



**St. Matthew**  
**the Apostle, Oriole**  
Anglican Church

*Come. See. Journey.*

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# ANNUAL VESTRY 2020



Sunday,  
February 23, 2020  
11:30 a.m.  
Fellowship Hall

## Vestry Reports for the Year 2019

**PLEASE PRINT OUT AND BRING THIS REPORT WITH YOU TO THE MEETING**

## AGENDA

1. Welcome and Opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk
3. Approval of the Minutes of the 2019 Annual Vestry Meeting held on February 24, 2019
4. Pastoral Letter from Bishop Asbil
5. Pastoral Letter from Bishop Robertson
6. Incumbent's Report
7. Churchwardens' Report and Financial Report for 2019
8. Deacon's Report
9. Appointments and Elections
10. Parochial Reports
11. Presentation and Approval of 2020 Budget
12. General Business
13. Adjournment





# Annual Vestry 2020

VESTRY REPORTS FOR THE YEAR 2019

Fellowship Hall

Sunday, February 23, 2020  
After the 10:00 a.m. Service

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## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING, FEBRUARY 24, 2019

Rev. Lisa Newland called the meeting to order at 11.43 a.m. She welcomed everyone to the meeting, noting that there are some hard copies of the Vestry report if needed. The meeting opened with a prayer.

- 1) Election of Angela Braund Vestry Clerk – Moved by Kakra Winful, seconded by Nancy Camps. **Carried**
- 2) **Minutes from 2018 Vestry meeting** (pages 5-14). The minutes were circulated prior to the meeting.
  - Page 49 – Angela Braund noted that she did not participate in the Nominating Committee
  - Delores Lawrence asked for the financial reports, so that she could review them prior to leaving.A motion to approve the minutes was moved by Val Seales and seconded by Donna Lam. **Carried**
- 3) **Minutes from Special Vestry** (pages 15-17) there were no amendments. A motion to accept the minutes was moved by Kakra Winful and seconded by Norma Roberts. **Carried**
- 4) **Matters Arising:**

Janice Sanders noted that there is still no floor in the choir room.

  - Anne Creighton thanked the committee for putting together the proposal for Special Vestry so quickly.
  - Bishop Asbil's Pastoral Letter (page 18)
  - Area Bishop Kevin Robertson's Pastoral letter (page 19-20)
  - Incumbents Report (page 21-24, statistics on page 25)

Rev. Lisa thanked everyone for their work and ministry, noting that the work of the church would not happen without you. Thanks were extended to the Wardens and staff; Donna, David, John and Kyn. She welcomed any questions.

Val Seales emphasised all the work that Lisa does for the wider church community including the Postulancy Committee, Diocesan Committee and as the next Regional Dean.

Rev. Lisa noted that the marriages noted on page 25 do not appear on the register since they took place at other churches.

A motion to approve the Incumbent's report was moved by Val Seales and seconded by Joanne McMath. **Carried**

- 5) **Wardens Report (pages 26-27)**

Val Seales (Rector's Warden) highlighted some of the events, including the Spring Concert given by Joy Lapp, the Parish Ministry Fair and BBQ, Baby Bundles, repairing a leak, the Montessori School leaving, The Good Food Market (thanks to volunteers), a new Book Keeper, moving to QuickBooks, new cleaners and the Christmas Market. She noted that we have been busy and thanked all the volunteer ministries.

### Questions were welcomed.

Delores Lawrence noted that we are supposed to officially have a Treasurer. Rev. Lisa responded that Sandra is appointed as Treasurer. She performs all the duties canonically required. Val Seales added that either Book Keeper or Treasurer is approved by the Diocese, noting that the titles can be changed if preferred.

A motion to accept the Wardens' report was moved by Anne Creighton and seconded by Wendy Blatchford. **Carried**

**6) Archdeacon's Report**

Archdeacon Kyn is attending a conference in Albuquerque, New Mexico. There were no questions to Rev. Lisa asked for a motion to approve the report. This was moved by Val Seales, seconded by Shirley Young and Carried.

Rev. Lisa introduced Sandra Lumb, our Book Keeper, to vestry and the audited statements were distributed. It should be noted that the reports reflect the new QuickBooks format as well as the changes requested at previous Vestry meeting.

**7) Auditor's Report & Financial Statements**

Gord Mount prepared the Auditors report.

Page 1 shows the operating funds, showing an income of \$252K. Designated funds are recorded separately. The operating expenses (\$244) are shown below. Again, designated expenses are shown separately.

Page 3 shows the costs – personnel costs were higher than budget due to Sandra and small increases. Administration costs are down as are property costs. Insurance is now being paid monthly – there is no interest and the monthly payment schedule improves cash flow.

Anne Creighton asked about the charges for Growing Healthy Stewards (\$587.39) as there was nothing noted for 2017. Rev. Lisa confirmed that this was part of the narrative budget for the Ministry Fair. Delores Lawrence asked this be reported as a separate line, which has been done.

Advertising Promotion (\$799.68) was for an opportunity for digital advertising related to Parkway Forest Community Centre.

Father John Wilton asked about the Parish Activities & Supplies expenses (\$5,050.06). Sandra confirmed that these expenses related to events such as the Parish BBQ. Rev. Lisa noted that income from the concert offset the expense of the Spring Concert. He also asked about the insurance costs which were reported as \$531.46 against a budget of \$5,478.00. This reflects the move to a monthly payment schedule in 2019.

Brian Edmonds asked about the increase in utilities over last year. Rev. Lisa responded that the budget reflects the church's portion and that the Montessori School paid 60% of the costs for the 6 months. However, this is reflected in the licensing fees (\$7,700) leaving approximately \$3K over budget for the church.

Rev. Lisa thanked Sandra for her work and presenting the financials in report form. It was acknowledged that this was easier than looking at small print on the screen!

A motion to accept the Financial reports for 2018 was moved by Norma Roberts and seconded by Margaret Gordon Allen.

**Carried**

**8) Envelope Secretary's report – Page 40**

Janice Sanders reported that there was not a lot of change from last year, she noted that the number of envelopes issued is down but the number of PAR (Pre-authorized Remittance) is up slightly. The average weekly donation is lower, however in past years designated donations were included – the 2017 figures were redone for a more accurate comparison.

Rev. Lisa thanked Janice for all her work. Janice reminded us that she has not taken this role back on for life.

There were no questions, so Rev Lisa asked for a motion to approve the Envelope Secretary's report. This was moved by Donna Lam and seconded by Wendy Blatchford. **Carried**

9) **Nominations and Appointments** (page 49)

Val Seales read the list of nominations and Rev. Lisa asked if there were any other nominations.

Andrew Barker asked if Joanna Barker has been asked if she was willing to be one of the Christmas Market co-ordinators or it was assumed. Val Seales confirmed that she was asked.

A motion to approve the nominations as stated was moved by Nancy Camps and seconded by Anne Creighton. **Carried**

**CHURCH OFFICERS 2019**

Elected Positions

Peoples Warden	Margaret Gordon Allen
Deputy Wardens	Norma Walker
	Kakra Winful
Member of Synod (1)	Steve O'Keefe
Alternate Member of Synod	Delores Lawrence
Envelope Secretary	Janice Sanders
Auditor	Gord Mount
Property Managers	Elan Seales
	Robbie Roberts
Parish Tribunal	Brain Edmonds
	Helen Edmonds
Archivist	Janice Sanders
Growing Healthy Stewards Chair	Delores Lawrence
Christmas Market Co-ordinators	Joanna Barker
	Nancy Simich
Hospitality	Valerie Seales
	Gwynne Barker
	Robbie Roberts
	Lesley Huether
	Geraldine Simmons
Outreach co-chair	Anne Creighton
	Vacancy
Sidespersons Chair	Valerie Seales (10.00 a.m.)
	Trevor Evans (8.00 a.m.)
Vestry Clerk	Angela Braund
Parish Council Members at Large	Shyamal Ray
	Claudette Blake



APPOINTMENTS

Rector's Warden	Valerie Seales
Treasurer/Bookkeeper	Sandra Lumb
Sunday School Director	Susan Porter
Nursery Director	Diane Wilton
Altar Guild	Gwynne Barker

Rev. Lisa extended her thanks to Raine Liliefeldt who has stepped down from Deputy Warden.

