

VESTRY REPORT FOR THE YEAR 2018



St Paul's Anglican Church, Almonte

Annual Vestry Meeting
March 10 2019

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12, NRSV

Please see also the separate Financial Report 2018 and Proposed Budget 2019

A SONG FOR ST. PAUL'S

By the river we are growing
where our forebears built so fair.
Let us join them, sing our praises.
Oh, we come to meet You there.
All are welcome by the river -
Smiles to greet and show we care.
Jesus loves us; we're his children.
Come and meet our saviour there.

Chorus:

*Dearest Jesus, you have promised
when we gather you are there.
Be among us, guide our footsteps;
Love and peace for all to share.*

By your spirit we are strengthened
doing more than we can dream.
In your hand protected, sheltered,
help us join the heavenward stream.

Chorus

Glory to you, from all ages
rising from this waterside.
Grant - toward you we keep growing
with your Spirit to abide.

Chorus

Tune: The River (Brian Doerksen); words by George Nightingale

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AGENDA

St Paul's Annual Meeting of Vestry

March 10 2019

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. 1 Corinthians 13:12, NRSV

A Time to Pray

- Song of St Paul's and Opening Prayer

A Time to Look Back

- Selection of Vestry Clerk
- Minutes of the 2018 Meeting of Vestry
- Adoption of minutes
- Business Arising
- Reports (other than Treasurer's) *to accept as a block*
- Treasurer's Report
 - Statements for 2018
 - Auditor's Report

A Time to say Thank You

A Time to Look Forward

- Budget 2019
- Elections and Appointments

A Time to Vision

- Proposal for Restructuring of Parish Council (*see next page of this report*)
- Discussion and Other Business

Prayer for St. Paul's

Heavenly Father, you have welcomed us into your kingdom and your heart's desire is to draw every human being to yourself. Grant us clear eyes to see people as you see them, sensitive feet to stand in their shoes, and warm smiles to welcome them into your name. Give us generous hearts, that our church becomes a foretaste of heaven, where every soul you send us finds their loving home in the community of your Son, our Saviour Jesus Christ. Amen.

Restructuring of Parish Council: Proposal for Vestry 2019

A. Goal: Increase the effectiveness of the parish council in light of its mission and vision established in 2001:

1. **Mission:** to set direction and make decisions regarding the spiritual and material aspects of St. Paul's by coordinating and overseeing the leadership of all church functions and programs in fulfilling the vision of the church.
2. **Vision:** Parish Council is an efficient, pro-active, and compassionate leadership team.
 - *Empowering Leadership:* high quality, growing churches are led by those who motivate, equip, mentor and support lay workers as they grow to maturity in Christ.
 - *Functional Structures:* healthy growing churches continuously evaluate their structures, modifying them or eliminating them to ensure that they do not inhibit the Church from accomplishing its mandate.

B. Proposed Strategy: Turn the parish council which is currently a policy board into a management board by:

1. Establishing and supporting six committees that represent the basic kinds of ministry essential to the sustaining pursuit of our mandate –i.e. our mission.
2. Populating these committees with representatives of the relevant working groups in the parish.
3. Tasking the ministry committees to discern, plan and implement a realistic course of action for the year in light of their volunteer capacity.
4. Replacing the four members at large with representatives of these six committees that will report to and consult with council.
5. Increasing support of and communication and cooperation among the different areas of ministry in the parish.

C. Proposed Ministry Committees:

1. **Church Formation Ministry:** nurturing St. Paul's as a loving, healing place of sanctuary and “thin space”.
Current working groups: those related to our various worship services, altar guild, St. Paul's prayer group, décor, garden, cemetery.
2. **Individual Formation Ministry:** providing life-long formation opportunities for individuals to pursue their spiritual journey in a safe, open and hospitable environment.
Current working groups: Study groups, Library, Education for Ministry, Open Table, Centre for Creative Living, Centering Prayer Group.
3. **Transformation Ministry:** providing a continuum of spiritual and material care that is a channel for God's creative, transformational love.
Current working groups: Pastoral Care and prayer chain, hospitality (e.g. welcome back to church, funeral lunches), Food Cupboard, Refugee project, Road Clean Up, Mississippi Mills All My Relations, Hub Hospice and other ecumenical and community partnerships).
4. **Communications Ministry:** communicating our mission and activities in ways that speak to people both within the parish and beyond about the love of God in ways that they can understand and connect with.
Current working group: Shine Our Light group, Seniors Expo: St Paul's Post.
5. **Property Ministry:** to care for and maintain the property resources God has gifted us in order to support our mission.
Current working group: Property and Finance Committee, individuals who take care of the outdoor areas.
6. **Finance Ministry:** to raise funds to support our mission
Current working groups: Property and Finance Committee, Harvest Supper, Tourtières, No-Bake Bake Sale, Pop Can Project.

D. Envisioned Outcomes:

1. A growing understanding of the particular mission that God is calling us to here in Almonte and how each of these various ministries are contributing to the pursuit of this mission.
2. A more effective way to empower and support lay people who feel called to contribute to the life of the parish in light of their gifts, passion and time available.
3. A more equitable sharing of the work required to sustain and grow a healthy church.

Respectfully submitted, *Sue Evans*

MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL MEETING OF VESTRY

ST PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH

Held on MARCH 4 2018

29 members signed in. See attached list.

A Time to Pray

1. Song of St Paul's and Opening Prayer. Rev. Pat called the meeting to order. Wendy Shaw and Vicki Bassett led the group in the singing of The Song for St. Paul's (words: George Nightingale; tune, "The River", by Brian Doerksen). Wendy opened the meeting with prayer.

A Time to Look Back

2. Selection of Vestry Clerk. Bob Bassett nominated Deane Zeeman, seconded by Dan Berg. There being no further nominations, Deane was ACCLAIMED as Vestry Secretary.

3. Minutes of the 2017 Meeting of Vestry (*pp 5-7 of the Report*)

3.1 Adoption of minutes. There being no errors or omissions identified, it was **MOVED by Lynda Bennett and seconded by Dan Berg that the minutes of the 2017 Vestry be accepted. All in favour. CARRIED.**

3.2 Business Arising

- Audio system has been updated by Fleet Sound with assistance of Michael Mavis, Matthew Bassett and David Newlands. It was less expensive than we had anticipated.
- Shed for riding lawnmower was purchased and installed by Derek & Michael Mavis
- Kitchen sanitizer remains in use. Thanks to Bob Bassett's nurturing, it is still going strong. Members were asked to please follow the directions posted in the kitchen.

4. Reports (other than Treasurer's) *pp. 11-13, 17-37*

Rector, Wardens, Ministries. Rev. Pat said that key words for the future are faithfulness and sustainability. She thanked everyone who pitched in over the past year.

MOVED by Ron Ayling to accept the Vestry reports (other than the Treasurer's report) as a block. Seconded by Claire Marson. All in Favour. CARRIED.

5. Treasurer's Report

5.1 Financial report for 2017 – Sandra (*See attached PowerPoint presentation*)

- Sandra announced that online donations may now be made via the St. Paul's web site.
- Sandra provided a total picture of monies which came in in 2017: \$220,000; \$38,000 of that amount flowed through to third party ministries, \$20,000 of that total came from fundraising initiatives, etc. See detailed financial report for a complete breakdown.
- Question about no donations being reported for Vidas Medical Mission – referred to Envelopes Secretary to resolve.
- Michael Mavis, speaking as chair of Parish Council, noted Sandra's dedication to the job of Treasurer, her with good humour and grace and asked for a round of thankful applause to recognize her efforts.

MOVED by Sandra Cain and seconded by Tom Coleman that the Treasurer's Report for 2017 be accepted. All in favour. CARRIED.

5.2 Auditor's Report. The auditor, Tom Coleman, had no additional comments.

A Time to Say Thank You

Wendy Shaw, as Rector's Warden, thanked Lois Rochon for her many, many years of service on Parish Council and presented her with an envelope. A round of applause followed.

A Time to Look Forward

6. Budget 2019 (*see Treasurer's Detailed Report p.11-14 and the attached PowerPoint presentation*).

Points from the discussion:

- Bob Bassett expressed thanks to the Treasurer and the Envelopes Secretary for their sterling work over the past year.
- He noted that Parish Council is recommending a balanced budget for 2018, so there is no need to despair.
- He challenged us to increase our giving by an amount similar to the cost of one cup of coffee per week to help us meet our obligations.
- Sue Evans suggested that the duties of the proposed volunteer office administrator be portioned out, so that the office has a welcoming presence on a regular basis (not necessarily the person responsible for the administrative tasks).
- Dan Berg asked whether we will continue to pay ECOPS during the inter-regnum. Rev. Pat explained that some parishes pay ECOPS during an inter-regnum and get a rebate at the end of the year. The per diem costs for interim clergy would come from these ECOPS payments.
- Sandra explained that the cost of treating the hardwood flooring in the church is already in the budget and that replacing +carpeting in the church might be paid for by fundraising (also in the budget)

MOVED by Bob and seconded by Katrina Ayling that the proposed budget for 2018 be approved. All in favour. CARRIED.

