idea that might help prevent some issues in our rock/potted garden area.
- 🌸 Review adopted garden areas and divide them to be more manageable and encourage more participants. Participants must consider 30-45 minutes a week volunteering to keep up their areas.
- 🌱 Find volunteers to help with garden watering.
- 🌸 Encourage more garden activities. Maybe an outdoor eucharist service could be considered.
- 🌱 Continue to encourage church walk-about to pick up garbage and keep the garden area welcoming and clean.

Respectfully Submitted,
Lynda Farquharson
Garden Coordinator



LABYRINTH REPORT

"Blessed is the one who does not walk in step with the wicked . . . but whose delight is in the law of the Lord, and who meditates on his law day and night."

Psalm 1:1-2

This year, the Labyrinth has had the many additions of Inscribed bricks. The Bricks have been placed to Honor Births, Passages, Friendships, Marriages & Life Events. Prayers have been offered during the time of placing the bricks.

A guided "Labyrinth Walk" was done on World Labyrinth Day in May. Even though the weather was cold & rainy; there was a good turnout.

People are encouraged to come and walk the Labyrinth any time.

The 100-year-old tree, which over-hung the Labyrinth, collapsed during a storm. Nothing was broken in the Labyrinth, however there was some movement of bricks. Thanks to **Marshall** and **Derrick**, all was made right again with some man power & a few bags of earth!

Thank you also to **Bruce McKay** & **Dave Middleton** who weed-wack & mow the lawn, to keep the Labyrinth visible.

We look forward to a growing number of inscribed bricks. For information or to order a brick; Contact the office, **Ernie Tilbury**, or **Deborah Victor** (who handles the order).

Respectfully submitted,

Deborah Victor

Labyrinth Coordinator



CAMP GITCHIGOMEE REPORT SUMMER 2024

***"The heavens declare the glory of God; the
skies proclaim the work of his hands." Psalm
19:1***

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.***"



In 2024, the shores of Sandstone Lake were once again filled with children, staff and volunteers participating in water activities, sports and arts and crafts cabin activities, chapel and bible studies. The campers attend junior, intermediate or senior camp. St Paul's children participated in *Camp G*, and the 2024 confirmands had a weekend retreat.

Volunteers from the church helped with construction projects to ensure buildings at camp are safe and well-maintained. Volunteers also donated items for the **2-Bit Auction** and attended the event. Thanks so much for your donations of prayer, time, and money.

The camp requires a new generator very soon and the cost is thousands of dollars. Fundraising is ongoing for this. The camp is rented out to groups during non-camper weeks. The revenue is needed as camper fees do not cover the cost of upkeep, renewal of structures and expenses like insurance.

In 2025, I hope to show pictures on-screen of camp and campers before 10am service in May. I will post on our Facebook page information and request for volunteers. In April I will ask several campers and volunteers to describe their experiences at *Camp G*.

Thanks to all who support sending children to camp. Please call or text me **807-629-3431**, or email **sandrarejall@hotmail.com** if you have questions about registering your child for camp.

Respectfully submitted,

Sandra Rejall
St. Paul's Parish Rep
Camp Gitchigomee



DEANERY EVENTS REPORT ~ WHAT DID ST. PAUL'S DO THIS YEAR? ~

Deanery Council Meetings

Deanery Council meetings are held three times a year and clergy, wardens, and synod delegates from all parishes as well as various committee chairs, three deanery youth delegates to synod, our deanery treasurer, our Regional Dean, and of course the Archdeacon. From St. Paul's, we have our Diocesan vice chancellor **Amy Bottos**, Deanery lay steward **Adrienne Davis**, youth delegate **Hollie Davis**, priest associate **Nancy Ringham**, wardens **Candace LaFrance**, **Dorothy Piccinin** and **Deborah Victor**, synod delegate **Alicia Sandham**, Deanery youth coordinator **Jen Snowden**, and Deanery PWRDF coordinator (and chair of many deanery committees) **Dr. Carol Knox** attend. Each parish contributes financially and the council approves a budget for the deanery. At these meetings, Deanery officials are elected, missional objectives are set for the year, and deanery events are approved.

