

ANNUAL REPORT 2023

CHURCH OF ST JOHN THE EVANGELIST, ELORA



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RECTOR'S REPORT

This year has been about living more fully into the four priorities of our vision. As we emerged out of the pandemic in 2023 life was about rebuilding our confidence to gather in-person and slowly we re-discovered the joys of being together again for liturgies, receptions, rehearsals, studies and fellowship.

It happened for me on Easter Sunday and then at the Coronation Evensong. Those were the significant moments at St. John's that we hadn't experienced since March 2020: a church full of people, joyfully gathering to be inspired and nourished as we celebrated the resurrection of our Lord on Easter Sunday and then the occasion of the Coronation of King Charles III in May. Those were memorable turning points for us.



“And let us consider how to provoke one another to love and good deeds, not neglecting to meet together, as is the habit of some, but encouraging one another.” (Hebrews 10:25)

Appropriately and necessarily, the primary pillar of our vision is to **Proclaim the Love of Christ**. We do this in all kinds of ways as a gathered and sent community of faith. We gather faithfully and regularly in six different liturgical events, each of them with distinctive congregations: three liturgies on a Sunday morning, a monthly Evensong, a monthly Compline, and a weekly Wednesday liturgy. These liturgies and other seasonal festivals meant that our average weekly attendance in 2023 was 150 people. That is a clear indication of the confidence we have recovered to be together again.

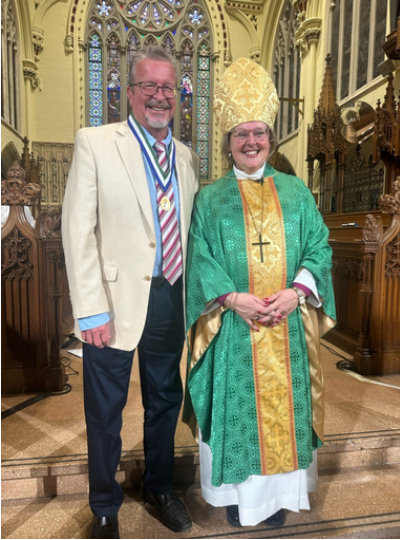
This year we welcome 12 new people to St. John's.

“As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, continue to live your lives in him, rooted and built up in him and established in the faith, just as you were taught, abounding in thanksgiving.” (Colossians 2:6,7)

Learning opportunities allowed us to engage one another and deepen our faith:

- Lent Book Study on Patti Krawec's book, *Becoming Kin: An Indigenous Call to Unforgetting the Past and Reimagining our Future*;
- the series on Being Anglican and the study on the Gospel of Mark, both led by Rev'd John Lockyer;
- the fall book study on Brian McLearn's book, *Do I Stay Christian: a Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned*;
- the TRC learning and reflection group coordinated by Guinevere Kern;
- the Parish Retreat led by Canon Drew MacDonald on “Stages of Faith Development”.

The Monday night Bible Study with residents of Portage is a gift of grace for all engaged. It has been faithfully led by Peter Scott (for 32 years), Dave Tinker (for 22 years) and Sharon Barrett (for 12 years). They are joined more recently by Rod Murray and Kimberley McGregor and they welcome more of you to become involved. That's over 60 years of faithful service and witness to the gospel in our community.



In all of this we are called to **engage and involve** people. The endlessly creative energy of the Knitters and Quilters embody this for us. The Orange Feather project in September, the Poppy Project in November, and the Christmas Puddings in December continues to engage people from the community and the region and become opportunities to build bridges for conversation.

I am delighted that Elizabeth Litch was honoured with the Florence Nightingale Award in July and Jurgen Petrenko was honoured with the Order of Niagara in October. Both Elizabeth and Jurgen are faithful witnesses to the love of God in our community and we rejoice with them.

The Patronal Festival, the Canada Day lemonade, the World Day of Prayer service, the Men's Dinner group, the livestream team, the Pancake Supper, Altar Guild, Flower Guild, Greeters and the Reader's Guild are ways to engage and involve people in the life of the parish, and they all require an immense amount of resources from parishioners to make it happen.

We are blessed with the work of our **musical outreach** under the capable and creative direction of Patrick Murray and Jurgen Petrenko. The ambitious number of concerts, the Elora Children's Choir - under Kate Wright's capable direction - the Song Circle with Stan Litch, the Volunteer Choir, the Complaine Choir, the organ rebuild project, and our continued partnership with The Elora Festival and The Elora Singers continues to be a charism of the parish that engages people deeply. Thank you Patrick, Jurgen and the members of the Parish Choir for your leadership and commitment.



A courageous priority of our vision is the **Open Doors Project**. This year, with Vestry's approval and some architectural conceptual renderings, we began the process of seeking regulatory approvals from the diocese, the township, and the Bereavement Authority of Ontario. As you are aware, this is a big project and I am grateful for your engagement.

As we seek to fulfill the vision priority of Open Doors we are fine tuning costs, funding and grant sources to prepare for a Special Vestry. In all of this I am learning the importance of rooting the project in our baptismal vow of respecting the dignity of every human being. This is really important.



In conversations with people I hear views expressed of full endorsement, to views of caution, and views of resistance. We learn from one another in expressing our views because they all represent different perspectives.

When thinking about Open Doors Project it is important to remember that the goal is not only to bring our electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems up to a necessary level which can sustain the activities held in our historical buildings, but also to make our buildings accessible for people who cannot use our washrooms and reception space. As we serve our growing community and recognize the needs of our own demographic, it is clear that increasing numbers of people are excluded from our activities because of mobility challenges. We are becoming a community that privileges the able-bodied exclusively.



If our baptism vow calls us to respect the dignity of every human being, I believe that includes people in our midst with mobility challenges. The community at large needs an accessible space with commercial kitchen to address growing food security challenges and to provide a place to gather for receptions, book groups, service clubs and twelve step programs.

Thank you to Peter Barr and Colleen Murray who are co-chairing this project, and with Thomas Littlewood's creative support, capably guiding us through a complex process and carefully listening. It is imperative that we listen to one another in this process and thereby discern God's call for us as we seek to serve our community.

“And this is my prayer, that your love may overflow more and more with knowledge and full insight to help you to determine what is best, so that on the day of Christ you may be pure and blameless, having produced the harvest of righteousness that comes through Jesus Christ for the glory and praise of God.” (Philippians 1:9-11)

Beyond my work in the parish I continue, by Bishop's appointment, to serve as Regional Dean for the Greater Wellington Region and a coordinator of the Staring Well Program - a program to help orientate and support people in the first year of their ordained leadership roles.

It was sad to say farewell to Mardy and Walter Langford as they relocated to Ottawa in November.

I am grateful to our honorary assistants, Rev'd John Lockyer, Rev'd Judy Steers, and Canon Robert Hulse. Your support, wisdom and commitment is a gift.



To our staff team: Patrick, Jurgen, Thomas and Garry. You do your work with integrity and faithfulness, and it is always a joy to work alongside you.

Gratitude to our Wardens: Jeff, Pam, Jon and Jane; our Treasurer, Andrew; bookkeeper, Susan; bulletin creator, voicemail and email manager, Linda; and Columbarium coordinator, Pat. Thank you for your outstanding commitment that allows the parish to function administratively with grace.

"I thank my God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in every one of my prayers for all of you." (Philippians 1:3)

I look forward with great confidence and gratitude to all that God is calling us to in the coming years, and consider it a privilege and honour to continue to serve as your Rector and parish priest.

Faithfully in Christ,
Paul+

ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

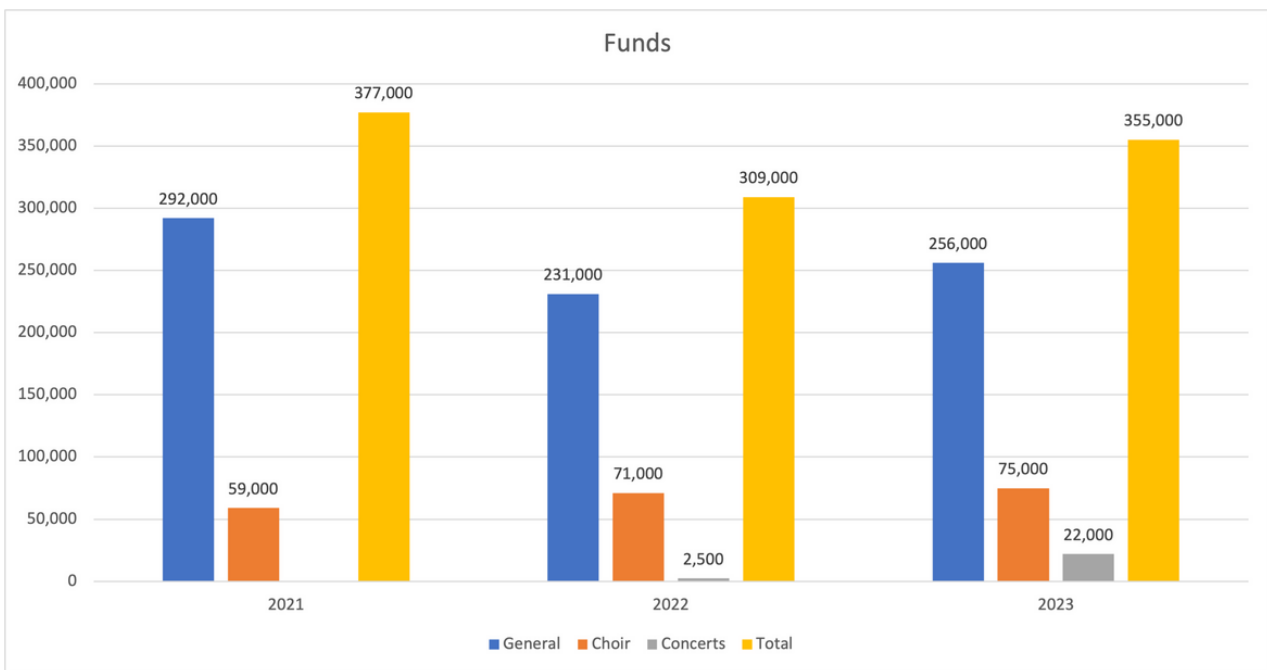
I can't help but think that we're back! We had a full festival, a flurry of Christmas services, and many of our pre-pandemic gatherings and faith formation activities. It has been a joy to support you all and Paul in ministry here at St. John's.

