

2014

Church of St. John the Divine

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*2014 REPORT OF
THE OFFICERS
AND
PARISH
ORGANIZATIONS
TO THE 154th
ANNUAL MEETING
OF
VESTRY*

FEBRUARY 22, 2015

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



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2014 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	Anne Henderson	February 2015
Deputy Rector's Warden	Vacant	
People's Warden	Elizabeth McAuley	February 2015
Deputy People's Warden	Barry Salter	February 2015

Parish Councillors

Pat Anderson	February 2015
Judy Curran	February 2016
Judy McCallum	February 2015
Derry McDonell	February 2016
Anne Moon	February 2015
Jim Pauly	February 2015
Susanna Peterson	February 2016
Jennifer Somerville	February 2015
Judy Vestrup	February 2015

Delegates to Synod
(1 year term)

Pat Anderson	February 2015
Anne Henderson	February 2015
Elizabeth McAuley	February 2015
Judy McCallum	February 2015
Kier Robins	February 2015
Barry Salter	February 2015

Alternates

Murray Luft	February 2015
Jennifer Somerville	February 2015

Stewards

Pat Anderson	Treasurer
Jim Harlick	Offerings Coordinator
Doug Henderson	Data Recorders
Dorothy Chuhuran	Vestry Clerk
Financial Review	Walter Hundleby

Staff

Alastair McCollum	Rector
Karen Fast (Jan.-Aug.)	Priest Associate
Jane Reid (Sept.-Dec.)	Priest Associate
Kevin Arndt (Sept.-Dec.)	Priest Associate
David Stratkauskas	Director of Music
Craig Hiebert	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 (Oct.-Dec.)

The Parish Register from 2014

Baptism

Frederick Desmond Butler
Charles Alexander Elton
Lilja Grace Elton
Rebecca Serena Iris Gillespie-Wilmshurst
Alexandra Ashley Nason
Ace Aidan Nason
Aries Benjamin Nason
Riga Godron
Benjamin Eric Nason
Richard Bruce Routledge
Bradley Keith Perkins
Luca John Marcaccini

Confirmation

"Confirm and strengthen them...with the Holy Spirit."

Richard Bruce Routledge
Bradley Keith Perkins
Douglas Vernon Turner
Benjamin Eric Nason
Riga Godron
Atley Roy Jonas
Katherine Grace Mitchell McCollum
Darcie Patricia Snider
Trevor James Townsend-Smith
Aidan Skye Knudsen

Blessing of a Marriage

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

Jonathon Robert Craig de Boer ♥ Melanie Brianne McKinnon
Brian John Evans Isaacs ♥ Alison Jane Melville
Mark William Lloyd Henderson ♥ Emma Rose Elizabeth Neary

Burials

*"We praise and magnify thy Holy Name
for all Thy servants who
have finished their course and kept the faith."*

Corinne Nina Walker
Stewart (Stu) Edwin McGowan
Mary Frances Walton
David J. V. Schultz
Clifford "Cliff" Junior Kelly
Christian Kurt Alexander Stieda
Hugh Hanson Davidson
Joan Marie McNeil
Susan Marie Smith
Ellen Lilian Knighton
Walter James Williams
Margaret Leslie Wallace
Adelaide (Addie) Jessica Semmens
Ralph Newton-White
James (Jim) Kenneth Luke
Thelma Elizabeth Ozard

REPORT OF OFFICERS

Rector

Having now got past all of the 'firsts' a new Rector gets to experience – first Christmas, Easter, Pentecost, first holiday and time away and feeling of returning 'home', amongst others – I feel as though I am just starting to come to grips with the diverse, exciting, challenging, joyful and hopeful community which it remains my privilege to serve.

2014 was an important year for St. John the Divine, as we said goodbye to some long-time members of our community, and we said hello to a number of new people. These losses and gains are all part of the tapestry of a healthy Parish, and come with sadness and joys of their own, and I continue to be grateful for the feeling of community and support for one another that is so much a part of our life together.

The Changes and chances of this mortal life

During the year we said thank you to Canon **Karen Fast** who retired (again) from her position as Priest Associate – I know you will join with me in thanking her again for the faithful service she has given and continues to give to our parish. I am glad that she has accepted my invitation to be an Honorary Assistant, and along with Bishop **Barry Jenks**, and the Rev'd **Derek Dunwoody**, and Rev'd Dr **Larry Scyner** – I am grateful for the wisdom and support they all offer to myself and to the ministry of our parish church.

I want also to express my gratitude to my colleagues, **Catherine, Carol-Ann, Craig** and **David**, who continue to work so hard to keep the life of the parish lively and ordered!

We welcomed during the year the arrival of Rev'd **Jane Reid** and Rev'd Canon **Kevin Arndt** as our Priest Associates, both offering their ministry as Pastors and Worship leaders in our community. It is a pleasure to work with them and on completion of their 'probationary period' I hope that our Bishop will soon be licensing them to the Parish of St. John the Divine.

Quo Vadis: Discerning our paths together

One of the major endeavours of this past year has been the consultation and conversation that has taken place as part of our Quo Vadis process. I can't say thank you enough to the group who undertook this process so diligently and carefully. Thank you to the Co-chairs **Rhoda Brodie-Smith** and **Jennifer Gerwing** and all of the group – **Susanna Peterson, Doug Adderley, Murray Harris**, and **Jennifer Somerville** for all you have given of your time, energy and emotion to this process. The report itself will inform our ongoing policy and practice, and will be an influential and inspirational document which will guide the PC and the Parish in our work together in the months and years to come. I won't repeat here what is in the document, but encourage each one of us to read and consider the many voices which are reflected in this substantial piece of work.

Governance and PC (Parish Council)

Of course as the Quo Vadis process has been taking place, many of the issues and ideas which were being talked about have already begun to affect the structures and the life of this Parish Church. We have heard of the concern that the governance of our Parish be transparent, clear and open. The new PC will be undertaking to improve communication, consider the structures which run our parish, and seek a new pattern of decision making in our life together. My hope is that this commitment to continue to listen to the voices of the parish, and the concerted effort we will be making to have clear ways of communicating will see our inclusive values being made very apparent in our governance practice.

As we have grappled with these issues, and continued to support and resource the life of St. John the Divine I want to offer my thanks to the Parish Council who have worked so hard on behalf of all of us. Thank you to those who are standing down at this vestry meeting; **Judy McCallum, Judy Vestrup, Anne Moon, Jennifer Somerville** and **James Pauly** and to those who are continuing for this coming year: **Judy Curran, Derry McDonnell, Susanna Peterson,** and **Patrick Anderson**. Thank you also to **Dorothy Chuhuran** who has served and continues to serve as our Parish Clerk and whose record keeping is much appreciated.

I can't, of course, forget the service of our Wardens, thank you to **Elizabeth McAuley, Barry Salter** and **Anne Henderson**, for your support, dedication and friendship – as well as your wisdom and humour – over the past year. As you stand down from your position of Wardens I can only express my deep gratitude for all you have done in making my job significantly easier.

As I said last year, and would say even more wholeheartedly this year, our life as a Parish depends on the faithfulness and dedication of **each one of you**. I am so grateful for all of you who contribute to the rich life of our parish - especially the many who take an active role in the life of our Church. There are too many groups to list by name, let alone individuals – but thank you to all of you to those who assist in worship, in providing the programs and services we offer, and who care for our church building and grounds.

And there's more

You'll see in our other reports just how much is going on at St. John the Divine, and I have sought over this year to communicate as much as possible in the Rector's letters and in blog posts on the Parish Website. I don't want to repeat all of that material, and I want to keep this report brief. There is so much happening in the life of our church that I could make this a very long report indeed. St. John's is alive and well! We cannot, though, rest on our laurels and I hope that in the year to come we will seek to continue to grow together. I wrote some months back with regards to challenging a culture which is so often 'Religious but not Spiritual':

We are encouraged to explore faith in community:

- That we might learn and *grow together*
- That we might be encouraged
- That we might be held accountable for our spiritual life and action
- That we might work together to change the world

My own statement of where I believe we are being called:

- We are being called, in our community at St. John the Divine and throughout the Church, to be attentive to our Spiritual path.
- We are being called to maturity – or as Diarmuid O’ Murchu says – an adult faith
- We are being called to transformation
- We are being called to take responsibility for one another’s growth in faith and for the life of the Church, recognising that we do none of this alone.
- We are being challenged to explore the heritage of our faith
- We are being called to serve the world around and challenge those structures which disadvantage any person or group

My hope is that all of these things will continue to be woven into to the life of our parish and we will continue to learn, love, worship and serve together.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Yours faithfully in Christ,
Alastair McCollum

Guest Preachers / Speakers / Presiders

The Reverend Scott McLeod
Jill Hoyer
The Reverend Jim Holland
The Right Reverend Dr. Logan McMenamie
Scott Evans