7. Appointments & Nominations (*pp. 38-39*)

Parish Council Nominations list.

- Pat recommended adding Nancy Deschenes as to the list of members of Parish Council as a member-at-large.
- Licensed Lay Administrators list. Pat recommended that Michael Mavis be added to the list as he may be called upon to administer sacraments during the inter-regnum. She asked that the Office Administrator create a certificate for them.
- Gardening. It was noted that lead is changing form Doris Wionzek to Karen Masson. Rev. Pat noted that our Syrian family would like space for a garden.
- Worship Audio-Visual: Michael Mavis pointed out that he is handling only Visual, and that the position handling Audio is vacant. It was noted that, this being the case, Michael should not be asked about audio.
- Sara Cardona suggested that the list of coordinators names on the website be updated.

MOVED by Claire Marson and seconded by Karen Luyendyk that the revised list of nominations be accepted. All in favour. CARRIED.

A Time to Vision

8. Discussion and Other Business

8.1 Our Syrian Family.

- Rev Pat reminded us that they are no longer “refugees”; they are now permanent residents. Claire Marden asked what will happen after the initial year of support ends. Rev. Pat explained that the SPAU Sponsorship group has recommended Jarous-Gerges family be helped for 2 years total. Parish Council will decide whether they can remain on site and continue with some support for a 2nd year.

8:2 Conversation on Worshipping Together (*see hand-out*).

- Rev. Pat explained that the new service configuration is not set in stone for all eternity; it will be continually adapted and changed. Dan Berg asked that Worship Committee consider that the Sanctus, Agnes Dei and Lord’s Prayer be sung every week. Rev Pat explained this is a question for worship committee.
- The next priest will likely not change the service times, but could change the flow depending on the demographics and needs of the parish.

8.3 Bequest.

- Ralph Langtry (former organist at St James, Carleton Place and originally a member of St Paul’s) has left it \$25,000 to St. Paul’s in his will. Rev. Pat explained the process we are in to keep the funds in the Parish rather than deposit it in the Diocesan Consolidated Fund as is normally required. God bless Ralph. The money would be used for things like the church floor and rectory repairs (capitol costs).

8.4 Cluster Conversation Updates.

- Deanery conversations are continuing. Opportunities for cooperation will arise.

8.5 Other.

- Michael Mavis, as Parish Council Chair, referred to the past winter’s maintenance issues (frozen pipes, clogged toilets, failures of furnace and water heater) and expressed Parish Council’s gratitude to Richard Evans for his dedication to maintaining our physical plant. This was acknowledged by applause from those present and a hug from Katrina Ayling. Michael also recognized Bob Bassett for all his work in the Hall and Roger Menard for being on-call as needed. These expressions of thanks were reinforced by applause from those present.
- Deane Zeeman expressed thanks on behalf of all members of St Paul’s to everyone for their contribution to our common life.
- Bob Bassett referred to (AUC minister) Mary Royal’s homily on Friday at the World Day of Prayer Service and her call to “prayerful action”. He reminded us that “It’s up to us!” **Bob then MOVED that the meeting be adjourned** at 1:42 p.m.

Incumbent's Report – 2018

"For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known." I Corinthians 13:12, NRSV

My first few months at St. Paul's have been an incredibly busy and exciting time for me. I would like to thank you for the warmth and hospitality you have shown me in welcoming me into your church family. Although it can be challenging at times, being a parish priest has always been an incredibly humbling experience for me, and it is never a responsibility that I take lightly.

The verse that I have chosen for this year's vestry is I Corinthians 13:12. In this passage the Apostle Paul is reminding Christians that we can only see God partially during our life on earth, but that we will see Him fully during our life in heaven. Paul used the analogy of a mirror to explain this. During the first century mirrors in Corinth were made of polished copper. As you can imagine, the image that you would see in a copper mirror is only a dim reflection of reality. In the same way, the image that we see of God from our perspective is only a dim reflection of His reality.

I would like to borrow Paul's analogy and extend it to explain not only how we see God, but also how we see God's plan. The Bible tells us that God has a plan for each of our lives. But most of the time we only get to see parts of that plan. It is as if we are looking at a very dim image of our future in a copper mirror. Although God's plan is perfectly clear to Him from the very beginning, it is usually not so clear to us. From our perspective God's plan may seem dull and unattractive. We may not even be able to see ourselves, let alone God, in the plan. Yet just as a copper mirror becomes clearer if we spend time polishing it, God's plan will become clearer to us if we spend time working on it.

This is how I propose we see ourselves over the next year. I believe that God has a plan for our church. The plan is likely not clear to us at this moment. We may not even agree on what that plan is at first. But I am confident that if we remain faithful to God's guidance, He will reveal His plan for His church to us, gradually over time. If we follow God's plan, then I believe that by the end of the year we will be able to see clearly that God has brought us to where He wants us to be.

A vestry meeting is primarily about making plans and setting a course for the coming year, which is why I believe this verse is an appropriate theme. But this year there are number of projects which we are proposing or which we will be undertaking that are leading us into an unknown future. These are examples which fit in perfectly with our theme. If approved by vestry we will be restructuring our parish council for the first time in almost twenty years. And we are also embarking on a journey of discernment and planning as we decide how to best use the rectory and the church land to further our mission. We will be learning more about these projects and others at the vestry meeting and in the vestry reports.

A significant amount of my time is currently being invested in a number of training opportunities which are mandated and/or sponsored by our diocese. All clergy who are new to a parish are required to take part in the "Fresh Start" program, which involves meeting one day a month for two years. I meet another day per month with other Anglican clergy from the area, or deanery, for a "Clericus" meeting. And I also meet regularly with clergy from the other Almonte churches in a ministerial association or "Ministerial" meeting.

St. Paul's is a training site for the national Education for Ministry (EfM) program. This is a four-year program of theological education. I would like to thank David McCreery for inviting me into this group, which I have been attending. We meet every second Sunday afternoon for three or four hours and then have assigned readings to complete between sessions. I hope to complete training to become an EfM mentor.

I am also pleased to be involved in the Diocesan School for Parish Development. Sue Evans and Sandra Cain are also participating in this program, although they began one year before me. This is a two-year program, with four Friday and Saturday sessions per year, and also involves completing readings and assignments between sessions.

This past November I attended the "St. Clement's College of Preaching" in Toronto. This is a four-day intensive preaching course and workshop for Anglican clergy which takes place every two years. The college is led by a different distinguished professor or homiletics (the study of preaching) each time. Only thirty participants attend each time, fifteen from the Diocese of Toronto and fifteen from the rest of Canada. A participant needs to be nominated by their Bishop to attend the college, so it was a huge honour for me to be selected to attend this once-in-a-lifetime learning opportunity.

Since our last vestry meeting our parish has undergone some major changes. In the span of just a few short months Rev. Pat Martin retired after many years of faithful service in our parish and our diocese, Rev. Karen Coxon served as our interim priest, a committee was formed to find a new priest, and on their advice I was appointed by our Bishop as your new incumbent.

The vacating of the rectory and the availability of funds from a generous endowment meant that much-needed repairs could be made to the rectory. I would like to thank Bob Bassett for working so hard over the summer and fall to coordinate all the repairs and renovations. Although some work is still to be completed, a tremendous amount of progress has been made over the past few months.

Now that we have a tenant renting the rectory we will have some time to consider different options for the long-term use of the building and other church grounds. I would like to thank Sandra Cain, who in addition to her hard work as our treasurer, has agreed to facilitate the discernment process as we plan for the future of the rectory and the grounds. There will be a series of meetings and consultations after our Sunday services in the coming months in order to do this, and I would like to encourage as many people as possible to attend and participate in this important work.

One of the challenges that I believe our parish is facing is that too much work is being done by too few people. In addition to putting too much pressure on key leaders and tying up time and energy from other tasks, this situation also means that other people are not able to exercise their gifts and abilities within the church. The proposed restructuring of parish council and the creation of six committees, each dealing with a specific area of parish life, should help to both ease the workload on our leaders and encourage participation by a greater number of people. I would like to thank Sue Evans for coming up with this initiative.