10) **Parochial Reports** (pages 29-47)

Rev. Lisa invited and additions and questions regarding these reports.

Anne Creighton (referring to page 35) thanked everyone who was involved in supporting our newcomer family. She noted that a lot of time, money and support was given and that our support extended beyond the one-year mark. She also invited members of vestry to consider joining the social justice and outreach committee.

A motion to accept the parochial reports was moved by Kakra Winful and seconded by Valerie Seales.

**Carried**

11) **2019 Budget**

Sandra Lumb presented the budget for 2019, noting that this is the operating budget that covers the daily expenses.

- Line 4300 Designated funds is zero in 2019 since they are not part of the operating budget.
- Ticket/book sales have a separate line (4350) this would include calendars sold by the Altar Guild.
- Licensing fees (line 4600) has decreased, reflecting the use of the lower hall from August to December 2018, which was not part of the 2018 budget.
- Other Income (line 4800) includes donations from weddings & funerals.

REVIEWING EXPENSES:

- Payroll costs will be held at a similar amount as 2018
- Parish Activities will be held to \$2K
- Envelope costs were high in 2018 as they include the costs for a late order from 2017 as well as 2018 & 2019.
- Bank charges include PAR costs.

Rev. Lisa drew attention to the small decrease in the Diocesan Assessment (line 5400) noting that it's calculated based on the rolling income for the last 3 years, so this will be tight for the next two years (until the effect of Montessori licensing is no longer part of the calculation).

Anne Creighton asked if this could be appealed as it seems unfair. Rev. Lisa responded that this is unlikely noting that we enjoyed the benefit of lower assessments 26 years ago when to Montessori school was a new source of income, which Father John backed up.

Rev Lisa cited an example of a church that rented out the Rectory and used the income for operating funds. This was assessed as income and had to be paid as such.

Brain Edmonds asked about the 2019 utility budget, which is less than both the actuals for 2017 and 2018. Rev. Lisa responded that the new programmable thermostats should reduce costs. Previously some of the heaters were on 24/7 so we were paying for heat overnight and the Monday-Friday and Saturday-Sunday timers did not effectively accommodate the actual usage of the building. It is hoped that with tighter control we may have modest surplus at year end. Val Seales also noted that the church that used the downstairs hall used a lot of power from August to December.

Joe Smith asked about the cost of flowers in 2018. Does this amount include Christmas and Easter? Where does the extra money go? Sandra confirmed that the funds go to the operating budget and some may be used towards other costs. It was noted that a lot of the flowers are donated, particularly by the Altar Guild. They may submit receipts for reimbursements. The line for flowers (5115) reflects the cost of flowers that are expensed such as the Christmas trees and greenery.

Joe also asked about the Parking Lot fund. Sandra confirmed that this is part of the capital budget so it is not reflected in the operating budget. She noted that the cost of pothole repairs and parking signs came out of designated funds.

There were no further questions. A motion to accept the 2019 operating budget was moved by Janice Sanders and seconded by Joanne McMath. **Carried**

## **12) General Business**

Elan Seales reported that Bell Canada have to activate the phone in the office and that the phone in the hallway is no longer working. The lower church hall baseboard heaters need to be replaced as part of the ongoing maintenance.

Anne Creighton presented the Social Justice motions to Vestry (page 48). The motions were moved by Anne and seconded by Andrew Barker. Anne noted that the motions are relevant to us in light of the meetings we are having with regards to use of the space and our experience with regards to finding affordable housing for our newcomers. The motions were read it was agreed that they be amended as follows:

1. “We, the vestry of St. Matthew the Apostle Oriole commit to standing in solidarity with those living in poverty by increasing our direct outreach activity by researching and pursuing options to expand our outreach in the neighbourhood, with a report on the results to the 2020 vestry.”
2. “We the vestry of St. Matthew the Apostle Oriole commit to advocacy. Building alliances with groups providing and working for affordable housing.”

Brian Edmonds noted that it would be useful to focus the motion for “all”.

The amended motions were both carried.

## **PARISH DISCERNMENT CONVERSATIONS (page 29)**

Rev. Lisa spoke about the conversations that have been taking place regarding the use of space and possible community partnerships that may be possible now that the Montessori school have left. She thanked Father John for summarising the meetings.

Newcomers, social/cultural isolation, seniors and housing emerged as concerns. Page 30 lists 9 ideas that were discussed at the February 2 meeting. We have learnt that there are homeless people living in the valley and that some of our neighbours are supporting them with food. If we could get in touch with them there may be an

opportunity to build relationships. Another idea concerns grief support – Steve O’Keefe is meeting with North York General Hospital.

Rev. Lisa asked vestry to prayerfully consider these ideas and any others that come to mind.

Helen Edmonds asked about the extra plug-ins used by the church that Val mentioned earlier and if the usage fees were increased based on the electricity used? Rev. Lisa responded no, but we are mindful of resources and any future licences agreements would reflect fair rental cost. (It should be noted this licensee left in December 2018) Norma Walker added that we also have to be mindful of the space so that any rentals do not impact our ability to use the space.

It was noted that AA still use our space.

Brian Edmonds suggested that we need to calculate what an hour of rental actually costs.

Donna Lam mentioned that she and Father John are exploring the possibility of creating a labyrinth for the community. Father John added that it would be open to the community for spiritual meditation area at a small cost. This is a similar idea to the spiral walk.

Helen Edmonds noted that the optics of having a Book Keeper is a good move, particularly after last year, and noted that Sandra was very open to reporting based on our needs.

Elan Seales reported that Bell’s return visit would be at no cost and that the old white chairs have been disposed of creating more space.

Anne Creighton asked about the choir room floor. Rev. Lisa confirmed that now the church office is moving (to the education wing) Archdeacon Kyn will be able to use Donna’s old office, freeing up space for the choir to relocate to the Archdeacon’s office. Joe asked about the built-in cupboards – this will have to be reviewed when the move takes place.

Father John noted that it was not until 1987 that women were allowed to be sidespeople at St James (cathedral). He is proud to see wise, capable women in leadership roles at St. Matthews. Nancy Camps agreed.

Wendy Blatchford asked about the designation of storage space, noting that the archives also need space. Val noted that the St. Matthews room needs to be organized.

There were no other questions, so a motion to adjourn was moved by Andrew Barker at 1.10 pm. The meeting concluded with the Grace.

## BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER TO VESTRIES, 2020

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners  
Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.



"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit..." These words from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, were spoken by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. They are tender - words spoken in the shadow of the cross to disciples who would become the Church. John 15 was also the centerpiece text for my charge to Synod in November 2019. If you have not had a chance to watch it, I invite you to [consider doing so](#). The imagery of the vine, the grower, and pruning for growth form the roots of the Priorities and Plans of the Diocese for the next two years, as they have done for our strategic plan *Growing in Christ* beginning in 2016.

Recently at a meeting I was asked by a lay member of Diocesan Council, "Bishop, what is your vision for the Diocese? In a word or two what do you want us to do?"

And I said, "Simple...Grow!"

At its root the strategic plan calls us to "grow" in Christ. What does this mean, to grow in Christ?

