



2022 Annual Report of Mission and Ministry



The Church of St. John the Evangelist
Elora Ontario, Diocese of Niagara

Sunday, February 26, 2023 1:30pm

Vestry is an opportunity for us to gather as a community of faith to give thanks for all that was accomplished in the glory of God in 2022 and recommit ourselves to mission and ministry in 2023.

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VISION

Statement of Intent and Purpose

St. John's Elora is a Christian community within the Anglican tradition with a strong history of liturgical worship and choral music. In a spirit of service, self-giving, and thanksgiving, we offer to the glory of God, ourselves, our souls and bodies, endeavouring to foster a faith in Jesus Christ and facilitate human flourishing. We strive to be a thriving, spiritually nourishing, healthy, welcoming and missional community. Reaching out and reaching in, community engagement, and partnerships are all critical as we build on our past and present strengths. Our ministry together depends on factors such as spiritual authenticity, intellectual integrity, respectful behaviour, the ability to listen attentively, and community hospitality. We move towards the 2030s in a spirit of love with thanksgiving for what we have been given.

Four Areas of Ministry

1. Proclaim the love of Christ: We are being called to foster faith and human flourishing in others by authentically celebrating who we are and what we have done through God's grace and not to imitate others programming.

2. Engage and Involve: We are being called to partner with the community and engage broadly through a hybrid of in-person and expanded online programming.

3. Musical Outreach: We are being called to invest in our music programming to foster faith for people from all geographies, age groups, and those thirsty for spiritual engagement and fulfillment.

4. Open Doors: We are being called to create a new accessible and welcoming space for all.

Approved at a Special Vestry, June 15, 2021



RECTOR

Navigating through pandemic guidelines, feeling the exhaustion of social isolation and the intentional care for the most vulnerable, and yet rejoicing that our hearts and souls were nourished in our Christian faith through modified in-person liturgies, streamlined liturgies and online resources are all things that, when I was appointed here as your Rector five years ago, I never would have dreamed of. But with your nimble assistance, generous support and practical interventions, we did it, and we continue to be committed to a hybrid model of ministry.

In 2021 we launched a Vision process that was upheld and approved by Vestry in June 2021. The four priorities for our Vision of St. John's are so helpful to keep us on track:

- Proclaim the Love of Christ.
- Engage and Involve.
- Musical Outreach.
- Open Doors.

Underneath those four priorities are our Statement of Purpose that you can read on the front of this report.

One of the lines captures my experience of St. John's: "In a spirit of service, self-giving, and thanksgiving, we offer to the glory of God, ourselves, our souls and bodies, endeavouring to foster faith in Jesus Christ and facilitate human flourishing."



This past year we intentionally pursued the next steps for the Open Doors priority: "to create a new accessible and welcoming space for all." It was a pleasure to chair a Special Vestry in November that unanimously endorsed a Motion to engage an architect to help us begin a process to navigate the various regulatory bodies for creating this new space. The unexpected outcome of that Motion has also seen various organic conversations occur that begin to imagine how a new multi-use reception hall on our property could be used to enhance our ministry and to partner with the community. If you want to be a part of this conversation, or help with the process of the Open Doors project please let me know.

The priority of Engage and Involve saw us develop a partnership with the community lunch program which serves on average over 50 people with a hot meal twice a month. We continued our long-standing partnership with the Elora Festival in July - the first in-person since 2019 - with the Elora Singers participating in five liturgies, guest speakers, and many concerts. It was a pleasure to hear and see the Elora Singers again at St. John's and to see an engaged in-person patrons. The Poppy Project expanded extensively this year in the community with astonishing coverage from local media and radio stations and even a cover story on the national paper for the Anglican Church of Canada. With huge credit to the Knitters and Quilters group for their commitment to this project.

The priority of Proclaim the Love of Christ saw us offer over 300 liturgies this past year and continue a commitment to livestream our primary liturgies on the St. John's YouTube Channel by our capable Technology Team. I am astonished at the consistent reach and viewership that our online liturgies attract. We hosted a book study on Ralph Benmergui's book, "I Thought He Was Dead: a Spiritual Memoir"; we prepared individuals for the reaffirmation of their faith at the Cathedral before the Bishop; and we offered a book study on Brian McLaren's book, "Do I Stay Christian: A Guide for the Doubters, the Disappointed, and the Disillusioned."

The choral Evensong and Garden Tea to celebrate the Queen's Platinum Jubilee in June was a turning point in returning to in-person gatherings for us. We had a robust turn out of a lively congregation and a thoroughly festive reception in the garden afterwards with cooperative weather.

We also marked the Queen's death in September with a solemn liturgy the day after her death and a tolling of the bell, and a full congregation at a choral Evensong at the end of September.

It was significant to mark the National Day of Reconciliation on September 30 with a liturgy of repentance and remembrance, and I am delighted to see an ongoing commitment to learn about reconciliation through a "Calls to Action" reading group which continues to meet weekly for reading and reflection.





What a delight to welcome Archbishop Colin Johnson as our speaker at the annual Parish Retreat in October - again, the first gathering of its kind since 2019. Guiding us through reflections on the meals with Jesus in the Gospel of John, the Archbishop offered an inspiring and new way to help us approach the gospel in a new light.

The priority of Musical Outreach is capably led by Patrick Murray, our Director of Music. As you see from Patrick's report, under his direction the

Parish Choir are flourishing, a new Music Advisory Group is established, and the services of Compline and Evensong are attracting new people. In addition, there are some new initiatives for 2023 that indicate we are clearly fulfilling the call of this priority at St. John's and upholding the strong choral and musical tradition that we have inherited and are known for, regionally and nationally.

The Wardens, Treasurer and Property Chair meet with me every second week to review finances, property use and maintenance, and ensure that our staff are supported and cared for in their respective roles. The Parish Council meets six times through out the year to review the financials and see who they can support and uphold the ministry goals of the Parish.

We offered a choral Evensong in September to say thank you to Rev'd Judy Steers for her ministry with us since 2019 as our part time Assistant Curate. As Judy accepted a full time appointment as Chaplain in SJK School I was delighted that the Bishop appointed Judy as one of our Honorary Assistants to keep our connection with her and the school, and to provide her with a parish home to function liturgically, and to help me out when needed. Judy offered so much to St. John's during her time with us, and I am so grateful to continue to count her as a dear colleague.



In the diocese I continue to serve as Regional Dean for the Region of Greater Wellington, and coordinate the orientation program for newly ordained clergy called, “Staring Well.” It was such a pleasure to see the Bishop admit our own Dinah Bristowe to the Order of Niagara this year - what a well deserved honour for Dinah’s service to us.

I am delighted that the Wardens hired Thomas Littlewood as a part time administrator in August to help oversee our Parish data base in Tithely, coordinate the licence agreements for outside user groups, and review our screening process and volunteer position descriptions. Thomas does more than that, and I extend my gratitude for his commitment and devotion.

It is a pleasure to work with all our staff team: Patrick, Jurgen, Thomas and Garry. They are each committed to the ministry and mission of St. John’s and understand our vision and what we are about, so it makes my job so much easier. It also fills my heart with gratitude to work with our Parish Choir and Volunteer Choir in our liturgies; and to be capably assisted by our Altar Guild (thank you Pam Gradwell and Susan Hirst for your leadership), Lector’s Guild (thank you Patricia Reimer), Greeters (thank you Thomas), and the Tech Team (Rod Murray, Gerry Hill and Steve Hornett).

Most of all I am indebted to the commitment and skills offered by so many volunteers to make the work of St. John’s operate on a daily basis. The counters, the office volunteers, the gardeners, the book club leaders; the heartbeat of the weekly production of Orders of Service and collator of emails and voicemails, Linda Coultres; the Treasurer, Andrew Hirst; the Bookkeeper, Susan Hirst; the Givings Secretary, Steve Hornett; the property chair, Jon Warland; the social media coordinator, Colleen Murray; the Wardens, Peter Barr, Pam Gradwell, Jeff Ostic and Jane Houlding; and our capable and faithful Honorary Assistants, John Lockyer, Judy Steers and Robert Hulse. You are all a reflection of the glory of God in our midst as evidenced by your commitment and I am inspired by your devotion.

As we continue to offer ourselves to the glory of God, that our faith in Jesus Christ might be sustained, we prayerfully build on our strengths for a future that is bigger and brighter than we ever can imagine. It is with one another’s prayers and support that we engage this ministry, and I feel most blessed and honoured to be your priest.

In gratitude,
Paul+
Rector

ASSISTANT CURATE

2022 marked my last few months as your Curate at St John's Elora, and a transition to becoming an Honourary Assistant of the parish as I took up my new appointment in the role of Chaplain at St John's-Kilmarnock School.

There was much to be grateful for this year, including the typical rhythms of leading worship, regular preaching, presiding at my first wedding and of course a variety of pastoral visiting and supporting members of the congregation.

One particular highlight was the Ukrainian Easter Egg workshop which was new for St John's and very well attended by both members of the parish and the wider community. Christina Stelmakovich provided expert coaching and we raised funds for PWRDF's relief efforts in Ukraine. We also continued our pandemic outreach of bringing potted daffodils and Lenten prayers to almost every household in our congregation. It was another way to stay connected through the challenging early months of 2022 and another time of restriction as we coped with evolving Covid-19 realities.

