



St. James
Anglican | Dundas

ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING

February 14th 2021



**Vestry
Reports for
2020**

Please note that the Budget and Financial Statements will be circulated separately.

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AGENDA

1. Opening Prayer
2. Appointments and procedures
 - a) Appointment of Clerk to Vestry
 - b) Agenda Check
 - c) Closing of nominations / new business.
3. Registration of Attendance
4. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting February 2020
5. Reception of Ministry Reports
6. Reception of Financial Report.
7. Adoption of Parish Budget 2021
8. Motions:
 - a) Motion of Acts
 - b) Parish Rentals Authorization
9. Appointment of church officers:
 - a) Election of Cemetery Board
 - b) Environmental Justice Coordinator
 - c) ADC representatives
 - d) Synod Representatives
 - e) Wardens of the Church
 - f) Parish Council
10. Closing Prayer
11. Adjournment

MINUTES OF ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING FEBRUARY 2020
Saint James' Anglican Church, Dundas, Ontario
February 23rd, 2020

Rev. Mike Deed called the meeting to order on Feb. 23, 2020 - 10:58 a.m.

1. Opening Prayer – Mike Deed opened with prayer.

Opening Remarks – Mike Deed advised that the Vestry is the annual general meeting mandated by canons where we have the opportunity to enable the ministry of the gospel in our worship space as an act of prayer.

The Vestry report is a testimony to the ministry of the church – to be thankful and celebrate. This is the public showcase of how we love each other. We are to follow the care rules; confidentiality, accountability, respect, empowering and encouraging; say thank you.

An Erratum which contains two omitted reports has been circulated.

2. Appointments

a) Appointment of Clerk to Vestry – Marilyn Robbins has offered; appointed.

b) Appointment of Deputy Clerk – Carleon Hardie offered and is appointed.

c) Agenda Check and closing of nominations / new business. – item 10 - add in appointments; no further nominations; therefore closed.

3. Registration of Attendance – 72 (see Vestry Sign in Sheet)

4. Privileges of the House – Frances Price, Treasurer – moved by Mick Stewart, seconded by Christine Aiken – all in favour, none opposed. Carried.

5. Approval of Minutes of Vestry Meeting February 2019 – moved by Lynn Dykeman, seconded by Tom Parker – all in favour, none opposed. Carried.

6. Approval of Minutes of Special Vestry 2019 – moved by Terese Herron, seconded by Heather Collier; Anne Washington noted on page 8 – only 1 family, not 2. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

7. Reception of Financial Report

Beth Vickers moved reception of report, seconded by Carleon Hardie. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.

Frances Price expressed thanks to Mike Deed, Nyle Armstrong and Carolyn Hier for their assistance. There are four statements: financial position, net assets, statement of operations, cash flow.

Sharon White inquired as to whether it would be helpful to separate fundraising. Frances Price advised that there are 7 funds segregated but only 1 is a legally designated fund.

P.7 Refugee – \$19k – years ago money was put in the operating account – this 19K is accountable for part of the deficit – however we are in the black due to an increased market resulting in the rectory fund appreciating \$30K which partly covers the operating fund; however, we cannot rely on the stock market to rise each year.

AJ Polk asked if the appreciation is almost entirely due to rise in stock market. Mike Deed responded yes; one of the funds received a gift; plus 2 funds were amalgamated and placed into the Memorial fund; 2 GIC's were closed and placed into the Rectory fund; however we borrowed from this fund – we will not be withdrawing from this fund until paid back

Mark Mainprize asked how much the rectory fund was originally. It was 320K; we have 285K – needs to reach 320K.

David Brown reviewed the Profit and Loss reports:

40100 – Envelope subscribers and Parishioner transfers down; particularly envelope subscribers; relied on older parishioners but we have lost a number of big contributors; steady decline since 2016; concerning; need to consider if we can increase contributions.

70000 – Fundraising - \$30K is an essential contribution.

51900 - Window Fund Expense – \$19K

Mike Deed thanked Frances Price and Carolyn Hier (Bookkeeper) for all their work.

Reception of the reports - All in favour. None opposed. Carried

8. Adoption of Parish Budget 2020

Mike Anderson noted the new format; P16 is operating; P18 - Programs

Major differences – putting in anticipated number

P. 16 - \$30K less from envelope subscribers; more hopeful with Easter, Christmas; will be missing rectory funds (\$10K) – seeing a dip on income side

Expenses – increase in repair & maintenance – \$10K – last year replaced window.

Software – accounting software

Misc. expenses – up \$4500.

\$18K difference in expenses

Income to expenses – deficit of \$60K

Anne Washington noted the change in income for Body and Soul, Coop; can wages & housing be broken down – can they be shown; Mike Deed can show this but cannot put in individual wages.

Bill McGinley inquired as to why there was such a reduction in income; response was that some folks passed away and attendance has been dropping for 5 years.

Jennifer Southall – over past few years we increased the rental for the co-op, but it has dropped; response was that we are negotiating and hopefully there will be an increase but we are trying to be sensitive to their needs. Jennifer advised that we discussed this with them 5 years ago. Mike Deed advised that they are committed to contributing to keep up the facilities.

P. 18 – Programming – Community dinner income - we received a generous donation, much appreciated; hospitality – expecting an increase.

PWDR etc. – flow through

Compare program income and expense - \$30K difference (expense over income)

Overall deficit \$60K

With the new format – we are very clear about income and expenses. Mike Deed has been very helpful.

Audrey Nicol – noted \$6K in Tea and Treasures but there is nothing planned this year; Mike Deed advised that we are looking at various fundraisers – looking beyond our walls; more in the community – more events.

Lynn Dykeman inquired as to the location of the Kurdish fundraising. Mike Deed responded that it is included in 42900 -Window - window fund receipts.

Tom Parker inquired as to whether we can patch the driveway if we cannot replace it. Mike Anderson responded that we are approaching the projects in a new way i.e. the parking lot and sanctuary floor are not in the budget. Each year we will identify projects to undertake. There is a leaflet coming out e.g. parking lot – quote of \$55k to replace; also getting quotes for floor – the goal for this year are these 2 projects; fundraising separate from budget; have started to receive donations for both.

Mike Anderson – if we can get a cheap patch for the driveway, help would be appreciated.

Nancy Dickson – are there any diocesan grants available; Mike Deed – fewer grants available, but there are some for programs.

Anne Washington advised that there are some grants available from Dundas if the project reaches into the community.

Motion to accept 2020 Budget by Audrey Nicol, seconded by Marline Sarjeant. All in favour. No opposed. Carried.

9. Motions:

- a) Motion of Acts – all the contracts are ratified; Moved by David Brown, seconded by Sandy McIntosh. All in favour. None opposed. Carried.
- b) Parish Rentals Authorization - Moved by Sandy McIntosh, seconded by Mike Anderson. All in favour. None opposed. Carried

10. Appointment of church offices:

- a) Election of Cemetery Board – Mick Stewart, Tom Atterton, David Ricketts - appointed
- b) ADC representatives – Norma Coe and Anne Washington - work hard on relationships; appointed

- c) Synod – Mark Mainprize; Sharon White; alternate is Tom Atterton
Greening Co-ordinator – Sue Carson retiring and Carleon Hardie assuming this role – thanks to Sue for her extraordinary work.
- d) Wardens of the Church – Corporation – returning to the canons for the procedure – annual basis - Rector appoints 2 wardens and there are 2 peoples wardens; Rector appointing 2 for 2 years as warden and 2 years as deputy – Rector appointed Sandy McIntosh and Mike Anderson; worked so hard during interim – huge debt of thanks; David Brown and Lil Stewart stepping down - have so appreciated their service – Mike Deed presented them with a hand made cross; gave thanks.

Nominations for peoples – Gillian Hendry - nominated by Anne Washington and Peter Davison
Bob Morrow – nominated by Doug Crosbie and Sharon White. Approved.

Mike Deed presented a Warden’s pin to Mike Anderson, Sandy McIntosh, Gillian Hendry (not able to attend meeting), Bob Morrow – Mike offered a prayer for the wardens.

