

150 St Marks Road, Tecumseh

Vestry Report January 28, 2024

The annual meeting will take place after the 10:30 am service

Please join us

This is your time to discern your church's future!

Let's look forward together!

St. Mark's by the Lake

Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday, January 28, 2024

Agenda

1) Opening Prayer

2) Territorial Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the land on which we serve is the traditional territory of the Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Caldwell nations of the Three Fires Confederacy, and the Huron/Wyandot nation. We also acknowledge that we are parties to Treaty 116 (1786), McKee Treaty 2 (1790), Treaty 12 (1800), Treaty 35 (1833), Cession #85 – Peach/Pecche Island (1857), and the Caldwell Settlement (2011) signed by our forebears and contemporaries.

3) Election of Vestry Clerk

4) Minutes of 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting

5) Business Arising from the Minutes

6) Bishops Letter

7) Reception of Narrative Reports – comments, questions

8) Rector's Report – comments, questions

9) Treasurer's Report

10) 2024 Budget Report

11) Financial Review

12) Nominating Committee Report

13) New Business

14) Closing Prayer / Adjournment

Minutes of the 2023 Annual Vestry Meeting

January 29, 2023

1. The Meeting was called to order by Christian Paulton and Rev'd Jack Dressler offered prayer.
2. Acknowledgement of Caldwell First Nations
We acknowledge that the land on which we serve is the traditional territory of the Ottawa, Chippewa, Potawatomi, and Caldwell nations of the Three Fires Confederacy, and the Huron/Wyandot nation. We also acknowledge that we are parties to Treaty 116 (1786), McKee Treaty 2 (1790), Treaty 12 (1800), Treaty 35 (1833), Cession #85 – Peach/Pecche Island (1857), and the Caldwell Settlement (2011) signed by our forebears and contemporaries.
3. Section Committee – thanks to Sharon for leading our selection committee. Sharon thanked the committee and noted that our parish profile is on our website and we are waiting for names from London
4. Election of the Vestry Clerk – Christie Paulton was nominated by Dawn Dean, seconded by Jack Dressler. Carried
5. Minutes of the 2022 Vestry Meeting
Motion to accept the minutes made by Janet Forster, seconded by Ann Cochrane. Carried.
6. Business Arising from the Minutes
 - a. None at this time
7. Bishops letter to Vestry was read.
8. Reception of Narrative Reports – Motion to receive those narrative reports moved by Fraser Mennell and seconded by Janet Forster. Carried.
Thank you to the groups for submitting reports and keeping us informed. Also noting that it was great that we could get together for events, services etc this past year.
Jack noted that this is our church and we need to take ownership and help the minister. He would like to start a Property committee and a worship and music committee, to be in place when the new rector arrives.
9. Treasurer's Report – Mark Charlton
 - a. 2022 finances reviewed especially \$10,000 downpayment of debt
 - b. Offerings just short of budget in December after Rob left
 - c. From capital reserves line is to pay for items that were not planned in the regular budget (like repairs to elevator, new fridge and lubrication of bell)
 - d. Other ministry – gifts etc for Rob
 - e. Utilities was a bit higher due to insurance cost etc.Motion to accept Treasurers report for council – moved by Janet Forster, seconded by Sharon Pyke. Carried
10. 2023 Budget
 - a. Offerings – likely will go down
 - b. Salary increase – 4.1% diocese recommended
 - c. Interim ministers for six months at reduced rates makes this fairly easy budget to balanceMotion to accept 2023 Budget for council – moved by Chris McVeigh, seconded by Margo Pastovich. Carried
12. Nominations to Council
 - a. Arla has been nominated, she will be approached to see if she accepts.Motion to close nominations – moved by Janet Forster and seconded by Dan Hofgartner. Carried
13. New Business
 - a. Defibrillator – look at getting one in the church, possibly covered someone's personal insurance

14. Motion to adjourn – moved by Janet Forster, seconded by Keith Moore, Carried.

i. Rev'd Jack declared meeting closed and prayer.

St. Mark's by-the-Lake			
Operating statement for the year ending December 31, 2022 with comparative for 2021			
	2022	budget	2021
INCOMES			
Offerings	\$169,654	\$172,932	\$168,944
Capital donations	5,785	9,000	8,325
Other donations	5,015	2,500	4,158
Fundraising	12,448	10,000	5,884
Other Inc	11,222	6,100	15,548
From (to) Reserves	<u>(153)</u>	<u>1,000</u>	<u>5,251</u>
	<u>203,972</u>	<u>201,532</u>	<u>208,110</u>
EXPENDITURES			
Apportionment	28,832	28,810	30,993
Bank Charges	106	240	121
Chancel Guild	2,990	1,900	1,855
Ministry - other	3,304	1,500	0
Music Supplies	927	600	485
Office	7,269	7,260	6,327
Youth Ministry	175	1,000	219
Ministry	43,775	47,754	46,818
Ministry - benefits	30,636	34,220	33,717
Staff	42,482	40,239	39,114
Property	17,428	12,100	10,962
Utilities	19,048	16,500	16,113
Evangelism	0	1,000	0
Outreach	3,683	4,500	5,903
Loan Interest	<u>3,315</u>	<u>3,906</u>	<u>2,272</u>
	<u>203,969</u>	<u>201,529</u>	<u>194,899</u>
OPERATING SURPLUS	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ 13,211</u>
Less: Debt Reductions		0	7,894
BUDGETING SURPLUS	<u>\$ 2</u>	<u>\$ 3</u>	<u>\$ 5,317</u>