This year it was very rewarding to continue to work with the tech team to develop our capacity to deliver quality audio and video livestreams. The shift from online liturgy to consistently live streaming in-person liturgy meant upgrades to our equipment, additional training and flexibility on the part of the team. You can find more details in the tech team report. It was wonderful to work with this dedicated group of parishioners who are committed to ensuring that our worship is accessible even to those who can't be here in person.



One experiment which we tested this past summer was a more informal approach to 9:00 services. For the month of August, we celebrated Eucharist outdoors each Sunday with musical accompaniment provided by Stan Litch on his ukulele. In Stan's words, it was an 'unexpected pleasure' to sing gospel and spiritual songs to accompany our 9:00 liturgy. It was great fun and drew a large congregation every week. We learned some new songs, and enjoyed old favourites.

The Reverend Judy Steers

PARISH ADMINISTRATOR

It has been a pleasure to be involved in the mission and ministry of St John's in the form of the parish assistant over the last number of months. Generally, my work has fallen into three categories: database management, volunteer management, and license agreements. We recently migrated our parish database to a Church Management Software called Tithely. Tithely helps us keep track of our parish list, send emails to groups of people, and track givings. It's a great help at the end of the year when we have to produce income tax receipts. I've been keeping that database updated.

This year, my work with volunteer management has been focused on creating position descriptions for every volunteer position in the parish. We're so blessed to have a large group of volunteers who do everything from greeting worshipers, providing Bible studies to Portage, to singing in the Volunteer Choir, and knitting poppies. The goal of getting these position descriptions established is to have a record of who does what at St John's and to assist us with volunteer screening and adherence to diocesan policy.

With the COVID-19 pandemic shifting to a more endemic stage, we are pleased to be able to offer our space for outside user groups to rent. This year, we've had yoga classes in the Parish Centre, a piano recital in the nave, and a very fun concert by The Barrel Boys at Christmas time.

I'm looking forward to continuing to work with the Rector, the excellent lay staff, and all of you in the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Littlewood



L-R The Reverend John Lockyer and Thomas Littlewood, Parish Administrator

WARDENS

This past year our bishop, Susan Bell, awarded St John's \$5,000 for the parish-wide development of our vision statement. With Paul's guidance, we work together to fulfil those intentions: to proclaim the love of Christ, to engage and involve others, to reach out in harmony through our music, and to open our doors in hospitality. Though we have grouped below each activity under only one of these intentions, some may apply in others as well.

Proclaiming the love of Christ: During the pandemic which continued into 2022 our caretaker, Garry Cantlon, reconfigured the seating in the pews to allow for distancing as we gathered for worship with the intention of keeping one another safe. In spite of our precautions the weather on Christmas Eve, with road closures and blizzards, prevented our having the much-anticipated services. Every Sunday and Wednesday we gather at St John's to offer our prayers and thanks. Recently Dinah Bristowe received the Order of Niagara for her service to the church, and Jane Rapp received the Florence Nightingale Community Service award for her work of care and kindness in the community. We wished our Assistant Curate, Judy Steers, all the best in her new role as chaplain at SJK. We are pleased that the bishop appointed her as an Honorary Priest at St. John's. Thomas Littlewood accepted an administrative support position which has proved a tremendous help to Paul and all of us.

Engage and involve: As a result of Covid restrictions St. John's saw the need to reach the homes of parishioners. Thanks to our IT team we now have an impressive presence on social media with a website to match that engages people of different traditions from far and near. As well, Zoom has become a frequently used tool for meetings from book groups to Corporation to virtual coffee hour. On September 9 Elora heard our church bell tolling for the passing of Queen Elizabeth as volunteers took turns at the ropes and Paul offered prayers in the church. An Evensong was followed by a social tea party on the lawn in honour of the Queen. Many thanks to Elizabeth Litch for her contribution and efforts with





the concept design for the renovation of the Sacristy. In October Archbishop Colin Johnson joined us for our retreat at the Wellington County Museum and spoke of the hospitality of Jesus and the five meals in the gospel of John. Our own Jurgen, with his warm sense of humour, spoke to us on the need for upgrading the church organ after many years of coping with its limitations. We look forward to its replacement and to Jurgen's talent in bringing it to life.

Our day ended with a summation by Paul as he tied the day's events together and offered our prayers of thankfulness to God. It was noticed that one large table at the retreat was covered in 'poppy wool' with several parishioners knitting their way through the day! November saw the return of an expanded Poppy Project and once again many hands, assisted by Garry, our caretaker and Jon Warland, our property manager, made the work of adorning the steeple with a flow of beautiful red poppies a reality for Remembrance Day.

Reaching out through music: On the afternoon of January 22, 2023 the church welcomed 115 guests to a performance of Bach's cantata for the third Sunday of Epiphany. This was the first of a series of Bach meditations with scriptural content. Many of us are eagerly anticipating more. As well, Patrick, our Director of Music, who recently completed his first year at St. John's has, much to our delight, commissioned a work for the choir by Andrew Balfour who was lately Composer-in-Residence of the Winnipeg Symphony Orchestra's Indigenous Festivals. Prior to accepting a position as Assistant Professor of Harp at Florida State University, Patrick's partner, Noel Wan, delighted us with a



meticulously performed harp recital in our sanctuary. As well as regular Evensongs, Christmas carolling in the community, and services of Compline where visitors make up both choir and congregation, there is much excellent music offered not only every Sunday by the choir, Jurgen, and Patrick, for our own congregation, but also for the wider community on social media.



Opening our doors in hospitality: Each week greeters welcome people into our sanctuary to take part in a service of worship. In June we celebrated the Queen's Platinum Jubilee with an Evensong followed by a festive garden party. During the lead-up to Remembrance Day so much community engagement and interest in the poppies necessitated having guides in the church to show guests around. This event merited a two-page spread in the Anglican Journal as well as coverage on local news channels. During the Elora Festival the Singers used St. John's for their concerts, filling the church with guests. Our Parish Centre is also used by several community groups, as well as providing a place for church-related meetings. At our retreat the congregation was addressed by Edward Thomas who displayed drawings for our proposed addition to link the church with the Parish Centre. The next step in the initiative was given the go-ahead by the congregation at a special Vestry, and is now in the hands of SRM Architects. The new space will offer room to accommodate many new initiatives for the community as well as the church and will address accessibility issues. Our doors will open to more opportunities for furthering our Christian Vision.

In conclusion, the Wardens thank everyone who contributes, clergy, staff, and parishioners, to the well-being of St. John's, making it a warm, inviting Christian community where all are welcome.

Respectfully submitted
Peter Barr, Pam Gradwell, Jane Houlding and Jeff Ostic

SYNOD

Ian Rice, the Rev. Canon Paul Walker, and I represented the Parish of St John the Evangelist at the 148th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara. We met in November at the Burlington Convention Centre, and it was a joy to be back together in person after two years of online Synods. We were blessed to have Archbishop Anne Germond, the Metropolitan of the Province of Ontario as our guest for Synod. Archbishop Anne and Bishop Susan Bell had a very interesting discussion about their experiences at the Lambeth Conference in the summer of 2022. They both spoke passionately about some of the joys (and the challenges) of our worldwide Anglican Communion. Synod was, of course, also tasked with the annual business and decision-making of the diocese. I continue to represent Greater Wellington on Synod Council (the executive body of the diocese); my second term on that body ends in December 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Thomas Littlewood



PARISH REGISTER



Baptisms

Alexander Hudson Brown 26 November 2022 b. 23 September 2021
Parents: Alexander and Stephanie Brown

"We receive this child into the congregation of Christ's flock and do sign him with the sign of the cross and mark him as Christ's own forever."

Marriages

Janet Caitlyn Harries and Keni Markus Mallinen	1 April 2022
Ceara Theresa Annett and Griffin David Ritter Olsen	15 September 2022
Felicia Gow and Daniel Skripkariuk	1 October 2022

"May their lives together be a sacrament of your love to this broken world, so that unity may overcome estrangement, forgiveness heal guilt, and joy overcome despair."

Burials

Patricia Ann Griffiths	25 March 1949 to 2 January 2022	14 May 2022
E. Anne Billings	8 August 1943 to 27 February 2022	16 May 2022
Reinhardt Erich Richard Kusserow	8 November 1929 to 15 April 2022	27 May 2022
John Clark Holmes	14 July 1941 to 6 July 2021	28 May 2022
Marilyn Fraser	7 November 1934 to 30 June 2022	8 July 2022
Barbara (Bonnie) Smiley	1 July 1925 to 13 February 2022	24 July 2022
Jayne Carol Gowing	21 Dec. 1940 to 29 Sept. 2022	4 October 2022
William Hill	15 Dec. 1932 to 17 Oct. 2022	October 2022
Bert Fletcher	7 April 1936 to 5 December 2022	14 Dec. 2022

"Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord, and let light perpetual shine upon them."

WORSHIP

Music

It has been wonderful to feel a return to normalcy in our music-making at St. John's this year after several years of pandemic-related disruptions. Although it seems far away as I write this, I remember back to the start of 2022 when we still couldn't have a full choir in the building due to space restrictions. Welcoming



the full Parish Choir and Volunteer Choir back mid-Lent, it took us some time to get musically back up to speed, but as we begin a new year I can confidently say that we've once again "found our voice."