On a personal note, Rebecca and I were so touched by your generous gift for our wedding and honeymoon. We had a wonderful time in New Zealand gallivanting around North Island in our very large camper van. Highlights included a boat ride to Cathedral Cove (pictured), beaches, wildlife, and fantastic seafood. We weren't able to make it to South Island, so we will need to go back!

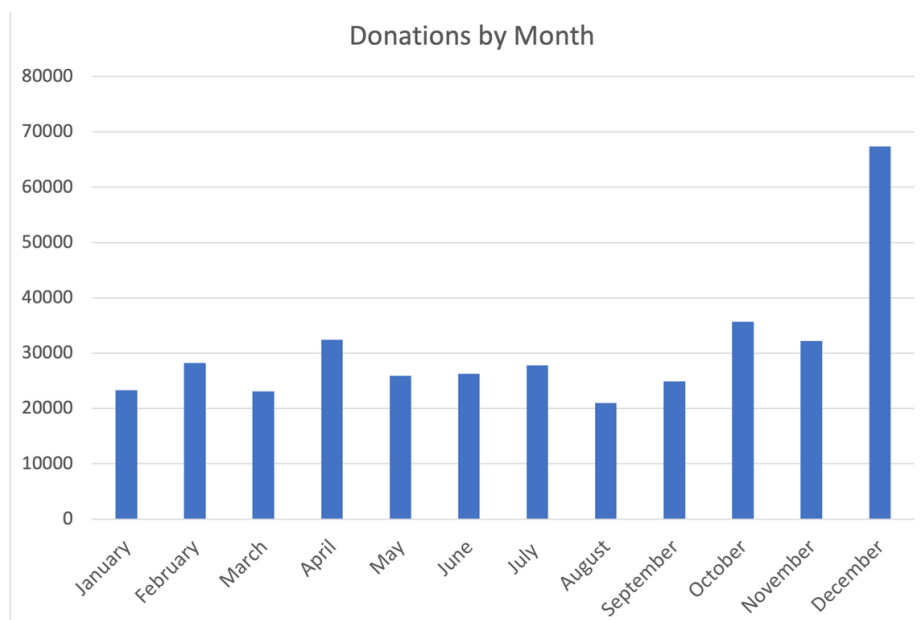


Back at St. John’s, much of my work this year has been concentrated on getting Safe Church acknowledgements signed, setting up a cloud-based document storage system, managing givings, and (increasingly) the Open Doors project. I wanted to spend the bulk of my report presenting some material that I think will be helpful as members of Vestry.

The graph below shows contributions to the various funds at the church: the general fund (blue), the choir fund (orange), monies raised at recitals (grey), and the total revenue (yellow). As you can see, donations are up significantly from last year-- **a total of 13%**. St. John’s has 148 regular donors--that is donors that have given 5 times or more in 2023 and 275 individual donors. Our average weekly attendance for 2023 is 150, up 20 over 2022. This is a good news story! At Vestry, we will welcome 12 new members, and we welcomed 9 in 2022. The church is alive and well in Elora.



One of the quirks of our givings patterns at St. John’s is that we receive almost a quarter of our yearly donations in the month of December. This is, in part, a reflection of our well-attended choral liturgies at that time of year. But it is something to think about when making your weekly contribution to the parish.



One of my goals this year was to resurrect the parish newsletter, *Common Supplications*. Two issues ran in 2023, and I'd like to have three in 2024. As parish administrator, I also work as clerk to Parish Council, Corporation, and the Open Doors team.

The Rector often says that we have the 'dream team' at St. John's Elora, and I think he's right. It's a pleasure to work with all of you, and with Patrick, Jurgen, and Garry. I look forward to more growth, more joy, and more spreading God's love in 2024.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Littlewood

PARISH REGISTER

Baptism

Mason Thomas Dolby-Johnson
May 21, 2023

Madeline Rita Sisolak
June 1, 2023

Marriage

Diana Marie Petrenko and David Alexander
Coutts
August 19, 2023

Jennifer Michelle Lockyer Guglick and
Andrew Christopher Harbinson
November 10, 2023

Burials

Mary Catherine Copp
d. January 16, 2023

Joyce Eileen Hill
d. January 28, 2023

Philip Graham Dunsmore
d. April 6, 2023

Diana Audrey Faye Gonzalez
d. May 23, 2023

Maureen Reid
d. June 6, 2023

Glenda Irene Slater
d. July 11, 2023

Barbara Young Maxwell
d. August 3, 2023

William Gordon McDougall
d. October 1, 2023

Bruce Whitestone
d. October 15, 2023

Clive Brown
d. October 22, 2023

Brenda Joan Francisco
d. October 30, 2023

Mary Nancy Abbott
d. November 15, 2023

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord.
And may light perpetual shine upon them.



WARDENS' REPORT

This Annual Report represents the work of hosts of volunteers, staff, and clergy over the last year. Thank you all for your ongoing commitment to St. John's.

This year, Bishop Susan Bell chose the theme of "Stewarding God's Gifts for Mission" as the theme for Synod—and that struck a chord here at St. John's. We have so many gifts to steward: financial resources, music, volunteers, relationships. All of these are given so that we can share God's love across Centre Wellington, and that's what we do at St. John's.

Proclaim the Love of Christ

This is our very foundation as Christians. We are called to bear witness to the Gospel and to show God's love to all we meet. At St. John's we do this through our regular livestreaming, our columbarium, the Portage ministry, and so many other initiatives. Everything we do—music, learning, reconciliation—are all done to the Glory of God.

2023 was the first year since 2019 that we were able to fully live into our liturgy and worship at St. John's. Christmas Eve services were a particular pleasure as that joy was curtailed in 2022 by a severe snow storm. Our own Jurgen Petrenko was awarded the Order of Niagara by Bishop Susan in recognition of his many years of dedicated service to St. John's and to the Diocese. Well done, Jurgen! Much deserved! Elizabeth Litch was awarded the Florence Nightingale Community Service Award by St. John's and the Elora Festival. We are blessed to have Elizabeth's textile arts as part of our 'fabric' at St. John's—Elizabeth created the seasonal banners on the wall near the organ and designed and created many of our altar frontals. Congratulations, Elizabeth! We are continually thankful for the Rev. John Lockyer and the Rev. Judy Steers for their ongoing commitment to our shared life.



Engage and Involve

Our livestream, which is so expertly managed by the Livestream Guild, is a critical pathway for engagement and mission. We know that many of our new people at St. John's come to us after having watched the livestream from home. This is indeed missional work. Thank you to Rod, Gerry, Heather, Jon, and Colleen for your dedication to this ministry.

The Coronation of King Charles III gave us an extraordinary chance to have a wonderful Coronation Evensong followed by our Patronal Luncheon. Many thanks to Pam Gradwell, Bob Cooper, and the Parish Choir for their hard work. It was a true feast!

We were nourished by the Rev. Canon Drew MacDonald at our Parish Retreat in October. Drew spoke passionately about the "Stages of Faith," and challenged us to grow and mature in our faith. The highlight, though, was a cake for the Rector's 60th birthday!

To improve our visibility in the community, we installed new signs in front of the church and on the Parish Centre. This will help people recognize who we are and where we are. Many thanks to Shirley Al for designing the signs and to the Sign Maker in Mount Forest for his professional work.

The Poppy Project grew again this year. We installed a 40-foot banner at the Wellington County Museum and Archives, and we continue to receive media attention for this wonderful project. The Knitters and Quilters have dedicated an enormous amount of time and energy into the Poppy Project over the last several years. As you'll see in their report, they're asking for more knitted/crocheted poppies to refresh the banners for this year.

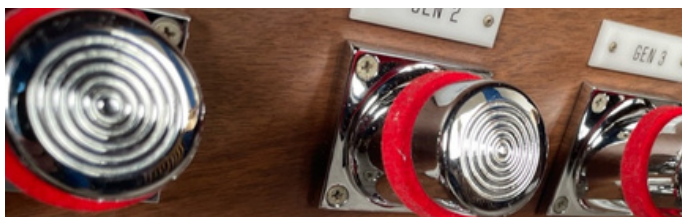
The Knitters and Quilters also initiated a project to mark Truth and Reconciliation Day in September. With their guidance, parishioners were invited to tie a fabric feather onto a piece of netting which was then installed around the church to symbolize our commitment to Truth and Reconciliation. Feathers, especially eagle feathers, are deeply meaningful for many Indigenous nations. They represent a connection with the Creator and are often used in Indigenous ceremonies.



