St. Paul's Anglican Church Lindsay, Ontario

# Annual Vestry Report February 20th, 2022



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# ST. PAUL'S ANGLICAN CHURCH, LINDSAY

# ANNUAL VESTRY REPORTS

# **CONTENT**

<u>REPORTS</u>	PAGE
Incumbent's Report	
Bishop Andrew J. Asbil: Bishop R. Shaw: Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2022	
2021 Vestry Minutes	1, 2
Nominating Committee for Vestry	3
St. Paul's Parish Register	4
Warden's Report	4, 5
Spiritual Development Committee Report	5
Church School Report	5
Youth Ministry Report	5, 6
Worship Committee Report	6
Chancel Guild Report	6
Sides-Teams, Greeters Report	6
Choir Report	6, 7
Lectors Report	7
Worship Assistant Report	7
Advisory Board Report	7, 8
Lay Pastoral Visitors Report	8
Long Term Care and Holy Communion Service and Luncheon	8
Receptions Report	8
Outreach Report	8,9
St. Paul's Sisterhood Report	9
E.T.A. Report	9
Book Club Report	10
Communication, Special Events and Fundraiser Committee Report	10, 11
Shopping Card Report	11
Properties Report	12
Kitchen Team Report	12
Synod Report	13
Envelope Secretary's Report, St. Paul's Stewardship Stairway	14
Designated Funds Account	15
Social Justice Vestry Motion 2022 – Justice for Workers	15

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Please see Financial Report Package

#### Incumbent's Report to Vestry, 2022

Over the last few weeks, the phrase "it's always darkest before the dawn" has continually come to the forefront of my mind, often followed by "this too shall pass". It is undeniable that these last two years of pandemic restrictions and lockdowns have tested all of us and have affected people in numerous and perhaps unforeseeable ways. Loneliness and anxiety have surged through our communities and our nation. I am as ready as anyone to see the end to restrictions, and to be able to make solid plans for the future. While we are not there quite yet, we have cause to hope. We of course have the promises of God that he will be with us in all times, both good times and difficult ones. As written in the book of Isaiah "when you go through deep waters, I will be with you" (Is. 43:2).

However, the church family of St Paul's also has another reason to hope. Through these past two difficult pandemic years you have continued to strive, to stretch, and to grow into new ways of being Church together. I have been uplifted when I hear stories of how parishioners have not given up, especially with the challenges of new technology, but have soldiered on, often aiding one another in the learning. I am uplifted when I enter the hall and smell the meals being cooked by the King Albert lunch crew continuing on in their food ministry to vulnerable children. I am uplifted when I experience the music that our choir continues to offer, despite the challenges that are faced with masked singing. And I am uplifted when I see the various ways that each of you reach out to one another, staying connected and offering support.

Since my arrival in May of last year, I have sought ways to build upon what was already happening at St Paul's and try to smooth over areas where cracks and holes were beginning to appear. To that end, I developed two new committees to assist me in this work, namely the Worship and Spiritual Development Committees. For more information on these committees please refer to their respective reports.

Within my first two months, I also received the resignations of our Youth Worker, Dan Farmer and Organist, Gordon Brown. While these departures left holes in our church family, and we thank both Dan and Gordon for their contributions to St Paul's, these vacancies also provide an opportunity to re-examine the positions, what was happening in both Music and Children & Youth ministry and develop positions that correspond to the actual needs of the parish at this time. As you know, Diane Stecher, a long-time warden and newly retired music teacher, has accepted the position of Interim Music Director, effective February 1, 2022. Thank you, Diane, for taking on this role! I am excited to see the next steps for our music ministry unfold.

Regarding Children & Youth ministry, I would like to see the coming together of Sunday School and Youth group under one umbrella and headed up by a Children & Youth lay-minister. The person in this position would not do all the work in this ministry, as that is not possible. However, they would ensure that ministry to children and youth happens in a meaningful way. In addition, they would be involved in every ministry event to this group. At this time, this is\_only my vision and it will need to be supported by parish finances, grants, and parishioner support, both physically and spiritually. Please expect to hear more about this during 2022.

I would be remiss if I did not take this opportunity to address the financial picture at St Paul's. Firstly, I want to say, "well done!" for turning 2021 around and ending the year with a tiny deficit. This gives me hope that we can do the same for 2022 if we all work together. In a previous parish a metaphor was used of steering a ship along a rocky coast to describe their finances. In the case of St Paul's, I believe that there is still time to steer the boat to safer waters, but we all have to row together! If this does not happen, I shudder to think of the parish's fate over the next several years. I urge each of you at this time to prayerfully consider your offerings to the parish. May we bless the Church out of the abundance that we individually have been blessed with.

Finally, in addition to having much hope for the future, I also have much gratitude for so many. From deep within my heart, I offer my thanks to a number of people, who have been amongst my greatest cheerleaders, always with an encouraging word in difficult circumstances, and a smile, even if it is behind a mask: to Canon Greg for his priceless guidance and support; to each of the wardens, Jo-Anne Burridge, Don Chase, Lorna Green and Diane Stecher for everything that they have done for me over the past year; to our parish secretary Valerie James, for her support and care, making sure to introduce me to parishioners and her encyclopedic knowledge of the parish and community. I know that my time in a new parish during a pandemic would have been even harder without Valerie's constant encouragement and assistance; to the parishioners who have worked tirelessly to keep us moving forward, Gerald Armstrong and the Advisory Committee; Harold Brown and the Re-Opening Committee; Barb Truax and the Communications Committee; the members of the Worship and Spiritual Development Committees (thank you for saying "yes"!); Marg Brohm and the Chancel Guild who have answered my many, many questions patiently, always willing to serve; Tom Ross who has also answered many, many financial questions very patiently; and Gail Payne and the Outreach Committee who have kept financial support flowing to those who desperately need it, despite whether we are in lockdown or not; and to each of you who have so kindly welcomed me and my family to your parish, thank you! I look forward to the time when we can freely offer each other a handshake or a hug.

May the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, so that by the power of the Holy Spirit you may abound in hope (Romans 15:13).

Yours in Christ, Rev Bonnie



To the clergy, churchwardens, and parishioners of the Diocese of Toronto,

#### Beloved Siblings in Christ,

May the grace and peace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with you all.

As you gather today for the annual vestry meeting, we as your bishops wanted to write to you united as a College, to assure you of our prayers, gratitude and love for you in the face of the challenges facing our Church at this time. We want to encourage you and to assure you of our support, as we look back on the past year and anticipate the one that lies before us.

