

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the Parish Church of St George, Crescentwood
in the Diocese of Rupert's Land

-and-

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Of the St George's Memorial Fund

February 14, 2021

Meeting held by Virtual Means



ST. GEORGE'S
ANGELICAN CHURCH

168 Wilton Street

Winnipeg, Manitoba R3M 3C3

(204) 453-5642

Diocese of Rupert's Land

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**Agenda of the Concurrent Annual General Meetings of the St. George's Memorial Fund and
the Parish Church of St. George's Crescentwood**

B. Barnes Trickett, Chair; M. Thomson, Vice-Chair

Item No.	Item	Responsible Person
1.	Call to Order <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening Prayer • Territorial Acknowledgment 	Honorary Assistant B. Barnes Trickett
2.	Conduct of Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Robert's Rules will not be used • Explanation of virtual meeting procedure: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Use of Zoom ○ Secretary Appointed by Chair ○ Vice-Chair to move standard motions ○ Negative voting ○ Concurrent Meeting of Fund and Parish ○ No motion to approve agenda, AOB instead • Questions Regarding Conduct of Meeting 	B. Barnes Trickett M. Thomson Secretary: M. Groce
3.	Constitution of Meetings <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Notices Sent for Both Meetings • Report on Declarations Received • Further Declarations? 	B. Barnes Trickett
<i>Memorial Fund Business</i>		
4.	Approval of Minutes from 2020 Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to approve Minutes 	J. Kirk
5.	Memorial Fund: Nominating Committee Report <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to approve Nominated Candidates 	J. Kirk
6.	Report of the President of the Memorial Fund	J. Kirk
7.	Report of the Treasurer of the Memorial Fund <i>To be delivered orally</i>	M. Hudson
8.	Appointment of Auditors of the Memorial Fund <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to appoint Exchange Group as Auditors 	M. Hudson
9.	Ratification and Confirmation of Acts of Directors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to Ratify and Confirm 	C. Thomson
10.	Memorial Fund New Business	J. Kirk
11.	Memorial Fund Courtesies	J. Kirk
<i>Parish Business</i>		
12.	Approval of Minutes of 2020 Annual Meeting <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to approve Minutes 	B. Barnes Trickett
13.	Receiving of Reports <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MOTION to receive reports 	B. Barnes Trickett

14.	Questions on the Following Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Altar Guild • Memorial Flowers • Hospitality Committee 	Answers from: B. Kirk; S. Corby; B. Cotton
15.	Questions on the Following Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Servers • Closet and Garage Sales • Mission & Ministry • Choir • Liturgical Coordination 	Answers from: G. Morgan; H. Andrew; R. Morgan; C. Thomson
16.	Questions on the Following Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building Redevelopment • Property • Web Properties and Livestreaming 	Answers from: A. Thomson; J. Morgan; M. Thomson
17.	Questions on the Following Reports: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Worship Committee • Questions to Honorary Assistants 	Answers from: Honorary Assistants; R. Dennis
18.	Questions on the Christian Education Report	Answers from: J. Thomson
19.	Presentation of the Finance Report, Stewardship Report, and Draft Budget	T. Cotton
20.	Finance-related Motions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Approval of Budget, Receipt of Preliminary Statements, Appointment of Auditor 	T. Cotton
21.	Questions for Corporation	B. Barnes Trickett M-B. Barker
22.	Nominating Committee Report Presented <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Motion for Appointments 	T. Cotton
23.	Any Other Business	B. Barnes Trickett
24.	Courtesies	B. Barnes Trickett
25.	Adjournment and Closing Prayer	B. Barnes Trickett Honorary Assistant


St. George's AGM – Zoom Instructions

Meeting Registration

Each parish member who has completed a declaration will receive the link to register for the AGM. You can register as soon as you receive the link. There is no need to wait until the meeting begins to register.

Once you receive the link, click on it and complete the registration form shown below:

Webinar Registration

Topic	St. George's AGM 2021	
Time	Feb 14, 2021 01:00 PM in Winnipeg	

* Required Information

First Name * <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text" value="Matthew"/>	Last Name * <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text"/>
Email Address * <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text"/>	Confirm Email Address * <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text"/>

How many parish members who are over the age of 16 will be joining the meeting using this particular device? * <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text"/>	If you indicated above that two or more parish members who are over the age of 16 are joining from this device, what are the names of each member? <input style="width: 95%; border: 1px solid #ccc;" type="text"/>
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By registering, I agree to the [Privacy Statement](#) and [Terms of Service](#).

Please pay attention to the last two questions, which ask how many voting eligible parish members (over age of 16) will be joining from your device. For example, if there are two members in the same household attending the meeting, and both are calling in using the same single device (cell phone, tablet, or computer), then you should indicate two people and list

their names. If however, there are multiple members in the same household and each will call in using their own device, then your response is one for each member who registers.

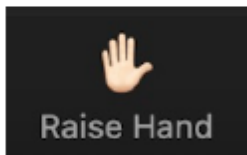
It is important that you decide how many people will join the meeting using each registration, and follow through with that plan, as this is how votes will be counted during the meeting.

Once you have clicked "Register", you'll see a page similar to the following, which provides your unique link to join the meeting. Zoom will also email you a copy of the link, so you can access it from there.

Everyone is encouraged to join the meeting 10 to 15 minutes early on Sunday, to ensure any small issues can be resolved by the time the meeting starts at 1pm.

Notes

Attendees will be muted at all times, except when called upon to speak. If you wish to speak, please use the "Raise Hand" function. At the appropriate time, you will then be allowed to unmute yourself. The button looks like this:





The Diocese of Rupert's Land

The Right Reverend Geoffrey Woodcroft
Bishop of Rupert's Land

January 7, 2021

Dear Friends in Christ,

Greetings in this season of illumination.

May we continually give thanks to God for the gift of life. The past months have been overwhelming and difficult, they have also been an undeniable blessing in God, as light has shone the Church has learned new skills in navigation. A journey in exile, a rising from deep lament, fresh awareness of God's mission-call, and our hope in where God is leading, are now woven into our story. Many of you prayed with me since last Easter psalm-portion 137.1-6 "By the waters of Babylon . . .", a prayer for the exiles, and a prayer for they who hope in the One God. We have prayed and reflect together, albeit physically distanced, and have felt great comfort and leading of the Spirit.

I hope that we may continue to journey in prayer and reflection, and now do so with Luke's Gospel 4.18-19

'The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,
to proclaim the year of the Lord's favour.'

In a time of birthing new hope and of longing to be physically with people, let us pray for the many members of our diocese and the rich ministries they represent.

May you continue in God's rich blessing and leading.

+ Geoffrey
Yours in Christ,

The Rt Rev. Geoffrey JJ Woodcroft

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MINUTES OF THE 2020 MEMORIAL FUND AGM

St. George's Memorial Fund Inc. – AGM Meeting Minutes

February 09, 2020 12:00 p.m.

In attendance: Directors: James Kirk (President), Alison Dennis (Secretary), Mr. Christopher Thomson, Incoming Director, Simon Blaikie (Rector)

Regrets: Matthew Hudson (Treasurer)

Call to Order: James 12:07 p.m.

1. Notice of Meeting and Nominating Committee Report
2. Approval of minutes from 2018 Memorial Fund Annual Meeting. Copies sent out via email following the meeting.
 - i. Motion by Brian Kirk to approve the minutes of last meeting. Seconded by Keith Waugh. Motion passed.*
3. Presidents Report: James *See attached document.*
4. Treasurers Update: Matthew (regrets)
 - These were unavailable at the time of the AGM, however, a copy was sent via email following the meeting.
5. Appointment of Exchange Group as auditors of the St. George's Memorial Fund.
 - ii. Motion by Brian Kirk to approve the appointment of the Exchange Group. Seconded by Christy Little. Motion passed.*
6. Ratification and confirmation of Acts of Memorial Fund Directors: James

iii. Motion by Paul Corby to approve the ratifications and acts of Memorial Fund Directors. Seconded by Keith Waugh. Motion passed.

7. New Business

- Concerns brought up by Heather Hammond about whether or not the Memorial Fund can provide the financial reports prior to the AGM, perhaps to be included in the package sent and printed for parishioners. Discussion around this in regards to tight timelines and the possibility of moving the church AGM back two weeks. An email will be sent out containing those documents moving forward. Discussion around this in regards to tight timelines and the possibility of moving the church AGM back two weeks.
- Gwyneth Jones inquired about the capital of the fund and the rate of return. Equities are \$500,000. James gave an explanation of the way the fund is investing and our discussions with Terry Kitching at RBC.
- Concerns raised by Peter Flynn regarding the pending Treasurer Report and why it wasn't available at the meeting. Marian Groce addressed the fact that there are often delays from many of the committees leading up to the AGM and that not all information can be included in the AGM package prior to printing. Emails would help in this situation.
- Some open discussion about having the Memorial Fund AGM in a separate day from the church AGM to allow for these delays. Nothing was decided upon.
- Derick Oliver voiced concerns over the importance of greater transparency, especially in the transition phase that St. George's is entering into. Question was also raised "Should part of the footprint of the site affect changes to the mem fund?" In other words, if part of the building was being used by another company/business, would the Mem Fund still be responsible for building maintenance?
- Brandon Barnes-Trickett explained that the Memorial Fund's mandate cannot be a money-making for profit entity- regardless of what the Fund is being asked to do.
- It was agreed upon that moving forward, the financial information would be made available at least one week prior to the scheduled church AGM.
- Willem De Bakker asked if the Memorial Fund's mandate allows it to fund the deficit of the church. It was explained that the articles of the fund are written in a way that the fund cannot fund the deficit. This conversation continued and it was made clear to parishioners that should the parish cease to operate, any money maintained by the memorial fund would be turned over to the diocese. The last question involved whether the Memorial Fund would pay for the planning contract. James explained that should the parish formally request it, it would fall within our mandate to pay the bill.

7. Motion to adjourn 12:45 p.m.

iii. Motion by Brian Kirk to adjourn. Seconded by Derrick Oliver. Motion passed. Meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Next meeting will be held on March 2, 2020 at 7:00 p.m. in the Guild Room.

2021 REPORT OF THE MEMORIAL FUND PRESIDENT

I wish to welcome you to the 37th annual meeting of the St. George's Memorial Fund Inc. We are commencing our 38th year as an incorporated body. The Fund was created in 1975, and was incorporated in December of 1983. There are 7 active Directors: the Rector and Wardens as ex-officio Directors, and 4 elected Directors. You, the parishioners, are the voting members of the corporation. Thank you for your interest.

The mandate of the Fund is:

- to solicit and collect funds from members of the parish of St. George's Church Crescentwood, and the wider community.
- to invest, administer, and disperse the funds after reviewing and approving written requests from Parish Council for monies to repair and/or replace, in whole or in part, the existing church building.
- to hold regular meetings of the Directors to review the solicitation program, the investment administration of the funds, and the need for maintaining the Church building in an excellent state of repair.

This was the original mandate of the Fund. It remains the primary mandate until we grow the assets to the point where income alone will provide for the ongoing needs of the Church, without encroaching on capital.

As the Treasurer's Report will illustrate, growing the Fund's assets remains inconsistent from year to year. It is dependent upon donations received, investment rates of return, and the demand for repairs and maintenance.

There are several ways in which you can contribute to the Memorial Fund, of which the most common are:

- To include the Memorial Fund in your will with a gift of money or securities
- To give annual donations "In Memory" of loved ones
- Make a gift of a new or existing life insurance policy, which will create a significant bequest in your memory, and provide you with a tax benefit now.

The Directors of the Memorial Fund would be pleased to discuss any potential gift in person, and in strictest confidence. We also encourage you to discuss this idea with your personal financial advisor.

In 2019 I wrote that our parish was in a time of significant transition. That is still the case. But little did we know the challenges that 2020, and a global pandemic, would place on us. I am confident that the Memorial remains secure and able to provide for our needs as a parish, however they evolve.

Lastly, I would like to acknowledge and thank the many people who help so much with the work we do on behalf of the parish.

Mary-Beth Barker and Brandon Barnes Trickett, who represent Parish Council on the board, both contributed significantly to the Fund's guidance and operation in 2020.

I also want to thank my fellow elected Directors, Alison Dennis, Matthew Hudson, and Christopher Thomson for their input and dedication. They have contributed greatly to the Memorial Fund in the past year. Each of these individuals bring a history, understanding, and commitment to our parish. We are fortunate to have them.

Andrew Thomson deserves a special thank you for his commitment to the parish. As Property Chair he does an excellent job to keep our church in good repair.

We recently lost a dedicated member of our team, Christina Little. Christy's work for the fund predates my involvement, going back at least 10 years. We will miss her; may she rest in peace.

We are fortunate to have a dynamic duo in our parish office. Marian Groce continues to support the Memorial Fund through her experience and wisdom. Mary Smith is making a new and growing contribution to our work. Thank you both.