Primate's World Relief & Development Fund

Wild Ride for Refugee Support: St Paul's hosted refreshments after a deanery walk and bike ride the morning of **Oct 21**. Inspired by **Archbishop Anne's** motto for 2024, the team name was *Thunder Bay-North Shore Algoma's Cheerful Givers*. People from most parishes donated online or by check for a number of weeks, both before and after the event. Bikers met at St Paul's with **Bruce McKay** and **Dave Middleton** and rode to Vickers Park to join the human walkers and one dog. Partway back to the church, the children from **Caitlyn Cheonga-Lee's** Korean class joined the walkers. Thanks to many members of the congregation who donated refreshments and acted as hosts especially to **Charlene Shuttleworth**, **Leslie Walters**, and **Levina Collins**. We met our goal of raising 3,500 dollars, plus a little over that. Our Deanery team was 2nd in the country for funds raised and 3rd overall. **Visit by PWRDF Partner Canadian Foodgrains Bank:** **Gordon Janzen**, the regional director of Canadian Foodgrains Bank, visited Thunder Bay the weekend of **Nov 7-10**. **Rev Nancy Ringham** organized a lunch and information session hosted by St Mark's, and a gala fundraising dinner and auction was hosted by the local growing project at the N'orWester Hotel. A number of people from St Paul's attended both events which had been advertised throughout the deanery.

Deanery Annual Lenten Retreat

The **Rev Dr Deborah Meister** O.D.M. from Christ Church Cathedral Montreal led our two Deanery Lenten Quiet Days which were hosted by St Paul's. Clergy attended Friday morning **March 15** and everyone was invited to a full day **March 16**. We were blessed on the Saturday by the presence of two youth from St Paul's. Thanks to **Carol Anuik** who joined the committee of **Janet Pike**, **Archdeacon Deborah Kraft**, and myself as chair, to arrange the food for both days. A good number of people from St Paul's attended and enjoyed Mother Deborah's preaching on the Sunday. She was so appreciated that she will return for this Lent on **March 21-22, 2025**.

Deanery Easter Vigil

The first Deanery Easter Vigil was hosted by St Michael and All Angels under the leadership of their new incumbent the **Rev. Elizabeth Sipos**. It was a Full Communion event, including Lutheran pastors of two of the ELCIC churches, and priests and congregation members, both Anglican and Evangelical Lutheran. Parades lead by torches of fire from churches in the city drew attention from vehicles on Red River Road! Churches in the Parade were Gathering Table, from the east, Hilldale ELCIC from the west, St Paul's from the north, all coming together with the assembly gathering at St Michael and All Angels outside their church building. There was much joy! Pastors and Priests were joined in leadership by Diocesan Lay Readers **Irene Wyrozub** and **Dr. Carol Knox** plus lectors from other congregations. Rev Elizabeth sang the Exultet beautifully and the congregation was generously sprinkled with water as they renewed their baptismal vows. We live in hope that will become an annual deanery event.

Deanery Confirmation

Gathering Table hosted a deanery confirmation on **August 24** at which a number of young people from St Paul's were confirmed by **Archbishop Anne** and one of our own from St. Paul's was accepted into the Anglican Church of Canada. Candidates were prepared both in their own parishes and through a weekend together at Camp Gitchigomee. Another deanery confirmation will be held this coming spring with the **Rt Rev Michael Oulton** presiding. Bishop Michael has been appointed by Archbishop Anne to assist in Algoma during her tenure as Acting Primate.

Deanery Afternoon with Archbishop Anne

The Deanery Day-Mutual Ministry committee organized a deanery afternoon with Archbishop Anne on Saturday **April 20**. St Michael's provided the venue and the program was videotaped. Following a number of talks by Archbishop Anne on what constitutes a healthy parish, participants shared experiences in smaller breakout sessions, first gathering as parishes and then in more general configurations. The afternoon concluded with a Eucharist celebrated by Archbishop Anne with anointing for healing and ministry. Thanks to the Deanery Day Committee of **Rev Deb Everest, Janet Pike** and myself, to the **Deanery ACW** for refreshments, and to St Michael's people for hosting.