Our life together continues to be shaped by a little virus called COVID-19. Most of us had hoped that we would be back to our pre-pandemic ways by now. Yet we seem to be entering into the third year of this pandemic, and we are in the midst of an incredible fifth wave. We have learned to adapt, shift, change, open, close, move online, Zoom, sing through a mask, and much more. None of us could have imagined that we were capable of doing all of this, for as long as we have, when we closed our church buildings for the first time in March 2020.

To say that we are tired – worn out, fed up – would be an understatement. We wonder: how much longer? Unfortunately, while we may be finished with this pandemic, this pandemic is not quite finished with us.

## "Be strong and courageous; do not be frightened or dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go." (Joshua 1:9)

Just as the Lord commissioned Joshua to take on leadership from Moses and to lead the people forward into the land that had been promised, so God commissions us to be faithful even in the midst of this anxiety. As with Joshua, God promises to be with us wherever we go. And God's faithfulness to Israel on the cusp of new life in a new land, renews our hope for our own deliverance.

In the crucible of this pandemic, there are signs of God's light and life all around us, and we have been so moved by the ways that strength and courage have been shown by the people of our Diocese this year. The movement to virtual worship, the leaving behind of our buildings for a time, the reliance on community that has been formed and nurtured online – these are all signs of the resilience born of our faith in Jesus Christ. They are reminders that the Lord our God is with us wherever we go – even through this season of deep challenge – and that God has not abandoned us.

God's accompaniment has been made known in other ways too. In the midst of this pandemic, we as a Church have been coming to terms with issues of systemic racism and bias. The rollout of anti-bias and anti-racism training in 2021 – and the participation of almost all our active clergy – is a sign of God's transformative work in us as a Church. We still have much to do to combat racism and bias, but these steps bring us closer to the Church we are called to be. The ABAR workshops will be rolled out at the parish level in the coming year, and we strongly encourage your support and participation. The apology to the LGBTQ+ community in June was a further step in the Gospel work of justice, dignity and inclusion. May Christ continue to be with us as we seek to be transformed in His likeness.

The Gospel of Christ has good news and hard news. The good news is that we have hope in Jesus, who is our unchanging rock and our constant salvation in the midst of the storms and tribulations of this life. The hard news is that we are called to serve others in Christ's name. Service is sacrificial. Service is rewarding. Service is at the heart of our faith. Thank you so very much for your service to the Church and to the glory of God this past year. We are speaking here to all the baptised: our hardworking churchwardens, treasurers, musicians, administrators, Sunday School teachers, ACWs, outreach workers, altar guilds, sextons, our now-indispensable tech volunteers, and so many more. To our beloved clergy, both priests and deacons: you pour your heart and soul into your God-given vocation, and we see you. We are grateful beyond words for the super-human effort you have tirelessly made to build up the People of God during this pandemic.

At such a time as this, when we are deeply unsettled, when we would prefer the comfortable to the challenging, Christ is calling us to look for the opportunities that are being presented anew: how can we partner with a neighbouring church to do more effective and robust ministry? Do we need to have all the answers before we set out on the journey of missional exploring and engagement? What are we afraid of, and how can the good news of Christ allay our fears and embolden our hearts to venture into the unknown? How can we put "the movement of the Spirit" into words, phrases and invitations to which new disciples can respond?

Without a doubt, we are all tired; yet recently, we your bishops are also hearing something new. You are beginning to dream again. And we know that when the Church dreams...things change.

"In the last days, God says, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your children will prophesy, your young will see visions, your elderly will dream dreams." (Joel 2:28)

May you have a creative, hopeful and inspiring vestry meeting today, as we enter this new year with the strength and courage of the One who accompanies us on our journey. We are praying for you all.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,

In Toronto

The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil Bishop of Toronto

+ Ringelle Shan

The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

+ twin Pointsa

The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

## St. Paul's Anglican Church, Lindsay

#### **Annual Vestry Meeting Minutes**

## March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Annual Vestry Meeting was called to order at 11:30 am, via Zoom. Forty six members signed in. List of those in attendance is attached. Lorna Green recorded attendance. Marlene Wood was appointed Vestry Clerk.

Lorna Green reviewed the Zoom meeting protocols.

Canon Gloria Master led the opening prayer. Her opening remarks included the unusualness of this Vestry meeting and the challenges that we have all faced during this pandemic.

There were no corrections from February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2020 minutes. Motion made by Barb Truax and seconded by John Sale to accept the 2020 Vestry Meeting Minutes as written. Carried. No one opposed.

Business arising from 2020 minutes. Nothing to discuss.

#### Incumbent's Report

Attached

#### **Report from Envelope Secretary**

Marlene Wood pointed out that if each family increased their givings by \$1.00 per week, the impact would be approximately \$7,800.00 in a year. The advantages of signing up with PAR (Pre Authorized Remittance) were discussed. There are currently 25 families giving via PAR for a total of approximately \$3000.00 per month. Gerald Armstrong pointed out that this represents only about 25% of all donations and, as an Advisory Board member, he would like to explore other ways to promote PAR as a way to give regularly.

Motion: Moved by Gerald Armstrong and Seconded by Diane Stecher to accept the envelope Secretary's report as given. Carried. No one opposed.

#### Financial Report 2020: Tom Ross, Treasurer

Tom Ross thanked April Russell, Marlene Wood, Marg Brohm, Linda Todd and Don Brohm for their dedication and help throughout the year. The 2020 Financial Report presented to Vestry is an unaudited report. The outside Auditors are still working on an audited report. Once the audited report is received, a Special Vestry will be called to review and pass the audited 2020 financial report. Doug Read asked who manages the Churches investments and Tom Ross advised it was managed by the Diocesan Trust Fund. Mr. Read also asked about the gift card program and was advised that this fund raising program was managed by Linda Todd and her team.

Tom Ross pointed out certain lines of interest on the report and explained there were "Notes to the Financial Statements" at the back of the report that would hopefully answer any questions or concerns that people may have about the report.

Please see attached the detailed 2020 Financial Report.

Motion: Moved by Tom Ross and seconded by Gerald Armstrong that the Annual Vestry Unaudited Financial Report to Vestry be approved as presented. Carried. No one opposed.

#### Presentation of the 2021 Budget:

Tom Ross thanked the Wardens, the Finance Committee and Members of the Advisory Board for their continued work and support throughout the year. There are many assumptions to be made for 2021 and things may change. The 2021 budget is basically a mirror of 2020 and based on the Church reopening in

September 2021. Diocesan/Area Grants are expected to be reduced in 2021 but CEWS (Canada Emergency Wage Supplement) Subsidy should still be available in 2021.