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

- Welcoming new members into the Parish Choir: Emily Burnett, Autumn Debassige, Paul Genyk-Berezowsky, Jeffrey Smith, Caroline Schmidt.
- Giving the Canadian premiere of Zachary Wadsworth's *Passion According to St. Matthew* on Good Friday 2022. We also plan for this to become an annual tradition of performing a choral *Passion* setting as part of Holy Week.
- Establishing a regular monthly liturgy of Compline and forming a new Compline Choir open to community singers, which has drawn new singers to the church.
- Commissioning a new piece for the Parish Choir by composer Andrew Balfour, to be premiered in 2023.
- Starting a new Bach cantata series and a reinvigorated recital series to showcase the soloistic talents of our Parish Choir singers and reach out to listeners beyond our doors.
- Forming a music advisory group to gather input on the music program from members of the parish, which led directly to our Christmas carolling initiative and plans for how to celebrate the installation of our new organ console this coming year.

Above all, I'm grateful for the ways that we have grown as a community of faith through music by embracing new music and new initiatives, and excited to see where this leads us.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Murray

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. Following a Covid-inspired hiatus, the Volunteer Choir is back in action. In the interests of limiting exposure, rehearsals have been shortened to 30 minutes, and the choir is socially distanced.

Update - 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. 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, is currently being stripped and refitted with state-of-the-art components, with the hope of having it installed in August of 2023.

1899	The organ was originally built and installed in St. Jude's Church, Oakville
1947	The organ was rebuilt by Casavant Frères, and our present console was built and installed
1968	The organ was moved and installed in St. John's, Elora
1990s	The console was upgraded with a solid state combination and further stops were added

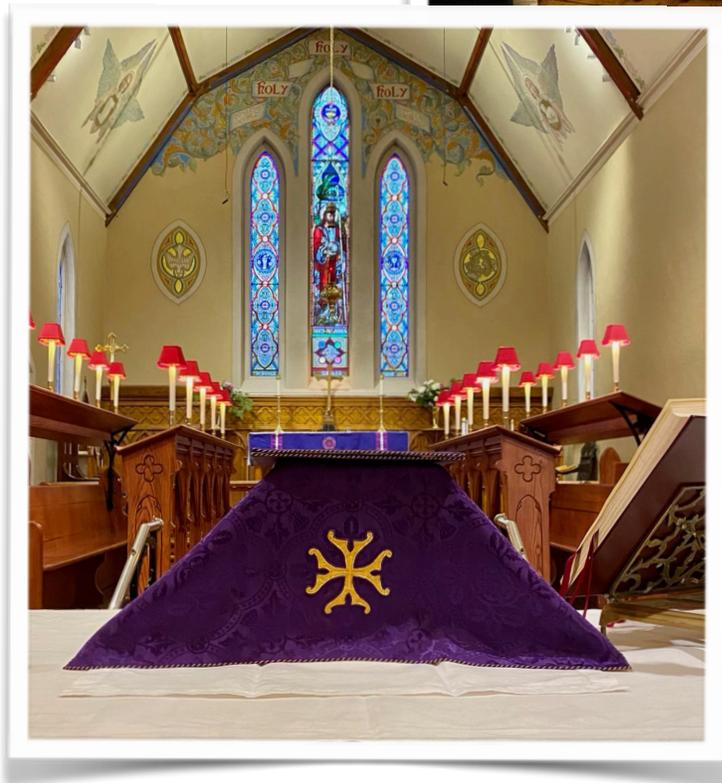
Our present console is becoming increasingly less reliable, with the electronics from the 1990s particularly showing their age. The new console will bring our organ up to date, and greatly increase its versatility.

Respectfully submitted,
Jurgen Petrenko

Altar Guild

We are a small dedicated group who prepare and clean up after the Eucharist services, change frontals, bookmarks etc. in accordance with the Church calendar. This year we welcomed Barb Watkins to our group. Maureen MacIntyre and Susan Adams very kindly volunteered to clean all the silverware and brass on a regular basis, which is very much appreciated. Chris Rynberk has also carried on with ordering all items required for the services during the year.

Fred Thompson continues to help with the setting up and clearing up after the 10am Wednesday Eucharist service, together with Thomas Littlewood who continues to help with the Sunday services set up.



We are also most grateful to Elizabeth Litch for her very generous financial contribution to the cost of renovating the sacristy, now complete and all linens, frontals and silverware have now found their new home in the Sacristy.

Respectfully submitted,
Susan Hirst and Pam Gradwell

Flower Guild

Your Altar Flower Guild is a dedicated, fun group. Members of our guild take turns to prepare the floral arrangements for the Altar.

We especially like to prepare memorial flowers. This happens when you have made a request for flowers to be placed on the Altar in memory of someone special, or in celebration of an important event. We are often asked to include a favourite colour or certain blooms which that special person enjoys.

Elaine Digham, our Memorial Flowers coordinator passes on your requests for memorial flowers to the Altar Guild. Although \$75 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



L - R Jane Anne Murray, Dawn McClure, The Reverend Canon Paul Walker

Lectors Guild

Heaps of gratitude to everyone who participated in services by volunteering to read lessons. 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 would love to expand our ranks by adding some new voices. To those of you who have never read before and feel apprehensive, I remind you that you are in a friendly and supportive community. If I have not tapped you on the shoulder yet and you would like to participate, please reach out to me: patriciajreimer@gmail.com or 529-807-2614. 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

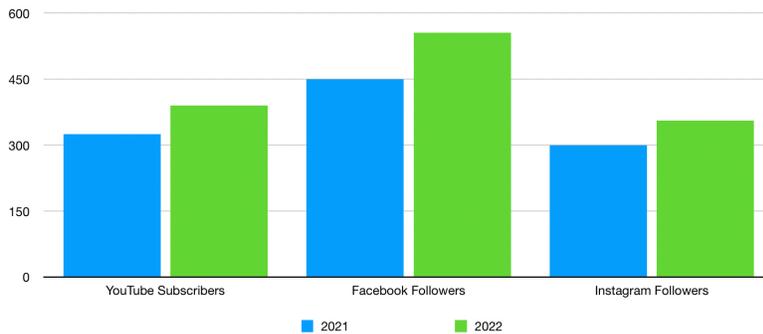


L- R Patricia Reimer, Reverend Canon Paul Walker,
Elizabeth Duggan-Litch, Stan Litch

Technology Team

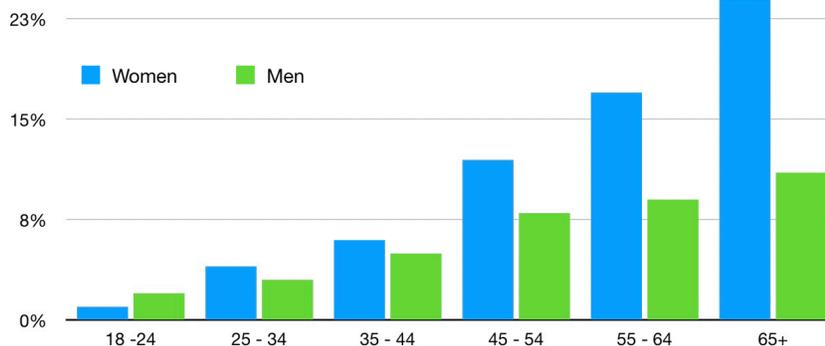
Social media platforms like Instagram, Facebook, YouTube, Switcher and Zoom continue to serve as excellent, although sometimes frustrating and imperfect communication tools. They are not the best alternative to in-person worship, rather they serve as supplements to strengthen our faith community.

Year over year, St. John’s Elora expanded the social media reach with additional subscribers and followers, (see below). Over 90% of followers are from Canada. Others view from the USA, Australia, New Zealand and the United Kingdom.



	2021	2022	Variance	Increase
YouTube Subscribers	325	390	65	17%
Facebook Followers	450	556	106	19%
Instagram Followers	300	356	56	16%

Since 2018, the ratio of female to male users has not changed. Consistently, this ratio remained as a 60/40 split with women being the greater number. Pre-pandemic, the number of followers were almost exclusively 65+ years of age, with a negligible number in other age groups. This demographic has shifted in the past 3-years with a growing number of viewers across a broader range of age groups, (see below). Data for Youth under 18 years of age is not available.



Digital technology allows people to easily engage with St. John's Sunday services, events, music, messages and announcements on days and at times that are appropriate to their lifestyle and activities. This effectively expands the weekly church service from Sunday morning to seven days per week, 24-hours per day. In 2022 live-streamed services were typically viewed in real-time by 10-15 people and on average an additional 100 viewers joined over the following week.



During a 30-day period, the average watch time on St. John's YouTube Channel exceeds 90 hours. Viewers responded most favourably to social media posts that include content relating to: The Poppy Project, music, messages from the Rector, photos of our church community.

Technology Team volunteer job functions include:

- 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
- Online attendance at monthly meetings
- Troubleshooting
- Equipment evaluation, acquisition and tracking
- Website maintenance and content uploads
- Social Media Analytics

Today's digital tools allow our church to be more responsive, productive and inclusive. The 2022 Tech Team included: Steve Hornett, Gerry Hill, Rod Murray, Colleen Murray, The Reverend Canon Paul Walker and The Reverend Judy Steers

Respectfully submitted,
Colleen Murray

SERVICE

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund



“This is the hope that inspires Christians: We know that every effort to better society, especially where injustice and sin are ingrained, is an effort that God blesses, that God wants, that God demands of us.”