Courses and Lectures Offered

Book Study: *Changing the Conversation* – led by Dr. Judy Vestry & Peggy Wilmot
Quo Vadis Focus Groups
The Struggle for Justice: Indigenous Land Rights in British Columbia
Devotional talk/discussion on “*The Creed*” – led by Alastair McCollum
Book Study: *The Meaning and Practice of Faith* –
led by Derek Dunwoody and Rhoda Brodie-Smith
Safe Church Training
Social Media Workshops
An Advent Quiet Time – led by Dr. Judy Vestrup

Concerts

The Victoria Baroque Players and The St. John’s Chamber Choir
present “*Jesu Meine Freude*”
Friday Musical Meditations for Lent
Music for Mother’s Day – Christine Purvis, organ and Antonia Mahon, flautist
The Greater Victoria Youth Orchestra and The Victoria Baroque Players
present “*Fire and Water – a Brilliant Baroque Blend*”
The Victoria Baroque Players present “*London Symphony*”
St. John’s Chamber Singers with the Victoria Baroque Players present “*Wachet auf!*”
Pinnacle Brass presents “*A Classy, Brassy Christmas*”

Special Events

Lunch with the Primate, Fred Hiltz (PWRDF event)
“Sock Hop” Fundraiser for the Emergency Food Services
Parish Retreat at Camp Pringle
Music and Prayer in the Style of Taizé
Special Vestry – Canon XXI (marriage)
Migration & Misconceptions: Understanding Canada's Temporary Foreign Worker Program
Newcomers Welcome

The Warden's Report

Vestry 2014 saw **Doug Mitchell** step down at the end of his term as Rector's Warden. Vestry members expressed their thanks for all Doug had done for the Parish, and the Rector showed his thanks to Doug by presenting him with a gift of appreciation. **Elizabeth McAuley** became People's Warden and **Barry Salter** continued in the role of Deputy People's Warden. **Anne Henderson** was appointed Rector's Warden to replace **Jamie Lawson** who, due to pressures of work, had to step down.

2014-2015 has been an extremely busy year in the life of St. John's. **Karen Fast** our associate priest responsible for pastoral care retired for the third and final time. Fortunately, Karen remains with us as an honorary assistant and as a parishioner. In September the Pastoral Care Selection team, consisting of the Rector, a warden, two Parish Council members and a parishioner, interviewed **Jane Reid** and **Kevin Arndt** to share the position vacated by Karen. The parish is thrilled to have them as part of the St. John's team.

For 18 months the members of the Quo Vadis team have shown the utmost dedication and diligence in amassing the ideas and thoughts of parishioners to reflect the voices of our community as we discern our path together. By means of forums, small gatherings, written responses and individual conversations, a massive amount of input was gathered, analysed and written into a report document to be distributed in three parts. Core values have been identified and common threads were found to run through all the discussions. This document has given us all much to think about and to work on, and should serve as a guide to those involved in the new governance model to be introduced this coming year.

Change is a foot, not only at St. John's but also at the diocesan level. Wardens and synod delegates attended two synods in 2014: one to elect a new bishop and one to discuss the new vision for our diocese which came about by means of meetings with all parts of the diocese. The information gathered from every meeting was read, considered, analysed and written up in a three-part visionary document by the Diocesan Vision team, one of whose members was our Rector. The vision is based on the prefix "re", chosen to remind us that we are to re-form, re-new, re-awaken, re-imagine and re-shape who we are as Anglicans. The vision provides opportunities for renewed hearts, renewed spirits and a renewed people.

It will be interesting how the findings from Quo Vadis can be integrated with those of the Diocesan vision to become sign posts in our life together as a community.

This past year a special vestry was held to affirm the St. John's submission to the General Synod Commission on Canon XXI—Marriage.

Acceptance of Pacific Opera Victoria's lease of the hall has meant a very busy year on that part of our property. POV has done much renovation work to both the Upper and Lower hall. As with any renovation project there were unforeseen delays and side issues to be dealt with. During the summer of 2014, there were delays because of difficulty confirming construction permits. There were also some hidden problems with the exterior walls only discovered after starting preparation to repaint the exterior of the building. Through all of this the Court board and residents of St. John's Court have been respectful and patient and we greatly appreciate their support. The ongoing day-to-day communications with Pacific Opera Victoria has been assumed by **Catherine MacKenzie**. The Church, under the terms of the contract, still retains use of the upper hall and kitchen activities such as Divine Brunch, coffee, etc. throughout the year. In addition we can request additional access up to 10 days each year.

A variety of opportunities for adult education were offered by clergy and parishioners this past year, including book studies, quiet days and two parish retreats at Camp Pringle. The Adult Education committee under the leadership of Judy Vestrup is well into planning for the coming year and again there will be selections that will be of interest to many.

The Youth program has grown and a variety of activities in addition to Sunday morning classes have taken place. Several youth renewed friendships they had made last summer at Alert Bay. Two youth and their leader, **Susanna Peterson**, attended the BCYAYM conference in Cranbrook this past Thanksgiving weekend.

We are blessed to have a variety of liturgical services to meet the needs of a varied congregation. The Rector works closely with **David** our musical director and **Craig** our youth leader to integrate theme, word and music in perfect harmony. Holy Week and the Advent services were quiet times that enabled meditation on the meaning of Lent and the crucifixion while the Advent service focussed on the expectation of what was to come on Christmas Eve. The service of Lessons and Carols was truly outstanding with beautiful music from the choir chosen perfectly to match the readings.

The day-to-day running of a church this size is a major operation and depends upon paid staff and volunteers. **Carol-Ann** is our face not only to parishioners but to the wider community. Her patience is legendary as all the wardens know and she can provide the answer to every question we ask. **Catherine** keeps us on our toes signing cheques but also by answering our budgetary queries. It never fails to amaze us how much she knows about the parish. Speaking of budget, the time and energy **Pat Anderson** spends creating financial statements for each Parish Council meeting and overseeing a comprehensive budget process is invaluable and deserves all our thanks. He along with the “**Moneyboys**” who meet early every Monday morning are a great combination.

Volunteers play an important part in the life of St. John’s and the dedication and energy they bring to committees such as Redevelopment, Property, Church Building Development, External Communications, Refugees, Finance, Investment, and various forms of outreach such as social justice issues and the Emergency Food Services, help to ensure we are a part of the wider community. Any attempt to try and name all these volunteers would result in serious omissions but it is with gratitude that we collectively thank you all. There are, however, three groups we would like to especially thank for working under conditions less than ideal – the Sunday morning coffee volunteers, the funeral hosting committee and the Christmas bazaar coordinators and volunteers. We realize that having to provide these services, using the small kitchen and setting up in the back of the church were not easy tasks and yet all these people made it happen so smoothly that the rest of us thought it had always been that way. We wish to express our gratitude and thanks to each and every volunteer, seen and unseen, who work to make St. John’s the vibrant church that it is.

In closing, it has been a privilege for us to serve this parish as your wardens and as we leave we wish every blessing upon this community as it goes forward in the next exciting year.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Henderson
Rector’s Warden

Elizabeth McAuley
People’s Warden

Barry Salter
Deputy Warden

WALTER C. HUNDLEBY

816 Elrick Place
Victoria, BC, V9A 4T1
January 29, 2015

To the Vestry
The Church of St. John the Divine
1611 Quadra Street
Victoria, BC

STATEMENT OF THE FINANCIAL REVIEWER

I have reviewed the financial records of the Church for the year 2014, including the General Accounts, and the Investment Account (Raymond James). I believe they fairly represent the financial transactions and records of the Church.

Respectfully Submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Walter C. Hundleby". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized initial 'W'.

Walter C. Hundleby

REPORT OF STAFF

The Music Report

The central purpose of the music programme is to support the music in the liturgy, including congregational and choral hymnody, liturgical music, anthems, and instrumental music. Music is provided in some form for every 10 a.m. Parish Eucharist, as well as festivals and special services (e.g. Christmas Eve, Ash Wednesday, Holy Week, Easter, Ascension), monthly Evensong, and at the Carol Service. The pattern this year has continued much the same as last year, with choral music provided by the Red Choir at two Sunday morning services and the Evensong each month; the Purple choir singing one Sunday morning each month; and the monthly Iona service providing a respite from organ and choral music with piano-led songs. The choirs are supported by the MacRae Choral Scholars, **Rachel Allen, Alana Hayes, Kaden Forsberg,** and **Felix Butterfield**, whose committed enthusiastic music-making contributes immeasurably to the musical life of St. John's. **Sean Quicke** has taken on the hybrid role of Choral Scholar and Director of the Junior Choir. **Kimberley Farris-Manning** has returned as Sutton Organ Scholar, providing invaluable help with organ playing, conducting, singing, and rehearsal-leading. The experience the scholars gain at St. John's also provides valuable hands-on experience in their growth as musicians, and a connection between St. John's and the university music department and conservatory.