Respectfully submitted,

Dr. Carol Knox

Thunder Bay-North Shore Deanery



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 2024. 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, 807-577-3104**

Please maintain your Offerings for 2025 and prayerfully consider an increase, if possible, during the year, using the method you prefer.

OFFERINGS “IDENTIFIABLE SUPPORTERS” <small>[incl. E-Transfers, Ttithe.ly; CanadaHelps; United Way]</small>						
OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
\$2,000 to \$7,000 *	2	2	4	6	2	1
\$1,500 to \$1,999	0	0	0	1	2	2
\$1,200 to \$1,499	0	0	0	0	2	0
\$1,000 to \$1,199	3	3	3	0	0	1
\$800 to \$999	2	3	1	3	2	2
\$600 to \$799	1	1	4	3	0	1
\$500 to \$599	4	4	6	4	2	5
\$400 to \$499	1	4	3	1	1	5
\$300 to \$399	3	3	4	8	6	5
\$200 to \$299	4	11	6	5	8	13
\$100 to \$199	15	15	19	17	16	24
\$50 to \$99	9	11	9	11	11	20
\$25 to \$49	12	9	10	7	3	10
\$10 to \$24	<u>8</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>9</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>5</u>	<u>6</u>
TOTAL	63	93	70	70	60	95

* Formerly “\$2,000 and UP”

REGULAR PARISH OFFERINGS <small>[E-Transfers, EOP, Envelopes, Ttithe.ly; CanadaHelps; United Way]</small>		
OFFERINGS FOR THE YEAR	2024	OFFERINGS CALCULATED BY WEEK
\$10,000 to \$11,000	3	\$192 – \$211 Weekly Offering
\$9,700 to \$9,999	0	You give the church \$186 – \$192 weekly
\$9,000 to \$9,699	0	\$173 – \$186 Weekly Offering
\$8,000 to \$8,999	0	You give the church \$153 – \$173 weekly
\$6,500 to \$7,999	2	\$125 – \$153 Weekly Offering
\$6,000 to \$6,499	2	\$115 – \$125 Weekly Offering
\$5,500 to \$5,999	1	\$105 – \$115 Weekly Offering
\$5,000 to \$5,499	2	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	4	\$67 – \$77 Weekly Offering
\$3,000 to \$3,499	2	\$58 – \$67 Weekly Offering
\$2,500 to \$2,999	3	You give the church \$48 – \$58 weekly
\$2,000 to \$2,499	4	\$38 – \$48 Weekly Offering
\$1,500 to \$1,999	14	\$29 – \$38 Weekly Offering
\$1,200 to \$1,499	14	\$23 – \$29 Weekly Offering
\$1,000 to \$1,199	9	You give the church \$19 – \$23 weekly
\$800 to \$999	4	\$15 – \$19 Weekly Offering
\$600 to \$799	18	\$12 - \$15 Weekly Offering
\$400 to \$599	9	You give the church \$7 – \$12 weekly
\$200 to \$399	21	\$4 – \$7 Weekly Offering
\$100 to \$199	6	\$2 – \$4 Weekly Offering
\$50 to \$99	2	\$1 – \$2 Weekly Offering
\$25 to \$49	2	50¢ – \$1 Weekly Offering
TOTAL	127	

* 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.

2024 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 . . .
“God has given me so much in my life. I may not have a lot, but I have food on my plate and a roof over my head, and a beautiful church family that has done so much for me. I am blessed to have what I have because of God and because of the church. Why wouldn’t I give back to support my faith home and my siblings in Christ?”
 ~ Anonymous “Joyful Tither”

FINANCIAL EXAMINATION

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

Proverbs 22:15

Jan 25, 2025

St Paul's Anglican Church

Thunder Bay, ON.

Re: Financial Review – 2024 records

I have examined the financial records of St Paul's Anglican Church, including, Balance Sheet, Summary of Fund Activity, Summary of Investment Holdings, and the Statement of Offerings and Expenses for the year ended Dec 31, 2024 as related to the bookkeeping records and independent third party statements.