Archbishop Oscar Romero spoke these words moments before he was assassinated on March 24, 1980. The efforts by St. John's parishioners to better our – God's – world through the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund are indeed blessed. No Covid related inconveniences or even sickness tempted St. John's folks to reduce or even forget the sharing of God's good gifts. This year, \$9,580 were donated to PWRDF's general fund and \$7,885 were designated to the Ukrainian people.

Here are two reports of how our gifts were used:

In April 2022, [PWRDF began a partnership with *Fight for Right*](#), a **Ukrainian organization** led by women with disabilities that provides care and advocacy for disabled people in Ukraine. As of July, 352 critical heat supply infrastructure pieces were damaged or destroyed as a result of the war and only 30% of them were restored. In Kramatorsk, there will be no water either, because the sewer system cannot function without heat (the water in the pipes will freeze), so the city council must turn it off. In the front-line cities of the Zaporizhzhia region, the heating season is in danger of disruption due to damaged gas pipelines. The same situation is in Melitopol, of which 95% is heated with natural gas.

Fight for Right initiated the 'TEPLO' project when they started receiving requests for help from people with disabilities to survive the upcoming winter, says Maryna Tekuchova of FFR.



“TEPLO will provide targeted support to 5,000 people with disabilities during the wintertime who experience difficulties with warming the house and or have shortage of clean water. We all know that this winter will be one of the hardest in Ukrainian history.”

In response to **the hunger emergency** unfolding around the world, including many countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, 12 leading Canadian aid agencies joined forces as the Humanitarian Coalition to raise funds and rush assistance to people on the edge of famine. The Canadian Government matched donations to the Humanitarian Coalition and its members, up to \$5 million. Through the Canadian Foodgrains Bank PWRDF was eligible to participate in the matching program. Donors quickly responded, giving \$99,651 during the matching period.



PWRDF was selected to oversee one of the resulting projects. With a total budget of \$1,392,560, and in partnership with Church World Service Kenya, a food assistance project is delivered in Marsabit, Kenya, one of the worst affected counties to be hit by the current drought in the Horn of Africa. Close to 95% of the population is experiencing food insecurity, with 30% of the population facing emergency food insecurity levels.

CWS Kenya provides four in-kind food transfers to 4,000 of the most vulnerable households (an estimated 22,000 individuals) . Each household receives a monthly ration of 50 kg maize flour, 10 kg beans, 3 L vegetable oil, 500 g of salt, 5 kg of corn soy blend (CSB) to 1,764 of the selected households with pregnant and lactating women and children under five years of age to prevent acute malnutrition.

A big thank you to all the 2022 friends of PWRDF for their gifts of prayer, loving thoughts and open hands.

Respectfully submitted,
Doris M'Timkulu

Knitters and Quilters

As I write this report from chilly Florida I am reminded of the days our group started meeting outside as we were just emerging from Covid. Some days were chilly, but our spirits were alive and warm and delighted in being together. 2022 has allowed us to meet in person and again we delighted in the gift of sharing our warm smiles and fellowship.

As I try to recall what activities we did this past year poppies came again to the forefront of our projects along with putting together the stockpile of knitted and crocheted squares that willing hands had created over the winter.

We set a goal this year asking for 1500 poppies to be knit or crocheted from creative ladies and we were gifted with close to 4000. Add that to our collections from last year of 7000 poppies and we realize how blessed we are to have the participation we enjoyed. One of our goals this past year was to reinforce the existing poppy hangings and banners and to create new ones where they were needed. We expanded our poppy hangings to shops in the area and also created new ones for the lamp posts in Elora. The museum has requested a longer hanging for display and we will be creating new banners for Elora and surrounding areas. We had three churches from out of the area contact us for information and input as to how we created our display. A couple of groups from these churches attended our Wednesday morning group for a hands-on experience of attaching the poppies to the deer fencing. An interactive activity was introduced this year where poppies mounted on stakes that could be “planted” outside in remembrance of a person who had served in the wars. As all of you witnessed, the display again this year was breathtaking, and we are so blessed to be able to share with our church and the community. We are able



share our experience with the local radio and newspapers as well with the national Anglican Journal. Who would have thought a little red flower could render such blessings. Thank you to all who helped and especially to Paul who guided us on this journey.

The knitting of prayer shawls has continued, and we have expanded our outreach to include blankets. Over the winter squares were knitted and crocheted and then bound together to create beautiful works of art. The blankets have been given to palliative care units both in Scarborough and Guelph as well as to anyone who needs a little comfort. Again, our ladies have stepped up to the challenge of making the squares and a special thanks to those ladies who have put the squares together to create these wonderful works of love. Should you know of anyone who needs some caring just let anyone from our group or the rector know, and you will be helped out. We are continuing to knit or crochet squares either 6" or 12" in size as well baby bonnets and toys and sweaters.



Our tradition of making spirited Christmas puddings was another huge success and I want to thank everyone who made it successful. We SOLD out our complete stock and thanks to the generosity of all of you we netted over \$1400. These funds go back into the church for special projects such as the new sign that needs replacing for which we are planning to contribute

funds. In the spring we are looking at doing another "All Things Bright and Beautiful" sale which will include jewelry, scarves, purses and new this year we will include PICTURES for walls. If you are like me you have a collection of pictures that looked good at the time but now..... The proceeds from this sale will go to the Choir repair fund for the organ. Details will be outlined in the spring.

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

Community Luncheon

For the past year our parish has been supporting the “Feeding the Soul Community Luncheon” group which provides a free lunch twice a month at the Elora Centre for the Arts. The meals were prepared in the kitchen at St. John's and then transferred to the Centre for the Arts.

The aim of the luncheon is to provide healthy meals and a social connection to local residents at a central public venue. People can enjoy a sit-down meal or take-out, and meals were also delivered to those who couldn't attend in person.

Lunches usually consist of a main such as soup, vegetable casseroles, homemade pizza or pasta, salads, breads (often homemade) and a healthy dessert. All members of the community are welcome. The objective is to try to foster an environment where people feel secure, free to be themselves and comfortable meeting people.

Food donations came from parishioners, other local citizens, local food

producers and growers, and Elora's Geddes St. Market, helping to reduce food waste.

The program is headed up by Peter Skoggard (Chef exceptional) and Deb Reynolds who are both supported by a large team of volunteers from the parish and the local community. In particular I must mention Bob Cooper who has provided exceptional kitchen support as “Dishwasher in Chief”!

In December the program moved to the Elora Legion and is expected to return to the parish in the spring.

They can be checked out at the following site: <https://www.facebook.com/CommunityLunchAtBungalow55/>



Respectfully submitted,
Ian Hornsby

Portage Bible Study

The Portage Ministry, centred around a weekly Bible Study held on Monday evenings at Portage, continued in 2022 under the leadership of Dave Tinker, Peter Scott and Rod Murray for the Boys' Study Group, with Sharon Barrett and Kimberly McGregor leading the Girls.

The waves of Covid-19 have continued to impact the program. On occasion, during breakouts of Covid or other illnesses, the Monday night program has been cancelled or moved to Zoom. The in-person program is preferred by the facilitators as the study loses some of its impact when online.



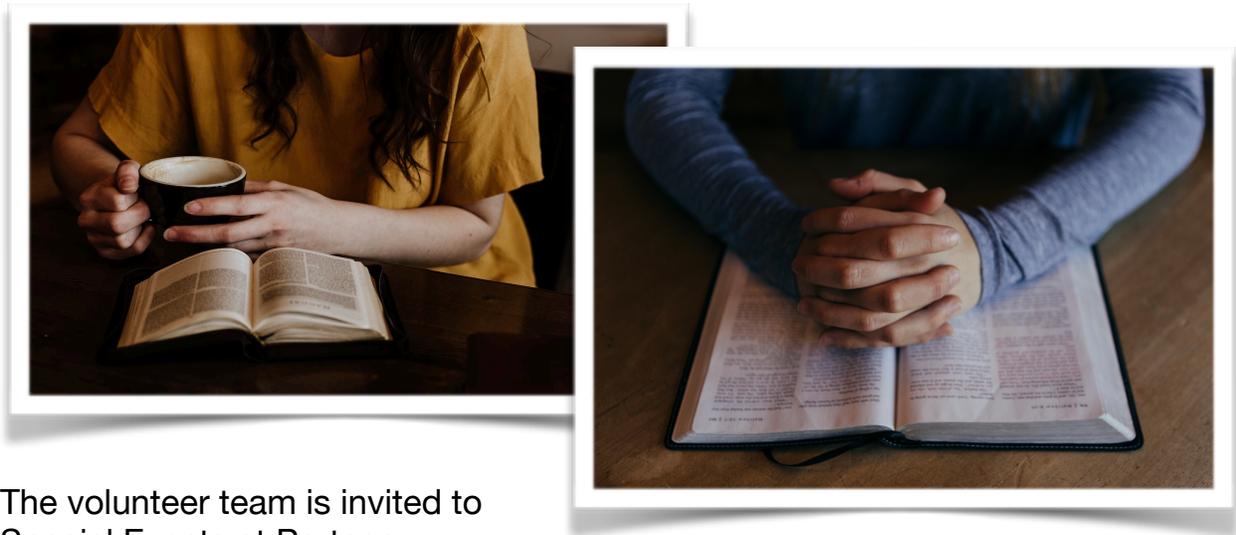
A typical meeting involves an opening prayer, usually offered by one of the residents, followed by singing part of St Patrick's Breastplate. Using the daily Bible reading resource, Our Daily Bread, the notes for the week are read aloud, along with the assigned Scripture passage. The residents are keen to read, listen, discuss and question the lessons gleaned from passage and the notes. The discussion often goes far beyond the passage and into much deeper matters of faith and life.

