

# **ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT**

for the year 1999

Parish of St. John's Church, West Toronto

held on

Sunday, February 27, 2000



## **MISSION STATEMENT**

St. John's mission is to build a community of caring believers committed to Christ to work for justice and service to all in need. We gather to praise God and give and receive support to meet the challenge of our daily ministries.

We call all who will to come and join us.

## Order of business

1. Incumbent takes chair
2. Opening prayer
3. Appointing vestry clerk (secretary)
4. Reading correcting and confirming minutes of last meeting
5. Incumbents report
6. Wardens financial report (audited)
7. Wardens recommendations re: parish portion of Diocesan Outreach and other Diocesan requests for funds
8. Adopting budget for ensuing year
9. Advisory Board Report
10. Envelope Secretary's report
11. Appointments and elections
  - a. churchwardens (2 elected )
  - b. lay members of synod (1 and alternative)
  - c. Envelope committee and secretary
  - d. Parochial Tribunal
  - e. Advisory Board
  - f. Auditors
  - g. Other officers or committee
12. Report of parochial organizations : Outreach, Christian Education, Liturgy, Finance, Concert, Day Care, Music, Welcoming , Parish suppers, others
13. General Business
14. Adjournment



DIOCESE  
OF TORONTO  
ANGLICAN  
CHURCH  
OF CANADA

The Rt. Rev. Terence E. Finlay  
Bishop of Toronto

**Mission:** To worship God and proclaim Jesus Christ in the power of the Holy Spirit and to embody – in word and action – God's reconciling love, justice, compassion and liberation – through which knowledge of God's reign is extended.

January 2000

**Pastoral Letter**

**To the Clergy and People of the Diocese of Toronto**  
(to be read at the Annual Meeting of the Vestry of the Congregation)

Dear Friends,

In this new millennium we join our Christian sisters and brothers throughout the world in celebrating 2000 years since the birth of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. For some this is a time of anxiety. However, as I observed the New Year's Eve festivities around the world, I was impressed by an attitude of hope.

Where is the ground of this hope? The Psalmist reminds us to "put not your trust in rulers nor in any child of the earth," (Psalm 146) but to put your hope and trust in God as revealed in Jesus Christ. The scripture opens with that evocative phrase, "In the beginning, God."

Whether it is the beginning of creation, a new millennium, a new year, or the annual meeting of a parish vestry, the reality is the same: "In the beginning, God." It is God who is at our beginnings; it is God who is faithfully with us as we live in the present moment; it is God whom we can trust to lead us into a future shaped by God - God who is Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end of all.

At last year's Synod I asked parishes with fewer than 50 people attending on a Sunday, to consider their ministry and mission. I suggest that all of you, regardless of parish size, review your mission. Does your worship proclaim and celebrate Jesus Christ as the life of the world? Do your ministries help move forward the reign of Christ? Do your programmes bring people into a deeper and life-transforming relationship with Christ, promoting his love, mercy and justice? Do you live out your discipleship so that others may see in you the compelling image of God?

How we organise ourselves to do our work in the diocese and parish is important. I have invited a small task force to consider and recommend revised governance structures for our diocese. I want to hear your suggestions: please send them to me. During the next year there will be wide consultation about this in preparation for our November Synod (November 23-25.) As you evaluate these recommendations, consider how they might help or hinder us proclaim Christ's gospel and live it out effectively.

On behalf of all the bishops, I want to express our deep appreciation for the energy and financial commitment you have given to the work of the Church in this diocese, across Canada and internationally, through your portion of the Diocesan Assessment. There are at least two opportunities when you can participate directly in our diocesan budget process long before Synod – March 4 and May 18. Times and locations will be announced in *The Anglican*.

I am delighted to report that gifts to FaithWorks surpassed \$1 million by mid-December and we expect to reach our 1999 target of \$1.1 million. There has been a tremendous increase in the number of people contributing to this critical programme of outreach. Much is being done to build God's kingdom of love and justice in this diocese. Thank you for all that you do. You are making a difference!