It means, that in all that we do, whether in our parishes, outreach ministries, diocesan ministries, chaplaincies and communities, we are summoned to flourish; in number, in maturity of faith, in our life of prayer and worship, in our leadership, in our embrace of a mission that calls us to move beyond the walls of the Church. To grow in Christ means to trust the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. To grow in Christ means that we sometimes have to let go of old structures and ways of doing things that keep us from taking the risks necessary to pursue the One we pledge to follow - Jesus.

Vestry provides one moment for every congregation to consider the challenge to grow in Christ. No matter the size of the community, no matter how large or small the budget, no matter the number of lay leaders or clergy, no matter the obstacles to balancing a budget...Are we doing all that we can to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ? What is one thing that we can do to deepen our discipleship? What is one thing that we can do to serve the needs of our neighbours? What is one thing that we can do to strengthen the bonds of affection that we have for each other?

Each year at vestry we ask you to consider supporting a social justice initiative through a particular motion. In the past we have asked vestries to consider addressing issues of poverty, raising the minimum wage and affordable housing. In 2020, we are asking you consider being good stewards of creation as we grapple with the growing climate emergency. We invite you to consider setting a goal to reduce our collective carbon footprint.



Sometimes we can focus only on what we don't have at our annual vestry meetings, not enough money, not enough time, not enough people, not enough... Sometimes we can spend too much time only thinking about how on earth we are going to balance the budget. That's not to say that balancing the budget isn't important...it is. Rather, consider the words of Jesus in John 15. In the face of a future that doesn't always seem very clear, lift up your hearts. Reach out and grow in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Andrew Toronto". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

+Andrew

The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil  
Bishop of Toronto

## AREA BISHOP'S PASTORAL LETTER TO VESTRIES, 2020

The Right Reverend  
**KEVIN ROBERTSON**

Area Bishop of York-Scarborough  
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto



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January 25, 2020

The Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul

Dear friends in York-Scarborough,

Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. (2 Cor. 1:2)

I have the privilege of writing once again as you gather for your annual Vestry meeting. Vestry is an important moment in the life of any parish. We are given the opportunity to look back with thanksgiving on the past year, and look forward with hope as we catch a vision of what God is calling us to be in the year ahead.

As I look back on 2019, I remember with joy and thanksgiving the opportunities to visit many of the 58 parishes and ministries of York-Scarborough. I was with you for Sunday worship, ordinations, confirmations, celebrations of new ministry, anniversaries, meetings with parish leadership, and many wonderful meals and receptions. I want to thank the clergy and people of the area for the warm welcome as I have travelled across the five deaneries of York-Scarborough. I have been grateful for your prayers, and your desire to be co-workers in the building up of God's Church.

One of the priorities I have identified over my three years as your bishop is being more intentional about mission. I often preach about the mission of the Church, grounding it in our baptismal promises. I am so pleased to report that there are now over two dozen parishes in York-Scarborough that have developed Mission Action Plans (MAPs) and have begun to implement them. Others are on the way. In 2019, the York-Scarborough Area Council set aside \$20,000 to assist parishes with the MAP process. Please consider applying for these funds through the Area Council.

As I look forward to the coming year, I want us to be people of hope. The statistical data about the Anglican Church of Canada released late last year paints a bleak picture. Yet my experience of being out and about in the parishes of York-Scarborough is that there is renewed energy, passion for the Gospel, and a commitment to try new things. We are not dead! Every time we celebrate a baptism, or welcome a newcomer, or allow the transforming love of Christ to work through us into the world, we are reminded that our Church is very much alive. I don't want us to live in denial about the realities around us, but I do want us to embody the living hope that is at the core of the Gospel. Please join with me in being agents of hope and positive change in our Church and in our world.

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**MISSION:** To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody—in word and action—God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation—through which knowledge of God's reign is extended.

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As I reflect on my ministry over the past year, I realize that my work would not have been possible without the support of my amazing assistant, Sue Willoughby. Sue does a great job of managing my calendar and correspondence, and ensuring that I am able to keep up with a ministry that has many moving parts. Sue works closely with our exceptional synod office staff. They are all just a phone call or email away.

I want to acknowledge the excellent work of our five Regional Deans: the Reverend Ian LaFleur (Eglinton), the Reverend Greg Carpenter (Scarborough), the Reverend Sherman Hesselgrave (St. James), the Reverend Shelley McVea (Toronto East) and the Reverend Lisa Newland (York Mills).

The Reverend Heather Gwynne-Timothy became the Chaplain to the Retired Clergy of York-Scarborough in 2019, and I am so grateful for her ministry. Along with our area liturgical officers – the Reverend Canon Geoffrey Sangwine and the Reverend Greg Carpenter – our Regional Deans are excellent resources for parishes, and provide me with invaluable advice.

Our episcopal area is also blessed with many incredible youth leaders, who are ably led by our two York-Scarborough Youth Coordinators, Jillian Ruch and Ian Physick. Just a few weeks ago, I attended the 3<sup>rd</sup> Annual York-Scarborough Youth Leaders' Summit, where those involved in this important ministry were able to share ideas and strategies for ministry with our youth.

In our Diocese, we are blessed with a College of Bishops, with whom the joys and burdens of episcopal ministry are shared. I am grateful to work alongside my colleagues: Bishops Andrew Asbil, Peter Fenty, Riscylla Shaw, Jenny Andison, and Canon Mary Conliffe.

Finally, I want to express my thanks to all those who exercise leadership in the parishes, missions, schools, fresh expressions and community ministries of the York-Scarborough area. Whether you are stepping down from a particular ministry, or continuing on, or taking up a new role at this annual Vestry meeting, thank you for your commitment and faithfulness. You are a blessing to the Church in our Diocese. Please be assured of my prayers each day as you carry out your ministry in the name of Jesus Christ.

I am writing this letter on the Feast of the Conversion of St. Paul. As our Church celebrates the beginning of Paul's evangelistic ministry to the Gentiles, please join with me in praying and working for the proclamation of the Gospel in every place, and for the renewal of the Church in our midst.

Yours faithfully,

The Right Rev Kevin Robertson  
Area Bishop of York Scarborough  
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto

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## INCUMBENT

### EPIPHANY 2020

*"In [Jesus] you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the Holy Spirit; this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory."*  
(Ephesians 1:13-14)

These verses conclude a long list of spiritual blessings in Christ St. Paul reminds believers in Ephesus that they have received as sheer gift. Simply because God has made us children through Jesus, not because of anything we've done, but because of the good pleasure of God's will. It is a reminder for us as a Christian community that in everything we do, we rely not on ourselves and our own abilities, but on the gifts and empowering of the Holy Spirit who breathes life into all our actions and efforts. In her book, *Ambition: What Jesus said about power, success and counting stuff*, Bishop Emma Ineson writes: "The Holy Spirit is the one who points forward to that wonderful day when the kingdom of God will be fully established on earth and, in signs and wonders, gives us a glimpse of that future-oriented kingdom. The Holy Spirit is given to us as a down payment, a promise, a guarantee, a sign of the future reality of that coming kingdom.... One of the tasks of Christian [community] is to constantly hold before [the world] that hope-filled future heralded by the Spirit of God, even if the reality of the present looks anything but hopeful." (pp. 132-133).

Holding before the world that hope-filled future heralded by God's Spirit has been both our privilege and responsibility as a community of faith over these 55 years of ministry. This past year was no exception to this. Building on the opportunities that have arisen from having our space back from the Montessori School since July 2018 we held several parish hall gatherings to envision how God might be calling us to make our space available to help support the good work our community partners are doing. Following our third gathering in early February several parishioners reached out to different agencies as well as our city councillor to discuss how they might use our space to continue the good work they were doing. This resulted in a partnership with Better Living and the offering of a free seniors' exercise class in the fall which was very well received – both by parishioners and the wider community. Two other community groups are also now here at St. Matthew's in addition to the Henry Farm Community Interest Association, and we continue to discern other opportunities as they arise to build connections with those around us.