The Girl's Study sometimes breaks from following Our Daily Bread. One study was "Bad Girls of the Bible." They didn't all turn out to be bad! In December, the girls made paper nativity scenes out of clementine boxes. As the nativity progressed, the girls learned about angels, Mary, Joseph and baby Jesus. Presently, the Girl's group is continuing in the book of Luke, learning about the life of Jesus. The girls are open about their struggles and are extraordinary in their commitment to learning.

One of the most inspirational aspects of the program is the teens' enthusiasm for singing, which is both therapeutic and joyous, for residents and volunteers alike. Songs are chosen from the St John's Songbook, most of the songs having their origin in Anglican Cursillo groups. At Christmas, we enjoyed a wonderful round of traditional Christmas Carols!

To close the evening we use a modified Service of Reconciliation, a liturgy from the BAS, including prayers for family, the sick and those who have died. Those prayers are forwarded to the Parish and are included in Sunday Services. The evening closes after the singing of Amazing Grace.

Typical weekly attendance at the Boys' Group is 3 to 5 residents and occasionally a staff person, but in the last year has been as high as 10 residents! The group is sometimes augmented by Portage Montreal residents who come to Elora to complete their program. There are currently fewer female residents at Portage, so attendance has fluctuated between 1 and 3, but has grown recently. The residents attend Portage typically for 3 to 6 months so there's a continuous turnover of attendees at Bible Study.



The volunteer team is invited to Special Events at Portage, including the Open House in June and the Christmas Celebration in December. Through these events the St John's volunteers become better acquainted with the Portage Staff and its facilities and programs, here in Elora and elsewhere.

The Bible Study at Portage has been running for over 30 years! Your continued prayers and support is appreciated. If you wish to know more about this extraordinary outreach of St John's, please contact one of the volunteers listed below.

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

Truth & Reconciliation 94 Calls To Action

In July 2022, guest homilist Michael Freeman of Six Nations challenged our Parish to awaken our reconciliation journey by reading the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's 94 Calls to Action, published in 2015. The invitation was heard, conversations began, and on Tuesday October 11th 2022 our small group met online to start somewhere.



Our group is led by Reverend Paul and Guinevere Kern and

consists of anywhere between 4-7 committed, thoughtful, and engaged parishioners. We have met consecutively from Tuesday October 11th 2022 to present date, with a momentary pause when there is Evening Compline, and for the December holidays.

When we began, one of the initial questions posed was “What are you hoping for in engaging on this journey?”. Our responses consisted of:

- To build community with one another
- To grow in humility
- To equip ourselves with tools personally and within a communal setting to impact change
- To increase in understanding of what we are called to understand
- To increase our own education
- To relinquish the language of “us” and “them”
- To know that it’s been a long time coming to be here.

Our mandate is simple: to read out loud the 94 Calls to Action to make known the requests of Residential School Survivors from the thousands of interviews, documents, and stories that informed the Truth and Reconciliation Committee. There is power in voice, and power in community. We seek to strengthen one another in support of educating ourselves, and finding the best path forward to support truth, reconciliation, forgiveness, and healing.

We open our virtual circle in prayer, followed by a Land Acknowledgement that a member has personally prepared. Following this, we animate the requests for recommended action of Canadian Citizens by reading through a portion of the Calls to Action. We have read through the Legacy portion which covers Calls to Action #1- 42 (Child Welfare, Education, Language and Culture, Health, and Justice). We just began reading Calls to Action #43.

We have had rich discussion, shared hopeful encounters, resources, and of local and broader initiatives. We are grateful to learn of positive steps being taken. But as we deepen our understanding of the historical and ongoing injustices that First Nations, Inuit, and Metis Peoples experience in overt and covert manners, we are also saddened, overwhelmed, and upset at the levels of devastation that the Doctrine of Discovery and the Canadian Colonial Project has had, and continue to have. The road to Reconciliation is enormous and complex, to say the least.

Through discussion, we have assigned ourselves gentle homework as we seek to know more. We bring up Indigenous Watchdog websites and the Government of Canada websites that document the progress on the 94 Calls to Action, and shed light on the stages of action. Each of us have brought our own biases and beliefs to the discussion; yet we've also discovered many things we did not know. When challenged with facts and information we've discovered, we've changed our thinking and wrestled with the many challenges that Reconciliation asks of us.

We continue to ask what actions we can take as individuals, as a community, and as a Parish, to take steps along the Reconciliation path.

Following discussion, we close in prayer, offering the state of our hearts and minds to the Creator, to offer healing of the legacy of suffering and injustices that disproportionately impact Aboriginal Peoples, and to inspire steadfastness, hope, and action, both big and small.

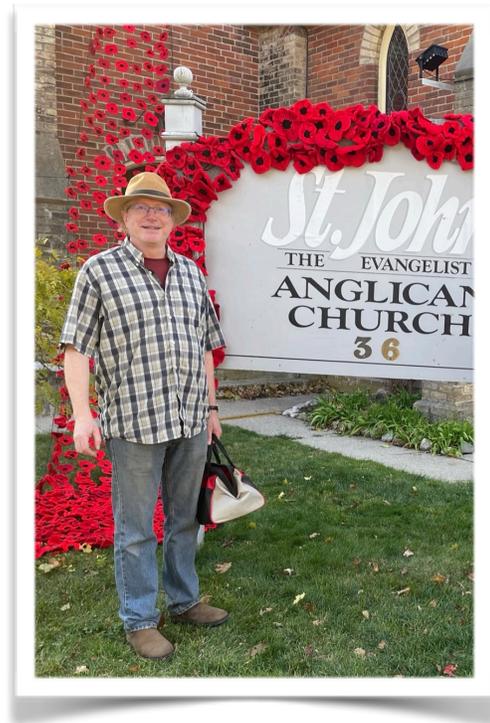
Wherever you are on this journey, know that you are welcome to come as you are and join in as you are available. We seek to grow alongside one another in a non judgemental space to inspire learning, unlearning, and action. We welcome you, and invite you also to start somewhere.

Respectfully submitted,
Guinevere Kern

STEWARDSHIP

Building and Property

The best news of the year is that our buildings have come alive again with activity, as seen in the other reports. Many people have contributed to maintenance over the year, and it has been a delight settling into a working routine with Garry Cantlon, who joined as a sexton just before the last vestry. The sacristy project finished around May 2022, special thanks to Pam Gradwell and Elizabeth Litch for coordinating with the cabinetmaker and overseeing the many details involved. Patrick and the tech team continue to improve our broadcast and recording capacity, and we are now working towards more permanent and secure installation of equipment. We hosted



cooking for the Community Lunch in the Thompson Hall kitchen, and we are pausing conversations about renovations to that space while our new Open Doors plans unfold. Many thanks again to Dinah and Gord Bristow for their many hours tending the gardens throughout the growing season. And thanks to all who have contributed in countless other ways!

Respectfully submitted,
Jon Warland



Investment Committee

Our Investment Committee has the responsibility to monitor and control the parish's various investment portfolios. It currently has 3 members, James Prichard (Chair) Ken Edwards and Peter Huck. The Treasurer, Andrew Hirst also serves as an ex-officio member.

A mandate has been established by the Corporation to govern those funds directly managed by St. John's, and the Committee's main responsibility is to ensure the terms of the mandate are met. I can confirm that we continue to operate within the terms of the mandate.

The key aim of the mandate is to generate income that will be available to cover some of the parish's operating expenses. During the year \$115,890 was automatically withdrawn for these purposes.

There are four separate funds. Three of these (Rectory, Cemetery and Drayton) are managed by the Diocese on our behalf. The St. Johns Endowment Fund is by far the largest of the four and is managed by us through the Partridge Wealth Management team at RBC Dominion.

Market valuations during the year were under attack across the board and our funds' valuations fell by about 10%.

This compares favourably with the overall market which fell by 18% as measured by the S&P 500 index.

Provided we do not need to draw on our capital, year to year variations in value do not matter if dividend and interest income is secure. In fact, our average monthly income generation has improved by almost 16% during this year of market value setbacks. The recent run-up in interest rates in Canada means that as our fixed income investments mature, we have been able to renew them at sometimes significantly higher rates.

