

2015

*Church of St. John the Divine*

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*2015 REPORT OF  
THE OFFICERS  
AND  
PARISH  
ORGANIZATIONS  
TO THE 155<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
VESTRY*

*FEBRUARY 28, 2016*

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



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**2015 OFFICERS AND PARISH COUNCIL**  
**Church of St. John the Divine \* Diocese of British Columbia**

**Terms of Office**

<b>Post</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Term ends</b>
<b>The Wardens</b>		
Rector's Warden	Duane Lecky	February 2017
Deputy Rector's Warden	Penny Holt	February 2017
People's Warden	Jim Harlick	February 2017
Deputy People's Warden	Patricia Punnett	February 2017
<b>Parish Councillors</b>		
	Tony Abbott	February 2017
	Pat Anderson	February 2016
	Gillian Barlow	February 2017
	Judy Curran	February 2016
	Joan Huzar	February 2017
	Derry McDonell	February 2016
	John McVie	February 2017
	Susanna Peterson	February 2016
<b>Delegates to Synod</b> (1 year term)		
	Pat Anderson	February 2016
	Judy Curran	February 2016
	Jim Harlick	February 2016
	Duane Lecky	February 2016
	Penny Holt	February 2016
	Patricia Punnett	February 2016
Alternates	Mark Lee	February 2016
	Jennifer Somerville	February 2016

**Stewards**

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

**Staff**

Alastair McCollum	Rector
Jane Reid	Priest Associate
Kevin Arndt	Priest Associate
David Stratkauskas	Director of Music
Craig Hiebert (Jan.-June)	Family Ministry Coordinator
Ruth MacIntosh (July-Dec.)	Interim 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

***The Parish Register from 2015***

**Baptism**

Wesley Éamonn Robins  
Aubrey Lee Dittmer  
Andrew Kenneth Engelhardt  
Erich Karl Thomas Engelhardt  
Ryan Jeffrey Turner  
Nicholas Allen Turner  
Alexandra Foley

**Blessing of a Marriage**

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

Heather Anne Longworth  David Richard Sjoblom  
Jessica Louise Pickell  Harald Moen

**Burials**

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

Bessie Maude Watson  
Clare Marguerite Lawrance  
Hugh Cameron  
Hilda Goodwin  
Beatrice Doreen McCaw  
Daniel Graham Harper  
Peter Philip Kewshaw  
David “Dave” Earl Bush  
Eugene Arthur Dowling  
Donald Neil Walker  
Grahame Brinkworth Baker

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

### Rector

It's been an exciting, challenging, inspiring, joyful and sometimes difficult year at St. John the Divine in 2015. We continue to enjoy a feeling of growth and movement, though continue to wonder where that movement is taking us. We are still continuing with the exceptional work begun in 2013 by our **Quo Vadis** group as the PC considers the substance of the report and how we as a community might be guided by it, and put into action some structures and strategies in response to it.

As a growing parish, we cannot 'rest on our laurels' but will continue to address concerns, joys and hopes as they arise.

### Ministry and Service

Whatever is happening around the life of St. John's we continue to gather in worship and prayer, serve and speak for the disadvantaged and voiceless, to share the sacraments, to live and preach the Gospel as best we can, to care for one another, and to listen to and learn from one another. These many and varied ministries are well served both by our paid ministry team **Jane, Kevin, Catherine, Carol-Ann, Ruth** and **David**, and by a whole host of volunteers. Thank you to you, my colleagues, for your hard work and faithful service. Thank you also to our **Honorary Associates, Larry, Bishop Barry, Derek** and **Karen** for your ongoing contributions to the life of our community and your generous giving of time, energy and compassion in ministry.

In the coming months **Rev'd Jane Reid** will be stepping down from her role as Priest Associate and will, after a break, join us – having graciously accepted my invitation – as an **Honorary Associate**. Jane's moving from her role will mean we must address our pastoral care, and seek to create a pastoral care team who can engage with the great work of looking after those within and without our community who need our support in any way.

### Governance and PC (Parish Council)

It has been, at times, an uncomfortable year for our Parish Council. We are wrestling with big issues such as Governance and Vision, and seeking to move forward with more dynamic and focussed strategic teamwork. Much work has been put into addressing, as previously mentioned, issues arising from the **Quo Vadis** report, and we have begun working on a more careful **Communications Strategy**, consideration of events that take place at St. John's and their part in the life of the parish, and begun formulation policies that meet the needs of our community at this time. 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; **Judy Curran, Derry McDonnell, Susanna Peterson**, and **Pat Anderson**; and those who will continue in the

coming year; **John McVie, Tony Abbott, Gillian Barlow, and Joan Huzar**. Thank you particularly to **Pat Anderson** for your work as Property Committee Chair and as Treasurer along with your Parish Council duties for which we are grateful.

I and the Wardens have appointed, with the support of the PC, **Heather Lee** as our treasurer, who will work with Catherine MacKenzie to maintain, support, and oversee our financial ministry and report regularly to PC on the state of our finances.

Thank you also to **Dorothy Chuhran** who has served as our Parish Clerk and whose record keeping has been very much appreciated, Dorothy is standing down as Parish Clerk at our Vestry meeting and I want to offer, on behalf of our whole Parish, grateful thanks for her service over a number of years, she will be missed.

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, and for your willingness to continue in your offices for the coming year.

As I have said each of the three 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 for your generous support of St. John's – with your time, your money, your compassion, your energy. Thank you to all of those who make our programs happen and who serve the many groups and events which make up the web of our spiritual community – 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.

### **Services, liturgy, experimentation**

Following a number of representations, and some new liturgical offerings from the national Church and our Diocese, we have been trying a number of new prayers and liturgical components, and considering the ongoing pattern for our worshipping life. St. John's is a community where our Sunday worship is a focus both for our spiritual journey and our shared expression of faith, and has been a place where we have taken risks and experimented with different content – that continues, as we remain grounded in the liturgy of our Anglican tradition but use prayers from a variety of sources within our Anglican Communion. As part of this we have moved away from having one service built mainly around Iona liturgy – which was repeatedly a less well supported service – to a pattern of seeking to integrate the best of that and other liturgy into all of our services. This is an experiment, and there have been a number of forums where discussions on liturgy have sought to ascertain the most authentic and appropriate way in which to construct our service content and pattern of worship – all of this is always open to discussion, and I hope that all members of the parish feel they can discuss these issues with me as our considerations continue. Though our Sunday Parish Eucharist is only one component of our worshipping life, it is an important one and bears continued attention – we

will not always get it 'right' but we seek to make worship, prayer, and the sharing of sacraments, the heart of our spiritual journey.