- e) Parish Council – 8 plus 8 appointed
Jill Regoeczi, Marline Sarjeant, Gertie Anderson, AJ Polk, Betty Eagan, Jacqui Swartz, Tom Parker, Maddie Rowe, Jackie Donnelly, Terese Herron, Carleon Hardie (Greening); Wardens, Synod Delegates, Greening – acclaimed as members

- 11. Jill Regoeczi Award – number of nominations; Mike Deed announced the recipient and Jill Regoeczi presented the award to Miriam Reed.
- 12. Motion from Synod: Single Use Plastics and Climate Emergency – moved by Sue Carson and seconded by Carleon Hardie – Page 3 read by Sue Carson; Carleon will help everyone – plastic not evil and is an important invention – forgot to treat it properly; All in favour. None opposed. Carried.
- 13. Prayers of Thanksgiving – Mike Deed asked for what we are grateful – responses - that we have this building, Ann Vander Berg’s ordination, opportunity to change, Peter Davison and Mike Deed for their energy, caring community, everyone’s contribution, support and care of refugees, sending children to camp, donation that changed Nora Clevenger’s experience for community dinners, Mike Deed and wardens, Carolyn Hier’s work for financial management, greeting of the refugees, Sue Carson for her inspiration, sound system, warm welcome to this community, new rugs, TV’s, youth group, new tables, prayer ground, Ann Pratt & Lil Stewart who are retiring for their contribution in the choir; Ann Vander Berg is grateful for the collar (Deacon), spiritual home, God’s faithfulness and healing, God’s grace, energy that Mike Deed has brought us; Nyle Armstrong (attentive, responsive, so present to our parish), Richard Hansen who works hard and brings his gifts; parochial committee for efforts and accomplishments; Peter Davison who worked so tirelessly and is so supportive; Rob Roi who has retired, Carol Overing for her services at Amica and being an encourager; Lil Stewart expressed her appreciation for all the support.

Blessing by Mike Deed

- 14. Adjournment
Mike adjourned the meeting at 21:21.

Next Vestry - Sunday, Feb. 14th, 2021

CORPORATION REPORT

“Unexpected change”, “grief”, “resilience”, “adaptability”, “generosity” and “caring and compassion” - these are words that might best describe the past year at St. James.

Not long after last year’s Vestry meeting on February 23, 2020 news began to circulate that a new and infectious Coronavirus had taken hold in China and had the potential to be a world-wide pandemic. The virus arrived in Canada in the second week of March and our community, country and planet changed; this was felt directly and intimately by the parish family of St. James. Our building was shut down and there were strict government protocols in place to attempt to curb spread of the virus. The Corporation had to redirect its focus and find new ways to engage and serve our church community, manage the church’s finances during uncertain times and maintain our aging church building.

St. James’ Response to Covid-19

After the closure of the church, a Communications Plan was soon put in place to reach out to parishioners to keep up to date and in touch with the new life of the church. Given the diverse needs of our parishioners, an effort was made to communicate by different modes including regular Canada Post, email and a phone tree.

- Some members volunteered to telephone a list of people regularly;
- Reverend Mike Deed implemented a weekly email blast that is still in place today;
- As we became more familiar with virtual meetings, a weekly ZOOM meeting was scheduled for those who missed socializing with their St. James’ friends.

After the closure of the church, Sunday Worship Services were soon available online from Christ’s Church Cathedral with Reverend Mike contributing to the content and production of the services. We all appreciated the opportunity to worship with Bishop Susan Bell, but we missed services at St. James with our parish priest and our organist Richard Hansen, even virtually. After an upgrade of the internet service at St. James’ in the fall, we were delighted to be able to deliver live services directly. Reverend Mike also offered Evening Compline and a weekly podcast which drew the participation of many, including people from outside the Parish.

Many of us miss the music in worship and enjoyed the Song in My Heart feature which is posted on Facebook and YouTube. A special hymn is featured on each segment with some background information and then a recital of the song. It is an opportunity to learn more about our beautiful hymns and to sing along at home. After six months of being closed, St. James was able to welcome back people for in-person services. A small team worked diligently to develop a plan that met the COVID-19 protocols set by the Diocese. Our reopening plan was accepted by the Diocese without correction. The decision to offer two services every week – one on Sunday and another on Wednesday mornings proved to be a sound choice. Attendance at St. James was well above the Diocesan average. Reservations to attend the services were made on-line and a dedicated group of greeters provided screening and directed attendees to preassigned seats. Those who attended were happy to be back at church and to worship in-person. Many thanks to Barb Busing and Reverend Mike who led the Planning Team and the greeters who ensured a successful and safe reopening.

It was a disappointment when on December 15th, just before Christmas, the church had to again close due to Hamilton’s high infection numbers. However, St. James was even better prepared this time to provide services on-line and had proven ways to reach out to parishioners. Certainly, this was not our first choice, but we benefited from the lessons learned from the first closure to guide us going forward.

Prior to the first closure, the Corporation was exploring logos for St. James'. Feedback was collected from parishioners and the logos were narrowed down to two possibilities. They were taken to Parish Council whose members unanimously chose a new logo. You will have started to see the logo on the newsletter and letterheads from the church. Many thanks to Sandy McIntosh and Mike Anderson who designed and worked on this project. It provides a new image for St. James during these times of change.

Church Finances

The financial health of St. James has been a prime area of concern for the Corporation for a number of reasons:

- there was a potential for a decrease in offerings because people were not attending church in-person;
- major fundraisers for the church such as the Holiday House Tour and the planned "Down East Shindig" could not proceed;
- unexpected costs for the maintenance of the building;
- Covid-19 had other impacts to the revenue stream of the budget.

By year-end, revenues were more positive than anticipated. St. James' parishioners have been very generous in their support for the church in this time of crisis. Many converted to Pre-Authorized Payment (PAP) from envelopes to ensure consistency in their offering. Many responded to a special letter of request by making an additional one-time donation to replace the loss of revenue from fundraisers. A new e-transfer account was set up so that donations could be made online. This is especially convenient for one-time donations and for contributors from outside of St. James' who participate in on-line services.

The people of St. James rose to the financial challenges we have faced and found ways to raise funds in the new Covid-19 world. With Lynn Dykeman leading an enthusiastic fundraising team, funds were raised from the sale of face masks, an on-line bake sale and auction and book sales. Thank-you so much all the work the fundraising team has done to support St. James during this unusual time.

The maintenance of the church building has been taking a back seat for a while and it was necessary to address some urgent issues. A fire safety review found deficiencies that required immediate action including replacement of most of the fire extinguishers and the two emergency lighting systems. This was a necessary and costly expense. A service check of the heating and cooling equipment found problems that had to be addressed before there was a total and more costly breakdown. The kitchen gas stove also needed service to repair a gas leak.

Covid-19 impacted the 2020 budget in other ways as well. The Montessori Co-op Nursery was unable to pay their rent for several months. On the positive side, the Federal Government's Wage Subsidy Program off-set a portion of the cost of wages for staff and the Diocese agreed to forgive a portion of our Diocesan Mission and Ministry (DM&M) contributions because St. James' has such a heavy reliance on fundraising to operate the church.

Prior to Covid-19, a thorough review of operating expenses was being undertaken. As result, a contract was entered with a new snow clearing company with an annual saving of over \$2,000 and the contract with the Swan Mat Dust Service was terminated for an annual savings of \$1,000. Our other existing contracts will be reviewed prior to renewal. Suppliers for other expenses such as copier paper and cleaning supplies were changed for cost efficiencies.

Maintaining the St. James' Church Building

Closure of the church gave the Corporation time to assess the many needs of the building and develop a plan to implement changes to ensure safety, increased vigilance with maintenance and to meet the changing needs of the church and the community.

Heating and cooling equipment require service twice a year to avoid more costly emergency repairs. St. James now has a contract with Dynamic Heating and Cooling to provide this service. Problems found during the first service resulted in unexpected expense, but it is anticipated that regular preventative maintenance will result in cost savings for the future.

The lower level of the church has been getting some upgrades due to a generous anonymous donation. New flooring, television and vanity were installed in the late winter. The interior ramp area has been painted, and decorating continues in the children's and youth rooms. In preparation for the reopening in October, a team of volunteers set to work thoroughly cleaning the church. The main floor hard surfaces were professionally cleaned, and the carpet was shampooed. Many thanks to the crew who worked on these projects so that St. James' is clean, organized, and welcoming.

New flooring was installed in the Sanctuary while the church was closed. This major project was triggered by a donation directed towards replacement of the flooring. The full cost was covered by donations from our generous parish with enough left over to clean the flooring in the corridors, entrances, and the Dundas Room before the reopening. The new flooring has given a positive lift to our place of worship. A special thanks to Sandy McIntosh who facilitated the installation of the new flooring.

An upgraded internet service has been a necessary and important addition to the life of the church. Mike Anderson facilitated installation of the new wiring to ensure consistent internet capabilities to offer strong and reliable wi-fi access in the sanctuary, church offices and Dundas Room. The church has retained Cogeco to provide better internet service than our previous supplier. On-line services are now possible due to the new improved internet wiring and service. The full cost of the internet upgrades was also covered by donations. During the summer, many potholes and uneven surfaces on the church parking lot were patched by a paving company. The cost of this much needed work was covered by a generous donation from a parishioner. A Building Committee was established to continue with the maintenance of St. James' as well as the development of a long-term capital plan.

Conclusion

This report has been an overview of the impact of Covid-19 on the life of St. James' Church, its financial situation, and efforts to maintain our building. It was a busy yet productive year as we all adjusted to the many changes that Covid-19 imposed on us.

