

2018

*Church of St. John the Divine*

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*2018 REPORT OF  
THE OFFICERS  
AND  
PARISH  
ORGANIZATIONS  
TO THE 158<sup>th</sup>  
ANNUAL MEETING  
OF  
VESTRY*

*February 24, 2019*

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



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**2018 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	Chris Eve	February 2021
People's Warden	Graeme Brown	February 2020
Assistant Warden	Joan Huzar	February 2019
<b>Parish Councillors</b>		
	Sherrie Allen	February 2019
	Tom Clements	February 2019
	Carol Anne Harper	February 2019
	Elizabeth McAuley	February 2020
	Rod Marsh	February 2020
	Catherine Small	February 2019
<b>Delegates to Synod</b> (1 year term)		
	Sherrie Allen	February 2019
	Graeme Brown	February 2019
	Chris Eve	February 2019
	Joan Huzar	February 2019
<b>Alternates</b>		
	Mark Hanson	February 2019
	Barry Salter	February 2019

**Stewards**

Kate McCabe	Treasurer
Jim Harlick	Offerings Coordinator
Doug Henderson	Data Recorder
Molly Patton	Vestry Clerk
Financial Review	Walter Hundleby

**Staff**

Alastair McCollum	Rector
Kevin Arndt	Priest Associate
Bill Tarter	Priest Associate
Gillian Hoyer	Curate (Jan.-mid April)
Patrick Sibley	Deacon
David Stratkauskas	Director of Music
Ruth MacIntosh	Family Ministry Coordinator
Carol-Ann Zenger	Parish Administrator

**Honourary Assistants**

Barry Jenks (Jan.-June) / Derek Dunwoody / Larry Scyner / Jane Reid

## The Parish Register from 2018

### Confirmation

Aries Benjamin Nason  
Gabrielle Micah Altaire Knudsen  
Elisabeth Margaret Anne Hallsor

### Blessing of a Marriage

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

Fern Leslie Hallam  David William Maier

Anthony James Black  Vedran Karl

Aimee Manette Therese Rawson  Eric Keil Holland

### Deaths

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

Betty Smith  
Margaret "Peggy" Ruth Bush  
Lindsey Maulè  
Raymond Barry Jenks  
Vera Ernestine Wiles  
Jean Radtke (Pollard)  
Carole Evelyn Hardin

## REPORT OF OFFICERS

### Rector

2018 was a year of consolidation, some growth, a lot of learning, and a huge amount of hard work on the part of many people in the Parish. It's been a good year, overall, and progress has been made in many areas, thanks to the diligence, dedication, and grace of the community here at St. John the Divine. I continue to be grateful for the love given to this community, and for the privilege of ministering in this time and in this place for the whole people of God.

#### Organisation and Governance

We continue to pay close attention to how our parish is run and organised – in order that our community is run from and for the values we claim: openness, honesty, realism, compassion and faithfulness. Our Parish Council has worked very hard through this year, and on behalf of myself and of all our community I am grateful for the work of those who are standing down this year having served their terms, thank you also to those who will continue in the coming year, and to those who will be joining council following our Annual Meeting, many thanks for your wisdom, drive and enthusiasm in service of St. John's. Your contributions have been, and are, invaluable. Thank you also to **Molly Paton** for your work as Clerk to Council, for which are very grateful - Molly has had to stand down and we hope for an appointment to Parish Clerk soon.

As we have sought to make our parish organisation more aligned with our values we have sought to create groups which facilitate our activities and stewardship of our resources. In this past year the work of the **Social Justice and Social Action Group** has been invaluable, in educating, co-ordinating, and making our Social Justice/Action a full expression of love at work. Their work, particularly in the Walking Together series, has inspired myself and others within this community to learn about, engage in, and live out the desire for Reconciliation with the Indigenous peoples of these islands and enter into a partnership of healing and learning. I have also been impressed in our partnership with **GVAT** (Greater Victoria Acting Together) that our work of Social Justice has grown and been informed as part of a group of like-minded, action-oriented, organisations.

Our **Liturgy and Worship Group**, ably helmed by **David Stratkauskas** and Rev. **Patrick Sibley**, has taken careful and thoughtful approach to all of our worshipping life, and has (not without some learning curves on all of our parts) sought to engage with how we might be an authentic, expansive, grounded and worshipful spiritual community.

Our **Finance Group** has continued to work towards making the stewarding of our financial resources as robust, clear, and open as possible, and I will say more of that in a moment.

There are so many more groups that have continued through this past year, and so many who offer faithful service in our community, thank you all for your love and dedication to our community and to God's world. It has been a pleasure to work with the Staff Team of **Kevin Arndt**, **Bill Tarter**, **Patrick Sibley**, **Ruth MacIntosh**, **David Stratkauskas**, **Carol-Ann Zenger**, and bookkeeper **Nicolas Michel** to whom great thanks are due also, and our Honouraries **Derek Dunwoody**, **Larry Scyner**, and **Jane Reid**, who offer so much to the life of our parish.

In 2018 it was our great loss as a community to lose our friend and honorary Assistant **Bishop Barry Jenks** who had given so much to our community; he will be remembered with love, affection, and great respect. May he rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

I can't, of course, forget the service of our Wardens, thank you to **Chris Eve, Graeme Brown,** and **Joan Huzar**, for all of your help and wisdom, your good humour, and your support, over the past year, and your unstinting service to our community. We look forward in the hope of adding a new **Assistant Warden** to your number at the coming Vestry meeting.

### **Money Matters**

I want to start with a thank you to **Kate McCabe**, who was for much of the year our Treasurer, until changing circumstances caused her to stand down. She gave an uplifting and challenging presentation at our last vestry, amongst which I was humbled to be reminded "The numbers aren't God, God is God" as we remember that our financial stewardship is just that, stewarding the resources we are blessed and entrusted with. As such our **Financial Group** has done an amazing job of reorganising and reporting our financial reporting, creating a more visible and clearer accountability, and carefully budgeting with clear aims and objectives. We as a community owe a great debt of gratitude to all those who have served and continue to serve on this faithful, thoughtful team.

In this coming year we will continue to work to practical and realistic budget targets, and our presentation and narrative budget document will, I hope, make that clear. This work will go hand in hand with a **Stewardship Group** who will be, in partnership with Wardens, Finance group, property group and redevelopment group will consider our regular giving and stewardship, future projects, and fund-raising possibilities – as well as helping us keep in mind all of our responsibilities of stewarding our time, talent, and treasure.

As I have said before - thank you so much to all of you who give so generously to keep the important work of St. John's going, and our service to the wider community. Yes, we continue to run a deficit budget, but are sticking to our financial goals, and are working hard to have a realistic approach to financing and supporting our ministry now and into the future. And as a reminder, financial information is always available with PC minutes, displayed in the Church following meetings and in the parish office as well as on the website.

### **Partnerships**

One of the exciting developments over my time here at St. John's been to see our growing partnerships with our sisters and brothers in the **Tolmie Region** – in **Youth Ministry**, in fellowship, in friendship. We had **Regional Meetings** in 2018 which made major contributions to the life of our wider Anglican Church here in these Islands and Inlets. It has been a pleasure to see the Wardens of the local Churches gathering to learn, share, support, and imagine together. Particular mention should be made of the ongoing meetings between the **Wardens of St. John's and our Cathedral Parish**, and the shared events we have had, and plan to have with **Christ Church Cathedral**. The purpose of this is to heal past rifts in our communities, as we seek to create two strong communities working to serve the Downtown area. *I think it's important to say that this is NOT an attempt to create a joint parish, but to consolidate a partnership between two of the most influential and lively parishes of the Diocese.*

Our partnerships continue to expand within our wider Diocese – and this year saw a successful, enlivening, and uplifting meeting of the **Synod** of the **Diocese of Islands and Inlets** (aka Diocese of British Columbia). We were challenged to consider how we can work together so that all of the communities which make up our Diocese can be strengthened in their own work and ministry, and that each might enjoy growth in their own unique expression of Anglicanism in this time and place.