On behalf of the Directors, I wish to thank all of you, the parishioners, for your generosity and support of the Memorial Fund. Our parish has benefitted greatly from the legacy left by those who came before us. Together we can build on that legacy and ensure that St. Georges Crescentwood will remain a place of worship for ourselves, our families, and our community.

Thank you,

James Kirk
February 14, 2021

Ratification and confirmation of the acts of the Directors of the Memorial Fund:

“Be it resolved that all acts, contracts, bylaws, proceedings, appointments, elections, and payments enacted, made, done and taken since the date of the last annual meeting of the directors of the Memorial Fund, as same are set out or referred to in the minutes of the meetings of the board of directors or in the financial statements be and the same are hereby approved, sanctioned and confirmed.”

MINUTES OF THE 2020 AGM OF THE PARISH CHURCH OF ST. GEORGE, CRESCENTWOOD

2020 ANN 01 Call to Order

Incumbent Priest Venerable Simon Blaikie called the meeting to order.

2020 ANN 02 Opening Prayer and Prayers for the Faithful Departed

Venerable Simon Blaikie led the opening prayer and prayers for the faithful departed during 2019.

2020 ANN 03 Introduction by the Venerable Simon Blaikie

Simon welcomed the congregation to the meeting and thanked everyone for their support throughout the year. The parish is in a time of flux and he looks forward to the conversation today. He will chair the meeting since it is his last with the parish.

2020 ANN 04 Present

Brenda Cotton confirmed that 47 parishioners signed the Declaration of Church Membership in the Record of Attendance book that is kept in the Church Office.

2020 ANN 05 Appointment of Secretary

Kristin Anderson was appointed Secretary.

2020 ANN 06 Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting of 2019

The Draft Minutes of the Annual Meeting held February 17, 2019 were circulated to parishioners in advance of the meeting.

2020 ANN 07 Motion

It was:

Moved by: David Punter

Seconded by: Brian Kirk

"That the Minutes of the Annual Meeting of February 17, 2019 be adopted"

CARRIED

2020 ANN 08 The Incumbent Priest's Report

The report of the Incumbent Priest, Simon Blaikie, is on page 11 of the Annual Meeting Report for Sunday, February 9, 2020. Simon was asked if an exit interview would be done when he left the parish. He thought this was a reasonable request.

2020 ANN 9 The Report of the Wardens

Ted Cotton referred to the Wardens Report on pages 12-13.

2020 ANN 10 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Brian Kirk

Seconded by: Matthew Thomson

"That the reports of the Corporation be received."

CARRIED

2020 ANN 11 Approval, Acts of Parish Council, 2019

A parishioner identified that the current method of displaying minutes on the bulletin board is inaccessible as they are high above the ground and use a size 12 font. The one-month delay in having approved minutes is problematic as they don't reflect current deliberations. It was asked if draft minutes could be posted. Different views about whether the posted minutes should be approved or not were expressed. Other approaches to approving PC minutes in a timelier way were discussed. Corporation heard these concerns and will address accessibility issues including posting minutes more quickly than they are now.

Concern was raised that an architectural firm to develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) was hired without adequate communication to parishioners. It was identified that this action is within scope of the role of PC to manage affairs of the church on behalf of parishioners. Parishioners were encouraged to attend PC meetings or talk to PC members to receive current information or ask questions.

2020 ANN 12 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Brenda Cotton

Seconded by: Andrew Thomson

"That the Acts of Parish Council, 2019, be approved."

CARRIED**2020 ANN 13 Motion**

It was:

Moved by: Brian Kirk

Amended by: David Punter

"That the reports in the document ANNUAL MEETING: Reports of Church Officers, Standing Committees and Parish Organizations with the exception of Financial Statements for 2019, Sunday February 9, 2020 be received."

CARRIED**2020 ANN 14 Other Reports**

It was noted by Peter Flynn that a paper copy of the Adult Education Committee Report was submitted and available at the meeting today. Nighaan Sinclair will be speaking after the March 8 service on the topic of responding to the acknowledgement of Treaty 1 land to help us understand the statement.

Re the Pastoral Care report on page 24 – Gwyneth Jones encouraged people driving by a nursing home with a St. Georges parishioner to stop by for a visit.

Re Property Committee report on page 35, Andrew Thomson thanked the Memorial Fund for their support in 2019. In the upcoming year, a plan will be created to address repairs in a systematic way, although impact of any changes the building will have to be determined.

2020 ANN 15 Financial Statements of 2019

Ted Cotton reviewed the Finance Report 2019 and Preliminary Statements on pages 49 – 51 and on paper copies distributed at the meeting.

Our Revenue and Expenses show a preliminary Net Loss for January to December 2019 of \$34,640 from operations. This is favourable to the budgeted Net Loss of \$52,532 but unfavourable to last year's actual Net Loss of \$30,467.

Preliminary Revenue is \$18,494 favourable to the 2019 Budget. Festival Offerings are \$878 favourable due to higher festival envelope giving. Fundraising is \$4,156 favourable; this is higher Garage/Closet Sales offsetting less Special Events. Interest Earned is \$2,094 favourable to budget due to better market conditions. Regular Offerings are \$10,650 favourable; this is higher Identified Giving. Identified Giving (Envelopes, Electronic

Offerings, and Via United Way) is \$10,954 favourable to Budget but \$2,141 unfavourable to last year; as older parishioners pass away, their giving isn't being replaced.

Preliminary Expense is \$603 unfavourable to the 2019 Budget. Ministry is \$2,019 unfavourable due to funerals while Simon was on vacation. Music is \$701 favourable; most costs were slightly less than budgeted. Program is \$892 favourable; this is largely little being charged to Strategic Implementation.

The statements have not yet been reviewed by the Auditors. The Final 2019 Financial Report can be expected in the May 2020 issue of "byGeorge!".

Investments owned by St. Georges are cashed in to pay for the bills. A question was asked if any of the designated funds of \$272,000 could be used for the deficit. Some can, but others need to be used for the purpose that they were established for. A concern was raised that use of investments to pay for operations isn't sustainable. Ted agreed and identified that this is one of the reasons the parish is considering redevelopment of the building.

2020 ANN 16 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Ted Cotton

Seconded by: Brian Kirk

"That the preliminary financial statement for 2019 be received."

CARRIED

2020 ANN 17 Budget 2020

Ted Cotton reviewed the 2020 Budget. Parish Council approved a Budget with a net loss of \$39,845 for submission to the Annual General Meeting. The most significant 2020 budget items are \$9,454 less in identified giving based on Stewardship results, a special event increase of \$3,206, and a \$9,460 decrease in administration assistant stipend and benefits.

There was discussion about how the Diocesan Apportionment is calculated and what the monies are used for. It is based on 12.5% of 2018 numbers as it is calculated in the fall, before 2019 numbers are available. We gave the Diocese less than requested in 2019, so the 2020 amount is about \$600 more than what was given in each of the last two years.

A parishioner identified that \$33,000 is a lot when we have a planned deficit of \$39,845 and asked if this could be reduced. Ted identified that the AGM could make changes to the proposed budget.

2020 ANN 18 Budget 2020 Motion

It was

Moved by: Gwyneth Jones

Seconded by: Heather Hammond

“That St. Georges apportionment be reduced to \$28,000” Vote 16-15 against. **FAILED.**

The parish would like to send a message to the Diocese that we can't continue to support the current apportionment without a Diocese plan to address the financial situation. Simon identified that the John Longhurst article in the Winnipeg Free Press spoke to one criteria of health in a church, numbers. Support of missions is another criterion of health of a parish. The main reason for reduced numbers in the Anglican Church is death of parishioners.

It was identified that if parishes are having financial problems, then the Diocese will have problems and perhaps the model for financing the Diocese needs to be reviewed.

2020 ANN 19 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Derek Oliver

Seconded by Christopher Thomson

“That the results of the St. Georges apportionment vote be transmitted to the Diocese from our parish and a timely response from the Bishop requested”.

CARRIED.

2020 ANN 20 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Ted Cotton

Seconded by: Christopher Thomson

"That the budget presented at this meeting be received and approved." 3 opposed. **CARRIED**

2020 ANN 21 Report of the Nominating Committee

It was noted by Andrew Thomson that a paper copy of the Nominating Committee was submitted and available at the meeting today. A full slate of candidates is proposed, except for a Deputy People's Warden. It was asked if anyone present wishes to be on Parish Council or a Synod representative. As no response was received, a vote isn't required.

2020 ANN 22 Motion

It was:

Moved by: Andrew Thomson

Seconded by: Matthew Thomson

"That the report of the Nominating Committee be accepted as circulated."

CARRIED

2020 ANN 23 Appointment of Auditors Motion

It was:

Moved by: Ted Cotton

Seconded by: George Bush

"That Exchange Group be appointed as Auditors"

CARRIED

2020 ANN 24 New Business

Keith Waugh provided an update of the Building Development process by a short presentation and written report. The following questions(Q) from parishioners and answers (A) from Corporation are listed below:

Q - A question was asked about zoning and if the church was considered a historical building.

A- Zoning is being looked at by the architectural firm and any proposals will be within current zoning. For example, any height renovations can be made up to four floors. The church does not have a historical designation.

Q - What do the neighbours think?

A- There will be an open house later in the process to share the plans with the neighbours and hear their views.

Q- We are in a deficit position, so wonder where is the money coming from? Will there be a mortgage?

A- This isn't known at this time. These questions will be answered through the process and a decision will be made by the parish. We are expecting that 5468796 Architecture will develop 2 or 3 options for St. Georges to engage the neighbourhood and create the revenue needed for sustainability.

Q- How long will the process to develop the RFP take?

A – It is expected that the RFP will be completed by the end of April. Approval by the Bishop will be required if a change to the fabric of the building is proposed or if a loan greater than one year is needed to finance the redevelopment.

Q- A long term parishioner asked if this the right time to be considering redevelopment with the Rector leaving and the parish needing to go through an interim period. Can we put this on hold?

A – The parish is responsible for planning for the future and is not dependent on the Rector for this function. The decision to proceed will come from the parish in April when the RFP is complete.

Simon shared the four approaches to filling his position after he leaves. These range from hiring someone right away, in the case of a planned retirement; to a part-time term appointment from 6-12 months; an intentional interim, a full-time priest for 2-3 years or a term optioned appointment for 2-3 years. The wardens will meet with the Bishop to determine what is needed at St. Georges. A Canonical Committee will be established to complete interviews once a parish profile is completed. The wardens will meet with the Bishop on February 18 and will have a better sense of the timelines after the meeting.

Concern was raised by a few parishioners that a two-year interim process is too long and their preference is to have a new priest appointed quickly.

Q- Can parishioners be informed about the outcome of the meeting with the Bishop in a timely way?

A – Yes.

Q- Will there be more detailed conversation with the Bishop and Diocese about the building development process and how other parishes are looking into the future?

- A- The Bishop was present at the first parish meeting with 5468796 Architecture. It was suggested that we invite the Bishop to share his perspective on the future with the parish.

2020 ANN 25 Courtesies

Appreciation was expressed to:

- Shirley Ann Smith who retired as archivist this year. Her humour and wisdom will be missed.
- Gwyneth Jones for all the visiting she does.
- Ted Cotton for his work during his term as Warden, as he moves into the past warden role.
- Andrew Thomson for his service as Warden and past warden. He is stepping down this year.
- Simon for his leadership in the parish.
- David Punter for serving as AGM Chair for over 30 years.
- Marion, for all the things she does in the office and acting as a point of contact for many people.
- Darren who does many things at St. Georges and we would be lost without him.
- To everyone who came to the meeting today.
- To members of PC for contributing the lunch today.

2020 ANN 26 Adjournment

It was:

Moved by: Christopher Thomson

"That the Meeting be adjourned".

The Meeting was adjourned at 2:40 p.m.

2021 PARISH AGM: REPORT OF THE ALTAR GUILD

The Altar Guild is responsible for the care of the Vessels for the Eucharist, Chancel, Side Altar, Prince of Peace Chapel and Fair Linens. Each week requires regular housekeeping duties and preparation for the services as directed by the clergy.

In 2020, the year ended with 26 active members assigned to three teams led by team captains Donna Dawson, Elizabeth Punter and Sandra Hartt. The Altar Guild teams rotate duties monthly over ten months of the year. There were two resignations this year. After years of faithful service Margaret Owen resigned from active duty as well as from the Fair Linens committee. She will remain as an Honorary Associate member. Kristen Blaikie has also resigned. We shall miss them both. Once the church opened for in person worship in July following a prolonged closure, Christy Little, Honorary Associate and Summer Co-ordinator, organized various duties related to COVID protocols (arranging for greeters, sides persons and maintaining contact lists etc.). As well Christy scheduled members for regular Altar Guild duties for July and August.

NB: We are forever grateful for Christy's ministry as Summer Co-ordinator for many years. Christy passed away this month (Jan 9th/21).