### **Development, redevelopment, and building for the future**

As you will read elsewhere, and see presented at the Vestry meeting, a substantial report has been compiled by **Tony Barlow** and our 'Church Building Development Group' which offers some recommendations for our worship space and the Church building as a whole. The discussions will take place through 2016 and beyond as we consider the best way to configure and use our space at St. John's. As part of these discussions we are revisiting the Redevelopment of the wider 'envelope' of the St. John's Property and have decided to put 'on hold' any further work on the plan which was formulated some years ago until we have an opportunity to re-investigate how we use, and could use, the whole of the St. John's property; the Church and Crypt, the Parish House, and the surroundings. The question we will be asking is 'what facilities do we need and can we create to meet the needs of ourselves and the wider community of our City now and for years to come?' Thank you to **Graeme Brown** for leading and for all of those who have been a part of our Church Redevelopment Group, the work you have done will continue to inform our conversations, and I hope will give us a foundation to consider these issues.

### **End Thoughts**

We continue to be a growing, vibrant, active spiritual community. Thank you for all those of you who give so much of yourselves: your time, your money, your energy, your commitment, your prayers, and your love to meet the needs of this living, spiritual community. Thank you that our giving has increased substantially, that we have so much to build on and so many exciting things happening as well as the potential for so much more – 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

The Reverend Jim Holland, Shawnigan Lake School  
Remembrance Sunday – John McLaren & Joan Schultz

## Courses and Lectures Offered

Re-Pitching the Tent - A Study Group – led by Larry Scyner & Tony Barlow

Epiphany Light: Dimming or Gladdening? – led by Bishop Barry Jenks

Education in South Africa – presented by Susanna Peterson

Marcus Borg Book Study

A Spirituality Sampler led by

*Ignatian Spirituality*- Judy Vestrup

*Celtic Spirituality*- The Rev. Canon Herbert O'Driscoll

*The Spirituality of Pilgrimage*- The Rev. Canon Richard LeSueur

*Benedictine Spirituality*- The Sisters of the Sisterhood of St. John the Divine

Lenten Quiet Time: “*Letting Go*” – led by Judy Vestrup

St. John’s Book Study: *Changing the Conversation* –

led by Judy Vestrup and Peggy Wilmot

Anglican 101 – led by Alastair McCollum

PWRDF Spring Workshop

*New “Exploring Faith and Spirituality” Series at St. John’s:*

“Justice and the Poor: What’s Faith Got to Do With It?” – facilitated by Murray Luft

Quo Vadis presents - Interpersonal Connection & Communication

Bell Ringing - #22Days

*Book Study - “The Rebirth of God - Christianity’s Struggle for New Beginnings”*

by John Phillip Newell.

Diana Butler-Bass – “*Grounded: God, the World, and a Spiritual Revolution*”

*Environmental Justice: Seeking a Preferential Option for Creation*

facilitated by Geoff Strong, Dioc. Rep. for PWRDF on Vancouver Island

## Concerts

The Victoria Baroque Players with Kati Debretzeni, violin  
present "War, Folly & Leisure"

Dramatic orchestral works for flutes, horns, and strings,  
by Geminiani, Vivaldi, Telemann, Biber and others

Music for Passiontide and Easter

The Victoria Baroque Players and St. John's Chamber Singers

Recital by Alana Hayes

Victoria Baroque Players: *Summer Baroque*

Chamber works from the golden era of Baroque Music by Bach and Telemann

A Summer Song Recital by Jayne Hammond

Eugene Dowling Scholarship Concert  
with

The Pinnacle Brass Quintet and friends

Victoria Baroque Players: "Surprise Symphony"

Chamber works by Haydn, Mozart, and Stamitz.

Jazz Piano Recital – presented by David Stratkauskas

Music for Advent

Victoria Baroque Players and St. John's Chamber Choir

## Special Events

"Sock Hop" Fundraiser for the Emergency Food Services

Parish Retreat at Camp Pringle

National Aboriginal Day - Blanket Exercise

The Choir of Selwyn College sings Evensong

Young Adult Gathering on the Diocesan Vision

Family Meet-Up at Mount Doug Park



## The Warden's Report

In February 2015, Vestry 2014 saw the installation of four new wardens. **Duane Lecky** was appointed as Rector's Warden and **Penny Holt** as Deputy Rector's Warden. **Jim Harlick** became People's Warden and **Patricia Punnett**, Deputy People's Warden. We replaced **Elizabeth McAuley** (People's Warden), **Barry Salter** (Deputy People's Warden) and **Anne Henderson** (Rector's Warden). The incoming wardens are grateful to their predecessors for their diligence and thoughtfulness and for their personal spiritual gifts.

All four of us were new to the positions as were many of the Parish Council. This was also Alastair's first full term after vestry.

Wardens oversaw a major staff change at St. John's. **Craig Hiebert** left his position as our youth and family ministry coordinator at the end of June, having been ordained as a deacon and appointed to serve at St. Mary the Virgin, Oak Bay. While the parish was thrilled for Craig (and Jackie), our families and parishioners miss his enthusiasm and energy. We have been very fortunate to find an excellent interim family ministry coordinator, **Ruth MacIntosh**. Ruth has considerable experience working with young people in Anglican parishes and also has a long personal connection with St. John's.

In 2015, working with others outside our parish to respond to local and distant needs continued. Our Emergency Food Service (EFS), a.k.a., the food bank, and other social justice ministries have been strengthened by a growing involvement with concerned community members of many different backgrounds. Sharing our support for refugees with our neighbours at First Metropolitan United Church has been a wonderful experience of learning and caring together. Opportunities such as Taizé, Faith in Action and our relationship with the Victoria Baroque Orchestra bring St. John's into contact with other Victorians who nourish and challenge us.

A number of adult educational opportunities were offered in 2015. At least one warden has been involved in each of the following things.

- a parish retreat for all ages at Camp Pringle,
- several book studies,
- a Lenten quiet day,
- a Lenten series on various types of spiritual practice,
- a series on Justice for the poor,
- a fall programme on climate change,
- regular chances for instruction on contemplative practice,
- Sermon circle (a weekly bible study),
- Anglican 101 (a monthly “ask anything about Anglican” gathering) .

Penny worked with the Rector on two smaller but highly effective events, bell ringing in memory of missing and murdered Aboriginal women and an anti-racist graffiti campaign.

We continue to be involved with new initiatives in the diocese. We attended a regional meeting, which familiarized us further with the Diocesan Vision and offered us opportunities for discussion and response. Along with our synod delegates, we attended the 2015 Synod in Nanaimo and helped to pass measures which will begin to provide a financial framework to enable the implementation of Vision objectives.