One of the major presentations at Synod was the presentation of a Financial Plan for our Diocese, which was wholeheartedly endorsed and offers us incentive to take our own Financial Planning to a new level. Likewise, all parishes of these Islands and Inlets are invited to engage in the **Transforming Futures** initiative, which will be a fundraising package in partnership with our **Synod Officers** and **Diocesan Stewardship Committee** to embark upon a major fundraising initiative for our community. Synod documents, including Transforming Futures details, are all available on the Diocesan Website [bc.anglican.ca](http://bc.anglican.ca)

In the coming months and years I hope we will continue to explore partnerships in the wider church and links with other Parishes and Dioceses within and beyond the Anglican Church of Canada, and the wider Anglican Communion. These partnerships expand our hearts and minds and cause us to look beyond our own particular way of doing and being church, and benefit all members of that partnership.

### **Projects and the Future**

St. John's has suffered from a certain sense of 'how long do we have?' – a sentiment shared with many Christian Communities as the things we have learned to rely on or expect over past decades have undergone great shifts. My feeling is that in this past year or so we have moved from such a sentiment to 'Where next?' – as we build towards being a lively, authentic, expression of spirituality community now, and for years to come.

To that end we have been wrapped up for some years in 'Visioning' and considering the 'Whys' of our community. Now we are moving into a time of Strategic Planning. At Vestry 2018 the community asked for a **Strategic Plan** to be presented at Vestry 2019 – it will be, but is not a closed plan, but a dynamic and moving plan, which I hope will be aspirational and challenging, as well as celebrating the good things about our community. This is not the end of the story, but a new beginning, and an ongoing conversation.

As part of this we have been seeking ways in which to make best use of our built resources and our facilities – including renewing our **Sound System**, and the re-ordering of our Chapel Space. We have seen a huge improvement in the sound for services and events, and our renewed **'Walking Together' Chapel** space is being used in exciting ways by a number of groups and in exploring new ways of praying, worshipping, and meeting together. My thanks go to all those who have given so much time and effort to these carefully thought through and well-planned endeavours. Likewise, as we go into a new year, we hope to proceed with the final phase of our lighting renewal project, and will continue to re-evaluate our worship and event resources as we seek to meet our needs as a vibrant, active, community,

### **Some closing remarks**

There is more that happened in 2018 than I could ever write in a report such as this. I continue to be excited by our life together, by all that we are doing and all that we can do as we consolidate the best of what we do, look forward to our future together, and make the most of all we have. As we continue to be an affirming, welcoming, diverse, spiritual community I pray for vision, grace, and a spirit of love to be the hallmarks of the Anglican Church of St John the Divine.



Our Bishop, Logan, has called us to a **Season of Discipleship** – for many of us this idea may be caught up in some of the church language that has been misused in some circles over time. At heart, however, we are called by the Great Commission to be and to make disciples – meaning not ‘converts’ but those who are exploring and living the spiritual disciplines of our forebears in a way that meets our own needs and the needs of the world today. So, if you hear the word ‘discipleship’ cropping up in the coming year, it will be as we intentionally consider what it means to follow the discipline of Christ in our living as individual followers and as a community of faith.

Again, many thanks for the privilege of leading such a community and sharing this journey together. Thank you for all of you who give so much of yourselves to meet the needs of this living, spiritual community. As I have said before, I look forward to our continued sharing in this journey of faith, hope, and love.

With thanks for our partnership in the Gospel.

Yours faithfully in Christ,  
*Alastair McCollum*

## Guest Preachers / Speakers / Presiders

The Rt. Rev. Logan McMenamie – Bishop of the Diocese of British Columbia  
The Very Reverend Ansley Tucker, Christ Church Cathedral, Victoria  
Flossie Baker, Greater Victoria Acting Together (GVAT)  
The Reverend Peter Pearson, Iconographer, Scranton, Pennsylvania  
The Reverend Dr. Cheri DiNovo, Trinity-St. Paul's United Church & Centre for Faith, Justice & the Arts

## Guest Organists

Esther-Ruth Teal  
Joash Fang  
Neil Cardew-Fanning

## Concerts

Victoria Baroque Players: *Applausi Festivi*  
with Kat Debretzeni, leader/violin

Emily Carr String Quartet

*Music for Passiontide*

Victoria Baroque Players with St. John's Chamber Singers  
A musical offering of Baroque works written specifically for Holy Week.  
Bach: Cantata for Palm Sunday *Himmelskönig sei willkommen* BWV 182  
Pergolesi: Stabat Mater

A Concert for Mother's Day: The Victoria Gospel Choir  
A fundraiser for The Food Bank at St. John's.

Victoria Baroque Players: *Trumpets Shall Sound*  
with Simon Munday, trumpet (UK)  
*A Grand Orchestral Feast for trumpets, horns, winds, and strings.*  
*Music by Telemann, Purcell, Heinichen, Biber, and Handel's Water Music Suites in D & G.*

Victoria Baroque Players: *Bach and Beyond*  
Bach's dazzling Double Violin Concerto with Chloe and Christi Meyers.

Victoria Baroque Players: *Bach in Recital*  
Soile Stratkauskas, flute; Christopher Bagan, harpsichord  
*An intimate recital of sonatas by Bach, Vivaldi and Telemann.*

*A Musical Feast with Ken Lavigne*  
A fundraiser for The Food Bank at St. John's

## **Courses, Lectures and Special Events**

Book Study

Food Bank Volunteer Appreciation

Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper

Lunch with a Point – “Radical Reconciliation”

Reel Thought Movie Nights during Lent

“Amazing Grace”, “The Help”, “Calendar Girls”, “Silence”, “Corpus Christi: Playing with Redemption”

Reel Thought Movie Nights

“The Theory of Everything”, “The Hundred Foot Journey”, “The Women’s Balcony”, “Mrs. Palfrey at the Claremont”, “Goodbye Christopher Robin”, “Millions”, “Quartet”

**Walking Together: A Journey with our Indigenous Neighbours:**

A Program of Learning, Understanding and Respecting the Cultures,  
Experiences and Aspirations of First Peoples

“Walking Together – Stories and their Telling”

Welcome and Opening Address by Florence Dick (CRD Liaison, Songhees Wellness Centre).

“Understanding the Impact of Residential Schools

through the Childhood Art of Survivors and their Stories”

Presenters: Andrea Walsh (Dept. of Anthropology, UVic) and Mark Atleo – (Ahousesht Nation).

“The Present and Lingering Effects of Colonialism and

Racism in Relations Between Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Canadians”

A workshop, based on *Dismantling Racism* (a module of The Anglican Church of Canada);

Facilitator: Patrick Sibley.

“Ways Ahead – Land and Culture and Recovering the Law & Customs of Indigenous Nations”

Presenter: Val Napoleon (Chair of Aboriginal Law & Justice, U. Vic –

Saulteau Nation and Gitksan Nation [adopted]).

Letting History Speak to Us

NFB Documentary: “Duncan Campbell Scott: the Poet and the Indians” with comment and discussion led by Hamar Foster Q.C., (Professor Emeritus, Law, U Vic )

“Ways Ahead: Indigenous Language Revitalization”

Presenter: Jacqueline Jim (SENCOTEN Language Teacher, WSA NEC Nation)

“The Journey Continues: Where From Here?”

Bishop Logan McMenamie will preach.