Having our space back allowed for several other church related programs and activities to take place – weekly Wednesday Bible Study, Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper, Lenten Study, Illustrated Travel Adventure Series with Potluck Supper, monthly Messy Church, and Advent Spiral Garden Walk and Potluck. Being able to gather as in our own space regularly and at times that work for those participating has helped to deepen the spiritual life of our parish and host events that help to strengthen the bonds among ourselves while at the same time providing the chance to invite others here to this place so we can get to know them as well.

One of the major areas of focus in 2019 was the launch of our capital campaign. An ambitious goal of \$250,000 was set and by the end of the year has almost been met with a combined total of donations and pledges of almost \$220,000. This is a wonderfully generous response and I would like to extend a word of thanks to the Growing Healthy Stewards Committee and its chair, Delores Lawrence. These much needed funds will help to address some of the issues facing our building, not least of which is accessibility. It is our hope that with the funds received so far one of the projects we can undertake this coming year is making the washrooms accessible in the Christian Education Wing. Caring for our building and ensuring it will meet the needs of coming generations is one way we hold before the world that hope-filled future heralded by God's Spirit.



One of our other continued areas of focus remains connecting with young families. In the spring over 35 people, many of them children and young families, planted a bee garden on the south side of the church property under the St. Matthew's sign. It was also a witness to the wider neighbourhood of our parish's commitment to caring for creation and in this case, responding to the need to provide food for threatened bee populations. Many of you also donated plants and flowers – some from your own gardens – which was greatly appreciated. Our sunflowers became a popular selfie shot with many people walking by stopping to take pictures of themselves with them. Due to its success we're planning to expand our garden this year. Hopefully this project will inspire others among us to come up with other ideas about how we can better care for creation and respond in our own ways to the climate crisis.

In September a "Life in the Eucharist" program was offered and three of our young people took part in that. We also welcomed four new servers and are excited to see some of our children sharing in liturgical leadership. Messy Church began on a monthly basis in October and has been well received and attended by the children and adults alike who have participated. Our theme for this first year of Messy Church is "God's Family Our Family", together exploring the stories of Abraham and Sarah, Joseph, Moses, and Joshua as part of that. The morning begins with a short animated video clip of the story for the day followed by a variety of crafts, activities, music and games that are related to it. We finish with a time of celebration (worship) in the church and those who are able stay for lunch. I want to say a huge thank you to Diane Wilton, Susan Porter, Gwynne Barker, Lesley Heuther, Shirley Young, and Donna Lam who help make Messy Church possible.

One of the areas of challenge for us this past year has been our operating budget. Though we saw an outpouring of financial support and commitment towards the capital campaign, our operating budget was in part affected by this. As a result, we did finish with a deficit that will have to be addressed this year in addition to meeting our on-going expenses related to ministry. A decrease in Sunday and weekly regular attendance has also taken place which across time also affects revenue. The good news in all of this is that we continue to grow as a parish and see new people and families on a regular basis. One of our parish's gifts is hospitality and "welcoming the stranger" and we give thanks to God that God continues to lead people here in search of him and the good news of Jesus. Helping those who are new to our parish, finding ways to invite them to become a part of ministry at St. Matthew's, is important for the life and health of the church.

An important part of our budget each year are various fundraising activities that not only help to bring in much needed funds to support many of the ministries here, but also foster fellowship with one another. Three fundraisers were held this year – the Pancake Supper the Fall Walkathon and the Bazaar. Our thanks to Val Seales, Janice Sanders and Bonnie Larue who organized these events respectively, and all those who helped with them in so many different ways. Once again we are looking for someone to chair a fundraising committee to help organize some additional events to meet our operating budget and help reduce the 2019 deficit. And if you have any ideas for a fundraiser, I know the wardens would love to hear from you!

In addition to serving as your incumbent, I continue with several other diocesan appointments with gratitude for the opportunity to serve on the Postulancy Committee (since 2015), Diocesan Council (since 2017), Executive Board (Dec 2018) and Regional Dean of York Mills (since March 2019). Archdeacon Kyn continues to serve in his capacity as the Coordinator of Deacons and Anne Creighton serves on the Diocesan Social Justice and Advocacy Committee. Father John also continues in his role as facilitator for Fresh Start in York-Scarborough, a two-year program for those in new incumbencies. He has also been filling in as Interim Canon Pastor while the current one is on medical leave.

Our parish is very blessed – especially in the gifts of each other. And so I'd like to close both with a word of thanks and a word of encouragement. First, my thanks especially to the clergy, the Ven. Kyn Barker and the

Rev. Canon John Wilton, our staff, David Braund, Donna Lam, and Sandra Lumb, our Wardens, Val Seales (Rector's Warden) and Margaret Gordon Allen (People's Warden), our Deputy Wardens, Norma Walker Roberts and Kakra Winful, and many parish leaders including Altar Guild Director, Gwynne Barker, Property Managers, Elan Seales and Robbie Roberts, Sunday School Director, Susan Porter, Nursery Coordinator, Diane Wilton, our Hospitality Committee, all those involved in various liturgical roles and so many others working quietly behind the scenes. I would also like to extend a special word of appreciation to Angela Braund (Vestry Clerk), Claudette Blake (Advisory Board Member at Large), Janice Sanders (Archivist, Envelope Secretary and Walkathon) and Kakra Winful (Deputy Warden) who are concluding their ministries. On behalf of the parish I would like to thank them for their faithful ministry and service, for their time, skills and commitment they each brought to their respective roles, and extend our prayers and best wishes to each of them. And secondly, a word of encouragement for others to step forward who may not yet or currently be involved, to offer their gifts and talents to help share the load and privilege of leadership. We are all enriched by one another's presence and benefit from the wisdom and perspective of diverse voices.

As we begin this next year of ministry, may we continue to hold before the world that hope-filled future heralded by the Spirit of God as we look forward to that wonderful day when the kingdom of God will be fully established on earth.

Yours in Christ,  
Lisa+

## PARISH STATISTICS

(as of December 31, 2019)

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Families	74	71	78	73
Individuals	<u>104</u>	<u>106</u>	<u>104</u>	<u>106</u>
Total Families/Individuals	178	177	182	179
Church School Registration	15	20	16	14
Nursery Registration	7	6	2	5
Messy Church	24	N/A	N/A	N/A

	<u>2019</u>	<u>2018</u>	<u>2017</u>	<u>2016</u>
Average Weekly Attendance	84	95	94	97
Average Sunday Attendance	74	85	86	87
8.00 a.m.	13	15	16	17
10:00 a.m.	59	62	61	68
5:00 p.m.	14	15	13	14
Easter Attendance	206	222	231	225
Easter Communicants	194	210	224	205
Baptisms	3	1	2	6
Confirmations	0	0	0	0
Marriages	1	0	0	1
Deaths	5	7	10	1

<b>BAPTISMS</b>	<b>DEATHS</b>
Zoya Singh Shangari	Nancy VanNorman Camps
Folasade Eniola West	Norman Dekin Fox
Tyra Alsacia West	Ralph Christopher Hinde
	Enid Marion Brown
<b>MARRIAGES</b>	Rudolf Hrica
Selena Ng & Matthew Thompson	

## WARDENS

We started off 2019 with our Growing Healthy Stewards dinner in January. This was followed by our Pancake supper in March. Thanks to all who bought tickets and/or helped in any way to make these two events a success.