We are working with a new group regional group of wardens from other parishes, which meets every few months to provide information and support. An example of a recent way in which St. John's helped others was to provide the treasurer's job description recently crafted by Parish Council (in keeping with the Canons) to parishes who are currently looking for a treasurer.

In the longer term, we have been working alongside parish council members to implement the Quo Vadis report. With Parish Council we chose initially to improve communications and connectedness through a number of recommendations contained in an excellent communications report by parish councillor **Joan Huzar**. The committee on parish redevelopment under **Tony Barlow** worked diligently throughout 2015 to prepare an exciting and well-crafted report, which will be distributed and discussed in the coming year.

We are glad to say that we oversaw a year in which our financial situation improved. Givings were up. Investments are doing well relative to the market. Our budgeted deficit was smaller than expected, thanks primarily to the generosity of the parishioners.

Stepping out in faith always involves stumbling. We learned, painfully, that our meetings needed more structure, we needed more transparency, efficient policies, and that there was a fundamental but heartfelt difference of opinion about our governance. The final item resulted in the sad resignation of our treasurer. Fortunately, God has provided us with a new treasurer, and we look forward to working with her.

When you stumble, the important thing is that you get up and try again to travel on the right path. Although it is not coming quickly or easily, we are trying to listen openly to parishioners. Our meetings are more structured, and we are working on policies. Through our communications plan, we are also working on transparency.

We pledged to “assist and support the incumbent by zeal and moral support in all matters affecting the welfare and advancement of the parish.”<sup>1</sup> This, we are trying with all our hearts to do. We are still a work in progress, but we look forward to the pleasures and challenges which 2016 will bring in the life of our parish.

Respectfully submitted,

**Duane Lecky**  
Rector's Warden

**Penny Holt**  
Deputy Warden

**Jim Harlick**  
People's Warden

**Patricia Punnett**  
*Deputy Warden*

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<sup>1</sup> *Constitution, Canons and Regulations of the Anglican Synod of the Diocese of British Columbia*, Regulation 6.8.01,c. (2). 2015.

## REPORT OF STAFF

### The Music Report

The main activity of the music department has been, as always, to support worship through the provision and enabling of congregational and choral music. Most services between September and May (except Iona services) were supported by at least one choir; organ or piano support was provided for every Parish Eucharist through the year and for major Holy Days, including Christmas, Ash Wednesday, Maundy Thursday, Good Friday, Easter, and Ascension. Musical forces were augmented by strings on Christmas Eve, and Brass on Easter morning.

Two choirs continue, the Red (auditioned, with repertoire reflecting the Anglican Choral Tradition) and the Purple (open to all who can sing, with an emphasis on community and somewhat easier music, but still carefully integrated with the liturgy). The Junior Choir was suspended at the end of May; numbers had dropped and the provision of a third choir was also proving a stretch on available resources. A Junior Choir can be an important and worthwhile programme, and if it proves to be a priority for the parish, would be worth revisiting.

MacRae choral scholars for this year (2015-16) are **Rachel Allen** (S), **Alana Hayes** (A), and **Felix Butterfield** (B), all returning; and commencing scholarships this year, **Zander Felton** and **Taylor Fawcett** (T). **Kim Farris-Manning** continues as the Sutton Organ Scholar, now in her third year. The contribution of the Scholars is immeasurable in enabling the presentation of a depth and quality of liturgical music that is quite rare in this part of the world. The Scholarship programmes owe their existence to the vision of former rector Bob MacRae, who remained a supporter of music here even in his retirement, and it is with very great sadness that we note his death this Summer.

On July 19<sup>th</sup>, a particular treat was the visit of the Choir of Selwyn College, Cambridge, under the direction of **Sarah MacDonald**, former parishioner, and daughter of Diana and Bob MacDonald. The choir sang for the Parish Eucharist, as well as giving a concert and singing Evensong at the Cathedral.

Concerts this past year involving the St. John's Chamber Choir (the Red choir augmented by friends from the wider choral community) included 'Passiontide and Easter' in March, and 'Music for Advent' in November, both co-presented with the Victoria Baroque Players, St. John's resident ensemble. The Baroque Players also presented their own instrumental concerts, 'War Folly and Leisure' with UK violinist Kati Debretzeni in January, 'Summer Baroque' in May, and 'Surprise Symphony' in September. These concerts were all musical successes, as well as drawing crowds of between 200 and 300 people.

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.

This year **Sunday Morning DVine** has been busy exploring the stories and traditions of our faith. We are learning about our biblical ancestors through the Re:form Ancestors and Holy Moly curriculum. New this year is a specific **preschool group**. A huge thank you to Darlene Lee for her creativity with these curious monkeys! Our **littlest ones** (babies & toddlers) continue to be cared for by a wonderful team in the nursery.

**EPIC YOUTH** (grades 8+) and **Holy Disorder(HD)** (grades 5+) get together on Friday nights. Sometimes they 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. A huge thank you to the **youth leadership team**: Susanna Peterson, David Brown and Ian Snider!

A group of young people continue to plan for the **IONA YOUTH FESTIVAL**. This pilgrimage will happen in 2017. Seven youth have been very busy fundraising and planning for this trip. They have hosted bar-b-ques, baked pies and held bake sales. Parishioners have been very generous in their support.

This year we have had “**Family Meet-Ups**” in the community. We have marked the changing liturgical seasons in outdoor settings: Advent at Mt. Doug Park, Epiphany at Beacon Hill, and Lent at Beaver Lake. Rain or Shine we met outside to celebrate our connection with God through community and creation.

People of all ages participated in our **Christmas Pageant**. Set-up! Clean-up! Refreshments! Cast Party! Directors! Actors! Over 40 people participated! Family Ministry really does involve all of us!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Ruth MacIntosh*

## **REPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS**

### **Alliance Club**

The Alliance Club is an evening drop-in centre in downtown Victoria. It is available for youth (ages 13-19). It provides a safe, healthy alternative for youth 'hanging out' in the downtown core, and is a connecting point for street entrenched youth who may wish to explore a more positive lifestyle. It comes under the Victoria Youth Empowerment Society.

The Alliance Club provides an evening meal program, snacks with fresh fruit available daily, shower and laundry facilities, hygiene products, onsite visits from Street Outreach Nurses, and some recreational activities including access to computers and the internet.

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 women and men meet in the hall kitchen. 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 meet every second Tuesday of the month. We had 9 meetings with an average of 6 members in attendance.