Our most heartfelt gratitude must be extended to the Reverend Mike Deed whose forward-thinking, creativity and compassion kept us afloat during this time of immense change and uncertainty. Our appreciation to the St. James' Church staff - Nyle Armstrong, Carolyn Hier, Richard Hansen and Faras Alkurki who have kept our church running smoothly. Another big thank-you to the members of St. James' for your understanding, generosity, encouragement, and love for one another during this most challenging year.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Anderson, Gillian Hendry, Sandy McIntosh and Robert Morrow

RECTOR'S REPORT

“But this I call to mind, and therefore I have hope:
The steadfast love of the Lord never ceases,
his mercies never come to an end;
they are new every morning;
great is your faithfulness.
‘The Lord is my portion,’ says my soul,
‘therefore I will hope in him.’”
(Lamentations 3.21-24)

It would be easy, after the year now past and the challenges still ahead to stick with ‘lamenting’; lots has changed and there have been so many trials along the way, and no one is unaffected- in the world, in our nation, in our communities, our homes and our churches; we have all felt the effects of the pandemic and the accompanying life-changes. But when the going gets tough, our faith kicks in and challenges us in a different way- to rely on God, to receive and demonstrate God’s love, to shape our lives in service of others, to count our blessings and share them, to protect the vulnerable and to give generously for the purposes of justice and love of neighbour.

Only two weeks after our vestry meeting in 2020 we were told to close our building. At the time few people thought this would be for a long period of time- in fact most churches were planning for a celebratory return for Easter or at least Pentecost. And then the magnitude of a global pandemic started to become clear and plans had to change with churches everywhere scrambling to adapt and find new ways of staying connected and engaging our church families in prayer and worship.

One of the realities that this time brought into focus was our reliance and sometimes over-reliance on our buildings, and how Saint James, like many churches, hadn’t been nurturing the technological resources and expertise to create online ministry and also, that not all of our members would be able to access it. We had other communication challenges too; like the death of our parish office computer which lost all of our data just as the lockdown began, poor internet capacity, and no ‘phone tree and for most of us no familiarity with online conference software like Zoom, which has now become a household word! For clergy everywhere, a steep learning curve began.

The life and working rhythms of a priest have changed drastically, and many of these changes will be lasting shifts which will serve the future of the Anglican church.

As soon as lockdown began, with the help of Audrey Nicols, a phone tree was created where volunteers each took on regular contact with 10 parishioners. This meant that we could pass on special needs or emergencies and ensure people stayed connected. The benefits of this were that in many cases new relationships were formed, those who were isolated were quickly connected, and needs and emergencies got passed swiftly to the Rector. Thank you to everyone who volunteered to take on this important ministry. The phone tree was renewed towards the end of the year as we entered a second lockdown prior to Christmas.

In March, thanks to Mike Anderson’s expertise we were quickly able to begin a weekly podcast which provided a weekly Bible study / reflection on the Sunday Gospel readings. Bishop Susan began a weekly livestream of Sunday morning prayer which brought our Diocese together during this time. In my, then brand-new role, as Diocesan Liturgical Officer, I was tasked with helping to prepare and facilitate that time of worship. I am

deeply grateful for Bishop Susan's leadership during that time, as with uncertainty about timing and the learning curve for most churches in the Diocese, our Bishop showed clearly how the strengths and structures of Anglicanism can serve the Church in good times and bad.

During those early days, I began to live stream the office of Compline at 8pm Monday to Friday. This short, meditative office proved especially and surprisingly important and drew people from many places and countries together to the simple and comforting rhythm of night prayer. At its height Compline would be watched by over a hundred people each night. As new rhythms were established compline moved to just three nights per week (Tuesday-Thursday) during the summer and from September, with in-person worship on the horizon and other evening meetings resuming, it has become a staple of Wednesday evenings. It is my hope this will be a permanent offering and in future might be in-person and the conclusion of a weekly Bible study.

At Saint James, with a new computer installed, we began a weekly, detailed email blast, and our first steps into video production with 'With A Song In My Heart' which is a weekly video series that featured a reflection and weekly song to keep connected with spiritual music. At the beginning this was a series of songs that had shaped my own faith, then, as we were able to return to the building, Richard and I were able to create a series based on people's favourite hymns and once in-person worship resumed we published the 'hymn of the week' allowing us to sing along at home when we were unable to sing in church. These videos continue and I am deeply grateful to Richard for his work on them.

As familiarity with ZOOM became more common we also offered a weekly 'Coffee Hour' initially on Wednesday morning, moving to Thursday morning when in-person worship began. This meant that there was a regular space for people to chat together, share stories and advice during lockdown and enjoy fellowship that we were all sorely missing.

I am thankful to Angela, Marline and Terese who began to create a monthly bag for our children's church including colouring, gifts, crafts, and stories. In December 2020 we were able to begin production of an accompanying video to go alongside the bag. One of the highlights of the Christmas season was the creation of a special video service for children and families to watch together. This premiered on Facebook and youtube at 4pm on Christmas Eve and at the time of writing has been watched nearly 500 times. I am deeply grateful to Richard, Ella, Louis, Mikiah, Skye, Piper, Sandy, Mike and of course Nick the puppet for making that a reality and great fun.

Other video production included our offering towards the A.D.C. annual Advent Walk. Each participating church submitted songs, prayers or reflections and they were edited together in a video that showed our traditions and invited many voices to participate. A new ADC facebook page was created to help us share more ministry together online in the future.

In the late summer the Bishops of the Province as well as our diocese released detailed plans for safe reopening of our church buildings. The task seemed to be immense and intimidating. I am deeply grateful to Barb Busing and the team who took us through that process. In particular the cleaning of our building that took such hard work but made the place gleam! Thanks also to all those who signed up to be greeters as part of this process. The greeting teams played a vital part in the safe reopening and presented us with the opportunity to renew our greeting ministry. In-person worship began again on 4th October 2020 (The Feast of Saint Francis) and it took us some weeks to get used to the new patterns of gathering.

Another challenge and opportunity that this year has presented to us has been around our building. Maintenance issues were increasingly apparent for our aging building and we had begun some repainting and rearranging of rooms. During this year an amazing amount has been accomplished- due to three very generous donations we were able to replace the flooring in the children’s room and choir room, build a new diving wall, replace the vanities and begin repainting. The parking lot was patched using monies donated and designated for that purpose and a significant donation allowed us to replace the flooring in the main worship space. Floors were stripped and waxed, external doors were sanded and stained (much thanks to Don and Sue Wallace) and the ramp area was repainted and the ceiling repaired. As the Wardens report details attention has been paid to our HVAC systems and a building committee has been formed.

We started 2020 with a significant financial challenge ahead and I wish to thank Carolyn Heir for her careful work in tracking our finances. This challenge was made more acute by the lockdown which prevented our normal methods of fundraising from taking place and a number of events were cancelled. We are all deeply grateful to those who have made special donations to the church during this time and also to the fundraising committee, who under Lynn Dykeman’s leadership has worked hard at creative new ways to support our ministry in this time. We also give thanks for the CEWS income and the DMM monies forgiven by the Diocese which have allowed us finish the year as well as we have.

A particular experience I want to mention in this report has weighed heavily on my heart during the year. I have been unable to visit and be present to people as I would usually have been, often except for the last rites. Our physical and by extension, social distancing has meant that we have been unable to mark the loss of so many members of our community who have died and we should acknowledge that for those in grief this year has been especially difficult. We give thanks for the lives of those who have gone before us into God’s nearer presence, may they rest in peace and rise in glory. We pray for the bereaved, for comfort and for strength in the midst of grief.

The last time I was able to visit Ruth Jefferson in hospital before her death, her first words to me when we were alone were these: “What does the church of the future look like?”. We talked about that future, the uncertainties and the challenges. Ruth had seen and lived so many changes in the church and she believed fervently that God would do a new thing with the church in the future. She was full of hope for it and we prayed together for the places God would take us. I am deeply thankful for that moment with Ruth. Let us go forward in this new year, excited and hopeful for the places God will take us, trusting in his steadfast love. Amen.

Respectfully submitted,
The Reverend Mike Deed (Rector)

PARISH REGISTER

There were no baptisms or confirmations in 2020.

There were 13 Funerals:

Irene Bailey	Grace Reed
Ivy Harris	Shirley Naismith
Don Pfeffer	James Falco
Bob Donnelly	Derek Boulter
Shelagh Chalton Sommer	William Finn
Alice Cannon	Barbara Snip
Rev. Canon Ruth Jefferson	

May they rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

THE ORDER OF NIAGARA



This year we were delighted that, in a special ZOOM service, Bishop Susan awarded Nora Clevenger with the Order of Niagara and recognized her hard work and dedication to ministry especially with Refugees and our Community Dinner. We give thanks to God for Nora's presence with us and all the ways she blesses us at Saint James and how we see God's presence in and through her.

SPIRITUALITY

MINISTRY OF MUSIC REPORT 2020

What a year 2020 became. After two and a half months of services and fun filled rehearsals, the Choir's singing (in church) had to stop in the middle of March because of COVID-19. I know that we all missed getting together. For many, singing was a very necessary part of going to church. Beginning in the late summer, Mike and I started to record hymns for use in home devotions, through the miracles of 21st Century technology.