Thanks to some of our Capital Campaign funds, we started our listed projects with the replacement of the 3 exterior doors, North, South and East doors with electrical power, glass and aluminum. Our main office was moved up to the first floor, the choir moved into the old Rector's office and the Archdeacon's office was moved in to share space with the Treasurer and Sunday Counters. All moves seem to be working out well. During that time Donna was able to secure a photocopier that works well from Ricoh. It took us a while to get reimbursed and the Sharp copier removed. Thanks to Ajitha Gunawardana and many emails from our office, we were able to get it done.

We did have a deficit in February and we figured it was due to the long winter months and when parishioners were unable to get to church. We did notice that parishioners were giving generously towards the Capital Campaign and we also noticed the envelopes dropped even further over the Summer but picked up once we approached the Fall months when parishioners got back to their regular givings.

Our Landscape maintenance crew is working out well. As part of our ongoing property care our insurance company required us to do some maintenance and prevention work on the west side of our property which we took care of last Summer by putting in a trench with an erosion wall and embankment. We also had our sanctuary window cladding done and the bay windows of the rectory replaced. We teamed up with Church of Incarnation to get a lower estimate for our buildings inspection and together we contacted CDW Engineering for a property condition assessment. We've had our assessment completed with a list of projects noted with a projected timeline of 1- 5years. The most immediate attention is our electrical repairs and upgrades, accessible washrooms on the 1<sup>st</sup> floor, our East Wing roof and our aging parking lot areas. You can see a list of some of the listed projects in our weekly bulletin.

Thanks again to Gwynne and Kyn Barker and all the volunteers for another Good Food Market. It was a short 2019 season, we had great weather except for the last Tuesday when the market was held inside the Narthex. Thanks to Diane Wilton for a profitable Children's Activities during two sessions of the Good Food Market. We had a Summer project of a Bee Garden. Thanks to all who donated plants and those who came out to do the planting. Hope folks will help keep the garden growing when the spring comes.

Thanks to Bonnie LaRue for her leadership when she took the lead as coordinator of the Christmas market. The donations flowed in and ideas were materialized and a team of dedicated volunteers stepped up to the plate and we had a very successful 2019 Christmas Market. As we head into the Spring of 2020 we are hoping that volunteers could team up and take the leadership role of this very important fundraising event. We have faith that God will lead you to us.

After many years at St. Matthew, Mrs. Kishibi manager of the Kumon Math retired in March 2019. Anita Jhaver took over the Kumon Math classes on Tuesdays and Thursdays. However, we have received notice from Mrs. Jhaver who will be retiring at the end of April. She sold the business to another Kumon Math teacher Sook Young Huh. The Kumon Math head office has new guidelines requesting that there should be no classes in basement, all classes be located in a storefront setting. The teacher is also requesting more days that includes parent-teacher sessions and storage. We cannot afford to let any tenant go at this time so we are in discussions with the teacher. No final decisions have been made.



We want to say a special thank you to Janice Sanders for her dedication and commitment over the many years as Archivist and Envelope Secretary. We truly appreciate and thank her for her many years of service to St. Matthew and its people. The position of Envelope Secretary is now being done by Sandra Lumb. We are currently searching for a person to assume the Archivist position role. If you know of anyone interested in this position, please contact one of your wardens.

Thank you Rev Lisa for being such a great example of living a life of faith. Thank you for the late Tuesday nights and the early Sunday mornings and everything else in between. Thanks for the seeds you sow and the disciples you nurture. The sermons you preach and the prayers we know you lift up, we thank you. Thank you for the encouragement, for the support and kind words. You, Geoff, Agnes and the kids are truly a blessing to St. Matthew.

A heartfelt thank you to all our volunteers, your excellence is our success. To our employees, we thank you for bringing your best to work. We sincerely appreciate all your hard work and dedication. Words just can't describe how much you are all appreciated.

Blessings to all for a productive year ahead.

Respectfully submitted by your Wardens:

Val Seales, *Rector's Warden*

Margaret Allen, *People's Warden*

*Deputy Wardens:*

Norma Walker

Kakra Winful

## ARCHDEACON

The Deacon's main job is to help us all fulfil our Baptismal promise to "Seek and Serve Christ in All Persons." As you've seen at the 10 am (and sometimes at 8 am) service, I have a number of roles in the Eucharist, including proclaiming the Gospel, setting the table, and standing beside to assist the Presider during the Great Thanksgiving. All of these actions are symbols...meant to encourage all of us to find ways to be of service. After the Recessional Hymn, I as the Deacon, say the dismissal: "**Go** in peace to love and **serve** the Holy ONE!" The emphasis is on the word GO.... Since it is time to leave our worship, to act upon what we have seen and heard...and that means to finding ways to serve, just as Jesus did (and does).

As Coordinator of Deacons for the Diocese Toronto, I encourage and help build up the "Community of Deacons" across the diocese-there are now more than 50! I visit parishes who are interested in "raising up a deacon," and assist them through the process.

Once again, Gwynne and I had the full and wonderful experience this last summer coordinating the "Good Food Market." We broke even-that is the cost of fruits and vegetables was covered by customer purchases. It's also noteworthy that half the volunteers are regular St Matthews' people, but half are not parishioners but come from our surrounding community.

Gwynne and I facilitated a group attending the Chippewas of Georgina First Nation Pow Wow, and led an Advent Study on the *Doctrine of Discovery* video from the Anglican Church of Canada.

I continue to volunteer on the front counter at "Community Information Fairview" (near the TD Bank in the mall) which church members, including Tom McQuiston, founded more than 40 years ago and which St. Matthews supports financially. Please drop by especially Wednesday afternoons and Friday mornings, when I am there.

I'm a member of the board of Flemingdon Community Health Centre, which has a satellite at 5 Fairview Mall Dr. offering both primary care to those in need, and programmes for all to encourage better health.

I appreciate Rev. Lisa's guidance and the opportunities to work together.

I am grateful for your prayers and your comments.

Respectfully submitted:

Kyn

(The Venerable Kyn Barker

Archdeacon of Toronto

Coordinator of Deacons)

## PASTORAL CARE TEAM

*"Are any among you suffering? They should pray. Are any cheerful?  
They should sing songs of praise. Are any among you sick?  
They should call for the elders of the church and have them pray over them,  
anointing them with oil in the name of the Lord."  
(James 5:13-14)*

The role of the pastoral care team is to provide emotional and spiritual support as well as practical assistance to parishioners in times of sickness, crisis and celebration. Members of the team also regularly visit parishioners who, due to health challenges or other reasons, are unable to attend Sunday services. At these visits, Holy Communion is usually offered as well as anointing for healing and wholeness. As a further way of helping those who can't physically join us for worship stay connected to St. Matthew's, current bulletins, newsletters, and seasonal devotional booklets are given out along with the altar flowers, when available.

In 2019 there were 13 people on the regular visitation list with visits taking place in private residences, retirement homes and long term care facilities across the city. In addition to these regular visits many other ones take place in hospitals or homes throughout the year on an as needed basis (i.e. when parishioners fall ill, have surgery, or are receiving inpatient therapies including physical rehabilitation, etc.).

As part of pastoral care, the ministry of anointing is offered on the last Sunday of each month at both the 8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m. services for any parishioners who desire prayers and anointing for healing and wholeness.

Respectfully submitted,  
Clifford Wong  
The Ven. Kyn Barker  
The Rev. Lisa Newland

## GROWING HEALTHY STEWARDS

The committee meets bi-monthly and had its last meeting on Sunday January 12, 2020.