Congregational singing at the average Parish Eucharist includes at least four hymns, and usually also a sung Ordinary, Lord's Prayer, and psalm response. The Red Choir provides liturgical music from the Anglican tradition, including anthems, motets, the occasional choral Ordinary, and the Canticles, responses, and anthem at the monthly Evensong—St. John's is probably one of only a handful of Anglican churches in British Columbia able to offer this breadth of music from this centuries-old, yet vital, tradition. The Purple Choir provides an opportunity for anyone who has enthusiasm and a musical inclination to partake in choral singing. Once again we are offering a Junior Choir, which sings from time to time as attendance and preparation allow – approximately once a month. Despite only being four voices strong, they are a committed and musical group; thanks are particularly due to Sean for his leadership. Sadly, the young children's music group has been discontinued this year, due to a lack of resources to support and publicise it.

The many concerts which take place at St. John's provide an important connection to the wider community, both by building our reputation as a centre for musical arts, but more importantly by bringing audiences through the doors of the church, and drawing explicit and implicit connections through the music performed between the worlds of artistic musical performance and the liturgical work of the Church. Central to our concert offerings are the performances by our resident ensemble, the **Victoria Baroque Players**, particularly the several concerts in collaboration with the **St. John's Chamber Choir**. This year these have included the concerts '*Jesu Meine Freude*' and '*Wachet auf*', both featuring masterpieces by Bach and Buxtehude, and providing solo opportunities for our choral scholars, as well students and young vocalists from the wider community.

SPECIAL EVENTS, 2014

SERVICES

Evensong - Red Choir – Jan., Feb., March, April, May, June, Sept., Oct., Nov., Dec.
Maundy Thursday Eucharist – Red Choir
Liturgy of Good Friday – members of the Red Choir
Easter Sunday - Red Choir and the Pinnacle Brass
Ascension (Thursday) Eucharist – Red Choir
Christmas Carol Service – Red Choir
Christmas Eve Family Service - Junior Choir
Christmas Eve early Eucharist – Purple Choir
Christmas Midnight Mass - Red Choir and string ensemble

CONCERTS - presented by St. John's

Victoria Baroque:

Jesu Meine Freude (with SJD chamber choir), April 5th
Wachet auf (with SJD chamber choir), Nov. 23rd
Friday musical meditations for Lent
Pinnacle Brass Spring Concert, April 12th
Christine Purvis, organ, Music for Mothers' Day, May 11th
Pinnacle Brass Christmas Concert, Dec. 2nd

Respectfully submitted,
David Stratkauskas

Family Ministry Report

Over the past year of ministry among the families who are part of *The Family* of St. John the Divine, we have experienced both *growth* and *growing pains*.

Ministry on Sundays

In 2014 we carried on with our relatively recently-revived practice of including *all ages* in the opening of our 10am Parish Eucharist service, beginning the Liturgy of the Word with an all-ages **Introduction to the Theme**. Mostly presented by either our rector or myself—and sometimes both—we have tried to reinforce the idea that we are *all* part of the drama of worship *together*, even if we part ways for a time to explore the Word in different modes. As for that time of reflecting on the Word: every year has its cycles of higher and lower attendance (to be so crass as to focus on mere numbers) for any parish ministry, but 2014 saw higher highs than the previous few years – particularly among the families with younger children (nursery through elementary school-aged). At times, we struggled to fit as many as 7 young tots plus 3 adult volunteers into the cozy-but-cramped **Nursery** space during a 10am Sunday morning Parish Eucharist service, while it has not been uncommon to have 7-10 children in grades 1-5 in the upstairs Kid’s Space for **The dVine** (church school). The older youth (middle- and high-school) dVine group has cycled between 2-4 young people most Sundays.

Many thanks are due to our many warm and friendly volunteers in the Nursery, and to their coordinator Beryl Roundhill; to our key elementary dVine teacher **Darlene Lee** and supporting cast including **Sara Chu**, **Jo McCollum**, and **Ruth Swinton**; and to **Mark Hanson** for leading the discussions with the youth on Sundays. It has been a privilege for *me* to have the opportunity to shuttle between these aspects of our ministry, both facilitating/teaching and supporting as necessary.

We have continued with the **curriculum** choices clearly outlined in last year’s annual report:

- for the elementary-aged dVine, *The Whole People of God* (ecumenical and lectionary-based, by Wood Lake Publishing; see www.wholepeopleofgod.com and www.woodlakebooks.com/about_us for mission and vision statements; Wood Lake also publishes *Seasons of the Spirit*, another lectionary-based church resource that has been used extensively in the past at St. John’s);
- for the middle- and high-school youth dVine group, *Making it Real and Relevant*, (Episcopal and lectionary-based, uses current media—music, movies—to inform the reflections; part of the *Centre for Youth Ministry* a resource connected with the Episcopal Church of the USA – see <http://leaderresources.org>)

The 10am service on the *second Sunday* of each month in 2014 continued to take the shape of an **Iona Community-based all-ages Eucharist service**. The goal of this service in this form has been to bring expression to other forms of worship, particularly as they have been experienced by our youth over the past 7 years who have journeyed on Pilgrimage to the Isle of Iona. Over the year, the services have been planned as a team effort among the rector, the preacher of the day, various interested collaborators of all ages, the music director, and the family ministry coordinator. We have intentionally included creative elements in the readings, the preaching,

and the responses, and words and music from the contemporary world context but particularly from the broad Iona-influenced community. Over the coming year we can expect even more input and leadership from the youth who are preparing for the 2016 Pilgrimage to Iona.

Finally, over 2014 a small group continued to gather for an informal **Iona-based evening worship service** on the *fourth Sunday* of each month. This service was initially conceived after the 2012 Iona Youth Pilgrimage, as a place for the newly-returned young people to explore freely the forms of worship that they experienced in community on Iona. Particularly over the final months of 2014, attendance has dwindled, and over the coming months, the families and youth will be considering the future of this service.

EPIC! Youth Group

As indicated in the last annual report, the EPIC! Youth Group (grades 6 and up) has continued strong, and regularly has to squeeze to fit into the Youth Room in the upper floor of the Parish House. The group meets on *second, fourth and fifth Friday evenings at 7pm*. Together, EPIC! has watched movies, discussed issues, cooked for Out of the Rain, attended *and hosted* overnight events with and for other youth groups in the Diocese, prepared and led Iona Evening worship services, and simply played games and been friends to one another. In terms of leadership: **Susanna Peterson** has been a steadfast and committed partner in the leadership of the EPIC! Youth Group. It has been an honour to work alongside Su practically every week.

In early 2014, several youth from St. John's and further afield embarked on a Confirmation Exploration, under the leadership of myself and **Su McLeod**. [Curriculum note: Jennifer Gamber, *My Faith, My Life: a teen's guide to the Episcopal Church* (Morehouse, 2006) – Gamber is director of Christian formation at St. Anne's Episcopal Church, Bethlehem, Pennsylvania.] On Trinity Sunday, June 15th, four St. John's youth were confirmed by Bishop Logan: **Kat McCollum, Aidan Knudsen, Darcie Snider, and Trevor Townsend Smith**.

In Fall 2014, the youth and their families also formally began planning and fundraising for the next Iona Youth Pilgrimage, planned for summer 2016. Judging from the level of interest and active involvement, we can expect that the Pilgrimage group will number between 8-10 youth, plus leaders.

Other Activities for Families

As in past years, we have hosted many regular events and activities intended both to build a sense of community and to support the ongoing faith formation that takes place in the context of the family:

- Sunday afternoon and evening family games and potluck (during the school year, these occurred on the fourth Sunday of every month at 5pm, just before the Iona Evening Worship service)—*currently undergoing evaluation*
- *Divine Disorder*: An experimental biweekly group for children grades 3-5; met in May and June 2014. *Many thanks to **Ruth Macintosh, Diane Townsend and Dana Snider-Sibley** for their leadership and hosting!*
- Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper and celebration
- Maundy Thursday Seder and Worship

- Good Friday Family Passion Play Service
- Family movie nights
- Parish Spring Retreat
- June 8 Pentecost BBQ (organised by the families, for the parish)
- Advent craft event and All-Ages Advent Worship Service
- The Christmas Pageant (“A Traditionally Un-traditional Christmas Pageant”)
- Christmas Eve Family Service (4pm)
-

Involvement in the Diocese

St. John’s was also particularly active in collaborating with other parishes and entities in the Diocese of BC and the wider Church:

- St. John’s provided planning and leadership for an Arts-Music-Drama day camp as part of Camp in the Community, July 21-25 (venue: Grace Lutheran Church)
- St. John’s partnered with St. Luke’s and other parishes to lead a Summer Youth Campout event at Elk Lake, August 25-28
- St. John’s sent **Aidan Knudsen, Kat McCollum**, and leader **Susanna Peterson** as youth delegates to the annual BC Yukon Anglican Youth Movement (BCYAYM) Gathering in Cranbrook, October 10-13.