After 6 months, the Church reopened to in person services, with Cantors and Instrumentalists lending their talents and time for the Ministry of Music. These gifts of music have depended on the Musician's availability, while at the same time, I have been very grateful to Rev. Mike for jumping in to help with the music of Sunday services.

Thank you to everyone for your faith and patience through these uncertain times, and I look forward to the day when we will be singing to God's glory once again.

Respectfully submitted,
Richard Hansen ARCCO, Organist and Music Director

BOOK STUDY

During November of 2020 we held a four week book study on Henri Nouwen's 'The Way of the Heart' to promote us to think about prayer. The book focussed on the three pillars of solitude, silence and transformative prayer. Nine people took part and during our debrief identified prayer as a key area where we should offer more teaching and learning opportunities. It is intended that there be a Lenten course on prayer in 2021.

Respectfully Submitted,
Mike Deed

GREETERS REPORT 2020

Well this was a year with a difference. In August the Diocese gave permission for parishes to begin plans to eventually open safely. One of the biggest challenges was how to be a welcoming, but safe church community, within Covid-19 restrictions. How and when would our worship services take place, and how would our roles and facilities need to be altered because of the pandemic?

A small committee was convened and took on the challenge of making some decisions. The most significant task was to recruit and train a new set of Greeters who would be part sides persons, part former greeters and part health and safety checkers. Recruitment completed the next step was an education plan rolled out under the guidance of Mike, Barb, Anne and Terese. The first week of services was October 4, 2020, and from then until mid December every Sunday and Wednesday a loyal group of 25 souls functioned to keep us safe and welcomed as we gathered in our church building once again. A sincere thanks to Mike for his leadership and sweat equity, and to all the Greeters who fulfilled their roles without hesitation. At the time of writing we are once again in lockdown, but know that when we reopen, we will again be blessed with the commitment of our Greeters, welcoming us back to St James for worship. We know too that we will be recruiting more Greeters so keep that in mind as we enter 2021 post lockdown.

Respectively submitted,

Barb Busing, Co Chair of the Reopening Committee

LENTEN LUNCHESES

St. James managed to squeeze in its turn before everything was shut down.

Grateful thanks to those of you who helped out with making the soup, squares, shopping, setting up, serving and clearing up.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Regoeczi

READERS

Thank you to the large group of people willing to bring our Bible readings to life each week. Pre-lockdown we had 2 readers for each 10:30am service and extras for special services. We appreciate your clarity and reliability. This year looks much different but it is very nice to still be hearing from a variety of you online. Anyone with interest in helping with the readings can see myself or Mike to sign up.

Respectfully Submitted

Carleon Hardie

ALTAR GUILD

Because of the way last year turned out the last Sunday church service being March 8th – the second Sunday of Lent- by the next Sunday, the 15th we were in shutdown. Altar guild members filled in as best we could, piecemeal, as and when needed. In fact, as I write this, we are still working that way - everything being so unsettled. We have adapted to new needs during the reopening for in-person worship as well as Mike's needs for recording and live streaming, including helping to decorate for Christmas.

Like everyone in the world we hope and pray there will be an end this year. Pax et Bonum,

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Carson

ALTAR FLOWERS

Between the first of January and the time the church was closed in March due to Covid, flowers were placed on the altar on eight Sundays in memory of family members of members of St. James. When church reopened in September, a few church members provided flowers on their own, making all arrangements, bringing them

into the Sanctuary before the service and removing them upon completion. At this time during lockdown, no flowers will be provided.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Clevenger

ST JAMES WOMEN'S GROUP

After having to postpone our annual Christmas Dinner, from December 2019 to January, the consensus was, that the new year was a better time to gather. We all felt that this fundraiser, to offset the cost of our Women's Weekend, should be scheduled in January, to avoid the busyness of Holiday House Tour and Christmas.

2020 turned out to be an unforgettable year! Our annual Women's Weekend at Loyola House, was scheduled for March 13-15. Unfortunately, covid happened and we had to cancel the weekend on March 12!

Fortunately, our guest speaker, Nancy Brooker, and all the women concerned, felt we'd done the right thing. Most of the women were happy to let their registration fee sit until we are able to reschedule and Nancy has agreed to be our speaker when it is safe to do so.

We've kept in touch with Loyola House and know that they are going to be closed down until 2022. Once the shutdown is over, they are doing some renovations on the accommodations. This is disappointing, but these are unusual times. We are to contact them in the spring of 2021 to book our weekend for 2022.

Now that 2021 is upon us, and the second wave of covid has hit, the Christmas Dinner we'd hoped to have, has been postponed. Depending on when things open up again, we do hope to do a Christmas Dinner...even if it's in July! Stay safe and we look forward to gathering again when we are able.

Respectfully submitted

Angela Alexander-Roper, on behalf of the St James Women's Committee

EfM (Education for Ministry) 2020

Forty-five years ago, the School of Theology at the University of the South, Sewanee, Tennessee launched a new program of theological education for laypeople, recognising that all of us are called to ministry by virtue of our baptism, and that all of us need to be equipped for that ministry if we are to be effective witnesses to the gospel in all areas of our lives. The program was called "Education for Ministry" or "EfM".

Since then, thousands of laypeople across the USA, in Canada, and around the world have committed themselves to this program, which meets in a small-group format to study and reflect on the Hebrew Scriptures, the New Testament, Church History, Interfaith Relations, and Christian Ethics – with Theological Reflection at the heart of the whole program. Participants have described EfM as transformative, because it encourages them to ask questions, not least the question, "Where is God in all this?" – "this" meaning all aspects of our lives." Since 2014 St. James has hosted an EfM group, and currently has eight students who meet on Monday evenings for thirty-six weeks a year. With the advent of Covid-19 we have learned to meet via Zoom, but hope to resume face-to-face gatherings in the coming year. EfM welcomes participants who want to explore and deepen their faith, including non-Anglicans. Peter Davison and Carleon Hardie are co-mentors of the group. Please contact them for information.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Davison

MEN'S SPIRITUALITY GROUP

A few years ago, the late Wayne Allan asked Peter Davison about the possibility of starting a Men's Spirituality Group, in which it would be possible to explore faith concerns, and to share our own spiritual journeys. The group now numbers about eight members, and we meet on the second and fourth Tuesday evenings of each month. As with EfM, group confidentiality is a core value, and we have been free to share many things while we discuss controversial books, reflect on the weekly biblical readings, discuss current events, or simply respond to specific concerns raised by members. With the onset of Covid-19 we, too, have met via Zoom, but look forward to face-to-face meetings before too long. Please contact Peter Davison if you would like to join us.

Respectfully submitted,
Peter Davison

SACRED CIRCLE DANCE

Lord of the Dance

*"Dance, then, wherever you may be,
I am the Lord of the Dance, said he,
And I'll lead you all, wherever you may be,
And I'll lead you all in the Dance, said he..."*

What is Sacred Circle Dancing?

Sacred Circle Dancing is a gentle healing way to bring body, mind and spirit together by moving rhythmically in a circle. The circle is a symbol for unity and community.

Sacred Circle Dance at St. James'

Sacred Circle Dance is open to everyone. The dance steps are not complex and no experience is necessary. We'd love to have you join us when it is safe to do so. Sacred Circle Dance occurs on the 4th Friday of the month from 7:30 – 9:15 in the Dundas Room. Unfortunately, due to the pandemic we were only able to hold events in January and February 2020.

Facilitators –Susan Hancock, Bev Hattersley, Shoshona Magill, Selina Millett, Marilyn Robbins, Donna Rutherford

Respectfully submitted by
Susan Hancock, Bev Hattersley, Marilyn Robbins, Donna Rutherford

ASSOCIATION OF DUNDAS CHURCHES (ADC)

The Association of Dundas Churches (ADC) was formed over 50 years ago to facilitate collaboration between the Christian Churches of Dundas and to service the needs of our community from and through the teachings of the Christian tradition.

Membership in the ADC is a significant outreach function of St James Church. Lay Representatives are appointed by the Rector. Current Lay Representatives for St James are Anne Washington and Norma Coe (ADC Secretary)

The churches in the ADC are represented by clergy and up to 2 lay representatives. The current members are Christian Science Society; Christ Church Flamborough; Dundas Baptist Church; Grace Valley Church; Knox Presbyterian Church; Life Community Church; St James Anglican Church; St Mark's United Church; St Paul's

United Church and the Salvation Army. St Augustine's Roman Catholic Church resigned from the ADC this year.

Meetings are held monthly to promote regular communication among churches, provide programmes of mutual interest to the community at large and to maintain interest in ecumenical concerns by bringing the news and views of the churches in Dundas to the attention of the entire membership of congregations.

The ADC is connected with many organizations within the community such as The Dundas Food Bank; The Ellen Osler Home; Routes Youth Centre; Dundas Community Centre; EcoWham; Truth and Reconciliation and the Hamilton Family Health Team. We also take part in the Dundas Cactus Festival Parade and World Day of Prayer.