As of Dec. 31st, there were 11 Honorary Associates (retired members). This year we especially remember Grace McMurray, a long time Altar Guild member who passed away in November.

NB: In addition to losing Christy Little who was also an Honorary Associate, Joyce Houston passed away Jan 3rd/21.

The effect of COVID 19 (since March) put many Altar Guild regular activities on hold. With the church closed for a period of time in the spring and early summer, the beautification of the main Altar was carried out by Brenda Cotton who supplied lilies and potted plants. Flowers were purchased once live streamed services began. Brenda and Donna also decorated for Harvest Thanksgiving as well as for Christmas. The glassed entranceway was also used to display poinsettias as well as for placement of the Creche, which made viewing by the public possible.

Cathy Dewar, Supplies Convenor, manages the inventory and ordering of candles, wafers, wine and housekeeping supplies. Elizabeth Punter, Linen Convenor, is responsible for the care of Fair Linens and has a team of 4 volunteers scheduled by Sandra Hartt to help with these duties. Andrew Thomson once again led in the meticulous decorating of the church for the Thanksgiving and Christmas seasons. Many thanks to Andrew for keeping the brass clean throughout the year.

Brenda Cotton, Flower Convenor, ordered flowers and organized a team of volunteers to arrange the Sunday flowers. Prior to closure, Gwyneth Jones continued in the position of coordinator for the delivery of the Sunday flowers to the sick, shut-ins, bereaved, and those celebrating special occasions. Various members of the congregation undertook delivery of the flowers as required. The delivery of the flowers is most welcome, and they act as a reminder

throughout the week that the parish family keeps them in their thoughts and prayers. This ministry was discontinued in March, but with the intent of resuming it once COVID restrictions are lifted.

Margo Foxford, Coordinator of the Designated Fund for Memorial Flowers, maintained a list of donors to the fund and arranged for the names of the deceased to be included in the weekly service leaflet. Thank you to members of the congregation who made memorial donations toward the Sunday flowers, the Easter lilies and the Christmas poinsettias. The donations for poinsettias are now going into a special projects fund which is available for church operating expenses.

The Nominating Committee for 2020 did not meet. All Executive positions remained in place for another year.

Due to COVID restrictions, the members of the Altar Guild did not meet in person in 2020, nor was an AGM held this year. One virtual executive meeting was held in November.

We give thanks to our former rector Simon Blaikie and to Kristen for her contribution as a member of the St. Georges Altar Guild. A huge thank you also, to our Honorary Assistant ministers Peter Flynn and Linda Parsons for their direction and guidance throughout this pandemic. We thank Marion Groce for all the assistance that she has provided and wish her well in her retirement as Parish Administrator. We welcome Mary Smith into this role. Thanks too to Darren Klein, our Custodian, who never fails to lend us a hand when needed.

Respectfully submitted,

Sally Corby and Barbara Kirk

Co - Presidents

2021 PARISH AGM: REPORT REGARDING MEMORIAL FLOWERS

The flowers that beautify the sanctuary of St. George's Anglican Church - Crescentwood each week are to the glory of God. These arrangements also have other benefits. Flowers with special colours reflect the theme of the liturgy on special services such as Harvest, Remembrance Day, Easter, and Pentecost. The absence of flowers has an impact on the services of Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, and Good Friday. Flowers are in memoriam of loved ones. Flowers provide comfort and contact with the church family when delivered after the service.

Appreciative thoughts are expressed in the many thank you cards from parishioners who have received flowers from the Altar at St. George's. Recipients of the flowers frequently express their thanks, feeling a connection to the church family. The flowers may provide comfort to the grieving, best wishes for recovery, congratulations, an expression of thanks, or a reminder that a shut-in is missed.

On behalf of the Flower Arranging Committee, I'd like to express thanks to those parishioners who contributed to the Memorial Flower Fund, as well as to the lilies this past year. This Christmas season, the donations in memoriam for the poinsettias went to the operating budget for St. George's (as will the donations for lilies next Easter). Thanks to Grant Park Coop for providing the flowers each week, as well as the Easter lilies and poinsettias. After March 15, floral delivery was suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic restrictions. However, on Easter Sunday, a lily was displayed on either side of the Main Altar and several lilies were placed on the bench in the glass foyer ('birdcage') for our first online service. Following the Easter season, flowering potted plants replaced the lilies near the Main Altar. A return to cut flowers, in brass vases flanking the Main Altar, began on May 31st, with the sanction of in-person worship of limited numbers. Poinsettias were again displayed on the three-tiered stand behind the brass cross and on either side of the Main Altar, beginning Dec. 14th, and enhanced the taped Nine Lessons & Carols service as well as the online services throughout the Christmas season.

After the services, members of the Altar Guild wrap the flowers weekly. Volunteers, on a yearly roster, coordinated by Gwyneth Jones, deliver the flowers to the sick, shut-ins, and others identified by the Rector. With the onset of the pandemic, restrictions prohibited the delivery of flowers. This procedure was then modified to distribute the flowers to parishioners in attendance when limited in-person worship was permitted. Thanks to Margo Foxford, who facilitated the receipt of Memorial Flower contributions and forwarded the names in memoriam for print in the bulletin. Thank you to all these volunteers! Thank you to Darren Klein, our custodian, for his help in facilitating the flower delivery each week. Thank you to Marian Groce, our bookkeeper, for processing the payment of our flower delivery invoices. Above all, I'd like to thank the other members of the flower arranging committee: Donna Dawson, Barb Kirk, and Margo Foxford.

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Cotton

Coordinator, Flower Arranging Committee

January, 2021

2021 REPORT OF THE HOSPITALITY COMMITTEE

“Each one should use whatever gift he/she has received to serve others, faithfully administering God’s grace in its various forms.” I Peter 4:10

As part of the action plans of the Parish Council, the goal of the Hospitality Committee is to explore the descriptors of **inclusiveness**, **accessibility**, and **diversity** as they relate to all aspects of St. George’s. Hospitality endeavours affect visitors, guests, new members, longstanding members, and the community. Unfortunately, the scope of possible activities was curtailed by the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020.

Although the committee did not formally meet, due to the COVID-19 pandemic influence on the activities at St. George’s, events initiated by members of the committee were:

- Jan. 19, 20 & 25 Providing refreshments for those parishioners attending church building redevelopment meetings for input to develop a RFP
- Feb. 9 Organizing a lunch for the AGM, provided by the members of Parish Council.
- Mar. 15 Began reading aloud the Treaty Acknowledgment statement aloud from our bulletin at the beginning of each service
- Mar. 22 Following suspension of in-person worship, posting encouraging and supportive messages for the community on the signboard as the pandemic evolved
- Mar.26 Posting prayers from the Bishop and the National Prayer for Canada on the glass of the foyer for community viewing
- Mar. Rector Simon Blaikie organized a group of volunteers to divide the parish list and telephone parishioners to connect during the pandemic. Honourary Assistant Rev. Linda Parsons monitored the continuation and further development of this activity.
- Apr.11- 26 Displaying Easter lilies on bench in glass foyer (‘birdcage’), with HE IS RISEN in letters taped to the glass.
- May 10 Posting a Farewell poster for Rector Simon Blaikie in the glass foyer
- May 15 Last Sunday Rector Simon Blaikie presiding, followed by a drive-by procession of parishioners with goodbye greetings
- June 1 Welcoming our Interim Priest Jennifer Marlor with a bouquet of flowers and a poster taped to the foyer window
- June 7 Time for Children and Young at Heart - An inclusive part of the weekly sermons by Interim Priest Jennifer Marlor, which continued as a feature of each of the following services.
- Sept. 12 &13 Doors Open Winnipeg Andrew Thomson hosted the tour of St. George’s, which had several modifications adhering to the covid-19 pandemic regulations. Some archival photos, drawings, and documents available for viewing supplemented Andrew’s informative explanation of St. George’s mid-century modern architecture. Thanks to the volunteers who greeted the guests.
- Nov. 5-18 Posting a display of large poster poppies and message ‘Lest We Forget...’ taped to the glass of the foyer.

- Nov. 29 (Advent 1) Rev. Linda Parsons (Honourary Assistant) began connecting with the youth of the parish through online Zoom discussions about the weekly gospel lessons. Another aspect of this inclusivity is that their responses to the gospel provide inspiration for Rev. Linda's sermons.

Other hospitality events and activities initiated by Parish Council and parishioners:

- Mar. 8 Providing lunch for those attending a treaty statement lecture following the service by Niigaan Sinclair. Thanks to Hollie Andrew who organized this event.
- Apr. 10 & 12 and Dec. 24 (Good Friday, Easter, & Christmas Eve) Thank you to the Ferguson family brass ensemble who played some hymns on the exterior steps of the church before each service.
- Ongoing exploration by Parish Council of a LGBT symbol for our website. Two small LGBT flags were placed in the glass foyer of the church to be visible by the community.
- November 29 – January 10 Advent-Epiphany Creche and poinsettias were displayed on the bench in the glass foyer for viewing by the community, in addition to tall decorated Christmas tree.
- December Planning Sunday School lessons by Jacqueline Thomson for online connection with the children of the parish to resume in January, 2021

The members of the Hospitality Committee were Rev. Simon Blaikie (Rector), Rev. Linda Parsons (Honourary Assistant), Andrew Thomson, and Brenda Cotton.

Give your hands to serve and your hearts to love. – Mother Teresa

Respectfully submitted,

Brenda Cotton

Hospitality Committee Chairperson
2021

January,

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT REGARDING THE SERVERS

This year has been a very unusual year. The months of January and February were normal with the servers assisting at the weekly Sunday morning services as well as Ash Wednesday. By mid March, unfortunately services in the church came to a halt and we switched to live streaming. We were sad to miss Palm Sunday and Easter Sunday, two very special services. In August when we were able to resume Eucharist, there was again a need for a server. Our role changed as we adjusted to this new type of service with new protocols. Since we were limited to the number of people in the church we reduced the number of servers per service from 3 to just one. At the moment, Ted Cotton, Mary Beth Barker and I are rotating Sunday by Sunday. We hope in the near future to be able to bring Ina Mejos back in as a server as we miss her cheerful smile and wonderful work ethic.

I would like to thank the Altar Guild for all they do to make our work easy with their careful set up of Eucharist items for us. I would also like to thank our wonderful group of dedicated servers who are always willing to help out when needed.

New servers will be required in the future and will be very welcome! If you are interested in being part of this group, please contact the church office or me.

Respectfully submitted,

Geri Morgan

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT REGARDING THE CLOSET AND GARAGE SALES

This was a very unusual year for our annual sales. Unfortunately, the closet sale scheduled for mid April had to be cancelled at short notice and also the garage sale which was scheduled for early May. Between lockdowns, Hollie Andrew and her team were able to have an adult closet Sale during the last week of August. By having the sale for one week, they were able to follow all strict COVID regulations and still have a good turnout.

For the Garage Sale Committee, we had a different dilemma. We have received many donations of furniture and household items from many different sources to the point that the church hall was overrun with furniture. We made the decision to hold a "furniture Sale" along with a mini garage sale of larger household items in early September. We ran this sale for three days and it was also a big success. A lot of people who came lamented the fact that we did not have our usual spring garage sale and are looking forward to that happening again. We managed to sell a lot of our items and the hall looks presentable again!

Hollie Andrew and her team were again able to run a successful fall clothing sale during the last week of October. However, they did lose their last two days of the sale due to a sudden lockdown at the end of October. This again was a big success.

Between these three events, we were able to raise over \$11,000 and from these proceeds, \$10,000 has been transferred to St. George's general account.

I would like to especially thank Hollie and her loyal team for all they do to make our Closet Sales so successful. Although, we couldn't run our large garage sale this year, I know our regular garage sale volunteers would have been out to help if they could. I really do appreciate all the help we get from parishioners and all their friends for our events. I would also like to thank another special person, Darren, who works so hard to keep our donations in order and even works as a salesperson for people who happen to drop by and see something they like. He has made many sales on our behalf! His dedication to our cause is invaluable and he is very much appreciated.

Hollie and I are looking forward to many sales opportunities this year once things open up. With the amount of stock we have on hand, I think there will be many sales to come!

Geri Morgan

Coordinator – Closet/Garage Sales

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT OF THE MISSION AND MINISTRY COMMITTEE

COVID-19 meant that the M&M committee met via email during the year. We did have one in-person meeting on January 13, 2020.

At the beginning of 2020, we had \$10,747 in M&M designated funds, and at the end of the year, we had a similar amount. But during the year, parishioners donated about \$5,500 which was disbursed for our various projects. Most significantly this year, food donations for West Broadway Community Ministry were greatly reduced, as were donations of clothing to Norquay School,

The M&M committee's current members are Rick Morgan (Chair), Sandra Hartt, Margo Foxford, Johanna de Bakker, Marlene Ramsay, Geri Morgan, Keith Waugh and Mary-Beth Barker. Leslie Senior also helped extensively the Tesfay family. George Bush also assisted.