Motion: Moved by Tom Ross and Seconded by Gerald Armstrong that the 2021 Budget be approved as presented. Carried. No one opposed.

#### **Appointments and Elections**

Canon Gloria Master advised Vestry that St Paul's requires 2 new positions (Lay Members) to the Parish Tribunal. After discussion, Elections were held and Bob Coleman nominated Harold Brown, Seconded by John Sale – ACCEPTED. Lorna Green nominated Barb Truax, Seconded by Gina Coleman – ACCEPTED.

Motion: Moved by Tom Ross and Seconded by

Beverly Baxter that nominations be closed.

Moved by Jo-Anne Burridge and Seconded by Donna Gushue that the amended list of nominees recommended for elected positions in parish ministry for 2021 by the Nominating Committee be approved by Vestry. Carried. No one opposed.

Wardens: our four Wardens, Jo-Anne Burridge, Don Chase, Lorna Green and Diane Stecher, will stand for another term. THANK YOU. No election required.

#### New Business

Canon Gloria Master read the Social Justice Motion 2021 offered by the Bishop's Committee on Intercultural Ministry. Much discussion ensued after the reading, mostly related to the wording of the motion. A vote to accept the Motion as written was taken. There were 28 unopposed and 18 opposed. Carried. Motion passed.

Canon Gloria thanked everyone for their comments and suggestions. Canon Gloria put forth the following motion.

Vestry requests that the Churchwardens convene a Parish Town Hall Meeting when the COVID-19 restrictions are lifted or modified to allow for a safe gathering of parishioners. The intent of the meeting would be to allow discussion and proposed action by the Parish on all issues of racial discrimination.

#### Other Business

Bob Coleman thanked Lorna Green for arranging Zoom for this year's annual Vestry meeting.

Diane Stecher thanked Canon Gloria Master for her service during these difficult times.

Motion: Moved by Gerald Armstrong that the 2021 Annual Vestry Meeting be adjourned. Carried.

Marlene Wood, Vestry Clerk

#### NOMINATING COMMITTEE REPORT TO VESTRY

#### ELECTED POSITIONS

#### **POSITION**

PEOPLE'S WARDEN DEPUTY PEOPLE'S WARDEN SYNOD DELEGATE # 1 SYNOD DELEGATE # 2 MEMBER AT LARGE AUDITOR

MARLENE WOOD LORNA GREEN GERALD ARMSTRONG Peter Shennett Professional Corp.

#### APPOINTED POSITIONS

#### **POSITION**

**RECTOR'S WARDEN DEPUTY RECTOR'S WARDEN BOOK KEEPER FINANCE COMMITTEE Chair** TREASURER **ADVISORY BOARD CHAIR** ADVISORY BOARD SECRETARY SHOPPING CARD CO-ORDINATOR **PROPERTY MANAGER** SIGNING AUTHORITIES **OUTREACH COMMITTEE COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE GRAPEVINE EDITOR** MUSIC DIRECTOR ST. PAUL'S WEB SITE CO-ORDINATOR EVENTS COORDINATION **Music Concert** Sock Hop **Fair Booth Blooms of Spring Market Mystery Dinner Theatre** Pancake Supper & Christmas Day Dinner Spring Thaw Strawberry Supper **Fashion Show CHOIR CHANCEL GUILD** NURSERY and CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES SIDESPERSONS CHAIRPERSON PASTORAL CARE **MEMBERS AT LARGE** SYNOD DELEGATE ALTERNATE ENVELOPE SECRETARY LONG TERM CARE SERVICES/LUNCHEONS VERGER ARCHIVES LIBRARY COMMITTEE FUNERAL RECEPTION CO-ORDINATOR **VESTRY CLERK** KITCHEN OPERATIONS CONVENER **COFFEE COORDINATOR** 

<u>APPOINTEE</u>

NOMINEE

APRIL RUSSELL TOM ROSS TOM ROSS

LINDA TODD DON BROHM WARDENS, TREASURER, Barb Truax GAIL PAYNE Advisory Board Rep. BARB TRUAX DIANE STECHER EDITOR DIANE STECHER MARY SULLIVAN

Rev. Bonnie Skerritt Donna Williams Pam Todhunter., Carol Hughes Ray Marshall Zinda Harper and Committee Barb Truax John Gundy Barb Truax, Linda Todd, Gina Coleman

Donna Williams/ Pam Todhunter, Carol Hughes DON CHASE MARG BROHM

JOHN SALE REV. BONNIE SKERRITT ARLENE OAKES, LINDA TODD BARBARA TRUAX MARLENE WOOD SHIRLEY WILLIAMS GERALD ARMSTRONG IAN MCKECHNIE GINA COLEMAN / PHYLLIS CARPENTIER SHIRLEY WILLIAMS JANICE ROSS JOHN GUNDY BARB TRUAX

**PREPARED BY THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE:**, BARB TRUAX, RAY MARSHALL, Diane Stecher Last Updated: February 3, 2022 - The open positions are pending awaiting further responses.

# St. Paul's Parish Register

# 2021

Statistics for 2021 once again, reflect the impact of Covid 19 on St. Paul's and on the community as a whole with buildings being in "lockdown" for lengthy periods of time and with compliance to diocesan guidelines when open. When in "lockdown" Sunday worship was provided on-line only. Thank you to dedicated parishioners who volunteered to provide and participate in the live-streaming of Sunday liturgies. Sacramental life in the form of funerals, marriages and baptisms also were restricted in compliance with provincial guidelines for the personal safety of all involved and to limit the potential for Covid-19 to spread. In times when "in-person" worship was allowed attendance was restricted as per guidelines in effect. Eucharist was offered in one kind. Only one "in person" liturgy was offered with social distancing strictly adhered and masks mandatory in order to provide minimum personal contact and a safe environment for attendees. Thankfully by year's end, congregational singing resumed and the service books were once again in use.

# **Baptisms**

# Weddings

Heather Denise Griffiths	and	Andrew Bodnar
Mary Ellen Marlene Gerster	and	Jan Mikkelsen

# <u>Burials</u>

Swinson, Evelyn Dorothy Altreta Burton, Barbara Jean Smith, Rodger Levi Wilkinson Taylor, Daphne Patricia Bain, Marine Greta Sisson, Robert George Powell, Garnet Ray Stephenson, Rev. Elsie June Morris, George Leslie

#### WARDEN'S REPORT

WOWZA! What a year we had at St. Paul's! We've had so many things happen since last Vestry. We said goodbye to Rev. Canon Gloria and welcomed our new incumbent Rev. Bonnie Skerritt and her husband Michael and grandson Liam. We are so blessed to have Rev. Bonnie and I hope everyone will make her welcome as she brings new life to St. Paul's.