St. Mark's by-the-Lake

Balance sheet as at
December 31, 2022
with comparative for 2021

<u>ASSETS</u>		<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Cash	Operating Cash	\$ 5,880	\$ 14,408
	Other reserves	32,300	32,300
	Capital account	12,883	12,730
		<u>51,063</u>	<u>59,438</u>
Receivable from Diocese		0	3,637
Capital Assets (note 1)		2,059,579	2,059,579
Total Assets		<u>\$2,110,642</u>	<u>\$2,122,654</u>
 <u>LIABILITIES & EQUITY</u>			
Accounts Payable		\$ 3,389	\$ 5,557
Due to Parishioners (note 2)		191,720	201,720
Other Reserve Funds (note 3)		32,300	32,300
Capital Reserve Fund (note 4)		12,883	12,730
Capital Equity (note 5)		1,867,859	1,857,859
Operating Equity - beginning of year		12,488	7,171
Reduction of Parishioner Debt		(10,000)	-
Operating Surplus (Deficit)		<u>2</u>	<u>5,317</u>
Operating Equity - end of year		2,490	12,488
Total Liabilities & Equity		<u>\$2,110,642</u>	<u>\$2,122,654</u>



The Diocese of Huron ~ The Anglican Church Of Canada
The Right Reverend Todd Townshend, Th.D., Bishop of Huron

January 5, 2024

Greetings, siblings in Christ, I pray that you will be blessed as you prepare for your annual meetings of Vestry.

The primary work of an annual church meeting is to build up the work of the church for the sake of the world around us. Our constant goal is to deeply understand what being church is, and needs to be, for this time and place. It is time to assess the resources you have and the mission in which you participate.

Now concerning spiritual resources, I do not want you to be uninformed. Collectively, we have been given every spiritual gift that we need to faithfully live our lives as disciples of Christ and communities of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit, who blows where it wills, willed to blow around in our lives. This is an awesome thing – because when the Holy Spirit comes, when the Holy Spirit of God says, “those people, I’m going to bless those people”, it is done for a purpose.

Nobody comes into contact with the Holy Spirit and remains still. They get blessed, and they must become a blessing. We have a word for this blessing-activity. Mission. The Holy Spirit has a mission for us together, and for each of us individually.

Most of us at one time or another wonder, “what on earth am I here for?” What is the meaning of my life? What is it that God created me to do? In Christian life we learn to start with God in order to answer this. We try to know what God’s mission is before trying to figure out your own. You were made for a mission, or many of them. God is at work in the church and the world, God is at work in your life. Sometimes subtly, sometimes overwhelmingly, God is preparing you, and gifting you, and gathering you together, activating something in each of us that we offer through the church.

What is your mission? How is it specific to you? How is it shared through the church? How is it changing? In one meeting of Vestry, we can only begin to name it and ask for it.

If you have not done so already, pray today that God will lead you to at least one part of your 2024 mission. God has given these spiritual gifts in the Diocese of Huron so that the triune God’s glory may be revealed; and so that Christ’s disciples may believe in him and live in him. That is our deepest blessing, thanks be to God!

Peace in Christ,

The Rt. Rev. Todd Townshend
Bishop of Huron

2024 Reports

Warden's Report

God is in every moment, every loving heart, and in wonderful people like you

This was how we began our Vestry Report for 2023 and it continues to embrace the spirit of St Mark's by the Lake. At last year's Vestry, we were in a state of uncertainty ... Canon Rob Lemon had moved to Stratford just before Christmas of 2022, and while Jack and Bryan had graciously agreed to be our Interim priests, we still felt unsettled – facing the unknown at a time when we had just started to return to normal following the pandemic. Thank you to Sharon Pyke and the entire Selection Committee for their hard work and dedication in working with The Bishop to find a new priest for our parish and thank you to all of you for your patience. We are delighted that as of this year's Vestry, we have now welcomed Ryan, Kara, Theodore, and Felix to our SMBTL family and things truly are feeling settled once again. Ryan and his family have made a smooth transition, and we are blessed that they answered God's call to come to SMBTL.

In 2023, we said goodbye to several parishioners and friends including Lillian Dobson, Walter Pasnik, Claire Craig, Gloria Zeman, Norma Currie, Shirley Sponarski and Anne Jones. There will be jewels in their crowns in heaven.

We are blessed at St. Mark's by the Lake to have such wonderful congregants who give tirelessly of their time, talent, and treasure. Although many parishioners have returned to in-person worship, we continue to encourage people to try coming back to church and we are always happy to welcome new members. We had many special events this year including the Golf Fun Day, the Turkey Dinner, the Pig Roast, a Roast Beef Dinner, a Spring plant and book and bake sale, The Best Christmas Pageant Ever production, a pancake supper, pumpkin carving, pie baking, and the Christmas Market. Many of these events were possible thanks to the generosity of parishioners who purchased new freezer for our kitchen. We also celebrated Ryan's Induction in classic SMBTL style, and we are very appreciative of all who volunteered to make it such a special day. A huge thank you to Brooke White for taking on the leadership of the PAC in addition to her responsibilities as Volunteer Coordinator. We are looking for someone to volunteer to be this year's Volunteer Coordinator. Mark Charlton, our Treasurer, deserves our thanks for continuing to diligently ensure our financial security. Andrea Morosin has provided us with wonderful music and the choir always shines with their beautiful anthems. Coni Moore has provided strong leadership to the Chancel Guild, and we have some new members of this team as well. Jane Cornett continues to provide extensive programming for the youth of SMBTL and additional team members are always welcome. Thanks also to Laura Bird for coordinating the Christmas play – a huge undertaking that was enjoyed by everyone. The Pastoral Care Team members have continued to faithfully reach out to members of the congregation who are unable or not yet ready to return to in-person worship. The Outreach Team hit the ground running this year and we thank Bev Watson for her leadership. Special thanks to Sharon Pyke for coordinating the many mental health workshops held this year which have proven to be very popular and well attended. There are many ministries at SMBTL, and the Parish Council members are planning to make a concerted effort in 2024 to spread the good word about each ministry with a focus on what each entails in terms of time and talent. If you have an interest in a specific ministry, please speak with one of the Wardens, Parish Council members or Christie.