The committee membership consists of the following parishioners: Claudette Blake, Anton Gilham, Anne Creighton, Delores Lawrence (Chair) Norma Roberts, Donna Lam, Joy Walker, Ann Padmore, Robbie Roberts, Val Seales and Rev. Lisa Newland. We have also had guest parishioners at our meetings. Thank you to all the committee members on the team and a special thank you to Janice Sanders for her assistance to December 2019.

### Capital Campaign

- Capital Campaign was launched March 2019 as a 5-year campaign. As at January 26, 2020 we have pledges of \$217,762.07 and to date we have received \$121,149.07 in funds.
- The campaign will be re-evaluating the parish list and will be contacting those parishioners who have taken envelopes and have not responded to the campaign. The reasons for no response could vary from never receiving the information to not sure about kind of commitment that they would like to make. We also want to point out that some parishioners did not make pledges but make one-time commitment and we are grateful for their participation.

### Parishioners Recognitions

- In June 2019 the Growing Healthy Stewards Committee had a luncheon and several parishioners received recognitions for their volunteering in various ways at St. Matthew over the years. A Plaque with their names was also presented.

### Sharing our Stories

- We started sharing our stories with the congregation on why as a parishioner we participate in the capital campaign. We welcome other parishioners to share their story and you can contact anyone on the Growing Healthy Stewards Committee if you would like to volunteer.

### Stewardship Corner

- A suggestion is made for a Stewardship Corner that would be strategically located on the George Henry side of the building. The idea is to have a table to put stewardship material on. We would have a pop-up banner and a small information table that would be maintained by the GHS committee. We would also have a thermometer with our capital campaign information. On the table we would have information such as PAR, Legacy Giving etc. We would also get information from the Diocese that could be very helpful. This motion was accepted at the Advisory Board and we are asking the Vestry to consider and pass this motion.

### Contractors

- The Growing Healthy Stewards committee is in the process of contacting contractors for potential projects such as accessible washrooms.

Respectfully submitted,  
Delores Lawrence



## SOCIAL JUSTICE AND OUTREACH

1. St. Matthew's has reached out to help our neighbours in many ways with our Faithworks donations:

- Toronto Urban Native Ministries: \$500
- North York General Hospital Neonatal Unit: \$500
- Oriole Foodspace (our local Foodbank): \$500
- North York Women's Shelter: \$500
- Moorelands (Toronto charity working with children and youth from lower income neighbourhoods) \$500

2. St. Matthew's Outreach Activities:

- Doctrine of Discovery (4 Week Advent Film and Discussion Series based on the Anglican Church of Canada film on Indigenous Centre)
- Moorelands Baby Bundles drive received many donations
- Reverse Advent Calendar Food Drive: 687 pounds of food taking up 30 boxes in 2 vans to deliver to the Food Bank
- Oriole Food Space-North York Harvest Foodbank (4 volunteers)
- Good Food Market (St. Matthew's parish volunteers, in partnership with Food Share, offer a not-for-profit food market to the community in the summer. The sale of fresh and healthy produce at an affordable price addresses the issues of food access, scarcity and affordability in the local area. Thank you to Kyn and Gwynne Barker and all the volunteers who helped run this in the summer.)
- Forest Manor Reading Program (St. Matthew's parish volunteers run the after-school reading program at Forest Manor Public School for 30 weeks a year. They read one-on-one with grade one students and help improve reading and language skills.) (St. Matthew's parish volunteers run the after-school reading program at Forest Manor Public School for 30 weeks a year. They read one-on-one with grade one students and help improve reading and language skills.)

3. Refugee Sponsorship/Newcomer Support:

St. Matthew's refugee sponsorship came out of a motion at Vestry in February 2016 to sponsor a refugee family. Our family arrived on June 1, 2017. We were fully responsible for them financially until May 31, 2018. Now, we continue to support them as needed in their second year as they become established.

Thank you to all members of St. Matthew's who donated their time and money to our various Outreach endeavours. As we continue to discern how we are called to use our recovered space, we should keep further Outreach in mind.

Respectfully submitted,  
Anne Creighton

## SYNOD

### **The 159th Regular Session of Synod held November 8-9 2019**

On November 8 and 9th I had the privilege of representing St Matthew's along with Reverends Lisa and John and the Venerable Arch Deacon Kyn Barker at the 159th Regular Synod meeting which was held in Richmond Hill and attended by approximately 600 clergy and Laypeople.

This was the first Synod presided over by our new Bishop, Andrew Asbil. Friday was a full day starting at 10:30 with a service and going through to 9 PM. Saturday started at 8:30 and we adjourned at 1 PM. In this report I have tried to touch on the highlights of the 2 days, a fuller summary can be found on the Diocesan web site.

Synod is an interesting event somewhat steep in tradition and very much scripted. For the most part, Bishop Andrew presided over the entire one and half days, sitting in front of synod and with the help of the Synod Secretary and Chancellor managed the agenda and kept the large audience very much engaged.

The highlight of the two days was Bishop Asbil's first charge to Synod where he addressed Synod for almost 35 minutes without referring to any notes. He used a great analogy from his youth when he cut lawns and shrubs as a summer job. He highlighted the need for cutting and pruning for growth, of letting go of dead wood and trying new things for the sake of the gospel. "It is not a time to be afraid; it is a time to have courage," he said which was meant for Synod as well as the parishes. His Charge also touched on a number of subjects, including discipleship, the proposed changes to the diocese's governance structure, General Synod's decision regarding the marriage canon and reflections on his first year as a bishop.

As in past synods, there are a few dry, albeit necessary, spots in the agenda dealing with past Synod minutes, financial reports, motions to tweak some Canon laws etc. In my mind, the Key decision made at this Synod was related to the Diocesan Governance, in effect, how the Diocese is run.

A motion to change the Diocesan governance model was presented which would update and stream line the working of the Diocesan Council. The changes recommended were:

- Diocesan Council and the Executive Board be amalgamated into one body called Synod Council.
- The size of Synod Council be reduced so that there will be a maximum of 25 members from the current 40
- Six committees be established: Audit Committee, Finance Committee, Property Committee, Human Resources Committee, Programs Committee and Risk and Governance Committee.
- Existing committees would be amalgamated.
- Members of the committees would not necessarily be members of Synod.
- The committees would have decision-making authority delegated to them with parameters established by Synod
- These changes would be part of a 2-year pilot.

The matter generated much discussion and debate. Several people felt that Synod would not have enough representation on the proposed Synod Council and committees. They also expressed concern about how the progress of the pilot project would be measured. Others said the proposed changes did not come with financial implications. Other Synod members supported the proposals, saying they would help to streamline the decision-making process, which is generally seen as too slow and unwieldy; they said the pilot project would allow the diocese to test and refine the changes during the pilot stage.

The motion required 75% approval in each of the houses of clergy and laity to succeed. It was approved in the house of laity but unfortunately and disappointing in my mind, received 74.3% in the house of clergy. Since the motion failed, the pilot will not start and the matter will be referred to the next regular session of Synod.

The late afternoon on Friday was taken up with breakout sessions on a variety of topics. I attended the session on Understanding the Diocesan Grants Process which was informative and I will pass on the information I took away to the wardens.

Dr. Sylvia Keesmatt was the guest speaker, she is an adjunct professor at Trinity College and Wycliffe College and the Biblical Scholar in Residence at St. James, Fenelon Falls. She spoke to Synod about The Biblical Story and human beings' place in it, as both "earth creatures" and the living spirit of God. Her multi part presentation was a thought provoking discussion on the bible's history intertwined with the environment.

Humans caring for the earth, God's creation, was a constant theme running through her talk. It is when humans strayed from this core purpose that calamity often happened, she said.

The second day of Synod was mostly taken up with normal housekeeping such as, reports to Synod, financial reports etc. as well as the election of 4 members of the Laity and 4 clergy to serve on Provincial Synod, which will be held in 2021. Of note, our parish assessment will remain unchanged for the next 2 years.

