

2016

Church of St. John the Divine

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*2016 REPORT OF
THE OFFICERS*

AND

*PARISH
ORGANIZATIONS
TO THE 156th
ANNUAL MEETING
OF
VESTRY*

March 5, 2017

**PLEASE BRING THIS BOOKLET
WITH YOU TO THE ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING.**



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2016 OFFICERS AND PARISH COUNCIL
Church of St. John the Divine * Diocese of British Columbia

Terms of Office

Post	Name	Term ends
The Wardens		
Rector's Warden	Duane Lecky	February 2018
Deputy Rector's Warden	Penny Holt	February 2018
People's Warden	Jim Harlick	February 2017
Deputy People's Warden	Patricia Punnett	February 2017

Parish Councillors

Tony Abbott	February 2017
Gillian Barlow	February 2017
Rhoda Brodie-Smith	February 2018
Trevor Elton	February 2018
Joan Huzar	February 2017
John McVie	February 2017
Doug Sheepwash	February 2018
Michael Zenger	February 2018

Delegates to Synod

(1 year term)	Gillian Barlow	February 2017
	Jim Harlick	February 2017
	Duane Lecky	February 2017
	Penny Holt	February 2017
	Patricia Punnett	February 2017
Alternates	Mark Lee	February 2017
	Susanna Peterson	February 2017

Stewards

Heather Lee	Treasurer
Jim Harlick	Offerings Coordinator
Doug Henderson	Data Recorders
Graeme Brown	Vestry Clerk
Financial Review	Walter Hundleby

Staff

Alastair McCollum	Rector
Jane Reid (Jan.-Apr.)	Priest Associate
Kevin Arndt	Priest Associate
Bill Tarter, OSF (March-Dec.)	Priest Associate
Gillian Hoyer (June-Dec.)	Curate
Patrick Sibley (March-Dec.)	Deacon
David Stratkauskas	Director of Music
Ruth MacIntosh	Family Ministry Coordinator
Catherine MacKenzie	Parish Administrator
Carol-Ann Zenger	Reception and Facilities Coordinator
Alistair Whiteside	Caretaker

Honourary Assistants

Barry Jenks / Derek Dunwoody / Larry Scyner / Karen Fast (Jan.-July) / Jane Reid (May-Dec.)

The Parish Register from 2016

Baptism

Kalili Océanne Jonas

Blessing of a Marriage

“Let their love for each other be a seal upon their hearts...”

Cheryl Lynn Armstrong  John Riley McVie

Dana Marianne Stevulak  Callaghan Michael O'Connor

Heather Anne Lee  Anthony Cyril Maxfield

Burials

“We praise and magnify thy Holy Name

*for all Thy servants who
have finished their course and kept the faith.”*

Ashleigh Roundhill

Blanche May Gwenelda Smith

Sharon Ireland

Gwen Underhill

Bernard Romeo Turgeon

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Rector

2016 saw a number of joys and struggles in the life of St. John the Divine, and indeed in that of the Rector. The year has been interesting, and at times exciting, and other times challenging. It has, though, been a good year, with some exceptional opportunities to gather, learn, and grow. I am grateful that we continue on this shared journey and explore our spiritual and social action life together.

Staffing and Colleagues

In 2016 we saw some changes as **Jane Reid** stood down as Priest Associate – her hard work and dedication to the community were, and are, very much appreciated. **Kevin Arndt, Catherine MacKenzie, Carol-Ann Zenger, Ruth MacIntosh** and **David Stratkauskas** continued in their exceptional work and support of the ministry and programs of the parish, and we were joined by **Patrick Sibley** and **Gillian Hoyer** as Parish Deacon and Assistant Curate respectively. The life of our community is greatly enhanced by what they bring to our Ministry Team. Of course all that is done at St. John's is only achieved by the phenomenal offering of ministry by a whole host of volunteers, to whom I offer my grateful thanks. Thank you to you, my colleagues, for your hard work and faithful service. Thank you also to our **Honorary Associates, Larry Scyner, Bishop Barry Jenks, Derek Dunwoody** and **Jane Reid** for your ongoing contributions to the life of St. John's and all that you give of your time, energy and compassion in ministry.

Parish Council and Wardens

Our Parish Council has worked very hard through this year, following up on issues highlighted some time ago in our **Quo Vadis: Finding Our Path Together** report and other situations and policies as they have arisen. As I said last year, though our Parish Council are not 'representatives' but 'delegates' they have worked hard through the year on behalf of all our community and I am grateful for the work of those who are standing down this year having served their terms; **Tony Abbott, Gillian Barlow,** and **Joan Huzar,** as well as **John McVie** who stood down during the year, thank you also to those who will continue in the coming year, **Trevor Elton, Rhoda Brodie-Smith, Michael Zenger,** and **Doug Sheepwash.** Thank you also to **Graeme Brown** for your work as Clerk to Council, for which we are very grateful.

Thanks to **Heather Lee** who continues to work as our treasurer, and who has worked closely with the Wardens and with Catherine, our Administrator, in keeping track of our finances. I am grateful for the work she and Jim Harlick put into our presentation on finance for the parish in December, and trust that such a clear and helpful explanation of our finances was helpful for all who attended. Our budget and income were at the levels expected and shared at last Vestry, and indications are that our pledges for 2017 are up considerably, whilst costs remain similar to last year – thank you so much to all of you who give so generously to keep the important work of St. John's going, we still run a deficit budget, but are careful to stick to our financial goals, and are working hard to balance our books. Financial information is always available with PC

minutes, displayed in the Church following meetings and in the parish office as well as on the website.

I can't, of course, forget the service of our Wardens, thank you to **Jim Harlick, Duane Lecky, Penny Holt, and Trish Punnett**, for all of your help and wisdom, your good humour, and your support, over the past year, as Trish and Jim stand down we look forward to the newly elected Wardens joining us this coming year.

As I have said each of the years it has been my privilege to serve this community, our life as a Parish depends on the faithfulness and dedication of **each one of you**. Thank you once again for your generous support of this Community of St. John's – for your sharing of your time, your money, your compassion, your energy. The list is too long to put here, please know that you are appreciated and your work makes us who we are: a diverse, loving, living community.

Pastoral Ministry

Over the past two years there have been many considerations of how we, as a community, offer Pastoral Care to one another. Our Pastoral Ministry is part of our calling as a whole church, with the Clergy having a particular – but not exclusive – role within this task. I am grateful for the work that **Gillian Hoyer** has done in reviewing and reconsidering our Pastoral Care work. Pastoral ministry is no longer the responsibility of only one member of our Ministry Team, and both Clergy and Laity have an active part in this work, we do have a phone number uniquely dedicated to out-of-hours pastoral care (in office hours, and for non-urgent care please contact the office), and an email dedicated to this pastoral@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca – we will inform the Parish of developments around our pastoral care in the coming months.

We also had during the year a half-day devoted to considerations around death and dying called **It's Your Funeral** – many people commented how helpful it was to talk through both the practicalities and some of the concerns we hold around these issues. This will be something we will do again, and notes will be available for the day.

Worship and Liturgy

We have made some changes to our liturgical practise to be more in keeping with current thinking, and the wishes of our Bishop. We continue to explore liturgy in a dynamic and thoughtful way, whilst seeking to maintain the best of our Anglican Heritage and a variety of musical offerings from different sources representing the breadth and depth of the Church. As part of our liturgical strategy we did have a **Liturgy Morning** which set out to explain the shape and purpose of our liturgy, our way of liturgical practise, and the meaning behind our liturgy. This day was headed up by the Clergy and Music Director and was well-supported by those who have a part in our worshipping life. If anyone would like to be a part of such a morning that was unable to attend, please contact the Rector.

I am particularly grateful for the work that my colleagues Gillian, Patrick and David have put into the worship this year – especially the events around Advent and Christmas, which were

exceptional and showcased vibrant, engaging worship from the best of our traditions. The work of the choir and all of our musicians including our choral scholars and organ scholar are always appreciated.

At the end of 2016 I constituted a **worship and liturgy group** tasked with the ongoing role of reviewing our worship – it's content and the pattern of our services. That group will be meeting every few months to do this and I am grateful for the willingness of **Bishop Barry Jenks, David Stratkauskas, Pat Ormerod, Terry Needham, and Susan McCabe** to serve on this group, alongside **myself**, and **Gillian** and **Patrick** as they are available.