Members attend the Diocesan meetings held up-Island or in Victoria, 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, and to deepen and strengthen our spiritual lives that lead us into Christian service everywhere.

Even though there are only 8 ACW groups on the Island & 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, 2015		\$127.55
Plus: Receipts		
Voluntary Giving	\$112.75	
9 Memberships	<u>180.00</u>	<u>292.75</u>
		420.30
Less: Disbursements		
1 to go to Dioc. AGM	\$ 60.00	
ACW for 9 memberships	135.00	
Bank Charges	<u>23.40</u>	<u>218.40</u>
Balance on Hand – December 2015		<u>\$201.90</u>

Respectfully submitted,  
*Jennifer L. Ralph*, Treasurer

## Book Club

The Book Club has met every month throughout the year with members submitting choices and taking responsibility for checking the availability of books. Meetings have been held in the Denson Lounge or the Rector's office.

Book choices have been varied and discussion lively. We will miss two of our members – Gretchen and Ruth – in 2016, but welcome any newcomers.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pat Ormerod*

### **Chancel Guild**

The Chancel Guild is made up of 18 members who are responsible for the care and preparation of items used for the Eucharist. Each week we make sure the Sanctuary is prepared for Sunday and weekday services: changing the altar hangings as required, arranging flowers, preparing the vessels and linens for communion and then cleaning them after the service. In addition flowers need to be purchased, candles tended to, bread baked, wine purchased and silver and brass cleaned. We also decorate the church for Christmas, Easter and Thanksgiving and prepare the church for weddings, baptisms and funerals. All these tasks are done with care by our dedicated members.

I would like to welcome **Michael King** and **Lorraine Gates** to the Chancel Guild this year.

I would also like to thank **Susan Mugridge** and **Helen Alexander** for faithfully coming out to make us tea, coffee and a snack when we are decorating the church for festivals.

My thanks go to each member of the Chancel Guild, as they faithfully and quietly go about getting this important job done.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gerry Melville, President*

### **Christmas Bazaar**

Considering the change in venue, the second year of the Christmas Bazaar held in the Church was a success. This was due to the many volunteers who worked tirelessly and gave freely of their time and talents.

Thank you everyone for your help and donations. What a great team!

By continuing the bazaar sales at coffee time and in the office foyer, we were able to increase our overall income to some \$5,200.

We were joined again by the youth group that was able to raise additional funds for their planned trip to Iona.

The bazaar committee and volunteers have requested that Parish Council use part of the proceeds to acquire two new stainless trolleys (food) carts and seriously consider refurbishing a tired Sacristy with new paint and small repairs.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Christmas Bazaar Committee*

## Centring Prayer

The Centring Prayer Group has met regularly on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month during 2015. There has been attendance of between four and twelve participants on any given evening.

There is a twenty minute meditation, reflection on a lection and a discussion of Richard Rohr's book "Dancing Standing Still, Healing the World from a Place of Prayer".

The meetings begin and end with chanting mainly from the Taizé tradition.

As of January, 2016, the group now meets at #606-1035 Belmont Ave at the same schedules times.

Anyone interested can phone 250-920-9953 for more information.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Derek Dunwoody and Rhoda Brodie-Smith*  
Coordinators

## Investment Report

As outlined in last year's report to Vestry, the Investment Committee changed investment managers for St. John's in January 2015. We closed our accounts with **Raymond James** on January 13<sup>th</sup>, realizing the sum of \$1,828,354.49 which was then reinvested with **Leith Wheeler Investment Counsel Ltd.** The motivation for this change of investment managers was to benefit from the significantly lower investment management fees offered by Leith Wheeler. Those fees paid to Leith Wheeler in 2015 totaled \$7,942.19, compared to \$20,505 paid to Raymond James in 2014 and \$19,840 in 2013.

Early in the year, the Investment Committee developed procedures by which funds may be withdrawn from St. John's investment portfolio for duly authorized use of the church. Such withdrawals are initiated by the Investment Committee upon receipt of a Requisition for Funds from Investment Account signed by both the Rector's Warden (or Deputy) and the People's Warden (or Deputy). Two withdrawals of \$50,000 each were made from our Leith Wheeler investment account on February 2<sup>nd</sup> and July 16<sup>th</sup> respectively, for a total withdrawal of \$100,000 from our investment account in 2015.

In addition to the above mentioned withdrawal procedures, the Investment Committee developed, in coordination with Leith Wheeler, procedures for the donation of stock shares and redemption of same. Proceeds from the redemption of donated stock shares are not added to our funds invested with Leith Wheeler; they are forwarded directly to the church by cheque. The Committee also developed and filed Job Descriptions for committee members, and Terms of Reference for the Committee. After minor modification, the latter were approved by Parish Council on January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

The Canadian economy, which is strongly influenced by resource extraction, had a mediocre performance in 2015, growing by only 1 per cent after a technical recession in the first half of the year. A continuing decline in oil prices resulted in a 30 per cent drop in investment by energy companies over the course of the year. In addition, significant economic downturns in major Canadian commodity customers like China adversely affected Canada's exports and overall economic performance. In this environment, the Toronto Stock Exchange ended the year down 11.09% compared to a 9% gain in 2014.

Having started with an initial investment of \$1,828,354.49 in January, our investment account with Leith Wheeler closed 2015 with a balance of \$1,753,068.41, down \$75,286.08, or 4.12%. At first glance, this compares very favourably with the TSX closing down 11.09%, and was partly due to approximately 22% of our portfolio being invested in U.S. Securities where the U.S. dollar was much stronger. Consideration of our year-end balance and portfolio performance must also include our withdrawal of \$100,000 during the year and payment of investment management fees of \$7,942.19. But for those account debits, our year-end balance would have been at least \$1,861,010.60, an increase of \$32,651.11 or 1.79%. In view of market conditions, the overall performance of the TSX and the lagging Canadian economy in 2015, we consider the performance of our investment accounts with Leith Wheeler to have been very satisfactory and beneficial to St. John's. While we acknowledge that we should realistically anticipate further requests for withdrawal of investment funds in the years ahead, we would caution that with interest rates at or near all-time lows, and a generally weak economy in which to invest, St. John's would be wise to maintain a healthy investment balance in order to continue generating sufficient income to cover periodic investment fund withdrawals in support of church operations.

I am indebted to my colleagues **Doug Adderley**, **Pat Anderson** and **Barry Salter** for their individual and collective wisdom on the Investment Committee, and we welcome new member **Heather Lee** who joins us in her position as the new Treasurer for St. John's.

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 over 100 books of very good quality.