The Ongoing Challenge

We Need More Leaders!

With growth in numbers comes an increasing need for leaders who are called and gifted to be friends, mentors, fellow-learners with our young people. Quite simply, we cannot provide for every need that we see, unless more of us join the team. For example, in 2014, we failed to launch a much-needed Sunday morning program for our growing Preschool-Kindergarten group of children because of our need for more than one leader to carry the program. These children are just that much too old for the Nursery, and just that much too young for the elementary-aged dVine group.

Please consider whether you may be called to apply your time and talents in this way, and contact me to explore your calling over coffee or tea some day soon.

Closing Remarks

In closing, I want to reiterate something I have said to others quite often over the past months: St. John’s has been one of the most supportive environments I’ve had the fortune to serve with, over 25+ years of lay and ordained ministry with youth and families. Thank-you, everyone, for your words of support over 2014. They truly help carry the burden.

Likewise, I thank my fellows on staff—**Catherine, Carol-Ann, David, Karen, Jane, Kevin**, and especially **Alastair**—for encouragement, creative thinking and action, partnership on the road. On behalf of us all, I pray for God’s Presence to surprise us all, as we meet the challenges of the coming year.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Hiebert

REPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS

Alliance Club

The Alliance Club is an evening drop-in centre for youth (ages13-19). The Club provides a safe, healthy alternative for youth who may be hanging out in the downtown core, as well as providing a connection point for street entrenched youth who may wish to explore a more positive lifestyle.

Services include an evening meal, snacks with fresh fruit available daily, access to showers and laundry facilities, free hygiene products and clothing (socks, undergarments, seasonal wear, shoes, etc). Recreation and leisure activities include access to computers, free internet service, a pool table, video games, television/movies, board games, music, arts and crafts, books.

St. John the Divine has supported this program for almost twenty years by cooking casseroles to augment the meal program. Once a month a group of men and women meet in the hall kitchen. During the hall renovations we met in individual homes. Typically we cook 16 large casseroles and have a lot of fun. If you would like to join us on the third Tuesday of the month we would welcome you.

Respectfully submitted,
Gerry Melville

Anglican Church Women

We met every second Tuesday of the month. We had 10 meetings with an average of 7 members in attendance.

We were hosts for the General Meeting in September. We had a Holy Eucharist at 10:00am. After the Eucharist we went to the lounge to hear a guest speaker. After lunch we had our business meeting.

Members attend the Diocesan meetings held up-island and in Victoria held every 2nd month. Members also attend the Annual meeting held either in Victoria or up island.

Our meetings always open with a bible reading and prayers, and close with prayers 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 and lead us into Christian service everywhere.

Even though there are only 10 ACW groups on Vancouver Island and the Gulf Islands we are still able to knit 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, 2014			\$ 51.74
Plus: Receipts			
Voluntary Giving	\$ 71.25		
10 Memberships	200.00		
Donation from Kay Porter	200.00		
Enid Brazier for AGM	<u>50.00</u>		
		\$521.25	
Less: Disbursements			
4 to go to Dioc. AGM	\$200.00		
Food costs for ACW AGM	100.00		
“Joy Bags”	20.00		
ACW for 9 memberships	135.00		
Bank Charges	<u>45.41</u>		
		\$ <u>500.41</u>	
			<u>20.84</u>
Balance on Hand – December 2014			<u>\$ 72.58</u>

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer L. Ralph, Treasurer

Book Club

We have continued our monthly meetings to discuss books chosen by our members. As always, the choices are varied – some light weight – some more challenging. Conversation is always lively!

Lists of past selections and those chosen for 2015 are posted in the Denson Lounge.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Ormerod

Chancel Guild

In my first year as President of the Chancel Guild I am on a learning curve. I am extremely grateful for the knowledge and support of **Anne Anderson**, vice-president, **Vorna Butler**, secretary, and **Gerry Melville**, treasurer.

Observing the dedication and faithfulness of the members of the Guild makes me very thankful for all these people who usually work quietly behind the scenes to make the services at St. John's work so well.

The Chancel Guild members make sure that the Sanctuary is prepared for Sunday and mid-week services, as well as weddings and funerals. Week after week these members make sure that flowers are arranged beautifully, candles checked and oil replaced, communion vessels are properly cared for, hangings are changed and linens are cleaned. They truly make the church a beautiful place to worship. Last but not least we are responsible for decorating the church at Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas.

Our flower convener Anne Anderson does a superb job of ordering and selecting the flowers every week.

We also have dedicated people who week after week do the baking of bread for communion, and others who launder and iron our linens. We have a team of brass and silver cleaners who faithfully perform this task monthly.

My thanks to **Carol-Ann Zenger** who so cheerfully has been of tremendous help in my first year. My thanks also to **Susan Mugridge** and **Helen Alexander** who have so steadfastly supplied us with tea, coffee and goodies on our decorating days.

A special thank you to **Wendy London** for all her support during my first year as president of this group.

Respectfully submitted,
Jessie Bosma, President

Christmas Bazaar

Autumn had arrived and no-one had come forward to run the Bazaar. That is when a group of ladies decided to take on the task. This meant we would only have two months to prepare for the event.

So this year the Bazaar became a challenge. Not only were the dates we were allocated for the hall not feasible due to the delay in the hall renovations. We also had to decide just where would the Bazaar be held.

After consulting with Alastair and the Church Wardens, about using the Church for the Bazaar, they gave their approval and were delighted with the idea.

We had many obstacles to overcome but we carried on undaunted. With the willing help and enthusiasm of the volunteers we were able to bring together a great Bazaar. The comments of the people attending proved to us we had done well under the circumstances.

Chuck and **Gary** once again catered the lunch. They did a wonderful job overcoming many difficulties. Namely a smaller venue and an even smaller kitchen. We thank the ladies of the Chancel Guild for providing the delicious desserts.

The book people really appreciated the new idea of having a smaller and selective choice of books for sale. They felt that it worked well and being together with the other groups was a bonus.

This year we were joined by the Youth group. I know they had fun and were very happy with the results of their fund raising of \$300 towards the trip to Iona in 2016 .

After all the expenses were dealt with we raised over \$5,054.18. This is not the final amount raised, as we have articles at Kilshaws auction house to be sold. Considering the many hurdles and challenges we had to overcome, we feel that this was a terrific result.

We thank all the wonderful people who gave of their time and talents to make this years Bazaar a success.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy London, Coordinator
on behalf of the bazaar committee

Church Building Development Group

The Church Building Development Group started to meet in August of 2014 and has met approximately once a month through the Fall and into Winter. The initial impetus for the formation of the Group came from the Property Committee and with the support of the Rector and Parish Council was tasked to explore the future needs and possibilities of the Church Building as a worship and working place. This does not include the Parish House building and all exterior properties.

Once the terms of reference were confirmed by Parish Council, the first actions were to take a good deep look at all physical aspects of the Church Building along with the activities carried out in the Church. The Group looked at its present and future uses, any needs and issues that came to the attention of the Group and the congregation. The Group made a thorough tour of the spaces in the church building, including the loft space above organ, the Chapel, the porches, and all the spaces in the basement, etc.

This lead to discovery of an immediate issue that needed attention. The possibility that there was mould in the basement areas was pointed out to the Property Committee, and consequently investigated with some amelioration of the conditions attempted.

Studies of the logistics and workflow of the food bank, shelter use, and refreshment provision etc. are in process of being conducted. The needs of the healing and music ministries at St. John's are part of the study, as is the important question of accessibility throughout the building.

This work is preparatory to taking a broad and creative look at whether the church building fits the liturgical, social needs and outreach missions of St. John the Divine. The results of the Quo Vadis Study will be an essential guide for future efforts. Also to this end the Group proposes to run a series of consultations (in a similar way to the previous "Re-pitching the Tent" series) in order to assess our current needs and future uses of the building. Through this we hope to stimulate innovative ideas and practical guidance from the congregation and the greater community.

The work is just beginning; it is indeed an exciting and challenging venture. The members of the group encourage all conversations, imaginative ideas and any feedback from church members.

The members of the Group are: **Anthony Barlow** (Chair), **Rhoda Brodie-Smith**, **Anne Henderson**, **Sarah Irons**, **Al Lehman**, **Catherine MacKenzie**, **Alastair McCollum**, **Barry Salter**, **Larry Scyner**, **David Stratkauskas**.

Respectfully submitted,
Anthony Barlow (Chair)

Contemplative Prayer

Contemplative Prayer continues to meet the second and fourth Tuesday of each month. Some of the participants are from St. John the Divine and others are from outside our parish who have found us through our web site, The Contemplative Society web site, or by word of mouth.