Development, redevelopment, and building for the future

The work put into the **Church Building Task Group** has been rolled into the work done previously by the **Church Property Redevelopment Group**, and we are now looking at our hopes for redeveloping the St. John's site as a whole alongside improvements and changes that could be made within the Church, the Crypt area, and the Parish House. This new '**Church Development Group**' has just started meeting, revisiting the report on the church building presented last year and taking into account the direction of previous Vestry meetings in considering developing the St. John's site. There is a report from this new group as part of our swathe of Annual reports and we will be consulting and updating repeatedly as progress is made.

We have already seen, or rather heard, the benefit of a task group diligently following up on a desire for improving our church fabric with the **Sound Committee** – and I am very grateful, as are we all, for the work put into that improvement to our church led by **Al Lehmann**, but with much work from a number of people.

Visioning and Focus

We have had a wide consultation over the time I have been here about our Vision, which culminated in the **Quo Vadis** report. We are seeking in the coming months to refocus that work and move forward with a shared sense of purpose. As such I hope to constitute a **Vision Group** in the coming weeks – with the hope of drawing from the Quo Vadis Report and some ongoing work, a Mission Action Plan or Vision Statement being formulated by summer time. Anyone interested in being a part of such a group is welcome to contact me via the Parish Office or email rector@stjohnthedivine.bc.ca. I believe it is important for us to be able to clearly state who we are, as a progressive, modern, Anglican Church and part of an engaged and active Diocese in order that we can focus on our calling to be a church for the 21st Century and beyond.

These are exciting times, as we continue to grow as an active, thoughtful, inclusive, spiritual community. Again, many thanks for the privilege of leading such a community and sharing this journey together. Thank you for all of you who give so much of yourselves to meet the needs of this living, spiritual community. As I have said before, I look forward to our continued sharing in this journey of faith, hope, and love.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Alastair McCollum

Guest Preachers / Speakers / Presiders

Mark Muldoon – Threshold Housing
The Rev. Canon Nancy Ford – Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria
David Stratkauskas – Director of Music, St. John the Divine, Victoria
The Rev. Dr. Larry Scyner, St. John the Divine, Victoria

Concerts

The Victoria Baroque Players and St. John's Chamber Singers
present "***Passages to Eternity***"
Maurice Durufle *Requiem*; Johann Sebastian Bach *Lobet den Herrn alle Heiden*
Rachel Allen, soprano; Alana Hayes, mezzo soprano; Nathan McDonald, baritone

Arion Male Voice Choir and The Vancouver Welsh Men's Choir

Music for a Spring Afternoon
Christine Purvis, organ and Antonia Mahon, flute
Works by Vivaldi, Alain, Holm, Buxtehude and Rutter

Royal Blues Chamber Choir from Portland, Oregon

"May Music"
featuring Choral Scholars and Choristers of St. John's choir

The Victoria Baroque Players with St. John's Chamber Singers
"***Exultant Spring***"
An Effulgent Spring Extravaganza for Soloists, Choir, Horns, Winds and Strings,
conducted by Pacific Opera Victoria's Timothy Vernon.
Mozart: *Exsultate, jubilate*; Telemann: *Die Tageszeiten*; Corrette: *Laudate Dominum*
Soloists: *Monica Orso, soprano; Rebecca Genge, soprano;*
Rebecca Claborn, mezzo soprano; Zachary Windus, countertenor;
Kevin Myers, tenor; Andrew Erasmus, baritone

Organ Recital
Sutton Organ Scholar Kimberley Farris-Manning

"***If Love's a Sweet Passion***" Victoria Baroque Players with Nancy Argenta
Victoria Baroque Players with one of the most distinguished Canadian sopranos.
Vocal & Instrumental music from the height of the English Baroque - Purcell, Handel and more.

Emily Carr String Quartet

Victoria Baroque Players present **“An Evening with Mr. Telemann”**
with St. John's Chamber Singers & Rachel Allen, soprano
From tales of travels to harmonious worship - Music from suites and quartets to cantatas and motets by one of the greatest German Baroque Composers.

The Victoria Bach Ensemble

Courses, Lectures and Special Events

Book Study – *Christianity's Dangerous Memory – A Rediscovery of the Revolutionary Jesus*
by Diarmuid O’Murchu

Epiphany Family Meet-Up at Beacon Hill Park

Music and Prayer in the Style of Taizé

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Anglican 101

“Love and Lent” Family Meet-Up – Beaver Lake

Music and Meditation for Lent

Lunch with a Point –

“Gathering”, “Word”, “Peace”, “Breaking”, “Blessing”, “Passion”

Reel Thought –

“Chocolat”, “Whale Rider”, “Babette’s Feast”, “The Intouchables”, “Jesus Christ Superstar”

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner

Maundy Thursday Celebrations

Annual Spring Clean-Up Day

Book Study – *God is not One* by Stephen Prothero

FOCUS – Theology in the 21st Century: A Theological Sampler

“Theology for All” - led by The Ven. Alastair McCollum

“Vatican II: A New Theological Era” – led by Bishop Remi J. De Roo

“Theology from the Bottom Up” - led by Canon Philip Wadham

“Women and Theology” – led by The Rev. Jonelle McLellan

“Ecotheology in the 21st Century” – led by Dr. Geoff Strong

The 7th Annual Divine Sock Hop -

A Benefit Dance for The Food Bank at St. John’s

Patrick Sibley - Patrick’s Story or Why I stick with the Church

Pride Evensong

Youth of the Parish attend CLAY Conference (Canadian Lutheran and Anglican Youth)

Book Study - *The Interfaith Alternative: Embracing Spiritual Diversity* by Steven Greenebaum

Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT) Information Session

Welcome Back Parish Barbecue

An Afternoon with John Bell – “Ancient Gifts for These Times”

Food for Thought on the Fifth – “It’s Your Funeral”

Liturgy Morning

Pot Luck Dinner to welcome Gillian Hoyer and Patrick Sibley to St. John’s, and Matthew Brown to the Two Saints parishes (St. Peter, Lakehill and St. David-by-the-Sea, Cordova Bay)

Welcome Event

Book Study –

The First Paul – Reclaiming the Radical Visionary Behind the Church’s Conservative Icon
by John Dominic Crossan and Marcus Borg

FOCUS – Myth, Memory, and Mystery: Reflections on the Stories of Advent
“Incarnational Theology” – led by The Ven. Alastair McCollum

“The Birth Narrative in the Gospel of Matthew” – led by Canon Philip Wadham

“The Birth Narrative in the Gospel of Luke” – led by Canon Philip Wadham

“St. Francis and the Emergence of the Modern Christmas Story” –
led by The Rev. Joachin Ostermann

St. John’s Christmas Bazaar

Anglican 101 – “A Guide to Parish Finances”

The Warden's Report

In 2016, all four wardens continued to assist and support the incumbent in all matters affecting the welfare and advancement of the parish. We grew into particular and useful roles. These included the following.

- Along with the Rector we helped to organize regular provision of staff reports to Parish Council.
- We attempted to see that Parish Council minutes were organized to ensure that reporting and accountability were more clearly delineated.
- A warden organized a comprehensive informational binder for every parish councillor.
- Wardens provided leadership to Parish Council in holding a fall barbecue for the parish.
- A warden sat on the committee to secure our new sound system.
- A warden chaired the committee recommending blue envelopes for 2017.
- A warden chaired the budget committee.
- A warden has been training the new treasurer and overseeing the finances.
- A warden worked with a team investigating our technology needs and advised on the purchase of new church software.
- A warden chaired the nominating committee for Parish Council 2017.
- A warden worked with staff to insure the parish met Diocesan Criminal Record Check requirements.
- Wardens responded to requests from Parish Council and parishioners by holding dedicated meetings on St. John's finances.
- Wardens worked with recently appointed diocesan staff in finance and communications to take advantage of their knowledge and recommendations.
- A warden enabled the creation of a volunteer matrix.

In terms of outreach, wardens represented St. John's at:

- Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT)
- Victoria Interfaith Community (a fledgling organization formed to find common ground and understanding between both Christian and Non-Christian faiths in Victoria.)
- St. John the Divine and First Metropolitan United Refugee Committee (under co-chairs Chris Eve and Kathy Cooke)
- South Vancouver Island Regional Wardens
- Diocesan Council
- Diocesan Visioning Group
- Conference on Public Safety, Compassion and Community Integration
- Ride for Refuge
- Emmaus Community introduction
- Celebrations on the anniversary of the ordination of women
- Concluding service for Tent City
- Pride Parade
- Taizé

Within St. John's we supported other members of the parish in the following:

- Sunday services and coffee hours and connecting with parishioners
- Divine Brunch

- Evensong
- Sermon Circle
- Liaising with clergy and staff through coffee dates, lunches, social media and unstructured meetings
- Staffing the front desk on Thursdays and other days. This gives an especially good contact with other parishioners, staff, and the public.