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

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary Alford*

## Ministry of Healing

The Ministry of Healing continues at St. John's during Communion at the 10:00 am service at the rear of the Chapel and is available at the end of the 8:00 am service by requesting prayers from the presiding priest.

There has been significant attrition in the Laying on of Hands Team but currently one of the former members is once again available and two more are in training. The team is looking for more members who might be drawn to this ministry.

A Holy Week Healing Service is held on the Tuesday of that week. This service has been very well attended.

During January 2016, a discussion on "The Healing Ministry" was held in the Denson Lounge and was very well attended.

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

### **Moneyboys**

The Moneyboys provide information for the attention of **Catherine MacKenzie, Carol-Ann Zenger** and **Doug Henderson**. This information comes from checking all donations to St. John's, which are assigned to the account designated by the donor. This process is repeated at least 52 times per year and the Moneyboys who do the job are: **John Jenkins, Robin MacLeod, Alan Ormerod, Brian Turner, Doug Turner** and **Barry Salter**.

Ashleigh Roundhill is remembered for his humour and for his meticulous accounting in presenting the bank deposit.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Alan Ormerod*

### **Nursery Report**

The Sunday morning Nursery provides care for babies and children up to age three, who are too young for the Sunday School programme.

A rotation of 18 Volunteers provides two adults each week, who aim to provide supervision and a happy environment, in order that the parents of these children may attend the church service.

During 2015 the average number of children attending each Sunday was a little over 3.

Adults who enjoy young children are welcome to apply as Volunteers. (See Carol-Ann in the office.)

Respectfully submitted,  
*Beryl Roundhill, Coordinator*

### **“Out of the Rain” Night Shelter**

Since 1998 St. John’s has been host to Out of the Rain night shelter for homeless youths ages 15-25. Along with the Out of the Rain Coalition, which includes First Metropolitan United, St. Andrew’s Presbyterian, Congregation Emanu-El (the Synagogue) and Beacon Community Services, youths have a safe warm place to sleep every night October-April. Sites are staffed by two Beacon youth workers who stay the night. A Youth Empowerment Outreach Counsellor and a Clinic Outreach Nurse visit sites once a week.

We have 42 wonderful volunteers who take turns donating a hot supper for 30 or making a hot breakfast, baking goodies, or coming in to serve supper. Many parishioners donate cash, clothing or food as well as using the “Blue Envelope” to help Beacon pay for staff salaries. In kind, the value of meals for the season is \$2,000-\$2,500. The time volunteered cannot be accurately measured, but it is substantial.

On behalf of the many homeless youths we serve, thank you for your love and generosity!

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

### **Primate’s World Relief and Development Fund**

The Primate's Fund is the Anglican Church of Canada's principal mechanism for addressing the needs of marginalized people, in developing countries, and here in Canada. Through relationships with highly competent implementing partners, PWRDF is able to provide effective solutions to concrete instances of poverty and injustice in Asia, Africa and Latin America, both through short-term relief and long-term development strategies. During 2015, PWRDF's investments in over thirty priority projects helped people in impoverished communities to move towards more sustainable livelihoods.

During 2015, the members of St. John the Divine parish have been generous in their support of PWRDF's innovative programming. Funds raised in our parish exceeded more than \$5,350 in 2015. This included monies raised through the sale of Christmas Cards at during the months of Nov. and Dec. 2015. In March, the blue envelopes were dedicated to PWRDF's work. In April, St. John's hosted a training session for PWRDF parish representatives from the diocese. Also, in Nov. 2015, the PWRDF Social Justice Working Group sponsored a two-evening forum entitled: “Environmental Justice: Seeking a Preferential Option for Creation” with Dr. Geoff Strong as facilitator.

Interventions by PWRDF and its various overseas partners during 2015 were divided among the following key sectors and geographical areas:

- Projects aimed at improving global food security, including those linked to the Canadian Food Grains Bank consortium;
- Humanitarian responses to major natural disasters (typhoons and earthquakes);
- Support to refugees in the Middle East and Africa;
- Potable water provision in Canadian indigenous communities;
- Maternal, newborn and child-health programs in sub-Saharan Africa;
- Small scale economic development/micro-enterprise loans in Africa and Latin America;
- Human rights, peace-building and reconciliation initiatives 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.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Murray Luft & Chris Eve*  
 Co-Chairs

### Property Committee

#### **Membership:**

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

#### **2015 Accomplishments:**

2015 was another 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 2015 included:

- The West Windows have been cracking for several years and had become dangerous. These windows have been replaced with a new frame system that can accommodate the safe and reliable installation of an exterior protective window and a stained glass window on the interior of the Church. The exterior protective window has been safely installed which seals the Church from the elements. In the future a new groups within the Church will be formed to evaluate the need and design of the stained glass windows.
- The Property Committee, with the help of others, has evaluated 4 long term maintenance issues and made the following determinations:
  - The highest priority issue is the upgrade of the current sound system in the Church. The current system is failing and replacement parts are not available. The Parish Council has approved, subject to Vestry approval, the inclusion of necessary funds in the 2016 budget to enable the upgrade of the sound system.

- The lighting system in the Church is also nearing the end of its life. The Parish Council have agreed to include in the 2016 budget, subject to Vestry approval, sufficient funds to allow a consultant to help the Property Committee complete a detailed evaluation of the options for the lighting system upgrade and prepare a proposal for upgrade of the system so it can be included in the 2017 budget.
  - The Church organ is in need of major repair and upgrade. As there are many groups within the Church that have a significant interest in this issue, at the request of the Property Committee, the Parish Council has formed an independent task group to evaluate the options available and to make a recommendation of a path forward.
  - The 2 gas boilers in the Church are past their design life. In 2015 a contractor completed a detailed evaluation of the internal workings of these boilers and concluded there is no evidence to support the need for an immediate replacement of the boilers. While it is possible one or both of them could fail at any time, the probability is sufficiently low that the planned repair of these boilers has been delayed for 2 to 3 years,
- A contractor completed the repair and upgrade, as necessary, of the Parish House windows to make them function properly.
  - A contractor repaired or replaced 15 valves in the Parish House hot water system. This enhancements as well as a change in the operating approach for the heating system allows us to better control the heat in the various rooms of the Parish House.
  - Through the use of a dehumidifier and a change in the heating plan for the Crypt, we have been able to better control the presence of moist air in the Crypt and the potential for mold.
  - Additional electrical outlets were installed in the Crypt to allow safer use of the Crypt by the Out of the Rain group.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Pat Anderson* on behalf of the committee

## Receptions Committee

This committee is responsible for receptions at St John the Divine and includes receptions after funerals as well as events after special services and meetings. **Anne Anderson, Joan Huzar, Ann McLaren** and myself take turns being responsible for a month. We have a team of twelve volunteers that we call upon to assist us to set up, serve and clean up after the event. We have developed a handbook to guide us in planning. 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. If you would like to add your name to the list of volunteers please contact me at 250-598-7785.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gerry Melville*

## Redevelopment Task Force

The Redevelopment Task Force consists of the Venerable **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 2014 report of the Redevelopment Task Force recorded that discussions with potential partners (the Trio) had been terminated but new potential partners had been found. Those partners were Pacifica Housing and TL Housing Solutions. Unfortunately, Pacifica Housing underwent a change of leadership when the executive director resigned, resulting in all projects being put on hold until a new executive director was hired.