Musical Outreach

In the fall, Patrick launched an ambitious series of concerts in support of the musicians of the former Kitchener Waterloo Symphony. The concert series was very well received, and A Christmas in Wales was the highlight. The church was filled to capacity! The regular Compline liturgies continue, and Patrick has built a dedicated group of singers. On Good Friday, the Volunteer Choir joined with the Parish Choir to sing the liturgy, and it was wonderful to see both choirs together.

We were also blessed to have three new members of the Parish Choir join us in September: Rachel Barreca, Jennifer Krabbe, and Sharang Sharma. They, along with the rest of the Parish Choir, centre our worship in choral music and are so central to what we do at St. John's. With an eye to regularizing and standardizing our processes, we re-negotiated all of the choir contracts this year to make sure that they were up to industry standard. We're looking forward to more opportunities to hear the Parish Choir outside of our liturgies later on this year.



Kate Wright has launched a very successful Children's Choir with over 20 enthusiastic youth. They premiered last year during the end-of-season choir concert, and it's a joy to have them in our church. We are looking forward to the Children's Choir participating in the liturgy on March 3, 2024. Thank you to Kate for her leadership on this project.

Another new musical initiative was launched this year. Stan Litch joins a group of singers in the Parish Centre on Fridays for the Song Circle. Accompanied by Stan on his ukulele, this group sings songs old and new (mostly old), tells stories, and has a lot of fun doing it.

The Volunteer Choir sings two Sundays a month at the 9AM liturgy. They are an enthusiastic and talented group that brings joy and beauty to that liturgy.

The installation of the new organ console continues. The console itself has been in place for several months, but the new electronic stops have yet to be integrated. Jurgen is hopeful that the upgrades will be ready for a fanfare on Easter Sunday. In addition to a new organ console, we also installed upgraded microphones to enhance our livestream capabilities and to allow us to produce professional-grade recordings. The microphone wires are a bit obtrusive at present, but we are working on a solution.

Gratitude to Patrick, Jurgen, Stan, the Parish Choir, and the Volunteer Choir for living out this priority so well for us. We so appreciate your work, dedication, and time.

Open Doors

Much work has taken place on the Open Doors project. Peter Barr and Colleen Murray are capable co-Chairs, and they (along with the organizing team) are working hard to explore how to create an accessible, barrier-free church and reception space. This is about bringing to life our baptismal vow of protecting the dignity of all people.

Currently, the Open Doors team is refining the budget, and working with the municipality, the Diocese, and Bereavement Authority of Ontario. There is much work to do yet, and there will be several opportunities to learn, question, and pray about this part of our life together. There will also be at least two Special Vestries in the next year to approve various stages of the plan. In the meantime, if you have questions, please get in touch with Peter Barr, Colleen Murray, or the Rector.

Givings

The Church in Elora depends on your generous donations and financial support. Thomas has included some information about givings in the Administrator's Report, but it is important for the Wardens to highlight a few matters. First—we're growing! And we have much to be thankful for—and much work to do. To that end, as you will see in the 2024 budget, we rely on the generosity of those who have gone before us to fund our operations. That's what our endowment funds are for, but it is also important for current parishioners to support the operation of the parish. The Wardens invite you to prayerfully consider how you might be able to further your support to St. John's.

We are very grateful for the hard work and wise counsel of our Treasurer, Andrew Hirst.

Final Words

Jane Houlding and Jeff Ostic are leaving the Wardens team this year, and we are grateful for their continued support and they're hard work. Garry Cantlon, our sexton, does a huge amount of work behind the scenes to keep our buildings in tip-top shape. Thank you Garry! Thanks are due, as well, to a number of people who are critical to our collective work: Linda Coultes, Pat Ellis, Ken Edwards, Susan Hirst, Peter Barr, and Colleen Murray. We are grateful for your work and dedication.

Respectfully submitted,

Pam Gradwell, Jeff Ostic, Jane Houlding, Jon Warland



BUILDING AND PROPERTY

It has been a busy year and very exciting to support, at long last, the full range of St. John's numerous activities. Many thanks to Garry Cantlon for his tireless presence and dedicated efforts, and it is very much a pleasure to work with him. As well many sincere thanks to Dinah and Gordon Bristowe for their weekly gardening and tending of the grounds. This was the second year to welcome the Elora Festival back into our space, and all went well for the summer concerts. We are excited to see how the Open Doors work will impact our needs, but some minor updates could not be postponed. We replaced the drainage pump in the Thompson Hall kitchen last May (thanks to all who took dishes home to wash before the plumber could arrive) and this summer we upgraded our failing lawn mower and snow blower to battery-powered versions, which have worked very well, and are much easier to maneuver. The upgraded sound system is working well, and we are investigating further work to improve the visual appeal and potentially install cameras to facilitate continuing our livestreams. Many thanks to all for your support!

Respectfully submitted
Jon Warland

CHRIST CHURCH DRAYTON

Christ Church Chapel in Drayton has 45 members, 22 of whom are active. Services are held each Sunday at 10:00 a.m. with Canon Robert Hulse and occasional guest preachers. The first three Sundays of the month are the Eucharist, and the fourth Sunday of the month is Matins, followed by coffee and tea.

In 2023 we held special services for Mothering Sunday (March 19th), Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas, with an Evensong for the 150th Anniversary (a year late because of the pandemic) in October followed by tea at the Drayton Legion. Our guest preacher was the Rev. Cathy Crawford-Browning. We had one baptism this year.

A Community Garden was started at the rear of the church building and two memorial trees were planted in the spring.

Outreach donations were made to:
St. Bartholomew's Church Food Bank, Toronto.
Wycliffe College, University of Toronto.
Knox Presbyterian Church, Elora - Steeple Restoration Fund
Ukraine emergency relief fund.

Faithfully submitted,
Stella Blundell



PROCLAIM THE LOVE OF CHRIST

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild continues to support the worship at St. John's through preparation and clean up of Eucharist services, the maintenance of candles and accessories and the changing of frontals (thank you as always to Elizabeth Litch for our magnificent frontals).

With the retirement of the Church Sacristan - Chris Rynberk - during 2023 the duties of ordering worship supplies and the changing of candles have been shared out between the Altar Guild, Thomas Littlewood and Garry Cantlon. Many thanks to Chris for his service as the Sacristan. Thanks to all those who have stepped up to cover these duties.

In 2023, we also said goodbye to longtime member Mardy Langford as she moved to Ottawa. Mardy was a wonderfully supportive member of the Altar Guild whose cheerful and willing presence is deeply missed.

Meg Pritchard has joined us this year and has been invaluable particularly in dealing with some of our more challenging ironing tasks. Jeanne Houston has also offered to help with laundering the worship linens which is much appreciated.

We continue to look for a couple of volunteers who attend the 9 o'clock service. This service is a Eucharist each week which involves set up, clear up and a small amount of laundry duty. If you attend this service and would be willing to help, please get in touch with either Pam or Susan.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Gradwell & Susan Hirst



Columbarium

As in 2022 the Ministry of the Columbarium has been very active. Three niches remain to be sold with interest in two as of this date. This Ministry provides one with a most unique experience in assisting those who are grieving and experiencing the passing of a meaningful person in their lives. A poignant part of the Interment process is selecting the plaque inscription and I am most grateful to Joanne at Fergus Monuments for the time and personal effort she puts forth for each of our families. The Columbarium expansion will depend upon the future building plans of the Parish.

Interments 8
Niche Sales 6
Interviews 6
Phone calls 56
Home visits 1
Administration 40 hours
Please see financial statements for the Columbarium Account report.



Respectfully submitted,
Pat Ellis

Flower Guild

Your Altar Flower Guild is a group of 7 individuals who create lovely floral displays and have fun doing it. We take turns to prepare the floral weekly arrangements for the Altar. We gather to make larger creative displays for important seasons such as Christmas and Easter.

A request for flowers to be placed on the Altar in memory of a loved one, or in celebration of an important event gives us the opportunity to include a favourite colour or certain blooms in a special arrangement. Elaine Dightham, our Memorial Flowers coordinator passes on your requests for memorial flowers to the Altar Guild. Although \$90 is often suggested for memorial flowers, we are happy to prepare a special display with any donation.

We are always pleased to include new members in our Altar Flowers Guild. Feel free contact me through the church office if you are interested in joining our Altar Flower Guild, or if you simply want to help out from time to time. We'd love to include you in the fun!

Respectfully submitted
Dawn McClure



Livestream Guild

With the gradual return to in-person attendance at St John's, the Technology Team has adapted and revised the livestreaming of services, as well as the technology that is used to deliver them. We continue to have an active presence on Social Media.

Livestream Production

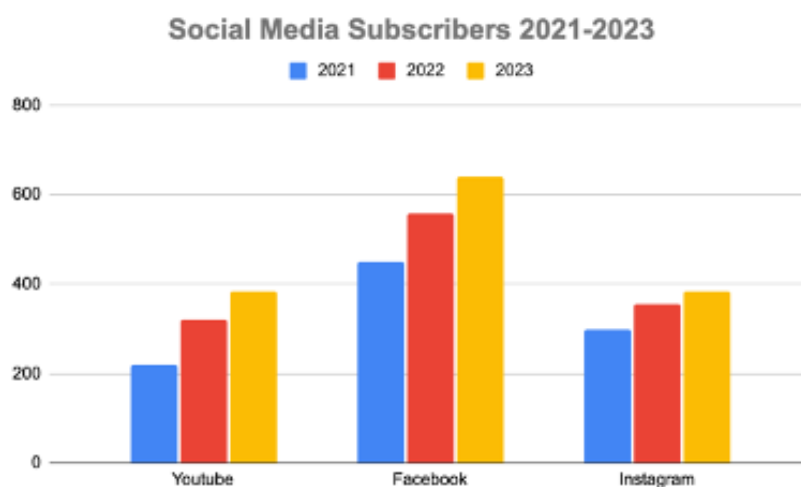
In April the Livestream station was moved to the back behind the pews and rewired to allow for the use of the Baptismal Font and return the seating to congregational use. In the Fall, we upgraded our microphones to deliver better quality sound from the chancel and sanctuary, as well as a high quality Digital Audio Converter and Recorder that delivers superior sound to the Switcher Studio software used to create the livestream. Patrick Murray coordinated the installation of these improvements.