Due to financial constraints we were no longer able to afford an office administrator. The role of office administrator is so much more than simply preparing the weekly bulletin, and I would like to thank Deane Zeeman and Cathy Gallagher for generously stepping into this role as volunteers last spring and for all the administrative work that they do in the office. Deane has also agreed to take on the setting up of our weekly services on the computer, which we then project on the overhead screen at the 10:30 service. Michael Mavis is stepping down from this role, and I would like to thank him for both setting up the computer and running it during the 10:30 service and the Be Still My Soul service.

Although our Sunday worship services may appear seamless to the congregation, a significant amount of time and effort goes into planning and leading our worship. I would like to thank Wendy Shaw for sharing her musical gifts with us as our music director, John Black for being our organist, Dan Berg for being our accompanist, and all those who play other instruments or sing with the music team at the 10:30 service, and I would like to thank anyone who has attended one of our worship committee meetings since I have been here.

There is so much else happening at St. Paul's and so many other people that I would like to thank that I do not have room for in this report. Whatever your involvement is at St. Paul's, please know that as your priest I recognize and appreciate all of your contributions. May we have a blessed year ahead.

Jonathon +
The Rev. Jonathon Kouri

JOHN IRVING HUNT CHARITY FUND

This fund is a discretionary fund for use of the priest to assist those in need confidentially. Neither Rev. Jonathon nor Rev. Karen Coxon used the fund in 2018. Bank statements from July onwards have gone astray and are being requested. The current state of the fund is not available.

Wardens Report for 2018

NOTE: This report includes Property and Finance

Your Wardens for this past year were:

Wendy Shaw - Rector's Warden

Bob Bassett - People's Warden

Katrina Ayling – Deputy Warden

This past year has been marked by many changes to our church!

Before I go into detail, perhaps a brief discussion of “church” is in order: When the word “church” comes up in casual conversation, the first thing we think of is a building. However, if we limit ourselves to the mindset that “church” is a place we go to on Sundays, we can lose sight of the larger truth that we aren’t just going to church, **we, the people, in fact, are the church that Christ intended!** In 1 Timothy 5, Paul describes the church as people dedicated to doing whatever it takes to reach out and help others. He says that we have a responsibility to care for and help others in need, as “the church”. Each of us has been given skills, abilities and opportunities in order to serve.

In the Bible, “church” is always a reference to people, not a place. The church is a body of believers that live out the Gospel in their words and actions. The church is at its best when people inside the building take Jesus’ message outside the building and serve those they meet. In the Bible, “church” is a translation of the Greek word *ekklesia*, meaning “a calling out.” It never refers to a building or meeting place, but always to people, the ones “called out” of the world’s society by God calling them into His service. The “church” of the Bible is not a stone building, but a group of warm and loving people, especially chosen by God. (So a building with no worshipers cannot really be a church in the biblical sense!) This church, St Paul’s Almonte, is comprised of people (us) who are called to live out the reality that we are the church 24 hours a day / 7 days a week. That is why our “Rally Cry”: **Come in, Grow in Christ, Reach out**, equates so directly to the biblical admonition for us as the church to enjoy Fellowship, Worship and Ministry. This is also why “our church” is such a positive, progressive, encouraging congregation within this community!

We are so blessed to be the church - St Paul’s Almonte! We worship in a beautiful heritage building; live in a community recognized as among the best in the nation; enjoy peace and prosperity unimaginable in many parts of this world; and are surrounded by good and faithful believers who strive to do the work that Jesus calls us to do. Moreover, we are blessed to have so many individuals who have taken leadership responsibilities to help in the day-to-day running of our church body.

We, your wardens, would like to sincerely thank the dozens of individuals who work on our behalf to share the tasks required. A partial list is found later in this vestry document, and we encourage every member to thank those listed; others you see doing things around our property and in the community; and those you are aware of who represent St Paul’s in such a positive note! Collectively, we have every reason to be proud members of the church called St Paul’s Almonte.

The following list outlines briefly some of the highlights of this last year.

- ❖ Pat Martin, our Rector of nearly 10 years retired in June of 2018. An emotional, and joyous send-off was held as we celebrated the end of her tenure here and the beginning of her new adventures in service to others in her retirement. She has joined her son, the Rev. Jon. Martin, in Moisburg and is very busy assisting him and his parishioners. Her choices may not seem like the conventional idea of “retirement”,

but they do represent “our Pat” doing what she loves to do. The Rev, Karen Coxon was appointed interim priest-in-charge and most ably brought us through the summer months until the bishop named our new Rector, Jonathon Kouri, in October of 2018. Jonathon has been very busy since he arrived getting to know as many people as possible, visiting folks, and happily “shepherding his new flock”. He is very approachable and delighted to talk with anyone who has feedback or suggestions or observations as he finds his way here at St Paul’s. We welcome him most genuinely.

- ❖ Our Syrian family, Assad, Alsit, Lana, and Elias entered their second year in Canada in November and are thriving under the care and love of this community. Assad is working full time, has earned his driver’s license, and showed his new skills in English when made a very nice speech at the one year anniversary party we held for them. The children are doing well at school so we are told, and Alsit, in addition to keeping her household spotless and family organized, has helped with several church functions as she develops her English skills. We were delighted to renew the sponsorship of this lovely family for another year in November.
- ❖ When Pat left we were required to have a full house inspection of the Rectory. The professional company we used when Pat moved in was hired again and they generated a 76 page report detailing many deficiencies and problems.

We have been diligently working through this list and are pleased to report that almost all of the items identified have now been addressed fully. If you were at the special vestry meeting held in the summer, you will recall some of the major items. The following is a partial list of items completed: hardwood floors were refinished; exterior wall of Rectory nearest the church was excavated and waterproofed (the interior of that wall had substantial mould and required abatement by a professional company); the 2nd floor bathroom was completely rebuilt including new floor, tub, tub surround, vanity, closet and lighting; the 2 non-functioning chimneys were removed from the roof; 2 decorative electric fireplaces were purchased to repurpose the fireplaces and showcase the original marble mantels; a great deal of plumbing and electrical work was conducted; the rotted decking on the 2nd floor was removed and new decking is ready to install as soon as the weather permits; a new 55-year warrantied metal roof was supposed to be installed in October, but has been delayed repeatedly by the company and is expected “shortly”; the decorative gable trim, soffit and fascia, have been repaired and painted; the 2 doors in the basement of the Rectory which are in very bad repair, will be replaced, with installation hopefully within the next month. Unfortunately, the replacement of the old windows in the Rectory was not able to be achieved this year. As you all know, these expenses were all covered by an endowment received in May of 2018. Thanks be to God!

Recently we have signed a 1-year lease with a family to rent the Rectory as we consider long term options for this property. Sandra Cain has offered to chair the “R3 Committee” to consider all of the possible options. You will hear more about this in the coming weeks.

- ❖ As in the case of the Rectory, our other old buildings require constant maintenance and refurbishment. The hardwood floors of the church were refinished over the summer and new carpeting was installed. Also, the floors in the hall had additional coats of varnish added to protect them. We thank you as many people have embraced the request to remove outer shoes as they enter our buildings. Bonnie Everitt works very hard to keep our building clean, and we all are deeply indebted to her for the care she takes to keep things in an exemplary fashion. Longstanding issues with plumbing have resulted in new piping being installed between the church and the rectory, and a new Hi pressure/ low volume toilet being installed in the handicapped washroom in the basement. Furnace issues have also been of continuing concern—notably insufficient heat for the church and furnace shutdowns related to adverse weather conditions. We continue to liaise with the service contractors to improve this situation. You will be pleased to know that the old and drafty windows in the lower hall will be replaced this spring. When all things are taken into account, our buildings are in remarkably fine shape given their age and the realities

of declining income.

- ❖ On behalf of everyone, I would like to express our sincere thanks to the many individuals who give so freely of their time to support the activities and functions for which St Paul's has become known. Rather than name the individuals, for fear that I would inadvertently forget some, I will simply list a few of these areas.

Our services of praise enjoy the support of those who set up, shine, greet, serve, count, read, manage sound and video presentations, create, print and duplicate bulletins, notices, manage our website and Facebook presences, sing, play, plan, practice, visit others, answer phones, or perform maintenance, all for the benefit of others! Many others keep the grounds beautiful, pathways clear of snow and ice (a particularly difficult task this winter!), help clear and declutter the properties, bake, cook, serve, clean up and host willingly. Activities which have become "traditional" for our community like our Harvest Supper, Be Still My Soul Services, Christmas Day dinner, Food Bank Cupboard, tourtière baking and sales, EFM program, Open Table discussions, our many Centre for Creative Living and All My Relations activities, support for Hub Hospice, School Breakfast Program, home visitation, and outreach to nursing homes are among the activities which occur entirely through the efforts of the individuals who devote themselves in selfless service to others. Your Parish Council is comprised of individuals who work with great diligence to carry out the planning and management functions of this complex organization. And lastly, we have been blessed over the years to have progressive, sincere, and dedicated priests who demonstrate the love of God freely on a daily basis.