Dean Fortin was hired into the executive director position in the fall of 2015 and he confirmed Pacifica Housing's desire to continue to work with St. John's to create a housing component on the St. John's site. However, when we approached TL Housing with the news we wished to continue, they informed us that they were already committed to a number of projects and would not be able to work with St. John's at this time.

The Task Force met in mid-January 2016 to discuss how we should proceed given that we were missing a partner with the ability to bring the project to fruition. It is now over six years since this project was originally presented to the congregation of St. John's and given approval to proceed. In that time, there have been many changes at St. John's and the reports developed by the Quo Vadis group and a group looking how we use the existing church facilities may influence how we proceed with the redevelopment project.

The Redevelopment Task Force has made the decision to step back and take stock of all we have achieved, consult with various groups within St. John's, and hopefully come back to the congregation in 2016 with a new way forward.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Graeme Brown*  
Chair

## Refugee Support Group

Victoria Transit Chair Susan Brice said last week “Thank you for what your group are doing for our community”. She asked that her thanks be passed on to everyone involved, so that's all of us in the parish and at First Met. On the motion of the University of Victoria student representative, the Transit Commission unanimously approved free transit passes for all refugees in Victoria arriving after 1 December 2015. When it became clear our newcomers were the only ones excluded because they arrived in September Ms. Brice and BC Transit staff quickly moved to help. Our newcomers now have free access to transit for the rest of 2016.

The First Met/St. John's Refugee Support Group has doubled in size this year. There are 49 people on our email list – of which about 30 are active in one way or another while the rest have asked to be kept regularly informed. You are welcome to join our group or just add your name to the email list by contacting me ([chriseve1946@gmail.com](mailto:chriseve1946@gmail.com) or phone 250-284-8733). We have been meeting monthly as a group, but maybe we are getting a bit big for that so next meeting March 8 there will be a discussion around meeting less often but with a series of smaller committees meeting more often or members working on aspects on their own at home.

In the same way as refugees are screened to come to Canada, so the members of our committee are screened who seek to help them. The Diocese requires for each person working with our newcomers a criminal record check and completion of the new Module 2 training (refugee-specific instruction on cultural sensitivities) or a Sanctuary/Safe Church course in the past three years.

We are blessed to have John McLaren from our parish as chair of the Diocesan Refugee Committee. The Rev. Canon Bruce Bryant-Scott of St. Matthias and Rebecca Siebert are the part-time staff resources. The leadership of John, Bruce, Rebecca and the Diocesan Refugee Committee is responsible for the massive increase in sponsoring groups this year – and they have been successful in engaging with other faith groups who have found a way to work under the auspices of the Diocese which is a Sponsorship Agreement Holder (SAH) with the federal government. In addition to the 40 or so groups working with the Diocese, there are 34 more working with Inter-Cultural Association at 932 Balmoral who are a newly-constituted SAH this year.

Parish Council and First Met's General Council recently approved three more sponsorships. As part of that process I responded to a series of questions posed by Pat Anderson. It was suggested by members of the parish they be published more widely so – lightly edited - here you are.

### **“Refugee Sponsorship” – Further Questions**

#### **Background**

Pat Anderson sent two emails expressing deep confusion about refugee sponsorships after reading three times the report that is on the agenda for the upcoming Parish Council meeting. Pat's questions are in bold type and my replies in regular typeface.

**I have read your report to Parish Council 3 times and I must confess I am still confused. My questions are: 1) Mother son reunification - one person - estimated cost \$9,200 2) LGBT person. It seems to be one person-estimated cost \$27,000 3) Najad parents- It seems to be 2 people estimated cost is \$48,000. Please help me understand why the cost per person varies so much.**

These are preliminary costings only, based on the budget struck for our current sponsorship which is for two adults. Assumptions are made based on our experience of the likely needs of the people we are hoping to sponsor.

The mother-son unification: the main item here is food for one adolescent, with an allowance to contribute to the rent for the apartment we expect Mom will be renting. We expect to have stopped supporting her by the time her son arrives, if we are successful in getting him out of Iran.

The LGBT person has food but also included here is rent for a small apartment, startup costs, a cell phone, and clothing.

Najat and her family: this is a family of five people, mother, father and three children. St. John's sponsored Najad's parents and their four sons in 2010.

**To avoid taking time at the Parish Council meeting, further to my earlier email, please answer the following additional questions: In total, how much money are you asking us to approve?**

None. Parish Council is not being asked to grant any money to the Refugee Support Group. The nominal value of these sponsorships is approximately \$85,000 spread over the next two or three years. Our partners at First Met will be responsible for half of the total. However, \$85,000 is not a helpful figure: there are several reasons why the cash requirement will be much less than that.

For example, the LGBT Syrian budget can probably be substantially reduced because a family in this parish has offered housing free of charge to this person – a budget saving of about \$9,600 – and have the newcomer live in their home with them and their children.

Najat and her family have relatives here in Victoria: we have had no discussions with them yet on specifics because we lack authority to proceed but we do know that the family are very keen that she, her husband and the three small children join them in Canada. So we expect they will participate in some way.

It is also quite possible that the attempt to reunite the mother and son will not succeed because of

- the complexities of Canada's legal requirements to exercise a simple legal right,
- the need to complete a mind-numbing set of application forms and have them with all of the supporting documentation from Iran filed with CIC Winnipeg no later than 17 September 2016 (when Mom's one-year window of opportunity closes)

- the shortage of English-speaking notaries in Tehran who need to witness the father's approval to allow his son to leave
- the lack of diplomatic relations between Canada and Iran (where the boy is now living with his father), and
- the Iranian government's requirement to grant permission for the son to leave.

Kathy Cook from First Met and Ruth Turner from our parish are leading on this. If all of these problems are not solved in time then there will be no need to raise \$9,200 for his support. Either way, we have been advised that even if all the formalities are completed, "it will not be quick" which seems to mean a delay of up to three years.