We enjoyed the past year as wardens. It has been a pleasure to work with staff, diocesan colleagues, and parishioners. St. John's is a wonderful community and working in the many situations in which we have in 2016 has inspired and challenged each of us.

This is the final year as a warden for Jim Harlick and Trish Punnett but Rector's Warden, Duane Lecky, and Deputy Rector's Warden, Penny Holt, are looking forward to serving the parish in 2017.

Respectfully submitted,

Duane Lecky
Rector's Warden

Penny Holt
Deputy Warden

Jim Harlick
People's Warden

Patricia Punnett
Deputy Warden

See separate document for financials

See separate document for financials

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REPORT OF STAFF

Curate

Since my ordination in May 2016 and joining the team at St. John the Divine in June 2016, I have felt warmly welcomed by this wonderful community. Your welcome and patience as I learn your names is gratefully appreciated! I have two main roles while I am here: as a newly ordained curate, I am here to learn more about leadership in ministry from Alastair, from the other clergy at St. John's, and from the amazing staff team; as an assistant clergyperson, I am here contribute to the life and ministry that we all share in, assisting with specific ministries as my time and gifts allow.

I have been participating in the liturgical life of St. John's through serving as the Deacon for the Eucharist for Sunday services (in rotation with St. John's parish Deacon), preaching, presiding at Evensong, and assisting in the planning of special services throughout Advent. This, and participating in various meetings, events, and services throughout the week, has been a rewarding way for me to participate in our shared life and for me to get immersed into ministry at St. John's.

My main area of focus has been pastoral care. I spent much of the summer and fall speaking with many people who have been and continue to be involved with various aspects of pastoral care at St. John's in order to understand what we are doing and what our needs are. My goal over the coming months is to work with a team of people to establish a pastoral care team, made up of lay and ordained members of St. John's, creating a structure that helps us to ensure the pastoral needs of our entire community are met. As a first step, we created a pastoral care email address and have a designated cell phone number that are being used. These are monitored 24/7 by the clergy team, in rotation, and have proven to be a simple means of contact. Over the months since I began here, I have also been blessed to visit with many parishioners in their homes, in care homes, and in the hospital – bringing prayers and communion by extension when needed or simply sharing conversation. I am so appreciative of the ministry of “noticing” that exists at St. John's – the people who notice when members of our community are absent and check in with them.

In the life of our Diocese, I am the Bishop's Appointee to the Board of Directors of the Threshold Housing Society. This society is familiar to many at St. John's as the history of the society is tied in with the history of this parish. We opened our fourth home this fall and I planned a House Blessing which was presided at by Bishop Logan. I also serve as a Juror for the Diocesan Vision Fund. This fund was established at synod in 2015 and it provides seed money to initiatives proposed by parishes and other diocesan groups that fit within the identified goals of our Diocesan Vision.

In the life of our National Church, I continue to serve as a Director on the Board of the Primate's World Relief and Development Fund. With PWRDF, I serve on the Governance Committee, chair the Audit and Risk Management Committee, and represent PWRDF on the Council of General Synod. It is an exciting time to be a part of PWRDF as our programs expand and as we have been garnering increasing recognition for our work by the Government of Canada.

Respectfully submitted,
Gillian Hoyer

Deacon

It's been an exciting year for me since arriving at St. John's last March. It has been a privilege for me to spend this first year of ordained ministry in this vibrant and exciting parish. The diverse congregation and welcoming environment is a testament to you as a forward-thinking community. St. John's commitment to justice is what motivates me to express to those I come in contact with outside the community that there is something special here. My personal highlight besides obviously, my ordination, was the way this community embraced pride week. The people I have met here as well as the amazing team I work with makes me look forward to the future and in a changing and sometimes challenging world taking the collective spirit we have here and showing the world what a caring open and loving Christian community looks like. Thank you all for your prayers and support.

Respectfully submitted,
Patrick Sibley

The Music Report

CHURCH SERVICES

The central purpose of the music programme remains the support of music in the liturgy, including congregational hymnody, congregational and choral liturgical music, choral anthems, and instrumental music (e.g. organ voluntaries). Every Parish Eucharist and most festivals are provided with music (at a minimum, organ-led hymns and mass ordinary), and a choir is present at every Sunday and festival service except the weeks after Christmas and Easter and during the summer (June-August).

There are two choirs, the **Choristers of St. John the Divine** (auditioned, singing repertoire from the Anglican, and wider classical, choral tradition) and the **Community Choir** (open to all, with an emphasis on somewhat easier music, still carefully integrated with the liturgy). Our unique choral programme means that while we are probably one of only a handful of Anglican churches in British Columbia able to support our liturgy with music from the centuries-old, yet vital, sacred choral tradition, we can also ensure there is opportunity for open participation and musical growth for anyone who is inclined to lend their voice to a choir. And, of course, we are blessed with a strong-voiced, roof-raising congregation as well!

Special services of note with musical provision this past calendar year:

Evensong – monthly	Pride Evensong
Maundy Thursday Eucharist	Advent Choral Procession
Good Friday (with sung Passion)	(new this year after a hiatus of some 5 years)
Easter (with the Pinnacle Brass)	Christmas Carol Service
Ascension Day (with Finzi's 'God is gone up')	Christmas Midnight Mass (with string ensemble)

PERSONNEL

The music department consists of myself (3/4 time Director of Music), six students supported by our dedicated scholarship funds, and some two dozen singers (from long-standing members of the congregation through to students in Victoria only for the duration of their studies).

MacRae Choral Scholars this Liturgical Year (2016-2017) are **Rachel Allen**, **Alana Hayes**, **Taylor Fawcett**, **Zander Felton**, and **Felix Butterfield**, whose committed, enthusiastic music-making contributes immeasurably to the musical life of St. John's. **Kimberley Farris-Manning**, in her fourth year as Sutton Organ Scholar, goes from strength to strength. Besides playing the organ, conducting, and singing, she also covered during my summer holidays, and led several choral services in my absence. Additionally, two other young organ students are currently playing and learning at St. John's: **Matt Brown** (who receives organ lessons in return for functioning as a Choral Scholar and occasional assistant); and, supported by an anonymous benefactor, **Esther-Ruth Teel**, a member of St. Barnabas, who has also participated in various services here. With these organ students, and the Scholars and students singing in the choir, it could be argued that SJD has become something of a focus for young musicians developing their choral singing and liturgical music skills. This is valuable hands-on experience in their growth as musicians, and a connection between St. John's and the university music department and conservatory.

PHYSICAL PLANT

There is an Organ Committee in place (myself, the **Rev. Patrick Sibley**, and **Canon Michael Gormley**) looking into the status of our instrument. It is one of the most significant organs in British Columbia, but it has suffered now from decades of deferred maintenance. Parish Council has approved some initial work (the replacement of the nearly-failing swell motor is underway), and we are looking into assessing what options we have to responsibly steward this great asset for the church and wider community into the next half century. Its replacement value is probably around 2 million dollars, so aside from its artistic value, it represents one of the church's largest physical assets.

Earlier this year, Parish Council began to examine the possibility of removing the carpet runner from the aisle between the choir stalls. If this can be achieved, it would represent a significant, if small, step towards attempting to improve the acoustics in the church. A reverberant acoustic is the best friend of hearty singing, both choral and congregational; carpet is the single biggest acoustic impediment to liturgical music.

Lastly, as with most programmes at St. John's, it is worth noting that the music department ideally needs a permanent, devoted, secure space—somewhere the choir could rehearse, keep music, hang gowns, and leave belongings. It is my hope that this can be considered in tandem with redevelopment discussions, if these begin to get underway again.

CONCERTS

In March, St. John's presented 'Passages to Eternity' in conjunction with the Victoria Baroque Players, featuring Duruflé's *Requiem* and Bach's *Lobet den Herrn*. **Edward Norman**, a former organist of St. John's, was featured in the Duruflé. In June, again in collaboration with the Baroque Players, SJD presented 'Exultant Spring', including an extravagant choral adaptation by Corrette of Vivaldi's 'Spring'; this concert featured POV's **Timothy Vernon** as conductor. Then in November, a small ensemble from the Choristers collaborated with the Baroque in presenting 'An Evening with Mr Telemann', which featured MacRae Choral Scholar **Rachel Allen** in a solo cantata. The Victoria Baroque Players are resident at St. John's; besides these collaborations, they also present their own concerts here. For St. John's these concerts represent an invaluable connection to the wider community; besides typically drawing several hundred people, they

strengthen ties between our parish, the arts community, and music education institutions such as the Conservatory and UVic.