This large group of individuals, (and probably others who have not been alluded to here), are the "hands and feet" of Jesus in this community. The Wardens are proud to represent you, we thank you, and gratefully commend you for your faithful service to St Paul's! Well done "good and faithful" servants!

A few weeks ago we sang the song "By Our Love", with words and music by Christy Nockels. The verse of this song, powerfully expresses what we, the people of St Paul's Almonte, (the church) are continually called to demonstrate:

"The time is now, come church arise,
Love with his hands, see with his eyes,
Bind it around you, let it never leave you,
And they will know us by our love"

We, the Wardens of St Paul's, are proud to represent this "church" which brings so much love to our community.

Respectfully submitted by Bob Bassett, People's Warden

Treasurer's Report 2018

Please see the detailed Treasurer's Financial Report for 2018 and Proposed Budget for 2019, an additional document.

What can I say about a crazy hectic year that has little bearing on what has happened in the past and so much bearing on what is happening in the future ?

What can I say about the weight of finances gradually shifting from mainly donation based to other sources of income based ? As donations and fundraising gradually decrease we are reaching beyond the box and developing other sources of sustainable revenues;

1. Using our real estate to provide housing for a family in need, sharing our mission to support new Canadians, helping them find safety and security in the folds of our extended family. Giving them hope for a future of peace and prosperity.
2. Using our facilities to promote creative arts and spiritual development in the community. Encouraging the private journeys towards self discovery through beauty and artistic expression.
3. Developing and providing programs for healthy meditative disciplines and prayer centers.

We are welcoming in the broader community and in return we are sustaining our own needs, both spiritually and financially.

It is a leap of faith, and the first small steps have been, shall we say, fraught with challenges, but ultimately manageable, fruitful and rewarding, both to our hearts and our pocket books.

The substantial bequests (\$ 153,000) we received in 2018 have enable us to invest in and upgrade our buildings. A project which was started in 2018 and continues into 2019. A project which has reminded us of the beauty of our property and the blessings which surrounds on a daily basis.

And throughout it all, the money goes round and round.

I would like to thank a small army of faithful volunteers, the greeters who collect the funds each Sunday, the counters who spend Sunday afternoons meticulously counting every dollar that gets deposited in bank. Thank you to all who purchase goods on behalf of the church, using their own funds and getting reimbursed later.

Thank you to Joan Scott for the many hours spent entering all the minute details of each person's offerings and tracking over \$ 389,000 in funds which flowed through our bank in 2018. And to Sara Cardona for leading the counters in their never ending mission.

As I welcome Karen Masson to the position of Lead Counter and Sara Cardona to the position of Envelope Secretary, I say good bye to Joan Scott who is retiring from her ministry. Thank you Joan for everything, the tireless hours you have spent caring for our funds, and I wish you the best in your retirement.

In 2018 I paid over 500 bills on behalf of the church, tracked over 170 deposits, reconciled 2 bank accounts, arranged for GIC's to be purchased and withdrawn on, answered 1000 questions, and the list goes on and on.

But it is all good, and a pleasure and privilege to be your treasurer,

*Sandra Cain
13 Feb 2019*

Signed Profit and Loss

St. Paul's Anglican Church Almonte Operating Funds Profit & Loss

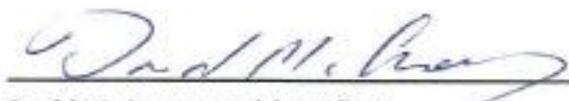
(Comparative)
January through December 2018

	<u>Jan - Dec 18</u>	<u>Jan - Dec 17</u>
Income		
Regular Givings	128,175	131,858
Seasonal Givings	4,402	5,258
Fundraising	13,871	14,849
Other Income	<u>23,687</u>	<u>7,723</u>
Total Income	170,135	159,588
Expense		
Administration	12,501	17,286
Diocese	105,513	113,448
Education & Training	353	396
Ministeries	562	178
Music	9,109	9,629
Worship	2,360	1,415
Church	12,269	9,717
Parish House	4,656	3,028
Rectory	8,449	9,362
Property	<u>14,343</u>	<u>15,407</u>
Total Expense	170,115	179,868
Net Income	<u>21</u>	<u>-20,180</u>

Signed:



Thomas Coleman, Parish Auditor
09 Feb 19



David McCreery, Parish Auditor
09 Feb 19

Signed Balance Sheet

St. Paul's Anglican Church Almonte

Balance Sheet

As of December 31, 2018

Dec 31, 18

ASSETS

Bank Accounts

Operating Fund Accounts	17,294
Trust Funds Account	29,597
Cemetery & Altar Guild Accounts	<u>9,768</u>
Total Bank Accounts	56,659
Accounts Receivable	4,996
Prepaid Expenses	4,362
Guaranteed Investment Certificate	60,135
Consolidated Trust Fund	<u>58,557</u>
TOTAL ASSETS	<u>184,708</u>

LIABILITIES

Operating Accounts Payables	38,982
Cemetery Liabilities	13,955
CFCL Accrued Revenues	1,855
Last Month's Rent Deposit	1,000
Funds Held in Trust	<u>135,150</u>
TOTAL LIABILITIES	190,942

EXCESS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES

Altar Guild Equity	3,954
Cemetery Equity	-7,580
Operating Account Equity	-2,629
Net Operating Income	<u>21</u>
TOTAL EXCESS OF ASSETS OVER LIABILITIES	-6,234

TOTAL LIABILITIES & EXCESS	<u>184,708</u>
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Signed:



Thomas Coleman, Parish Auditor

09 Feb 19



David McCreery, Parish Auditor

09 Feb 19

Auditors' Certification

To: The Parish of St. Paul's Almonte

Re: Fiscal Year Ending December 31, 2018

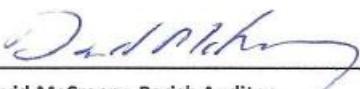
We, the undersigned, having been duly appointed, have reviewed the financial accounts and the statements submitted to the Annual Meeting of the Parish of St. Paul's Almonte. In addition, we have reviewed any applicable certificates of investment.

In our opinion, the records maintained by the Treasurer are properly represented in the Year End Financial Statements, as attached and presented to the Annual Meeting. The records accurately reflect the financial transactions of the Parish. The cash and investment balances properly state the financial position of the Parish.

Signed:



Thomas Coleman, Parish Auditor
09 Feb 19



David McCreery, Parish Auditor
09 Feb 19

Statistics on Offerings

Level of Giving	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #	By #
\$0-24		5	5	4	5	4	5	3	5	7
\$25-249		31	31	24	15	21	24	20	19	25
\$250-499		24	24	24	25	25	19	21	21	21
\$500-999		33	33	29	32	31	32	27	29	29
\$1000-1999		22	22	23	27	24	24	24	21	25
\$2000-3999		14	14	16	16	13	19	21	24	17
\$4000 +		9	9	12	8	7	7	10	12	13
Totals:		138	138	132	128	125	130	126	131	137

Statistics on Attendance 2018

Year	Christmas	Easter	Average Sunday
2018	177	121	81
2017	167	159	81
2016	207	151	83
2015	217	176	87
2014	188	180	92
2013	224	160	98
2012	219	154	98
2011	248	167	95
2010	258	171	96
2009	257	192	98
2008	217	165	102

Altar Guild

We had a lovely evening back in early December as we plied our new rector with dessert and conversation. It was an opportunity for Jonathon to meet with our group and get to know the ins and outs of what we do.

Each week folks come in to polish brass, arrange flowers, change hangings as per the liturgical year and set up for communion. Bev Madden faithfully takes good care of the fair linens. To this we are so grateful.

It is a wonderful ministry and we are always on the lookout for new members.

If you would like to join the Altar Guild please speak to Jonathon or myself. You would be most welcomed and given lots of direction. This truly is a group ministry and everyone is there to lend a hand.

Respectfully submitted

Lois Rochon

Altar Guild Treasurer's Report

Balance forward January 9, 2018 \$3623.06

Income 2018

Telpay	January	\$190.00
	April	\$245.00
	December	\$215.00

Donations	December	<u>\$25.00</u>
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Total		<u>\$675.00</u>
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Expenses 2018

Cashmere & Rose	\$186.40
Joan Scott	<u>\$168.09</u>
Total	<u>\$354.49</u>

Year end balance December 2018 \$3953.46

Respectfully submitted, *Theresa St Dennis*

Vestry Report 2018

Baptisms - Weddings - Funerals

Baptisms

Callie Lynn McGregor	April 22
Rayna Sherida Zammit	April 22
Mackenzie Iva Rose Cutts	May 13
Mason Munro	November 4

Weddings

none

Funerals

Chester "Ches" Jones	January 20
Roberta "Bobbie" McCormack	November 15
Jean Bourne	November 22

Cemetery

St. Paul's Cemetery is a community cemetery located on Wolf Grove Road just past the Civitan Hall. As always, I need to start my report by thanking Ron Ayling for looking after the cemetery's day to day operations. Ron puts a tremendous amount of work into maintaining the cemetery as a beautiful place of rest and visitation, while being the main point of contact with Gamble's Funeral Home and the monument companies.