Council is being asked to approve the Refugee Support Group's programme pursuing these sponsorships and fund-raising to deliver them. If you say "yes" to that the next stages are completion of forms, the development of detailed settlement plans and budgets.

In another part of this agenda Council is also being asked to move the Refugee Blue Envelope to January 2016.

#### **Where do you think this money would come from?**

Since Parish Council is not being asked to provide grants for these sponsorships, I take this question to be "Where is the Refugee Support Group planning to raise the funds to pay for the sponsorships?" This will be handled the same way that it has always been handled at St. John's. The congregation will be asked to contribute through the Blue Envelopes, and by participating in fund-raising events of various kinds.

Supporters who are not members of our church will also be invited to contribute: that might include relatives of the people we are sponsoring, or members of the LGBT community or sympathetic members of the public.

This year for the first time a team of cyclists and walkers from our two churches obtained sponsors and went on the annual "Ride for Refugee". This realised \$5,100 after expenses and was a lot of fun to do. We may well do that again next year.

#### **Is it reasonable to be handling 3 refugee groups simultaneously?**

I am sorry for confusing you: my report clearly identified four refugee groups. One is already here and the other three that we wish to start. And we do not expect to be settling three groups simultaneously.

The first group are the two Afghans who arrived in Victoria on 18 September. The amount of settlement work is intense during the early months but settles into a reduced steady pattern by about month four. We shall be responsible for caring for them till 17 September 2016.

The second group is the LGBT Syrian. We do not have a named candidate yet. Once LGBT orientation has been disclosed during the UNHCR screening process, the UN arranges for

housing away from the camps in a safe house. We expect this application to be relatively speedy and can reasonably hope that this person might be among the 25,000 Syrians aiming to be here by the end of February 2016.

The third group are Najat and her family who have been on our prayer list for some years. This is a group of five people – two adults and three young children. They are in the Jaramana refugee camp just outside Damascus. Earlier attempts in 2014 to sponsor this family under the auspices of the Diocese foundered when the Harper government closed the Canadian embassy in Damascus leaving no way for their application to be assessed, or for medical, security and police checks to be carried out.

The United Church of Canada national SAH (Sponsorship Agreement Holder) working with members of Canada's Foreign Service has found a way to get round these obstacles and we hope to benefit from their experience. If this sponsorship goes forward it may well be through the United Church of Canada national SAH using the same staff who have made this work successfully for other refugees still in Syria. We expect this process to take rather longer with arrival perhaps late in 2016.

The fourth group is the mother-son reunion. The problems with this have already been discussed above. If the application is successfully submitted to CIC within the one-year window of opportunity by September 2016, it could be as late as 2019 before the son arrives in Canada.

So I hope it is clear that

- with the intensity of work involved with the Afghan group dropping off in January 2016;
- with the arrival of the LGBT Syrian possible in February 2016;
- with the arrival of Najad and her family late in 2016 and • the mother-son reunion happening perhaps in 2019 this is a very manageable work load for the Refugee Support Group to take on.

This program was unanimously approved by the Refugee Support Group at its December meeting.

**You mentioned you need more help on your team. How many additional people are required to ensure the program is properly supported?**

There has been no set number discussed. Our two churches handled fundraising for the current Afghan sponsorship rather differently. St. John's raised its half of the budget through the Blue Envelopes, direct appeals to the congregation and small occasional fundraisers (eg marmalade sales).

First Met also made appeals to the congregation, but they had larger more organised events (eg dances) to raise funds in which St. John's parishioners only helped organise in a small way. There is no one among the current St. John's members of the RSG that has fund-raising, PR and event=organising experience together with the time to give to this aspect of the work.

For this to be a 50-50 partnership, more SJD parishioners are needed. This may not entail regular attendance at our monthly meetings if the First Met person organising fundraising attends to provide contact and continuity. Our group is very welcoming. If retiring members of Parish Council are considering new ministries at the end of their term, I hope you will consider the Refugee Support Group.

I have been involved with refugees on and off for 27 years: this is one of the best groups I have ever worked with. I particularly appreciate colleagues from First Met who bring different and challenging perspectives: this is a partnership that is working well.

**Are there other resources you require from the Church organization and community to successfully implement the program you are proposing?**

The Refugee Support Group makes considerable use of the resources in the parish already. If there are other resources needed, you may be sure we will ask. Traditionally in this parish the Refugee Support Group has been responsible for implementing a programme approved in principle by Parish Council. That is what is being asked of you now.

Parish Council is the body the group would approach if there was a major problem. That has not happened since I became chair: the current sponsorship was funded 100% before our newcomers arrived.

For those who are not clear about how the programme actually works, this seems like a good time to acknowledge and thank those on staff who have been key to its success:

- the Venerable Alastair McCollum – always there when needed with a sympathetic ear and good advice;
- Administrator Catherine MacKenzie - always helpful, generates cheques and keeps track of the 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.

Members of the congregation ask after our newcomers regularly, and offer a whole bunch of physical gifts. Some have said “ask me” if there is a specific need that would stretch the bare-bones budget. Two laptop computers, a good pair of new shoes, a new winter coat and annual passes to the Crystal Pool are among the items delivered this way.

Since our 1 December RSG meeting I have talked about the proposals described in these reports and gauged reaction: over a dozen conversations and each time the reaction was “go for it” and no negatives. So I think there is strong appetite for this in our congregation.”

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Eve*

## The Food Bank at St. John's

### *Where does our money come from?*

Thanks to so 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 Associates of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, some other congregations, and many friends of St John the Divine, to a total of \$36,017.

The Sock Hop in May was again very successful, bringing in a net total of nearly **\$7500**. Many thanks to Maggie and Mike Hayes, who, together with Sid Tafler, solicited a record 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 **5067 client contacts**, just slightly more than 2014. In addition to the number of adults, we also provided food for a total of **501 children**. The total expenditure on food and other items (plastic bags, etc.) was \$38,979. This included supplies for Alliance Club cooking as well.

### *Who does the work?*

The EFS is entirely operated by approximately **80 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 picking up groceries from a variety of locations, breaking down bulk items into smaller containers, stocking shelves and/or distributing food to our clients. They provided approximately **3000 recorded volunteer hours**.

### *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, peanut butter, and some of our pulses and grains, while the Canadian Wholesale Club continues to be our supplier for most staple items. We also take advantage of sales at other grocery outlets.

Grace Lutheran was sorry to have to stop providing fresh fruit and vegetables through the Good Food Box, an organization that supports local farmers and provides fresh fruit and vegetables at a reasonable cost year round. However, we have recently been 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.