The ADC is committed to environmental issues and a Climate Action Team has been formed. The agenda of CAT included identifying the local people, places, churches and agencies addressing the environment and that collaborating and cooperating with them would be a major component of any action plan.

Due to COVID restrictions, the ADC was only able to gather for 3 meetings prior to COVID and 2 via ZOOM post COVID to bring the news and views, etc. The Annual Meeting of the ADC was changed from May to November 2020. Regretably the Cactus Festival was cancelled and the Lenten Lunch Program came to a halt halfway through the program due to the pandemic.

The membership banded together to enable our Christian messages and actions to reach our community. We are blessed to have dedicated members who are able to use technology and follow COVID rules and legislation to allow important needs to be met.

To assure that the Community Dinners were continued, St James got permission to continue to provide meals prepared under strict COVID rules. Thanks to Nora and the diligent volunteers, boxed meals were prepared for people to pick up and enjoy at home.

Due to increased need for housing and food resulting from the pandemic, the ADC formed a committee to identify organizations in the community who were having to find funds to provide more help to vulnerable people, particularly in downtown Hamilton. To support them in their vital work, a total of \$2000 from the unused ADC funds was donated to the organizations identified. These organizations were: Keeping Six; Hamilton Food Share; Wesley Urban Ministries; Carol Anne's Place and Willows.

The ADC Facebook account was reactivated and our annual Advent Walk was turned into a Virtual Advent Walk! The Clergy prepared material pertaining to their area, Hope, Peace, Joy and Love and sent the videos to Mike Deed who compiled them into Advent Walk Video. The Video, entitled "The Light Shines", was aired on Sunday December 6th.

Meetings will continue in 2021 via Zoom until in-person meetings can resume.

Respectfully Submitted,
Norma Coe

ADMINISTRATION and ORGANIZATION

DIOCESAN SYNOD REPORT

Report to St. James' 2021 Annual Vestry Meeting -- of the lay delegates from St. James, Anglican Church Dundas, on the 146th Synod of the Diocese of Niagara

The 146th meeting of the Synod of the Diocese of Niagara was held electronically via Zoom videoconference, on November 7, 2020. The meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.

The Bishop's Charge

The theme of the Synod was based on the Letter to the Ephesians Chapter 1 verses 15-19:

Seeing with the eyes of our hearts

The Right Reverend Bishop Susan Bell delivered her charge proclaiming that God is leading us, through the pandemic attributable to the COVID 19 virus, to something new and something shriven – something beautifully different and at its core the same. Bishop Susan praised the faithfulness of Anglicans in Niagara, who have demonstrated generosity and lovingness toward one another in these difficult times.

The Bishop announced steps taken towards the development of a school for missional leadership here in Niagara. The Reverend Ian Mobsby of the Diocese of Newark will become the Canon Theologian for mission in Niagara.

The Bishop concluded her charge to the Synod with an expression of gratitude especially to members of the Synod for being the face and hands of Jesus in our communities.

Diocesan Business

Necessary elections were held, reports received, approvals granted, and indigenous territory acknowledged. The Venerable Dr. Timothy Dobbin was introduced as the incoming Dean of Niagara and Rector of Christ's Church Cathedral.

Mission Statement and Mission Action Plan

The amended Mission Statement was introduced by the Venerable Bill Mous. Niagara's amended Mission Statement is:

Ignited by the irresistible love Jesus and renewed by the Holy Spirit, we partner with God to deepen faith, share stories, and care for God's world.

The Canon Christyn Perkons gave a presentation, outlining three objectives of the Mission Action Plan:

1. Create and implement opportunities to ignite and strengthen faith.
2. Reimagine Diocesan culture and adapt our structures to enable ministry.
3. Prioritize social justice action with an emphasis on environmental justice.

Audit Matters

The 2019 Auditor's Report and Financial Statements were received.

Changes to the Canons

To highlight two of the canonical changes:

1. **New Canon – Canon 2.10 – The Cathedral of the Diocese of Niagara.** The Cathedral congregation will have the rights, responsibilities, and duties of an established parish, except for fiduciary obligations related to the care and trusteeship of the buildings and property on which the Cathedral is situated, which will remain the responsibility of the Diocese. The Cathedral

congregation will be expected to make annual contributions toward the upkeep of the Cathedral Place property.

2. **Canon 4.1- Vestries and Churchwardens.** Amendments to the Canon will permit the Bishop and Synod Council to enact regulations relating to the conduct of vestry meetings.

2021 Diocesan Budget

Presented by Diocesan Treasurer Jody Beck and Gerry Anthony chair of Transformational Working Budget Group.

A deficit of \$473,000.00 is forecast for the 2021 Diocesan Budget. We were advised that there are funds available to finance the deficit through standard draws on investments and from property sales in 2020. Projected expenses have been trimmed where possible. A targeted stewardship campaign is planned. We were advised that there are generous donors who want to help the Diocese through this extraordinary time. The budget was passed.

Missional Moments

At points throughout the morning three “missional moments” were showcased by way of video presentations on # 1- The Pandemic Response Fund was established to support outreach in a number of parishes. # 2- Migrant farm workers were ministered to in Beamsville, Jordan and McNab. # 3- The Greening Niagara Committee of the Diocese has been renamed “Climate Justice Niagara”.

Conclusion

The Synod adjourned at 12:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted – Sharon White and Mark Mainprize

PARISH OFFICE

I may not have been able to go to Canada’s Wonderland this year, but I do feel as though I have been on a roller-coaster. Even though the office has been closed during both lockdowns it does not mean that administrative work has ceased. The phone and email still need to be answered, bills still need to be paid and banking still must continue. Some of this activity can be done remotely from my home but I have needed to go onsite to the church building to accomplish many tasks.

For obvious reasons renting the church premises has not been allowed however we rented our parking lot to a film crew.

It has been difficult not to physically see all of you during lockdown, I find solace in knowing that our parish has remained vigilant and not ravaged by Covid-19. Thanks be to God! We have been blessed to have Rev. Mike as our most able shepherd and he is guiding us with diligence and care. I feel confident that I am working in a safe environment.

It was wonderful to be a member of the re-opening team and we had many committed individuals that made re-opening during October to mid December possible. I was so happy to see familiar faces and some new ones (albeit from the nose upward). I want to thank my office volunteers Pam Daniels and Audrey Nicol for helping to keep the office activity to a manageable level since new pandemic protocols added duties that needed to be covered.

I am looking forward to the promise of a new year and the hope that a vaccine brings. Please do not hesitate to reach me if you have any concerns or questions 905-627-1424.

God bless you all and keep you safe.

Respectfully submitted,

Nyle Armstrong

Parish Administrator

BUILDING COMMITTEE

The Building Committee was established in September 2020 with the goal of ensuring that St. James Church has a safe, well-maintained building that meets the current and future needs of our church community. We are fortunate to have Committee members with a diverse range of knowledge and skills who are enthusiastic about maintaining and improving our building. Committee members are Craig Knapman, Canon David Ricketts, Marline Sarjeant and Maureen Ward, with St. James Wardens, Gillian Hendry, and Sandy McIntosh Co-Chairing. Our goal is to take stock of the current condition of the building and identify steps to address the immediate and long-term needs of the building.

During the Fall, the Committee developed a Work Plan with five main components:

- Building Maintenance Plan
- Multi-year Capital Plan
- Building Accessibility
- Building Policies and Procedures
- Financial Resources.

Committee members have been assigned to take the lead for the various components. Parishioners with specific interests and expertise will be consulted to guide the delivery of the plan and when major building projects are undertaken.

The Committee's priority is the building's immediate maintenance needs. Scope includes the implementation of regular building inspection and maintenance checks, the development of clear policies and procedures and a user-friendly information and filing system. Existing maintenance contracts have been reviewed for affordability and quality of service and as a result, St. James' has entered new maintenance contracts with Dynamic Heating and Cooling and Sunrise Snow Removal for 2020/2021.

A five-year long-term capital plan is under development for the repair and maintenance of major items. A list of necessary capital building projects is being collected to inform future budget and fundraising planning. A review of building accessibility has been undertaken by Maureen Ward who is a retired Occupational Therapist. She is developing a list of short-term and long-term projects so that St. James' better meets the accessibility needs of our parishioners and visitors to St. James'.

The Committee is working to gain a better working knowledge of possible financial resources and challenges to address building concerns including endowment and memorial funds, research and accessibility grants and future fundraising projects.

It is exciting to work with our Committee members and we thank them for their commitment to this much-needed project. We will report back on progress with our Work Plan to the Corporation and Parish Council on a quarterly basis.

Gillian Hendry and Sandy McIntosh

TECHNOLOGY

This year Saint James, like every church, has had to embrace the opportunities that technology offers us to share our mission in the primary communication reality of our times. At Saint James we lacked most of the basic technology to equip us for this time. Fortunately, with the creative work of Mike Anderson we had just upgraded our website by last Vestry and so we had a first step to communicate well during this time.