Below we have highlighted the diverse activities of the committee during 2020.

West Broadway Community Ministry

St. Georges parishioners have again been generous in their support of WBCM. We currently have \$397 (not including the \$200 in the Alabaster Jar account) in the WBCM account. Donations to this account are always welcome!!

In January, we donated \$800 to cover the WBCM cook's salary for one month.

During the year we took less than 50 bags of groceries to West Broadway, a significant drop from the 300 bags donated last year – entirely due to the COVID closure. But parishioners donated cash, both through St George's, and also directly to WBCM, so the emergency food supply held its own throughout the year. A very significant initiative spearheaded by the Parish Council was the Christmas Cookie Sale – which resulted in a cheque for \$1235 going to WBCM. Thanks to Sally Corby for coordinating this. George Bush coordinated the request for stocking stuffers at Christmas, and many disposable razors, toothbrushes, toothpaste, deodorants and miscellaneous items were donated.

The Alabaster Jar Project – which supports small, specific projects at WBCM, which WBCM cannot normally budget for or anticipate, received donations of \$195 and we have sent \$100 to WBCM. We currently have \$200 in this account.

Inner City Schools – Norquay School and King Edward School

Limited deliveries were made to Norquay and King Edward, as schools were closed for part of the year, and when they re-opened, delivering donations was complicated and was not really a priority for the schools either. We were able to make some clothing donations in the fall of 2020, but our interaction with these schools has been severely limited during this year.

Christmas Cheer Board

We had donated \$1700 to Christmas Cheer in 2019, and in 2020 we raised \$1215 (including a final cheque not sent until early January 2021). We know that parishioners also donated directly to Christmas Cheer.

Prayer Shawls (report from Sandra Hartt)

A number of prayer shawls are available. None were given out in 2020. Please let us know of anyone who might appreciate a prayer shawl at this time and who has not received one in the past. The shawls bring a small piece of St. George's to those in need.

Thelma Wynne Project (report from Marlene Ramsay)

The Thelma Wynne fund at St. George's currently has a balance of \$918, available when the project needs it. Three hundred dollars were raised at the Baby Shower in February 2020.

The year has been a difficult time for so many, for so long, especially for those who seek the assistance of the TWP. Although restrictions were many, the TWP was able to prepare and deliver layettes to ten social service agencies, including a women's shelter. The bulk of these deliveries were made prior to March 19, and then only when permitted throughout the year. A total of 219 were delivered. Considering COVID restrictions, the TWP considers this to be moderately successful, but low compared to the 631 layettes delivered in 2019.

The TWP continues to be in contact with the social agencies, and looks forward to being able to serve the community once again.

Lion's Eye Bank

We continue to collect used glasses for this Lion's Club project. The donation box is at the back of the church, in case you have not seen it. As soon as we re-open, please bring in your old glasses.

Pancake Supper

Each year M&M organizes the Pancake Supper on Shrove Tuesday – with proceeds going to the M&M budget and this year, the receipts were \$308, down from over \$400 in 2019.

Companion Parish – All Martyrs' Nddodo

Rick Morgan continues to be in at least weekly contact with Bruce Jaspers Kalibbala at All Martyrs' Parish. We have collected about \$1870 for shoes for Nddodo (the goal is \$3000) and many pairs of shoes (for \$600) have been purchased for children in Nddodo and area, for young school children who walk to school each day in bare feet. We still have \$1200 in the account, but the children are not back to school because of COVID. Once they are back, we will be sending further "shoe" money.

We are also supporting Irene Nangendo in her studies to be a primary school teacher. We paid the first \$500 and she began her studies in the fall of 2019 and we received her first term report

card. A second payment of \$685 was made in January 2020, so the total disbursed is \$1185. The total bill for tuition, accommodation and meals will ultimately be between \$2000 and \$2500. She is doing well. University has been closed in Uganda because of COVID and will not get underway again until 2021. We will receive a further scholastic progress report from the university before disbursing any funds in 2021. We have been paying this scholarship from our “general” M&M account, which still has \$1,000 in it.

Donations for Nddodo, for shoes, for scholarships, or other things are always welcome, as the needs are great!

We expect to be providing a new scholarship for David Sugawara from Ndoddo Parish, from funds being specifically donated for this purpose.

Because of COVID, we had a special fundraising drive for thermometer guns for All Martyrs’ and its mission parishes. We were able to transfer \$250 to All Martyrs’ which, combined with a Diocese of Rupert’s Land effort, enabled temperature guns to be provided to all the main parishes and mission parishes in the Diocese of Central Buganda.

Syrian Family

The Alzayyat family is now very well established in Winnipeg, thanks to the incredible generosity of this parish in both money and volunteer time. They are very independent and we have less frequent contact with them now. Everyone is doing well, and Ahmed Alzayyat (father) found full-time employment as a roofer in 2020. This was an incredibly big step forward! Now they are planning for a second car. How Canadian is that??!!

Eritrean Family

Our family arrived in September 2018 from a refugee camp in Sudan, where they had been for 4 years. Independence is growing, and in another couple of years, we are confident we will also be able to say that “we have less frequent contact with them”. The parents are still struggling with English, but the children have become very fluent and are now in grades 9, 4, and 2. Dialysis and medical appointments continue for Birhin (mother), but overall, the family is doing well.

This fund still has \$1393 available to help out the family. Right now they do not need it. But a better computer would help with on-line learning. Some of this balance might be used to make this purchase.

In supporting refugees, St. George’s is really doing the right thing. Lots of support for the first couple of years – and then leaving the family to run their own lives. We don’t abandon them or cease contact – but it becomes less – as they full integrate themselves into Canadian society.

Our general Refugee Fund currently has a balance of \$4700 for future use for refugees.

Habitat for Humanity

In 2020 we did not support Habitat for Humanity, as houses were not being built.

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

We have not done any specific PWRDF events in 2020, but we know that individual parishioners make donations to PWRDF for various causes.

Trust Fund – Keven Zere Habtay

We are holding \$15,000 in trust for Keven (age 18), should his refugee status be confirmed and should he be allowed to emigrate to Canada. Everything is on hold because of COVID. We are supporting the Diocese of Rupert's Land Refugee Committee in this regard. The funds are "family funds", and if Keven gets to come to Canada, his family will be totally responsible for him, using these funds.

Overall, thanks for your generosity and strong support. *Keep the funds coming!!!* It is so important that we continue to live out our baptismal covenant outside the four walls of our beautiful building.

Rick Morgan

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT REGARDING THE CHOIR

Perhaps every annual report for the February 2021 AGM will start out in a similar way! To say that 2020 was a different year for the choir is certainly an understatement.

The year began as usual and we sang a Choral Evensong in January during the Epiphany season. Some choir members also sang at the funerals of Norman Hill, father of Shauna Mallory (at St. Andrew's River Heights United Church), and also at the funeral of long-time parishioner Jack Bumstead.

The choir sang at the Ash Wednesday service on February 26 and then, on March 8, we had our last Sunday Eucharist with the whole choir. The COVID lock-down was starting on March 16, and on March 15 we had a service in the church with very few people and no choir. By the time of the AGM, it will have been more than 11 months since the choir has been able to sing together.

Live-streaming only of services began on Easter Sunday, April 12 with no choir. As COVID rules relaxed, starting on Sunday May 17, we had a small socially distanced and masked group that sang Morning Prayer on May 17, 24 and 31. We sang Choral Evensong on Ascension Day (May 21) with 6 singers. The choir never sings during June, July and August, and we did think that probably in September we would all be singing together again. We certainly got that prediction wrong!

In August, the funeral for Karen Mallory, choir member since 2005, took place with one choir member, Sarah Pratt, participating. Karen had been a very faithful and valued member for 15 years, rarely ever missing a service or rehearsal, and we certainly miss her.

On September 20 we were able to livestream Choral Evensong, sung by a choir of 6 people.

In October, for Harvest Thanksgiving, Sarah Pratt and Charles Conway sang together. In November, on Remembrance Sunday, Michael Brown sang at the service, and Sam Ferguson played the trumpet.

The biggest service of the year (in terms of congregation), Nine Lessons and Carols, was livestreamed on December 20 using "live" readers, and recordings of carols and anthems from previous years' services. Special thanks to the readers and to Jonathan Morgan, Christopher Thomson and Matthew Thomson, for bringing all of the pieces together to make the livestream possible. Many people tuned in and livestreaming this service was a significant part of Christmas for many people.

Thanks also to the Ferguson Family Brass Quartet, who provided a pre-recorded selection of carols before the 5PM service on Christmas Eve. For the first time in probably "forever", we did not have a Choral Eucharist at 10:30 PM.

Throughout the pandemic, anything done musically at the church adhered to all provincial and diocesan regulations. It was always a challenge but we made things work. For myself, as organist, I have had time to learn some new repertoire, and also re-learn some pieces that I had not played for many years!

We are all hoping and praying that the choir can sing again sometime in 2021 – maybe by September?? It is not in our hands, but I know that myself and the whole choir are very much looking forward to singing together again, and providing choral music at St. George's services.

And...as usual...new members from age 7 and up are always welcome to join!

Rick Morgan

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT OF THE LITURGICAL COORDINATOR COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Liturgical Coordinator Committee is to ensure an individual, knowledgeable in all facets of St. George's worship service, is present to coordinate and complete the necessary preparations and monitor the many activities which take place throughout the service to maintain the smooth and orderly flow of worship.

A Liturgical Coordinator is scheduled for each Sunday service (10:30 am) throughout the calendar year as well as special services including Evensong, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Ascension Day and for weddings and funerals.

In 2020, the Committee included the same members as in previous years – Donal Allen, George Bush, David Cooke, Roger Dennis, Geoffrey Owen, Andrew Thomson and myself – each serving as a Coordinator on a rotational basis. To each of them, I would like to extend my sincere thanks and appreciation for their continued support. Their dedication, commitment to excellence, attention to detail and willingness to fill in when another member is unexpectedly away, is much appreciated.

Beginning in March and for the remainder of 2020, the COVID-19 pandemic dramatically impacted our ability to gather together in-person and altered the form of our worship. However, even when in-person worship was limited to only five persons, the activities of the Liturgical Coordinator continued to be performed. As well, the necessary restrictions and safety precautions required new duties to be temporarily added to the Liturgical Coordinator role, including coordinating and managing the livestream activities, ringing the church bell, reading a lesson and ensuring sufficient sanitizing supplies are available. Everyone performing the Liturgical Coordinator role undertook these additional tasks with enthusiasm. We were most fortunate to have the duties also performed by those other than the regular team – parishioners who were present on a particular Sunday to lead an element of worship. To John Kehler, Rick and Jonathan Morgan and Matthew Thomson, thank you all for stepping in with minimal advance notice or prior training. We look forward to the New Year with hope that we may, in time, be able to return to worshipping together in a manner at least similar to that before the arrival of the COVID-19 virus.

I encourage anyone who may be interested in joining the Liturgical Coordinator Committee to speak with myself or the Wardens. It requires only a small commitment of time and a desire to attend to details to support the beauty of worship at St. George's.

Respectfully submitted

Christopher Thomson
Chair, Liturgical Coordinator Committee

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT OF THE BUILDING DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

The Building Development Committee is tasked with exploring the redevelopment of the St. George's Church building to accomplish the following objectives:

- Increase revenue or develop new revenue streams;
- Increase the opportunity for connection with the community and the broader City of Winnipeg;
- Increase accessibility of the entire facility;
- Open new ministry opportunities for the church;
- Help attract new people to the parish.

Committee Members are:

Chair: Keith Waugh - October to June 2020

Andrew Thomson - August 2020 to present

Donal Allen, Kristin Anderson, Glen Douglas, Rick Morgan,
Christopher Thomson (representing St. George's Memorial Fund),
Colin Neufeld (representing 5468796 Architecture), Sandi Cain, secretary,
The Incumbent and Wardens.

As there was no Building Development Committee report included in last year's AGM booklet, I thought it might be helpful to provide background on the Committee's work coming into 2020.

In July 2019, an RFI (Request for Information) was issued for the redevelopment of the church proper as a multi-use space. The submission deadline was August 27. Allan Silk, Property Chair and Andrew Thomson met with various architectural firms and toured the building with them. Parish Council subsequently expanded the parameters of the RFI to include the Parish Hall side of the building.

During October and November 2019, the Building Development Committee interviewed the architectural firms responding to the RFI. Three firms were selected from this group: Bridgman Collaborative Architecture; Republic Architecture Inc.; and 5468796 Architecture. Each was asked to prepare a Work Plan to address what the Committee saw as the parish's two main challenges: 1) an increasing parish operational deficit; and 2) a perceived lack of parish relevance in the community. The Work Plan was expected to identify and document key objectives, assist with the development of a vision, present a high level staged plan to renovate and redevelop the church property to meet those objectives, and finally produce and issue an RFP (Request for Proposal).