Respectfully submitted.
James Prichard, Committee Chair

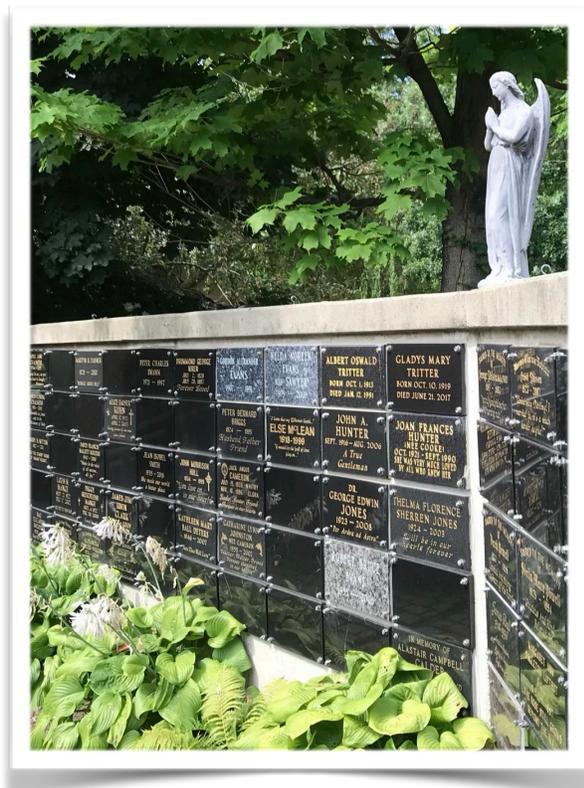


Columbarium

This year the Ministry of the Columbarium has been very active. Several niches were sold and a great interest has been shown. Fortunately we were able to accommodate each ones needs either by phone, in person interviews or home visits. The future plans for the Columbarium expansion will depend upon the future building plans of the Parish. There are 8 Niches unsold in the Columbarium.

Interments	2
Niche Sales	7
Interviews	7
Phone Calls	20+
Home Visits	2

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Ellis



Columbarium Financial Report 2022

Opening Balance 6,524.12

Receipts

BAO-Interest on perpetual C&M* Funds	163.38
Time of use	
Plaque engraving- F.M.	
Plaque installation-A.T.	1,225.00
Sale of interment rights	
Niche portion	7,350.00
Capital portion	5,636.50
Administration Fee	352.00
TOTAL	14,736.88

Expenditures

Bank Service Charges	5.00
BAO- Perpetual C&M Fund	900.00
St. John's C&M Fund	402.00
Time of use	
Plaque engraving F.M	
Plaque Installation A.T.	911.46
Capital Transfer to Parish Endowment	10,000.00
Office Expenses	345.27
TOTAL	13,563.73

Bank Balance Dec. 31, 2022
7687.27

* Care and Maintenance Fund

Givings

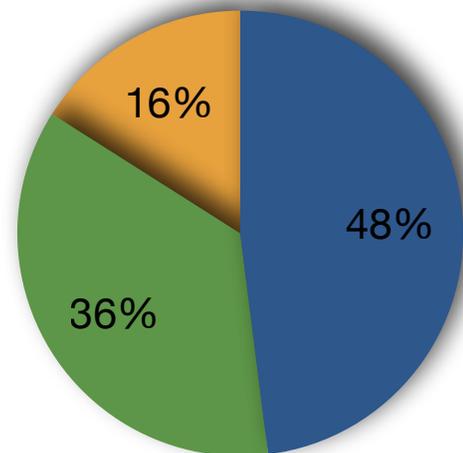
We have successfully completed the transition to our new Church Management Software called Tithely that allows us to keep track of givings in a systematic way. This also allows us to share the load of entering data and completing givings statements.

As you know, there are multiple ways to give to the mission and ministry of St. John's, Elora. These include conventional weekly envelope offerings, eTransfers, and Pre-Authorized Giving (PAG). Our contributions for 2022 were just over \$361,000, which means that we are within 9% of our post-pandemic giving levels. This is a good news story, and one that many parishes in the diocese are not experiencing. Thank you for your generosity.

This pie chart shows the percentage of our givings broken down by giving type.

If you would like to set up Pre-Authorized Givings, please let me know. We also encourage those who are currently on Pre-Authorized Giving to consider increasing their monthly donation amount. This form is available on our website.

Thank you for your generosity to St. John's Elora. If you have questions about your donations or your 2022 charitable tax receipt, please send me an email at givings.stjohnselora@gmail.com. Or you can contact Thomas Littlewood at parish.stjohnselora@gmail.com.



- Envelopes
- E-Transfer
- Pre-Authorized Giving

Respectfully submitted,
Steve Hornett, Givings Secretary

MINUTES

Annual Vestry Meeting of Mission and Ministry

The Annual Vestry Meeting of Mission and Ministry of the Church of St John the Evangelist, Elora was held on February 27, 2022 via Zoom with the Rector in the Chair. The meeting was called to order at 2:04PM.

1. Welcome and Call to Order

2. Motion to Accept Agenda

Moved by Dawn McClure

Seconded by Meg Prichard

CARRIED

3. Territorial Acknowledgement

Wendy Donohue offered a Territorial Acknowledgement.

4. Opening Prayer

The Rector led in an opening prayer.

5. Appointment of Vestry Clerk: Thomas Littlewood is appointed.

6. HOUSKEEPING Items: Eligibility to Vote, other notes and Regrets.

1. Tips on Zoom. Please keep yourself on MUTE. To speak, please use the RAISE HAND icon or identify yourself in the CHAT. Judy will share her screen to show slides. When she is not sharing her screen, or when a speaker isn't "Spotlighted" for you, if you wish to see everyone, please go to the icon that says "VIEW". You can find it at the top right corner, or down on the bottom of your Zoom screen. Click on GALLERY view, rather than SPEAKER view, and you can see more people. We presently have 64 people, you can scroll through the screens to see everyone else if you wish.

2. We need a record of everyone who is here. Thomas Littlewood is here to help you confirm your presence today by ensuring that you are named with your full names.

3. Eligibility to vote: 16 years of age; baptized in a Christian church; for past six months identified with parish through engagement at worship and with ministry, and your financial support; and not a member of another Vestry.

4. How to vote (most Motions are procedural; only ask if you are opposed to a Motion; or abstain).

5. If you want to APPLAUD - 1. Icon of clapping hands 2. WAVING both hands in the air.

7. REGRETS: Ian Hornsby, Max and Maureen MacIntyre, Pat Ellis, Norm and Heather Morris, Leslie and Pow Lin James, Judy Briggs and Goran Bengtsson, Gwyneth Watkins, Stephen Barrett, Gordon and Dinah Bristowe
8. Appointment of Readers of Minutes.
That Susan Edwards, Laura Robertson, and Mark Haslett review the Minutes of Vestry for approval.
9. Motion to Adopt Minutes from Vestry Meeting, February 21 and June 15, 2021.
Moved by Dave Tinker
Seconded by Dawn McClure
CARRIED

The 2021 Vestry Report initially recorded the dates for Irene Nudyk incorrectly in the Burial Register. They have been corrected in the report and are correct in the Burial Register.

10. Looking Back at 2021

One of our tasks today is to look back to 2021: adopt reports and financial statements and formally welcome the 10 people who have joined us since last year.

11. Motion to Adopt Reports of Ministry in 2021

Moved by Wendy Boose
Seconded by Catherine Robertson
CARRIED

Highlights or Comments:

Walking in Right Relations

We have been working to act more intentionally toward the recommendations of the TRC and to be more mindful of our relationship of our Indigenous peoples.

For Truth and Reconciliation Day, we tied orange ribbons on the trees around the church. Feeling uncomfortable throwing them away after they were taken down. Jane Rajentie took them home and sat with them for a while. Jane was inspired by an Indigenous elder who suggested that when settler people meet together, they have a chair set out to remind us of the Indigenous voices that are not at the table. The quilt Jane made sits on our empty chair, bearing witness to Indigenous peoples, stories, and wisdom. It will have a presence at all parish gatherings, liturgies, and events. Gordon Bristowe is in process of making a stand for it to be displayed.

Sacristy Project

Pam Gradwell described the sacristy project and the purpose of the new room. Pam thanked Elizabeth Litch for her leadership on the project and for her creation of the new white frontal and super frontals which are dedicated to the ministry of Rev. Canon Robert Hulse, Rector Emeritus.

Givings

Steve Hornett encouraged members of Vestry to move their contributions to Pre-Authorized Givings as the most effective way of contributing financially to St John's. Tax receipts are in the mail; they are summary receipts itemized by kind of giving (general account, choir fund, etc.).

12. Financial Report from 2021

Andrew Hirst thanked Ken Edwards for his help getting him oriented with the parish finances.

The financial statements show that we are in a very healthy financial position. Investments are up \$800,000 this year. \$44,000 sent to the Endowment Funds this year. Parish givings made up 77% of the parish income this year.

Motion to Adopt Financial Statements for 2021

Moved by Jeff Ostic

Seconded by Pam Gradwell

CARRIED

13. Welcoming New Members in 2021

We have welcomed 10 new people who have joined us in 2021. The Rector noted how outstanding this is considering the limitations of our in-person gatherings. All of these people have encountered St John's online.

The Vestry welcomes:

Ann Ironside, Peter Boulatta, David Gillespie, John and Kathy Milman, Felicia Gow, Daniel Skripkariuk, Guinevere Kern, Patrick Murray, and Garry Cantlon

The Rector offered a prayer for our new members, thanking God for their presence among us.

14. Looking forward to 2022

1. Vestry viewed a video about the new Vision for St John's.

2. Vision for St John's

Warden Peter Barr gave an update about the Vision for St John's.

Proclaim the Love of Christ

We are an Anglican church that is both traditional and missional. Worship and prayer are central to our community. As we return to in-person worship, we will continue and enhance our virtual worship. We will continue to deepen our connections with our Anglican communities in the Diocese by integrating ourselves to the diocesan programs. Chris Houston was instrumental in creating the Niagara School for Missional Leadership.

Engage and Involve

The Poppy Project went beyond our expectations. We welcomed many people to the church and to Elora; we plan to continue this in 2022, and we will involve the broader community in this. We will engage with the tourism industry that is booming in the village. People come to our church and they are interested in us. We will continue to discern what our mission is with those seekers.