There were motions approved encouraging the diocese and the parishes to be more environmentally aware on the use of plastics etc. Please see the web site for additional information on this important topic.

Finally, A Word to the Bishop" was an hour-long, "open mic" session, much like Members Hour, specifically on the topic of same-sex marriage in the Church. It was intended to allow people to speak directly and openly to Bishop Andrew Asbil on the subject as he seeks to have new guidelines in place for the diocese by Pentecost 2020. Members were also invited to send written comments to him if they wished. Many people spoke and their comments can be seen on the diocese web site.

In a closing reflection, Bishop Andrew spoke about putting trust in "the One who comes back, every day." He spoke about churches that have returned to life because of the faith of people in them. He said that is the kind of faith that the diocese needs as we move forward together into the future.

Respectfully submitted  
Steve O'Keefe, Lay Member of Synod

Diocese of Toronto WebSite: [toronoto.anglican.ca](http://toronoto.anglican.ca)

## GOOD FOOD MARKET

The Good Food Market at St Matthews had another successful summer. We hosted 6 markets, served about 400 people and sold over \$1400 worth of produce, which we ordered from FoodShare Toronto.

This year the market was held on Tuesday from 3 to 6. By changing the market day, we hoped to get shoppers from the Kumon Math classes, which had changed their day from Thursdays to Tuesdays. Some of the parents waiting for their children purchased produce but it was not a large number.

Since each market requires about 50 hours of volunteer time, we are extremely grateful to the dedicated volunteers who worked with us this year. Nine of the fifteen market volunteers, including four high school students, were community members. The others were St. Matthew's parishioners. Also, more than half of the customers were from the Henry Farm and wider community, so this was a successful "Outreach" activity.

We had good weather for the first five markets. Heavy rain on the last day forced us inside but fortunately the customers were not deterred and came to shop anyway.

Our goal was to break even, selling the produce for as low a price as possible, while covering the costs. We did this and we were able to host a dinner for the volunteers at the end.

Any produce that was left over at the end of each Market was donated to the Oriole Foodspace, our local Food Bank, at the Oriole Community Centre.

A big thank you to all the volunteers, who gave their time and effort to make the Good Food Market at St. Matthew's a success.

Respectfully submitted,  
Archdeacon Kyn and Gwynne Barker

## CHOIR

Another year has passed and the repertoire of music has increased again as we continue to offer a wide range of music to compliment the liturgy throughout the year.

We have also relocated the choir room, Norma and Robbie Roberts helped with the purchase and construction of cupboards for the robes. We also received assistance from Elan and Geoff to move the filing cabinet to its new location.

Thanks to the choir for their continued dedication, working through coughs, colds, heat, cold and inclement weather.

The monthly organ recitals continue on the last Sunday of the month at 7.30 pm, from January to December.

Respectfully submitted,  
David Braund

## ALTAR GUILD

The 13 members of the Altar Guild work quietly, “behind the scenes” preparing for the Eucharist. We are responsible for preparing the Sanctuary, cleaning the brass and setting out the communion vessels on Saturday mornings and cleaning the vessels and laundering the altar linens after Sunday services. Supplies for the Eucharist are ordered and picked up. Flowers donated by parishioners are ordered and arranged. When no flowers are donated the members purchase flowers to decorate the altar. We also prepare for special services, funerals, baptisms and weddings.

There are many people to thank for enabling the Altar Guild to do this work.

The Altar Guild was busy over the Lent and Easter season, starting with the folding of palm crosses for Palm Sunday. Many services during Holy Week meant there were supplies to be bought and lots of linen to be cleaned. We thank the parishioners who generously donated funds for the Easter plants and flowers which decorated the Sanctuary and the narthex.

The church was decorated with fresh vegetables and fruit and other food items for Thanksgiving. A full van load of food was taken to Oriole Food Space for distributing to families in need in our community. Thank you to those who donated and to those who decorated.

The Altar Guild decorated the Sanctuary for Christmas in December. Parishioners were very generous with donations for Christmas plants and greenery so the church looked very festive. Thank you to all who donated money and to the members of the Altar Guild and other helpers, who came to decorate. Thanks to Norma and Robbie Roberts, who ordered and picked up the poinsettias and to Wendy Blatchford and John and Diane Wilton who picked up the greenery and set up the pine tree in the sanctuary. Geoff Newland and his family setup and took down the beautiful tree in the narthex. Many thanks for that.

Wendy Blatchford once again sold church calendars and raised some funds for the Altar Guild.

Our members, as well as the whole parish, were saddened by the death of our long time member, Nancy Camps. The liturgical banners on the wall in the church were donated as a memorial to Nancy by her Nursing Classmates. We miss her greatly.

We are grateful for the support of Rev. Lisa and Archdeacon Kyn.

I would like to thank the Altar Guild members for their work and dedication through the year.

Respectfully submitted,  
Gwynne Barker



## ENVELOPE SECRETARY

After being your envelope secretary for twenty years over the past forty, I am now retiring from the job. It has been a pleasure working for you. Sandra Lumb takes over the position in 2020. She will introduce new software to handle the recording and reporting of your donations. Despite the changes we may see, I know that you will support and encourage Sandra as you always have done for me.

As in the past, during 2019 statements were made available to all active donors for the periods of January to March and April to September. The final quarter statements along with the tax receipts have been available for pick up since January 5<sup>th</sup>, 2020. Any that have not been picked up will be mailed by the end of February. The 2020 envelopes have been available since December 2019.

This year's statements have included the amount you have pledged toward the Capital Campaign for Revitalization of our church. They also show how much you have paid toward your pledge, and the amount outstanding.

You may advise me of any errors or questions you have about the 2019 statements and receipts. If you wish to change your method of giving, or the details used for Pre-authorized giving, please contact Sandra at the church office and she will gladly make the required changes.

If you are not already a Pre-authorized Remittance donor, please consider using PAR. Regular designations to Outreach, Faithworks, Building Campaign etc. can be included. Once set up, your donation will be automatically withdrawn from your bank account or credit card at the middle of the month, without the need for you to think about it. Pew envelopes are always available for special donations. Par allows the church to receive a regular monthly income whether or not you are able to attend Sunday service.

<b>Statistics of Member Giving</b>	<b>Used 2019</b>	<b>Used 2018</b>
Weekly Envelopes	61	65
Monthly Envelopes	19	19
Pre-authorized Remittance (PAR)	20	19
Regularly Used Pew Envelopes	26	24
Average Weekly Donation to General Expenses	\$19.90	\$20.25

*The weekly averages are exclusive of money designated for Outreach, Building, Faithworks, PWRDF, etc. and other special appeals made during the year. Payments made through on-line agencies are not included since they do not go to the envelope secretary but go directly to the bookkeeper and are receipted by the agency used*

Respectfully submitted,  
Janice Sanders

## SIDESPEOPLE

*"Bless the Lord, all you His hosts. You who serve Him, doing his will."  
Psalm 103: 21*

Thank you everyone for your dedication to this ministry. Each one of you continue to do an amazing job of welcoming and assisting the priest and our congregation, to prepare for the weekly worship. Trevor Evans and his team at the 8am service continue to do a fine job welcoming and ushering as well.

Thanks to Sherry, Nigel, Sasha and Michael Jansz for stepping in and taking on the duties of Sides at the 4pm Christmas Eve pageant service. We are still looking for members to take care of the 7pm Christmas Eve service. If you wish to become a Sidesperson or you know of someone who would like to, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the Sides teams.

Thanks again to everyone for your continued dedication and support and I look forward to another exciting year.