At the Building Development Committee meeting on November 28, each of the three proposals was scored using an evaluation process and spreadsheet prepared by Ted Cotton. The successful firm, 5468796 Architecture, was announced on December 10.

The Committee immediately set to work, meeting with 5468796 Architecture's Colin Neufeld during the last days of 2019.

5468796 Architecture's Work Plan comprises three stages.

Stage One

Physical/Practical considerations – Reviewing the condition of the existing church building; reviewing City of Winnipeg zoning bylaws and Manitoba Building Code as they pertained to any potential redevelopment.

Spiritual/Social/Emotional considerations – Holding meetings with parishioners, parish committees, and parish leadership to obtain their thoughts and ideas.

Three meetings with parishioners took place on January 19, 20, and 25, 2020 with a total attendance of 60 at the three sessions. Following comments by members of the Building Development Committee, Colin Neufeld introduced himself and his firm, and provided an outline of the presentation. Parishioners were first taken through a series of brainstorming exercises and were then asked to create a list of *Must Haves* and *Must Nots*. A short PowerPoint presentation then illustrated broad concepts of what a redevelopment might include: Commercial Kitchen space, Co-Working space, Gathering space, and Performance space. The architectural importance of the building was stressed and an assurance that the sacredness of the sanctuary space would always be respected. The visual presentation was followed by an open session to elicit parishioners' thoughts, ideas, concerns, and questions. The parishioner comments at each session were recorded for further Committee discussion.

In February, the Committee met to develop a list of stakeholders in the community using a series of categories that included: Business, Faith, Education, Health Care, Civic Authorities, Arts, and groups regularly using the building. A series of questions was prepared by Colin Neufeld to use at the stakeholder meetings. Some very preliminary drawings were presented to help prompt further discussion and illustrate how sufficient revenue might be generated.

The next meeting was held on March 19, just as the COVID-19 virus arrived in Winnipeg. Half the Committee participated remotely. Progress on the stakeholder meetings was discussed, but it was agreed that pushing ahead with further research and interviews was not wise and that any larger formal community engagement would not be possible at that time. It was agreed to pause the Committee's work until the impacts of the pandemic subsided.

The Committee next met on August 19, after a hiatus of five months. There was optimism that as the number of COVID infections was low, the community consultations would be able to resume, albeit virtually. It was anticipated all stakeholder meetings would be concluded by the end of September and shortly thereafter the Stage One summary report would be produced. It was agreed that the revised goal for a final report/RFP document would be the Parish AGM in February 2021. Plans were made for an engineering inspection and report on the building's structure. There was discussion about the desire by Kinderschule to develop the green space along Grosvenor Avenue as a fenced playground. A motion was forwarded to Parish Council that any such plans be jointly developed as part of an overall building redevelopment strategy.

The Committee met for the last time on September 21. Owing to rising COVID-19 cases and the increasing anxiety and disruption being experienced in the city, little progress had been made in

completing the stakeholder meetings. There was still some optimism that Stage One could be completed in October and our goal of the February AGM met. And then came November...

Where are we now?

The Committee is currently on an indefinite hold, and with it completion of the Stage One report.

What's left to do?

Stage One - The Stage One report could be prepared and circulated within a matter of weeks, however, it would lack important input and information from our community and the neighbourhood surrounding St. George's. It would be beneficial to use the coming month(s) to arrange virtual discussions hosted by Committee members with parishioners, clergy, and any other interested parties to gather further information and gain new perspectives that would enable us to develop a vision the entire parish could embrace. The knowledge gained would provide crucial information for the preparation of Stage Two.

What would be next?

Stage Two (4 weeks*) - The information gathered in Stage One would be used to establish a set of physical parameters such as building size, type of construction, and economic needs that would be used to facilitate and answer many of the Spiritual/Social/Emotional questions. The Stage Two report would provide a number of options documented in building plans, 3D models and diagrams and include rough business plans for each. The parish would participate in this process. One option would be selected by parishioners and taken into the third and final stage. (**time-frame provided by 5468796 Architecture*)

When will a final decision be made?

Stage Three (2 to 4 weeks*) The final stage would provide parishioners with a summary report and completed drawings to clearly describe the scope of the project, including schematic floor plans, elevations, sections and 3D diagrams. Stage Three would include the preparation of an RFP outlining the design parameters of all important concepts to be considered by the successful proponent firm, together with the project budget and the project/phasing schedule.

A special meeting of parishioners would be called to discuss and determine whether the parish moves forward with issuing the RFP or decides otherwise.

There is no certainty as to when the COVID-19 virus will be under control, with most people vaccinated and sufficient herd immunity developed, to allow parishioners to gather for in-person meetings.

The Building Development Committee and the Corporation are committed to holding at least two special parish meetings before a decision is made by the parishioners. It is understood that the final decision rests with the parishioners of St. George's Church, Crescentwood.

Respectfully submitted, Andrew S. Thomson, Chair

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT OF THE PROPERTY COMMITTEE

The Property Committee is tasked with the care of the church building, arranging for its routine maintenance and repair, ensuring it is kept in good condition and safe for all users while anticipating and planning for future repairs.

The Committee is supported and aided in this task by our parish staff, Custodian Darren Klein and Parish Administrator Mary Smith. On behalf of the parish, I thank them for their dedicated service. Marian Groce, who recently “retired” continues to provide invaluable guidance while focusing primarily on the parish accounts. I wish to thank her for her past and continuing help with property matters.

It had been my plan to hold regular meetings of the Property Committee and reestablish bi-monthly breakfast work parties in 2021. Those plans, for the moment, have been placed on hold owing to the COVID pandemic. While the building has been closed to the public for most of the past year, its care and stewardship continues.

WEST DOOR PROJECT

The West Door Project was completed in late February. The most apparent change to the building is the exterior pair of steel and glass steel doors that replace the three original oak and glass ones. All three pairs of doors at this entrance can now be opened automatically with the use of touch paddles. An intercom has been installed at this location to communicate with the parish office and enable easy access to the building.

We thank St. George’s Memorial Fund for its generous support of the West Door Project and acknowledge the significant investment it has made in improving our building’s accessibility and security.

HEATING SYSTEM

The single largest maintenance expense associated with our parish building is its heating system. While the boiler and many components have been replaced in recent times, the overall system and its piping is now over 60 years old. During the past year we again employed the services of JVC Armour Plumbing for our service and repair needs.

Repair Work

In January 2020, the hot water heating line running along the Grosvenor Avenue wall developed a leak that in turn damaged a section of ceiling in the Crypt. We thank Darren for making the ceiling damage unnoticeable with his painting skills following the piping repair. During the month, the circulating pump in the mechanical room failed and new unit was installed.

In April, the sump pump in the boiler room was repaired.

In October, three leaking steam pipes in the boiler room were repaired while the boiler was being prepared for the heating season. During the boiler testing, a return pump on the smaller of two condensate tanks in the boiler room was found to be leaking and its motor was replaced.

In November, the radiator at the West Door entrance was successfully repaired. The temperature can now be regulated to prevent the vestibule from overheating and the touch paddles above the radiator from becoming dangerously hot.

In November and December, several leaks developed in piping on the main water feed line to the boiler. All sections of pipe in this area have now been replaced.

In late December, the mechanical room condensate return control stopped working, preventing condensate water from being returned to the boiler. A new float switch unit was installed in January 2021.

The thermostats in the church are being recalibrated to ensure they are calling for the correct level of heat. Several of the thermostats have been changed over the years and there are now three different styles in the building. The newer style thermostats still remain to be recalibrated.

Boiler Chemical

NorChem, through its representative John Turner, continues to provide boiler chemical treatment to the parish at no charge. John visits the church every six weeks to test the boiler water and monitor the amount of chemical being added through an automated pump system he gave the parish last year. We began adding treatment to the Nave side of the heating system in 2020.

The boiler is checked and tested daily by an employee of Stand Guard Services Limited. The daily inspection is required by our insurance provider, and has proved most helpful during holiday periods or weekends when Darren is not present. Twice this year, we were notified of leaks in boiler piping and were able to effect repairs before significant damage occurred.

Ventilation

In February, the air handling units for the Parish Hall and the Nave were repaired and made fully functional. The systems are intended to replace stale, humid air inside the building with outside air. Each system can cool the building during the summer, when the temperature outside drops sufficiently overnight. During the heating season, if the outside air is too cold, heating coils within the ventilation units warm the incoming air. Each unit has a set of mixing dampers which can vary the amount of outside air being drawn into the building.

While the air handler for the Nave has pneumatic controls, the air handler for the Parish Hall requires manual adjustment to regulate the steam heat that is mixed with the outside air it draws into the building. During the transition from fall to winter-and winter to spring, this may occasionally cause the temperature in the Hall to be warmer than desired. The Hall's air exchanger can be set to be controlled by a time clock. In August, additional tripper switches were purchased for the timer to allow the unit to operate at various pre-set times during a 24-hour period. The air exchanger also provides air circulation for the Kinderschule classroom in the basement.

An estimate was obtained for the installation of a time clock for the Nave air exchanger. This would enable the unit to be run overnight in the summer to allow cooler air to be drawn into

the worship space. We did not proceed with this work after the building was closed to public worship.

In October, the candles on the Communion Table were found to be burning quickly and unevenly at services. It was suggested the cause was the operation of the Nave air exchanger during the service. We determined that the problem started when the boiler was turned on for the fall/winter season and heated air began to be added to the air mix of the air exchanger. The air handler will be turned off prior to services during the heating season.

The basement ventilation unit has not yet been repaired.

In January 2021, we began to employ a new service company, Walmer Mechanical, recommended to us by our boiler chemical treatment company.

ROOF

St. George's maintains a comprehensive plan for the maintenance of its complex roof system comprised of eight distinct areas. The plan has served the parish well over the years and provides a clear guide to the timing of major roof work. No significant work was required in 2020.

Annual Roof Inspection

The Parish has an agreement with MJ Roofing to provide an annual inspection and maintenance report. The inspection takes place each April. MJ Roofing makes recommendations for additional work they feel is needed to maintain the roof in optimal condition at this time. During this year's inspection, several deck repairs were made, flashings were checked, re-secured and caulked, and leaves and twigs were removed from drains, roof mats and scuppers. MJ Roofing was called to remove excessive snow from the roof in late winter. They were also called following a summer rainstorm when water seeped through the west window wall and collected in the coving behind the Communion Table.

Roofing Repairs

A metal down water leader pipe was installed to an existing roof scupper to properly drain the roof area above the Parish offices. Water had been running down the exterior lane side of the Tyndall stone wall, washing a large section of the mortar away and damaging the interior wall of the photocopier room. The pipe ensures the exterior wall remains dry. The masonry still needs repointing, but the work will be deferred until the building redevelopment plans become clearer.

PLUMBING

Washroom Toilets

The toilet flush valves in the building's washrooms are a perennial maintenance problem. The valves often become stuck and will not stop running. It has been noted that we often experience problems with the valves each time water service in the area is turned off by the city. Water main repairs often stir up silt in the pipes which can interfere with the flush valves.

During the summer, the south toilet flush valve in the men's washroom beside the Nursery was repaired. During the repair it was discovered its shut off valve was of a different manufacture incompatible with the flush unit and a likely contributing factor in the reoccurring problems experienced with this toilet.

When the toilet flush valves in the upstairs women's washroom in the south west corner of the Parish Hall also began to stick, the shut off valves were checked and compatible parts used in their repair.

Sink Faucets

The faucets in the basement kitchen were leaking around the bases of their spouts and were repaired in September. One set of taps only required the replacement of its O-ring washers. The other could not be repaired, and a new tap set was installed.

ELECTRICAL

Chapel Lighting

The Chapel lighting still require repair. One of the ceiling light sockets needs to be removed for repair and will require the rental of a small hydraulic lift. All the chapel light fixtures will be checked and new LED bulbs installed while the lift on site.

Crypt Lighting

In August, ten commercial florescent fixtures obtained from the University of Winnipeg several years ago were installed in the Crypt. The light output of these fixtures is six times greater than the ones they replaced. The enhanced lighting, together with the restored and waxed floor, has significantly improved the appearance of the Crypt. Chris McLaughlin, a teacher with Kinderschule, assisted with the installation work.

Other Lighting and Repairs

During the fall, numerous light switches and cover plates were replaced throughout the building. Wherever possible these were obtained at the Re-Store. Plug receptacles are gradually being replaced with childproof ones. A quantity of flood lights were also purchased at the Re-Store and installed in the church.

The remaining ballasts for the fluoresent fixtures lighting the stained glass windows facing Grosvenor Avenue and Wilton Street have been replaced. This complete a project spanning two years.

The exterior light at the Parish Hall Wilton Street entrance was repaired and a new LED light installed.