I have found all the accounts to be in order and fairly presented in these reports.

Sincerely,

Dale Mead

Treasurer

ST Michael & All Angels Anglican Church

BALANCE SHEET As at December 31, 2024		
Bank	49,996	
Royal Bank Investment Portfolio	1,952,971	
Due from Diocese	4,488	
HST/PST Recoverable	20,939	
Flow Through Payable		234
Special Funds		1,910,453
Abe Kakepetum Gifts		7,300
Grand Piano		1,086
Rector's Special Fund	140	
Alongside Hope (formerly PWRDF)		365
Men's Breakfast		1,517
Other		5
Labyrinth Recoverable	5,657	
Parish Assistance Fund		229
Interchurch Refugee Committee		1,325
Blessing Box		3,943
Food for the Soul Mission		835
Youth Mission		11,262
New England Indigenous Fund		3,162
Vacation Bible School		2,003
Anti Hate Security Grant		5,282
Anglican Foundation - Indigenous Bursaries		2,758
Previous Years' Surplus		63,917
Current Year Surplus		18,515
	2,034,191	2,034,191

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	500
Anglican Foundation	250
Lakehead Mission to Seafarers	560
178th Thunder Bay Scout Group	600
	<u>1,910</u>
Blessing Box Opening	9,603
Donations	3,600
Purchases	5,260
Distributed	4,000
Blessing Box Closing	<u>3,943</u>



SUMMARY OF FUND ACTIVITY

For the year ended December 31, 2024

FUND / ENDOWMENT	Balance Dec 31 2023	Donations	Disbursed	Cash & Dividend Earnings	Balance Dec 31 2024
Balfour Endowment	14,243			746	14,989
Bird/Owens Endowment	27,723			1,452	29,175
General Endowment	74,025		2,079	3,768	75,714
Building	14,446			757	15,203
Organ Endowment	7,539			395	7,934
Memorial	6,238	916		375	7,529
Donor-Directed Reserve	87,031			4,558	91,589
Harvey & Noni Johnson Fund	23,643			1,238	24,881
Florence Higgins Memorial Fund	11,396			597	11,993
Dick Jones Memorial Fund	7,530			394	7,924
Betty Childs Memorial Fund	27,924			1,462	29,386
Shirley H. & M.O. Nelson Endowment	65,228			3,416	68,644
Mary Nock Endowment Fund	12,672		579	633	12,726
Geraldine Geravalis Memorial Fund	6,738			353	7,091
Linda Strey Endowment	5,938			311	6,249
The Rev Robert Brown Memorial Fund	56,237		1,662	2,858	57,433
The Landon Endowment	293,270		2,064	15,252	306,458
Olive Pratt Fund	64,130			3,359	67,489
Margaret & Betty Ann Shuttleworth Endow.	6,851	5,000		621	12,472
Ruth Sutherland Memorial Fund	5,943			311	6,254
Heritage Endowment	576,845		6,932	29,848	599,761
Lenora Aedy Memorial Fund	422,318			22,118	444,436
Olive Ede Rector Endowment Fund	29,718	100		1,562	31,380
Undesignated (from unrealized gains)	-27,724			1,468	-26,256
	1,819,902	6,016	13,316	97,853	1,910,453

1.

2.

3.

4.

5.

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.