The team met in September 2023 to determine whether there was adequate human resources to continue a weekly livestream and with the decision to recruit new volunteers to the team, the production of one weekly livestream continued. We also welcomed Heather Malek to the Tech Team. Her media experience has been an excellent addition. Scheduling one livestream per week has made better use of our team's human resources.

In 2022, while still in the throes of the Pandemic, real-time livestream viewership was 25-30. With the return to in-person attendance in 2023, typically 15-20 were watching. However, in the weeks following a livestream, many viewers from near and far continue to watch our services and often comment on their consistent high quality. Our Youtube channel, where livestreams are broadcast, grew from 319 to 384 subscribers. Subscribers receive immediate notification when a livestream begins. We believe this serves the needs of our immediate Parish community and beyond. As of January 2024, the channel has shown continued growth, now at 435 subscribers.

Social Media

A similar pattern of growth is apparent on our other Social Media platforms, Facebook and Instagram. They continue to provide information and engagement to Parish members and to the wider community. Regular content additions which feature photos, music, and messages from the Rector are always engaging with our audience. We have anecdotal reports of the impact of Social Media on the Parish Community, including those who cannot attend due to variety of circumstances, increased engagement of viewers, and those for whom the content we provide is a stepping stone to further Parish involvement.



Livestream Guild

The following is a list of tasks that are part of the Tech Team’s volunteer role:

- Preparing slides and uploading for use in Sunday Services & Events
- Equipment setup, launching & monitoring live-streamed services
- Selecting appropriate camera angles
- Collecting and cataloguing photographs
- Sourcing content, editing text, videos and photos, content creation
- Posts to social media
- Troubleshooting audio and video issues
- Equipment evaluation, acquisition and tracking
- Website maintenance and content uploads
- Social Media Analytics



The Livestream Guild consists of Gerry Hill, Heather Malek, Colleen Murray, Rod Murray, Jon Warland and the Rev. Canon Paul Walker.

Respectfully submitted,
Rod Murray



Readers’ Guild

Thank you so much to everyone who participated in services reading Scripture. Your collective contribution has enriched our worship experience.

Just counting the 11:00 am services plus evensongs and special festive services there are approximately 175 spots to fill in a year! I am pleased to say that from the pool of 50 readers, we have risen to the task.

I am excited to report that we have expanded our ranks thanks to those of you who have reached out to me. If I have not tapped you on the shoulder yet and you would like to participate, please contact me: patriciajreimer@gmail.com or 519-807-2614. Also, if there is a time of year or specific service that is meaningful to you, please let me know and I will pencil you in.

Thanks in advance for making my job a pleasure to do by replying to me with enthusiasm and in a timely fashion.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Reimer

ENGAGE AND INVOLVE

Men's Dinner

After a long hiatus due to Covid and pandemic concerns our Men's Night program recommenced in September of this year. Our long-time stalwarts – Norman Morris and Colin Fox decided it was time for them to take a back seat and passed the baton to myself and Jeff Ostic. We are ever grateful to them for their many years of service to the men of the parish, ensuring that we were well nourished with both excellent meals and great speakers. Steve Truchan and his team agreed to continue to provide us with outstanding fare for each evening – the pies are to die for!

With the help of Peter Scott and team we have also been able to reengage with Portage, inviting two residents each meeting to join us for the meal and speaker. The members of our group support this outreach by donating towards the cost of the meals of our visitors.

All men of the parish are welcome to attend – we meet on the first Wednesday of each month in Thompson Hall at 6pm for a 6:30 start – we encourage our members to invite friends and neighbours from outside of our congregation and to bring them to our meetings. The recommended payment for the meal is \$30 however all are welcome “by donation as they are able.”

Many thanks to our speakers this year: Fred Thompson, Gerry Punnett, Drs S.Gower and A Simpson, Michael Chong. Peter Barr and Colleen Murray, Wayne Simpson, Gerry Hill, Edward Thomas and last but not least Bob Cooper. One of the greatest challenges is finding speakers for the event – if you know of an interesting speaker or would like to present to the group, please let me know at: ihornsby0@gmail.com



Respectfully submitted
Ian Hornsby

Knitters and Quilters

Another year has passed and what a year this has been. Life changing experiences for me happened this year and this amazing group stood by me and upheld me with their love and faith. I cannot say thank you enough for everyone's support. I am truly blessed to have all of you in my life.

We had 5 projects this year and managed somehow to do them all with everyone pulling together as a team to accomplish these goals.

Feathers for TRC Day The Knitters and Quilters were able to make over 300 feathers from cloth. The display was to remind us to reflect in a thoughtful way about the children who did not return home from Residential Schools in Canada. The event of hanging the feathers on netting for display became an interactive event with about 60 people participating. The display was very moving in a sacred way.



All Things Bright and Beautiful Sale We received generous donations of jewelry and scarves and purses from members of the church, so thank you for that. These donations became our inventory to sell at the All Things Bright and Beautiful Sale that was held at the end of September. The Knitters and Quilters sorted, organized, and sold these items and we managed to raise \$727.10 which we in turn donated to the Choir Fund. A big thank you to everyone for supporting us in this endeavour. This sale may become an annual event.



Poppies The poppy display has become a tradition at St. John's as well as in and around Elora and Fergus. This year our group expanded our display by creating a banner for the columbarium, a forty-foot display for the Wellington Museum front steps, and added two new hangings for the downtown area in Elora. Our inventory of poppies is depleted, so please consider making more poppies for us as we can hardly wait to hear what Paul has in mind for this year. So, a huge thank you to the ladies who helped make and mount these poppies for display.

Christmas Puddings This was the project that almost did not happen. Life enveloped me and made organizing a challenge. We were going to make the puddings, and then not, but after I found out that all the dried fruit from my Mennonite grocer was, ready the puddings were back on. A big thank you to everyone who pitched in to make 110 pounds of puddings. I took over 30 of the puddings to Florida and they were just about all pre-sold before we arrived. The feedback I got from people here who purchased the puddings here was that they were delicious. Jane-Anne Murray and Pam Gradwell coordinated the sale of the puddings, and the great news is that we sold all of them and cleared close to \$2000.00 after expenses. We were able to maintain our prices even though our costs have risen. Again, thank you for supporting us by purchasing puddings and we will be back this year to share in another St. John's Christmas tradition. So start now saving 28 and 14 oz cans (828 and 414 ml) and bringing them to the church. They make great baking tins.

Prayer Shawls and Comfort Blankets

continue to make the shawls and comfort blankets and a lot the blankets have gone to Hospice care in Guelph. If you know of anyone who needs a little comfort just drop by on a Wednesday morning to get one of these beautiful creations or call the Church office and your request will be attended to by one of the Knitters and Quilters or by someone else at the church.



The monies we raise go back to the church for various initiatives. We were able to donate \$2,500 to the new signage. We also purchased the supplies for the TRC feathers and covered any new poppy installation costs.

Thank you to this wonderful group for all your efforts.

I want to acknowledge and welcome the new members who have joined our little group as we try to make it a warm and welcoming place.

If you are interested in joining us on Wednesday mornings from 9:30 to 12, please leave a voicemail for me through the parish office (519-846-5911) or contact me by email at gbdunsmore@gmail.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Barb Dunsmore



Portage

The Portage Ministry holds a Bible Study on Monday evenings at Portage, continuing under the leadership of Dave Tinker, Peter Scott, Rod Murray, Sharon Barrett and Kimberly McGregor. Late in the year, Kimberly stepped down from the role and we thank her for her support for the Girl's Study over the past years.

We met in-person on a regular basis this year with an occasional cancellation due to illness on site. Senior staff have been supportive and continue to see the role of outside volunteers as part of the residents' program.

A typical Monday meeting includes an opening prayer, offered by one of the residents, followed by singing. Using "Our Daily Bread" the passage and notes are read aloud. The residents are keen to listen, discuss and question the themes, often going far beyond the passage and into much deeper matters of life and faith. Depending on the number of boys in residence, attendance varies between 2 and 5.

The Girl's Study, led by Sharon Barrett, uses a variety of resources. One study was a series on the theme of Grace, a very appropriate topic for the residents. In December, the girls again made nativity scenes. The girl's group typically has 1-3 attending. Due to renovations in the Girls' dormitory, there will be no female residents for 3 months beginning January 2024.

The residents love to sing, which is very therapeutic for residents and volunteers alike. Residents frequently request favourites that they sing throughout the week. At Christmas, we sang traditional Christmas Carols.

To close the evening we use a modified liturgy from the BAS with prayers, which are then forwarded to the Parish and are read again on Sunday. The evening closes after the singing of Amazing Grace.

A revival of Sunday Church attendance was attempted based on the availability of staff. Some staff and residents have recently attended the Men's Night dinners. A few parishioners have expressed an interest in volunteering at Portage. The Portage staff will develop a process to bring in new volunteers. Let one of the Team know if you are interested in supporting this continuing Ministry that has been part of St John's for over 30 years.