A LED lighting strip was installed to illuminate the Communion Table's frontal carving. The intensity of the light can be adjusted by a wireless dimmer control. A thank you is extended to the parishioners and clergy whose donations covered this enhancement to the Sanctuary.

SECURITY

Door Security

The West Door Project provided an opportunity to improve the security of the building. The first phase involved the installation of locking hardware on the vestibule doors at this entrance. The second phase involved repairs to the Wilton Street entrance doors and the strengthening of the latching system on the Lane side door. Locking hardware was also installed on the Sacristy hallway door. In November, the final phase was completed when locking hardware was installed on the cloakroom door into the Nave and on the doors at the bottom of the stairs at the West Door entrance. During this process, all exterior door locks were rekeyed to a single master. All new interior door locks were keyed to the interior master, with individual keys retained for specific user groups. The key locks for the touch paddles were also rekeyed to the exterior master.

The West Door entrance will become the main entrance for all key holders and the general public. The Wilton Street doors will remain locked unless there is an activity taking place in the Parish Hall.

Key Card System

A key card system has been installed at the West Door entrance. The system is also equipped with a touch pad. Key codes have been issued to regular users of the building. Outside groups are provided with programmable code cards. Infrequent users and one-time building renters are given a temporary number key code.

Intercom and Door Opening System

The intercom and door opening system at the West Door entrance - operated remotely from the Parish Office - is now fully functional. The system is designed to allow the exterior and interior vestibule doors to be opened in a timed sequence.

Intrusion Alarm System

As part of the West Door Project, a second intrusion/alarm touch pad was installed at the West Door entrance. The existing touch pad unit at the Wilton Street entrance was replaced at the same time. The intrusion system upgrades allow for its control off-site by smart phone and personal computer. The Incumbent, Wardens, and Property Chair are all listed as responders to alarms at the church.

Fire Monitoring System

The fire detection monitoring system required several service calls following false alarms being sent by the system. All is in now in good order.

Fire Extinguishers

Extinguishers are located throughout the building and regularly inspected and serviced each January. Parishioners are encouraged to familiarize themselves with their location. Location maps are found at the Parish Hall and West Door entrances and in other areas of the building.

AED - Defibrillator

Parishioners are reminded that there is an Automatic External Defibrillator unit (AED) located in the Parish Hall. The unit is attached to the north wall (to the right) on entering the Hall.

KINDERSCHULE

In late summer, when the Corporation was discussing the return of outside users to the building, Kinderschule provided a list of upgrades they wished to see in place before the day nursery's resumption in September. At the request of Corporation, I met with Chris McLaughlin, one of Kinderschule's two childcare workers, and reviewed the list of improvements, providing guidance in their implementation. Chris offered to provide all the labour and almost all of the desired improvements were completed.

Classroom

To improve air circulation two large fans were installed from the ceiling, one outside each entrance to their main classroom, without the expense of an electrician. The Parish Hall air exchanger is operated by time clock to help change the air in the classroom. Decommissioned steam piping was removed from the classroom wall shared with the Boiler Room, the plaster wall repaired and painted, and small sections of the missing baseboard mouldings replaced. A section of floor tiles in the hallway to their classroom still needs to be repaired/replaced and the tiles stripped and waxed in a process similar to that used in the Crypt.

Hand-Washing Station

Kinderschule's request for a separate hand washing station near the Crypt was met by replacing the decommissioned water fountain with a small sink. The fountain's water service and drain line were easily repurposed. Chris supplied all the labour and cabinetry and the end result is an asset for all youth groups using the Crypt.

GENERAL REPAIRS

Glass in Narthex

Prairie Design Studio repaired several sections of broken glass in the Narthex. One panel was removed and taken to their workshop. The other panel was repaired in situ as mastic from a previous repair would not allow it to be safely removed from its aluminum frame. A small area under the representation of the Bible was also repaired on site. They did an excellent job in matching the colour and texture of the broken glass.

Sound Cabinet

The doors to the sound equipment cabinet, located in the Narthex, were repaired and made more secure in October.

Crypt Floor Refinishing

In preparation for the Closet Sale held in August, Darren and I finished the stripping and waxing of the eastern half of the floor in the Crypt. Darren had begun this laborious and messy job in the spring. As part of the renewal process, numerous tiles were repaired or replaced. Following the Closet Sale, the western end of the hall floor, restored in the summer of 2019, was scrubbed and several coats of wax applied to provide a unified appearance to the entire floor area.

Exterior Painting

The air ventilation hood on the roof above the Vestry and a protective cover plate for an exterior thermometer on the Grosvenor facing wall were painted during two unseasonably

warm days at the beginning of November. Darren and I borrowed a 32' extension ladder from a neighbour on Harvard Avenue and carried it to the church to access the roof.

Parish Hall Foundation

On September 30, an inspection was conducted by Talin Gregory a structural engineer with Lavergne Draward & Associates. Most of the inspection focused on the area underneath the Chapel and Wilton Street facing portion of the Parish Hall. There has been significant movement in the foundations here since the underpinning work performed in 1984. It appears the original footings are now pushing upwards, lifting the joists off the remedial steel footings by as much as 2". A report is now being prepared for the Building Development Committee.

Plaster Repair

The exterior plaster wall in the photocopy room was repaired in October. Darren primed the wall in late November and subsequently we determined a further the skim coat of plaster is required. The work will be completed shortly.

Reopening of Church for Sunday Worship

I assisted the Worship Committee in their work to prepare the church to reopen for public worship in July. I met with Darren to review his cleaning regime and we discussed several changes to ensure we were fully compliant with Manitoba Health and Diocesan protocols. A document was developed and forwarded for inclusion in the Parishioner Handbook of Policies for Resumption of Worship. As directed by the Worship Committee, the location of physically distanced seating locations were marked with strips of blue painters tape. The location of the tape - on the rear side of the pew - was chosen to be visible to parishioners but not to be disturbed by regular cleaning. A circle of blue tape was also placed on the rear edge of the seat cushion. The location for this marking will be reassessed as they were coming loose during Darren's weekly cleaning.

PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES FOR 2021

Roof Replacement Work

MJ Roofing was asked to provide estimates for the replacement of two roof areas, noted in their 2020 annual inspection, as being in fair condition. The roof areas are those above the Sacristy and extending south over the West Door entrance. The current cost of this work is \$18,780.00 plus GST, and will be scheduled for May 2021.

Mail Box

Corporation has been exploring the installation of a secure mail box for the church. In discussion with Brent Cotton, Design Committee chair, it was felt retrofitting the lower portion of the south window in the unused office facing Wilton Street would offer the best solution. The slot opening will be large enough to receive small parcels. We are currently in search of a cabinetry carpenter for the work. Brent has kindly offered to prepare a suitable design.

Grosvenor Cloister Entrance Doors

During the summer months, the left entrance door facing Grosvenor Avenue scrapes against its threshold preventing it from latching properly. An estimate has been obtained and the work

will be scheduled for the spring. The weather-stripping on the entrance doors was also found to be badly deteriorated and in need of replacement. Unfortunately, gasket material specific to the doors' existing aluminum track is no longer available. We are experimenting with several types of weather-stripping and will continue to seek a suitable replacement product.

Masonry Repointing

Repairs are needed to the limestone wall north of the West Entrance doors. Moisture has been seeping into the exposed masonry joints and damaging the plasterwork at the base of the interior wall. Alpha Masonry was recommended to the church and their estimator made a site visit in October, providing a quote to repoint various areas of masonry. We plan to schedule the work for the spring.

The Grosvenor Avenue facing steps were also examined and, while some moderate repairs can be made to the limestone facing of the planter box, a complete replacement of the steps is the only recommended option. This would only be considered at the time of any building redevelopment work.

Ceiling in Narthex

The repair to the Narthex ceiling was delayed to ensure the heating system problems that created the damage have been solved. A contractor who can sensitively repair the ceiling is being sourced.

Respectfully submitted,

Andrew S. Thomson, chair
Building Development Committee

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT IN RESPECT OF WEB PROPERTIES

The St. George's website and Facebook page become incredibly important tools in 2020 for keeping our parishioners connected with the church. Some major changes for 2020 included:

- Regular announcements on the status of COVID-19 restrictions
- Livestreaming of our services to Facebook and then also to our website
- Reservations for in-person worship

We saw a significant increase in visits to our website in 2020. Engagement on our livestream videos was also high, with many people commenting on the livestream in real-time.

Please “like”, “follow” and share our accounts on Facebook, Twitter, and Instagram.

<https://www.stgeorges.mb.ca/>

<https://www.facebook.com/StGeorgesCrescentwood>

<https://twitter.com/stgeorgewpg>

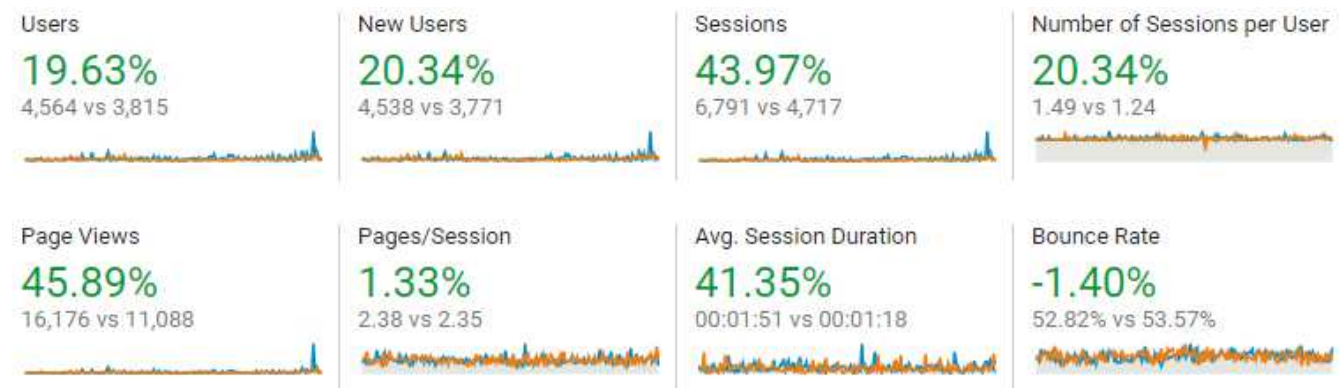
<https://www.instagram.com/stgeorgewpg/>

Special thanks to Rick Morgan for keeping our website up to date with timely news and event information and to Matthew Thomson for setting up the in-person reservation system.

Statistics:

In 2020, 4,564 people visited our site – an increase of almost 20% from 2019.

2020 vs. 2019



Your feedback on any of our web properties is always welcome.

Jonathan Morgan

webmaster@stgeorges.mb.ca

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT REGARDING LIVESTREAMING

Livestreaming at St. George's

When in-person worship was first restricted in March 2020, plans were set in motion to begin livestreaming our services. Livestreaming had been considered in past years, but COVID-19 provided the urgency to make it a reality. With the support of Simon, Worship Committee, Parish Council, and Corporation, our first livestream was on Easter Sunday 2020 using only an iPhone. Since then, much effort has been put into planning and research, upgrading our infrastructure, buying equipment, and creating a production workflow that provides a very professional broadcast, while being relatively easy to operate.

Jonathan Morgan and Matthew Thomson have been responsible for planning and setting up our livestreaming capability. Jonathan Morgan, Matthew Thomson, and John Keller operate the livestream on a weekly basis. If you are interested in helping with the livestream, please reach out! Viewership

Facebook provides many metrics for tracking viewership and we have been using "peak live viewers" as our key metric, which represents the highest number of people watching simultaneously during a live broadcast. One "live viewer" could actually represent a family watching together, so it's best to think of it as a household. We typically leave a recording of the service up for a week after the livestream and a number of people will watch the recorded version, as well.

When a service is offered by livestream only, we see 27 peak live viewers, on average. When a service is offered in-person and by livestream, we see 18 peak live viewers, on average.

Services to Highlight (peak live viewers)

Easter Sunday 2020 - our first livestream (50)

Ascension Day Choral Evensong - our first livestreamed evensong (19)

Celebration of Life - Karen Mallory - our first livestreamed funeral (44) - Karen's family was able to watch from the USA and around the world

Nine Lessons and Carols - our first virtual Nine Lessons and Carols (76)

Your feedback on the livestream is always welcome.

Jonathan Morgan

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT OF THE WORSHIP COMMITTEE

The Worship Committee is structured to support the incumbent priest in an advisory capacity with respect to the order of worship within the parish. It is composed of the Incumbent, the Music Director and one representative from each of the: Choir; Altar Guild; Servers; Coordinator of Lectors, Intercessors, and Administrants; Sidespersons; and Liturgical Coordinators. In addition, there are to be four members of the congregation at large, two of whom are to be between the ages of 18 and 30. As of January 2021, only one of the four “members at large” positions have been filled.