2024 Disbursements:

1. Removal of tree.
2. Audito Visual Equipment
3. New office computers.
4. Boiler repairs.
5. Lift repairs.

SUMMARY OF INVESTMENT HOLDINGS**As at December 31, 2024**

<u>Cash and Cash Equivalents</u>			Market Value
Cash	123,110	6.4%	123,110
Fixed Income			
BMO Mortgage Corp	75,000		78,264
Royal Bank of Canada	90,000		90,118
Canadian Tire Bank	<u>32,000</u>	197,000	10.1% 34,041
Equities			
Preferred Shares			
Altagas Ltd.	94,031		87,160
Bank of Montreal	25,407		26,400
Brookfield Office PPTYS Inc.	20,371		11,328
Canadian Utilities Ltd	51,343		40,200
Enbridge Inc	75,664		65,475
Enbridge Inc Cumulative	31,248		40,927
Emera Incorporated	51,901		48,240
Emera Inc	26,030		19,010
Intact Financial Corp	<u>120,196</u>	496,191	109,750
Common Shares			
Automotive PPTYS Real Estate	30,311		32,670
Bank of Montreal	27,496		27,910
Bank of Nova Scotia	28,398		38,595
Brookfield Infrastructure	54,735		57,680
Canadian Pac Kans City Ltd	23,829		26,020
Definity Finl Corp	29,513		58,450
Element Fleet Management	19,410		29,060
Enbridge Inc.	40,941		48,808
Emera Inc.	87,692		91,341
Exchange Income Corporation	94,470		117,700
First Capital Real Estate	33,570		33,920
Fortis Inc	49,386		53,757
Intact Financial Corp	20,143		26,173
Keyera Corp	37,207		52,752
Pembina Pipeline Corp	36,998		53,110
Royal Bank of Canada	34,449		95,326
Smartcentres Real Estate	29,373		24,460
South Bow Corp	49,648		50,880
TC Energy Corp	20,426		33,495
Toronto Dominion Bank	31,554		22,959
Westshore Terminals Inv. Corporation	<u>20,355</u>	799,904	22,530
Mutual Funds			
Pimco Monthly Income Fund	133,532		118,182
RBC Investment Savings	<u>150,524</u>	284,056	150,524
Foreign Securities			
Brookfield Infrastructure	3,269		48,786
VISA Inc	20,485	23,754	34,110
	1,603,905	83.4%	
Total BOOK VALUE of Investments	1,924,015	100.0%	
Total MARKET VALUE of Investments			2,123,221
2023 Book & Market Values	1,834,782		1,797,254
<i>Increase in value from 2023 to 2024</i>	89,233		325,967
<i>Increase in value from 2023 to 2024 as a percentage</i>	4.86%		18.14%

STATEMENT OF OFFERINGS & EXPENSES			
For the year ended December 31, 2024			
	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
<u>OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS</u>			
Receipts			
Open Offering	5,000	6,411	5,000
Parochial Offering	224,899	223,270	263,014
Total General Offering	229,899	229,681	268,014
Christmas Offering	6,000	8,362	7,500
Lenten Offering	500	230	250
Easter Offering	6,500	3,207	4,000
Harvest Offering	4,000	1,001	2,000
Miscellaneous & Interest	200	72	200
Interest from Rectory	3,500	6,017	4,000
Music	1,500	1,205	1,500
Wedding & Funeral	3,000	3,127	3,000
Children & Youth	500	255	250
Hall Honorarium	2,000	2,125	2,000
Total Other Offerings/Receipts	27,700	25,601	24,700
Total Offerings/Receipts	257,599	255,282	292,714
<u>EXPENSES</u>			
Diocesan, Deanery and Other			
Diocesan Apportionment	67,047	59,356	59,734
Camp Gitchigomee	500	500	500
Deanery of Thunder Bay	2,000	420	1,350
Anglican Foundation	250	250	250
Lakehead Mission to Seafarers	560	560	575
Total Diocesan, Deanery and Other	70,357	61,086	62,409
Missional Focus – Food for the Soul			
	1,000	300	1,000
Ministry			
Stipend – Rev. Nancy Ringham	18,326	21,617	9,163
Stipend – Future Incumbent	0	0	22,500
Stipend – EI/CPP	2,085	1,319	3,339
Honorarium – Rev. Gordon Holroyd	5,000	4,550	5,000
Honorarium – Rev. Anne Carr	3,000	3,000	3,000
Honorarium – Rev. Rob Smith	4,500	3,375	0
Honorarium – Other	0	0	500
Car Allowance – Rector	3,226	3,630	6,231
Living Allowance – Rector	6,592	7,416	15,000
Pension Plan	0	0	4,219
Payroll Benefits & Costs	1,405	398	2,605