Thanks go out to all the Parish Council Members for their dedication and hard work throughout the year as we continued with in person and Zoom meetings. Special thanks go to our Parish Administrator, Christie Paulton,

who has worked in the office and at home throughout the year. Christie is truly a Godsend who conducts all her tasks and responsibilities beautifully and always with a smile.

As of this Vestry meeting, Christian Paulton and Fraser Mennell will be stepping down from their roles as Deputy Wardens. Christian and Fraser have served SMBTL well and we know that they will continue to be active members of the SMBTL family. Thank you to both for all they have done.

As we continue to move forward in our new journey, it is imperative that we have current information for all our parishioners. If you move, please call, or email the office with your new address. If you are ill, please ask a friend or family member to let us know. It is vital that we continue to keep in touch with one another.

During recent weeks, we have been experiencing some difficulties with our furnace. Although we now have a temporary fix, it is only temporary. We will soon be starting a campaign to “Light Our Fire” so that we can purchase a new furnace this summer and be ready to be toasty warm next winter. Please watch the upcoming bulletins and newsletter for more details and please give prayerful consideration to donating to this very worthy campaign.

We have faced some challenging times in recent years – a global pandemic, our rector moving to a new parish, and waiting to welcome a new rector. One thing that came through very clearly in our Parish Survey was that SMBTL is more than a congregation – we are a family, and every member is valued, appreciated, and loved. Throughout 2024, let us all remember that no matter what, each year is a gift from God...

In the joyful moments, thank Him

In the busy moments, bless Him

In the trying moments, trust Him

In the quiet moments, praise Him

Faithfully submitted by your Wardens:

Amanda Dibbs (Rector’s Warden), Carolynne Mastellotto (People’s Warden), Christian Paulton (Deputy Rector’s Warden), Fraser Mennell (Deputy People’s Warden)

Pastoral Care Report

We are a group of volunteers that maintain contact with parishioners, either by sending cards, placing a phone call or visiting. We visit them in their homes, as well as retirement or nursing homes. We connect them to St. Marks by bringing them news of the happenings in our church. We enjoy hearing their stories and keeping them company. They appreciate the contact as we do.

In the new year, Ryan will be training some of the group to give communion.

Please contact Bev Watson or Barbara Lyons if you know someone that would benefit from this ministry.

We are always looking for others to join our team, let us know if you are interested.

Barbara Lyons

Knit-wits Report

Our Knitt Witts are an amazingly talented and busy group. This past year we created **1,987** items to donate! This total included:

108 Lap Blankets, 274 Prayer squares, 19 Walker pockets, 525 Adult/Teen hats, 144 Adult/Teen hat sets, 382 Child hats, 89 Child hat sets, 130 Baby hats, 36 Baby sweater sets, 37 baby blankets, 17 Headbands, 140 Scarves, 59 Mitten/scarf sets, 12 Specialty dolls, 3 Octopus dolls, 12 special Teddy bears.

These items were donated to: Drouillard Place, The Salvation army, New Beginnings, St. Mary's Church, Angels on a Mission, Nursing Homes (Huron Lodge, Aspen Lake, Heron Terrace, Cardinal Place, Brouillette Manor, Banwell Gardens, Extendicare Southwood Lakes, Extendicare Tecumseh), Rev. Ryan for Deanery event, Residence for Young Men, Met. Hospital Baby NICU, Ronald McDonald House, Jane for Downtown Windsor Community Collabrative, Home Instead, Hospice and Public Schools (John Campbell, Queen Victoria, Dougall Road, Bagley, Roseville Gardens) and Feel Better Friends (the specialty made items).

We would like to thank The Maycourt Club for their monetary and yarn donations, Claire Craig who may be gone BUT not forgotten as she requested donations be made to our group and others in our church family who have made donations to our group.



Chancel Guild Report

St Mark's by-the-Lake Chancel Guild is a behind-the-scenes group of twelve individuals who are divided into 4 teams. Each team is on duty for a week and responsible for preparing for all the services that week.

Preparations include setting up Communion for the two Sunday services as well as the Wednesday mid-week service and any funerals, Weddings or Baptisms that occur that week. We decorate the church for many occasions throughout the year including Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas. We also get together to fold palms into Palm Crosses that are distributed on Palm Sunday

On a weekly basis we are responsible for ensuring that everything needed for a service is in place before the service begins. This includes:

- Ordering wine, wafers and candles
- Setting up the altar for Communion
- Polishing and maintaining the Communion vessels and candle holders
- Refilling the processional candles with liquid paraffin
- Ensuring that the correct Liturgical colours are in place
- Washing and ironing the linens
- Arranging the altar flowers and distributing them following the Sunday service

My sincere thanks to the following people:

- Bev Watson for preparing our yearly schedule
- Jane Cornett for always keeping Chancel in the loop regarding any happenings we may not be aware of
- Our dedicated Chancel Guild members who volunteer their time and talents, cover for each other when needed and always go over and above

Our team is always open to expansion and would love to add to our numbers. If you are interested in working in a team environment with a wonderful group of women and men (yes we have 2 male members) – we would love to have you!