Musical Outreach

Music has been a longstanding tradition in our church. Our music videos are the most watched videos we produce. We have welcomed Patrick to our midst and we are thankful for his leadership and vision. We are excited by what he is bringing to our church.

Open Doors

Opening our doors is about making our space more accessible to members of the parish and the community at large. We have begun a process to ensure our space is as safe as it can be in the times we are in with airborne viruses. We are undertaking a project to improve our ventilation.

We also need to make our spaces more physically accessible and barrier-free. This includes accessible washrooms and a large open space. We hope to use the space between the Parish Centre and the church to create that open space.

Peter Barr and the Rector opened the floor for members of vestry to speak to the question

“WHAT SPEAKS TO YOU ABOUT THE VISION?”

- Sense of belonging
- A new open, welcoming space
- People in the parish who live in Elora and engaged in the village
- Intersection of worship, prayer, and music

-Collaboration

- Impact of our Poppy Project shows us what we can do
- Building on our traditions as well as the opportunity to do new things
- Familiarity of our liturgy and hymns for those returning to church
- We're living into our calling of being a Gospel and Easter people

15. BUDGET 2022

Andrew Hirst presented the 2022 budget as prepared by the Corporation. We are budgeting a 10% increase in offerings in hopes that restrictions will continue to be lessened. We are also projecting our choir donations to increase as activities increase. We are budgeting \$25,000 for ventilation upgrades which will be transferred from reserves.

We are budgeting a small increase for the clergy stipends. Our music budget is increased ~\$20,000 reflecting a full year of Music Director salary. We are also budgeting \$12,000 for an administrative assistant. Our insurance fees will increase by approximately \$3,000. Our assessment to the diocese will be approximately \$8,000 less than 2021. We are projecting a deficit of \$137,000, which we will cover from parish investment funds.

Peter Barr emphasized the necessity for us all to continue to keep up our stewardship as parish donations account for 70% of our budget.

We believe that our decreased revenue in 2021 was due to our limitations of COVID restrictions. The increased withdrawals from our investments will largely be used to cover the ventilation improvements. We also anticipate having increased choir expenditure as restrictions lessen this year.

QUESTIONS

- Is there space in the budget for increased recording equipment?
Not as such, but we are aware of the need for increased expenditures there.

-Reminder that it is still necessary for folks to note when they want their givings to go towards the choir fund and PWRDF.

Motion to Adopt Budget for 2022

Moved by Peter Barr

Seconded by Diana Spearn

CARRIED

- WAYS to GIVE
1. Envelope (Hand delivered or mailed);
 2. E-transfer (treasurer.stjohnselora@gmail.com);
 3. Online (www.niagaraanglican.ca/donate);
 4. P.A.G. (form from website or Steve Hornett)

16. LAY LEADERSHIP for 2022

Motion to elect Lay Leaders for 2022

Moved by Diana Spearn

Seconded by Pam Gradwell

CARRIED

That the following people be acclaimed by Vestry to their respective roles and carry out their responsibilities according the Canons of the Diocese:

People's Warden	Pam Gradwell
Deputy People's Warden	Jeff Ostic
Members of Synod	Thomas Littlewood (2nd of 2 year) Ian Rice (2nd of 2 year)
Alternate Member of Synod	Colleen Murray (2nd of 2 year)
Parish Council Member at Large	Dawn McClure Ian Hornsby Rod Murray Chris Rynberk

Appointments by Rector for 2022

Rector's Warden:	Peter Barr
Deputy Rector's Warden:	Jane Holding
Parish Council Member at Large:	Wendy Boose Felicia Gow Mark Haslett Jane Rajantie

Appointments by Corporation for 2022

Treasurer:	Andrew Hirst
Property:	Jon Warland
Givings Secretary:	Steve Hornett
Parish Council Secretary:	Susan Edwards
Bookkeeper:	Susan Hirst
Columbarium:	Patricia Ellis

Commissioning of New Leaders for 2022

The Rector offered a prayer for the commissioning of New Leaders.

17. Other Business:

Items of Gratitude:

1. The Rector thanked:

1. Dave Tinker and Patricia Reimer for their service on Parish Council. Dave continues to work with Portage and Patricia takes on a new role coordinating the Lectors Guild.
 2. Diana Spearn for her leadership as warden.
 3. Andrew and Susan Hirst for his faithful and hard work as our treasurer and bookkeeper.
 4. Linda Coultres for her work preparing orders of service.
 5. The corporation, Parish Council, and the staff for their hard work this year.
2. The Curate thanked those who helped organize the Lenten care packages and all those who helped deliver them.
 3. Rod Murray thanked Dave Tinker and Peter Scott for their invitation to join them at the boy's Bible Study at Portage.
 4. Eileen Cole-Perkins thanked the parish for their love and friendship as she continues to battle cancer.
 5. Catherine Robertson thanked Paul and Judy for their leadership and friendship.

18. Closing Prayer and Motion of Adjournment:

O God of power and eternal light, look favourably upon thy whole Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery, particularly on the mission and ministry of the parish Church of St. John the Evangelist in Elora; and by the tranquil operation of thy perpetual providence carry out the work of our salvation; that things where cast down may be raised up, and that all things may return into unity through him by whom all things were made, even thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

May the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit, be with us evermore. Amen.

Motion to Adjourn

Moved by Thomas Littlewood

Special

A special vestry of the Parish of St John the Evangelist, Elora was held via Zoom on December 4, 2022, beginning at 1:30 with the Rector in the Chair.

Present: Rev. Canon Paul Walker (Chair), Thomas Littlewood, Susan Brown, Meg Pritchard, James Pritchard, Ken Edwards, Susan Edwards, Peter Barr, Wendy Donohue, Pam Gradwell, Jane Houlding, Mark Haslett, Elaine Dightam, Steve Hornett, Linda Coultres, Sharon Barrett, Stephen Barrett, Gwyneth Watkins, Colleen Murray, Rod Murray, Barbara Hamilton, John Hamilton, Catherine Robertson, Marcus Kramer, Patricia Reimer, David Campbell, Len Griffiths, Walter Nudyk, Ken Sieling, Ian Rice, Sharon Rice, Jane Anne Murray, Jon Warland, Barbara Dunsmore, Graham Dunsmore, Dave Tinker, Anne Tinker, Charlotte Logan, Jane Rapp, Bob Cooper, Jane Cooper, Gerry Hill, Janet Knight, Chris Houston, Jean Houston, Jeff Ostic, Rev. John Lockyer, Jurgen Petrenko, Patrick Murray, Laura Robertson, Peter Huck, Nancy Scott, Peter Scott, Walter Langford, Wendy Boose, Ian Hornsby, Fred Thompson

1. Welcome and opening Prayer
2. Appointment of Vestry Clerk; Thomas Littlewood
3. Land Acknowledgment
4. Regrets - Susan and Andrew Hirst, Max and Maureen MacIntyre, Dinah and Gordon Bristowe, Pat Dewar, Colleen Roberts, Judy Briggs, Göran Bengtsson, Sallie Smyth, Chris Rynberk, Doug Wilson

5. Background

The Rector explained the Open Doors project and outlined the parameters that we are looking for in a new building.

Why now?

- Accessibility
- Upgrading of electrical systems
- Sharing food and circulation
- We have the money

Market value of Investments (as of October 31)

RBC-- \$3,911,209

Diocese \$723,938

Plus a bequest of \$400,000

Projected Revenue from Interest for 2022
RBC-- \$165,000
Diocese-- \$37,660
Total-- \$202,660

Some of this money is earmarked for accessibility. The Rector reminded Vestry of how lucky St John's is to have these funds to use for projects like this.

6. Motion

Moved by Peter Barr and Seconded by Pam Gradwell

Vestry authorize the Wardens to access funds up to \$75,000 as needed to retain SRM Architects to develop the design, seek land use approvals and take us through to issuing tenders for contracts and building permits.

What this accomplishes:

- Prepare architectural drawings
- Identify costs, budget, and funding plan
- Seek approvals from Diocese, municipality, BAO, Heritage Committee

In consultation with

- Diocese (bishop, various financial and building committees)
- Parish
- Municipality

-Questions for Clarification

Members of Vestry asked a variety of questions about the scope, funding, and plans for the building. The Trustees of the investment portfolio reminded Vestry and the Corporation not to be too reliant on investment funds. The Chair and Corporation clarified that ventilation, air quality, audio visual equipment, and an up-to-code kitchen will be part of the project. SRM has provided drawings for the parish before, and Edward Thomas is part of the 8:00 congregation. Some concerns were raised about potentially moving the columbarium, and the Chair assured that should the columbarium be moved, it will be done with the upmost respect and dignity. Family members of the interred will be consulted. Members of Vestry expressed enthusiasm and support for the project.

The Rector called the question, and the motion was passed unanimously.