Sincerely submitted,  
Valerie Seales, Chair Sidespersons 10:00 a.m.  
On behalf of Trevor Evans, Chair Sidesperson 8:00 a.m.

## HOSPITALITY

The hospitality team was very busy during 2019 starting off with the Pan Cake Supper in March followed by the Healthy Stewardship dinner in April. The team was also very busy helping with the receptions at 6 funeral services, allowing families to gather, reminisce, and celebrate the lives of their loved ones. We also convened the St. Matt's Cafe at the November Christmas Market.

Thank you to the small, but very dedicated team who give of themselves always at short notice.

Respectfully,  
Valerie Seales, Chair Hospitality

*"Remember to always appreciate all the different people in your life"*

## NURSERY

The Nursery has room for sleepers, creepers and toddlers when Church School is in session. A lectionary based programme is provided. The under four year old children use the Sparks children's Bible and worksheets to help them learn about God and Jesus. They put stickers on the worksheets to learn the stories from the Bible and then take them home so the families can use them to talk about God's love for us and our response such as bringing in food bank donations to help others.

We sing songs, read books, have prayers and play with the toys to reinforce the Bible readings of the day: "If you're happy and you know it... say Amen", "Guess who is coming to our manger?".

During summer and winter breaks the children of all ages are welcome in the Nursery to do a craft response to the Bible story of the day. The children this year learned and then sang songs during the Baptism services: in June and September: "I am the Church, you are the Church, we are the Church together" and The Fruit of the Spirit song. They loved learning the lyrics and had fun with the verse "If kindness was a banana I'd want to be a bunch as massive as Montana". (The version we used is on YouTube "Holy Spirit Song").

During the Bazaar some children and parents visited the Nursery to do some Bible crafts and to experience the room setting and to hear how the day is structured on Sundays; Children are welcome to stay in Church during the service or to come to the Nursery. Parents or caregivers may stay or leave as the child becomes used to a different person and the activities.

Thanks are given to those who donated toys, books and craft items and who helped change the bulletin boards and helped the children learn about God's love.

There are over 30 children who have attended the Nursery, Church School and Messy Church. We pray daily that the children continue to grow in God's love.

Respectfully submitted,  
Dian Wilton

## SUNDAY SCHOOL

Sunday School is set up in the Fellowship Hall from September to May. Although our Sunday attendance ranged from 0 to 15, our weekly average remained at 6. Good Friday, Easter and Christmas are big attendance days when the children participate in the church service. On Good Friday the children brought in Holy Week items to place before the Cross, presented their song at Easter and their pageant at Christmas. They also presented the St. Matthew skit for our Patronal festival.

Sunday School takes a break for Christmas and summer holidays but a program is provided for the children by Diane Wilton.

In October our seasonal Activity Days were replaced by a monthly Messy Church morning followed by lunch. As it was Thanksgiving the October focus was God's promise of a Harvest using the stories of Abraham and Sarah. December we focussed on Advent and Christmas and collected socks and mitts for the homeless. These were all enthusiastically enjoyed by the children and their parents. Look for more Messy Church mornings in the coming year.

These activities could not happen without our very faithful helpers and supporters. Your help is much appreciated.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan Porter

## TRAVEL ADVENTURE SERIES

Beginning in September, 2019 St. Matthew the Apostle Oriole launched a new initiative – the Travel Adventure Series. Parishioners present illustrated talks of their travels to various parts of the world in order to share those experiences with others, and to provide a venue for fellowship. The presentations take place on a Thursday evening each month (except December, June, July and August), beginning with a potluck supper at 6:00 p.m., followed by the presentation at 7:00. The series has been highly successful -- attendances varying from 20-35; splendid presentations; and lively discussions. We meet in the Fellowship Hall, making good use of the new audio-video equipment. Following is the schedule for 2019-2020, as well as details of supper preparation and availability of rides. Plans have already been made for a number of exciting illustrated talks beginning in Fall, 2020. Special thanks to the presenters (all outstanding!), Bonnie LaRue, Dennis Chambers and Jane Couchman.

### 2019 Schedule

- Thursday, Sept. 19: *Antarctica* (Bruce and Bonnie LaRue)  
Thursday, Oct. 17: *Travelling the Inca Trail: Machu Picchu and the Amazon* (Andrew Barker and Megan Templeton)  
Thursday, Nov. 21: *The Caribbean You May Not Know* (Bill Found and Jane Couchman)

### 2020 Schedule

- Thursday, Jan. 16: *China* (Kathy Chalmers)  
Thursday, Feb. 6: *Turkey (including Ephesus)* (John and Diane Wilton)  
Thursday, March 19: *A Family Adventure in Newfoundland* (Gwynne and Kyn Barker and Family)  
Thursday, April 23: *Carnival – Trinidad and Toronto* (Valerie Seales)  
Thursday, May 21: *A Family Adventure in the Bay of Fundy, N.B.* (Rev. Lisa and Family)

**Location:** Fellowship Hall, St. Matthew's Church

**Time:** 6:00 to 8:00/8:30 p.m.

**Potluck Supper:** Every family/group brings a dish to serve 4-6 people. Everyone brings their own plate(s), cutlery, glass and beverage. At the end everyone takes home what they brought including dirty dishes. General cleanup is reduced to putting away a serving table and tablecloth. Efficient and easy!

**Rides:** The Men's Group (contact Dennis Chalmers ([dj\\_chalmers@sympatico.ca](mailto:dj_chalmers@sympatico.ca); tel: (416) 502-3145) will provide transportation for anyone who could not otherwise attend the event.

Submitted by  
Bill Found, Coordinator, Travel Adventure Series



## PROPOSED VESTRY MOTION



**Diocese of Toronto**  
Anglican Church of Canada

### **Diocesan Social Justice Vestry Motion 2020**

#### **Taking Action on Climate Change**

Our 2020 Social Justice Vestry Motion calls for strong federal action on climate change that will enable Canada to meet the emissions reduction targets of the Paris Accord, support a just transition to a low-carbon economy, particularly for workers employed in the oil and gas industries, and assist Indigenous and coastal communities and other vulnerable populations, to adapt to and mitigate the impacts of climate change on their local environments. It also invites parishes to commit to increasing their own efforts to lower greenhouse gas emissions, in a way that is appropriate and achievable for them.

## PROPOSED NOMINATIONS

### MEMBERS OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:

Val Seales, Margaret Allen, Norma Walker Roberts, Delores Lawrence, Ann Padmore,  
Joy Walker, Rev. Lisa Newland

### NOMINATIONS:

People's Warden	Margaret Gordon Allen
Deputy Wardens	Norma Walker Steve O'Keefe
Member of Synod (1)	Steve O'Keefe
Alternate Member of Synod	Delores Lawrence
Envelope Secretary	Sandra Lumb
Signing Officers	Val Seales Margaret Gordon Allen Norma Walker Roberts Joy Walker Steve O'Keefe
Property Managers	Elan Seales Robbie Roberts
Parochial Tribunal	Brian Edmonds Helen Edmonds
Archivist	
Hospitality	Valerie Seales Margaret Allen
Outreach Chair	Anne Creighton
Stewardship Chair	Delores Lawrence
Fundraising Chair	
Sidespersons Chairs	Lesley Huether (8:00 a.m.) Valerie Seales (10:00 a.m.)
Parish Council Member(s) At Large (2)	Shyamal Ray Adjoa Winful

## APPOINTMENTS:

Rector's Warden	Valerie Seales
Treasurer	Sandra Lumb
Auditor	Gord Mount
Vestry Clerk	
Sunday School Director	Susan Porter
Nursery Director	Diane Wilton
Altar Guild	Gwynne Barker
Parish Council Members	Joy Walker
At Large (2)	Sasha Jansz