Respectfully submitted,
David Stratkauskas

Family Ministry Report

“Family Ministry” is the umbrella term which refers to ministries with children, youth and the people they call family. In “Family Ministry” we try to pay attention to the unique needs of people at different ages and stages. Paying attention to each age and stage means noticing and making space for everyone’s gifts to shine. We try to be intentional about multi-age and intergenerational connections.

On Sunday mornings children come to church with parents, caregivers, grandparents and friends. Some come often, and some come once in a while. We are trying to create a welcoming and belonging place for all children. **Sunday Morning ministry with children** is a chance for children, with adult and teen mentors, to explore the stories and traditions of our faith. This is a very lively, multi-age group! Thank you to **Darlene Lee**, for her leadership.

Our **littlest ones** (babies & toddlers) continue to be cared for by a wonderful team in the nursery.

YOUTH (in grades 6-12) get together on Friday nights. Sometimes younger and older youth meet separately, and sometimes they meet together. They play games, watch movies, create music, cook for the youth shelter, go camping, have retreats, meet with other diocesan youth, and take part in parish activities. This year younger youth joined with St. Luke’s youth to learn coding and create a website. A huge thank you to **Susanna Peterson** and **Ian Snider** for various leadership throughout the year.

This year a group of young people travelled to Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island for the **Canadian Lutheran Anglican Youth (CLAY) gathering**. Parishioners generously supported the many fundraisers! A new group is beginning plans for CLAY 2018 which will be in Thunder Bay! **Families** continue to find creative ways to connect with each other through potlucks, outdoor gatherings, liturgy, and special seasonal events. People of all ages participated in our outdoor **Christmas Pageant**. Despite the rainy weather, fifty people gathered with the shepherds and the angels to drink hot apple cider, eat hot dogs, and participate in our urban re-telling of the Christmas story!

It has been a very full year, and I look forward to another year of ministry with our young ones, and the people they call family!

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth MacIntosh

REPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Club

For almost twenty years a group of people, mostly from St. John's, has gathered to cook for street youth. Our casseroles go to the Alliance Club, an agency under the Youth Empowerment Society. The Alliance Club is an evening drop in centre available to young people aged 13-19. It provides a safe alternative to just hanging out on the street and a place where street entrenched youth can explore a more positive lifestyle. The Alliance Club provides an evening meal, showers, laundry facilities, on site visits from Street Outreach Nurses and some recreational activities.

Approximately once a month our group of men and women gather to make 16 large casseroles that augment the meal program. Our food is always received with grateful thanks. If you would like to join us on the third Tuesday of the month, you would be most welcome.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Melville

Anglican Church Women

We meet every second Tuesday of the month. We had 8 meetings with an average of 6 members in attendance.

Members attend the Diocesan meetings held up-Island or in Victoria – these meetings are held every 2 months. Members also attend the Annual Meeting held either in Victoria or up-Island.

Our meetings always open with a bible reading and prayers, and closes with prayer for those with special needs and the grace.

We have tried our best to fulfill our purpose to unite women in fellowship of worship, study, and offering to deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives that lead us into Christian service everywhere.

Even though there are only 6 ACW groups on the Island & Gulf Islands, we are still able to knit and sew enough clothing items and bedding to send 16 large boxes up north every year.

New members are always welcome!!

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Elgin, Recording Secretary

ACW – Financial Report

Balance on hand – January 1, 2016		\$204.10
Plus: Receipts		
Voluntary Donation 7 x \$5	\$ 35.00	
Voluntary Giving	117.15	
UTO	<u>20.00</u>	<u>172.15</u>
		376.25
Less: Disbursements		
UTO	\$ 20.00	
1 to go to Dioc. AGM	70.00	
Fee for Bank Draft 2 x \$7.50	15.00	
St. John's Food Bank	50.00	
Bank Charges 12 x \$1.95	<u>23.40</u>	<u>178.40</u>
Balance on Hand – December 2016		<u>\$197.85</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Elizabeth Elgin, Treasurer

Chancel Guild

The Chancel Guild is comprised of about 30 parishioners who are responsible for the care and preparation of all items used for the Eucharist. We prepare the Sanctuary for all services: changing the hangings, arranging the flowers and setting out the vessels and linens for communion and cleaning them after the services. We ensure the supply of candles, wine, flowers and bread required for services. We clean the linens, brass and silver and prepare the Sanctuary for weddings, baptisms and funerals. The Guild decorates the church for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving.

We thank **Pat Ormerod** for thirty years of service in the Guild, and welcome **Louise Langman** and **Fonda Willis** as new members.

I thank all the members of the Chancel Guild for their service, performed with quiet dedication and grace.

Respectfully submitted,
Anne Anderson, President

Christmas Bazaar

2016 was a different year for the organizers and workers for this event. To start, without a spring sale we focused on getting the Christmas Bazaar up and running.

Following the Christmas sale on Saturday, November 19, there were many purchases of great gifts at the next day's Sunday coffee with a return of some \$775. Subsequent sales at coffee and during the weeks ahead off the cart at the office brought the net total for this November sale to nearly \$8,000. We offer a special thank you to **Carol-Ann Zenger** for collecting the sales' money when we were unable to attend the cart.

During the year, your organizers and assistants continue to look for other markets for special unsold items. One example is the recent sale of accumulated broken pieces, damaged or incomplete jewelry. This netted the church some \$400 which is entered into General Revenue upon receipt. It may or may not get added to this year's sale.

"Why do we have these sales?" – a question heard periodically when some folks do not realize that hard work can net great rewards and cultivate new friendships. St. John the Divine has held sales for longer than most of us can remember. In our most recent history, the sales were headed by groups to find extra income (outside the regular church income stream), to provide for some items or services that may not be able to be funded for many years if ever. These sales have paid for carpets in the sanctuaries and chancel, painting various facilities including but not limited to the main church pillars and the chapel, re-arranging and up-grading the Sacristy, a new huge cook stove for the hall, dish washers for both kitchens, and gowns for various choirs, to name a few.

Past sales have been a growth place for a number of church members over the years greeting new people; organizing, learning to advertise, completing sales; and other public events held in both the hall and the church. And above all, they have fostered a sense of family that has spread out into many of the other sectors of St. John's and Victoria.

This year we would especially like to pay tribute to the man who so capably organized our money group; **Alan Ormerod** who is retiring from this annual task. He has helped us significantly for a great number of years. Also, many thanks to the other "money boy" **Brian Turner** for his usual and unrelenting search for the correct totals for the bank deposit as others in the group collect and count the revenue.

So a hearty thank you to those who provided the merchandise; those that organized on a weekly basis for months prior; to those who assisted in the set-up and take-down; to all who organized and prepared the great lunches and those, who through personal contributions and prayers; along with wishes from a great number in our Victoria community: WE SAY THANK YOU AND GOD BLESS.

Respectfully submitted,
Val Adderley and Wendy London

Investment Report

As of December 31st, 2016 our St. John's investment portfolio with Leith Wheeler had a market value of \$1,877,807.73. This value fluctuates with daily market conditions. The portfolio is diversified between five asset classes. The percentage of investment funds in each class varies slightly throughout the year, but remains within parameters established in our Investment Policy Statement. The distribution at 2016 year-end was as follows:

Canadian Equity	36.2%
U.S. Equity	22.0%
International Equity	11.2%
Bonds & Debentures	29.9%
Cash & Equivalents	0.7%

This past year saw many events, international and domestic, which one would have expected to cause much uncertainty in the market place. We started with a significant market correction in the first 6 weeks of the year; then followed the devastating Alberta wildfires, impeachment of the Brazilian President, the shocker BREXIT vote, and an even more shocking election of Donald Trump as the 45th President of the United States. Despite these events, equity markets performed surprisingly well, closing the year with very positive results. The equity portion of our investment portfolio with Leith Wheeler reflected these positive results as shown below. While still generating positive numbers, fixed income markets did not fare as well.

The following shows the performance of our investment portfolio in 2016 compared to the benchmark for each asset class.

Asset		Benchmark	
Canadian Equity	30.7%	TSX Composite	21.1%
U.S. Equity	12.4%	S&P 500 (\$CAD)	8.6%
International Equity	8.0%	MSCI-EAFE Net (\$CAD)	2.0%
Bond & Debentures	2.5%	FTSE TMX Canada Universe	1.7%

At the direction of the Wardens, three withdrawals of \$50,000 each from our portfolio were made by the Investment Committee during 2016. As part of a bequest received by St. John's, a deposit of \$25,000 was made to the portfolio, leaving a net withdrawal of \$125,000 for the calendar year. Taking these transactions into account, together with the \$8,407 paid in management fees, the following represents the 2016 gain on our investment account.