This was a very good year for our Cemetery, including three notable events:

1. In June 2018, there was a well-attended public ceremony unveiling the monument honouring the heroic sacrifice of George Eccles, who helped save more than 200 lives during a shipwreck in 1909,
2. There was a bee hive placed in one corner of the Cemetery and the honey from the hive was sold to our parishioners, and
3. For the first time in a long while, the Cemetery made enough income from the sale of services that we managed to pay all our bills without any contribution from St. Paul's Church's budget.

We managed to have our annual summer work party to straighten head stones in the summer, even if the timing did not work out well for our usual cast of volunteers. In 2018, we continued to work on the landscaping around the columbaria and the scattering garden. We hope to be able to start marketing the cemetery to area funeral homes and churches this spring/summer.

While the columbaria we purchased in 2015 continue to help make people aware of all that our Cemetery has to offer the Cemetery still relies on generous donations from parishioners and friends who come out to the annual Cemetery Service. A more detailed breakdown of our financial situation has been submitted by Janet Mavis, the Cemetery's Treasurer.

Please feel free to visit our cemetery to find out just what a pleasant and peaceful place it is. If you are interested in purchasing a niche in one of the columbarium, a plaque for the memory wall, or a plot in the cemetery proper, please do not hesitate to speak to me.

Respectfully submitted,

Michael Mavis, Chair of St. Paul's Community Cemetery Board

Cemetery Board – Financial Statement 2018

Statement of Revenue & Expenses for the year ending December 31, 2018

Revenue

Plot Sales	\$ 1,500.00
Niche Sales	1,700.00
Monument Fees	400.00
Opening & Closing Fees	3,250.00
Donations	370.00
St. Paul's Contribution	0.00
Trust Fund Interest	561.49
HST Rebate	<u>561.14</u>
Total Revenue	\$ 8,342.63

Expenses

Groundskeeping	\$ 3,600.00
Loan Interest	576.63
Care & Mtce Fund Contribution	1,255.00
Plaque Expenses	197.50
Property Maintenance	20.14
Monument Maintenance	322.80
Opening & Closing Graves	700.00
HST Expense	<u>149.83</u>
Total Expenses	\$6,821.90

Revenue less Expenses	<u>\$ 1,520.73</u>
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Statement of Assets and Liabilities for the year ending December 31, 2018

Assets

Cash (operating account)	\$ 5,813.65
HST Receivable	<u>561.14</u>
Total Assets	<u>\$ 6,374.79</u>

Liabilities

Prepaid Plaque Sales	\$ 3,150.00
Loan Payable (Anglican Foundation)	<u>10,804.90</u>
Total Liabilities	<u>\$13,954.90</u>

Equity

Retained Earnings	(\$9,100.84)
Current Earnings	<u>1,520.73</u>
Total Equity	<u>(\$7,580.11)</u>

Total Liabilities & Equity	<u>\$6,374.79</u>
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Respectfully submitted by Janet Mavis, Cemetery Board Treasurer

Centre for Creative Living

CFCL was established in March of 2016 as a one year pilot project to develop a contemplative photography group. At that time it was regarded by council as an independent program that would be governed by a steering committee made up of community and parish representatives. In part this was because of community interest in obtaining use of the building across the street. Since then, the activities have grown to include four practice circles and a Yoga group. During this time CFCL grossed about \$23,750. Its expenditures have included:

- 20% of its net income to St. Paul's to help cover the cost of heat and light.
- Rent at \$15/hr paid to St. Paul's when hiring someone to provide a service
- Major purchases: a computer, photo printer, a bookshelf, paint for the hall, system to hang pictures
- Services: workshop leaders, yoga teacher
- Art materials and books

Despite these expenditures, there also been some financial growth. At the end of 2017 there was about a \$2,700 surplus. Much of that was due to the addition of the yoga program.

As CFCL has grown, its relationship with St. Paul's has changed. The community based steering committee no longer exists. Although some CFCL members belong to more than one practice circle and also the yoga program, each tends to govern itself internally and determines what resources it would like to obtain to support its activity. The circles have come to appreciate St. Paul's as the sponsor of this ministry and the importance of caring for the hall and contributing to the cost of heat and light. I myself have turned to church members, Irene Emig and Nancy Deschenes, who were original members of the steering committee, for discernment about various issues, support and assistance.

In light of these changes, the parish council has decided to designate CFCL a parish ministry. CFCL, retroactive to include 2018, is turning over its accumulated surplus to the general operating fund. Of this, the council will retain \$2,000 in trust for CFCL to cover unexpected capital costs. From year to year, CFCL will use just the annual income for its activities. In light of the surplus from 2018, it has budgeted \$5,000 as an anticipated contribution to the 2019 operating budget. However, we must bear in mind that CFCL income is somewhat like a fundraiser. It is dependent upon the hall continuing to be useable and people happy to participate in this ministry.

Finally, I would like to thank all of you for your support of this ministry. I find this opportunity to explore my spiritual journal side by side with people from the wider community an interesting and enriching experience. It provides an opportunity for Irene, Nancy and I to be ambassadors for our church and an expression of our love for our neighbours who are in their own way exploring life's questions.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Evans

Centre for Creative Living Financial Statement 2018

Center FCL Inc	
Brought in from Reserve Fund	701.42
Program Fees	8,310.00
Memberships	3,530.00
Donations	202.00
Total Center FCL Inc	<u>12,743.42</u>
Center FCL Exps	
Operating Expenses	4,730.98
Hall Rental (St. Paul's)	1,485.00
Funds Transferred to Operating	6,527.44
Total Center FCL Exps	<u>12,743.42</u>
Year End Balance	-

Funds in Reserve for Future Needs 2,000.00

Sue Evans, Coordinator CFCL

Communications

Parish Council continues to support efforts to make St. Paul's and our initiatives to become more visible in our community.

Website (www.stpaulsalmonte.ca). There were over 17,000 visits to our site in 2018, compared with 14,000 visits in 2017. 59% of visitors were first-timers; 41% were returning, compared with a 50/50 split last year. People are getting more interested in us!

There is a spike in visits every time just after the *St Paul's Post* is published. **News & Events, Calendar and Bulletins** were the most visited sections. **Reflections** (Rev. Pat's sermons) was popular until September. **Sunday Services**, the **Centre for Creative Living** and the **Community Cemetery** pages were also popular.

Facebook (StPaulsAlmonte). Our page now has 63 followers, up from 43 last year.

The most viewed posts were: Easter Sunrise Service Info + Pictures: 253 views (thank you Claire!); Farewell to Rev. Pat Pictures: 182 views (thank you to many photographers!); Dunrobin Tornado Support: 153 views (a link to information about how to help out) and Community Christmas Dinner: 144 views. Posts with the best engagement (i.e., likes/shares/comments) were: Farewell to Pat and Harvest Supper.

Why not Follow us and see what's up at St. Paul's? And share our news with your Facebook friends!

Shine Our Light. The Shine Our Light Group was established at Visioning Day 2016 to improve information sharing both within our church community and in the Almonte area. The group was instrumental in promoting the use of our logo on official St Paul's communications.

Shine Our Light once again led our participation in Mississippi Mills Seniors Expo in September, letting folks know what we are about. We also supported Rev Karen Coxon, our interim priest-in-charge, to make Welcome Back Sunday a resounding success, with postcards inviting everyone on the parish list to join us, a joyful baptism during the service and a delicious barbecue lunch on the lawn complete with both baptismal and birthday cake (for the lovely Doris Scanlon, sadly, no longer with us).

St Paul's Post. Three issues were published in 2018. There are now 67 subscribers to receive this by email.

I have two continuing concerns: There is an apparently lack of interest among parishioners to contribute to the newsletter – it is generally written by me after having beaten the bushes for content. To truly fulfill the goal of

informing ourselves and the wider community of what we are about, WE DO NEED YOUR INPUT. Please contact me when you have something to report. If you don't feel comfortable to write yourself, I can certainly do that, but you are all invaluable sources of information!