Coni Moore

Chancel Guild Co-Ordinator

Choir and Church Music Report

2023 was a year filled with beautiful music making from our choir. There have been many lovely moments during our Lenten season, "All Souls" service and Advent/Christmas season. It has brought me great joy to have my daughters share some of their music with you and to collaborate with our wonderful choir members such as Al and Christian who have elevated our services with glorious trumpet fanfares. Thank you to our rotation of psalmists and featured soloists this year. Thank you to Bev for helping us stay organized.

Having navigated various restrictions and limitations around making music during the pandemic, it reaffirmed how important music is to our lives, the healing it provides, and the joy it brings to our worship. The choir is an enthusiastic group and I love them for it! We are blessed with members old and new, of all ages, who share their talents freely, enabling us to sing in 4-part harmony. It has been invigorating to see our choir grow this year with the addition of new members. New members are always welcome to join us!

I am thankful for the anchors of our church who keep us moving forward and enable us to be resilient during times of change. Jack is not only a tremendous help and a fantastic colleague but also a treasured choir member. We are also thankful to Bryan for his ministry and kindness this past year. During the transition of seeking a new rector, I appreciate the choir for providing leadership and consistency in our worship.

It has been wonderful to work alongside Ryan. His support of the choir and the purchase of new hymnals has been appreciated by all. There is a fresh, wonderful energy in his leadership and a kind, compassionate demeanour that we are thankful for.

Jane's support of the choir and our youth presence is amazing. Her angel dust is everywhere in our church. Christian continues to support us as a warden, making sure we keep laughing along the way. I so enjoy our musical collaborations. Their vibrant contributions to church life are notable.

We are very thankful for the music ministry of Amanda Dibbs and Joan Hartley, who generously give of their time and talent. I so appreciate their willingness to play for our congregation in my absence. Thank you also to the wardens for their support and kindness. This was especially appreciated this year during my medical leave in the spring. Thank you to Christie who helps keep me organized. Thank you to Mark with supporting music needs in his treasurer role.

New members are always welcome and encouraged to join us! The only requirement is a desire to sing. No audition necessary. Our choir is composed of a mixture of trained voices with musical background and those who like to sing in a friendly group setting with some or no training. You do not need to know how to read music – the director will help with that!

We hope to continue to offer relevant worship music and infuse Sundays with new hymns and anthems and look forward to a great year ahead.

Andrea Morosin

PAC Reports



Thanks to our dedicated volunteers 2023 was the busiest year of activities for St. Mark's since the

pandemic. In keeping with our favourite activity – eating – we offered the community to join us in our Pancake Dinner, Pork Roast, Thanksgiving Dinner, Pot Roast Dinner and take out Baked Goods, Meat Pies and Spaghetti Pies. Participants were happy and full! Additionally there was soup Sundays for our parishioners following some of the 10:30 services.

Special shout outs for these events to the organizers – Dawn Dean, Christian and Christie Paulton, and Arla Peters, and our Holy Rollers and bakers.

We coordinated a Plant sale, Book Sale, Bake Sale and Vendor Market in May and a Fall Market with Bake Sale in October. Our Fall Market saw the largest number of vendor participants to date, many of whom are eager to return in 2024.

Special shout outs to Jane Cornett, Sharon Pyke, Dawn Dean and our Holy Rollers, and all of our bakers.

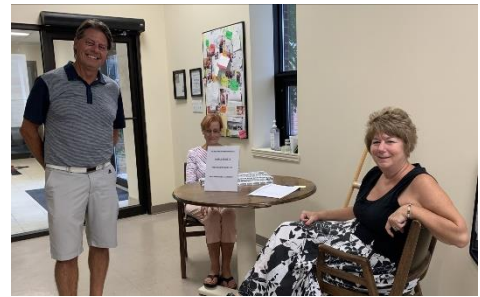
Daniel Hofgartner coordinated our second annual Sunday Funday Golf Day in September. It was another great day on the course that ended with a delicious steak dinner in the Hall. Special shout out to Daniel and the kitchen crew and to all who donated prizes.

Topping off our events this year was the presentation of the Best Christmas Pageant Ever. Actors from our parish and our community together with awesome performances that kept the audience captivated. received well deserved standing ovations at the end of each of the two performances! It was a tremendous effort by Laura Bird and Jane Cornett to bring this idea to fruition and bring in community members to experience the warmth and talent of St. Mark's.

Giant kudos to Jane, Laura, and the crew that included Christian Paulton, Chantal Monette, Gene and Vicky Boivin, Mark Wieme, Cathy Lessard, Elijah Paulton and Ian Mennell.

None of these events would have been possible without the volunteers from this parish. We are grateful for all of you. Looking forward to 2024.