	2024 Budget	2024 Actual	2025 Budget
Health & Dental Benefits	0	0	5,376
Music Director/Organist	14,120	14,120	14,544
Music Director/Organist – EI/ CPP	954	960	991
Music - Resources & Supplies	1,500	907	1,500
Guest Musicians/Relief Organists	2,500	2,400	2,500
Altar Supplies	1,000	2,444	1,800
Conferences & Synod	3,100	998	4,000
Lay Reader	300	165	300
Youth Ministry	200	150	750
Educational Resources	1,000	731	1,000
Discretionary Fund	1,500	376	1,500
Fellowship	5,000	1,575	5,000
Garden Committee	1,000	2,914	1,500
Total Ministry	76,308	73,045	112,318
Administration			
Parish Assistant	27,774	27,774	28,607
Admin & Technical Support	6,427	6,240	10,200
Parish Assistant/Support - EI/ CPP	2,399	2,398	2,981
Office Supplies/Paper Products	1,500	1,616	1,500
Office Equipment	1,200	1,124	1,200
Internet & Telephone	2,500	2,559	2,800
Postage	1,500	835	1,500
Photocopier	2,200	2,289	2,200
Bank Charges/EOP Cost	2,100	1,914	2,100
Miscellaneous Expenses	500	33	500
Total Administration	48,100	46,782	53,588
Building Operation & Maintenance			
Alarm & Security	1,200	1,401	1,200
Custodian/Caretaker	19,111	19,111	19,684
Caretaker/Custodian – EI/ CPP	1,365	1,373	1,415
Snow Plow/Exterior Maintenance	3,000	2,390	3,000
Church Heating	18,000	11,204	16,000
Church Power	4,000	4,147	4,500
Church Water	1,400	1,412	1,600
Church Repair & Maintenance	2,500	3,289	3,500
Elevator Operation	1,500	1,469	1,500
Insurance	9,758	9,758	11,000
Total Building Operation & Maintenance	61,834	55,554	63,399
TOTAL EXPENSE	257,599	236,767	292,714
TOTAL OFFERINGS/RECEIPTS	257,599	255,282	292,714
CURRENT YEAR SURPLUS/(DEFICIT)	0	18,515	0



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**.



Archdeacon's Report 2024



Archbishop Anne's Motto for 2025
*"With joy you will drink deeply from
the fountain of salvation."*
Isaiah 12:3 (New Living Translation)

- ❖ To my brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus who are in the Deanery of Thunder Bay – North Shore. *May mercy, grace, and peace be yours in abundance (Jude 2)*

Archbishop Anne continues her pattern to select prayerfully a new diocesan motto every year. The motto for 2025 is part of a song of thanksgiving to God from the time of the prophet Isaiah when the Assyrians were a real threat to Judah. The song begins with this phrase ~ *You will say in that day* (Isaiah 12:1)

Here are part of the Archbishop's words about this verse;

That day' is also a day that beckons people to look to God and live fully in their present moment and, no matter their circumstances, give thanks. What a word of hope and encouragement to anyone caught up in a time of fear – there are no earthly powers strong enough to defeat the power of God.

The motto reminds us of the joy that comes from being a believer and knowing that Christ is the source of our salvation. As Jesus said, *it is this living water that gushes from our hearts up to God* (paraphrased from John 4:14). 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: *Do you have joy in your heart?*

I would like to share with you the significant events of 2024. We are blessed with hard-working and grace-filled clergy and lay who pray to bring God's will to our parishes and our communities.