Respectfully submitted,

Rod Murray on behalf of the Portage Ministry Team: Dave Tinker, Peter Scott, Sharon Barrett & Kimberly McGregor

PWRDF

The year 2023 had hardly begun when we were woken up from our winter slumber by the news of the widespread and deadly earthquake in Southern Turkey and Northern Syria. Over 23,000 people were killed and endless others affected with loss of home and health, often with life changing injuries. PWRDF helped through ACT Alliance with blankets, tents and medicines for immediate relief.

However, this urgent situation could not let us forget the ongoing war in Ukraine. St. John’s parishioners, through PWRDF and its partners, continued to care for the disabled, the traumatized children, the special needs of the Romani who had fled to Moldova, and the thousands who were helped with fuel and blankets through the cold winter.

The summer sharpened our awareness and responsiveness in a very different way. This time the needs were “right here” and not “out there”. The devastating fires in Canada forced many communities to flee for their lives, leaving home and all belongings behind, and often losing them. PWRDF responded by establishing the in-Canada Emergency Response Fund, remaining true to its roots.

October 7 will be forever etched into our hearts and collective memory. Whether it is the slaughter in Israel or the ensuing relentless destruction of homes and killing of Palestinians in the Gaza Strip, the images haunt us and demand our response. Within a couple of days, PWRDF sent an additional grant to its long-term partner, the Al Ahli Arab Hospital in Gaza City, owned and operated by the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem. The hospital was repeatedly bombed and patients had to be evacuated, but at the time of writing this report, it is again serving the public, despite dangerous and precarious conditions and at great personal risk to staff, performing upwards of 20 surgeries per day. As PWRDF and its partners look to the future and longer-term support in the region, a single united proposal for a new six-month project, which will run from February 1, 2024, to July 31, 2024, has been designed in a partnership of Anglican agencies from Australia, New Zealand, UK, USA and Canada. The Al Ahli Hospital and two other medical facilities and two educational projects will be the beneficiaries.

In frequent and regular letters and bulletin inserts, St. John’s parishioners were kept abreast of the needs and the opportunities. You responded with abundant grace, generosity and open hands and hearts:



Donations 2023

PWRDF General Fund	10,940
Ukraine	2,150
Gaza	3,345
Humanitarian Aid/Earthquake	725
TOTAL	17,160

Respectfully submitted,
Doris M’Timkulu

Truth and Reconciliation

This small group of engaged parishioners led by The Rector and Guinevere Kern continued to meet via Zoom on Tuesday evenings for part of 2023 (taking time off for Compline Services and holidays.)

Our mandate continues to be: read through the 94 Calls to Action from the Truth and Reconciliation Report (of 2015). We are sustaining this practice at a measured pace, reflecting on the issues as we proceed. This involves in-depth discussions about the topics, and investigations into the level of action/inaction on the 94 Calls.

We maintain an online Document listing numerous resources and initiatives as we learn of them regarding the subjects being examined.

We have explored the idea of inviting guests to our discussions, and possible future “field trips” to help us in our education and awareness. In light of this we welcomed Grant Wedge, (Assistant Deputy Minister- Ministry of Indigenous Relations, and Assistant Deputy Minister- Ministry of Reconciliation) to a recent meeting in January '24.

We seek to move towards healing, understanding, and respect. We continue to ask ourselves “what can we do as individuals, as a community, and as a Parish as we take steps along the Reconciliation path?”

Please consider joining us - we welcome new participants.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Donohue and Peter Barr



MUSICAL OUTREACH

Elora Children's Choir

The Elora Children's Choir has had a very successful fall term, with weekly rehearsals where we focused on basic choral singing techniques, and building trust and friendship with one another through music games and warmups. Our fall term culminated in a wonderful performance in collaboration with the Centre Wellington Singers and Jurgen Petrenko at Melville United Church, where choristers were able to showcase their songs for family and friends. We joined together with our families on December 4th at St John's for a pajama party and Carol Sing- which will definitely become an annual tradition! The ECC looks forward to performing for the 11:00 congregation on Sunday, March 3rd with the Parish Choir, and a Spring performance in collaboration with Soulshine Dance Arts this April.

Respectfully submitted,
Kate Wright



Volunteer Choir

St. John's Volunteer Choir is made up of enthusiastic singers who rehearse on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. The choir provides musical leadership at 9:00 a.m. services on every other Sunday. All are welcome, and there is no audition required to join. Rehearsals are fun and relaxed, and we always work far ahead, so missing a rehearsal is not a problem. Please speak to me to discuss the best time to start, and then enjoy the benefits of singing beautiful music, making new friends, and making an important contribution to choral music at St. John's.

Respectfully submitted,
Jurgen Petrenko, Volunteer Choir Director



New Organ Console

We are very fortunate at St. John's to have an excellent organ, ideal for the requirements of a small parish church. The difficulty is that the scope and repertoire of our music program is more in line with that of a cathedral, stretching the resources of our instrument to the limits. It must also be pointed out that our old console was becoming more and more unreliable. With the 2012 addition of an electronic division, a generous legacy of David Rogers, it was decided that a three-manual console would be necessary to take full advantage of the resources at hand. Finding a suitable console has taken a number of years, but we were finally able to purchase one in 2022, for a sum of \$5000. The console, originally built in the 1990s, was stripped and refitted with state-of-the-art components, and installed in St. John's in August of 2023.

St John's Organ Timeline

- 1899 The organ was originally built and installed in St. Jude's Church, Oakville
- 1937 The organ was rebuild by Casavant Frères, and our present console was build and installed
- 1968 The organ was moved and installed in St. John's, Elora
- 1990s The console was upgraded with a solid state combination action, and further stops were added
- 2023 New three manual console installed

New electronic enhancements are being prepared, with the hope of installing them in the first few months of 2024. These will greatly increase the tonal resources and versatility of our instrument.

Respectfully submitted,
Jurgen Petrenko



Parish Choir and Director of Music

Music is at the heart of our community here at St. John's, and 2023 was a year of many musical blessings. I continue to be grateful for the time and talents of all the people who contribute to our musical life together: the singers of the Parish Choir (and our many dedicated occasional singers as well); the singers of the Volunteer and Complaine choirs; Jurgen for his leadership of the volunteer choir, collaborative spirit, and for the (many!) notes; Kate Wright and Stan Litch for contributing your passions to starting new projects at St. John's; all the guest musicians who contributed to our music-making this past year; and to Paul and the wardens team for their continued support, guidance, and belief in the role of music in making St. John's a special place.



Among the many highlights for music at St. John's this past year:

- Welcoming new core members into the Parish Choir: Jennifer Krabbe, Rachel Barreca, and Sharang Sharma
- Founding the Elora Children's Choir under the direction of Kate Wright with a dedicated group of 20 young singers! The children's choir sang their first concert this past November with the Centre Wellington Singers and looks forward to singing at several church services and another concert this coming winter and spring.
- Establishing the Concert Series as an integral part of our musical outreach. Our first season included nine events that highlighted the soloistic talents of Parish Choir singers in several recitals, brought in new audiences for a community outreach concert by the Parish Choir, and (in the fall) supported musicians from the former Kitchener-Waterloo Symphony.
- The new Bach Meditations series exploring the sacred cantatas of J.S. Bach and combining music, worship, and reflection in creative ways.
- The Song Circle, led by Stan Litch, which has engaged a whole new group of people in friendly and supportive singing together every Friday.
- A collaborative service between the volunteer choir and Parish Choir on Good Friday, which we will continue in spirit in 2024 with the new Easter Vigil service.
- Securing upcoming choral commissions in 2024 from Canadian composer Sarah Quartel and in 2025 from British composer Roderick Williams.
- Continuing many of our new musical outreach initiatives from 2022, including the Complaine service and Christmas carolling at Elora homes.

Respectfully submitted, and with hope and anticipation for what 2024 will bring us,
Patrick Murray

Song Circle

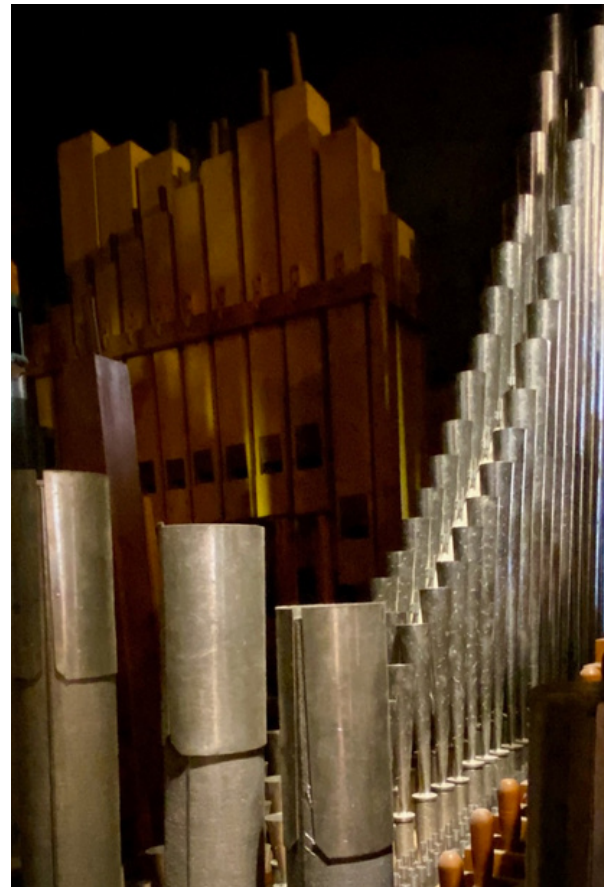
A new initiative this year at St. John's is the Song Circle. An enthusiastic group of people join Stan Litch in the Parish Centre to join together in familiar songs--mostly old, but some new. Instead of a report, Stan has submitted this poem, written by Marnel.