Brooke White



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Lay Delegates Report to Vestry

“Singing the Lord’s Song in a Strange Land” was the theme of the 2023 Diocesan Synod held in London on May 28 and 29. As a hybrid meeting, all sessions were held in person and online for delegates. The proceedings were abbreviated to the Synod Service at the Cathedral, a Banquet dinner, and a day of meetings on Monday. A joyful gathering at the Cathedral was highlighted with lively hymns (in many tongues) and a thoughtful homily from visiting Bishop Lusa Nsenga-Ngoy, the Bishop of Willesden (Diocese of London UK). At the conclusion of service, Bishop Todd presented the Order of Huron to Mr. Mark Charlton and Dr. Olive Elm. Getting right to work on Monday we prayed, received reports, sang, listened to presentations, and considered motions.

Bishop Todd started with a ‘where we are’ segment highlighting the anxiety felt in many corners of the Diocese. He described our journey in three phases. Phase one was the domination of the pandemic. Phase two was the recovery. We now come to phase three where we will transform and focus on active strategies regarding governance, policies, and processes.

A financial update was given by the chair of Administration and Finance, Dr. Stephen McClatchie (assisted once again by the Interim Director of Finance, Mark Charlton). Investments are performing well for parishes, pensions, and designated Diocesan trusts. Processes are improving but still not where they need to be. Insurance is still an area of contention and will be a major focus. Many parishes in need received necessary support to pay their 2023 premiums.

Synod appointed the Venerable Tanya Phibbs as Secretary-Treasurer of the Diocese of Huron effective May 29, 2023 and Bishop Todd appointed Rev. Dr. Stephen McClatchie as Archdeacon, Episcopal Office effective July 15, 2023

The Bishop’s charge emphasized that God’s call has always been to ‘journey in a new land’. We simply need to say ‘YES’ to Jesus. "Let’s anchor our vision in the 2050s and commit to putting building blocks in place that will serve the Anglican church in 2050, here in Huron", concluded Bishop Todd.

On behalf of Chris McVeigh, I’d like to thank you for letting us represent you at the Deanery and Diocesan meetings.

Please feel free to ask us about anything that interests you. There are so many ways to get involved in ministries that inspire you.

Mark Charlton

Children's and Youth Ministry Report

2023 was a year of growth and change. Throughout the year, Sunday school continued to take place during the 10:30am service and the lessons followed the lectionary readings. It was so good to get back to a 'new



normal' of meeting and learning together! The youth were involved in several projects within the parish and the outer community. In Feb, they held a 'Tarts for Hearts' fundraiser for the church- selling a variety of butter tarts made by parishioners (and Rose St. Antoine even shared her special recipe!) It was enjoyed by all.

The youth also organized a collection of much needed items for the Downtown Windsor Community Collaborative which assists people 'of no fixed address' in the city of Windsor. We shared a lunch, made up of food items typically found in food bank donations and had a healthy discussion of some of the needs of our most

vulnerable. DWCC were very thankful for our donations and we will continue to support them in their ministry.



We are very blessed to have an active group of young people who are eager to assist each week in choir, as a server or as a helper in Sunday school. They are also ready to help with any of the church events and fundraisers. We also participated in the Terry Fox run and many had roles in the 'Best Christmas Pageant Ever. I am very thankful that you share your talents and energy at the church!

In the Spring, a group gathered to complete the front gardens- we were thankful for the assistance of the youth, especially wrestling with the roots found! Garden is looking beautiful!



With the arrival of Rev. Ryan and Kara, Theodore and Felix, we were excited to prepare for younger classes of children again! We have had an average of 10-12 children attending regularly, many ages 4-7 years. In the Fall, we had fun exploring the story of Jonah and 'sitting in the belly of a whale' to learn about why God was sending Jonah to Ninevah. We continue to explore stories each week from the lectionary readings.

We held a successful 'Pancakes and Pumpkins' night in the Fall where over 70 people gathered from the community for a simple dinner and carving of pumpkins! We were also excited to have photo opportunities with beautiful Halloween characters, lovingly made over the years by Christie's father.

In the Fall, rehearsals kept us busy as we prepared for The Best Christmas Pageant Ever, bravely directed by our own Laura Bird. This project not only incorporated the talents of so many in the parish, but also created an opportunity for many to come together to learn and build community. I am so thankful for Laura's leadership and for all those who shared their gifts for the community!

Many thanks to the Morosin family who also shared their musical talents throughout the year- it always adds something special to our worship services.

I am excited to what 2024 will bring and how we can continue to minister to our children, youth and parish family!

Respectfully submitted,

Jane Cornett



“The Best Christmas Pageant Ever” Report to St. Mark’s by the Lake Outreach Committee

Submitted by Laura K. Bird

The project began as a means to engage the community within the parish and the neighbourhood. Engagement was on two levels: direct participation and being an audience member. It was an inter-generational event with active participants ranging from 4 to 70+ years, with meaningful participation from everyone according to their abilities. As a bonus, the play functioned as a ‘youth group’ and outreach support for some of the participants.

There were challenges, mainly in creating a cast. Then in working around numerous scheduling conflicts. Balancing expectations and reality. Childcare was occasionally required for rehearsal participation. Rides and meals were required for those coming right from school or who lived farther away. Through the rides and conversations that arose at rehearsals, other needs and issues were identified.

So, like all good outreach, we simply met the needs as they arose. (Feed my sheep.)

Some of the youth went home with their costumes. All cast members were gifted a t-shirt from the parish. Meals and snacks were provided, sometimes for the whole group and sometimes a quick burger meal through the drive-thru on the way to or from rehearsal.

The play offered a connection for the families of participants, too. Lots of communication occurred between households and St. Mark’s. The poster and the music were provided by a family member of parishioners who shared her talents.