Glad to have our church secretary, Valerie, back to work after breaking two wrists and her humerus, from a nasty fall on black ice here at church. With lots of help, we were able to keep the church office open two days a week during her absence. As they say "THE SHOW MUST GO ON."

Several church closings have taken place during the past two years during COVID-19, making it very difficult for our church to run smoothly. In 2021 we installed new equipment in order to live stream our services. We are thankful to Mike & Lorna Green and Kylie Stecher, for arranging this service each week. (Any headaches? LOL). Live Streaming is not the same as meeting with one another, in person, at church but we were able to still find a way to connect, through the technology.

Some of the restrictions we had to manage were: 30% capacity, hand sanitizing, sitting a distance apart, at times, no singing, communion is no wine with the wafer, and masks to be worn at all times. Thank you, everyone, for your understanding and patience.

We now have an interim Music Director, Diane Stecher, she has been volunteering on Sundays to play the piano since we were first locked down two years ago. Congratulations Diane!

We were able to have one fundraiser, the MYSTERY DINNER, at Celebrations. Thank you Barb Truax, for arranging this event. The LEX went on without St. Paul's as the Diocese policies wouldn't allow to do so.

As you might imagine, without this revenue stream added to regular church offerings, it is most difficult to meet our expenses

During the latter part of 2021, we created a Tower of Cans, for the food bank during Thanksgiving; on November 21st we celebrated our 185th Church Anniversary with a visit from Bishop Asbil. Christmas brought our new, Memorial Angel Tree, with donations going toward Church repairs. A big thanks to Liz and John Gundy, along with Rick and Laurie, for managing our Annual Christmas Day Dinner takeout. Rev. Bonnie introduced an afternoon Christmas day Service, that brought people from the community to share in music and readings.

Unfortunately, this year, all your Church Wardens are retiring at the same time, and most of us will say the last two years have been a challenge. I personally, enjoyed my 6 years as People's Warden, as well as Deputy Peoples Warden, but feel it's time for me to let someone else have the experience. Please be assured, though we are stepping away from Warden duties, we will be around to help the new Wardens, as well as the church, in other areas of ministry.

Submitted by Peoples Warden Jo-Anne Burridge

#### SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE REPORT

The Spiritual Development Committee (SDC) met for the first time on September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2021. The initial members of this group were Mike Perry, Lorna Green, Shirley Williams, Gail Payne, Beverly Baxter and Donna Gushue.

The work of the SDC is to find ways to assist parishioners in their spiritual growth outside of worship. This can include events such as Bible studies, Children & Youth ministry, retreats, and Lenten studies, to name a few. One of the new initiatives developed by this committee is our new study group "Faith & Friendship" which began with an Advent study on November 29<sup>th</sup>, 2021.

<u>Faith & Friendship</u> is held every Monday evening via Zoom. We begin to gather between 6:30 - 7:00 pm for a time of friendly sharing, and then move into our study time until 8:30 pm.

Our first offering was *The Redemption of Scrooge* by Matt Rawle for Advent, led by Rev Bonnie. This was well received and we were pleased that people felt comfortable to engage with the group. 2022 has a number of different studies planned, some with no cost to participants, others requiring the purchase of a book. If the cost is a barrier to you, please reach out to Rev Bonnie about this.

The SDC is also pleased to report that our initiative for a Lenten retreat was so good that it has grown into a Deanery event! More information on that in the coming weeks.

All of us on the SDC want nothing more than to support others on their faith journey. If you have an idea that you would like us to consider, please reach out to one of the members.

A big "thank you" to all of the members of this team! I am excited to see what we can do in 2022!

Yours in Christ, Rev Bonnie Skerritt

#### CHURCH SCHOOL REPORT

Due to Covid 19 we were unable to have church school this year. We pray we can start in 2022 with singing, bible stories, prayers, games and crafts. Please let the children know we miss seeing them.

Submitted by Shirley Williams

#### YOUTH GROUP REPORT

Dan ended his ministry at St. Paul's June 2021 and this is the final report he provided to Advisory Board. "Dan reported that because he had moved out of the area and that the Youth Program should be re-vamped perhaps once the COVID-19 pandemic was 'completed', he would step down from his Youth Ministry position effective the end of the current school year. Currently there are about 10 youth involved, 2-3 from Lindsay, others from Fenelon Falls, Paisley and Pickering where there is not an equivalent group."

#### WORSHIP COMMITTEE REPORT

The Worship Committee met for the first time on September 14<sup>th</sup>, 2021. The members consist of people in particular liturgical roles and are invited by the Incumbent to provide input from various groups. Our initial group consisted of Don Brohm (Worship Assistant), Don Chase (Choir rep.), Diane Stecher (Musician), Shirley Williams (Sunday School) and the Incumbent, Rev Bonnie Skerritt. The Rev Canon Greg Physick, Honorary Assistant, joined the group later in the Autumn.

The work of the Worship Committee is to delve into the "nuts & bolts" of preparing a weekly worship experience, taking into consideration both local tradition and creative expressions of worship. This includes, but is not limited to, major feasts (Christmas, Easter, Pentecost & All Saints), the Seasons of Creation, Advent & Lent, Remembrance Sunday, National Indigenous Day of Prayer, All Souls and looking at ways to incorporate both traditional and contemporary Anglican worship throughout the year. Of course, the final decision on all facets of liturgy rests with the clergy.

As Incumbent, I am very happy with the work of this group so far. We work well together and I look forward to collaborating with the committee in 2022. "Thank you!" to each one of you for giving so freely of your time and talent!

Yours in Christ, Rev Bonnie Skerritt

#### CHANCEL GUILD REPORT

Year 2021 was another year of unpredictability for everyone.

We were able to have church services in the church for Thanksgiving and Christmas and decorated the church for both. It seemed we were getting back to normal duties when we were locked down. Thank you to all the Chancel members for their help with decorating the church for Thanksgiving and Christmas in 2021, it was very much appreciated. God willing we will resume our regular duties in 2022. We look forward to working with Rev. Bonnie.

New members are welcome at any time.