Guess Who’s Coming to Dinner

Maunday Thursday Potluck and Parish Eucharist  
Instructed Eucharist  
Sunday Reflections  
Parish Eucharist for Ascension Day  
Confirmation  
Parish Picnic / Barbecue  
Annual Spring Clean-Up  
“WHY” – A Visioning Time for Our Parish – part 3  
Franciscan Spirituality Workshop – led by Bill Tarter  
Special Vestry Meeting: Demolition of Cornerstone Cottage  
Pride Evensong  
Art & Soul Group  
Welcome Back Barbecue  
Safe Church Workshop  
Orange Shirt Day with St. John’s Community Breakfast  
Special Vestry Meeting: Lighting in the Church  
The Order of the Diocese of British Columbia: Recipient – Penny Holt  
St. John’s Court Society Special Vestry: Amendments to Constitution and Bylaws  
Faith in Justice Study Series:  
Speaker: Bernie Pauly – *“Responding to Homelessness: Do Our Actions Match Our Words?”*  
Speaker: Joel Durkovic – *“Moving Toward and Through conflict: Some of the Nitty Gritty*  
Icon Writing Worship with Peter Pearson, Iconographer  
Bells for Peace – Marking 100 Years since WWI ended  
Regional Wardens’ Meeting  
An Evening of Jazz, Wine and Friendship  
in partnership with Christ Church Cathedral  
St. John’s Christmas Bazaar and Luncheon  
Evensong & the Commemoration of the Faithful Departed  
Theme for month of November – “Journey of Healing”  
*Healing and Sanctification: A work in Progress*  
*For the Healing of the Nations*  
*When Things Fall Apart*  
*A Kingdom of Shalom*

Big Band Concert and Dance Fundraiser

Healing Service

Advent Quiet Day with Bill Tarter

## The Warden's Report

As is the norm, 2018 has been a very busy year in the life of St. John's and the wardens have been involved in many areas. Meetings with the rector are held twice a month as well as ad hoc meetings as required. The wardens also share chairing Parish Council with the rector and chair, or participate in a number of committees, such as Refugees, Finance, Property and Redevelopment.

In 2018, the wardens have put particular emphasis on the parish's financial situation and the need to get the church on a more sustainable footing as well as improving the financial reporting to the parish. The Finance Committee has made great strides in both those areas in 2018. Unfortunately, in late 2018 our treasurer **Kate McCabe** resigned in order to concentrate on her new job. Kate achieved a great deal in her term as treasurer and we are very grateful for her hard work. The rector and wardens have appointed **David Buckman** as our new treasurer and the warden's look forward to working with him in 2019. David brings experience as a treasurer at another parish as well as many years' service on various diocesan committees.

In order to assist in improving St. John's financial position, a Stewardship Committee has been formed with **John Bergbusch** as chair. We look forward to the work of that committee. A strategic planning exercise was started in the second half of 2018 to clarify the mission of St. John's over the next few years. This plan will also help guide both the Finance and Stewardship committees in their work.

The lease with Pacific Opera Victoria was renewed in November 2018 for a second five-year term. Rental and parking fees were re-negotiated as well as annual increases in each year of the contract. Thanks to **Bill Huzar** and **Andrew Gates** for participating in the lease renewal process.

One of the roles of the wardens is to 'ensure that all properties belonging to the parish are in repair'. We are pleased to report that a number of projects in 2018 helped ensure we are being good stewards of our property. The Chapel was renovated and has become a popular meeting space while still fulfilling its role as a chapel. The Mason Street cottage was demolished as it had become an eyesore and was in a dangerous condition. At year-end, work was starting on improving the church lighting. Thanks to the many people who worked to ensure these projects were successful.

The wardens and Synod delegates attended Synod in September. It was a Synod focused on the work of the diocese, and in particular, the funding needed to support that work. The Transforming Futures fundraising campaign will be a joint parish and diocesan campaign and the wardens are discussing how and when St. John's will start our campaign.

Meetings with the Christ Church Cathedral wardens continue to be a regular event where we discuss common issues as well as exploring areas where we can work together. One of the first joint events we held was a very successful Jazz and Wine evening. We are planning further events in 2019.

We wish to thank the congregation for the wonderful support they have provided us over the year. We encourage the members of the congregation to bring us your concerns, comments and suggestions so we can work towards St. John's being a welcoming environment for all to worship, learn and contribute.

Respectfully submitted,

**Chris Eve**  
Rector's Warden

**Graeme Brown**  
People's Warden

**Joan Huzar**  
Deputy Warden

## REPORT OF STAFF

### Deacon

Dear friends in Christ,

No one can ever tell me that life in Ministry is boring or slow. Challenging, unique, surprising, joyful, painful and completely unpredictable are often most accurate. More challenging in an increasingly syndical and secular world where expressions of faith and belief can actually get you immediately labeled a fanatic.

I was surprised to find out I am in fact a fanatic, and this parish has helped me unlock that part of myself from the bystander to the believer and moreover a vocal one, with a huge desire to show those who continue to usurp the true message of the Christian church. The message of inclusion for all, no judgements or expectations of anything but love and acceptance, compassionate listening, standing up for truth and action over words. Not a “members only” institution with a list of expectations and checklists and standards to prove before one is welcomed here.

There is something more powerful about a community that walks ahead, takes risks and puts complacency to the test. The most outstanding event to me in this last year that showed that message loud and clear was the walking together series. The huge turnout for all events, the research that justice group members did to make sure we were authentic and sensitive as well as truthful about the Church’s past wrongs. Alongside that the new chapel space emerged soon to be graced with artwork that will begin to move us forward from reconciliation with the First Nations community, to a spirit of friendship new relationship.

At the end of the series **Bishop Logan** preached a powerful message and challenge to this community to continue to use its special place to remain in front and on the edge of change in the Anglican church and to challenge the secular world the examine itself. This kind of authenticity in faith communities can often get lost in people who promote self over community. I don’t believe that kind of thinking is an issue here. For me that is a gift that I could never return.

Two other life changing events that took place here for me this past year were, the **Marriage of Anthony and Vedran**, this past August. The message we sent out to the wider church by this community was that Love is Love, change to marriage canon or no change the time for inclusion is now. Fear and hate have no place here. Those of us who attended this wedding were both humbled and proud. Love won and there was no doubt in my mind that the Holy Spirit was present at that event. The second was the loss of **Bishop Barry Jenks**. As a community it was difficult to lose someone so humble and quiet but whose presence was an anchor. The celebration of his life was again a moment I will carry as a reminder that humble service is why we enter ordained ministry.

I could list a detailed list of events that would fill up pages but instead of that I will say that a truly active and alive parish is not one that is trying to survive, it is one that is authentic. Here we are authentic, not bound by the chains of our past but freed to care about one another, about how we worship, how we serve beyond worship to the wider community both here in our neighborhood but also the example of change.



The gift of that authenticity has formed me, has nurtured me and has supported my journey of faith. The staff here, my clergy colleagues, the wardens, the committees that serve, the generous and open-minded willingness of everyone to challenge our own beliefs and see the hand of God working in all of us.

Going forward we will continue to be who we are and to continue our work toward the common goal of bringing the true message of Christ to the church and beyond. There is something Holy here. We can't and won't be complaisant. It's not who we are.

Thank you for helping me to walk, stumble, and overcome fear and unseen challenges. And try to live out the vocation I have been called to. I look forward the surprises and adventure that lie ahead.

Respectfully submitted, *Patrick Sibley*

### **The Music Report**

As always, supporting the Liturgy at St. John's remains the focus of the music programme, primarily at the weekly Parish Eucharist, but also at the monthly Evensong and other major seasonal services. Beyond this, the music programme fulfils a community role in presenting concerts, providing experience for young singers and organists, and stewarding the living heritage of musical/liturgical practice and the physical heritage of our nationally-significant pipe organ on behalf of the church and wider communities. 2018 has been a full year, active in all these areas.

#### **THE PARISH EUCHARIST**

Music has, as is our custom, been provided for every Sunday 10am service, ranging from, at a minimum, organ-supported congregational music on certain summer Sundays and the First Sunday of Christmas, through to full choral masses with instrumental ensemble, such as at Christmas Midnight Mass. The general model has remained the same as the previous year, with one of our two choirs singing at the Parish Eucharist from September through June; but an innovation this year was the introduction of cantors on most Summer Sundays to sing the psalm and alleluia, thus lessening the contrast with the 'high season'. Feedback has been generally positive, and we will try to continue or expand this in the coming year. One other subtle change has been the increasing use of music for congregational responses in the Eucharistic Prayer, such as the Memorial Acclamation and the Great Amen.