- ❖ **3 Deanery Council Meetings (Feb. 24, May 25, and Oct. 5)**

Your wardens, incumbent, and synod delegates meet 3 times a year on a Saturday morning, rotating between Deanery churches. We begin with a short worship service and then discuss initiatives and plans that draw us together. We maintained our 3 missional objectives that were developed in 2023 and they are:

- ❖ **Deanery Missional Objectives**

We have maintained our missional objectives from 2023 as there is still much to do:

1. Feed the hungry
2. Create a welcoming environment and
3. Community building within the Deanery

We also discussed the 4 objectives that arose from the Archbishop's Charge at Synod 2023:

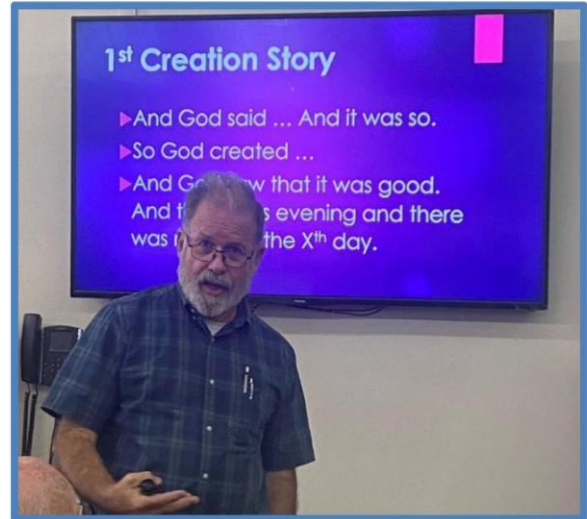
1. Discipleship
2. Episcopal Fund
3. Lay Reader Budget Support and
4. Communion Forest

❖ Here are some of the 2024 events that we did as a Deanery to meet our missional objectives.

Deanery Easter Vigil on Holy Saturday, March 30 at St. Michael's



2nd



Deanery Men's Breakfast was held at Gathering Table on Oct 26, 2024

Deanery Participation in the **Pride Parade** on June 15, 2024





Deanery Confirmation Retreat at Camp Gitchigomee followed by a large confirmation service at Gathering Table on August 24, 2024.

The **Indigenous Gospel Jamboree** returned to Thunder Bay on the weekend of December 8 – 10, 2024. It took place at the Ramada Thunder Bay Airline.

Here is Bishop Lydia Mamakwa speaking and praying to the many people assembled.



❖ 2 Priestly Ordinations

We give thanks to God that the **Rev. Deborah Everest** (Incumbent, St. George's) and the **Rev. Jan Latham** (Incumbent, St. Mary's Nipigon, and St. John's Schreiber) were called to priestly ministry. They were ordained together by the Most Rev. Dr. Anne Germond at St. Mary's on August 26, 2024.

May their ministries be long and fruitful.

❖ **St. Paul's**

St. Paul's is the only parish in our Deanery without an incumbent. Their Concurrence Committee was elected on January 28, 2024 and this Committee with Mark Tilbury serving as Chair wrote an outstanding parish profile that was posted on July 30, 2024. I encourage you to read it as it is available on our diocesan website and also on the Anglican Church of Canada website.

The good news is that the parish is holding its own during this vacancy period. In 2024, St. Paul's was blessed with an effective 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 United Church Minister the Rev. Rob Smith as Preacher/Presider.



❖ **2024 Parish Highlights**

Our parishes in the Deanery are grace-filled and open to new ideas and new opportunities. Your clergy work harder than you know to keep the great ship of community moving out into the harbour of challenges and real uncertainty,

In 2024, we had much to celebrate including:

- 30 years incumbency of Canon Ed at St. Stephen's and the Mission to Seafarers on April 1, 2024
- Indigenous Confirmation with Bishop Lydia at St. Thomas on April 13, 2024
- St. James celebrated their 145th Anniversary on August 25
- 2 visits with Archbishop Anne (April 19-21 and August 23-26)



I asked your incumbents to give me some of your parish highlights for 2024. This is a summary of their input.