Saving money and saving trees continue to be important themes for St Paul's. Online subscriptions have increased (to almost 70, some of whom are interested non-members), but we could do more. Please consider whether you could receive the newsletter electronically via email and sign up on our website. There's a subscription box at the bottom the Home Page.

Other. Irene Emig and I wrote an article for the Diocesan newspaper, *CrossTalk*, about the *Why Won't They Come to Church* course run at St Paul's in last spring. I try to submit at least one article every year to keep the Diocesan community informed.

We are called to tell others (Mark 16:15) and our communication channels are an important means of doing so. Please consider how you can help spread the Good News of the ways in St. Paul's is trying to follow in the footsteps of our Lord – feeding the hungry, clothing the naked, visiting the prisoners...

-- Respectfully submitted, *Deane Zeeman*

Counters

Over the past year the counters have diligently counted, recorded, and deposited a significant amount of donations made through the plate. Each team has spent an average of 2 hours after the services on Sunday doing their job – sometimes even longer when we have fundraising events. A huge thank you to all the counters: Karen Masson, Bertha Basurto, Anne Winters, Lynda Bennett, Eric Hammond and Tom Coleman for your continued hard work and dedication to this important ministry. You're an integral part of the financial team in the church, and it has been my pleasure to work with you.

In 2018 the Excel spreadsheet was tweaked as needed to reflect changes in deposit procedures and the counters were informed of bookkeeping guidelines through regular communication with Sandra, Joan, Rev. Pat, and Rev. Jonathon. I was grateful to them for keeping us informed of new initiatives and changes to donations made through the plate.

There were the usual challenges along the way with discrepancies in regular deposits. A few guidelines which would help reduce the amount of time for the counters include:

- Use your Envelope # on a regular basis – it saves time typing names.
- Cheques should always be made out to "St. Paul's Anglican Church" – not a designated fund or initiative.
- Do not fold the 'new' or 'old' dollar bills placed in the offering envelopes.
- Designated funds should be clearly marked on the envelope or cheque – especially when a cheque is written for multiple funds.
- If you need a "Tax Receipt" it should also be indicated on the envelope or deposit summary – including an address, and/or phone number for any out of town visitors.

This is my sixth and last report as I take over the role of Envelope Secretary from Joan Scott this year. I'm pleased that Karen Masson has agreed to take over the role of Counters Coordinator. I'm happy that I was able to transition the counters from doing their job manually on paper sheets to using a secure, more efficient computer spreadsheet.

Respectfully submitted,
Sara Cardona
Counters Coordinator

Embracing God's Future

I Interviews

This past year Deane Zeeman and I interviewed eighteen leaders in the parish in order to learn where our strengths lie and whether and where there is a growing sense of a shared direction in our parish. Our questions focused on the following:

a) With regard to the congregation:

1. What do you sense God is doing with St. Paul's right now?
2. Where do you see hope?
3. What discourages you?
4. What do you think being a transformative presence in Almonte looks like?

This group responded in a very heartfelt way. While we began with the interview questions, the process usually led to conversation as well. Overall, almost all believe that God is birthing something new in us. They saw hope in the response of most people to the combined services and in our growing engagement with the wider community. There were two recurring desires expressed which seem to complement one another:

1. That we be a place of "open doors" both physically and spiritually where both parishioners and non-parishioners feel they can gather to pursue their spiritual journey in a safe, supportive, nourishing space.
2. That we continue to support and develop the ways we are serving the needs of the broader community in cooperation with other churches and community organizations.

At the same time respondents expressed sadness that our congregation is aging, that some are feeling alienated by the necessary changes to the worship services and that more responsibilities are falling to fewer people. Nevertheless they believe that this reality should not deter us from listening with hope to God's lead.

b) With regard to the individuals interviewed:

- What do you think God is doing with you right now?
- In light of this, do you feel strongly drawn towards a particular kind of ministry?
- What sustains you?
- Is there anything we can do to support you in this?
- Where do you think this might lead?

Most expressed appreciation that parish council wanted to know what they sensed God is doing both with St. Paul's as a whole and with them personally; and also, then, how they felt about their own ministry and what we could do to support them. Almost all said they felt supported in what they are doing. A number also had some idea about where this might lead them in future.

In sum, despite their concerns most spoke joyfully about their ministry and love for St Paul's Church no matter what. We left wishing that the whole congregation could hear what they had to say. As a follow up, Deane arranged in the fall for five or six people to share their ministries at the 10:30 service.

II Diocesan Parish Development Course

During 2018, Sandra Cain and I completed the first year of the Diocesan School for Parish development and are now required to do two development projects in our parish. Jonathon has also begun this program and we will be working together on these projects as a team. Sandra is chairing the Rectory, Renewal and Refurbishment Committee which will begin to meet the end of the month. My project is a follow up to the interviews.

During the interviews we had heard various concerns --e.g. too much falling on the shoulders of too few; people taking things on because "someone should"; and, people often pursuing their ministries in silos. There also seemed to be a lack of clarity about the role and responsibilities of the various parish council members. Thus in the late fall I decided for my project to create a council handbook to help clarify these. However, in looking at documents in the archives, I discovered a decision made in 2001 about the role of the council which impacted my decision:

1. Mission: to set direction and make decisions regarding the spiritual and material aspects of St. Paul's by coordinating and overseeing the leadership of all church functions and programs in fulfilling the vision of the church.
2. Vision: Parish Council is an efficient, pro-active, and compassionate leadership team.
 - Empowering Leadership: high quality, growing churches are led by those who motivate, equip, mentor and support lay workers as they grow to maturity in Christ.
 - Functional Structures: healthy growing churches continuously evaluate their structures, modifying them or eliminating them to ensure that they do not inhibit the Church from accomplishing its mandate.

I realized that the council in contrast to this stated role, was operating mostly as a "policy board" and doing little in any intentional way to empower leadership or support lay workers. As a result, I have suggested what I think is a doable restructuring of council with representatives from six ministry committees. I hope such a structure will help us to:

- Share the load more equitably
- Enable a broader, cooperative planning process
- Empower lay leadership
- Create supportive, reflective space for people to bring forward new ideas.
- Increase our understanding of the mandate of the church and our shared calling to realize it.

The parish council passed a motion in February to take this proposal to Vestry.

Sue Evans

Gardens

We are so blessed here at St Paul's with such beautiful property. I would like to thank Doris for all her hard work over the years she was in charge of the Garden Committee. Doris is continuing to be a member of the Garden Committee (thank goodness!).

This past year the weather was very dry and not great for our gardens; however, our property continued to look pretty good. We did lose plants along the pathway between the church and the rectory this year. Our goal for the gardens is simplicity, with low maintenance, while continuing to add color to the grounds. I would like to thank Doris, Anne, and Wendy, as members of the Garden Committee and also Richard Evans, Alset and Assad as they lent a helping hand. If anyone is interested in joining the Garden Committee or just wants to assist in pulling weeds once in a while, please talk to me.

Thanks, *Karen Masson*

Lanark County Satellite Food Bank (Almonte Food Cupboard)

St Paul's hosts the Almonte Food Cupboard, a satellite operation of the Lanark County Food Bank which is based in Carleton Place. We operate out of the space at 70B Clyde St. as that provides a reasonably central location to the residents of Almonte to pick up their Food Bank orders without needing to travel out of town.

The Food Cupboard runs once a week and is staffed by a number of volunteers including those that transport the food orders from Carleton Place and those that help distribute the orders to clients. The clients' primary contact is still with the Food Bank in Carleton Place. The Food Bank receives all donations and administers the distribution to clients. We are simply a few extra hands in the process!

Thank you to all members of St Paul's that support the Lanark County Food Bank through monetary or food donations and a special thanks to my fellow Food Cupboard volunteers.

Respectfully submitted, *Janet Mavis*

Library

We continue to monitor the Parish Library.

The library runs on an honour system – you can sign out any borrowed material, and return it in a reasonable time period - there is no definitive time limit.

Although we appreciate your donations, we have very limited space and cannot accept all the books you would like to share.

If you have books to donate to the library, please contact:

Irene Emig at irene.emig@sympatico.ca or 613-256-4643

or

Doris Wionzek at wionzek@ncf.ca or 613-256-4172

Please DO NOT leave donated books on the shelves.

We have an extensive collection of Bibles, in a variety of versions, and cannot accept any additional volumes at this time. If you would like a Bible to keep, please speak to us – we might have one to give away!