#### **EVENSONG**

Choral Evensong continues to be offered on a monthly basis, including through the summer, sung by the Choristers. This service is surprisingly popular (sometimes more than 20 people in

the congregation, plus choir and clergy) despite limited publicity. We are one of a small number of Parishes in Canada - indeed, fewer than a handful in Western Canada - which offer a full Choral Evensong on a regular basis.

### **SPECIAL SEASONAL SERVICES**

A quartet of Choral scholars sang choral music at Ash Wednesday; the Choristers sang at Maundy Thursday; on Good Friday we heard the John Passion sung in the plainsong and polyphony of T. L. di Victoria; on Easter Morning we welcomed the Pinnacle Brass; and on Ascension Day the choirs of Christ Church and the Choristers of St. John's sang at a combined service at St. John's (in 2019, this will hopefully happen again, at the Cathedral). The choirs of St. John's and the Cathedral also joined to sing at the memorial for **Bishop Barry Jenks**, whose wise presence will be missed.

As the new Church Year started, we offered an Advent Procession on Advent Sunday evening; and on the Third Sunday of Advent, the Lesson and Carols (followed by refreshments, thanks to **Joan Huzar** and **Carol-Ann Zenger**). Both services offered an opportunity for the Choristers to sing a range of repertoire, from old choral favourites to pieces by contemporary composers such as Michael Finnissy. Planning the liturgies for these services is a deeply satisfying endeavour. Christmas Eve saw the Rev'd **Patrick Sibley** at the organ for the 4pm service, the Community Choir lending a lovely festive air to the 7pm, and the Choristers and a small string ensemble singing a Mozart mass at the 11pm.

### **CONCERTS AND ENSEMBLES**

Our ensemble-in-residence, the Victoria Baroque, again presented a series of critically-acclaimed and well-attended concerts, including collaboration with St. John's in March, entitled Music for Passiontide, featuring the St. John's Chamber Choir (the Choristers in concert mode) and many of our Choral Scholars as soloists. Victoria Baroque concerts bring people and profile to St. John's and its music resources, and have helped rebuild a respected reputation for us in Victoria's classical music community, as well as bridges with the arts community.

Other groups that benefited from relationships with St. John's include the Emily Carr String Quartet which presented several concerts here; the GVYO, whose office is in the basement and who held rehearsals in the Parish House on many Saturday mornings; and Vox Humana Choir, who rehearse weekly in the Nave.

### **CHOIRS, CHORAL SCHOLARS, AND ORGAN SCHOLARS**

We continue to support two choirs at St. John's: the Choristers, which depend upon significant choral experience and strong music-reading skills; and the Community Choir, which aims to provide a place for all who love music and wish to contribute their voice. Both choirs include long-standing members of the congregation as well as people drawn to St. John's for the singing; the Choristers also include amongst their twenty singers seven students from the University or Conservatory, four of whom are MacRae Choral Scholars.

For the 2018-19 season MacRae Choral Scholarships were awarded to **Alana Hayes**, **Nolan Kehler**, **Felix Butterfield** (all returning) and **Anne van der Sloot**. The MacRae fund is a fundamental part of the music making at St. John's; not only does it help us to maintain a choir of exceptional ability, but the scholars gain invaluable musical skills, plus experience in Anglican choral music and liturgy. Recently-graduated scholars include **Rachel Allen**, studying voice at

the U of T and singing at St. James Cathedral, Toronto; and **Matt Brown**, reading music at Bristol University, who holds the organ scholarship at St. Mary Redcliffe. Indeed, thanks to the MacRae and Sutton funds, St. John's has become something of a significant locale for the training of future church musicians. Since January 2018 the Sutton Organ Scholarship has been held by **Ethan Hill**, who has rapidly become an organist of formidable ability.

One other development for the Choristers concerns their choir dress: in the summer of 2018 **Betty Miller** and **Barb Martin** sorted through the choir robes to assess what we had, and mended some of our decades-old red cassocks. The 2018 budget included \$1000 earmarked for replacing these, which combined with an anonymous donation of \$2000 from a few years ago, finally allowed us to order a set of new cassocks. These will arrive in early 2019, and be augmented by a few spares as funds permit.

### **LOOKING FORWARD**

We are hoping to maintain essentially the same music programme through 2019, including our two choirs, scholarship programmes, and concerts, mindful of the pressures on church finances. However, there is an imperative to raise money for the MacRae fund if we are to continue to support our choral scholarship programme in future years. In the meanwhile, in trying to manage the general church budget, we are eliminating professional development and cutting back on music purchase in 2019.

Larger concerns include refurbishing our pipe organ (a sudden failure in the console pneumatics was patched up by our organ technician in the summer, but can be considered indicative of the need for major work soon) as well as the ongoing difficulties created by our rather inadequate and outdated programme spaces (e.g., no rehearsal or vesting spaces). It is fervently hoped that in the coming visioning and redevelopment processes a rationalisation of our use of space in the Parish House - and as an ideal, a more substantial redevelopment - will yield better-suited programme spaces for all the activities at St. John's.

### **A FINAL NOTE**

It is a privilege and a great pleasure to make music in such a dynamic community as St. John's; few places give the opportunity to offer the variety and types of music that we do. I am grateful for the support of the congregation, and for their desire to hear challenging and meaningful choral and organ music, and especially for their amazing voice so evident during the fulsome singing of the hymns and liturgical music Sunday by Sunday.

Respectfully submitted,  
*David Stratkauskas*

## REPORT OF ORGANIZATIONS

### Alliance Club

The Alliance Club is a drop-in centre that offers youth ages 13 to 19 safe, healthy alternatives to hanging out in the downtown core. It also provides a connecting point for street-entrenched youth who wish to explore a more positive lifestyle. Services include one snack a day, an evening meal, shower and laundry facilities, access to free clothing, internet access, and some recreational activities. Emphasis is on assessing youths' needs, and providing short-term counselling and referrals to connect youth with appropriate resources.

St John's has support the Alliance Club for over 20 years by providing casseroles to supplement their evening meals. A group of 8-12 people gather on a semi regular basis to cook and freeze 16 large casseroles that are then picked up by Alliance Club staff. Our food is always received with grateful thanks.

If you are interested in joining our group, please call me @ 250-598-7785.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gerry Melville*

### Anglican Church Women

We meet every 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month. We had 7 meetings with an average of 5 members in attendance.

This year on October 31<sup>st</sup> some of us went up to St. John's, Duncan to help pack 16 large boxes that went up north. The boxes are packed with knitted items, sewn items, toys and other gifts to help the needy up north.

Our meetings always open with a Bible reading and prayers. Our meetings end with prayer 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 is only 6 ACW groups on the Island & Gulf Islands, we are still able to knit and sew enough clothing items and bedding to send 16 large boxes up north every year.

NEW MEMBERS ARE ALWAYS WELCOME!

Respectfully submitted,  
*Elizabeth Elgin, Recording Secretary*

## ACW – Financial Report

Balance on hand – January 1, 2018		\$259.40
Plus: Receipts		
Voluntary Donation 5 x \$5	\$ 25.00	
Voluntary Giving	<u>81.35</u>	<u>106.35</u>
		365.75
Less: Disbursements		
Postage for boxes sent up North	\$ 100.00	
Towards Pledge for far north	<u>100.00</u>	200.00
Balance on Hand – December 2017		<u>\$165.75</u>

Respectfully submitted,  
*Elizabeth Elgin, Treasurer*

## Book Study

The St. John's Book Study which has been meeting since 2006 continues to have energetic discussion every Monday afternoon from 2:00 to 3:30 pm in the Chapel. There are about eighteen people who have been attending on a regular basis. The books are chosen by the group and have varied greatly over the years. We are currently reading "*The Sunrise of Wonder, Letters to My Grandchildren*" by Michael Maine. More recently we have read "*The First Paul*" by Marcus Borg; "*The Great Spiritual Migration*" by Brian D. McLaren; and "*Christianity's Dangerous Memory*" by Diarmud O'Murchu.