Attendance ranges from six to twelve people with more of our own parish newcomers showing some interest.

We have also been studying "*The Immortal Diamond*" by Richard Rohr.

This is a wonderful educational opportunity for those able to come on a Tuesday evening.

We will be starting a new book (as yet not determined) in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek Dunwoody and Rhoda Brodie-Smith
Coordinators

Emergency Food Services

In the spring of 2014, **John Sylwester** announced that he would be stepping down as organizer of our Food Bank. How could we ever replace John, we asked ourselves? By the end of June, approximately 10 (!) volunteers had offered to take on additional duties, in order to cover all that John had been doing.

A huge vote of appreciation from all of us to John, who still continues to put in countless hours, with his trusty Volvo, picking up orders, and donations, and delivering them to the food bank.

The EFS in 2014 continued to be blessed financially and with food donations. The Sock Hop in May was again very successful financially, bringing in slightly more than \$3,500. The Blue Envelopes accounted for part of our revenue (mainly parishioners of St. John's), while we also received donations from The Unitarian Church, Associates of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, and many friends of St. John the Divine, to a total of \$36,219.

In 2014 we had 4,927 client contacts, almost exactly the same as in 2013. In addition to the number of adults, we also provided food for a total of 621 children. The total expenditure on food and other items (plastic bags, etc.) was \$34,135.

The EFS is entirely operated by approximately 60 dedicated volunteers from SJD, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Matthias, Congregation Emanu-El and people with no formal church affiliations. They provide service breaking down bulk items into smaller containers, stocking shelves and/or distributing food on the open food days. They provided approximately 2,600 recorded volunteer hours.

Grace Lutheran continues to bless us through their participation in the Good Food Box, an organization that supports local farmers and provides fresh fruit and vegetables at a reasonable cost year round. Volunteers from Grace pay for the food and serve it to our clients once a month. We have also been fortunate this year to continue receiving, through the Anawim Companion Society, fresh fruit and vegetables that they receive from Thrifty Foods. We also 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 charge. For Good Measure provides, at cost, some of our pulses and grains, while the Canadian Wholesale Club has been our supplier for most staple items. We continue to take advantage of sales at other grocery outlets.

Recently, there have been some very productive conversations with other food banks, as together we look for economies of scale through bulk buying, and possible data sharing to improve our advocacy efforts. This has resulted in greatly improved relationships among the food banks locally, but no concrete action – yet. I am hopeful!

Special thanks to **Maggie and Michael Hayes** who again coordinated the Sock Hop for the 5th year. They have asked that members of St. John's take over responsibility for this significant fundraiser in 2015, but Mike and Maggie will continue to help, along with **Sid Tafler**, in other areas, especially soliciting splendid items for the silent auction. A committee of St. John's volunteers has already begun to meet.

Respectfully Submitted,
Peggy Wilmot, Coordinator
Emergency Food Service (as of July, 2014)

Exploring Faith and Spirituality Team

Members: **Sarah Irons, Bishop Barry Jenks, Atley Jonas, Murray Luft, Doug Mitchell, Judy Vestrup**

Our group was formed in November 2014 in consultation with our Rector, to revitalize the Adult Education and Spirituality offerings at St. John the Divine. We will endeavor to coordinate, support and offer programs, using a variety of formats and delivery methods. We recognize the generational diversity in our Parish, and are committed to an approach that is balanced and inclusive. Initially we drew upon feedback from the two *Changing the Conversation* discussion groups, regarding specific interests expressed in the community for more opportunities in both study and spirituality. More recently, we have reviewed the Educational section of the Quo Vadis report, and are working to further define - amongst the vast array of events that could be offered - those of most immediate interest to the Parish. We welcome suggestions from all, and we acknowledge the valuable contributions to the education and spiritual life of St. John's made by on-going contemplative prayer, book study and discussion groups.

We have offered two events thus far- Advent and Epiphany quiet times, led by **Judy Vestrup** and Bishop **Barry Jenks** respectively. During Lent we will be sponsoring a four part "*Spirituality Sampler*" which will explore four of the prominent spiritualities within the Christian church. This is being promoted within St. John's as well as across other South Island parishes. There will also be another Quiet time in Lent, March 28th, 2015, on the subject of "*Letting Go*". After Easter, there will be opportunities for book study, Bible study, and a two-part series on "Justice and the Poor" considering the theology and spirituality of Social Justice. If possible we also hope to offer "St. John the Divine 101" to better familiarize newer members of St. John's community with Anglicanism and its history, and the liturgical, sacramental and spiritual depth and breadth of our faith and practice.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Vestrup

Faith In Action

Working through Faith in Action, and with the support of the congregation of St. John the Divine, I have continued the outreach and advocacy programs that have been initiated over the past several years.

- Liaison with various local agencies working to alleviate poverty and end homelessness

I serve on the Community Engagement Advisory Committee, a subcommittee of the Greater Victoria Coalition to End Homelessness. The Coalition, the Community Social Planning Council, Cool Aid, and the United Way are all represented on this working Group

I also serve on the Community Social Planning Council's CAPP (Community Action Plan on Poverty) and find them very supportive of many of our FiA initiatives.

I have continued to attend meetings of the nascent Food Share Network, with both a FiA “hat” and a St. John’s Food Bank “hat”. Some good progress is being made. Without a more unified voice, it will be difficult to do credible advocacy, and we are working toward the unified voice at present.

- Planning and supporting events sponsored by Faith in Action

We worked long and hard to develop a “New Social Covenant”, and ultimately presented it to the government, on the steps of the legislature. Many speakers from different faiths participated, and we continue to work on follow up activities.

We worked again with “Dignity for All”, on a national anti-poverty campaign, “Chew on This”, this fall, calling on the Prime Minister to create a poverty reduction plan. This included handing out postcards and token lunch bags at the offices of all the Downtown Service Providers, as well as a stint on the street outside of City Hall!

- Direct contact with government at all levels, proposing and supporting solutions to problems relating to poverty and homelessness.

- Currently, Faith in Action is laying the groundwork for a possible broad alliance of faith communities, labour groups, and social agencies, modeled after the Metro Vancouver Alliance. This broad alliance aims to strengthen civil society and work for social justice across a broad spectrum. The many relationships that Faith in Action has developed over the past years is helping us generate considerable enthusiasm for this project.

Organizations I have worked with this year on behalf of Faith in Action

Rob Rainer (Dignity for All)

Coalition to End Homelessness (Community Engagement Working Group)

Community Social Planning Council (mainly CAPP)

BC Poverty Reduction Coalition (Seth Klein et al)

Various churches

Various municipal councils

Victoria Foundation

Together Against Poverty Society (TAPS)

Respectfully submitted,
Peggy Wilmot

Governance Team

Members: Judy Curran, Kevin Farris, Barry Salter, Judy Vestrup

At the Wardens’ and Parish Council retreat day June 21st, 2014, it became evident that there was dissatisfaction with the lack of a defined, action-oriented role for Council. Our rector recommended a book by Dan Hotchkiss “*Governance and Ministry. Rethinking Board Leadership.*” He also shared with us a desire to create structures at St. John’s that are less

hierarchical and more empowering. With additional reading and discussion, we identified differences between management councils who listen to reports, concern themselves with daily operations and “rubber-stamp” the decisions of others; and governance councils who focus on the “big picture”, providing leadership on goal-setting, policy and evaluation. We decided collectively to begin exploring how we could make this transition to a more active and engaged governance model at St. John’s and in response, our Governance team was established in November 2014.

Since then, we have engaged in consultation with the Rector of Christ Church Calgary, where a governance model has been in place for some time, and have learned much in the process. We are also re-vitalizing our Parish Council meetings so that they are more focussed on the major issues and priorities of our Parish. We envision developing and empowering ministry teams in a variety of areas. We are also examining ways to reduce the Wardens’ workload and to make the entire St. John’s organization more nimble and responsive to the needs of our community. Other tasks are creating an orientation process for new Wardens and Parish Council members, and later, working collaboratively to re-defining roles and responsibilities amongst wardens, parish council, and paid and unpaid staff/volunteer leaders. We know this will be a slow process, and will take years to be fully realized. But our hope is that ultimately we will all work together more easily and productively, communicate better and serve the broader community beyond our own doors more effectively.

Respectfully submitted,
Judy Vestrup

Investment Report

Markets in 2014 unfortunately did not continue the stellar performance of 2013 when the Toronto Stock Exchange (TSX) ended the year up 9%. 2014 started off reasonably well, with the market decline coming mostly in the latter quarter. The TSX reached a 2014 high in early September, up 15% since January 1st. Then came the tumbling oil prices with their consequential reverberations in the energy sector of the marketplace. West Texas Intermediate Crude ended 2014 at \$53.68 US per barrel, a decline of 45% on the year. Our Canadian dollar also tumbled, closing the year at \$0.8608 US, a drop of 7.8 cents on the year. Our dollar was pressured by low oil prices and a strengthening American dollar, which bounced upward after the U.S. Federal Reserve ended its quantitative easing program. This made our U.S. investments look even better because they are reported in Canadian dollars.