Dividend Income	\$19,007
Interest Income	\$16,981
Net Foreign Income	<u>\$19,121</u>
Total non-Capital Gain	\$55,110

Capital Gain \$194,629 (11.1%)

Total Gain: \$249,739

The Investment Committee recognizes a continuing requirement to withdraw investment profits to augment church revenues as required. The Committee also believes we must maintain an investment portfolio of sufficient size to generate the returns needed to meet this requirement. While our sizeable investment portfolio generated an excellent return during 2016....potential domestic, U.S. and International economic performance in 2017 and beyond is quite uncertain. This will particularly be the case south of the border as unpredictable implications of the Trump presidency unfold. The Investment Committee clearly understands that its mandate involves the prudent investment of St. John's financial reserves, and not how those reserves are spent. That said, the Committee believes that when considering future withdrawals of investment funds, it would be prudent not to assume continuation of our very positive 2016 portfolio performance.

I am indebted to my colleagues **Doug Adderley, Pat Anderson, Heather Lee** (Treasurer) and **Barry Salter** for their individual and collective wisdom on the Investment Committee.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Mitchell

Library

The church library is housed in the Denson Lounge.

The library is totally dependent on books donated by the parishioners (and clergy!) and we appreciate quality books of recent vintage. We thank the many parishioners who have donated books. Last year the library received many books of very good quality – some new and purchased for the library.

We thank **Larry Scyner** for regularly culling the books.

The collection has been catalogued by **Betty Miller**.

Duane Lecky has placed the catalog on St. John's website and it can be searched online. Simply go to: <http://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/page/st-johns-library-catalog>

Thanks also to **Jennifer Wheeler** for her assistance in keeping the collection in good order.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Alford

Ministry of Healing

The Ministry of Healing - Laying on of Hands is an essential part of the Christian Gospel and as such continues to need ongoing support and education from the clergy team.

This group continues to offer prayers for those who choose to come to the Quadra Street vestibule during Communion. They are a dedicated group of eleven people who support the community.

The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody continues to train newcomers who wish to be part of this team.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek C. Dunwoody & Rhoda Brodie-Smith
Coordinator

Moneyboys

On a weekly basis, the Moneyboys are responsible for the custody, accounting and bank deposit pertaining to the offerings from the various Parish services.

Membership includes: John Jenkins, Robin MacLeod, Alan Ormerod, Barry Salter, Brian Turner and Doug Turner.

Respectfully submitted,
Robin MacLeod

Nursery Report

The Nursery is located between the Parish Office and the Church.

It is intended for children aged 0 to 3 years, whose parents or caregivers wish to participate in the 10 am Sunday worship.

A team of 18 adults on rotation provide two supervisors each week to care for the children.

The average number of children attending is 3.

The Nursery is stocked with age-appropriate toys and books.

Parents are invited to fetch their children to take part in the Eucharist.

Respectfully submitted,
Beryl Roundhill, Coordinator

“Out of the Rain” Night Shelter

Since 1998 we have been host to our Out of the Rain night shelter for homeless youths ages 15-25. Along with the Out of the Rain Coalition members (St. Andrew's Presbyterian, Congregation Emanu-El, and Beacon Community Services), we provide youths with a warm safe place to sleep every night during the winter months (Oct. 15- Apr. 15). Sites are staffed by two Beacon youth workers who stay the night to supervise and help kids make connections with services needed. We have 46 volunteers who take turns donating a hot supper, making a hot breakfast, baking goodies or coming in to the Crypt to serve supper.

Many parishioners donate cash, clothing or food as well as using the Blue Envelope to help Beacon pay staff salaries. In kind, the value of meals for the season is about \$2,000 - \$2,500. A substantial number of hours go into this valuable ministry to the many homeless youths we serve, roughly 200 last season.

On their behalf, thank you for your generous and caring hearts!

Respectfully submitted,
Karyn Lehmann, Gerry Melville and Pauline Majcher
Coordinators

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

The Primate's World Relief and Development Fund is the Anglican Church of Canada's principal delivery mechanism for meeting the needs of the poor in the developing world. PWRDF works through competent, trusted partners and is able to deliver sustainable interventions in situations of poverty and injustice, in a cost-effective manner. Programs focus primarily on rural populations and include both short-term relief and longer-term development initiatives.

For the past three years, PWRDF has concentrated its assistance on the needs of food-insecure communities in Africa, based on the premise that food is a basic human right. Although food security will remain an integral part of PWRDF's work in the future, it is presently transitioning its program towards maternal, newborn and child health, under the theme: *"All Mothers and Children Count!"*. Since 2012, PWRDF has also provided food, water, health care, and shelter to Syrians fleeing the violence in their country, many whom have sought refuge in Lebanon, Jordan, and Egypt. PWRDF's overseas work with refugees dovetails with the present program of the Anglican Church to welcome new Syrian refugees to Canada. Projects in the Canadian context focus on water and environmental concerns in isolated, indigenous communities, as well as on-going reconciliation efforts.

Total assistance to all PWRDF programs totalled \$5.7 million in 2015/16. Almost 25% of this amount was received through generous matching grants from Global Affairs Canada (formerly DFATD/CIDA). During 2016, the members of St. John the Divine parish have been generous in their support of PWRDF's innovative overseas programming. Funds raised in the parish (and channelled through the St. John's office) exceeded \$5000. This amount includes monies raised through the sale of PWRDF Christmas Cards during the months of Nov. and Dec. 2016. In March, the "blue envelope" offering at St. John's was dedicated to PWRDF and its ongoing international commitments. The Diocese of British Columbia contributed almost \$300,000 overall in 2015/16.

During the fiscal year, PWRDF and its local partners implemented 60 priority projects in 26 countries, benefiting seven and a half million people. A few specific examples of PWRDF's programming accomplishments during the past year include the following:

- 100% of children under the age of five living with HIV in 12 clinics received age-appropriate anti-retroviral treatments;

- 11,100 AIDs victims received transportation, home-based care and psychosocial support;
- 231,000 children were vaccinated in Maternal and Newborn Child Health program in Burundi, Mozambique and Tanzania;
- 20,000 people in the Thai-Burma border area received drug and alcohol abuse prevention education;
- Several African projects, linked to the multi-Church *Canadian Food Grains Bank* consortium and designed to improve local food security, were completed;
- Humanitarian aid was given to encourage recovery and rehabilitation in the face of major natural disasters (hurricanes, earthquakes, wild fires), as well as human-induced catastrophes (refugees and displaced persons);
- Small-scale economic development and micro-enterprise initiatives were launched in Africa, Asia and Latin America; and,
- Inter-Church human rights, peace-building and reconciliation initiatives were supported world-wide.

Thank you for enabling PWRDF to meet its commitment to create a more just, sustainable and peaceful world in the name of the Lord we serve who reminds us in Mathew 25 (MSG):

“Whenever you did one of these things to someone overlooked or ignored, that was me – you did it to me!”

Respectfully submitted,
Murray Luft & Wendy Suddaby
 Co-Chairs

Property Committee

Membership: Pauline Majcher, Anne Moon, Tony Barlow, Mike Bugslag, John Bergbusch (Chairman), Chuck Neilson (Vice Chairman)

St. John's is blessed with having the dedicated commitment of Chuck Neilson as a member of the Property Committee. He quietly looks after many of the building issues without fuss, making the work of the committee much easier than it might otherwise be. Thanks, Chuck, for your dedication to the parish.

The most significant achievement in 2016 was the installation of a new sound system before Christmas. A sub committee was formed early in the year to manage this project, led by Al Lehmann as chair. Committee members were Duane Lecky, Rhoda Brodie-Smith, Tony Barlow, Barry Salter and John Bergbusch. It met regularly on Thursdays for much of the year, researching and developing criteria for the new sound system. Pacific Audio Works was contracted to develop an acoustic model and specifications, and install the new system. A generous gift to the parish covered the \$44,000 cost of the installation. The new system has received universal acclaim for its clarity and audibility. Many thanks to Al Lehmann for his leadership and excellent organization.

A second important project was the painting of the church house in the spring. Painting the church house had been recommended in 2008 by the building consultants. Chuck Neilson took the lead role in managing this \$9000 project on behalf of the parish.

Other smaller projects included the following: A new key system was installed throughout the church in the autumn. Parking lot asphalt repairs were completed. Glass repair on windows on the south side of the church were done. The carpets and drapes were cleaned in the Denson Lounge. Twenty four new chairs were purchased and located at the rear of the church for choir practice and meetings. Mold and ceiling repairs were completed in the Denson Lounge. The Ministry of Healing space was moved to the South entrance of the church.