Everyone is welcome to attend these sessions.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Kingsley Payne and Rhoda Brodie-Smith*

## Chancel Guild

Chancel Guild has the responsibility to care for and prepare all items required for our services, including the purchase of flowers, wine, wafers and candles. Twelve members arrange flowers and prepare the Sanctuary and all items required for the Eucharist services. In addition, ten members care for the linens, three members bake bread and six members polish brass and silver. The Guild decorates the church for Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas services. This work is done faithfully, with quiet dedication.

We thank **Susan Mugridge** and **Helen Alexander** for preparing refreshments for the Guild members while we decorate the Church for festivals. We thank **Wendy London** for her many years of service in the Guild.

Chancel guild would welcome any parishioners interested in participating in our work. My thanks to all Guild members for their service in our shared ministry.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Anne Anderson*, President

## Christmas Bazaar

The bazaar took place in the nave of the church on December 8<sup>th</sup>. As always, many months of planning and organization preceded the three set-up days immediately prior to the sale. Working together on this project results in the engendering of fellowship and community among the volunteers. However, amidst the congeniality and cooperation I detected some quiet grumbling and a few of the volunteers approached me directly about certain concerns that they held regarding the event. With this in mind I held a meeting on January 8<sup>th</sup> so that these issues could be discussed. Seventeen volunteers attended and we covered many pros and cons regarding the future of the annual bazaar. Some of the major concerns were the advancing age of the workers, the transporting of heavy items up and down the stairs to the crypt, the unavailability of the hall, and lack of storage space. The wonderful luncheon has always been very popular so we were sad to learn from **Chuck** that he and **Gary** would be unable to provide this in the future. The number of patrons appeared to be down this year, particularly during the final two hours. We wondered if this was due to the fact that we held it a few weeks later hence after there had been many other similar sales. The general consensus within the group was that there might be other ways to raise money. **Sue Fraser** has offered to form a group to consider alternative fundraising ideas that will be brought to the committee so that we can make a decision, before Easter, regarding the future of the Christmas Bazaar.

The first event like this to be held at St. John the Divine was the "Centennial Fair" which took place on September 30<sup>th</sup>, 1967. Many long-time parishioners were quite alarmed at the concept of such a fundraiser because "We have never done anything like this before". However, they adjusted to the idea and the sale was a huge success, and became an annual event. As someone at our meeting asked, "Do we keep holding the bazaar because we have always done so?"

Financial report – with sincere thanks to **Joel Hefty**.

Final Bazaar total	\$5430.00
Jewelry sold to Old N Gold	<u>\$1998.00</u>
Grand total	<u><u>\$8,385.00</u></u>

Respectfully submitted,  
*Heather Baker*

## Finance Committee

This is the Finance Committee's second report to Vestry, and as I said last year, "The goal for the coming year is the better understanding, communication and transparency of the parish finances and the development of a long-term plan for our financial health."

I can report that we have worked to fulfill those goals, with some success.

The Committee has met at least monthly over the past year, has reported regularly to Parish Council and worked with the Treasurer and Bookkeeper to ensure that our finances are in order and properly accounted for.

The following are the tasks we have undertaken:

- categorizing and organizing the "Chart of Accounts", the way we record our financial transactions
- documenting current financial procedures and developing policy around financial matters as appropriate
- helping to complete the Parish Annual Report to the diocese, and in the process, thanks to attention to detail, found St. John's was entitled to a \$17,000 refund from the 2017 report
- posting monthly financial statements on the church bulletin board and on the web site after they are presented to Parish Council
- producing a quarterly report summarizing the financial situation of the parish
- overseeing the Investment Committee (which is reporting separately)
- presenting to the parish a statement of the investment funds at mid-year
- tracking the Externally Restricted Fund Balances to ensure we understood the intent of each fund and how monies from each fund were to be used
- investigating the restricted investment funds that pay for the choral and organ scholars at St. John's, the McRae and Sutton funds, to ensure that appropriate funds available are used properly
- working with the parish administrator on an ongoing basis to reduce costs
- drafting a 5-year financial plan and presenting it to Parish Council
- ensuring the books were in order for year-end
- developing, in consultation, a budget for 2019 for approval by Parish Council and presentation at Vestry.

We were saddened by the resignation of treasurer **Kate McCabe** in the fall, we miss her knowledge, wisdom and joy. Thanks to the expertise of members of the committee we were able to take over oversight of the bookkeeper and general financial matters of the church. We very much appreciate the work our bookkeeper has done to keep us on track. With the addition of **Sandi Austin** to our ranks, the committee is now at its mandated membership (2 wardens, 3 parish members plus the incumbent and treasurer). We look forward to the new treasurer joining the group.

The Finance Committee continues to work to fulfill its mandate, to ensure our finances are in order and to seek to bring us into a financially sustainable position over the next few years.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Joan Huzar, chair*



On behalf of the Committee:

Sandi Austin, Graeme Brown, Joel Hefty, Marilyn Kertoy, Alastair McCollum

## Investment Report

The Investment Committee reports through the Finance Committee to Vestry. Our members oversee the parish's investment portfolio and its management, meeting several times per year to review performance, discuss strategy, and consider alternatives. Funds are managed by Leith Wheeler. A management arrangement with the Diocese and the Cathedral affords our parish favourable fees; in 2018 **management costs were 0.48%**. Wardens determine any withdrawals, and these may only be deposited into the parish's bank account.

During 2018 the Committee, with the consent of the Wardens and the Finance Committee:

- revised the parish's instructions to our investment advisor to reduce interest rate risk in the bond portfolio – see **Table 1** for 2017 and 2018 portfolio composition;
- monitored performance of investment holdings – see **Table 1** for summarized returns.
- requested to receive interest and dividends from the investment portfolio in cash, yielding nearly \$82,000 – see **Table 2** for reconciliation of the book value;
- implemented a formal written procedure for Wardens to request withdrawals; and
- facilitated withdrawals of \$90,000 to meet cash flow needs of the Parish – see **Table 2**.

**Table 1 – Market value fund allocation and return summary**

	<b>2018</b>	<b>Return</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>Return</b>
Bonds	38%	1.5%	34%	3.0%
Canadian equity	30%	(11.4%)	35%	10.1%
US equity	13%	(2.2%)	20%	10.4%
Int'l equity	9%	(6.6%)	10%	19.7%
Corporate bonds	5%	1.8%		n/a
Multi-credit	5%	(4.9%)		n/a
Cash & Equivalent	0%		1%	
<b>Total</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>(4.3%)</b>	<b>100%</b>	<b>8.9%</b>

*Source: Leith Wheeler reports*

Despite a difficult fourth quarter of 2018 which led to losses for the year, our investment portfolio provided important income to meet the parish's cash needs.

**Table 2 – Value & Cash Summary**

	<b>Book Value</b>	<b>Cash received</b>	<b>Market Value</b>	<b>Unrealized Gain/(Loss)</b>
<b>Year-end 2017</b>	1,713,768		1,829,742	115,974
Cash interest/div.		81,946		
Reinvested int./div.	200			
Realized cap. gains	26,757			
Withdrawals	(90,000)	90,000		
Fees paid	(8,074)			
<b>Year-end 2018</b>	<b>1,642,651</b>	<b>171,946</b>	<b>1,576,271</b>	<b>(66,380)</b>

*Amounts in C\$*

*Source: Leith Wheeler reports*

Our portfolio can still be used to help bridge gaps between expenses and givings; however, the funds available for withdrawal are limited. Only unrestricted surplus and **some** internally restricted funds may be withdrawn. **Figure 1** illustrates the declining supply of funds which can be withdrawn to meet shortfalls.