- ❖ **St. John's Schreiber (Incumbent the Rev. Jan Latham)**
 - First Maundy Thursday foot washing in over 10 years
 - Worship Service at Terrace Bay beach with sister Church St. Mary's
 - Spirit of Christmas Dinner free to those who would not otherwise have a traditional Christmas meal
 - Maintenance projects ~ new shingles, repainted bell tower, composite front steps

- ❖ **St. Mary's Nipigon (Incumbent the Rev. Jan Latham)**
 - Youth Lenten Retreat
 - Maintenance projects ~ New shingles on the church and rectory
 - Red Rock Folk festival food booth
 - Truth and Reconciliation Walk from Nipigon to Lake Helen
 - Christmas Open Houses at both the church and the rectory

- ❖ **St. Stephen's and the Mission to Seafarers (Incumbent and Chaplain the Rev. Canon Ed Swayze)**
 - Celebratory tone of thanksgiving as Canon Ed completed 3 decades of incumbency
 - Parish is stable and all is well with return of the pre-Covid activities
 - Busiest year for the Mission since Canon Ed began as Chaplain
 - Canon Ed served as Treasurer of the Mission for many months

- ❖ **St. George's (Incumbent the Rev. Deborah Everest)**
 - An Indian Orthodox group has started to worship on occasion (St. Mary's) at St. George's
 - Parish is very pleased that Rev. Deborah is now a priest

- **St. Michael's (Incumbent the Rev. Elizabeth Sipos)**
 - Monthly hot breakfast of pancakes and sausages prepared and served at Algonquin Public School by the Helping Hands Ministry Team.
 - Syrian Orthodox Church (St. James) worships monthly and partnered with St. Michael's for an outreach of Christmas gifts.
 - Rev. Elizabeth led the Christmas worship with the Syrian Orthodox Church because their priest had a flight cancellation. A glimpse of unity and of heaven as Christians gathered as one to celebrate the birth of Jesus.

- **Gathering Table (Incumbent the Rev. Ann Camber)**
 - Leadership formation training breakfast for Lay Readers and Eucharist assistants.
 - Special Homelessness Service Sunday in May.

- Shared Men's breakfast group with St. Paul's
- Visioning and sharing throughout the year about the WINGS project (the construction of an apartment building beside the church) as we research feasibility and arrange funding with the help of the city of Thunder Bay.

- **St. Paul's (Priest Associate the Rev. Nancy Ringham)**
 - Initiated a new parish meal concept from the Lenten book study with the first Long Table dinner on Earth Day
 - Ministry of the Blessing Box came to an end due to security issues but generous donations were shared with other food ministries in the city

- **St. Thomas (Incumbent The Rev. Jonathan Blanchard)**
 - Blessed with a substantial bequest which has helped shore up its finances.
 - Upgraded to much better quality lapel microphones
 - A parish member of St. Thomas discussed possibly becoming a postulant of the Diocese of Saskatchewan and was eager to assist in ministry (possibly the pastoral visitation team)
 - Margaret Allen, a long time Sunday School teacher, is now the Sunday School coordinator. Currently there are up to 8 children attending Sunday School.

- **St. Mark's Rosslyn and St. James Murillo (Incumbent the Rev. Jonathan Blanchard)**
 - 2024 was truly a time of celebration with the visit of Archbishop Anne and the 145th anniversary of St James..
 - three youth confirmands were from the parish

❖ **Camp Gitchigomee**

We are blessed with this church camp in our deanery. Outside of the positive camping season, Gitchi -Gatherings were held at Gathering Table three evenings in the year bringing campers and staff and families and potential campers together. I am thankful for the many volunteers who give so much of themselves to the operation of the camp.

❖ **Weekly Clericus**

Your clergy continue to meet every Tuesday morning from 9 – 10 am mainly by ZOOM. We worship together and then do a check-in and share information about what is going on in our parishes, our communities and beyond. We have also returned to occasional meetings at noon with lunch and eucharist, alternating between churches.

I continue to enjoy presiding at the Deanery churches, whenever I am called upon, and I continue for the 5th year as the Thunder Bay Police Service Chaplain. I am thankful for the welcome and warmth you always extend so freely to Jouni and me.

You are welcome to contact me anytime. On behalf of Archbishop Anne, I am here to support you and care for you.

May you be pleased with heavenly JOY!

Archdeacon Deborah Kraft

807-624-7161

deborah.kraft@shaw.ca

This Guardian Angel photo was painted in 1918 in Austria by H. Zabateri



**“View From The Altar”
during our
Christmas Eve Candlelight
service as taken by
Rev. Nancy Ringham**