Irene Emig and Doris Wionzek

Mission and Outreach

We pray for and encourage support of the following mission partners:

- Mary Sherwood and the Akany Famonjena orphanage and the Akany Tafita Center in Madagascar.
- Pastors Max and Raquel Candia and the Vidas Medical Mission in Ayacucho, Peru,
- Rev. Ken McLaren, Moira Davis and Ottawa Inner City Ministries.
- Lanark County Food Bank.
- The people and churches of the Bales-for-the-North program.
- Primate's World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF); the Canadian Anglican response for emergency relief, refugees, development, and justice.
- The Pikangikum Water Project: working with our aboriginal neighbours to address the water needs of the 400+ homes without clean water or waste water removal in a northern Ontario community.
- SchoolBox Ministries.
- Casita Copán - a home away from home for at risk children in Honduras.
- The Hub
- The Hub Hospice

In addition, St. Paul's operates a satellite foodbank on Tuesday afternoons, coordinates and hosts the Community Christmas Dinner, sends food to Interval House from the Harvest Supper and on Christmas Day, and gives people a place to work off their community service hours.

Mississippi Mills All My Relations

Our second year of responding to the **calls to action** outlined by the **Truth and Reconciliation Commission** was a busy year planning, coordinating and hosting various events:

- St. Paul's hosted several Traditional Talking Circles through the year led by a local indigenous knowledge keeper'
- Coordinated the annual Indigenous Day Worship Service at St Paul's with indigenous speakers and readers
- Attended meetings with the Ottawa Anglican Diocese All My Relations Working Group including hosting a Listening Circle for members, and participating on the conference planning team
- Created and presented two workshops and an extensive list of Reconciliation Resources at the spring Ottawa Diocese Reconciliation Conference

Through financial support from St. Paul's and the Ottawa Diocese we experienced an Indigenous Friendship Garden. Working with an Algonquin Knowledge Keeper, we learned about indigenous foods; and, created, kept and harvested a small garden with traditional indigenous plants - corn, beans, squash and tobacco.

Following are a few thoughts and comments from participants about this latter event. For me, the words have very much in common with our prayer for St. Paul's - some with a necessary sense of humour:-

- "Important seeds were planted and new relations were made. Such a blessing to be a small part of it."
- "It was a beautiful demonstration of the need for sun! We knew it would not be enough but we did it anyway. Our team (about a dozen people) remained faithful to the watering, weeding and sharing in the project."
- "We had a very intense relationship with the squirrels and what to do about them. It was a real life experience of food production!"
- "This was a great community educational project that drew in neighbours living nearby."
- "It was kind of a living prayer towards understanding and communicating among ourselves and with the people who came before us."

One of the events planned for this coming year is the Blanket Exercise. For further information. see
www.kairosblanketexercise.org

Our own website devoted to education and to connect people to Reconciliation concepts is
www.mmallmyrelations.ca

Irene Emig

Music Team

Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, enter into His courts with praise Psalm 100:4

Whenever I read or write these words, I have a song in my head that begins with these same words. The melody has been in the archives of my brain for many years and whenever I hear it, I am filled with joy and I want to dance.

Music that reaches the soul can have a powerful effect on one's emotions!

Music is an amazing gift from God because it is wonderful way to express our feelings to Him, whether we are thankful, or if we want to express our joy in our faith or when we need to receive strength to heal our wounded hearts.

My hope is that members in our congregation can enter into the music and be touched in a way that helps them express their deepest feelings whether they sing along with the Music Team or just listen on a Sunday morning.

St Paul's is truly blessed to have a music team of dedicated singers and musicians who faithfully practise every Thursday to prepare for the Sunday 10:30 a.m. service.

2018 was a year filled with new experiences for all of us as we combined members of our choir and praise team together. Both groups made sacrifices and gave up some treasured traditions as we embarked on this new musical journey together. It was a time where we relied on the Holy Spirit to bind us together and learned to respect each other's style of music.

We have adapted our styles of choral and contemporary to sing quite a wide range of music together, from hymns written in past centuries to contemporary music written in the past 30 years to choral anthems to anthems without instrumental accompaniment (*a cappella*.)

2018 was also a year of 'goodbyes' and 'hellos'.

In preparation for Rev Pat's retirement celebration as our Priest. we learned a new *a cappella* anthem called "Don't Worry About Tomorrow." The words in this song were a tribute to what we learned from Pat's leadership as she guided us along some difficult paths during her time with us.

Our very talented bass singer, George Nightingale, also wrote new words to a well-known hymn tune as a tribute to Pat. The words were both poignant and hilarious as they reflected our journey with her. It is a song she will

always treasure because it was written from the heart.

In September we also bid goodbye to our assistant organist Matthew Bassett who is continuing his studies at Trent University. Matthew is a very gifted musician and we were blessed to have him as part of our music team even though the time was short.

Although we sadly said goodbye to some of our members, we also said hello to some new members who joined the team in September. It is always a joy to have new people come and join the team.

October was the month when we welcomed our new Priest, Rev. Jonathon and we were delighted to discover that Jonathon loves to sing all kinds of music.

Rev. Jonathon was very supportive when it was suggested we try a Lessons and Carols Service to celebrate the Advent/Christmas season. This was quite a big undertaking requiring longer rehearsals than usual but everyone on the team was committed to learning the new music – including another *a cappella* anthem. We had such good feedback after the service that I am sure we will do another one this year.

It is always a privilege and a joy to work with the Music Team and sing and worship God together. Many thanks to Anne, Claire, Dan, Dave, Deane, Doris, Elizabeth, George N, George S, John E, Jonathan P, Judith, Mary, Rodney, Sue, Vicki and to John Black our Organist. Also to Bob M, Ellen and Jo for joining us for Lessons and Carols and Christmas Eve.

Thanks also to Michael Mavis for all the 'behind the scenes' work putting together the service on the laptop and running the computer and to Bob Bassett who is always willing to help as needed.

I love music and I love serving God in music ministry. I feel truly blessed to be a part of St Paul's music ministry and am grateful for the congregation's support this past year. I look forward to exploring new musical challenges in 2019.

Respectfully submitted, *Wendy Shaw (Music Director)*

Office Administration

Cathy Gallagher and I took over as volunteers in May 2018 when the paid administrative assistant, Nancy Dupuis, left for greener fields (in the Maritimes). By the summer, the scale of the work began to emerge, and it's been a break-neck pace ever since.

We have been learning to "fill in the gaps" resulting from the steep learning curve of both Karen our interim priest-in-charge, and, more recently, our new rector Jonathon. While providing information on "how things work" here at St. Paul's, we are also called to be flexible – welcoming and adapting to changing needs.

When we needed better office desks, Wendy Shaw and Michael Gallagher came to the rescue. When we have struggled with technology, Derek Bird of Virtual Web Experts has been our ministering angel. When we needed shelving, or an air conditioner, when we grappled with a sticky filing cabinet or a recalcitrant office door, or the plumbing, Bob Bassett, Richard Evans and Michael Gallagher have been our knights in shining armour.

We give thanks for all these people, and for all our members who suffer through our mistakes as we learn the ropes. And we give thanks for each other – we both agree that the impossible becomes possible when we work together, each offering our skills as part of our worship.

I am reminded of some wonderful words, by 17th century metaphysical poet, George Herbert, in the hymn *Teach Me, My God and King* (hymn 496 in *Common Praise*) which affirm this – that everything can be worship:

Teach me, my God and King, in all things thee to see,
and what I do in anything to do it as for thee.

May we continue to learn and grow in His Name while serving our community in the Office.

Deane Zeeman and Cathy Gallagher.

Pastoral Care

This past year has been one of change for our Pastoral Care Team.

We said goodbye to Pat Martin as well as Pat Browne who has been with the team from day one. Blessings and all good things are wished for both of them.

Services are held monthly at Almonte Country Haven, Fairview Manor and Rosamond Wing. Mary and George Nightingale provide the music at these services and are always well received. Their dedication is very much appreciated.

Ellen Hughes also steps in and takes the monthly Sunday services on occasion and for this we are thankful. Church is important to the folks in these residences and they really look forward to the services.

Jonathon or I can be contacted if you know of someone who would like a visit.

Respectfully submitted, *Lois Rochon*

Prayer Circle

We are a group committed to praying for people and situations which are brought to our attention. We pray immediately upon receiving a request and then continue to do so for the following 3 months, unless we are provided with an update. Confidentiality is assured.

We were pleased to welcome Rev. Jonathon to the group at our lunchtime meeting in November and are happy for his strong support.

Please speak to Rev. Jonathon when you have concerns for which you desire prayer.

Sunday Morning Ministries

We have been blessed with many faithful volunteers, as well as new members of St Paul's who have stepped up to volunteer on Sunday mornings! THANK YOU!! We always need more intercessors, greeters and servers. (Training and mentorship are available for anyone taking on a new role!)

To ensure this report is reflective of the volunteers consistently involved on Sunday mornings, I sent out the following questions to all volunteers. (There are fewer responses than last year which is NOT reflective of reduced engagement, rather, it is reflective of my tardiness!)