**Figure 1 – Parish Funds by broad Category**



Amounts in C\$000s  
financials

Sources: 2016 & 2017 Vestry Reports, Pre-CPA 2018

The Investment Committee relies on its members for their financial acumen and thoughtful oversight. We are therefore grateful to the members who served during the year, especially:

- **Patrick Anderson** and **Doug Adderley** who have stepped back from their responsibilities but whose leadership, advice, and perspective have helped to shape current strategy;
- **Joan Huzar** and **Barry Salter**, who continue to serve and provide wise counsel; and
- **Robin MacLeod** and **Duane Lecky** who joined the committee in 2018 and who bring a wealth of experience and parish perspective.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joel Hefty, Chair

## 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 receiving quality books of recent vintage.

I thank **Larry Scyner** for regularly culling the books, **Betty Miller** for cataloguing the collection, **Jennifer Wheeler** for keeping the collection in good order and **Duane Lecky** for placing the catalog on St. John’s website. The catalog can be found at

<https://www.stjohnthedivine.bc.ca/ministries/faith-in-formation/pages/st-johns-library>

It is searchable.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Mary Alford*

### **Ministry of Healing**

The Ministry of Healing continues to pray with and for people in the vestibule in the Quadra street entrance every Sunday at the 10:00 AM service. This location is working better than previous locations we have tried as it is quieter. There still is a problem with individuals trying to leave through that entrance when prayers are in progress. We have been trying to address this issue by having someone at the door to ask that people who would like to leave early leave through one of the other doors.

This year we have been blessed to have **The Rev'd Bill Tarter** join the clergy support along with **The Ven. Alastair McCollum** and **The Rev'd Derek Dunwoody**.

We have had a support meeting with the Prayer Ministry and Pastoral Care Team and have held two Prayer Circles in the Chapel.

There are seven individuals on the Team and we would like to have an opportunity to include others in this important Ministry.

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

### **Moneyboys**

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

The Moneyboys wish to extend our appreciation to **Alan Ormerod** for his many years of dedicated service.

Membership includes: **John Jenkins, Robin MacLeod** and **Doug Turner**.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Robin MacLeod*

### **Nursery Report**

The purpose of the Nursery is to provide care for children aged 0 to 3 while their parent or caregiver attends the 10 a.m. service.

Two adult attendants look after the children from 10 a.m. until the parents come to fetch their children to take them to the Eucharist.

The Nursery is well-equipped with age-appropriate toys and books. It is available every Sunday, even though in recent months attendance has been almost 0.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Beryl Roundhill*, Coordinator

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

Out of the Rain night shelter for homeless street youths has been a St. John’s mission for nearly 20 years. It is run on a completely volunteer basis, with no budget. All food, clothing and money is donated and 36 volunteers make sure that our “kids” are well looked after for the 27 Monday nights during the winter months. We have folks making hot suppers, and a supply of cookies and muffins for breakfasts. Beacon Community Services provides 2 outreach workers who stay the night to look after the needs of those sleeping in our Crypt .The Blue Envelope offering helps to pay their salaries.

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

### **Pastoral Care Team**

A Pastoral Care Team of lay and ordained members was officially commissioned on March 18, 2018 and our ministry of reaching out to and visiting people at home, in care and retirement homes and in hospital officially began. It is our purpose to intentionally bring the SJD community to you through our presence, prayer, and Communion.

Our Team presently includes **Sandi Austin, Elizabeth McAuley, Bill Ashwell, Barry Salter, Beryl Roundhill, Chris Eve, Grant Crosswell, Jane Reid, Patrick Sibley, and Alastair McCollum.**

As team members we have engaged in a number of training workshops as well as in-house training. We meet once a month as a team for sharing, ensuring we are meeting with everyone who has requested a phone call or visit, and endeavouring to make sure, to the extent possible, that we are not missing anyone. All members of the team are committed to your privacy and confidentiality, and that nothing shared with us will go beyond our visit or phone call unless you have given your explicit permission.

Anyone wishing a phone call or visit is invited to contact the office at 250-383-7169 or send an email to [pastoral@stjohthedivine.bc.ca](mailto:pastoral@stjohthedivine.bc.ca). Urgent requests should be directed to the on-call cell phone at 778-678-6873.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Sandi Austin* on behalf of the team

## Primate's World Relief and Development Fund

This year, the Anglican Church of Canada's PWRDF, celebrated 60 years of service to the world's poor! PWRDF, which began following the **Spring Hill, N.S.** mine disaster in 1958, has since grown to become an effective, world-wide relief and development program. St. John the Divine has been an active and enthusiastic partner in PWRDF's work for many years.

In 2018, our parish members have generously supported PWRDF -- through the **Blue Envelope Program** (March 2018), **Christmas Card sales** (35 packets were sold in Nov./Dec.), the **Will/Legacy Program**, **The World of Gifts**, and **Special Emergency Appeals**. Contributions to PWRDF via our Blue Envelopes and designated offerings totalled over \$5,000. Many St. John's members also contributed by sending their donations directly to the Anglican Church of Canada's office in Toronto. Generous parish members responded to emergency appeals, including the **BC Wild Fire Fund** in the summer. We promoted the work of PWRDF in March with display boards, bulletin insets, live announcements and making ourselves available for information at coffee hour. We always use PWRDF-focused place mats whenever there is a meal. Finally, our Church-school children became more engaged with PWRDF's work in 2018, as they learned about its programs and raised money through The World of Gifts campaign during Advent. They are well on their way to buying a whole farm by Easter!

PWRDF's dedicated staff in Toronto keeps overhead and administrative expenditures low. They promote sustainable development by working through trusted implementation partners on the ground and by forming strategic international donor alliances. About 40% of PWRDF's total funding of **\$10,750,000** comes via matching grants from **Global Affairs-Canada**. This year, PWRDF was able to deliver the following core community development and emergency programs in a timely and efficient manner:

**Mother/Child (Preventative) Health**

**Access to Education**

**Food Security & Climate Change Mitigation**

**Agricultural Production**

**Empowerment of Women/Girls Humanitarian Relief & Disaster Response Support to**

**Indigenous Communities Accompaniment of Refugees**

PWRDF'S programs and projects, both in Canada and in the developing world, are aimed at improving the quality of life of marginalized populations, while creating local self-reliance. The overall program is guided by the United Nations' **Sustainable Development Goals**, adopted in 2015. By emphasizing grassroots solutions, PWRDF empowers people to take a lead role in their own development, ultimately moving them closer to sustainability and self-reliance. This **capacity-building approach** is crucial to the empowerment of communities around the world.

St. John's PWRDF co-coordinators are **Wendy Suddaby** and **Murray Luft**. They would be happy to answer any questions you might have about PWRDF and convince you to support its amazing work.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Murray Luft & Wendy Suddaby*  
Co-Chairs



## Property Committee

Membership: **Russell Norman, Sandy Cotton, Mike Bugslag, Chuck Neilson, Scott Walker, Andrew Gates** (chair), **Graeme Brown** (Parish Council Rep).

The year past has seen some major physical changes in the precinct of the parish. The cottage is gone and cars are parked on an expanded parking lot. The new lighting, which we had hoped would have been installed for Advent/Christmas, is on its way to completion. We are still dealing with a number of what might be considered chronic issues. For example, we have problems with the drains in, around and under the church, Court and hall, and the exterior brick work and cladding of the church needs some repair. Suffice it to say that the Property Committee never runs out of agenda items. We could not come anywhere near dealing with all the various maintenance issues were it not for dedicated volunteers guided by our chef extraordinaire, **Chuck Neilson**. I think he is perhaps the only one who knows which key fits which lock on the precinct.

We are as conscious as anyone that our parish needs to be financially responsible and we have approached our budget with this in mind. We have oversight of a number of fixed contracts; garden, pest control, furnace maintenance, security, emergency equipment, sound system maintenance, lighting maintenance to name but a few. These form the bulk of our spending. Smaller maintenance items take up our relatively small discretionary budget. Major expenses like the removal of the cottage, the sound system upgrade, the lighting up grade, the ramp installation, the drain maintenance, the exterior cladding and brick work are recommended to the Parish Council for their consideration and financing. We are still trying to establish a maintenance plan and are in contact with the engineer who drafted the envelope study of some years past with the view of updating that report and including the rest of the building in the plan. None of these things are inexpensive, but all of them would be helpful in our stewardship of the physical assets for which we are responsible.