7. Ian Rice moved adjournment at 2:14PM.

FINANCIALS 2022

Church of St. John the Evangelist						
Statement of Financial Position						
As At December 31 2022						
		General	Endowment	Diocese	2022	2021
		Fund	Fund	Funds	Total	
Assets						
Current Assets						
	Cash	\$ 101,143	\$	\$	\$ 101,143	\$ 144,238
	Accounts Receivable	1,759			1,759	600
	Prepaid Expenses	1,630			1,630	1,513
		104,532	- 0	- 0	104,532	146,351
Investments						
	Endowment Fund				- 0	- 0
	Investments- note 1		4,342,653		4,342,653	4,160,259
	Parish centre		209,686		209,686	209,686
	Due from general fund		12,018		12,018	15,313
			4,564,357	- 0	4,564,357	4,385,259
	Diocese Fund- note 1			736,326	736,326	860,378
		- 0	4,564,357	736,326	5,300,683	5,245,637
		\$ 104,532	\$ 4,564,357	\$ 736,326	\$ 5,405,215	\$ 5,391,988
Liabilities						
Current liabilities						
	Accounts Payable	\$ 21,066	\$	\$	\$ 21,066	\$ 14,950
	Due to Endowment Fund	12,018			12,018	15,313
	Due to Christ Church Drayt	- 0			0	650
		33,084	- 0	- 0	33,084	30,914
	Internal Trusts-Note2	74,662			74,662	53,234
Fund Balances						
	Unrestricted	(3,214)			(3,214)	62,204
	Internally restricted		4,564,357		4,564,357	4,385,259
	Externally restricted			736,326	736,326	860,378
		(3,214)	4,564,357	736,326	5,297,469	5,307,841
		\$ 104,532	\$ 4,564,357	\$ 736,326	\$ 5,405,215	\$ 5,391,988

Church of St. John the Evangelist						
Statement of Fund Revenue and Expense						
For the Year Ended December 31 2022						
		General	Endowment	Diocese	2022	2021
		Fund	Fund	Funds	Total	Total
Revenue						
	Donations/cash transfers	\$ 231,134	\$ 403,048	\$ - 0	\$ 634,182	\$ 292,208
	Choir Donations	71,660			71,660	59,424
	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	418			418	23,622
	Concert Series	2,520			2,520	0
	Facility use fees	5,279			5,279	2,900
	Miscellaneous income	0			0	771
	Interest		17,228		17,228	16,802
	Dividends		108,954		108,954	91,737
	Distributions		17,527	37,900	55,427	53,501
	Realized Gains Losses)		36,224		36,224	73,218
	Unrealized Gains (Losses)		-275,883	-124,052	-399,935	657,985
		311,011	307,098	-86,152	531,957	1,272,168

The Church of St. John the Evangelist, Elora ☉ 2022 Annual Report of Mission and Ministry

		General	Endowment	Diocese	2022	2022
		Fund	Fund	Funds	Total	Total
Expenses						
	Payroll expense					
	Clergy salaries	146,682			146,682	157,730
	Music salaries	82,985			82,985	63,769
	Choir fees	90,484			90,484	44,777
	Administrative assistant	4,801			4,801	0
		324,952	0	0	324,952	266,276
	Property Expenses					
	Capital expenses	13,584			13,584	1,642
	Caretaking	10,224			10,224	4,600
	Maintenance and repairs	2,686			2,686	4,542
	Security	1,566			1,566	1,468
	Utilities	8,395			8,395	6,405
		36,455	0	0	36,455	18,657
	Operation Expenses					
	Bookkeeping Fee	5,100			5,100	4,560
	Bank Charges	372			372	147
	Church Supplies	6,081			6,081	3,123
	Copier Lease & Supplies	3,762			3,762	3,034
	Flowers	1,385			1,385	-502
	Insurance	19,448			19,448	16,962
	Organ Maintenance	301			301	603
	Legal	249			249	10
	Music	1,256			1,256	1,589
	Postage	570			570	913
	Telephone & Internet	2,674			2,674	2,447
	Software	1,144			1,144	1,748
	Misc	697			697	2,370
	Parish Retreat	1,635			1,635	0
	Music Director Search	0			0	837
	Concert Series	187			187	0
		44,861	0	0	44,861	37,841
	Diocese Assessment	76,061			76,061	89,306
		-171,318	307,098	-86,152	49,628	860,088
	Exceptional Item – Mediation Settlement	60,000			60,000	0
	Surplus/(Deficit) after Exceptional Item	-231,318	307,098	-86,152	-10,372	860,088
	Fund Transfers	165,900	-128,000	-37,900	0	0
	Excess (Deficiency) Revenue over expenditure	\$ (65,418)	\$ 179,098	\$ (124,05	\$ (10,372)	\$ 860,088

Church of St. John the Evangelist					
Notes to Financial Statements					
For the Year Ended December 31 2022					
		2022		2021	
1	Investments	Market	Cost	Market	Cost
	Endowment fund				
	Cash Account	8,610	8,610	7,268	7,268
	Cash in Transit	- 0	- 0	50,000	50,000
	Securities	4,334,043	3,561,349	4,102,991	3,054,411
		\$4,342,653	\$ 3,569,959	\$4,160,259	\$ 3,111,679
	Diocese of Niagara Funds				
	Rectory Fund	415,481	350,444	476,959	350,444
	Cemetery Investment Fund	305,092	305,000	365,905	305,000
	Church Property and Rectory Fund	15,753	5,702	17,514	5,702
		\$ 736,326	\$ 661,146	\$ 860,378	\$ 661,146
2	Internal Trusts				
		Opening		Other	Closing
		Balance	Revenue	Revenue	Expense
	Capital Restoration	9,009	8,835		
	Columbarium Maintenance Fund	4,915	12,157		57
	Theology Student Bursary	210			210
	Centre Wellington Food Bank	300	300		
	Discretionary	1,882	410		1,678
	Migrant workers	216			
	Knitters & Quilters	4,294	1,605		515
	Organ Fund	15,341	550	10,000	5,197
	Parish Centre	468			
	Portage Scholarship Award	6,389			
	Primate World Relief	7,860	9,580		12,725
	Primate World Relief Ukraine	- 0	7,885		7,160
	Primates World Relief-Solar Birth Lights	600			600
	Primates World Relief-Makueni Well	300			300
	Primates World Relief-Vaccine Equity	350			350
	Primates World Relief-BC Floods	200			200
	Primates World Relief-Water Project	500			500
	ACTS Uganda Project	400			400
		\$ 53,234	\$ 41,322	\$ 10,000	\$ 29,892
					\$ 74,663

Christ Church			
Chapel of Church of St. John the Evangelist			
Statement of Revenue and Expense			
For The Year ended December 31 2022			
		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Revenue			
	Donations	18,538	14,674
	Donation in memoriam	- 0	10,000
		18,538	24,674
Expense			
	Organ Restoration Fund	1,262	10,000
	Bank charges	48	46
	Altar Guild	801	590
	Maintenance	2,989	1,270
	Utilities	3,049	2,631
	Insurance	1,420	1,310
	Outreach	3,545	4,500
	Clergy expenses	475	600
		13,589	20,947
Excess of Revenue			
	Over Expenditures	4,949	3,727

BUDGET For Year Ended December 31, 2023

Church of St. John the Evangelist				
For the Year Ended December 31 2023				
		2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Income				
	Offerings	275,000	231,134	270,000
	Choir Donations	75,000	71,660	80,000
	Music Outreach	-	5,279	15,000
	Canada Emergency Wage Subsidy	400	418	-
	Facility Use Fees	1,800	2,520	5,500
	Transfer Endowment/Internal Trusts	25,000	- 0	40,000
	Open Doors	-	-	50,000
	Total Income	377,200	311,011	460,500
Salaries Benefits Stipends				
	Clergy	160,833	146,682	136,700
	Music	84,496	82,985	90,650
	Choir fees	75,000	90,484	100,000
	Music Outreach	2,000	187	17,000
	Administrative assistant	12,000	4,801	18,150
	Total Salaries/Benefits/Stipends	334,329	325,139	362,500
Property Expense				
	Capital Expense	25,000	13,584	40,000
	Open Doors	-	-	50,000
	Caretaking	12,790	10,224	12,000
	Maintenance & Repair	5,000	2,686	4,000
	Security	1,500	1,566	1,600
	Utilities	6,500	8,395	8,000
	Church Inspection		- 0	
	Total Property Expenses	50,790	36,455	115,600

	2022 Budget	2022 Actual	2023 Budget
Operating Expenses			
Contingency	5,000	60,000	5,000
Advertising/Outreach	1,000	- 0	-
Bookkeeping Fee	5,340	5,100	5,400
Bank Charges	360	372	600
Church Supplies	4,000	6,081	5,500
Copier Lease & Supplies	3,000	3,762	3,500
Flowers	- 0	1,385	1,500
Insurance	20,000	19,448	20,000
Organ Maintenance	750	301	500
Legal fees	1,000	249	-
Music	1,500	1,256	1,500
Postage	1,000	570	1,000
Software	2,000	1,144	1,500
Telephone & Internet	2,500	2,674	3,000
Misc	2,400	697	2,400
Parish Retreat	- 0	1,635	2,000
Total Operating Expenses	49,850	104,674	53,400
Diocese Assessment DMM	81,061	76,061	72,371
Total Expenses	516,030	542,329	603,871
Net Operating Balance	(138,830)	(231,318)	(143,371)
Investment Fund Income Withdrawals	100,000	128,000	105,000
Cemetery Fund Withdrawals	24,255	24,256	24,255
Rectory Fund Withdrawals	13,644	13,644	13,644
Total Other Income	137,899	165,900	142,899
Net Income (loss) for the period	(931)	(65,418)	(472)

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.



Church of St. John the Evangelist
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