Submitted by Marg Brohm

#### SIDESPERSON, GREETERS TEAM REPORT

The duties of the Sidesperson Team have reduced slightly with the removal of the need for taking temperatures on entry. The numbers attending Sunday Services have generally stayed within the prescribed limits. Christmas Eve Service was well attended, but families were able to sit together which meant we could all fit in safely. Several of our regular volunteers have advised that they will not be able to attend Services in person until the risk of Covid reduces. This, together with the slightly larger team required, means we still have a need for more volunteers to spread the load when we return to in-person Services.

Regards, John Sale

#### CHOIR REPORT

2021 was a most unusual year for the church choir. The church was closed for in-person worship from December 26, 2020 until Sunday August 15, 2021 due to the Covid lockdown. Services continued to be livestreamed by our worship team, but only one singer (cantor) was allowed to sing based on strict protocols. Plus, there was to be no congregational singing. Thankfully, we relied on the talents of Don Chase, our cantor, who sang week in and week out at the microphone, while wearing a mask.

In addition, during the church closure our organist and choir director, Gordon Brown, went away up north on somewhat of a temporary sabbatical, as he put it. So, the music for services was performed by Diane Stecher or Myrna Sloboda most of the time. Gordon returned to play some services in June, July, and August, but then

submitted a letter of resignation effective August 29, 2021. So, we said goodbye to Gordon, and then Myrna agreed to be our interim musician on September 5<sup>th</sup>, but then was not able to continue the commitment after a few weeks. So, Diane volunteered to keep filling in on the piano, while Rev. Bonnie and the wardens began the process of hiring a new Music Director.

In November, the Bishop gave churches great news – that congregational singing would be permitted, as well as being able to invite the church choir to sing, albeit in small numbers. So, on Sundays, we were happy to be able have three or four members of the choir singing and sharing their talents with us. In December, Diane offered to hold choir practices on Thursday evenings so that the choir could prepare the hymns, and occasional anthem as well. So, after many months of not being allowed to sing in church, the choir was so happy to resume rehearsals and their singing role – even if it meant wearing masks, keeping distanced, and only singing in small groups. The Advent music and anthems were appreciated by the congregation, judging by the applause, and positive feedback received in person, or on social media. What a huge relief it was just to have singing again! In-person worship and singing (with certain restrictions) continued to the end of December 2021.

Respectfully submitted by Diane Stecher

#### LECTORS REPORT

Our Lectors, under the direction of The Rev. Bonnie Skerritt, skillfully read the scripture lessons appointed for the 10am church service.

While the Covid 19 pandemic is still with us, I strive to keep our readers informed of the rules of the quarantine within our church.

Our current members are:

Gina Coleman, Dawn Evans, Lorna Green, Liz. Gundy, Suzanne McAllister, Tom Ross, Ursula Ruhbach, Judy Sedgley, Barb. Truax, Michal Wallen, Jane Whitfield, and Beverly Baxter.

We will miss Mike Perry (and his little helpers) as he has moved to a new home and Parish in Fenelon Falls his "home town."

On behalf of myself and the people of St. Paul's, I wish to thank these men and women for their faithful dedication during another difficult year . May God bless and keep you safe.

Please speak to Rev. Bonnie or myself if you feel called to be part of this rewarding ministry.

Respectfully submitted, Beverly Baxter

#### WORSHIP ASSISTANCE REPORT

Worship Assistants work under the direction of the Incumbent providing assistance at the 10:00 a.m. worship services or any other service where assistance is required.

Worship Assistants read lessons, lead prayers and assist with communion as indicated by the Priest. When requested, they lead services such as Morning Prayer.

2021 roster of Worship Assistants included Don Brohm, Ethel Morris, Gail Payne, Kathy LeGresley, Paul Carpentier, and Mike Perry.

Respectfully submitted by Don Brohm

#### ST PAUL'S ADVISORY BOARD REPORT

St Paul's Lindsay has had an Advisory Board for many years. The Advisory Board's make-up and duties are defined in Canon 17 of the Diocese of Toronto. Our Board has acted in accordance with this set of guidelines. As a result, it is mandated to meet at least quarterly. The duties, as documented in Canon 17, include:

1) Meet at least quarterly with the Wardens and Treasurer to review a written financial statement and to make recommendations as appropriate

- 2) Receive and review the budget prior to being presented at the Annual Vestry Meeting and make recommendations thereon.
- 3) To discuss and make recommendations as appropriate on any other matters that arise during the year

Bringing this back to the actual case for St Paul's: Essentially, our Advisory Board acts in an advisory capacity to the Incumbent and Churchwardens of our parish. We generally meet 10 of the 12 months of the year. Members include: our Incumbent, the Wardens, the Treasurer, Chairs of the Finance Committee, Outreach, Communications, the St Paul's Sisterhood, Property Management, delegates to Synod, Youth, The Happy Cooks and others who are actively involved in some aspect of current church operations. The agenda for each month includes reports from the Incumbent, the Wardens, a Treasurer's financial summary and other members of the Board as appropriate as well as any new issues that may arise. Attendance at each session is about 14-17 members depending on personal schedules.

The meetings, which have been executed entirely via ZOOM since March 2020 are recorded in a set of minutes – this past year by the Chair of the Advisory Board. Based on the longevity of the COVID-19 pandemic, this format is likely to continue well into 2022.

Submitted by Gerald Armstrong, Advisory Board Chair

#### LAY PASTORAL VISITOR'S REPORT

The Lay Pastoral Visitors team were able to have one meeting with the new incumbent Rev. Bonnie to arrange how to do this ministry during COVID. Due to the lockdowns the team were able to do only a couple of services at William Place and one service at Caressant Care on Mary Street.

Gail Payne visited a number of parishioners, who have difficulties getting to church, in their homes in between lock downs this past year. Gail also spoke with several parishioners via the phone. We are pleased to have Janice Ross joining Gail in this ministry.

The phone group also called as many parishioners as could be reached two or three times during the year. Most very much appreciated our staying in touch through this pandemic.

#### LONG TERM CARE & HOLY COMMUNION SERVICE & LUNCHEON

It was disappointing this year we were unable to hold again the Long Term Care service followed by a luncheon that would have normally been held for Thanksgiving, Christmas and Easter. I am sure the residents missed it as well, we pray we will be able to have these once again in 2022.

Submitted by Shirley Williams

#### **RECEPTIONS**

Unfortunately these evets were cancelled this year due to Covid 19. Hopefully this will change in 2022.

Submitted by Shirley Williams

## OUTREACH COMMITTEE REPORT

This report summarizes committee activities and programs in 2021. Our small group was able to meet in person after a virtual meeting in March. We strive to show Christ's love on behalf of St. Paul's.