### ***Is our food bank sustainable??***

Over the past few years(!), there have been some productive conversations with other food banks, as together we look for economies of scale through bulk buying, and more efficient ways to share the windfalls that occur from time to time. These conversations have resulted in greatly improved relationships among the food banks locally, but no concrete action – yet. I am still hopeful! We are anticipating the launch of a website (GiveFoodGetFood) that will allow more timely and equitable sharing of non-perishable food resources that come into our community from a number of sources.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Peggy Wilmot, Coordinator*

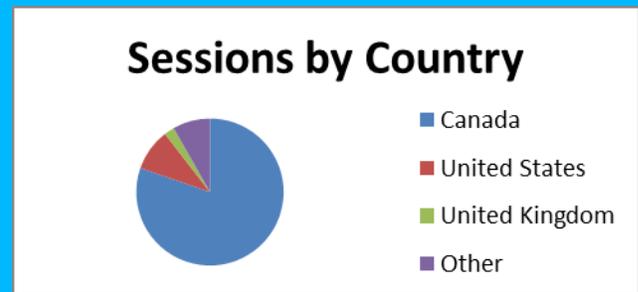
\* It may be noticed that we have changed our name. After over 20 years in operation, and with the majority of our clients being regular users of the Food Bank, it was decided that it was no longer correct to refer to it as “Emergency” Food Service. It is, properly, a Food Bank, and while it is located in the Crypt at St. John’s, it is supported by a wide variety of wonderful volunteers, so we are not calling it St. John’s Food Bank, but rather, The Food Bank at St. John’s. A small distinction, I know, but one that may allow us to engage even more people from outside our own community.

### **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**. We are grateful that Craig 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 has taken over from Pauline as the team privacy clerk. Pauline is still involved as photographer and administrative chores. Jon Punnett has taken over as technical consultant from Craig. Doug Sheepwash has taken over the calendar on the web site, a job that takes many hours every week.

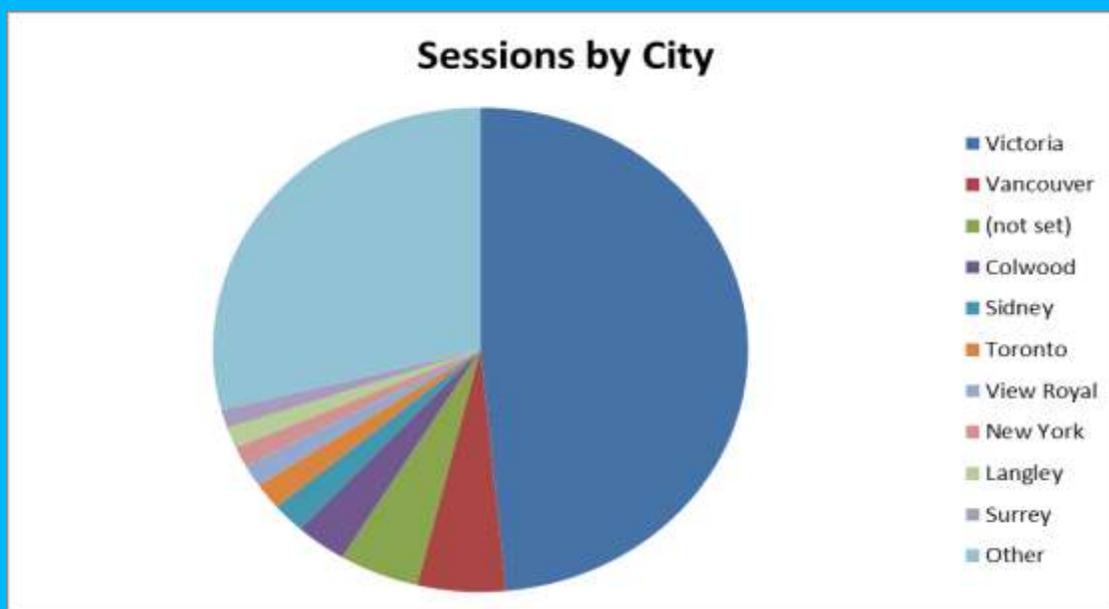
On the Web site in 2015, over 567 pages were created or updated. Visits by country and city are shown in the following tables and pie graphs.

Country	Sessions	%
Canada	12,922	80%
United States	1,483	9%
United Kingdom	363	2%
Other		8%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,093</b>	<b>100%</b>



When the usage stats are viewed by city and country, they suggest that the site is mostly used by parishioners and other locals.

City	Sessions	%
Victoria	7,801	48%
Vancouver	860	5%
(not set)	781	5%
Colwood	499	3%
Sidney	327	2%
Toronto	283	2%
View Royal	231	1%
New York	227	1%
Langley	221	1%
Surrey	198	1%
Other		29%
<b>Total</b>	<b>16,093</b>	<b>100%</b>



The sermons are recorded and posted to Podomatic (<http://stjohnthedivine.podomatic.com/>). They were well used in 2015 as shown in the following table. The table shows how many times the recordings were listened to each month. On average each recording is listened to approximately 43 times.

Month	Number of Times Streamed	Missed Sundays	Number Sundays	Number Sundays	Average
January	104	2	4	2	52
February	106	2	4	2	53
March	177	0	5	5	35.4
April	163	0	4	4	40.75
May	117	2	4	2	58.5
June	157	0	4	4	39.25
July	35	3	4	1	35
August	119	2	4	2	59.5
September	107	0	4	4	26.75
October	138	0	4	4	34.5
November	113	0	5	5	22.6
December	220	0	4	4	55
<b>Overall</b>	<b>1556</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>39.9</b>

Bob McIntosh looks after the parish Facebook and Twitter presentations with contributions from the rector. Since its creation in November 2009, we have tweeted 3,024 times, including 205 tweets this year. We follow 287 other twitter accounts, and have 698 followers on Twitter, 34 more than last year. We have 248 likes on our Facebook page, and have added 49 this year. This means our posts on Facebook will soon show up on the timelines of over 250 people. Most of our posts are typically seen by 200-500 people. One post, about Syrian refugees needing housing, was shared 33 times and seen by more than 2,200 Facebook users. We are taking a slightly different approach to Facebook, posting not only our own events but also sharing posts from other individuals and organizations that we think would be of interest to our followers. We hope this will expand interest in our page and lead to more shares.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Duane Lecky, Webmaster*

## 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, and Margaret Walker**. At the end of 2015, **Enid Luneburg** retired after serving as a Team Leader for more than twenty years, and we extend our thanks and appreciation to her for providing faithful service in this role. We still need to replace her.

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*