- Our PODCAST uses a free software called Audacity and we received a donation of a 'Blue' Yeti Microphone. The Podcast is shared via SoundCloud and linked to the front page of our website.
- Our new office computer was installed in April of 2020.
- In November of 2020 we upgraded our internet capacity, moving to a new provider and requiring the building to ensure good internet throughout the upper level. This project was overseen by Mike Anderson and cost approximately \$4000 which was funded by three dedicated donations.
- A new condenser Microphone has been purchased to help us amplify soloists and record the Organ. This was also donated.
- To livestream and record our services we have been using a Camera and computer owned by Mike Deed. At the end of 2020 we submitted a grant application to the Diocese to purchase our own camera and computer.
- Sandy McIntosh and Mike Deed have met with our Sound System company and at the time of writing are awaiting an estimate on some simple adaptations to allow us to patch the sound system into our live stream.

We hope in 2021 to grow and improve our online capacity and recruit a 'tech-guild' to support this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Deed

HAPPENINGS PARISH NEWSLETTER

HAPPENINGS is published quarterly, in September (Thanksgiving Issue), November (Advent-Christmas-Epiphany), February (Lent-Easter), and May-June (Pentecost and Summer Issue), and is circulated via email or in hard-copy format for those prefer it.

This is *your* newsletter, and we are grateful to all who contribute news, photographs, reflective pieces, and jokes which keep us laughing even when times are anxious. If you have not yet contributed items to share with other members, please feel free to do so. Peter Davison is the current editor. Please contact him at 289-238-9289 or 365-323-7871 (cell).

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Davison, editor

FLYER DELIVERY

Flyers advertising events taking place at St. James are delivered to the local churches and around town.

When we are eventually back in business, we shall be in need of more help.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Regoeczi

SAINT JAMES CEMETERY BOARD

The St. James' Cemetery Board came into existence in 2016 as a formally constituted committee of the parish, operating in accordance with the provisions and rules of the Cemeteries Act of Ontario. The membership of this Board consists of three parishioners as well as the Rector (ex officio). The sole purpose of the Board is to manage and oversee the

operation of the Scatter Garden at St. James' Church. During this year David Ricketts attended 3 online webinars from the BAO to keep up to date with guidelines and changes in procedure.

There were 2 interments in the Saint James Scatter Garden during 2020 :

Respectfully submitted

Mike Deed, on behalf of Mick Stewart, Tom Atterton and David Ricketts.

SOCIAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE

One of the important things about this time in pandemic is that our care and outreach in our community has not stopped. In some places it's paused and in others it's changed or we've refocused our energies and ways of working to suit the times we are in. We give thanks to all those who have given themselves in this time. Some programs like recycling eyeglasses facilitated by Lorna Janitz and collecting postage stamps facilitated by Mavis Adams will resume when we return in person.

OUTREACH

The Outreach Group is a large committee of leaders who fulfill our mandate of using "Our Time, Talents and Treasures" for community projects which welcome everyone in the community to our building for a variety of groups or do important projects both alone and with other churches and organizations in different aspects of the outside community. With the challenges which beset all of us at the end of February, some of the groups had to curtail their activities while other groups found various ways to help outside our building. We are especially proud of Nora Clevenger who along with, at first, one other church devised a plan to deliver bagged meals for our Community Dinners every Monday. Nora is a Blessing to this project. Our Winter Coats and Boots have been extremely successful too. Lynn Dykeman has been able to continue with the Refugee commitment. Adopt a Family under Jackie Donnelly and Carleon Hardy has, once again, surpassed their goal with help from the Knitting Group. More information is available in each report. Many thanks to our parishioners who support our activities and to all the group leaders who keep St. James extremely active in our community.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eagan

COAT and BOOT DRIVE 2020

St. James initiated, and, for ten consecutive years, has organized the Annual Community Coat/Clothing Drive. Its success is dependent upon donations of clothing from parishioners, churches, the public at large and the team at St. James who pulls it all together. It is gratifying to report that this year, well over three hundred winter jackets/coats, dozens of pairs of boots and other items of clothing were collected for distribution to vulnerable people in the city of Hamilton.

In the first three months of the year, donors took their coats, boots, and other articles directly to the church office to be directed where to deposit them. When sorted most articles were clean, and in very good condition. Any that were unsuitable, were not taken to the Eva Rothwell Centre on Wentworth Street, North in Hamilton where St. Matthew's House (SMH) had a designated space from which they could be easily accessed by people in need of them.

Covid 19 health and safety regulations necessitated procedural changes to the project starting up again in October. To address the greatest need, and to keep the project more manageable, only winter coats and boots

were requested which were to be placed in the large, labelled bins outside the back parking lot door to the church concluding at the end of February 2021. Once taken into the building, the items were sorted and hung up for three days before being taken directly to St. Matthew's House for distribution. Between late October and mid December over 150 coats and many boots were delivered there.

To distribute more of those boots and coats from St. James, the St. Matthew's House Seniors and Outreach Team held a two hour event on December 19th in the agency parking lot, titled, "The Great Canadian Coat and Purse Giveaway". Fifty purses, donated by the Purse Project of Hamilton, were filled with toiletries and clothing. SMH staff, together with a surprise visit from Santa, were in attendance to greet the recipients. Surplus coats and boots were taken to the Wesley Day Centre.

To get needed items out quickly where they were needed, we arranged for some children's coats and boots to go to another agency at the Eva Rothwell Centre with coats/jackets for men delivered to Mission Services, Hamilton. Requests for coats and boots through the The Dundas Salvation Army Community Services, were not forthcoming but several appeals from the Ellen Osler Home were happily filled.

As always, it has been a pleasure to work with, and thank, upbeat, energetic and caring members of St. James. This applies especially to Betty Eagan for providing the collection bins and for her efficient help in sorting and keeping the coats, jackets and boots in order. Heather Collier also assisted. Also to Ken MacDonald for his many trips to pick up and deliver coats to wherever they needed to go and to Mike for his encouragement and for designing the eye catching flyers distributed by Milva and Dorinda whom he thanked. Then there was Nyle for her willingness to do whatever was needed and to Mark Mainprize for assembling the signage on the Eccles Service display board. Although, after ten years, many people in Dundas are aware of the Coat Drive, promotion is still needed. So, to the individuals and agencies who helped with that and to my fellow members of St. James who continued to support this needed reaching out endeavour, thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Washington

MEALS ON WHEELS

Our total number of deliveries previously have reached a thousand or more. This year beginning Jan 2 to Dec 31 it was 295. Between those dates, the Wentworth Lodge shutdown occurred. Our first start back was Sept 8 with just 6 clients. It remained that way into November. By year's end we were up to 13 meals. Not a lot but moving in the right direction. The Lodge devised a super plan where we picked up our bags and lists at the front door and returned the same when finished. This way no one entered the building. As of now, I assume this will continue into the new year. Thank you to my volunteers. Fitting that we were 6 fewer and only needed to use one car.

Respectfully submitted,

Pat Carson

TRUTH AND RECONCILIATION

Due to the Covid Virus we did not meet this year. Looking back, it helps to look at our overall objectives we have developed for the committee. These will be our guide for action when we resume our work.

OBJECTIVES

The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's encouraged us to build new relationships based on honesty and mutual respect and opportunities for deep solidarity. Based on the conclusions of the TRC, St James formed the Truth and Reconciliation committee, under the umbrella of Outreach. Some of the recommendations which we decided to focus on include: (1) That all churches incorporate in their education programs for all ages a history of the churches' involvement in the residential school's program. (2) That churches include an

appreciation of indigenous spirituality in their own programming. (3) That churches make a serious attempt to get to know, and to become reconciled with, indigenous people and communities in their areas.

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Donnelly

EcoWHAM Report 2020

In January and February 2020 these events were promoted or organised by EcoWHam.

1. Sandy Shaw, the MPP, organised a *Water Extraction* workshop. This was attended by 40 people one very snowy Saturday afternoon early January 2020 at St. Paul's United Church.
2. Tina Di Clemente from Elders 4 Climate Sanity gave a full house presentation at St. Mark's United Church on Friday, January 17th, 2020. The title was *Climate Change: Understanding the Science and the Solutions*. 95 people attended.
3. The *Doctrine of Discovery* movie was presented at Christ Church, Flamborough on Feb. 1st. Deirdre Pike was the presenter.
4. One EcoWHam meeting was held outdoors during the summer but no future activities were decided.

Respectfully submitted

Sue Carson

GOOD FOOD BOXES

Good Food Boxes were packed January and February 2020. The usual monthly number of boxes was about 120. There was a closure for several months but packing restarted in September with limited packers on site. As the Salvation Army were distributing food differently, they preferred to have loose vegetables and fruit rather than boxes. The number of boxes in the latter part of the year went down to about 80 boxes a month.

Respectfully submitted ,

Sue Carson

MILK BAG COLLECTION

I collected milk bags early in the year but had to stop by March due to a change in who I could take them to and because of Covid. Even so, we diverted around 900 bags from waste facilities to have new life as sleeping mats during the year! Hopefully we can get into the swing of collecting them regularly again now that I have a new source for processing them. A covered bin is now outside the parking lot door for distanced collection. Great job everyone! Thank you.