#### Outreach and Designated Givings were allocated as follows. Quarterly Outreach Recipients

**Local:** RBC Ministries (Daily Bread Devotions), Boys and Girls Club Lindsay, Women's Resources, Haliburton Kawartha Children's Fund

National: Kairos, Arctic Diocese, Mission to Seafarers, Yukon Diocese

**International:** Jamaican Self Help, Hope and Healing, FINCA, Stephen Lewis Foundation Each of these Charities received a donation of \$150 **Designated Givings:** Foster Children (twice), Doctors Without Borders, Archbishop MacDonald's Fund for Northern Clergy, A Place Called Home (twice), Habitat for Humanity, PWRDF, Giving With Grace Healing Fund, Faithworks 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Campaign, Local Alzheimer's Society, Living Waters

**Foster Children:** we support one child in Chile, Honduras and El Salvador respectively through SOS Children's Villages and three children in Haiti through The Arms of Jesus. During the past year our child in Nicaragua left to rejoin his family and was replaced by a boy in Chile. Two of our children in Haiti left the program and have been replaced by 2 other Haitian children - a girl and a boy.

#### **Other Programs**

**King Albert School:** John Gundy and his crew are making and delivering hot meals to the school on alternate Tuesdays in rotation with Cambridge United Church. Supplies are paid by the school, but the funds are channelled through Outreach, who will provide extra funds if needed. We are also currently collecting used or new winter coats and boots in the bin at the back of the church. Muriel Kent has knitted many pairs of mittens for the children.

**Queen Victoria School:** the parish collected a large number of requested items including back pack fillers of school supplies and water bottles. These were delivered to the students in December. The Sisterhood also knitted a large number of mittens for them.

**Financial changes:** Marg Brohm and Tom Ross have combined #99 Outreach with #200 Local Outreach into #99 in Designated Givings beginning Jan.1, 2022, for means of simplification. It is noted that there has been a significant decline in Designated Givings in 2021. We thank you for past support and urge you to give as you are able to our carefully chosen recipients.

**Devotional booklets:** Rev. Skerritt initiated an order for a small number of Forward Day By Day booklets for the parish through Outreach. These are available at no charge to parishioners.

**Seafarers:** the Sisterhood provided 3 large bags of knitted toques and scarves, plus person items which were delivered to the Oshawa Mission in November for the men's/women's Christmas boxes.

**Angel Tree Program:** we bought, wrapped and delivered Christmas gifts for 8 children at the request of, and on behalf of, an incarcerated parent. Six children were local and 2 were out of province.

Stamp Out Poverty: we are still collecting used postage stamps for Oxfam's anti-poverty campaign.

Respectfully submitted by Gail Payne Chair of the Outreach Committee

#### SISTERHOOD OF ST. PAUL'S

This has been a difficult year for us to stay together. When the weather was mild we were able to meet outside a few times and continued also to meet at the church. As we go to print we have been on "pause" waiting until Covid allows us to meet once again at the church.

Our group did manage to deliver personal care bags and activity bags for children twice to Women's Resources. We also were able to knit scarves and toques for the Seafarers that were delivered by Gail Payne. This year we knit mittens and toques for our neighbour King Albert School. As a Christmas project we sewed and filled 5 Christmas stockings for some faithful children that have been coming to church during the pandemic.

We now seem to be in limbo until we meet again but do hope to have a table in May for the planned event in the courtyard.

Submitted by Shirley Hanes

#### E.T.A. REPORT

E.T.A (encouraging traveling alone) started about ten years ago. This fellowship group has had numerous, varied activities over the years. The purpose is simply to provide those who live alone, or those who are alone for activities, an opportunity to connect with others.

Initially ETA was for parishioners recently bereaved, but it soon evolved. Any event is open to all. However, couples or friends who attend, are encouraged to mix with others so that nobody will feel alone. This report is a reminder to anticipate activity in 2022.

In the last two years of Covid 19, there unfortunately was no activity. We hoped that we could figure out how to do something in person in 2021 but our fall event at a restaurant was cancelled due to concerns for rising case numbers.

The following is a sample list of some activities done in the past: Backyard BBQ, meeting at restaurants, driving tour in CKL with lunch, plus attending memorial services together for mutual support. Some years, members have attended local live theatre. The BBQ attracts 25 but we are successful if only one person joins. There is no limit to what we can do.

A group is the sum of its members and even some who have been too busy or ill to attend contribute to its success. We feel your prayers and feel connected to you even though we have not had group activities for a while. The weekly "This and That" means we see some of you in photos and the in-person church services did allow us to give virtual hugs.

We can work together to re-emerge safely from our cocoons, to have fun, and to support one another through this St. Paul's fellowship group. And a special welcome, if you are new to our church. To find out more—Contact: Donna Gushue, 705-928-2778

Submitted by Donna Gushue

#### BOOK CLUB REPORT

Another year has come and gone and we find ourselves still living in pandemic times. It was in February of 2020 that the book club last met in person enjoying our wine and appetizers, pot luck dinner, and lively discussion of the book selection.

This past year we have met via Zoom and for a few months, in person. With the summer weather, we were able to meet at the Railroad Park a few times, a very pleasant outdoor venue where we brought our individual picnic lunches and discussed the book of the month. In August, September and October we were able to meet outdoors in members' backyards, specifically at the home of Donna Williams once and at the home of Emma Bowrin twice. It was such a healing balm to be present with each other in person. We did have one indoor meeting in November at the home of Shirley Hanes. But, we are now back to Zoom meetings until the rapid spreading Omicron variant is under control.

Our books have covered diverse topics: the Packhorse Libraries in 1930s rural Kentucky, the creation of a royal wedding dress, a tale of an Irish immigrant, the rescue of children from mainland Europe to England during World War II, a Paris library that served the citizens during World War II, a lovely story set in Northern Ontario focusing on a young girl, a middle aged man, and an old woman, a floating library in France, and the story of three women who served at Bletchley Park during the war.

Although we are weary of life in Covid times, we are all grateful to have the camaraderie and support of our book club sisters. It has eased the distress of this new world we now inhabit and has helped to carry us forward to the day we might meet in person, share a meal, and enjoy all that we have previously taken for granted.

Respectfully submitted by Lorna Green

#### **COMMUNICATIONS, SPECIAL EVENTS & FUNDRAISER COMMITTEE**

The St. Paul's 2021 year has been grossly affected by our Covid-19 pandemic. Thus many of our regular and special events could not been held.

However we said farewell to our Interim Priest Gloria Masters and welcomed our new incumbent, Rev. Bonnie Skerritt in May.