Although he is no longer a member of the Committee thanks needs to be extended to **Tony Barlow** for his interest, expertise and assistance with our tasks at hand, and special thanks needs to **Gillian Barlow** for her diligence in searching the archives for drawings, and other material that has made our job easier. Our thanks too to those of the parish who have volunteered on our works days. It is remarkable what can be accomplished when 'more hands make light work'. Don't give up on us, the work continues, we are planning another 'downsizing' work day in the spring, a day when we'd like all the groups (and I mean all) to look at their storage spaces with the view of getting rid of what is surplus, repurposing storage spaces and rooms, possibly building new shelving.

Who said that work on the Property Committee was dull? We'd love to welcome you onto our team.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Andrew Gates*  
Chair



### Receptions Committee

This committee is responsible for receptions at St. John the Divine and includes receptions after funerals as well as receptions after special services and meetings. **Anne Anderson, Joan Huzar, Ann McLaren** and **myself** rotate on a monthly basis to be responsible for this ministry. We have a team of about twelve whom we call upon to help set up, serve and clean up after the event. Along with providing a service to our church community we find this is an opportunity to get to know each other more by working together. We would happily welcome more men and women to our team. If you are interested, please call me at 250-598-7785 to add your name to our list.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Gerry Melville*

### Redevelopment Task Force

The Redevelopment Task Force went into hibernation for part of this past year, as a result of the discovery of heating oil contamination on the site, close to the Church hall. We were not able to find funding to determine the extent of the contamination, and were committed to not requesting funding from the parish. This brought our work to a halt, since no developers or interested funders were ready to risk their support without a thorough investigation of the contamination site.

Later on in the year, we reconvened since it seemed that the Provincial Government was seeking to create homes for the homeless and the hard to house population of Greater Victoria. We met with a representative of BC Housing, and received a positive and enthusiastic response from him. We were also approached by a private developer, who expressed interest in our plans. Our next step is to discuss our hopes and plans further with more senior members of BC Housing. This has not yet happened, since we understand that the government agency has been heavily occupied with its response to the need for lower than market rent housing. Nevertheless we are still hoping to pursue the interests of the Redevelopment Task Force with the Province in the near future.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Larry Scyner and Graeme Brown*  
Chair

### Refugee Support Group

Refugees have been sponsored at St. John's for over 30 years. For the past few years our parish has worked jointly with First Metropolitan United Church. First Met have had a long transition while their ministry team renewed itself. As part of this renewal First Met will decide later this year whether they will continue to sponsor refugee families with us or whether their ministry will go in a different direction. It has been a very fruitful collaboration thanks to the energy and dedication especially of **Kathy Cook** and **Janet Gray**.

The St. John's group needs new members. If you would like to jump right in, **John McLaren** would welcome new people who are able to help with taking the ten members of the Ghebremeskel family to their medical appointments.

## **The work of the group**

The main work of the group is sponsorship and settlement of refugee families. We have three sponsorships at present. Two are in the settlement phase. They are the Bilal family from Syria – Mom and two teens – and the Ghebremeskel family from Eritrea – parents and eight children, one of whom was born in Canada and baptized a few weeks ago. The Omers, a Kurdish family from Iraq – parents and three young children – are expected to arrive in August 2020.

Our group has also tried to help other refugees who have arrived in Victoria and then run into difficulties once their year of sponsorship was over. For example, Mariam Kebbeh is a Mom trying to bring her three young children here from Gambia and Senegal. Our congregation helped fund urgent medical treatment in Senegal for her youngest, Mohamed, aged 4, when he was hit by a motorcycle and seriously injured.

## **How sponsorships are structured**

Each sponsorship has a Chair responsible for coordinating the care given to the family. The Bilal family have Kathy Cook in that role and the Ghebremeskels are looked after by John McLaren. Each coordinator draws on volunteers who perform a myriad of tasks from developing the budget, and finding housing, to collecting furniture before the family arrives. After arrival, we provide help with settlement, including registration with ICA for English lessons, and various government agencies for I/d and health care. The group will also introduce the family to the banking system as well as enroll the children in school and provide a general orientation to the city and its bus system. The group will find the family a doctor and a dentist – and take them to appointments if they need it.

The budget is developed at the time the sponsorship is applied for – and approved by Parish Council. Funds are raised by blue envelopes and the sponsorship needs to be fully funded by the time the family arrives. If the blue envelope provision is insufficient on arrival, an appeal will be made to the congregation to make up the shortfall.

Each sponsorship has a Treasurer who keeps track of spending and asks for cheques to be prepared. At any time the Treasurer is prepared to give an up-to-the-minute account of the finances. Each sponsorship also has a small Budget Management Group which makes decisions to vary the budget and apply the contingency funds approved as part of the budget. Dentistry and housing are two areas where it is particularly hard to budget accurately.

## **Reporting**

The sponsorships are supervised by the Diocese which is a “Sponsorship Agreement Holder” and keeps a watching brief on our sponsorships and those of a couple of dozen more groups like ours for the Government of Canada. A quarterly report is filed with the Diocese, covering all aspects of each sponsorship – who is involved, what has been achieved in the quarter just ended and the state of its finances. Copies of these reports are sent to Rector and Wardens and any parishioner that wants to know more.

The sponsorship groups meet as needed and will often have a detailed report about the state of things, to facilitate the discussion of problems.

Cheques may be drawn against the refugee accounts held by the parish if:

- There is a bill or receipt submitted and there is provision in an approved budget; or
- There is a provision in an approved budget for recurring items like rent. In this instance a residential tenancy agreement will be on file in the office.
- The Refugee Support Group has made a decision to fund something and there are funds available in one of the refugee accounts held by the parish or
- Funds are collected for a specific purpose by an appeal from the lectern on Sunday morning (Mahomed's medical care for instance). Cash and cheques are deposited in the appropriate parish account and a consolidated cheque drawn for the purpose of the appeal.

This system is transparent, flexible and meets the needs of those we are trying to serve.

### **“Please can you help?”**

This family of three – Mom (born in Paris of Senegalese parents) and sons aged 10 and 3 - sought sanctuary in the Abbey Church just before Halloween after their refugee claim failed. After five days the Bishop called and asked our parish to help. The Diocese provided about two-thirds of the funding, St. John's one-third. St. John's organised the specifics of the support. Donations were also received from individual parishioners, St. Andrews Presbyterian and First Met. For nearly four months Mom and the children have been kept whole, safe, fed and housed. However, it has been too much for our group. Several members of the settlement teams went south for the winter. Supporting this third family has affected the sponsorship of the two existing families.

Reluctantly our group asked the Diocese to find someone else to take this on. None of the existing Constituent Groups working with the Diocese that were approached were able to help. The Diocese advised they had no long-term budget, that it was outside the mandate of the Diocesan Refugee Committee and their support would have to end on 28 February.

Since the Diocese lacks the structure and the resources to deal with this, and the problem is too big for any one parish to take on, the idea emerged that parishes in a region working together might be best placed to do it. **Alastair McCollum** has written to all clergy in the Tolmie and Selkirk regions asking for volunteers in their parishes, aiming to have in place a team by 28 February with funding to support Mom and her family for at least 12-15 months (but maybe as long as 31 months) while her legal processes complete.

Respectfully submitted,  
*Chris Eve*

## Social Justice and Action Group

In addition to continuing its work of monitoring the work of the social justice and action ministries at St. John, the Social Justice and Action Group moved much more significantly into an educational and informational program on social justice and action issues. A solid basis for this program of connecting with and interesting people in these issues had started the previous year with Issue #1 of the our newsletter, *Let Justice Roll* coming off the press. Through the tremendous efforts of **Murray Luft**, assisted by **Sara Chu**, during the past year issues #2 to 5 have been published to great interest and praise. These have covered issues as diverse as reconciliation with Indigenous peoples; peacemaking; climate change; human migration; and more. Through the dedication of time by Sara the publication has been able to feature the lives, times and commitments to social justice and action of several long serving parishioners. Interviews were conducted with **Marcia Williams**, **Judy Tethong** and **Bill Ashwell**, that help us to understand the history of dedication to and leadership in these fields at St. John's over many years.