There were many “I used to attend here” or “(My family members) were married at this church” conversations. New cast and audience members were giving an opportunity to enter the church building and explore in a safe manner.

(Note: I love worship, but if you haven’t experienced it, all that singing and choral speaking and standing up/sitting down can feel odd to some neighbours.)

Here are some favourite ‘ministry moments’:

- An adult entertaining a child at the dress rehearsal.
- A youth speaking up for others.
- A child offering me encouragement at the end of a rehearsal.
- Playing group juggling at rehearsals – best team building activity!
- People pitching in to strike the set and clean the church for Sunday.
- Two youth prioritizing their commitment to the show over a school social event.

I want to highlight the incredible ministry provided by Jane Cornett, and her family. Their ability to discern what was needed and put their time and energy into this project was admirable. From childcare to pick-ups and deliveries of supplies and people, they were always present. The applause at each show was like winning a gold medal for each participant. Measuring impact/outcomes is difficult in this setting however, the goal of community engagement was met with this project.



Rector's Report

It's hard to believe it's been a little less than half a year since I began serving here, at St. Mark's by the Lake, as your new rector. And I must start off by saying that the joy I felt upon finally arriving and beginning this ministry back in August has not faded in any way. On behalf of Kara, Theodore, and Felix, I want to express my sincere gratitude for the way you have not only welcomed us in, but made us feel like we belong in this wonderful community of Christ-followers. I love that this is the place where I get to come work, and I love that you are the people who I have the absolute privilege of serving alongside. I am so thankful that I was invited to come and see the many and wonderful ways that the Spirit has inspired and continues to inspire you to serve God and God's world. And I am so thankful that each and every one of you, at one point in your lives answered God's call, to come and see what it means to live in the world as one who knows the good news of God in Jesus.

In John's Gospel, at the start of Jesus' ministry, the two individuals who would end up becoming Jesus' first disciples, were invited by Jesus to 'Come and see.' Jesus didn't give them some kind of strategic plan for his ministry, and Jesus didn't tell them all that he was going to do, and Jesus certainly didn't tell them it was going to be an easy or desired way to live...no, he simply invited them to 'Come and see.' Jesus invited them into a possibility of relationship. He invited them into a possibility of learning what it meant to live as he did in the world. He invited them into a possibility of believing that he is the Messiah, the Christ, the anointed one of God. He did all of this simply with three words: 'Come and see.'

The most amazing part of it all, was not just that those first followers dropped everything and followed this guy they hardly knew, but it's actually what comes next in the story. Because after Jesus has a few followers, one of them, Philip, goes out and finds his friend Nathanael. And Philip tells Nathanael about this guy, Jesus, who he's started following. Nathanael is skeptical to say the least, but Philip is confident and does what Jesus did and simply tells Nathanael to 'Come and see.' And by doing so he's now invited someone else into the same possibility of belonging in community, the same possibility of living and behaving like Jesus, the same possibility of believing that God was doing a new thing in the world.

Come and see.

At some point in our lives of faith, we have, likewise, been invited to come and see. For some of us it happened when we were younger, and because our family would go to church every Sunday we had to go to church too, and we've just never stopped attending. Others have felt invited or compelled to come and see after a time of personal prayer or self-exploration or even after a time away from the church. Still others have heard the words come and see in a time of crisis, during a period of failing health or after the death of a loved one. And still more, were invited to come and see by a family member or friend, whether it was to an actual church service or an event that was happening at the church. These are a few of the so many ways that this invitation can happen.

Which brings us to today. If we give ourselves a little time to think about it, we'll be able to name why it is we come here and why being part of this faith community is important in our lives, and why we make it a priority. After all, choosing to be here is also choosing not to be doing any number of other things we could be doing. These are important things for us to think about and to know and to be able to name, not just for ourselves but so that we can tell others. Because if we have any hope of doing like Jesus does, and doing like Philip does immediately after, and inviting others to 'Come and see', then we need to know what it is we're inviting them into. Extending this invitation into the possibility of relationship in community here, into the possibility of learning what it means to live like Jesus in the world, into the possibility of believing in God and the good news of Jesus—this invitation to 'Come and see' will be everything for us and it will be our focal point for the year ahead.

We have to be willing to put ourselves out there, and to be intentional about inviting people in. It can no longer be taken for granted that people are just going to walk through the doors of this place on a whim, or because there's something happening here, or because church is at 8:00 and 10:30 on a Sunday and that's just what we do and so why shouldn't they be joining us. It just doesn't really work like that anymore. People's calendars are full, seven days a week. And there is only time to do things that meet needs and to do things that are meaningful and important. So rather than blaming the parents who take their kids to hockey, or the stores that are now open at the same time that church happens, or the individual who works 6 days a week and only gets Sundays off and they decide they need a few minutes for themselves on a Sunday and so they sleep in...rather than blaming any of them or pointing the fingers out there, at those who aren't here, instead we have to take the initiative. We have to take this opportunity to extend an invitation, to trust that the Spirit will work through us and our words—to let people know why we are here, and that we believe there is something to be found here at St. Mark's for everyone we know.

Come and see this place where everyone is truly welcome—welcome to be just as they are, just as God created them to be.

Come and see a group of knitters who gather every week so that they can use their time to make something special for someone else.

Come and see the rowdiest (and most wonderful) bunch of 8 o'clockers you've ever met and witness how much they care for each other.

Come and see and hear the beautiful music at 10:30 on a Sunday morning, and sing and make a joyful noise with us.