Respectfully submitted,

Carleon Hardie

CLIMATE JUSTICE

Greening Niagara changed their name to Climate Justice Niagara which changed the name of the Green Facilitator to the Climate Justice Facilitator. At Vestry, St. James passed a motion to work with all the groups in the church to ban the use of single use plastic. We committed to implementing the ban over two years with help and direction from the Climate Justice team here and with the diocese. I was voted in as Climate Justice Facilitator for St. James. For the period of Lent we had a focus on consuming less meat and for one Sunday before the lockdown, we sampled vegetarian chilli which was delicious and thank you to all who contributed and those doing the sampling. With the careful reopening, there needed to be a switch to approved cleaning

products that may be more harsh for our water systems and breathing but care will be taken to use them appropriately. During the time of worship only, all waste was to be taken home, not disposed of through the church so the frustration of properly sorting was paused for two of our dedicated Climate Justice members. Thank you all for your trust in me.

Respectfully submitted,

Carleon Hardie.

REFUGEE SPONSORSHIP

The Jean Archbell Memorial Refugee Fund was started in 2020 as an honour to the late Jean Archbell, our previous rector, who was very active in the development of our refugee program. Charitable donations are welcomed. The money is used to help fund refugees wanting to come to Canada. Fundraising activities are planned for when the pandemic is over. St. James is consistently contacted by members of the community to assist with refugees wanting to come to Canada. Donations allow this life saving work to continue.

In 2020 in spite of the pandemic, St. James was able to welcome a family of 5 Syrian/Kurdish refugees, (Mother Father and children aged 4,2 and 1) who had been living in Lebanon in extremely dangerous conditions. Their arrival in Canada was the result of 4 years of work completing the necessary sponsorship material. The Koujar senior parents had arrived in Canada in 2016 with all members of their family except their eldest daughter, Brivan who was expecting a child. Brivan, her husband, and three children arrived safely in August 2020. Due to COVID, only the immediate family could go to the airport. The video of their reunion was a moment when many would say heaven touched earth.

The family was allowed to arrive during the pandemic and had to isolate for 2 weeks upon their arrival. The family was healthy after their isolation and are currently living with Brivan's parents and siblings. Securing documentation, educational programs and training have been complicated by COVID. Recently in December 2020 after several delays, the family secured their social insurance numbers. Porch visits have been welcomed by the family and the family is extremely happy to be reunited.

There are current applications in the works for a Syrian man in Iraq, and 4 Kurds (location not disclosed due to serious risk to this family). Funds have been raised for all these refugees. (Families and outside donors have raised most of the funds)

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dykeman and Nora Clevenger

KIDS TO CAMP

Due to COVID in 2020 we were unable to send children to Canterbury Hills this summer. Prior to the pandemic, we had successfully collected money to send several children to camp. This money has been refunded and will be used to send children to camp in 2021 if the pandemic has resolved to a point that the camp can be reopened. It is our plan to send extra children in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Lynn Dykeman

COMMUNITY DINNERS

Hot nutritious meals were served in January and February to about 35 community guests each month. Due to Covid and the resulting lockdown, no meals were served in March or April. However beginning June 22, with

the cooperation of Grace Valley Church, we began serving a takeaway meal every Monday. Because we didn't have full names or personal information about our regular guests, getting the word out was difficult. We began with just one family of 5; remaining meals were taken to Mission Services Men's Shelter who gratefully accepted them. Eventually over the summer, St. Mark's United and Dundas Baptist Church joined the mission bringing in non-perishables, and St. Mark's members began volunteering to help pack meals. By the end of summer our number of community guests had increased to 35 to 40 every Monday.

As we began thinking about the coming winter, we invited all the churches who had previously hosted community dinners to meet and discuss a winter plan. St. Mark's, St. Paul's, Grace Valley, and St. James agreed to move to provide a hot entree during the winter months including the possibility of delivery on the worst of winter days. We purchased recyclable containers and began serving hot food in late November. At this time Knox Presbyterian joined the mission making this a true Association of Dundas Churches project! Each church has had to decide what roll they could play. Some provide both food and volunteers; others provide just food or just volunteers.

With the arrival of December, each of these churches began supplying complete meals on different weeks although all were delivered to St. James and handed out from our parking lot. 1st Monday-St. Mark's
2nd Monday-St. Paul's
3rd Monday-Dundas Baptist/Grace Valley
4th Monday-St. James

We continue to prepare between 40 and 48 meals each week, and if there are some leftover, they are taken to Mission Services Men's Shelter. This plan will continue until we can all return to our respective churches and open the doors to our community guests. They miss coming inside, sitting down with friends for conversation and social interaction.

Thanks to private donations, our meals are well financed allowing us to serve a wide variety of healthy and balanced meals. We are extremely thankful for these donations.

Respectfully submitted,
Nora Clevenger

KNITTERS GROUP

As part of St. James outreach program the knitters group was started several years ago. At present there are 10 active members and two auxiliary members who are unable to knit but still want to keep in touch. Due to the pandemic the knitters' group had to be cancelled for in-person meetings. Then for a few weeks during the summer each member was contacted by phone to touch base and make sure everyone was kept up-to-date. A Zoom program was started for the group this fall so that the members could still keep in touch with each other. We have postponed it for the Christmas season but will begin again on January 13th at 2:30. This year there were enough knitted hats, mitts and scarves to fill up the Adopt-a-Family bags and the rest of the knitting is up in the storeroom at the top of the stage stairs.

Respectfully submitted,
Pam Daniels

ADOPT A FAMILY, Saint Matthew's House

Objectives of the project:

To provide families selected by St. Matthew's House with gifts and toys for Christmas

Stars, indicating a child's wish were placed all over the walls of the church to ensure social distancing. The effect was amazing, reinforcing that this act of kindness reflected God's true message for us. Also amazing was the timing. The date for bringing all the presents in was the last Sunday before the church closed. One day earlier and the project would have been impossible. What a coincidence?

Again, the knitting group supplied mitts and hats and these were so cozy, colorful and warm. I estimate that saved us \$400.00. We also included \$100.00 food vouchers for each family.

All presents were sorted into cheerful Christmas cloth bags made by parishioners. We also asked for various Christmas special small fun items such as candy crayons, cards and other stocking stuffers. These added something special. Again, the knitting group also supplied mitts and hats and these were so cozy, colorful and warm. I estimate that saved us \$400.00. The bags were taken directly to St. Matthews House drop off center.

Staff at the center have commented on how please they were with our continuous support and how well organized we were. The staff and families loved our bags.

To encourage as much participation as possible by the congregation.

Volunteers from the congregation donated money stocking stuffers, Christmas treats and money for food certificates and gifts for the children. They sewed bags for the gifts, organized the family gifts and delivered presents to St. Matthew's. The participation was overwhelming. The stars seemed to fly off the walls as they were put up and about 90% of the gifts were taken and brought in by parishioners. I think that is a record? Again, we were able to achieve our financial goal of being self-supporting. We had enough donations to end with a balanced budget.

Overview of the Project and Changes from Last Year:

This year we adopted 9 families with a total of 26 children. 6 families were from St Matthew's House and 3 other special families were identified as in need. We had asked for 4 because we were afraid participation would be low because of the pandemic. Your generosity as a congregation proved our fears were unfounded. You always come through!

Many thanks go to the folks for doing such a fine job! Thanks to everyone who participated.

You were amazing and made a real difference during these challenging times!

Respectfully submitted,

Jackie Donnelly and Carleon Hardie

PRIMATE'S WORLD RELIEF AND DEVELOPMENT FUND

We have admittedly done very little with PWRDF this year. We did order and receive a box of supplies with plans to reach out to St. James members, but due to Covid, this was not possible. These supplies will be used once we can safely return to handing out materials.

Lynn Dykeman and Nora Clevenger did participate in a Zoom PWRDF meeting that was very informative, and they have been encouraged to do more to share PWRDF's programs in the future.

Respectfully submitted,

Nora Clevenger and Lynn Dykeman

CARE and SUPPORT

PASTORAL CARE

With so many of our normal routines disrupted, pastoral care has taken on many new forms during 2020. Primary among these was the creation of a 'phone tree, which, especially in the early days of the lockdown was vital in connecting the parish and communicating needs as they emerged from our new situation. I am deeply grateful to those who made 'phone calls week by week to stay in touch. As the new ways of living became normalized there was less activity through the phone tree. However as the year came towards an end and a second lockdown began we renewed the phone tree. It has proved an effective way of helping me respond to urgent needs as they have arisen.

Strict restrictions were put on visits for clergy during this year, so the normal rounds of visits to private homes, long term care and hospitals has been curtailed and restricted mostly to end of life care. Similar challenges around funerals and the ever-changing rules has made this more important but also more difficult. I am particularly thankful to those greeters who enabled funerals to happen safely when our building was open for in-person worship. Funerals at the graveside, in funeral homes when possible and over Zoom have all added to the diversity of this ministry and posed particular challenges for those facing bereavement as has the social and physical distancing that has surrounded it.