Thinking about your own participation on Sunday mornings, I invite you to answer the following questions:

1. What do you like most about participating in the service?
2. What do you find is most challenging?
3. Things could be better if ... ?

Some folks responded generally that all is going well from their view.

Here are the thoughts of those who responded directly to the questions:

1. What do you like most about participating in the service?
 - Helping to contribute.
 - Doing the readings and sharing the gospel!
 - When I do the Intercessions, I feel like I am helping draw the congregation together into a single consciousness, focused through prayer on the needs of ourselves, each other, our church, and the world.
 - I truly think that the readers & intercessor "bits" of our worship work very well.
 - I appreciate the freedom of being able to lead prayer as I feel led.
 - I most enjoy reading aloud as it gives me a real context from which to listen and to hear the day's lesson.
 - I enjoy greeting people - presenting them with a welcoming place.
2. What do you find is most challenging?
 - Remembering when it's my turn.
 - The most challenging thing for me is trying to ensure that I am not leading prayers that are either (a) too

focused on my own particular needs/concerns, and therefore responsive to the needs of the congregation or (b) too "preachy" by praying at the congregation and not with the congregation.

- Forgetting people's names when greeting.
3. Things could be better if ... ?
- I would like to be a server.
 - More intercessors would be nice, but we have a nice collection of different styles of intercession, which is good.

--Karen Luyendyk

Synod 2018 Highlights

I never want to go to Synod. I have to take time off work, I have to travel to the south side of Ottawa, in rush hour, I have to go to church in downtown Ottawa, again in rush hour. But once there, the energy, enthusiasm and passion of the participants envelopes the room. It is both overwhelming and exciting as old friends meet up and gather together to talk about "the mission of God".

For our new parishioners, Synod is, shall we say, the annual general meeting of the Diocese of Ottawa. Participants share and learn about the myriad of activities that shape the fabric of our diocese.

We learned that the Today for Tomorrow campaign, which is focused on outreach and social justice by supporting all the community ministries in our diocese, is in its second year and is refining processes, i.e. using a new-to-us software called Razor's Edge for tax receipts. Note to myself - maybe that's something we can use here as well. The campaign will not meet its 2018 fund raising goal, but is heading in the right direction, and is motivated by the John Wesley quote "do all the good you can to all the people you can". We will learn more about this stewardship campaign in the Easter season.

The keynote speaker, Dr. Richard LeSueur, shared with us his experiences working with St. Georges College in Jerusalem, reminding us that there are many places in the world where land is taken and never given back. Jerusalem has been fought over, claimed and lost 23 times in known history. It cannot be left alone by outside powers. There is no peace or healing process in place. Currently, in that no man's land, there is no next step. In Jerusalem, that take it or leave it state, there is a wall, and people are always being quietly displaced, in the middle of the night, from one side to the other. Dr. LeSueur revealed that 80% of the Jewish population in Jerusalem is secular. He said, "the animating narrative of the Jewish is not Jesus, but is 1939 – 1945, when the world turned its back on them. The people are still living in the manifest of their history and what has been done to them." Jerusalem is a long way from Canada and for most of us it is difficult to feel connected. Note to self - I was reminded of the All My Relations groups and their losses and struggles and the importance of healing and reconciliation, so that in 50 years this segment of our country, this portion of our broader family, is not still living in the manifest of their history as well.

We were given Naloxone kits, which are effective response for opioid overdose. Last year 1900 people died in car crashes and 4000 died from overdose. The naloxone is a non-invasive nasal spray that can keep a person alive during an overdose until health care arrives. It is an epi-pen for overdose. And if the overdose is misdiagnosed, then no harm is done by administering naloxone, it is a win-win remedy. We have two kits, one in the hall and one in the "not-office", available for use by anyone at any time.

The Refugee Ministry Working Group started in 2013 with applications for 10 refugees and has submitted applications for 220 refugees so far in 2018. No other sponsor holder in the country is as active as our own diocese, in 5 years we have sponsored 702 people safe in Canada. As a matter of fact, during this report, it was revealed to Christ Church Bells Corners that their sponsored family was – surprise ! – landing at the airport that day at 3 pm!

I found out about the Big Give. What, you say is the Big Give? The Big Give is a national outreach ministry offering support and resources to assist local churches in building bridges to their local community. On the first Saturday of June each year, churches of all denominations host community events where everything is free. Wow, wouldn't

this be awesome for Almonte? Note to self – share this with Sara Moore – and I did ! I shared this information she has decided to take it to parish council for their blessing and organize the Big Almonte Give in 2019!

On the second day, William Posthuma from the Primate's World Relief and Developments Fund (PWRDF) reminded us to stand in conviction and live out the hope of Jesus Christ. He showed slides of areas around the world where PWRDF is active; the Pikangikum water project in Canada, solar suitcase programs in health clinics in Sudan, refugees in Bangladesh, technology use in medical clinics in Africa, indigenous business conference in Canada, hospitals in Gaza and wells in Africa, to name a few. The PWRDF's vision statement, "we work towards a truly just, healthy and vibrant world" has ushered them effectively into their 61st year of mission and service. Mr. Posthuma reminded us that "none of us can save the world, but we can each help our neighbor in the end". Note to self - how can I, how can we as a church, more effectively help our neighbour ? Faith, he said, is an action word. We can each use the skills that we have in the place to save our corner of the world. What we do, is about how we can best grow our hope in action.

In the second part of his address, Dr. LeSueur encouraged us to "take the rich pigments of our faith and, using a brush stroke, paint outside the box to create fresh life." How can we change and adapt to welcome in the community more effectively and vibrantly? Messy church on Friday nights with a simple meal, \$ 2.00 per person, bring the family, have some food, play some games and go home? Outpost ministry – offering services in a rented setting that begin with 20 mins of singing, then 20 mins of coffee, then 20 mins of teaching and open discussion. Historically our theology has taught us to believe, behave and then belong. NO ! the first message in the 21st century should be belong, come join us. Then behave, then believe.

He asked, "there is a new season in the life of the church that may be seen as a profound challenge, but it may also be an invitation for newness together. Do you seek and act in the evidence of despair, or do you speak and act in the evidence of hope?" Note to self - how am I speaking about the rectory issues ?

And then PJ Hobbes took the podium. The Director of Mission for the diocese explained the role of the Real Estate Working Group. In the 2010 the Bishop charged Synod "to work towards realizing the greatest possible potential from our real estate holdings. That we use our buildings creatively, unburdened by the stresses surrounding them, as flexible assets that enable us to sustain a dynamic presence". The first term of reference for this working group is "consultative, providing advice and support to parishes and diocesan groups in areas such as development, repurposing, and/or the sale of real estate assets."

The REWG works closely with the Homeless and Affordable Housing Working Group, with the goal of bringing 125 units of new affordable housing to our diocese by 2021, which will be the diocese's 125th birthday. We are already half way there! This has resulted in some long term partnerships with parishes, including the following that are in the feasibility phase of determining whether to use church property for the provision of affordable housing: Julian of Norwich, St Thomas Alta Vista and Ellwood House, Christ Church Bells Corners and Trinity Ottawa South.

PJ touched me when he concluded his presentation by saying, "There can often be a concern that in the church our attention to bricks and mortar, as we like to say, takes away from a focus on mission and ministry. I would suggest that this is a false dichotomy. Our buildings and real estate are more than assets and resources, they are blessings, gifts from God that we are called to steward in such a way to ensure we can sustain a gospel based presence throughout the Diocese. Our building and property can as we all know be a burden: significant deferred maintenance, mounting costs, or simply not suited for the ministry we are called to today in the 21st century. Our buildings and property are, however, also amongst our greatest blessings, presenting us with opportunities for renewed and relevant mission in our time and for the generation to come." Note to self - synod is about caring, sharing, inspiration, renewal and growth. I guess maybe I will go back next year...

Respectfully submitted, *Sandra Cain*

Vacation Bible School

This year's Ecumenical VBS was led by and held at Almonte United Church with support from St. Paul's.

Appointments and Nominations 2019

To be presented at the meeting.

Licensed Lay Administrators – St. Paul’s 2019

Jim Anderson	Inez McCreery
Katrina Ayling	David McCreery
Bob Bassett	Bonnie McCurdy
Vicki Bassett	Lois Rochon
Lynda Bennett	Jane Scanlon
Bonnie Everitt	Theresa St. Denis
Nancy Deschenes	Tony St. Dennis
Ellen Hughes	Wendy Shaw

For now we see in a mirror, dimly, but then we will see face to face. Now I know only in part; then I will know fully, even as I have been fully known. I Corinthians 13:12, NRSV