Our investment accounts with *Raymond James* started 2014 with a value of \$1,735,612.58 and closed the year with a value of \$1,835,551.42, representing an annualized gain of \$99,938.84, or 5.76%. This was below the TSX performance which registered a gain of 7.4% and the Dow Jones Industrial Index which closed up 7.5%. The difference from the TSX performance was most likely due to the TSX being more heavily weighted in industrial and resource stocks.

The late **Cliff Kelly** assumed Chairmanship of the Investment Committee in 2006, and with his sharp mind, market insight and business acumen, provided invaluable guidance to the Committee for almost 8 years. Regrettably, declining health obliged Cliff to step down in late March of 2014. His duties as Chairman were assumed by **Doug Mitchell**, ably supported by Committee members, **Doug Adderley**, **Pat Anderson** (Treasurer), and **Barry Salter**. We were deeply saddened by Cliff's death on July 9th, and are most grateful for the dedicated service, guidance and advice he gave to the Committee.

In last year's report, the Chairman noted concern within the Committee regarding the high investment management fees being paid to use a full-service broker. While the fees we were paying *Raymond James* were not unusual for the size and nature of our portfolio, we felt compelled to explore how we might reduce our management fees. In discussions with the Diocesan Finance Officer and their Investment firm, *Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.*, we learned that an investment portfolio of St. John's, managed by *Leith Wheeler*, would incur significantly lower management fees. Although a St. John's account would remain distinct and separate from the Diocesan account, *Leith Wheeler* would include our account under the 'umbrella' of the much larger Diocesan account for the purposes of determining account management fees.

We also learned that *Leith Wheeler* specializes in working with large not-for-profit organizations. Subsequent detailed discussions with the Diocesan Finance Officer revealed that since investing with *Leith Wheeler* three years ago, the Diocese has been very happy with the service received and the returns on their investment.

In summary, the Committee concluded that we were paying more in management fees than we needed to, and that we stood to save \$20,000 or more a year in management fees by investing with *Leith Wheeler*. We believe that a portfolio invested through *Leith Wheeler* would earn us returns similar to those we have enjoyed through *Raymond James*. After a briefing to the Rector and Wardens and an advisory notice to Parish Council, the Committee affirmed its decision to change investment managers, waiting until early in the New Year in order to obtain a full year of account performance figures from *Raymond James*. On January 13th our accounts at *Raymond James* were closed, realizing the sum of \$1,828,354.49 and the proceeds transferred to *Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel* for reinvestment.

Respectfully submitted,
Doug Mitchell

Library

The church library is housed in the Denson Lounge.

The space for books is limited hence the range of subjects and writers is also limited. The library is totally dependent on books donated by the parishioners and we appreciate donations of quality books of recent vintage. We thank the many parishioners who have donated books, especially **Derek Dunwoody**.

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.stjohndivine.bc.ca/page/st-johns-library-catalog>

Thanks also to **Judith Kelsey** and **Jennifer Wheeler** for their continual assistance in keeping the collection in good order.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Alford

Ministry of Healing

There are ten volunteers on the Ministry of Healing Team. Each Sunday, there are two people who work as a Team offering Healing Prayers with those who come forward. An increase of ministers is needed. Rhoda and I are available to provide training.

The current location in the back of the Chapel is preferable to having it in the main part of the church. It is still not ideal and we request other options be considered as part of the building assessment.

On March 24th, 2014 we had a Quiet Day for Healing Team members.

There has been little increase in the number of individuals coming for healing but more attention and education needs to be given our parish community so they can be more at ease with this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Derek C. Dunwoody
Coordinator

Moneyboys

Since the beginning of 2015 the Moneyboys have opened 160 envelopes. The donations are listed in the designations indicated by the donors.

A summary is prepared and copies are sent to **Catherine MacKenzie** and **Doug Henderson**, and there is also a copy in the Vestry book available to any parishioner. A bank statement is completed and the monies deposited.

This process is done by the same team every week for fifty-two weeks in the year.

The team is: **John Jenkins, Robin McLeod, Alan Ormerod, Ashleigh Roundhill, Brian Turner, Doug Turner, and Barry Salter.**

Respectfully submitted,
Alan Ormerod

Nursery Report

Again this year, childcare has been provided during the first half of the 10 a.m. Sunday Service, for children up to the age of 3 years.

A team of 18 Volunteers take turns, in pairs, to provide supervision and a happy environment for these little people.

Attendance varies greatly, but the average number of children per week throughout 2014 was a little over two.

It is hoped that more parents of young children will make use of the Nursery to enable them to attend the Church Service.

Respectfully submitted,
Beryl Roundhill, Coordinator

“Out of the Rain” Night Shelter

Since 1997 St. John’s has, along with other members of the Out of the Rain Coalition, provided a site for homeless street youths to sleep in our Crypt during the winter months (Oct.15-Apr. 15). Our many volunteers last year provided 26 suppers, 26 hot breakfasts (approximately \$2,000.00 in kind), dozens of cookies, 343 hours of time, and much love in helping an average of 17 youths stay safe and nourished on Monday nights. Our congregation also contributes financially through the Blue Envelope offering and our Christmas Stocking Project. Many individuals donate warm clothing and food throughout the season.

A huge thank you to all of you for your continuing passion and support for this ministry to “our kids” who are living in extremely difficult circumstances. Every bit of help makes a difference in someone’s life.

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

Prayer Teams

Two teams of four people - each team pray on a regular basis for those requesting private prayer.

There are approximately twelve to fifteen individuals being prayed for by each team at any one time. We are looking for more volunteers in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Rhoda Brodie-Smith

Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

2014 started off with a bang; the Primate (for whose office the fund is named) came for lunch. **Archbishop Fred Hiltz** was in Victoria for the consecration of **Bishop Logan**, and graciously agreed to this added agenda in the short time he had available. The lunch was provided for congregants of both St. John's and Christ Church Cathedral. In addition, PWRDF parish representatives from around the diocese were invited. A great committee worked on this event; in particular, thanks go to **Gerry Melville**, whose experience and advice were invaluable, as well as her capacity to engineer the making of the best sandwiches known to man!

It was marvelous to see the passion the Primate feels for the work of the Fund.

Also, on March Sundays different aspects of PWRDF's work throughout the world were highlighted: Syrian refugee camps; the interfaith hospital in Jerusalem; accompaniment of Canadian First Peoples, etc. Christmas cards were available for purchase in December. In a world where it seems horror after horror occurs, it is good at least to know that our Anglican outreach, working with other faith groups, can react and support on our behalf. Thank you all who support this work by monthly commitments, donation of stocks, and/or the March blue envelope.

Respectfully submitted,
Jennifer Wheeler

Property Committee

Membership:

Pat Anderson (Chairman), **Chuck Neilson** (Vice Chairman), **Tony Barlow**, **John Beckett**, **Mike Bugslag**, **Rand Harrison**, **Pauline Majcher** and **Anne Moon**

2014 Accomplishments:

2014 was a very busy year for the Property Committee dealing with maintenance issues as well as planning and implementing much needed system enhancements. Some of the larger projects for 2014 included:

- The Parish House 5 Year Vision Task Force completed their work and presented the final report c/w recommendations to the Rector, Wardens and Parish Council. The highest priority items were completed in 2014 (Upgrade electrical wiring and upgrade fire detection system to current technology detection hardware.)

- We discovered that the concrete in the exterior walls of the Hall was delaminating in many locations. We worked with a contractor to execute the required repairs.
- A task force was formed that identified all the stored material in the Church and Parish House and identified materials that appear to be surplus to the needs of the Church. Armed with this information, plans were developed and executed that found a new home for the majority of this material. This included working with the Fire Department to define what material can be safely stored in the Church boiler rooms.
- We worked with the Church roof material supplier to complete an upgrade to the Church roof that was paid for through our warranty claim.
- We reacted to a concern about the potential presence of mold in the Crypt. Several system enhancements were completed that seemed to resolve the issue.
- We organized and implemented a Parishioner supported Work Day.
- The ramp to the existing garden door was extended to the west. We also enlarged the area available for bicycle storage.
- We upgraded the 3 sumps in the parking lot to make them meet the City bylaws requiring oil separation capability. We also repainted the parking space lines.

Plans for 2015

As the existing operating systems in the Church and Parish House are nearing the end of their design life, it is expected that 2015 will be another busy year dealing with maintenance issues. The following are some of the bigger planned projects for 2015:

- We have identified a number of systems and equipment in the Church and Parish House that need to be upgraded or replaced in the next 1 to 5 years. Our plan is to study each of these potential major cost items to:
 - Have a clear understanding of why the replacement or enhancement is required.
 - Get an understanding of the impact of waiting for the system or equipment to fail before action is taken.
 - Define the scope of the proposed replacement or enhancement.
 - Determine if this work can be phased over more than one year and have an understanding of the system reliability and costs impacts should the work be phased.
 - Develop a budgetary cost estimate for the work.