We welcomed and enjoyed a visit from our Diocesan Bishop Andrew Asbil in November.

We held an Online 50/50 Draw in March and April. We did have a small window in early November where our 28<sup>th</sup> Mystery Theatre and Dinner resumed at Celebrations with a very talented group of actors and a very receptive audience.

We also continued with our Christmas Day dinner in takeout style. This was appreciated by the community.

Watch this site (<u>www.st-pauls-lindsay.ca</u>) for upcoming events and news that Mary Sullivan, our webmaster, posts as well as special services, sermons and past live streamed services. There is also a 'Donate'' button if you wish to support the church

Brochures are available both in the foyer at the front entrance of the church and in the Parish Hall outlining all church activities with dates and time as well as the brochure of the Self- Walking Tour of the church proper.

We are looking for a willing volunteer to act as liaison between the church and webmaster, Mary Sullivan. This only involves sending upcoming events and activities to Mary via email. (For further information please speak with Rev Bonnie or any of the wardens or members of the Communication Committee (listed below)

This committee has a very diversified mandate and thus offers a place for anyone. If you would like to know more about this committee, speak to any of the wardens or Rev. Bonnie.

#### THE GRAPEVINE (our quarterly newsletter to you)

This quarterly newsletter, The GrapeVine" is possibly the major source of church information. Due to the procurement of sponsorships, this newsletter is completely self-sustaining. We encourage you to patronize these sponsoring businesses and thank them for their support of St. Paul's. As well, each edition of The Grapevine is sent to you via Canada Post. By pre-sorting these newsletters at the Church we are allowed postage at a much-reduced rate.

Sincere thanks is expressed to these committee members who undertake their responsibilities with thoughtfulness and good humour on your behalf:

They are Barbara Brown, Betty Tyndall, Beverly Baxter, Shirley Williams, Gina Coleman, Jane Whitfield, Pat and Ross Smyth, Linda Todd and Barb Truax.

Submitted by Barb Truax

#### **SHOPPING CARDS REPORT**

I am very happy to report that even though the COVID-19 Pandemic has continued through 2021, the Shopping cards with its dedicated parishioners has shown a rise in sales, small but still an increase.

In 2021, the Church profited just over \$5,000 and I understand Shopping Cards were the top fundraising event again this year!

Shopping cards are still available at the church office (705-324-4666). A call ahead to the office is required as long as the lockdown persists.

As well, Shopping Card delivery is available to those of our Parish who may not be able to come to the church to purchase their cards.

Thanks to everyone for their continued support of this fundraiser in difficult times.

Linda Todd Shopping Card Convenor

#### **PROPERTIES REPORT**

In my report last year, I said that 2020 was a challenging year and it turns out that 2021 was just as challenging.

So let's start with some good news. First, not one rent payment was missed by our Great Tenants, keep them in your prayers and give thanks to our LORD for blessing us with Great Tenants.

Second, we changed lighting over the Choir area in the Sanctuary and as a result of using LED replacement bulbs, we removed 18 bulbs at 90 watts and replaced with 18 bulbs at 13 watts that put out 120 watts of light each, so we gained 540 watts of lighting and reduced consumption by 1386 watts.

As always we have to do repairs and we did not get eavestrough done this year due to supply and workmen but we had high winds that damaged trees around 38 Glenelg St West that had to come down.

# 38 Glenelg required sink repair in bathroom and tap repair in kitchen

# 36 Glenelg required some insulation for the attic

# 34 Glenelg required some repairs to the back shed

Our Church roof required repairs to the slate that had become loose and we needed repairs to a fan in the kitchen fridge and upon starting up the heating system, we found a bleeder valve that was leaking. 2021 saw us say goodbye to our Custodian Pamela Johnston and welcome back Angie Huntley

Looking ahead to 2022, we still have repairs to do and some brickwork high up over the Russell Street West door that needs attention as well as the eavestrough. God Bless

Respectfully submitted by Don Brohm

#### KITCHEN TEAM REPORT

Despite all the lockdowns and reopening's and pandemic restrictions we have been able to keep our kitchen open to provide some meals through our Church's Outreach programs.

#### King Albert School Lunch Program:

This program began in late 2020 in partnership with Cambridge United Church where we prepare and deliver a once a week lunch to all the 140 students at the school. Cambridge takes on one week and we provide lunch for the alternate weeks. In our case the lunch is a hot meal and after working with the staff and students at the school we provide 4 different offerings, Mac and Cheese with ground meat, Pasta and Sauce, Grilled Cheese sandwiches and when we have the meat and stock we make a Turkey Soup with pasta.

In addition we have provided a Christmas hot turkey lunch for both 2020 and 2021.

The feedback from the staff and students has been very positive (except for the vegetable soup which did not go over well with the kids "too many vegetables").

We are committed to providing the program through the end of this school year and will discuss the future at that time.

#### St. Paul's Annual Christmas Dinner

Very much like 2020 we were again faced with the challenge of providing a Christmas Dinner in a lockdown where in person dinning was impossible.

After some considerable discussion and trying out different options we decided the best course of action was again a cold take away dinner, we were able to have the guests come into the church hall and pick up a meal instead of having to deliver them out the court yard door.

We distributed 200 full turkey dinners with deliveries to A Place Called Home and the Food Source and 138 meals to individuals coming into the church hall for pick-up.

I want to thank the team involved in these projects, Liz Gundy, Rick and Laurie Dancy, Canon Greg Physick and Michael and Jane Green and our advisor Edna Smith.

Respectfully Submitted: John Gundy

#### 160<sup>TH</sup> REGULAR SESSION OF SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil, Bishop of Toronto, assembled the Synod of the Diocese of Toronto for the 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod

The theme of this 160<sup>th</sup> Regular Session of Synod was 'Love Thy Neighbour.' In reflecting on these words with the Galatians, Paul writes, "And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up." To the Corinthians, he writes, "Let all that you do be done in love."

On November 25<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Bishop Asbil delivered his Charge to Synod 2021. It is a masterful address and can be viewed or read on the Diocesan website in its entirety.

This virtual Synod was well attended and some of the issues dealt with Motions around Plastics, Environment and the Affordable Housing Plan

These motions all passed. They can be read in detail on the Diocesan web-site but the actual motions are printed below for your perusal

Recommendations and agreements were made that

- 1. The Diocesan Allotment not be increased
- 2. Over the short term, 3 Bishops will remain, down from the previous 5

#### Motions #10, 11 and 15

**Motion #10** – Plastics MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that this diocesan Synod: 1. Encourages parishes to curtail their purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use by 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of their communities. 2. Encourages individual Anglicans to reduce their reliance on single-use plastic products. 3. Encourage the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care to develop and promote resources aimed at supporting local efforts toward plastics reduction. CARRIED.