The annual church cleanup was held once again with a large group of volunteers, and a lot of good work was done both inside and outside the church precincts. The 2017 cleanup is scheduled for April 29.

Building projects for 2017 include the following:

1. As the lighting system in the Church is nearing the end of its life, the 2017 Property Committee, on behalf of the Parish, needs to commission a consultant to complete a detailed evaluation of the options for a lighting system upgrade and prepare a proposal for upgrade of the system. This is truly a high priority for both safety and sight.
2. The 2 gas boilers in the Church are past their design life. They need to be monitored and the parish needs to reserve funds for their replacement in the near future.
3. A committee is working on a renovation of the chapel. This should be completed during the year.
4. Church signage on Quadra Street is in urgent need of replacement. It is obsolete in presentation and quite ineffective. A committee needs to explore and commission 21st century approaches to presenting a modern face of St. John's to the city.
5. The diocese requires that a parish inventory be completed. This is overdue by several years now. **Gillian Barlow** has graciously volunteered to work on this project. She could use some volunteers to assist with this large task.

Thanks to retiring member **Pauline Majcher** for 7 invaluable years on the committee. You have done a great job.

The Property Committee is an important service to St. John's. Please consider volunteering.

Respectfully submitted,
John Bergbusch
2016 Chair

Receptions Committee

This committee is responsible for receptions at St. John the Divine and includes receptions after funerals as well as small receptions after special services and meetings. **Anne Anderson, Joan Huzar Ann McLaren** and **myself** rotate, on monthly bases, for being responsible for the receptions. We have a team of people that we call upon to help set up, serve and clean up after

the event. Along with providing a service to our church family, we find this is an opportunity to get to know each other more by working together. We would happily welcome more men or women to our group. Many hands make light work. Call me at 250-598-7785 to add your name to our list.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Melville

Redevelopment Task Force

The Task Force's work came to a halt in late 2015 following the withdrawal of TL Housing from a plan to work with Pacifica Housing on a housing project at St. John's.

Recently, the Task Force has had meetings with members of the Church Building Development Group which studied the use of the existing church buildings. These two groups have decided to merge and try to re-start the redevelopment project. The intention is to bring forward a plan to restart the project at the 2017 Vestry.

Respectfully submitted,
Larry Scyner and Graeme Brown
Chair

Refugee Support Group

2016 marks the third year of our successful joint refugee ministry with First Metropolitan United Church. Our programme was jointly planned and approved by both church councils in the fall of 2015. The Support Group administers the sponsorships jointly – costs being shared 50-50 by both congregations.

The program provides for four sponsorships which we estimate will keep us busy till about 2019. The sponsorships are supervised both by our respective church councils and the Diocese, which formally guarantees the performance of the sponsorships to the federal government. If you would like to know more, please talk to me or visit these links:

Diocese of BC: <https://bc.anglican.ca/resource/refugee-sponsorship-manual-0>

Government of Canada: <http://www.rstp.ca/en/resources/hand-book-for-sponsoring-groups/>

Omid and Sohaila are Afghans, half brother and sister, and arrived in September 2015. They have relatives in Victoria: Narges is Sohaila's sister and Sara is Sohaila's daughter, who came as a GAR (Government Assisted Refugee) a few years before Sohaila. Parishioners will recognise them from our weekly prayer list. Our year-long financial support ended in September, but group members are still in contact with both of them working on settlement issues and just being neighbourly. Omid is attending ICA English classes and working 40 hours/week in a local

bakery. Sohaila is working about 50 hours/week, cleaning offices two nights and working five days a week at the Hillside Mall Food Court.

Salar is Sohaila's son – now entering adolescence. We have applied to get him here from Iran and reunite with his Mom. The two annual blue envelopes are currently going towards the budget for Salar. Because Canada has not yet re-established diplomatic relations with Iran, this might be a lengthy wait. **Kathy Cook** from First Met and **Ruth Turner** from our parish are leading on this.

Alieu Sarr came to us in May 2016, from Gambia, where he was tortured, persecuted and prosecuted for his sexual orientation. Our original plan called for an LGBT Syrian refugee, but when the Trudeau government refused to identify any, despite strong efforts over several months by Esquimalt MP Randall Garrison, when we heard of Alieu Sarr we seized the opportunity. Alieu arrived in May. **Murray Harris** and **Duane Lecky** welcomed Alieu with room and board in their home “temporarily”. Alieu is still there, and Murray and Duane have indicated he is welcome to stay past the end of the sponsorship year if he wishes. Within two weeks Alieu had found himself a job dishwashing at a local restaurant so that he could send money to his father and extended family back in Gambia. That lasted till the tourists went home. Just before Christmas, thanks to the efforts of **Russell Norman** from St. John's and Kathy Cook from First Met, Alieu was hired by Pure Vanilla coffee shop on Cadboro Bay at Estevan where he is a valued part of their team. 1st February was Alieu's first birthday in Canada: in addition to about thirty members of our two churches, most of the afternoon shift from Pure Vanilla showed up to our potluck to help celebrate.

I am ashamed it took me about three weeks for me to realise after his arrival that while he could speak English pretty well, Alieu could neither read nor write it, except to sign his name. While waiting for ICA English classes to start in September he attended the excellent drop-in classes run by Jennifer Rawlinson at VIRCS (Victoria Immigrant and Refugee Centre Society).

At his birthday party on 1st February he read a powerful speech he had dictated to Murray. In it he described what had happened to him: email me chriseve@shaw.ca if you would like a copy. This progress in reading is a tribute to Alieu's quick mind and the efforts of VIRCS and ICA teachers and the members of our group who have been helping with extra classes. In Gambia access to education is directly related to ability to pay, and Alieu's family were unable to do that. At age 32, this was the first formal education of his life.

Syrian single mom and her two teens: Our fourth sponsorship family is a Syrian single Mom and her two teen children (boy 17, girl 14), currently in Saudi Arabia. Our group is recommending this family to our respective church councils at their next meeting. There are relatives in Victoria who will be assisting with the settlement activities, but not financially since they are fairly recent newcomers themselves. At St. John's this will be on the Parish Council agenda for 21st February. On 1st March the Diocese will be told how many people the SAH may apply to sponsor in 2017 by the Government of Canada. This sponsorship is fully funded, because it is replacing Najat and her family (more below in “The bigger picture” section).

If both First Met and SJD councils say “yes” and the allocation to the SAH from Ottawa is big enough then the process of form-filling will begin.

The Bigger Picture

I have some apprehension about the adequacy of Canada's refugee allocation. The other two classes of private sponsorship – Community Groups and Groups of 5 – were the target of

swingeing cuts for 2017 – and the cuts were announced at 2:30 pm the Friday before Christmas when governments traditionally put out the worst of bad news because most reporters will have gone home for the holidays. The Trudeau government keeps saying refugee support is at its highest level ever: that is not quite true. If the detailed allocations on 1st March match what was announced for SAH's – 16,000 in 2017 - that will be a 1,500 cut from the 2016 allotment for SAHs.

Meanwhile it remains true that:

- all of the resources used to bring 24,500 Syrians here in year 1 of the Trudeau mandate have been withdrawn;
- Syrians are no longer a priority;
- all of the Harper government restrictions on refugee sponsorship have been retained by the Trudeau government;
- there are more refugees in the world than ever before; and
- there is no discernible ongoing federal plan but rather a series of ad hoc annual announcements. Short-term political considerations appear to have a higher priority than serving refugees.

This has practical consequences for the way the refugee sponsorship program operates here. In the first twenty-five years or so the experience was that newcomers would be getting off the plane at YYJ about a year to eighteen months after the application was filed. The Foreign Service was staffed at a level sufficient to carry out timely health, police and security checks. Family reunification was a major consideration in how the program worked. The Harper government cut the Foreign Service drastically in successive budgets and waiting times got substantially longer. If the application was for a refugee in the African countries served by the Nairobi office waits of six and seven years were not unusual.

How we got to be considering a new sponsorship in this parish at this time is especially sad. Najat, her husband and their three young children were Palestinian refugees who fled Iraq when the British and US invaded in 2003 for the relative safety of Syria. Our parish sponsored Najat's father, Mohammed Rashid in 2010. The first application to sponsor Najat was filed in 2012. After the Assad regime bombed their refugee camp flat, Najat and the family moved to Jaramana Camp, just outside Damascus. In 2014 this application collapsed when the Harper government severed diplomatic relations with Syria.