Respectfully Submitted,

Mike Deed

WENTWORTH LODGE, ST JOSEPH'S VILLA, BLACKADAR and AMICA PASTORAL MINISTRIES

Four faithful members of St James took residents down to and back from the Chapel at Saint Joseph's Villa for the service every fourth Friday of the month. Unfortunately, our commitment ended with the lockdown in March. Terry Fry moved permanently to Florida and we shall miss his involvement when we are able to resume this ministry. My thanks to our members for their commitment to this group and to Peter Davison for taking beautiful, meaningful Services. Our members are Maureen Ash, Peggy and Claudio Beghetto and Betty Eagan.

The services for Wentworth Lodge are on the first Tuesday of every month. Mike Deed was the celebrant for these services. As with other activities, the services were suspended due to Covid-19. Judith May and Audrey were regulars and Jennie Rennie also helped often with the residents. Pat Johnson played the piano for the services. Other St. James' members usually assisted when they could.

Respectfully submitted,

Betty Eagan

HOSPITALITY

In the event that we are asked to arrange a reception, we are able to produce the necessary with the help of many who volunteer to bake, make sandwiches, set up and clear up. We are most grateful. In 2020, we only recorded one reception before the shut down.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Regoeczi, Audrey Nicol, Judith May

COMMUNITY LIFE

PANCAKE SUPPER

This event also took place just before the shut down. The team is very grateful for help in purchasing the sausages and cooking them, flipping pancakes, setting up, serving and clearing up. This is always an enjoyable event.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Regoeczi

BODY AND SOUL

Ladies from the community gather for gentle exercises and a speaker to follow.

The last speaker was Adam from Connect where Lilian is currently living. This too had to close down. In September, Joyce Saint suggested that we meet in the Park with chairs and masks at 10.30 each Tuesday. This continued until mid November. Lilian was able to join us when a caregiver was available to bring her.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Regoeczi (in consultation with Lilian Stewart)

MONDAY AFTERNOON GAMES

Ladies, and gentlemen too, come to play Bridge or Mexican Train from 1.30-4pm.

This, too, has been suspended.

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Regoeczi

CHILDREN, YOUTH and FAMILY MINISTRY

INTRODUCTION

While children and youth ministry has been unable to gather for most of this year, some important foundations have been laid to allow us to be ready to take ministry forward as we move out of the time of pandemic. At the beginning of 2020 we were donated TVs, storage, furniture and rugs for our children's and youth ministry. Also, a donation for a new floor and wall in the children's room, donations of new vanities and paint meant that the children's room could be refreshed and the former lower nursery started its conversion into a youth room. A youth group had begun to meet.

During the pandemic a donation of \$2000 was made to start a youth and children's ministry fund in memory of The Reverend Canon Scott McNaughton. This fund is flexible providing for our annual budget but also able to grow to fund future endeavours as donations come in.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike Deed

PLAY AND LEARN

A play group open to parents and caregivers of babies and young children every Wednesday morning, 9.30-11am and set up by one of the caregivers. Nina and I take turns to provide the snacks each week.

This, of course, had to stop in mid March

Respectfully submitted,
Jill Regoeczi

THE PRAYER GROUND, CHILDREN'S MINISTRY

What a year 2020 has been! Our Church has been closed for most of the year. This provided an opportunity for some much needed renovations! Both the upstairs and downstairs Prayer Ground have new flooring. The downstairs Prayer Ground also has a new paint job and some new furnishings. We're delighted with our bright, colourful space and are looking forward to gathering again, when it's safe to do so.

In the meantime, we have been delivering monthly packages to our children. Mike writes them a lovely greeting and includes colouring sheets related to our theme. The teachers have been including crafts, instructions and a few wee treats!!

Unfortunately, we were unable to gather and thus weren't able to practise and perform our annual Pageant. Instead, we (Mike) filmed the reading of a Christmas story, the making of an Advent Wreath, a prayer and a message to the children. This was posted on our website and on YouTube, allowing the children to follow along and make their own Advent Wreath, which was included in their December package.

We are busy preparing our January packages for delivery and will film a story, craft, prayer and a message from the teachers. This will also be posted on our website and YouTube. Watch your eblast for the date!

We are missing our Church family, especially the children. We get such pleasure, dropping off the monthly packages and having a short, distance visit with the children! We long for the time, when we can gather safely and share the joy and love we are blessed to have, in our Church community.

Respectfully Submitted,

Angela Alexander-Roper and Marline Sarjeant on behalf of Children's Ministry Team

YOUTH GROUP

In late 2019 and early 2020 a small youth group began to meet occasionally, mostly on Sunday afternoons / evenings. As well as discussion and planning for the future we began the practical work of clearing out and cleaning the old nursery and beginning painting and decorating and putting the new Ikea furniture that had been donated together. With the lockdown in March our youth group stopped meeting although several members have helped offer our Christmas and Sunday worship with their gifts of music.

We look forward to coming together again in 2021.

Respectfully submitted,

Mike Deed

HOW WE GIVE

HOLIDAY HOUSE TOUR

We were disappointed that this year's tour had to be cancelled – we were ready!! The good news is that all 5 homes understood and are looking forward to celebrating our 45th Holiday House Tour next year – December 4th, 2021. The homes are ready, the artisans are ready and the committee is ready!! If you would like to join us, please contact me. We would love to have you!

Respectfully Submitted,

Jan Southall and Linda Ingraudo, Interim Co-Chairs

FUNDRAISING COMMITTEE

COVID 19 created interesting financial challenges for all churches. After the March large COVID outbreak church services were limited. Major fundraising events such as the House Tour and the Garage Sale were cancelled. A creative group of church members began meeting online and developed several innovative ways to raise funds. The final projects included mask sales, thanks to the many sewers including Norma Coe and Jackie Donnelly who spearheaded this effort, telephone auction with Sue Pratt and Ann Vander Berg taking the lead, telephone food auction coordinated by Jill Regoeczi, books sales including online sales led by Isabella Guthrie McNaughton and online sales of used items by Lynn Dykeman. The committee successfully raised over the \$10,000 needed by the church. Ongoing plans are continuing for 2021 as the church remains closed at this time.

Respectfully Submitted,

Lynn Dykeman

GARAGE SALE

This, too, was unable to take place because of the shut down. Carleon Hardie would have been heading up this event.

Respectfully submitted,

Jill Regoeczi

FINANCIAL GIVING: An Introduction

The Pandemic has posed particular challenges for all churches when it comes to finances. Like all Churches, Saint James relies primarily on individual donations by its members to maintain the running of our church but we are also used to significant income from fundraising which is primarily 'gathered' in nature.

Some of the financial points to note in 2020 include:

- Loss of 'on the plate' income for a majority of the year.
- Loss of rental income.
- Loss of gathered fundraisers including Holiday House Tour.
- Increased number of givers moving to Pre-Authorized Giving.
- Costs associated with the building did not decrease with any significance even when 'closed'.
- We faced additional unbudgeted costs for pest control (wasps nest in kitchen), Fire safety (failure of fire inspection) and appliances (Kitchen stove repair) HVAC repair (boilers, pumps and system).
- Increased office expenses as we worked out communications early in pandemic with loss of computer and data.
- Incredible generosity from the congregation to fund appeals.

Like every family we have costs associated with ‘life together’ from insurance and hydro bills, maintenance and hospitality, not to mention staff costs, worship, and our desire to make a difference in the community with the love of God. Like every household, these costs increase year on year. We give thanks for every gift made to Saint James. Giving is an act of worship because it shows how we are arranging our lives, including our finances as ‘a living sacrifice’.

Church income is an ongoing concern and is monitored by the corporation on a monthly basis. Guaranteed regular income is vital to meet our cash-flow and donations beyond that enable us to do new ministry and undertake larger projects, including maintenance on an aging building.

The Table below shows the numbers of givers at Saint James by financial bracket in 2020. This is significant because it indicates that our church is heavily reliant on a particular number of givers and may demonstrate how the loss of even one giver is always going to be felt in our annual finances. In 2020, the deaths of a number of givers will add up to an annual \$10,000 loss in donations. It also demonstrates the extraordinary generosity of our congregations.

GIFT BRACKET	No. givers 2019	No. givers 2020
Under \$100	54	49
\$100-\$499	60	60
\$500- \$999	35	34
\$1000-\$1999*	37	36
\$2000-\$3999	35	33
\$4000-\$5999	10	9
\$6000 - \$9999	7	11
\$10,000+	2	1
Total Number of Givers**	240	233

*\$1450 is the average annual gift across the Diocese of Niagara.

** Individual Identifiable givers, does not include groups, or ‘loose change’ givers. May include one off givers to memorial fund, one-time visitors etc.

Please note that the Budget and Financial Statements will be circulated separately.

The next ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING of Saint James Church, is anticipated on 13th February 2022.