The committee generally meets monthly, except in the summer months. This practice was continued in 2020, with some of the meetings being held virtually rather than in-person in the Guild Room due to pandemic restrictions. The scheduling and order of all services is of prime importance, and a duty roster is prepared so all participants, both clergy and lay, may know what their responsibilities are at each service. This process was made much more difficult this year, initially by the suspension of “in-person worship” and subsequently by the limitation of participants allowed at live-streamed services.

Upon the implementation of the first province-wide lockdown in March, preparations began to continue worship services ‘virtually’ by way of livestream through social media platform. The first service – On Easter Day – allowed us to worship together, although without the beauty of the sung praises by choir and congregation, majestic sounds of brass instruments and the fellowship of parishioners. In the weeks that followed, our then-incumbent Rev. Simon Blaikie established a committee to develop and implement a permanent solution to livestream worship services to parishioners and beyond. A technical plan was developed by Jonathan Morgan and Matthew Thomson and a document detailing policies, procedures and privacy considerations was prepared by Christopher Thomson and Rick Morgan including a detailed analysis of legal implications undertaken by Brandon Barnes-Trickett. Requisitioning and installation of communications cabling, video camera, audio equipment and wiring was completed by Jonathan and Matthew who then completed extensive testing. Since that time, they, along with assistance from John Kehler, have managed the operation of the video camera and streaming via social media each week. We are thankful that the entire cost of this project was covered by a gift from a parishioner, who wished to remain anonymous.

At the end of the first province-wide lockdown in May, the committee began discussions about the resumption of in-person worship. Subsequently, the committee was tasked with preparing a formal plan for reopening based on directives established by the Diocese and according to provincial public health requirements. The plan, approved by the Diocese, provided detailed policies and processes including: Maintaining a register of all attendees; Monitoring self-screening and masking; Hand sanitation and cleaning of all touch surfaces; Managing traffic flow within the nave; Maintaining physical distancing (including seating); and administration of the Eucharist.

In-person worship resumed July 25 and continued through October 11 at which time the Diocese, recognizing the increasing spread of the virus throughout Winnipeg and beyond, and in conjunction with an increase in the province's COVID Alert Level to 'yellow', recommended in-person worship be reduced to a maximum of five persons. This reduced number at worship services continued through the imposition of COVID Alert Level to 'red' and the subsequent second province-wide lockdown in November and remained in place at year-end.

In November, Worship Committee undertook planning for virtual worship at Christmas, including detailed planning to allow for the presentation of a virtual Service of Nine Lessons and Carols on December 20th, extending a St. George's tradition that goes back more than 60 years. A technical solution was developed and several cameras were tested to determine the optimal solution. The service was then filmed in sections one evening in December, all the while maintaining a strict limit of five persons in the building. The individual video segments were then edited to create a seamless production, including recordings of carols and hymns sung at previous years' Nine Lessons services. Special thanks goes to Jonathan and Matthew for the technical solution, videotaping and editing, to all the readers for reading beautifully and attending the church in the very precise timelines, to our honorary assistants Peter Flynn and Linda Parsons and Head Server Geri Morgan for their patience during a long evening of videotaping, to Rick Morgan for countless hours listening to years of recordings of previous services to make music selections, to David Cooke for providing his personal recordings of these previous services, and to Christopher Thomson for overseeing and managing the entire production.

We look forward to reopening our doors for worship at some time in 2021, recognizing we must remain observant of Diocesan protocols and may expect many controls to remain in place for some time.

As we anticipate the incumbency of a new priest in 2021, it is hoped that the Worship Committee may continue to fulfil its role in accordance with the terms of reference set out in the Parish Handbook, which is to try to ensure that worship is conducted in an ordered and reverent fashion that meets the spiritual needs of parishioners and guests.

Respectfully submitted,
Roger Dennis, Chair

January 23, 2021

2021 HONORARY ASSISTANT'S REPORTS AND REFLECTION**Reflections on Ministering in St. George's during COVID Time
by Linda G Parsons, 2020**

Thank you for your trust, your warmth and your mentorship as I moved to a deeper understanding of the parish, her people and her way of being. Thank you also to Peter who has been a grounded part of the ministry I embraced.

This past year offered me a spiritual rigour and intellectual stimulation which I had not anticipated. Regularly bringing the good news of Christ to our dispersed community, and broader, while knowing that all are living under the restrictions, peculiarities and destructive force of COVID has been a new challenge. Imagining how to include children and youth in this family of God to which they belong was a journey in patience. Inviting people into new ministry areas has been invigorating, heartwarming and faith building. Using familiar technology and learning new; incorporating the same for team work, pastoral care, mentorship and bible study has made a difference.

The year has ended with a heart to imagine how we can increase our sense of community, our sense of being a community, our sense of being the Body of Christ. How do we in COVID times embrace the celebrations and gatherings common to our church calendar? The questions remain with me. The imagination needs massaging.

Thanks be to God for the gifts given, the gifts exercised, both publicly, and known only to God and the recipient. You have been a wonderful parish to ministry with and alongside. The year has ended but our journey of discovery in Christ will continue. Thanks be to God.

Report of the Honorary Assistants for the AGM 2020

Linda Parsons

During the winter months of 2020, our common ministry at St. George's included

- regularly attending Sunday worship,
- attending the Wednesday noon Eucharist.
- Covering as needed at the Wednesday service
- Covering as needed for the monthly Eucharist service at Tuxedo Villa.
- Serving as Administrant on a regular roster on Sunday morning.
- Pastoral care as invited or initiated.
- Preaching occasionally.

During the spring and summer, our common ministry included

- As above
- Meeting with Jennifer regularly.
- Taking leadership in pastoral care and worship in Simon's absence
- During the summer on a roster of three for preaching (Jennifer, Peter and Linda).
- Taking leadership in pastoral care and worship during Jennifer's absence on study leave

During the fall to the end of 2020 our common ministry included

- Covering pastoral care and worship for the time Jennifer was off after her concussion.
- Covering as above after her second sick leave until the present.
- Becoming a team.
- Caring for families in grief, funerals and gravesides.
- Practicing a proactive pastoral care response.
- Preaching and presiding on a roster of two: Peter and Linda
- Continuing the Conversation with Children and Young at Heart introduced by Jennifer
- Participating in Worship and Corporation meetings, Parish Council (Peter)
- Working with Mary in the office in terms of responding to emergency pastoral care concerns, administrative questions, vetting the bulletin and where other assistance was needed.
- Introducing the service of Ante-Communion a minimum of twice a month. The service follows the BAS Service of Holy Communion. [The liturgy continues as the Service of Holy Communion until after the Prayer over the Gifts which is then followed by the Lord's Prayer, the Doxology, (Announcements), the Blessing and Dismissal.]
- Further developing and supporting the pastoral phoning teams.
- Discerning related to lay leadership: lay liturgical leadership in worship, lay preachers, and phoning teams. This included discernment, invitation and mentorship.
- Picking up more pieces of ministry and administration as the months accumulated and as Advent and Christmas planning became essential, as did planning for the new year.

Note: We two share a common passion for lay leadership development. When the Wardens expressed concern about our health and level of fatigue, our passion and their concern resulted in a movement toward lay leadership involvement in the liturgy and in preaching.

The work has borne fruit. We believe St. George's is stronger as a parish because of it. The involvement of lay people in the liturgy became more evident late in the year and continues. Our first lay preacher was on Epiphany. An apt beginning.

HONORARY ASSISTANT REPORT: 2020

Peter Flynn

Linda has reported on the way in which our joint ministry often means consultation both before and after an activity. We do this in order to develop agreement and share our perceptions, even when participating in the same activity. We often work electronically with colleagues on the Corporation, and on committees as well as with individual parishioners. Together, we have all worked as a team.

It has sometimes been said that our congregation doesn't have the numbers of people required to keep the parish going, but I have discovered and give thanks for the impressive gifts to be found among the people of St. George's.

These have kept us alive during the pandemic, especially during lockdown. I think we should all feel greatly encouraged by how effectively the parish has managed to meet the challenges of these difficult times. More to the point, that we all discern the support of the Holy Spirit as we attempt to cope with and adapt to the restrictions and disruptions caused by COVID119.

I could rehearse in detail the variety of tasks involved in the commitment that Linda and I have taken on, but they are not hard to imagine, for they are mostly the normal activities that parishioners expect (limited, of course, to some extent by the agreement with our Bishop that we each serve 1/3 full time). But there are some ways in which the exercise of our role takes us. Beyond the normal: for example, Linda's work with the younger teenagers and my membership on the Worship Committee, as well as our work to encourage more lay involvement in worship leadership. Sometimes we can't avoid going beyond the stipulated 1/3. I have been surprised by the amount of time we have to spend at our computers (answering emails) and on the telephone. (My wife has extracted a promise that I will confine my calls to my cell phone and disseminate its number ([204] 918-7364) because her friends complain that the land-line she usually uses is so often busy.) The Bishop has generously assigned the Rev. Elizabeth Lichens to preach one Sunday a month in order to ease some of the pressure on Linda and me. We both very much appreciate

the expressions and acts of support that we have received from the congregation. Our sincere thanks.

Earlier in this report I referred to the presence of the Holy Spirit in our work. I sometimes think the Spirit is too often regarded as the 'silent partner' in the Trinity and ignored—to our loss. Here at St. George's, I affirm that we have participated in God the Spirit's loving reach, not only through our live-streaming of worship (and here I must mention especially our Nine Lessons and Carols service) as well as the telephone outreach, in which we have come to perceive our taking our message and invitation (to "come and see") beyond the four walls of the Church. The COVID crisis becomes our stimulus to act as disciples of Jesus.

I know that, in spite of this, we all have our moments of discouragement and the feeling that we have been abandoned. The following is a prayer that I have found very helpful at such times:

Ever present God
be with us in our isolation,
be close to us in our distancing,
be healing in our sickness,
be wisdom in our confusion,
be all that is familiar when all is unfamiliar,
that when the doors reopen
we may with the zeal of Pentecost inhabit our communities
and speak of your goodness to an emerging world.
For Jesus's sake. Amen

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Flynn
Honorary Assistant.

2021 PARISH AGM REPORT REGARDING CHRISTIAN EDUCATION AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

Leadership

The Sunday School Program at St. George's was led by Jacqueline Thomson as Sunday School Coordinator from January through May 2020. Lessons were taught in-class from January to March; starting in April due to the virus outbreak, Jacqueline sent weekly emails to the parents and caregivers of the Sunday School children for lessons to be taught at home. Due to the pandemic and restriction for in-person worship, Sunday School didn't resume in September and was suspended through December; virtual classes resumed January 2021.

Curriculum

St. George's Sunday School has been following, as a guide, the curriculum of "Whole People of God". Most week's lessons used this resource, while occasionally the lessons were adapted or alternate lessons found elsewhere, to best fit the needs of the children. Care was taken to ensure the lessons would allow for discussion that was similar to conversations by the congregation that Sunday. It is the wish of the Coordinator that as often as possible, the children are learning or discussing the same ideas being shared with the rest of the congregation each week. The children voice their excitement to attend Sunday School each week, particularly enjoying all the crafts and activities they get to do together each week.

Christmas Pageant

Due to the pandemic, there was no opportunity to participate in a pageant in 2020. Both Jacqueline and the children look forward to a better year for 2021 and hope to get to create a pageant for the enjoyment of the children and the parish in the coming year.

Sunday School Attendance

Sunday School attendance varies each week with 4 – 6 children on average. There have been a few new children joining Sunday School – these new members have been brought by parents, grandparents, and family friends. Some new members come every week, and others only on occasion, but we are happy to welcome any who wish to attend each week. Most of the children in Sunday School attend regularly with the odd absence.

Children's Sunday Service

The Children's Sunday Service occurs the first Sunday of each month, except for the summer months and December (to allow for Pageant preparations). The children are involved in this service by reading each of the scripture readings for the week, singing a hymn with the congregation, and being actively involved in the sermon. Finding readers presents a challenge with the age of most Sunday School children being 7 or less, and less able to confidently read full lessons in front of the congregation. Frequently, members of the choir are asked to read a

lesson. Jacqueline has spoken to Linda and Peter and is hoping to make some changes to the current Children's Sunday Service in 2021, to further engage the children and to bring them more enjoyment. These changes are being explored and will be trialled when we can return to in-person worship safely.

Involvement of Children in the Congregation

The children are actively involved with the congregation each Sunday by presenting a Children's Prayer at the Offertory, thought of and written by them, as well as bringing forward the gifts at the Offering (food donations) each week. It is the wish of the Sunday School Coordinator that the children's prayer each week is related to the Gospel or a current event in the world. The goal is for the children to be aware of and involved in as many similar elements of the service as possible. Being able to find the connection and making the teachings for the congregation relate to children is important. The goal is for the children to go home after church and have discussions about the service – at the level that's appropriate for them.