Come and see the young people who gather here, and just try and answer one of their challenging questions about God, because somehow they always just seem to get it.

Come and see the ways we give back to the community by collecting and distributing food and items needed by social service groups.

Come and see how we are passionate about mental, physical, and spiritual health and well-being, and about how we've partnered with groups to come in and run workshops that will hopefully help us become better versions of ourselves.

Come and see what it's like to worship in community, what it's like to pray together, to hear God's Word together, to break bread at the table together.

Come and see the social events we've got going on, because as much as we like to worship, we like to have fun and just spend time with each other too.

Come and see this place where we don't do anything perfectly but genuinely, always trusting that where we miss the mark God meets us with grace and mercy and love.

Come and see how, with the Spirit's help, and with Jesus' example, we try and love our neighbours (even the unlovable ones) as ourselves.

Come and see...*(insert your own idea here)*.

In the year ahead I commit myself to inviting at least one person each month to come and see something here at St. Mark's by the Lake. And I challenge and invite you to do the same—to be bold in your convictions about this place, sharing with others why it is that you come here, what it is that you get out of it, and how it shapes your life of faith. And then to be even bolder in your invitations to others: Come and see.

My friends, this is our work to do. Simple, yet challenging, and consistent with the way Jesus started his ministry. There is no elaborate strategic plan, there is no promise that it's going to be easy, and there's no guarantee of success. But this is precisely where we can and should be putting our faith in God and trusting that the Holy Spirit will work through us and through our words.

I give thanks to God continually, for each and every one of you, and for your dedication to the ministry we have committed ourselves to here at St. Mark's by the Lake. And I just know that you will join me in the year ahead in inviting others to join us for this journey. Come and see.

Yours in Christ,
Ryan+

Appendix to Rector's Report

Statistics for 2023

Baptisms: 0

Weddings: 0

Funerals: 7

Average Sunday Attendance: 87

Average Weekly Attendance: 90

Given Christian Burial by Clergy of This Parish:

Lillian Dobson

Walter Pasnik

Claire Craig,

Gloria Zeman

Norma Currie

Shirley Sponarski

Anne Jones

Rest eternal grant unto them O Lord and let light perpetual shine upon them.

May their souls and all the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

2024 Financial Report

St. Mark's by-the-Lake

Summary Financial Statements

December 31, 2023

		Outreach & Youth			Total 2023	2022
		Operating	Capital			
Balance Sheet						
Bank & Interfund		37,596	9,295	6,245	53,136	51,063
Other Assets		-	2,059,579	-	2,059,579	2,059,579
total assets		37,596	2,068,874	6,245	2,112,715	2,110,642
Payables		3,842	3,054	345	7,241	3,390
Parishioners		-	141,720	-	141,720	191,720
Reserves		25,600	9,295	5,900	40,794	45,183
Equity		8,155	1,914,805	-	1,922,960	1,870,349
total liabilities & equity		37,596	2,068,874	6,245	2,112,715	2,110,642
Income Statement						
Donations	171,771	157,767	59,335	5,410	222,512	180,454
Fundraising	14,000	18,980	-	-	18,980	12,448
Other Income	7,750	14,841	-	-	14,841	11,222
Reserves	1,000	(5,000)	8,588	800	4,388	(153)
total funding	194,521	186,587	67,923	6,210	260,721	203,972
Administration	7,500	8,332	3,951	-	12,283	7,375
Apportionment	31,120	31,120	-	-	31,120	28,832
Loan interest	3,643	-	2,798	-	2,798	3,315
Ministry	12,200	9,338	-	6,210	15,548	11,079
Property	34,000	40,227	11,173	-	51,400	36,476
Salaries	106,056	94,962	-	-	94,962	116,893
total expenditures	194,519	183,978	17,923	6,210	208,112	203,970
Surplus	2	2,609	50,000	-	52,609	2

St. Mark's by-the-Lake

Notes to financial statements for the year ending
December 31, 2023

1. Accounting policies

Capital assets represent historical costs of buildings, major renovations, furniture and equipment. Values are not amortized to operations. During the year voluntary services were provided. These services are not normally purchased by the Church. Because of the difficulty in determining their fair value, donated services are not recognized in these statements

2. Parishioner loans are due in 2026. Interest rates vary from 0 to 3.25%.

3. Youth & Outreach reserves

	<u>Youth</u>	<u>Outreach</u>	<u>Jubilee</u>	<u>2023 total</u>	<u>2022 total</u>
opening	\$ 3,194	\$ 1,304	\$ 2,202	\$ 6,700	\$ 6,700
spending	(800)			(800)	
donations				-	
closing	<u>\$ 2,394</u>	<u>\$ 1,304</u>	<u>\$ 2,202</u>	<u>\$ 5,900</u>	<u>\$ 6,700</u>

4. Capital Reserve:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
opening	\$ 12,883	\$ 12,730
elevator repairs & refrigerator		(5,406)
parking lot	(8,588)	
allocation from surplus	5,000	5,558
closing	<u>\$ 9,295</u>	<u>\$ 12,883</u>

5. Capital Equity - represents net assets through Capital fundraising

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
opening equity	\$ 1,867,859	\$ 1,857,859
Parishioner debt decrease	50,000	10,000
Interest payable	(3,054)	
closing equity	<u>\$ 1,914,805</u>	<u>\$ 1,867,859</u>