- Work with the Treasurer to establish a financing plan for the proposed projects including schedule and cost estimates by year.
- Continue to monitor the Crypt to see if the mold issue has reappeared. If that happens, create a plan for dealing with this challenge.
- Provide support to the Church Building Development Group who are investigating long term upgrade requirements for the Church.

Respectfully submitted,
Pat Anderson on behalf of the committee

Quo Vadis – Discerning Our Paths Together

The Quo Vadis group has held five open forum discussion opportunities for the parish community starting in February 2014. The topics included:

1. Social Justice and Building Community
2. Education and Growing in Faith
3. Interpersonal connection and communication
4. Pastoral Care
5. Worship: nurturing our spiritual life

These sessions were held Sundays after church and Wednesday evenings. The intention of these sessions and information gathering was to discern where we as a community see ourselves moving forward, and prepare a report of our findings.

To prepare the report:

An extensive process of discernment was developed. (Please refer to the report which has been distributed to the parish). Out of this process thematically linked ideas were edited to form chapters for the report. All content for each chapter was provided by the community through letters, interviews, emails, questionnaires or focus groups.

This information has been compiled in the final report which is currently being distributed in three sections with distribution to be completed by February 8th, 2015.

It is titled:

Quo Vadis - Discerning our path together

Reflecting the voices of our community

An overview information session was held on January 25, 2015 during which the first of three sections was provided to the parish. The remaining sections were sent out by email and are available in hard copy at the church office. The report has been posted on the church website.

Discussion and question opportunities will be provided on the evening of February 11th, 2015 and at the February 15th Divine Brunch.

It is to be adopted by Vestry on February 22nd, 2015.

Respectfully submitted by:
Rhoda Brodie-Smith and Jennifer Gerwing
Co Chairs, Quo Vadis

Redevelopment Task Force

The Redevelopment Task Force consists of Rev. **Alastair McCollum, Elizabeth McAuley, Deborah Curran, Patricia Lane, Peggy Wilmot, David McKay** and **Graeme Brown**. The Task Force is assisted by **Robert Brown** (development consultant) and **Christine Lintott** (architect).

The 2013 Task Force Report noted that discussions with the Trio had not come to fruition and the Task Force was looking for a new partner for the redevelopment project. Those discussions continued through 2014 culminating in November with the signing of a memorandum of understanding with TL Housing Solutions and Pacifica Housing Advisory Association.

Pacifica Housing (www.pacificahousing.ca) is well known to many as a local provider of low-cost housing in the Greater Victoria area. TL Housing Solutions (www.tlhousingsolutions.ca) assists organisations to develop low-cost housing projects, such as 'The Wing' on Wilson Street in Victoria, a project in conjunction with BC Housing and Pacifica Housing. TL Housing takes on the role of conducting the feasibility of a project and sourcing funding in both the public and private sectors. A fee will be charged by TL Housing if the project proceeds to construction.

At this time, TL Housing and Pacifica Housing are creating some concepts for a multi-unit/mixed use residential project on the site and starting to pull together initial financials. It is hoped that they will be bringing forward a plan to the Task Force by the end of March 2015. The plan will then be presented to the congregation for discussion and approval before it is also taken to the Diocese for their approval.

Respectfully submitted,
Graeme Brown
Chair

Refugee Support Group

I became chair of the St. John the Divine Refugee Support Group during the year when **Ruth Turner** stepped down. Ruth had been chair for sometime and continues to be the lead person for the parish in attempting to sponsor Omid and Sohaila to come to Victoria and re-unite with other members of their family in Victoria. Ruth has written in greater detail elsewhere about that. I am very grateful that she has been able to continue working to get Omid and Sohaila here.

Ruth designed the display that sits in the church, and **Sara Chu** made a beautiful sculpture for it.

I am finding this ministry emotionally quite difficult and I want to say how grateful I am to feel supported and encouraged by Alastair, by members of this congregation and our First Met partners. The group meets every three months or so, usually with a pot luck supper.

The fellowship here is a tower of strength to me. New members are welcome, and the next meeting will be advertised in the leaflet. Or, if you would just like to check it out, and see if it's for you, please feel free to drop in for an evening's conversation.

Kathy Cook and the First Met group have organised a family-oriented Community Country Dance fundraiser for Omid and Sohaila on Saturday 21 February 7pm – I have tickets! Please come.

Another source of inspiration has been the presence of the Rev. **Scott McLeod** who has been coordinating refugee ministry for the diocese. His departure for Ontario is a major loss, but as one door closes another opens. **John McLaren** chairs the diocesan committee, and will take over Scott's role briefly while other arrangements are made.

A little history

Refugees are sponsored under a program that dates from 1978. The elements are essentially unchanged. There are two ways to sponsor a refugee: any group of 5 or more Canadians may sponsor a refugee by submitting a plan to the Government of Canada. The second way (and about 75% of all sponsored refugees come this way) is to come through a group (like St. John's) working with one of 85 Master Agreement Holders. Our Diocese is a Master Agreement Holder and the Diocese acts as a guarantor to Canada that the parish will deliver on the sponsorship.

While the elements remain the same, the outcomes are not at all predictable. When I first got involved with refugee sponsorship in 1988, though the system was even then not well-resourced, you could expect your family to be arriving about 18 months after making application to the government.

The foreign service budget took a 10% cut in each of the last two federal budgets. After the last one we got word that our family would likely not even be visited and considered by Canadian officials for up to 41 months.

For years the refugee sponsorship program was very unusual: it was the only one in government that had no limits: if you wanted to sponsor and could file a plan and assemble the resources you could do it. Refugees were approved by the UN High Commission for Refugees (not absolutely essential) and then by Canadian field staff.

On arrival our parish would support our refugees for a year – providing housing, food, furniture, orientation to the community, find language lessons, help finding work, a doctor and a dentist. Often we would have two sponsorships going: if one family was here, work might begin on helping the next.

All of this was achieved at no expense to taxpayers because of the Diocesan guarantee. I am not aware of any parish that failed to deliver on its commitments so my elbow says there was never any need for the Diocesan guarantee to be invoked.

Since becoming a majority, the Harper government moved to limit the activity of church groups in this area to one at a time. Our parish has had one sponsorship pending since January 2012 so we cannot apply for any more.

"God does not call us to finish the job. God calls us to keep working at it as best we can."

I heard Rabbi Harry use this quote from the Talmud to keep yourself centred and avoid being overwhelmed by a problem. The big picture is unremittingly bleak.

Anytime up to 2013, the UN High Commission on Refugees could expect to be ministering to 10,000,000 people. Many would return to their country of origin when things settled down, while others would settle in the country where they had taken refuge. About 1% or 100,000 refugees a year would need a third country like Canada to take them in.

Then came 2014, ISL, and the Syrian civil war. The UN reports there are now about 54,000,000 refugees in the world - that is more than there were after World War 2. The refugee relief operation in Syria is the largest single country operation since the agency was founded in 1948.

The UN asked member nations to help. Germany offered funding for 20,000 refugees. Our federal government offered funding for just 200, with a further 1100 if private sponsors could be found, which would include churches. Earlier this January a further 10,000 Syrians were approved to come here over the next three years. Again parishes like ours do not get to consider helping out because of the "one at a time" rule.

A failure

Nayad is the daughter of Moustafa Rashid who the parish sponsored with his family a couple of years ago. Nayad, her husband and their three young children are just outside Damascus in Jaramana, having survived a time in the Yarmouk Refugee Camp. I tried this fall to find a sponsor for Nayad and her family. However as the Syrian civil war drags on, Canada has withdrawn all staff from there and so no interviews will take place. It is not going to be practical to help Najad and her family.

There are 1.6 million Syrians located in Turkey, where Canadian staff can interview them. It makes sense to help some of these, and I am in discussions with John McLaren on what to recommend to those who were prepared to support Nayad and made a financial commitment.

That included parishioners here, the Anglican Parish of Saltspring Island, First Met, Cordova Bay United, St. Mary the Virgin Oak Bay, St. Peter Lakehill and St. David-by-the-Sea. As soon as I have something specific I will be in touch.

Priorities for 2015

Getting ready for Omid and Sohaila will be the main focus this year, fleshing out the settlement plan, and as far as possible, getting things together for their arrival which may be years from now – or it may be much sooner than that.

If you have questions please get in touch.

Respectfully submitted,
Chris Eve

Since the 2014 report to Vestry, the Refugee Support Committee has continued to work to bring Afghani sister and brother, Sohaila and Omid, to Canada from Tajikistan where they have taken refuge since February, 2012.