Every Friday
Until the strike of noon
We gather together
And warble a tune
Or two or three
Or even ten
And I just can't wait
To do it again

I find joy in seeing
Your smiling
And hearing the stories
Of times and places
That are kept in your heart
And are shared with me
Who is eager to learn of the memory

Something special
Has happened to me
I've made new friends
Whom I can't wait to see
You make me smile
Make me thankful and glad
I'm ever so grateful
What times we've had.

So from me to you
This Christmas time
I give my love
Dear friends of mine



OPEN DOORS

Our church has been discussing the need for accessible facilities for almost forty years and it should come as no surprise, our electrical, plumbing and HVAC systems are failing. Doing nothing is no longer an option.

In October 2022 our spirits were buoyed at Special Vestry when parishioners unanimously approved a motion to explore the cost and legislative approvals required to expedite improvements. This decision aligned with our missional priorities: Open Doors, Engage & Involve, Proclaim the Love of Christ and Musical Outreach.

Using a concept drawing which included accessible washrooms, a kitchen and gathering space, a preliminary Class “D” budget estimate was calculated in collaboration with our architect Edward Thomas and comparable building projects in the region.

In the Spring of 2023 consulting firms were retained to prepare technical reports in anticipation of seeking input and approvals through The Township of Centre Wellington.

In the Fall, reports were presented to the Town’s Heritage Committee and Committee of Adjustment. Both Committees unanimously approved St. John’s project for Council’s approval. Currently, the project resides with the Planning Department. We’ve been told to expect a 4-6 month delay for approvals due to the backlog of requests for building permits. This pause allows us time to complete other important work.

Throughout the year, more than 80 parishioners, Heritage Committee representatives, Mayor and Members of Council, participated in five different information sessions and walkabouts with the architect. In November-December 2023, Open Door Committee Members met one-on-one with 30+ households. The vast majority of parishioners supported the project in principle and many pledged generous financial support. Some provided very thoughtful and relevant recommendations regarding programming and finances.

In January 2024, on the advice of experienced mentors like Ken Edwards, John Spearn and James Prichard, we reviewed the original budget and committed to “sharpening our pencils.”

Open Doors Co-Chairs Peter Barr and Colleen Murray invited architect Edward Thomas to meet onsite with engineers and cost estimators from The Zehr Group to discuss a Class “C” budget estimate.



A Class “C” Estimate is being prepared because we’re committed to understanding the detailed specifications and associated costs for all disciplines (architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural) before returning to Special Vestry seeking further approval to proceed.

Meanwhile, we continue to work with Diocesan staff, the Trillium Foundation and grant writers to source, apply and secure funds for the project.

With the assistance of Columbarium Administrator Pat Ellis and Diocesan representative Brian Culp (Niagara Diocese) we’re negotiating approvals through the Bereavement Authority of Ontario, should the columbarium need to be moved elsewhere on church property.

Eventually, a Class “B” budget will be prepared. At this stage detailed design for all disciplines (architectural, mechanical, electrical and structural) will be documented and another Special Vestry will be called. The estimated timing is December 2024 - January 2025. Parishioners will be asked to review the project and vote on proceeding to Call For Tenders.

The final stage (Class “A”) will be attained when tendered bids for the Open Doors project are received, evaluated and verified.

Should you have questions about this project or would like to make a targeted donation to the Open Doors project please approach Peter Barr, Colleen Murray or Rev. Canon Paul Walker.

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Murray and Peter Barr



Annual Vestry Meeting of Mission and Ministry

Church of St John the Evangelist, Elora

February 26, 2023

1:30 PM on Zoom

The Annual Meeting of Mission and Ministry for the Church of St John the Evangelist, Elora convened on February 26, 2023 at 1:30 PM on Zoom. The Rev. Canon Paul Walker, Rector, in the Chair.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

Present and voting were:

Thomas Littlewood, Janet Knight, Pam Gradwell, Diana Spearn, Garry Cantlon, Rod Murray, Colleen Roberts, Patrick Murray, Peter Barr, Len Griffiths, Colleen Murray, Ian Hornsby, Walter Langford, Jim Wilson, Jane McKenna Wilson, Jane Anne Murray, Andrew Hirst, John Spearn, Melanie Reed, Ken Edwards, Sallie Smyth, Marcus Kramer, Barbara Dunsmore, Linda Coultres, Julie Young, Wendy Donohue, Stan Litch, Elizabeth Litch, Steve Hornett, Jurgen Petrenko, Graham Dunsmore, Sharon Barrett, Stephen Barrett, John Hamilton, Barbara Hamilton, Wendy Boose, Jon Warland, Jane Houlding, Mark Haslett, Doreen Wilson, Laura Robertson, Chris Houston, Nancy Scott, Patricia Reimer, David Campbell, Ian Rice, Susan Brown, John Lockyer, Lanny Fleming, Peter Scott, Chris Rynberk, Kathryn Seiling, Ken Seiling, Guinevere Kern, David Tinker, Anne Tinker, Susan Hirst, Peter Huck, Dawn McClure, Nancy Knudstrup, Walter Gosk, Joyce Reimer, Doris M^rTimkulu, Gerry Hill, Russ Reed

2. Motion to Accept Agenda

Moved by Jane Anne Murray and Seconded by John Lockyer that the Agenda be approved. **CARRIED**

3. Territorial Acknowledgement

Rod Murray offered a Territorial Acknowledgement.

4. Opening Prayer

The Rector offered an Opening Prayer.

5. Appointment of Vestry Clerk

The Rector appointed Thomas Littlewood as Vestry Clerk

6. Housekeeping and Regrets

The Rector reminded Vestry of Zoom etiquette and asked Vestry to remain muted unless they had a speaking role. As most of the votes are procedural, the Chair will only ask for opposition to the motions and abstentions.

Regrets were received from: Elaine Dightam, Max and Maureen MacIntyre, Pat Ellis, Catherine Robertson, Colin and Sue Fox, Thelma Roswell, Walter Nudyk, Leslie and Pow-Lin James, Charlotte Logan and Jane Rapp, Goran Bengsston and Judy Briggs, Susan Edwards, Clare and Anthony Johnson, Barb Watkins, and Gwyneth Watkins.

7. Motion to Adopt Minutes: February 27, 2022; December 4, 2022
Moved by Ian Hornsby and Seconded by Marcus Kramer that the minutes from the Vestry meeting held on February 27, 2022 and the Special Vestry held on December 4, 2022 be approved. **CARRIED**

8. Looking back at 2022

a. Adopt Reports of Ministry for 2022

Highlights:

- i. Guinevere Kern spoke about the Calls to Action Reading Group, which began out of wondering how to move forward in thinking about Reconciliation. The group began in October and the goal is to read through the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's Calls to Action in a thoughtful, prayerful, and intentional way with an eye to learning and unlearning.
- ii. Pam Gradwell spoke about the sacristy renovation. Thanks to the generous donation from Elizabeth Litch, the frontals and superfrontals are now stored properly (flat instead of hanging), and the space has been much improved.
- iii. Colleen Murray spoke about the Poppy Project and the reach it has had on social media. The Parish Choir's video for the Poppy Project has received 2,500 views on social media.

b. Motion to Adopt Financial Statements for 2022

- i. The Treasurer, Andrew Hirst, led Vestry through the financials for 2022. St John's is in a very strong financial position, and our investments sit at \$5.3 million. A significant principal donation from the Ellen Pearson Estate has put the investment portfolio in a relatively even position despite a 10% market drop.
- ii. Donations for 2022 were \$231,000 to the general fund and \$72,000 to the choir fund. Transfers from the investments continue to offset the donation shortfall.
- iii. Payroll increased in 2022, which reflects increased choir activity.
- iv. Property costs also increased due to the purchase of a new organ console and a full year of being open to the public.
- v. Our diocesan assessment decreased by \$13,000
- vi. There was an extraordinary cost required to settle a legal matter in the amount of \$60,000.

Chris Houston noted that it would be ideal if we could mirror our Visioning statement into the budget somehow.

Moved by Jon Warland and Seconded by Jane Houlding that the Financial Statements for 2022 be approved. **CARRIED**

c. Welcoming New People to St John's in 2022

Vestry provides an opportunity to welcome new members to St John's Elora. All of these people first encountered St John's online. The Rector welcomed Thelma Roswell, Joyce Reimer and Walter Gosk, Yung Chang-Ho, Ted and Lisa Arnott, Jim Wilson and Jane McKinnon Wilson, Melanie and Russ Reed, and Wayne Jessop.

Joyce Reimer spoke on behalf of the newcomers to St John's to say that they have felt welcomed (especially by Patricia Reimer and David Campbell), and that they are nourished by the spirituality, joy, and music at St John's.

New members were welcomed by the Rector with a prayer.

9. Looking forward to 2023

- a. Vision for St John's: Four Priorities: Proclaim the Love of Christ; Engage and Involve; Musical Outreach; Open Doors

The first two priorities (Proclaim the Love of Christ and Engage and Involve) are fundamental to what we do. Musical Outreach is our charism at St John's, and Open Doors is a place where we want to live more fully.

Peter Barr provided an update to the Open Doors project. We have retained S&M Architects and they have provided conceptual drawings for a space that will be open to us and the community. The goal is that the new construction will give light and life to the first three priorities. The Bishop has given her initial approval for us to move forward with the Open Doors project, and we are in the official process with the diocese and the required committees.