In 2015 we heard the United Church national SAH was having success getting people out of Syria, with the interview formalities being conducted by Canadian officials using Skype. A second application was made through First Met. Meanwhile Jaramana was shelled regularly and kept being captured with the ebb and flow of the Syrian civil war. Our hopes rose when the Trudeau government announced the Syrian refugee initiative after the election. Najat and her family were not called by Canada. But Australia offered passage and help to relocate so in the fall of 2016 they went there. The important thing is that Najat and her family are in a place of safety. It's hard all round though for them, and the other members of the family who are in Victoria and Edmonton.

At least one other sponsor on Vancouver Island has lost a sponsorship recently due to a lack of Canadian resources available to process the application in a timely manner.

New Members Needed

All parishioners are welcome to join the Refugee Support Group. Email is our main method of communication (but we can keep you in the loop if email does not work for you). If the work interests you and you do not know how you would like to be involved, you could just ask me to put you on the list for our occasional emails and decide later.

Because this is ministry to the most vulnerable, working directly with refugees requires a criminal record check, together with some cultural sensitivity training ("Module 2" - a four hour course organised by the Diocese). For the Chief Worrier and Treasurer for each sponsorship, the Diocese provides training ("Module 1" - another 4 hour course on the nuts and bolts aspects), and if you would like to try these positions there is a wealth of experience in our group and people to help you.

We meet three or four times a year for major things like newcomer budget approval, or choosing new refugees to sponsor.

The Budget Management Group is seven-members strong, but membership is open for volunteers. This group develops draft budgets: one member does the initial research and reviews the formulaic budgets provided by the SAH, recommending adjustments if the market reality in Victoria and special needs of the newcomer suggests they are needed. This group will also decide on the allocation of contingencies which are part of every budget.

Another group will work on furnishings for the apartment (there are some items in the crypt, so a list of wants will be needed and then filled). Contingency temporary short-term housing plans will need to be developed while a permanent rental is obtained.

When the email arrives with a firm arrival time (usually a few days lead time) a serious effort will be made to get somewhere rented and set up in time for the arrival. At this point too finances will be reviewed, and an appeal made to the congregation if there is a shortfall. An appeal has not been needed in recent years, thanks in large part to the generosity of the congregation, Parish Council's support of this ministry with two blue envelopes a year, and fundraising activities like Ride For Refuge and the Big Band Cabaret.

Volunteers are needed and names attached for all of the tasks listed below, and for this sponsorship we shall be working with Syrian relatives here: Mom has a brother and the teens have cousins in Victoria.

All this activity is coordinated by a Chief Worrier which for this sponsorship for now is Kathy Cook from First Met. Kathy will need a Treasurer who will track the approved budget, and arrange with whichever church administers the sponsorship for the timely production of rent and support payments.

Because we can never be absolutely sure till we get an email just when the family will be arriving it is helpful to have a list of people to call for each task. Parishioners may be out of town, too, when needed, so alternates are always useful. Please consider how you can help.

The settlement plan includes:

- **Meeting newcomers at point of arrival** – usually YYJ and transport them to their temporary or permanent home.
- **Utilities** – Arrangements will have to be made to hook up and pay for normal utilities – electricity, gas, oil, water, etc, depending on the type of accommodation

- provided/rented. Provision should be made for a phone (land or cell), internet and TV hook up.
- **Furnishings and Appliances** – Basic furniture for the family has to be found/purchased and set up. This may often be secured by donations. Bedding will be bought new.
 - **Clothing** – Newcomers will need early introduction to stores such as Winners, WalMart and Value Village which are sources of good clothing at reasonable prices. Not all refugees appreciate used clothing.
 - **Food and Essentials** – A stock of food sufficient to see the family over its initial few days should be provided in the rental house or apartment. Once over the initial jet-lag period, the family will need guidance in shopping for food (e.g. where the best deals can be found and comparison shopping, sources of ethnic or culturally appropriate food, and bulk purchases).
 - **Bus Passes** – Bus passes will be needed for those members of the family who will be travelling in the city. Free passes are available for refugees through ICA: volunteers would need to set up an appointment there and provide an introduction to the bus system, how it works, schedules and how to use it.
 - **Car Transport** – Volunteer drivers will usually be needed, especially in the first days, until newcomers learn to use the public transit system and get used to the layout of the city, car transport will be needed to get family members to appointments and interviews. This may need to continue where their home is not close to a bus route.
 - **Banking** – Banking or credit union account arrangements will have to be made with the family, and they will need to be shown how these work in Canada.
 - **Registration with Federal, Provincial and City Governments** – the priority on arrival will be getting the family registered with permanent identity cards, and child tax and GST tax credits (all federal). SIN documents and IFHP registration documents are now provided to refugees at port of entry. Settlement staff at ICA (Inter-Cultural Association on Balmoral Rd.) can help direct you.
 - **Health Care Registration** – Registration with the BC Health Care Plan must take place as soon as possible after the family arrives. Depending on needs, research Fair PharmaCare plan and several other programs covering children's medical expenses and medical appliances that need to be researched. In BC coverage for refugees dates from date of arrival in the Province.
 - **Selection of Physician and Dentist:** Connection with a physician is vital if family members have already identified medical problems.
 - **Education** – With the school-aged children in the family, the school board will have to be notified of the pending arrival of the family and asked about services provided for recent immigrant/refugees children who do not speak English. Once a school is selected both the parents and children will have to be introduced to the school, its location and how to get there, school hours, routines, etc, as well as to the Principal and the relevant teachers.
 - **Language Ability Assessment and Training** – Adult family members who need English to communicate and secure employment should be introduced to ICA for assessment and placement in LINC classes at ICA, Camosun and UVic. While waiting, they should be introduced to the drop-in classes at VIRCS, where they will meet other newcomers.

- **Employment and Training** - Once settled in accommodation, employable members should be put in touch with employment facilitation agencies to access job search programs, as well as in any available government employment services. Members of the sponsoring group may help with a resume and job hunting.
- **Community Contact and Cultural Awareness** – contact with the newcomers’ ethnic, cultural or religious community will be important in terms of identifying and, **if they so desire**, joining a social-support or religious community, making friends and seeking advice on cross-cultural issues, not to mention translation assistance.
- **Budget Keeping and Monitoring** – Learning to manage a household budget is an important step to independence. The sponsor's role is as advisor and counselor; newcomers need the freedom to make their own financial decisions.

So I hope I have left you with the impression that however much or little time you might have, it could be put to good use in this ministry.

Thanks

Thanks to all those members of the congregation who ask after our newcomers regularly. There is also a small group who have said “ask me” if there are specific needs that stretch our bare-bones budget. Several computers, a pair of new shoes, a new winter coat and annual passes to the Crystal Pool are among the items delivered this way.

In addition to all those mentioned above, this is a good time to recognise and thank those on staff who have been key to this ministry's success:

- **The Venerable Alastair McCollum** – always there ready to listen, offer encouragement and good advice.
- Administrator **Catherine MacKenzie** – always helpful, generates cheques punctually and keeps track of the various refugee accounts.
- **Carol-Ann Zenger** – graceful under pressure, Carol-Ann seems to either know everything or who to ask if she can't help you directly.

At the Diocesan level we owe a huge debt to **John McLaren** who chaired the Diocesan Refugee Committee till a few months ago, **The Ven. Bruce Bryant-Scott** for his leadership and his successor at the SAH, **Rebecca Siebert**. Rebecca was especially helpful during the difficult process of finding a new sponsorship after Najat and her family went to Australia. She also broke her holiday to alert me to Alieu Sarr, calling from the roadside in a blizzard somewhere in northern Manitoba!

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Eve

Social Justice and Outreach Working Group (formerly the GVAT Working Group)

The GVAT Working Group met during the summer and fall of 2016 after a training session by the GVAT leadership. In the process it was decided to canvas the opinion of parishioners at St. John's on the two questions: 1. what do I care about? and: 2. How can I make a difference? This was done in order to set priorities that would be sent to GVAT to assist with the development of a city and region-wide set of priorities by that inter-faith and inter-community organization and at the same time to take the pulse of the parish about existing programs of social justice and outreach at St. John's. The questionnaire devised was circulated on Advent Sunday after a moving sermon by **The Rev. Dr. Larry Scyner** on the importance of social justice and outreach in Christian theology and mission. Approximately 110 parishioners responded. The responses made it clear that there is widespread concern about these issues in the parish and a strong desire for us to support both joint and parish initiatives to respond to needs in the larger community.

The leading and broad priorities identified in the responses received were: Relieving Poverty; Addressing Homelessness and expanding Affordable Housing; and Addressing and Treating Addictions and Mental Health Issues more effectively. In response to the second question posed the major corporate responses were: Donating Time (Volunteering); Donating Money; and, Educating Others. Some respondents also had thoughtful comments on personal commitment through prayer and life-style and ways and means that the parish could reach out further.