St. Mark's by-the-Lake

profile of donations

<u>Stratified Donations</u>		2023			2020		
		#	\$	avg	#	\$	avg
> \$ 2,500		16	62,504	3,907	19	79,761	4,198
> \$ 1,500		20	38,316	1,916	23	45,555	1,981
> \$ 1,000		25	31,389	1,256	33	40,148	1,217
> \$ 500		28	22,313	797	26	18,723	720
> \$ 100		36	12,050	335	39	11,726	301
< \$ 100		36	1,990	55	29	1,572	54
		161	168,562	1,047	169	197,485	1,169

<u>Key giving categories</u>		2023			2020		
		#	\$	avg	#	\$	avg
PreAuthorized Pmt		54	73,480	1,361	60	91,535	1,526
Seasonal		49	8,310	170	68	20,154	296
Capital		11	5,230	475	20	16,901	845
Sundays		106	68,124	643	114	57,734	506

Ways to Donate

- 1 Sunday collection plate
- 2 Mail in Cheques
- 3 eTransfers - stmarksdonate@gmail.com
See smbtl eTransfer procedures.pdf
- 4 Share Donations - transfer to Diocesan Broker
- 5 PreAuthorized Payment - automated monthly withdrawals through Diocese
See PRE-AUTHORIZED payment form
- 6 InKind - provide needed supplies for events or equipment
- 7 Canada Helps - online
Donate Now - ST MARK'S by the Lake Anglican Church <https://www.canadahelps.org/>

2024 Proposed Budget

Nominating Report Vestry 2024

St. Mark's by-the-Lake

Draft Budget to Vestry for 2024

notes		actual 2020	actual 2021	actual 2022	actual 2023	Proposed 2024	\$ chg	% chg
	Funding							
1	Offerings	195,806	177,269	175,439	163,562	197,158	33,596	20.5%
2	Other Income	23,108	15,548	11,222	14,841	13,250	(1,591)	
3	PAC	2,413	5,884	12,448	18,980	20,000	1,020	
4	Special Donations	6,631	4,158	5,015	58,950	3,500	(55,450)	
	From (to) Reserves	(9,126)	5,251	(153)	4,388	1,000	(3,388)	
	Total Revenues	218,832	208,110	203,972	260,721	234,908	(25,813)	
	Expenses							
5	Apportionment	29,916	30,993	28,832	31,120	32,418	1,298	4.2%
	Bank Charges	202	121	106	114	120	6	
	Chancel Guild	1,354	1,855	2,990	3,576	2,900	(676)	
	Ministry - Other	755	-	3,304	3,292	5,000	1,708	
	Music Supplies	476	485	927	1,746	1,000	(746)	
	Office	6,463	6,327	7,269	12,169	7,380	(4,789)	
	Youth Ministry	613	219	175	1,764	1,000	(764)	
6	Rector - Salary	46,818	46,818	43,775	18,000	48,984	30,984	
6	Rector - Benefits	33,400	33,717	30,636	13,138	35,524	22,386	
7	Staff	36,627	39,114	42,482	63,824	47,705	(16,119)	
8	Property	16,392	10,962	17,428	28,583	20,716	(7,867)	
8	Utilities & Insurance	12,350	16,113	19,048	22,817	23,860	1,043	4.6%
	Outreach	8,675	5,903	3,683	5,169	4,500	(669)	
	Evangelism	404	-	-	-	1,000	1,000	
	Loan interest	7,150	2,272	3,315	2,798	2,798	(1)	
9	Loan principal	17,265	7,894	10,000	50,000	-	(50,000)	
	Total Expenses	218,860	202,793	213,969	258,111	234,905	(23,207)	-9.0%
	Surplus/(deficit)	(28)	5,317	(9,998)	2,609	3		

1 Offerings reflects a 21% overall increase from 2023, but same as precovid

2 Other income reflects HST refund and rent revenues

3 PAC is tasked with summer and fall events

4 Special Donations are Outreach appeals

5 per final Diocesan worksheet on website

6 Full time with 4.1% salary increase for half year

7 increased admin hours and 4.1% increases

8 regular maintenance and 5% insurance increase

9 Interest only after refinancing by parishioners

Nominating Report Vestry 2024

Warden	Amanda Dibbs (appointed by Rector)	
Warden	Carolynne Mastellotto (nominated)	
Deputy Warden	Sharon Pyke (appointed by Rector)	
Deputy Warden	Daniel Hofgartner (nominated)	
Parish Administrator	Christie Paulton (Appointed by Wardens)	
Treasurer	Mark Charlton (Appointed by Wardens)	
Lay Delegate to Synod	Mark Charlton	
Lay Delegate to Synod	Chris McVeigh	
Alt. Lay Delegate to Synod		
Alt. Lay Delegate to Synod	Brooke White	
Youth Delegate		
Parish Council Members (Minimum of 4, maximum of 12, ½ elected, ½ appointed)		
John Anderson	Nathan Dean	Emily Fletcher
Harold Horneck	Fraser Mennell	Ruth Meyer
Christian Paulton	Arla Peters	Nelly Schuurman
Financial Reviewer	Marge & Jim Durling	
Pastoral Care	Barb Lyons and Bev Watson (Coordinators)	
Property	Nelly Schuurman, Steve White	
Outreach	Bev Watson	
Chancel Guild	Coni Moore (Coordinator)	
PAC	Brooke White	
Volunteer Coordinator	Dawn Dean	
Sunday School	Jane Cornett (Children and YM Coordinator)	
Verger	Nathan Dean	