A review of the progress to date - with the official hurdles for Sohaila and Omid on the road to Canada:

- 1) got out of Afghanistan and into temporary refuge, 2012;
- 2) had three interviews with Tajik authorities and were rejected each time;
- 3) were interviewed by UNHCR and re-interviewed when Omid failed the first time;
- 4) were accepted by UNHCR after the interviews, 2014;
- 5) got a sponsor in Canada which was accepted by CIC (that's the Diocese of BC – and St. John's through the Diocese), 2013/2014.
- 6) still to have interviews and health checks with CIC – if they pass, then they are probably on their way.

Tajikistan is a poor country with extreme levels of unemployment; refugees are not allowed to work, though some find jobs as housekeepers or market sellers. Poorly paid officials often push refugees to make 'payments' – while illegal, there is little justice available from overburdened Tajik authorities. Because of the hardship this has caused Sohaila and Omid some members of St. John's and First Metropolitan churches donated funds in February and October. This money was sent to them via Western Union and did ease their troubles. Money donated for this purpose is not tax deductible, and cannot be taken from funds donated through either church.

On February 15th, 2014 CIC approved our application for this Sponsorship, back-dated to September 17th, 2013. We were given to understand that their arrival time would be 24 months from the September 2013 date. These dates are rarely met, due to staffing and funding issues within CIC... and they have yet to be interviewed by CIC (see point #6, above). Their files are now in the CIC office in Ankara, Turkey.

They both had interviews with UNHCR in April and within a week word came that Sohaila was accepted as a UNHCR convention refugee; but Omid was rejected. On careful inquiry with their sister here (Narges) we determined that cultural and personal concerns had prevented him from sharing the grimmer details of his young life. With support and reassurance, he asked for

another interview. This took place in October and resulted in Omid, too, being accepted as a UNHCR convention refugee.

Sohaila's daughter saved her money from weekend and after school jobs and spent last summer with Sohaila, incredibly uplifting for mother and daughter. Sara is now in grade twelve here, apparently an excellent student. Narges with her two little ones and Sara, now live at the Cridge where they have good support. She has made application for Sohaila and Omid to live there when they arrive and, while making no commitment yet, the office has been encouraging that this will work out. The costs there are below market rates and linked to the income level of the renters.

We have a settlement plan, created by Scott McLeod, and the Committee will be assigning tasks in the next few weeks so as to be ready for the arrival – whenever it occurs – of Sohaila and Omid.

Respectfully submitted,
Ruth Nicholl (Ruth Turner)

Seniors' Fellowship

In 2014 the affairs of the Seniors' Fellowship were concluded, as the organization ceased to exist. Two quarterly meetings were held on March 12th and June 25th, at which tea was served in the Denson Lounge. The Rev. **Karen Fast** attended the June meeting, and spent time chatting with the participants. All enjoyed the fellowship at these get-togethers. There was no meeting in September.

The final gathering was on December 3rd, when the annual Christmas Lunch took place at the James Bay Inn. There were 20 participants, including members and guests, the supporting group from the former Pastoral Care Committee, some ACW members, and Church Staff, including Rev. **Alastair McCollum, Rev. Jane Reid, Catherine MacKenzie** and **Carol-Ann Zenger**. All enjoyed a delicious turkey lunch followed by a gift exchange.

The bank account at HSBC was closed in October, and the remaining balance of \$274.72 was withdrawn. The costs of the Christmas Lunch (private room and guests) were covered by a portion of this amount, and then the remaining amount of \$177.75 was donated to St. John's Emergency Food Service.

Members who were able to attend this final event were: **Frank and Joyce Caldwell, Jean Gibson, Dorothy Sullivan, Peggy and David Bush, Susan Mugridge, and Liz Elgin**. They remember the times when this was a very active church-affiliated organization, which was able to sponsor interesting guest speakers on a wide variety of topics, and organized frequent outings for lunches and field trips. The decision to disband the group was made with regret, because of the dwindling number of active members.

Respectfully Submitted,
Ann McLaren,
Pastoral Care Committee

Web Site

St. John the Divine maintains an Internet presence through various channels: a Web site, Facebook, Twitter, and Podomatic.

On the Web site in 2014, over 500 pages were created or updated. The patterns of website usage remained consistent in 2014 compared with 2015. The distribution of visits by city and month remained the same as did the number of visitors who arrived at the site and left immediately (bounced). Overall web site usage was lower in 2014 compared with 2013 by approximately 10% with 14,484 sessions in 2014 versus 16,583 in 2013 or 8,576 different users in 2014 versus 9,415 in 2013.

Type	Count	Comment
Event	239	Special pages that appear on the calendar with a date and time.
Event series	16	Groups of events such as the Quo Vadis meetings and presentations.
Leaflet	66	
Minute	14	From meetings such as Parish Council, which are posted by the vestry clerk.
Group Post	12	Items with restricted access, such as the posts about Trevor or the list of servers.
Basic page	22	
Roster	14	
Post Series	3	Groups of pages on a theme such as the sets of pages on the hall renovations
Article	28	
Notice	41	
Blog Post	22	
Open letter	6	Letters from the rector
Group Event	33	Like events, but with access associated with a group, such as the Walking Diviners.
Group Resource	1	An item with restricted access, such as the list of Parish Council members available only to logged in members of the parish.
Total	517	

For the Web site, Duane also made several house calls this year to resolve issues with parishioners unable to log in. **Pauline Majcher** assists with administrative tasks such as collecting and recording release and consent forms for easy access by the Web team. **Craig Hiebert** maintains site updates for security and functionality. Craig, together with **Penny Holt**, gave a course on social media.

Bob McIntosh looks after the parish Facebook and Twitter presentations with contributions from Craig Hiebert and the rector. Since its creation in November 2009, we tweeted 2819 times. We follow 286 other twitter accounts, and have 664 followers on Twitter. We have 199 likes on our Facebook page, and are adding followers every week. This means our posts on

Facebook will soon show up on the timelines of over 200 people. Our post on January 4th, 2015 about the baptism of little **Wesley Robins** reached 1,014 people. Most of our posts are typically seen by 300-500 people.

Chuck Neilson posted every sermon to Podomatic with the permission of the speaker and the assistance of the vergers.

Respectfully submitted,
Duane Lecky
Webmaster

Please note: "These are not the final figures from Todd Troyer, our Accountant with Barrow Collins, the detail report was not available at time of printing. It is a possibility there will be changes to some of the figures at Vestry."

Thank You, Catherine

Proposed 2015 Operating Budget

Pat Anderson-Treasurer

Revenue

<u>Category</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actuals</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>
<u>Open collection</u>	\$12,000	\$17,209	\$12,000
<u>Weekly envelopes</u>	\$375,000	\$373,049	\$335,000
<u>Easter/Harvest/Christmas</u>	\$12,000	\$10,324	\$12,000
<u>Facility Donations</u>	\$84,000	\$83,665	\$80,000
<u>Columbarium</u>	\$200	\$600	\$400
<u>Christmas Bazaar/ New to You</u>	\$5,000	\$10,369	\$8,000
<u>Total revenue</u>	<u>\$488,200</u>	<u>\$495,216</u>	<u>\$447,400</u>

Operating Expense

Categories	2014 Budget	2014 Actuals	2015 Budget
Staff comp. and contract services	\$327,640	\$325,196	\$335,038
Family Ministry	\$5,000	\$4,657	\$5,000
Music Ministry	\$5,900	\$5,768	\$5,900
Special Programs	\$3,000	\$540	\$2,000
Insurance	\$17,000	\$16,931	\$18,324
Heat, Light and Water	\$35,000	\$34,786	\$35,000
Repair and Maintenance	\$47,000	\$59,509	\$47,000
Printing, Stationery and Advert.	\$15,000	\$15,292	\$15,000
Postage and Communication	\$7,500	\$8,856	\$7,000
Security	\$15,000	\$11,368	\$14,000
Diocesan Assessment	\$83,000	\$83,040	\$94,600
Other	\$10,000	\$11,332	\$9,000
<u>Total operating expense</u>	<u>\$571,040</u>	<u>\$577,275</u>	<u>\$587,862</u>

Summary

<u>Category</u>	<u>2014 Budget</u>	<u>2014 Actuals</u>	<u>2015 Budget</u>
<u>Total Revenue</u>	\$488,200	\$495,216	\$447,400
<u>Total Operating Expense</u>	\$571,040	\$577,275	\$587,862
<u>Shortfall</u>	\$82,840	\$82,059	\$140,462

Note:

- 1) The revenue shown does not include return from our \$1.8 million investment.
- 2) Revenue shown does not include the bequests we may receive during the year. In 2014 we received bequests totalling \$25,364
- 3) Operating expenses shown do not include the costs that were reimbursed from the various Special Funds.