The Open Doors committee is meeting this week and it will launch an investigative process to discern what the community needs. The committee is also consulting with the municipality.

Chris Houston encouraged Vestry to consider the rest of the vision and its implication on space. He also encouraged Vestry to consider some of the other priorities that will be competing for time, money, and attention.

- b. Motion to Adopt Budget for 2023

The Treasurer lead Vestry through the Budget for 2023 which includes investment withdrawals for specific capital expenses, notably the new organ console installation, upgraded camera and recording equipment, and the Open Doors project. The Wardens have also budgeted for a curate to potentially begin in the fall, the expenses of a full choir for a full year, and for a full year for the Parish Administrator. A deficit of \$143,000 will be covered by withdrawals from the investment funds.

Peter Huck suggested setting an upper limit of what percentage of Parish operating expenses will be covered by investments.

Colleen Murray asked if there were diocesan guidelines to help us with that. Colleen also noted that a relatively small percentage of parish donations come from Pre-Authorized Giving. Members of Vestry are encouraged to give through PAG.

Chris Houston encouraged Vestry to consider commercial ventures to support the Parish's vision.

Peter Barr noted that there were no restrictions or guidelines from the diocese about the use of investments. Peter also noted that the Parish has historically determined that we would not use more than 80% of our annual investment interest income.

The last several years have been about 60%, allowing 40% of the interest to be reinvested as principal.

Moved by Peter Barr and Seconded by Pam Gradwell that the 2023 Budget be adopted. **CARRIED**

c. Leadership for 2023

i. Motion by Vestry to Elect Parish Leaders for 2023

Moved by Pam Gradwell and Seconded by Peter Barr that the following people be elected by Vestry to their respective roles and carry out their responsibilities according to the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara:

People's Warden	Pam Gradwell
Deputy People's Warden	Jon Warland
Members of Synod:	Thomas Littlewood (1 st of 2 year term)
	Ian Rice (1 st of 2 year term)
Alternate Member of Synod	Colleen Murray
Parish Council Members at Large	Dawn McClure
	Ian Hornsby
	Chris Rynberk
	Bob Cooper

CARRIED

ii. Appointments by Rector for 2023

The Rector has appointed the following people:

Rector's Warden	Jeff Ostic
Deputy Rector's Warden	Jane Houlding
Parish Council Members at Large	Wendy Boose
	Jane Anne Murray
	Peter Barr

iii. Appointments by Corporation for 2023

The Corporation has appointed the following people:

Treasurer	Andrew Hirst
Property	Jon Warland
Givings Secretary	Steve Hornett and Thomas Littlewood
Parish Council Secretary	<i>Vacant</i>
Bookkeeper	Susan Hirst
Columbarium Administrator	Patricia Ellis

d. Commissioning

New Parish Leaders were commissioned by the Rector with a prayer.

10. Other Business

a. Gratitude

The Rector expressed his gratitude to the following people

- i. Susan Edwards, who is stepping down as Parish Council Secretary
- ii. Peter Barr who is concluding 5 years as a Warden.
- iii. Andrew Hirst—Treasurer; Susan Hirst—Bookkeeper
- iv. Linda Coultres, for her work preparing the Sunday Orders of Service
- v. The Wardens and Technology Teams for their unwavering dedication to St John's

- vi. The Staff Team—Patrick Murray, Jurgen Petrenko, Thomas Littlewood, and Garry Cantlon for their work at St John's.
- vii. The Rev. John Lockyer, the Rev. Judy Steers, and the Rev. Canon Robert Hulse for their support as Honourary Assistants of the Parish.
- b. Members of Vestry expressed gratitude:
 - i. Steve Hornett expressed gratitude for everyone at St John's.
 - ii. Dawn McClure thanked the members of the Flower Guild
 - iii. Marcus Kramer expressed gratitude for the return of the full Parish Choir. Marcus also commended Patrick Murray for the organic way that musical excellence, musical outreach, and Christian worship have come together under his leadership.
 - iv. Colleen Roberts thanked the members of the Parish Choir who participated in Christmas Carolling.
 - v. Jane Anne Murray thanked the Parish for helping her make Elora home and for being a welcoming place to bring her friends. Jane Anne also thanked Rod Murray, Steve Hornett, and Gerry Hill for bringing church to us when we can't be there.
 - vi. Melanie and Russ Reed thanked the Parish for being so welcoming and expressed that they made the right move coming to St John's Elora.
 - vii. Sharon Barrett was grateful for Jurgen Petrenko's leadership, skill, and kindness as the director of the Volunteer Choir
 - viii. Guinevere Kern expressed gratitude to the Technology Team.
 - ix. Pam Gradwell was thankful for Mardy Langford, Susan Hirst, Wendy Donohue for their work on the Altar Guild. Pam also expressed thanks to Maureen MacIntyre and Sue Adams who polish all of the metal furnishings in the church.
 - x. Sallie Smyth expressed gratitude for the Rector Emeritus and his ministry at Christ Church Chapel in Drayton.
 - xi. Peter Barr thanked the Rector for his faithful, inspiring, and warm leadership of St John's, Elora.
- c. Closing Prayer and Adjournment
The Rector closed the Vestry meeting with a prayer.

Peter Barr moved Adjournment at 2:49 PM.

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Financial Statements
For The Year Ended December 31 2023

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Statement of Financial Position
As Of December 31 2023

	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Diocese Funds	2022 Total	2022 Total
Assets					
Current Assets					
Cash at Bank	\$ 4,296	\$	\$	\$ 4,296	\$ 100,143
Debtors	3,538			3,538	1,759
Prepaid Expenses	4,589			4,589	1,630
	<u>\$12,423</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$0</u>	<u>\$12,423</u>	<u>\$103,532</u>
Investments					
Endowment Fund				-	-
Investments- note 1		4,458,639		4,458,639	4,342,653
Parish centre		209,686		209,686	209,686
Due from general fund		11,793		11,793	12,018
		<u>4,680,118</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>4,680,118</u>	<u>4,564,357</u>
Diocese Fund- note 1			783,707	783,707	736,326
	<u>-</u>	<u>4,680,118</u>	<u>783,707</u>	<u>5,463,825</u>	<u>5,300,683</u>
	<u>\$ 12,423</u>	<u>\$ 4,680,118</u>	<u>\$ 783,707</u>	<u>\$ 5,476,248</u>	<u>\$ 5,404,215</u>
Liabilities					
Current liabilities					
Accounts Payable	\$ 57,158	\$	\$	\$ 57,158	\$ 20,066
Due to Endowment Fund	11,793			11,793	12,018
Due to Christ Church Drayton	-			0	0
	<u>68,951</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>68,951</u>	<u>32,084</u>
Internal Trusts-Note2	<u>105,344</u>			<u>105,344</u>	<u>74,662</u>
Fund Balances					
Unrestricted	(161,872)			(161,872)	(3,214)
Internally restricted		4,680,118		4,680,118	4,564,357
Externally restricted			783,707	783,707	736,326
	<u>(161,872)</u>	<u>4,680,118</u>	<u>783,707</u>	<u>5,301,953</u>	<u>5,297,469</u>
	<u>\$ 12,423</u>	<u>\$ 4,680,118</u>	<u>\$ 783,707</u>	<u>\$ 5,476,248</u>	<u>\$ 5,404,215</u>

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A Hirst
Treasurer

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Statement of Change in Financial Balance
For the Year Ended December 31 2023

	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Diocese Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Fund Balance beginning of year	\$ (3,214)	\$ 4,564,357	\$ 736,326	\$ 5,297,469	\$ 5,307,841
Excess (Deficiency) of Revenue over Expenses for the year	(158,658)	115,761	47,381	4,484	(10,372)
Transfer choir fund	-	-	-	-	-
	(158,658)	115,761	47,381	4,484	(10,372)
Fund Balance end of year	\$ (161,872)	\$ 4,680,118	\$ 783,707	\$ 5,301,953	\$ 5,297,469

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Statement of Fund Revenue and Expense
For the Year Ended December 31 2023