The GVAT group in its review of the responses concluded that the responses indicated commitment within the parish both to supporting the initiatives of GVAT and to the social justice and outreach initiatives and programs in which the parish is already engaged. It also jibed with the recommendations made earlier by the *Quo Vadis* Group after a broad canvassing of opinion in the Parish. It was with these realities in mind that the Group recommended to Parish Council at its January 2017 meeting "the creation of a 'Working Group'" to act as a focal point to co-ordinate and support "existing social justice and outreach activities" as well as considering the wisdom of revived and new initiatives. Parish Council approved a resolution to that effect at its meeting.

Efforts are under way to establish a Social Justice and Outreach Group. Anyone would like to consider being a member of this group should contact **Peggy Wilmot, John McLaren** or **The Rev. Dr. Larry Scyner**.

The Group wishes to thank all those who completed the questionnaire and assisted in strengthening our resolve in social justice and outreach initiatives.

Respectfully submitted,
The embryonic St. John's SJAOG

The Food Bank at St. John's

Where does our money come from?

Thanks to many wonderful donors, and the fundraising efforts of countless others, the Food Bank continued to be blessed with money and food donations last year.

The 2 Blue envelopes accounted for part of our revenue (mainly parishioners of St. John's), while we also received donations from St. Mary's, Oak Bay; Associates of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria; and many friends of St. John the Divine.

The Sock Hop was again successful, bringing in a net total of over \$5000. Many thanks to **Maggie and Mike Hayes**, who, together with **Sid Tafler**, once again solicited a significant number of items for the silent auction. A committee of members of St. John's worked tirelessly to organize all the other elements of the evening.

How many people use our services?

In 2015 we had over 4000 client visits slightly fewer than 2015. Is this good news? Fewer people in need?? Hard to tell! In addition to the number of adults, we also provided food for a total of 532 children, more than last year. The total expenditure on food and other items (plastic bags, etc.) was \$31,332.

Who does the work?

The EFS is entirely operated by approximately 70 dedicated volunteers from St. John's, St. Mary's Oak Bay, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Matthias, Congregation Emanu-El, Fairfield United, and people with no formal church affiliations. They provide service breaking down bulk items into smaller containers, stocking shelves, picking up food from a variety of sources, and/or distributing food to our clients. They provided approximately 3000 recorded volunteer hours. We could not begin to have a food bank without them!

Where does our food come from?

We receive donated bread from Wildfire Bakery and Cobs Bakery. We receive the occasional food donation from the Mustard Seed, which we pick-up to save on delivery charges. "For Good Measure" provides, at wholesale cost, some of our pulses and grains and all of our peanut butter, while the Canadian Wholesale Club continues to be our supplier for most staple items. We also take advantage of sales at other grocery outlets.

We continue to be blessed by a steady stream of wonderful food donations from the Salvation Army! They are the recipients of many fresh food items, and other frozen meats and treats, and are more than happy to share with a number of the food banks in the city, including us.

You may have read of the Food Rescue project, organized by the Food Share Network, of which we are a member. I am hopeful that we will soon see a steady stream of "rescued" fruit and vegetables coming our way every day we are open. We can't wait! The anticipated start date is early March. In order to accommodate the larger quantity of perishables, we applied to the Victoria Foundation for funds to purchase a new refrigerator, and I am happy to say that we were successful in our application. We are expecting delivery of the unit right before the veggies start to arrive.

Is our food bank sustainable?

This is a difficult question to answer. To date, parishioners (mainly) and others in the community have donated sufficient funds to keep us afloat. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't need a food bank, and everyone had enough to eat? Until then, we will go on, doing the best we can to share from our bounty with our brothers and sisters who have a right to healthy food.

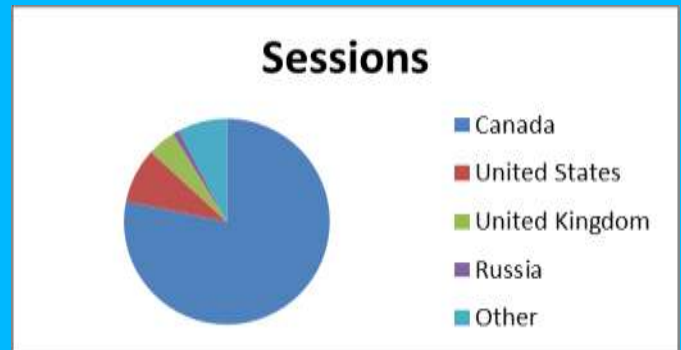
Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Wilmot, Coordinator

Web Site

St. John the Divine maintains an Internet presence through various channels: a web site, Facebook, Twitter, and Podomatic. The work is performed by a team of volunteers. This year the team included **Chuck Neilson, Bob McIntosh, Pauline Majcher, Chris Eve, Jon Punnett, Doug Sheepwash, and Barry Salter**. We are grateful that **Craig Hiebert** is still willing and able to help in a crisis. Chuck, with the help of the verger, records and posts the sermons to Podomatic. Bob uses Facebook and Twitter to let all our followers know what is happening at St. John's. Chris and Pauline served as the team privacy clerks. Doug Sheepwash has taken over maintaining the calendar on the web site, a job that takes many hours every week. Barry acts as Doug's backup.

On the Web site in 2016, 784 pages were created or updated. Visits by country and city are shown in the following tables and pie graphs.

Country	Sessions	%
Canada	12,149	80%
United States	1,346	9%
United Kingdom	689	4%
Russia	160	1%
Other	1,200	8%
Total	15,544	100%



When the usage stats are viewed by city and country, they suggest that the site is mostly used by parishioners and other locals. For the first year, two Russian cities have significant numbers of visits.

City	Sessions
Victoria	6543
Vancouver	1151
(not set)	677
Cordova Bay	510
Colwood	442
Toronto	310

Sidney	227
Calgary	212
View Royal	198
Ashburn	178
Nanaimo	156
New York	140
Surrey	139
London	133
Ottawa	130
Courtenay	119
Brentwood Bay	114
Edmonton	113
Duncan	100
Langley	94
London	91
Saint Petersburg	88
Los Angeles	77
Montreal	67
Parksville	59
North Saanich	55
Winnipeg	51
Campbell River	39
Richmond	37
Brick	36
St. John's	34
Meadville	33
Port Alberni	31
Melbourne	29
Kelowna	29
Saint John	29
Halifax	29
Burnaby	27
Sydney	25
North Vancouver	25
Seattle	25
Hamilton	24
Mississauga	24
Brampton	22
Moscow	22
Samara	22
Other	2,828
Total	15,544

The sermons are recorded and posted to Podomatic (<http://stjohnthedivine.podomatic.com/>). They were well used in 2016 with each recording listened to 7 times on average. The most popular was Resurrection, given by our curate on June 5.

Bob McIntosh and the rector together look after the parish Facebook and Twitter presentations. Since going on Twitter in November 2009, we have tweeted 3,223 times, including 199 tweets this year. We follow 284 other Twitter accounts, and have 734 followers on Twitter, 36 more than last year. We have 315 likes on our Facebook page, up from 248 at this time last year, so the number of Facebook followers has grown impressively. Our most widely viewed post concerned the approval of same-sex marriage by the Anglican Church of Canada, which was seen by 1,305 people. Our Facebook posts include information about parish events and also posts from other individuals and organizations that we think would be of interest to our followers. This dual focus, which we began last year, seems to be attracting many new followers to our page, and we view it as a success.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane Lecky, Webmaster
Bob McIntosh, Social Media Lead

Welcoming Ministry

Five teams of Greeters and Welcomers carry out this ministry to the parish of St. John's, on a rotating basis. The team members arrive half an hour before the service. Greeters hand out leaflets to those arriving for our service, then help with taking up the collection and providing support during communion. The welcomer is a designated member of the team who circulates through the church before the service, to speak to newcomers and visitors, answering any questions and making sure that they feel comfortable. They extend an invitation to coffee hour after the service, or brunch. Ideally they accompany new people to the hall, and introduce them to parishioners. Training for these positions is very informal, usually "on the job".

Volunteer greeters are also needed for special services such as Christmas Eve and Good Friday.

Each team is co-ordinated by a **Team Leader**. These are **Al Lehmann, Sylvia Calder, Brenda Morton, David McKay, and Margaret Walker**.

All the greeters and welcomers are dedicated ministers to the needs of the congregation each Sunday. Some team members have been active in this role for many years; others are fairly new parishioners who have committed to this way of serving the parish. New volunteers are most welcome to join one of the teams. Please speak to one of the team leaders, or myself, if you would like more information, or if you would like to become involved in this important ministry of welcoming.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann McLaren