Covid Changes and Updates

With the arrival of the pandemic and subsequent restriction of in-person worship in March, Sunday School lessons were shared via email until May, when Sunday School ended for the season. In the fall, the families and caregivers of the children involved in Sunday School were contacted about a possible return. With all members being closely connected to choir members, and no choir permitted, the families chose to not return to Sunday School until the choir would return. However, with no sign of this happening soon, Jacqueline reached out to families again during the holiday season and offered virtual Sunday School lessons, beginning in the New Year. Three to four children are now actively participating in a virtual Sunday School held each week, with packages created for the students to complete crafts and activities. The children are thoroughly enjoying this new version of Sunday School, and look forward to returning to in-person classes when they are able. More children are welcome to attend and participate should they have the technology to participate.

Respectfully submitted:

Jacqueline Thomson
Sunday School Coordinator / Educator

2021 PARISH AGM STEWARDSHIP REPORT

Your Stewardship Committee worked throughout 2020 to encourage both non-financial (time and talent) and financial (treasure) support for the parish.

During the fall Stewardship activities, the Stewardship Committee expressed gratitude for what parishioners have done and again emphasized how important returning Estimate of Giving Cards is to our budgeting and planning. Thanks to the many parishioners who responded and returned their Cards.

Stewardship activities identified expected giving of about \$164,000 for 2021. That's less than the actual identified giving in 2020 and what parishioners identified as expected giving for 2020. A significant portion of the decrease was a result of parishioners passing away. As the majority of giving comes from older parishioners, the Stewardship Committee continues to be concerned about the future of identified giving, our long term sustainability, and the number of parishioners who do not financially support the parish. If we weren't able to increase budgeted revenue through fundraising etc or decrease budgeted expenses in 2021, we would need an increase of about 33% in identified giving to have no budgeted deficit. We welcome your suggestions.

Regardless of the amount, all forms of giving – on the offering plate, to the office, through pre-authorized donations or financial institutions – are appreciated. As pre-authorized donations provide consistent cash flows throughout the year, the Stewardship Committee encourages them. A “pew card” to place on the offering plate is available at the back of the church during in-person worship to help parishioners be comfortable with pre-authorized donations to –“I support the ministries of St. George’s Church (Crescentwood) through monthly pre-authorized donations.”

In response to COVID-19, we introduced the opportunity to e-transfer donations from a financial institution to office@stgeorges.mb.ca. In 2021, we’re planning to add a mail chute by the Wilton door for envelopes and small parcels too.

Some parishioners donate shares or other financial instruments. Financial advisors can explain the capital gains or other advantages of these donations. Any parishioner interested in donating shares to St. George’s should contact Ted Cotton about the process.

Throughout the year, the most immediate parish needs for time and talent were emphasized.

The Stewardship Committee thanks all parishioners for their support in 2020. I acknowledge the wisdom and interest in parish Stewardship and the future of St. George’s provided by Mary-Beth Barker, Brandon Barnes, Andrew Thomson and John Kehler. The support of Marian Groce and late Christy Little was also appreciated.

Ted Cotton
Stewardship Committee

2021 PARISH AGM FINANCE REPORT

2020 Preliminary Statements

Preliminary means without all year end adjustments (such as Unrealized Gains or Losses on Investments held at year end, late interest or invoices) or the auditors' review. The Final 2020 Financial Report including the auditors' review should be in the May 2021 "by George!". Here are the preliminary 2020 financial results.

Our Revenue and Expenses show a preliminary **Net Loss** for January to December 2020 of **\$11,060** from operations. This is favourable to the budgeted Net Loss of \$39,845 and last year's actual Net Loss of \$33,383.

Preliminary Revenue is \$18,705 unfavourable to the 2020 Budget. Festival Offerings are \$1,347 unfavourable due to no Easter or Harvest festival envelopes. Fundraising is \$15,767 unfavourable; this is less Garage/Closet Sales and Special Events. Interest Earned is \$1,903 favourable to budget due to better market conditions. Regular Offerings are \$4,074 favourable; this is higher Identified Giving. Identified Giving (Envelopes, Electronic Offerings, and Via United Way) is \$7,901 favourable to Budget but \$1,555 unfavourable to last year; as older parishioners pass away, their giving isn't being replaced.

Preliminary Expense is \$47,490 favourable to the 2020 Budget. Ministry is \$11,075 favourable largely due to the short term disability reimbursement received while Jennifer was on medical leave. Music is \$12,797 favourable; this is due to no choir for much of the year. Program is \$4,170 favourable; this is due to Sunday School and other programs not being run in part of the year. Property is \$10,550 favourable; this is largely due to reduced activity in the church.

While the Revenue minus Expenses equals Net Income (Loss) shows how we did in 2020, the Balance Sheet shows what we have accumulated over the life of the church. Although the Preliminary 2020 Net Income (Loss) is included, the Summary Preliminary Balance Sheet does not include all year end adjustments (such as Unrealized Gains or Losses on Investments held at year end) or the auditors' review. The Final Balance Sheet should be in the May 2021 "by George!". Our Balance Sheet includes over 30 Designated Funds. These Funds range in size from less than \$100 to over \$100 000. The key aspect of each Fund is the money can only be spent on what the money was donated or raised for e.g. Choir Music. Any cash flow shortages caused by expenses being greater than revenue are covered by cashing investments and transferring cash to our chequing account so our bills can be paid.

Summary Preliminary Balance Sheet

	As at December 31		
	2020	2019	change
	Actual	Actual	
Current Assets (chequing, cash)	\$ 47,520.36	25,183.73	22,381.63
Fixed Assets (building at cost)	785 030.20	785 030.20	0
Other Assets (investments)	514,297.37	540,337.36	(26,039.99)

Total Assets	\$	1,346,847.93	1,350,506.29	(3,658.36)
Current Liabilities (designated funds)	\$	279,785.98	272,383.85	7,402.13
Long Term Liabilities (trusts)		7 260.26	7 260.26	0
Equity		1,059,801.69	1,070,862.18	(11,060.49)
Total Liabilities and Equity	\$	1,346,847.93	1,350,506.29	(3,658.36)

2021 Budget

Parish Council approved a Budget with a **Net Loss of \$53,465** for submission to the Annual General Meeting. Total Expenses are budgeted to be \$10,506 more than the preliminary 2020 actual Expenses, and total Revenues \$31,899 less than the preliminary 2020 actual Revenue. The most significant Budget items are:

- a \$53,565 budgeted Net Loss. While St. George's is continuing the building redevelopment process, no increases in revenue from the building can be budgeted at this time. The possibility of government grants is also not included. The investments of the church can sustain 2021's budgeted loss.
- Envelopes (which includes Electronic Offerings) and Via United Way ... being \$36,401 less than 2020 Preliminary and less than the 2020 budget. This is based on the Stewardship results as well as estimates for those who give but don't pledge, and those who attend but don't give. The passing of parishioners has a significant impact on identified giving. With no other changes in revenue or expenses, the Stewardship Report highlights there would need to be a 33% increase in identified giving to balance the 2021 budget.
- Fundraising from Special Events and the Garage/Closet Sales remain conservative due to the uncertainty about being able to use the building for sales or dinners.
- a slight decrease in Interest Earned from 2020 Preliminary based on estimates received from the financial institutions e.g. less funds invested.
- higher overall office and custodial staffing and related costs based on experience and some small increases in hours worked
- the return of a provision for audio-visual, \$2,500, and a provision for relocation of a new incumbent, \$5,000
- a \$3,574 decrease in the Diocesan apportionment from 2020 and the 2021 Diocesan request based on concern the parish was not able to support the diocese at the same level as in the past
- Rentals less than a typical year but similar to 2020 due to uncertainty about use of the building
- higher utility costs to recognize the potential for higher rates.

I would like to thank:

- Marion Groce, the late Christy Little, and the money counting team for their contributions.
- the parishioners who supported St. George's through Regular and Festival Offerings, Special Events, and the Garage/Closet Sales.

- the Corporation, Parish Council, and Stewardship Committee for their financial guidance
- our financial advisors for their recommendations
- The Exchange Group for their review services.

2021 PARISH AGM CORPORATION REPORT

The work of Corporation this year has been focused, unsurprisingly, on the management of processes relevant to the pandemic and the search for the new incumbent. We very much wish we could highlight a long list of signal achievements in whose glory we bask; this has not been that kind of year. Corporation this year consisted of Mary-Beth Barker as the Rector's Warden, Keith Waugh and then Brandon Barnes Trickett as the People's Warden and Interim People's Warden, the Venerable Simon Blaikie and then Pastor Jennifer Marlor as incumbents, with critical support from Ted Cotton as Past Warden. We want to take this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Pastor Jennifer for her leadership of our Parish for a good part of 2020; her work was very important in establishing the transition team, discussed below, and paving the way to the engagement of the new incumbent.

Determining what we could do in the church building at various points in time in the pandemic has been a constant focus of Corporation. Decision-making as to the use of the building rests in the hands of Corporation and the Province; if worship is permitted, decision-making as to the conduct of worship rests in the hands of Corporation (with and without the incumbent) and the Diocese. Much of the first third of the year was given over to ensuring that the fluctuating permitted uses of the building aligned with what our user groups could do, and brokering discussion as to whether and how we could re-open for in-person worship.

The worship committee, complemented by the altar guild and many on the roster for reading, serving, and greeting, did the heavy lifting by ensuring that a plan was proposed to the Diocese that was comprehensive and acceptable to them, and that the provisions of that plan were carried out in practice. The result was excellent. We are unaware of any case of community transmission of COVID-19 linked, directly or indirectly, to our Parish. That is an achievement of our doing.

The ministry of technology in our Parish – Jonathan Morgan deserves special mention, with a grateful nod going to Matthew Thomson and John Kehler – came to fore this year. We are one of a minority of Parishes who, while closed and while open, continue to provide a means of worship through our website and Facebook page. We hope to make more of our technological capabilities as part of the long-term mission of the Parish. Corporation has extended a special thanks to the donor who made much of what we are doing now possible.

As the pandemic progressed in the latter third of the year and we decided to close the Parish to in-person worship just in advance of a mandatory provincial order to do so, the realization that important hallmarks in the church calendar – Remembrance Day and Christmas in particular – would require re-conceptualizing for virtual presentation. Again, the worship committee and its leadership rose to the occasion: Corporation had the luxury of just having to ask. Our Nine Lessons and Carols Service was brilliantly done; the bake sale was a great success; the bell tolled all through the holiday season and continues to do so. It may not be the ideal Christmas, but we are firmly of the view that it was the best Christmas we could have hoped for in the circumstances.

The cooperation of the congregation in maintaining our closure has been a source of great pride. When the conduct of some faith groups vis-à-vis the public health precautions in place in Manitoba for our protection has been discomfiting, we note that Corporation received no requests from anyone to bend the rules for any purpose. Thank you.

The transition team is another area in which members of the Parish have made a great and lasting contribution to the future health of the Parish. The importance of the work of this group cannot be underestimated. The final document – still in draft but soon to be revealed for comment to the whole Parish – is something the group can be proud of.

We have recently made provision for the appointment of a Deputy Warden to assist Corporation and enable us to be as responsive as we can to the Parish needs. This person will also act as the Chair of Parish Council. If you are interested in the role, please let us know.

We extend heartfelt thanks to the employees (who are, of course, so much more than that) being Mary, and Darren, and Marian, and Rick, and Jacqueline, who have served the Parish so selflessly this past year. Mary in particular being new in the role had the challenge of being the face of the Parish, in the office, through an interim incumbent period and a pandemic. Everybody made the sacrifices needed to keep the lights on, and we are grateful.

To many, 2020 will be a year to forget. It was a year in which every challenge we face, personally and as a community, was made more challenging. The immediate health consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, potentially serious for every last one of us, were of even greater concern for those already in ill-health. The economic cost of the pandemic has fallen disproportionately on those with the least means. The mental health toll, significant for us all, was even more pronounced for those living alone or suffering from other stresses. And for the Parish, all of our usual perils – the pursuit of our mission, the declining size of our congregation, and the financial concerns with which we grapple – are all exacerbated by the effects of the pandemic. All disparities and despairs became more disparate and desperate.

Corporation, however, hopes 2020 will linger long in our memory. The challenges of this year have demonstrated, right at the time when we needed it most, the devotion to, love for, and faith in the Parish that so many of you have and share. What we truly value – fellowship, the act of worship, the trust in our spiritual leadership, the bonds between us, the fulfillment of Christ's call, the role of our faith in our family and professional lives – have been illuminated by the pressures of the pandemic. It has forced us to look deeply and what really matters. We do not seek to trivialize or avoid the challenges we face, but rather to elevate and acknowledge the hard work of everyone who makes St. George's what it is. You are St. George's. The Parish is the people, and Christ is among us. No difficult year can change that.

Mary-Beth Barker and Brandon Barnes Trickett
Wardens