**Motion #11** – Affordable Housing Plan "MOVED by the Rev. Dr. Jason McKinney and SECONDED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison that this Synod request Diocesan Council (or its successor) to respond to the affordable housing crisis across the diocese by developing an Affordable Housing Plan. This Plan will: i. determine the feasibility of building affordable housing on diocesan owned lands; ii. prioritize strategic partnerships with industry experts in the fields of planning, development, and affordable housing provision; iii. establish specific achievable targets (e.g. 250 units by 2024) The Plan should be completed by November 30, 2020 at which time a report to Synod and to the diocese will be made." Work on this motion was delayed by the State of Emergency related to COVID however the Property Working Group is working towards a process to support affordable housing in the Diocese of Toronto

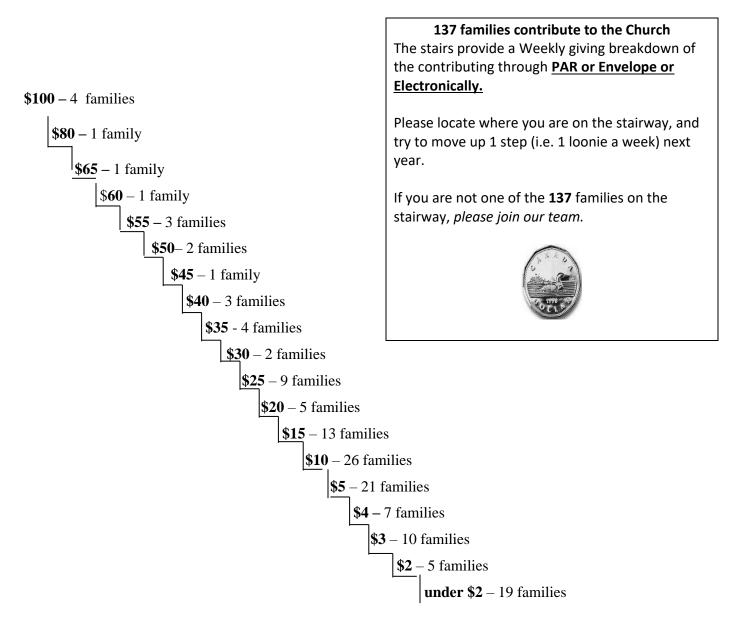
Motion #15 – Diocesan Environmental Plan MOVED by the Rev. Canon David Harrison and SECONDED by the Rev. Dr. Stephen Drakeford that Synod requests the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care, working through a creation care lens and in the context of our developing relationship with Indigenous Peoples, to develop and propose environmental policies and resources for all diocesan operations that reflect the need to increase the use of renewable energy services and decrease our carbon footprint. In particular, Synod requests a review of and development of policies pertaining to: 1. our spending practices; 2. our travel policies; 3. our land use and development; 4. the creation of a fund to assist parishes to reduce their carbon footprint; 5. the creation of a fund to assist clergy to purchase or lease zero emission vehicles; 6. the curtailment of the purchase of single-use plastic products, with the intention of ending their use no later than the beginning of 2023, taking into consideration the accessibility needs of our communities; 7. developing modules for clergy and lay formation on the connection between creation care and the Gospel; and 8. promoting reduced consumption as part of a Christian Rule of Life. Synod and the diocese shall be provided with a report on the work of the Bishop's Committee on Creation Care and the progress made on these issues by June 30, 2020 and every six months thereafter until the next Regular Session of Synod. CARRIED. The Synod Working Group classified each of these 8 areas as a short-term, intermediate, or long-term priority: • Short-Term: Items #2 and #6 • Intermediate: Items #1, #3, #7 and #8 • Long-Term: Items #4 and #5.

St. Paul's Synod Reps Barb Truax, Marlene Woods

#### **ENVELOPE SECRETARY'S VESTRY REPORT**

#### St. Paul's Stewardship Stairway

There are approximately **255 families affiliated with St. Paul's church** community. 168 families are members and 137 families financially support the church.



## **RESULT:**

If all 137 families moved up \$1.00 the impact would be: 137 x 52 weeks x \$1.00 = \$7124.00 Additional resources for ministry and education.

#### PARISH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DESIGNATED FUNDS ACCOUNT AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2021

GOAL NO.		START	OUTREACH	INCOME	END
1	LIVING WATERS	0	0	0	0
5	OUTREACH CONTINGENCY **	608	608	0	0
8	ADOPTION OF FOSTER CHILDREN	503	2808	2790	485
40	KAWARTHA LAKES FOOD SOURCE	0	1275	1275	0
44	SUNDAY SCHOOL & YOUTH MINISTRIES	0	0	140	140
60	PWRDF	0	370	370	0
67	RENOVATIONS	0	2880	2880	0
95	ROOF RENOVATION	0	0	600	600
97	CHRISTMAS DINNER	0	429	1799	1369
99	OUTREACH **	608	1875	5355	4088
100	A PLACE CALLED HOME	10	745	735	0
101	MISCELLANEOUS	0	0	0	0
138A	CHANCEL GUILD FLOWERS	0	145	633	488
146	CHOIR GOWNS, MUSIC	4353	2920	0	1434
150	FAITHWORKS	0	1385	1385	0
200	LOCAL OUTREACH ***	1598	1891	293	0
215	SPECIAL OUTREACH PROJECTS	0	4200	4200	0
250	SPECIAL (RECTOR)	0	0	0	0
	TOTAL	7680	21531	22455	8604

\*\* TRANSFERRED \$608.00 TO 99 CLOSED OUT 5 \*\*\* TRANSFERRED \$1891.00 TO 99 CLOSED OUT 200

#### SOCIAL JUSTICE VESTRY MOTION 2022 - Justice for Workers

"We, the vestry of [name of parish] urge the provincial government to support Ontario's most vulnerable workers by passing legislation to implement the following measures:

<u>10 days of employer-paid sick leave per year for all workers, without requiring workers to submit doctor's</u> notes, with an additional 14 days' sick leave during public health emergencies.

Require employers to give workers a minimum number of hours per week (based on the job) and to give reasonable advance notice of work schedules.

Require employers to provide equal pay and benefits to all workers doing the same work, whether they are part-time, temporary, or contract workers, and regardless of immigration status."