We also followed through on what started out as a communal search for and discussion about ways and means of engaging members of the parish and the community at large on pressing issues of social justice and action. We undertook two programs of presentations and panels during the year highlighting issues that we sense are vitally important at this time in our history. The first of the two series that bridged April and May was a series directed to reconciliation with our Indigenous sisters and brothers: "Walking Together: A Journey with Our Indigenous Neighbours". The program comprised:

**"Walking Together – Stories and their Telling"** Welcome and Opening Address by Florence Dick (CRD Liaison, Songhees Wellness Centre).

**"Understanding the Impact of Residential Schools through the Childhood Art of Survivors and their Stories"**

Presenters: Andrea Walsh (Dept. of Anthropology, UVic and Mark Atleo - Ahousaht Nation).

**"The Present and Lingering Effects of Colonialism and Racism in Relations Between Non-Indigenous and Indigenous Canadians"** A workshop, based on *Dismantling Racism* (a module of The Anglican Church of Canada); Facilitator: Patrick Sibley.

**"Ways Ahead—Land and Culture, Recovering Law & Customs of Indigenous Nations"**

Presenter: Val Napoleon (Chair of Aboriginal Law & Justice, U. Vic – Sauleau and Gitx'san Nation).

**Letting History Speak to Us** – NFB Documentary "Duncan Campbell Scott: the Poet and the Indians" with comment and discussion led by Hamar Foster Q.C., (Emeritus, Law. U Vic).

**"Ways Ahead: Indigenous Language Revitalization"** Presentation and Discussion Leader – Jacqueline Jim (SENCOTEN Language Teacher, WSANEC Nation)

**"The Journey Continues: Where From Here?"** Bishop Logan McMenamie

The series as a whole was very well received and drew between 50 and 90 people each weekly session, comprising parishioners, as well as members of other faith groups and interested members of the public. We felt blessed that **Bishop Logan** made time to attend most of the sessions and to round it out with a sermon of challenge to us and other Anglicans on the general theme. **Gillian Barlow** took time to produce a reading and visual aids list to support the program. **Al Lehmann** and **Graeme Brown** assisted with sound and AV.

Through the efforts of **Karyn Lehmann** and **Sarah Kell** we were able to develop contact and, we hope, an ongoing relationship with the Songhees Nation and the LAU WELNEW Tribal School respectively. In the case of the Songhees connection we were able during the summer to encourage a fund raising initiative in the Parish to support one of the youth soccer teams from that community.

Starting in October we have been featuring engaging monthly presentations on Wednesday or Tuesday evenings on a range of social justice issues that have local, national or international resonance. In this we are working with our neighbour First Metropolitan United Church. To date the topics/focus and speakers have been:

**Bernie Pauly, U Vic Nursing: “Responding to Homelessness: Do Our Actions Match Our Words?”**

**Joel Durkovic, Arbour Counselling: “Moving Toward and Through Conflict: Some of the Nitty Gritty”**

**Sabine Lehr, Inter-Cultural Association: “(Disrupted) Human Flow: Migrants’ Crises in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” with Reel Thoughts and the Ai Wei Wei documentary “Human Flow”**

We have continued to collaborate with others in our programming including First Met and our own Reel Thoughts program, and several members of SJAG have contributed time and effort to participating to the development of Greater Victoria Acting Together.

Warm thanks are due to group members: **Rhoda Brodie-Smith; Pat Manning; Karyn Lehmann; Peggy Wilmot; Sara Chu; Christine Scott; Sarah Kell; Murray Luft; Larry Scyner, Patrick Sibley** and, more recently, **Grant Crosswell** for their support of and commitment to this work and **Alastair** for his blessing of our efforts. We were saddened by the passing of **Barry Jenks** and give thanks for the support of and interest of both Barry and Barbara to the work of the Group.

Respectfully submitted,  
*John McLaren*  
Chair

## The Food Bank at St. John's

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

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

The 2 Blue envelopes from parishioners accounted for part of our revenue, but we are also seeing a steadily increasing number of donors from outside the Parish. We received donations from St. Mary's, Oak Bay, Associates of the Art Gallery of Greater Victoria, from St. Peter and St. Paul, St. George's, and St. Michael and All Angels, and The Royal Bank. It is wonderful to see the sense of community developing.

### *How many people use our services?*

In 2018 we had slightly fewer people come to the food bank than in 2017. Is this good news? Fewer people in need?? Hard to tell! In addition to the number of adults (3382), we also provided food for a total of 500 children. The total expenditure on food and other items (plastic bags, etc.) was **\$35,853**.

### *Who does the work?*

The Food Bank is entirely operated by approximately 70 dedicated volunteers from St. John's, St. Mary's Oak Bay, Grace Lutheran Church, St. Matthias, Congregation Emanu-El, Fairfield United, and an increasing number of people with no formal church affiliations. They provide service breaking down bulk items into smaller containers, stocking shelves, picking up food from a variety of sources, and/or distributing food to our clients. They provided more than 3000 (!) recorded volunteer hours, not to mention all the unrecorded hours (estimate of more than 500, coordinating, scheduling, troubleshooting). We could not begin to have a food bank without them.

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

We receive donated bread from Wildfire Bakery and Irene's Bakery. We receive surplus non-perishable items from the Mustard Seed from time to time, and these are now delivered to us along with our fresh fruit and vegetables (see paragraph below) via the Food Share Network.

"For Good Measure" provides, at wholesale cost, some of our pulses and grains and all of our peanut butter. This is significant, and we are grateful to them. The Canadian Wholesale Club continues to be our supplier for most staple items. We also take considerable advantage of sales at other grocery outlets. This would not be possible without support from two very willing volunteers, who are frequently to be seen clearing the shelves of various "loss leaders" our flyer-reading volunteers alert us to!

You may have read of the Food Rescue project, organized by the Food Share Network, of which we are a member. We have been seeing a steady stream of "rescued" fruit and vegetables coming our way every day we are open, and occasionally dairy as well. This is thanks to many grocery stores in town, and their Produce managers. It is a fine example of re-distribution.

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

This is a difficult question to answer. To date, parishioners friends of the Food Bank, and others in the community have donated sufficient funds to keep us afloat. Wouldn't it be wonderful if we didn't need a food bank, and everyone had enough to eat? Until then, we will go on, doing

the best we can to share from our own bounty, with our brothers and sisters who have a right to healthy food.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Peggy Wilmot, Coordinator*

### **Faith in Action / GVAT (Greater Victoria Acting Together)**

Faith in Action continues to lend its strength to GVAT –related activities, as well as continuing on its own path of advocacy.

On the GVAT front, there is much to report.

We now have 22 organizations who have committed to being members of GVAT and paying dues. They have had lots of activities to participate in during the past year!

We have trained at least 100 people in the principles of broad based organizing, bring the total since we started to 300.

In March we held a Civic Academy “A Community Organizing Response to the Opioid Crisis”. A Civic Academy is an opportunity for GVAT members to come together to learn more deeply about an issue from each other’s perspective.

In June, we launched our Listening Campaigns to listen to the concerns of our members to find out what they had energy and passion to work on. This resulted in 1000 conversations.

In November, we held a Discernment Day to set our focus areas for 2019. The stories and concerns we heard throughout our listening season were brought forward. Our 22 member organizations voted and by the end of a long Sunday we had landed on the two ‘problem areas’ which we, as a whole alliance, are going to focus our collective energy on. They are: Housing and Mental Health/Addictions (both with a climate and a reconciliation lens)

Action Research teams are in the process of being formed, with training to take place as soon as GVAT is on a sustainable footing financially and member-wise.

The renewed emphasis on Sustainability will include various fund raising efforts and recruitment of new members.

On the Faith in Action front, we continue to share news of events and advocacy among our various faith communities. FiA members continue to be supportive of each other, of GVAT, and of the greater community.

Respectfully Submitted,  
*Peggy Wilmot*