	<i>Budget for</i> <i>General Fund</i>	General Fund	Endowment Fund	Diocese Funds	2023 Total	2022 Total
Revenue						
Donations/cash transfers	270,000	\$ 256,147	\$ 2,775	\$ -	\$ 258,922	\$ 634,182
Choir Donations	80,000	74,988			74,988	71,660
Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy		0			0	418
Concert Series	15,000	22,494			22,494	2,520
Facility use fees	5,500	5,804			5,804	5,279
Miscellaneous income		0			0	0
Interest			41,095		41,095	17,228
Dividends			112,770		112,770	108,954
Distributions			21,339	37,900	59,239	55,427
Realized Gains Losses)			133,084		133,084	36,224
Unrealized Gains (Losses)			-187,302	47,381	-139,921	-399,935
	<u>370,500</u>	<u>359,433</u>	<u>123,761</u>	<u>85,281</u>	<u>568,475</u>	<u>531,957</u>
Expenses						
Payroll expense						
Clergy salaries	136,700	122,900			122,900	146,682
Music salaries and outreach	107,650	106,976			106,976	83,172
Choir fees	100,000	113,448			113,448	90,484
Administrative assistant	18,150	18,130			18,130	4,801
	<u>362,500</u>	<u>361,454</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>361,454</u>	<u>324,952</u>
Property Expenses						
Capital expenses	40,000	46,674			46,674	13,584
Caretaking	12,000	12,315			12,315	10,224
Maintenance and repairs	4,000	7,214			7,214	2,686
Security	1,600	1,378			1,378	1,566
Utilities	8,000	9,531			9,531	8,395
	<u>65,600</u>	<u>77,112</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>77,112</u>	<u>36,455</u>
Operation Expenses						
Bookkeeping Fee	5,400	5,130			5,130	5,100
Bank Charges	600	708			708	372
Church Supplies	5,500	6,350			6,350	6,081
Copier Lease & Supplies	3,500	4,654			4,654	3,762
Flowers	1,500	3,750			3,750	1,385
Insurance	20,000	20,455			20,455	19,448
Organ Maintenance	500	1,175			1,175	301
Legal		0			0	249
Music	1,500	1,972			1,972	1,256
Postage	1,000	1,152			1,152	570
Telephone & Internet	3,000	2,551			2,551	2,674
Software	1,500	1,146			1,146	1,144
Misc and contingency	7,400	2,343			2,343	697
Parish Retreat	2,000	1,668			1,668	1,635
	<u>53,400</u>	<u>53,054</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>53,054</u>	<u>44,861</u>
Diocese Assessment	<u>72,371</u>	<u>72,371</u>			<u>72,371</u>	<u>76,061</u>
Revenue less Expenses	-183,371	-204,558	123,761	85,281	4,484	49,628
Exceptional Item	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>			<u>0</u>	<u>60,000</u>
Surplus/(Deficit) after Exceptional Item	-183,371	-204,558	123,761	85,281	4,484	-10,372
Fund Transfers	<u>182,899</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>-8,000</u>	<u>-37,900</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>
Excess (Deficiency) Revenue over expenditure	<u>\$ (472)</u>	<u>\$ (158,658)</u>	<u>\$ 115,761</u>	<u>\$ 47,381</u>	<u>\$ 4,484</u>	<u>\$ (10,372)</u>

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Notes to Financial Statements
For the Year Ended December 31 2023

	2023		2022		
	Market	Cost	Market	Cost	
1 Investments					
Endowment fund					
Cash Account	7,309	7,309	8,610	8,610	
Cash in Transit	167,500	167,500	-	-	
Securities	4,283,830	3,698,750	4,334,043	3,561,349	
	<u>\$ 4,458,639</u>	<u>\$ 3,873,559</u>	<u>\$ 4,342,653</u>	<u>\$ 3,569,959</u>	
Diocese of Niagara Funds					
Rectory Fund	450,401	350,444	415,481	350,444	
Cemetery Investment Fund	315,682	305,000	305,092	305,000	
Church Property and Rectory Fund	17,624	5,702	15,753	5,702	
	<u>\$ 783,707</u>	<u>\$ 661,146</u>	<u>\$ 736,326</u>	<u>\$ 661,146</u>	
2 Internal Trusts					
	Opening		Other	Closing	
	Balance	Revenue	Revenue	Expense	Balance
Capital Restoration	17,844	3,925		6,268	15,501
Open Doors		77,400		24,769	52,631
Columbarium Maintenance Fund	17,014	8,000			25,014
Theology Student Bursary	-				-
Centre Wellington Food Bank	600			600	-
Discretionary	615	1,145		1,528	232
Migrant Workers	216				216
Knitters & Quilters	5,384	3,107		4,228	4,263
Organ Fund	20,694			20,694	-
Parish Centre	468				468
Portage Scholarship Award	6,389	10			6,399
Food Bank		100			100
Primate World Relief	4,715	10,940		15,135	520
PWR Ukraine Relief	725	2,350		3,075	-
PWR Humanitarian Aid	-	4,070		4,070	-
	<u>\$ 74,663</u>	<u>\$ 111,047</u>	<u>\$ -</u>	<u>\$ 80,366</u>	<u>\$ 105,344</u>

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Columbarium Accounts
For the Year Ended December 31 2023

Opening Balance	7,687.27
Receipts	
Interest on Perpetual C&M* funds	\$ 254.66
Time of Use	
Plaque engraving	
Plaque installation	\$ 2,189.69
Sale of Interment Rights	
Niche portion	\$ 6,300.00
Capital portion	\$ 6,923.70
Misc	\$ 425.99
Administration Fee	\$ 484.00
TOTAL	\$ 16,579.04
Expenditures	
Bank Service Charges	\$ -
Perpetual C&M* funds	\$ 2,100.00
St John's C&M* fund	\$ 2,034.00
Time of Use	
plaque engraving	
plaque installation	\$ 4,475.05
Capital Transfer to Endowment	\$ 8,000.00
Office Expenses	\$ 1,329.66
Misc.	\$ 79.11
TOTAL	\$ 18,019.82
Closing Balance	\$ 6,325.60

* C&M-- Care and Maintenance

Christ Church
Chapel of Church of St. John the Evangelist
Statement of Revenue and Expense
For The Year ended December 31 2023

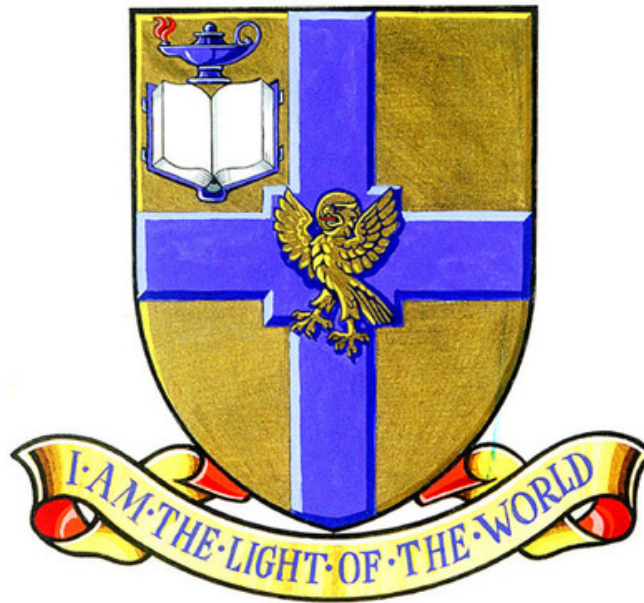
	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Revenue		
Donations	23,214	18,538
Donation in memoriam	900	-
	<u>24,114</u>	<u>18,538</u>
Expense		
Organ Restoration Fund	-	1,262
Bank charges	238	48
Altar Guild	483	801
Maintenance	1,792	2,989
Utilities	3,536	3,049
Insurance	1,502	1,420
Outreach	2,925	3,545
Clergy expenses	-	475
	<u>10,476</u>	<u>13,589</u>
Excess of Revenue		
Over Expenditures	<u>13,638</u>	<u>4,949</u>

Church of St. John the Evangelist
Budget
For the Year Ended December 31 2023

	<u>2023 Budget</u>	<u>2023 Actual</u>	<u>2024 Budget</u>
Income			
Offerings	270,000	256,147	280,000
Choir Donations	80,000	74,988	100,000
Music Outreach - concerts/commissions	15,000	22,494	20,000
- youth choir			1,000
- other			1,000
Facility Use Fees	5,500	5,804	5,500
Transfer Endowment/Internal Trusts	40,000	-	-
Total Income	<u>410,500</u>	<u>359,433</u>	<u>407,500</u>
Salaries Benefits Stipends			
Clergy	136,700	122,900	126,700
Music	90,650	86,821	89,800
Choir fees	100,000	109,873	125,000
Music Outreach - concerts/commissions	17,000	18,054	14,000
- youth choir		2,101	2,500
- other		3,575	2,000
Administrative assistant	18,150	18,130	21,000
Total Salaries/Benefits/Stipends	<u>362,500</u>	<u>361,454</u>	<u>381,000</u>
Property Expense			
Capital Expense	40,000	46,674	5,000
Caretaking	12,000	12,315	13,200
Maintenance & Repair	4,000	7,214	4,000
Security	1,600	1,378	1,500
Utilities	8,000	9,531	10,000
Total Property Expenses	<u>65,600</u>	<u>77,112</u>	<u>33,700</u>
Operating Expenses			
Contingency	5,000	-	-
Bookkeeping Fee	5,400	5,130	7,000
Audit	-	-	8,500
Bank Charges	600	708	1,680
Church Supplies	5,500	6,350	6,600
Copier Lease & Supplies	3,500	4,654	4,200
Flowers	1,500	3,750	3,600
Insurance	20,000	20,455	21,000
Organ Maintenance	500	1,175	600
Music	1,500	1,972	2,040
Postage	1,000	1,152	1,200
Software	1,500	1,146	1,500
Telephone & Internet	3,000	2,551	2,700
Misc	2,400	2,343	2,400
Parish Retreat	2,000	1,668	1,800
Total Operating Expenses	<u>53,400</u>	<u>53,054</u>	<u>64,820</u>
Diocese Assessment DMM	72,371	72,371	70,394
Total Expenses	<u>553,871</u>	<u>563,991</u>	<u>549,914</u>
Net Operating Balance	<u>(143,371)</u>	<u>(204,558)</u>	<u>(142,414)</u>
Investment Fund Income Withdrawals	105,000	8,000	105,000
Cemetery Fund Withdrawals	24,255	24,256	24,256
Rectory Fund Withdrawals	13,644	13,644	13,644
Total Other Income	<u>142,899</u>	<u>45,900</u>	<u>142,900</u>
Net Income (loss) for the period	<u>(472)</u>	<u>(158,658)</u>	<u>486</u>

A Prayer for St John's

Draw your Church together, O Lord, into one great company of disciples, together following our Lord Jesus Christ into every walk of life, together serving him in his mission to the world, and together witnessing to his love on every continent and island. Amen.



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