As you participate in today's annual vestry meeting, I want especially to thank those who have served faithfully in the leadership of the church in your parish and beyond. With your care and dedication much good ministry has been done and will continue to be done.

I assure all of you starting today in new roles, and those continuing in their present positions, that you are upheld in my prayers and I ask you to uphold your bishops in yours.

May the God of our beginnings continue to bless you today and as you move into God's future.

Yours faithfully,

The Right Reverend Terence E. Finlay,  
The Bishop of Toronto

THE INCORPORATED SYNOD OF THE DIOCESE OF TORONTO

Incumbent's Report to the Annual Meeting.


If the image is not too frivolous I would characterize 1999 as a pleasant ride on the Merry-go-round after several years on the Roller-coaster. We began the year with An Assessment of Resources in which everyone was invited to indicate areas in which they were able to provide leadership and had energy and from that much has been accomplished. I have invited all the task groups to report in detail and to include in their report the names of those most directly involved and it is an impressive listing. With limited numbers we have done many interesting, worthwhile and exciting things.

The parish is not in debt, our expenses have not exceeded our income, no disasters have befallen us. On the other hand we have hidden debts in the form of deferred, and unavoidable, repairs: to the organ console, to the bells in our tower, and to the roof, not to mention the long standing need for painting of the interior and exterior of the church.

But we have also entered into a number of new ventures most notable our joint Alpha course with four neighboring churches, United, Baptist, Presbyterian and Anglican, and a re-orientation of our approach to Christian education for our children with monthly Focus Services and a larger use of Video resources. These ventures will need evaluation and adjustment, but are healthy signs of continuing creativity and responsiveness to the challenges facing us.

All of this probably is most accurately summed up as survival. While survival mode is often used as a pejorative term it need not be so. We are here, we are still bearing witness and we are not dead, perhaps not even dying. Various parish groups have been working quietly to develop a plan for our long term future; I will be meeting with the Bishop the end of March when he and I will also address that issue. I do not expect any sudden dramatic proposals such as we investigated over the past several years, but as I will be 67 in August it is time to prepare for a new incumbent.

Faithfully yours in Our Lord



Christian OHC

## REPORTS

### Statistical Report: 1999

	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92
Marriages	2	1	1	1	1	5	3	3
Baptism	3	10	5	5	10	12	9	5
Burials	3	3	5	2	3	0	1	3

### Departed 1999

We remember with gratitude the ministry of those who have gone before us. Let us give thanks for the life and witness of:

Emily Kearley

Ethel Percy

### Baptized 1999

Stephanie Clare Jones

Evan Wells Hastings

Caitlin Elizabeth Aspinall

### Married 1999

Cheryl Atkins and Harold Price

Indrajit Navaratnam and Lyn Carackower

Attendance	99	98	97	96	95	94	93	92	91
Ash Wed	40	*	19	13	15	16	18	35	43
Maundy Thurs..	25	50	29	45	50	95	65	65	60
Good Fri	65	50	53	70	55	70	91	94	99
Easter	135	167	129	158	150	198	173	171	191
Pentecost	56	75	62	64	65	49	84	76	123
Christmas Eve	132	172	159	130	110	178	85	112	96
Christmas Day	14	50	30	14	11	44	25	30	40
Average	63	74	64	62	67	69	72	77	93

\*jointly with St Paul's

### Envelope Secretary's Report

Sixty three sets of envelopes were issued in January 1999. During the year some were used sparingly and two were not used. Five new subscribers were added during the year. Some members of the congregation contribute monthly, quarterly, or annually but do not take envelopes, however, a statement is issued to them.

Receipts were also issued for various purposes during the year.

Respectfully submitted

*Lindell Mitchell*

Lindell Mitchell

## **Wardens' Report**

From: Bill Dunford (People's Warden), Sally Ritchie (Rector's Warden)

For: St. John's Vestry Meeting, Sunday February 27, 2000

The year 1999 was a challenging, exciting year for the congregation of St. John's. Despite – and perhaps in response to -- an unexpected turn of events, the members of the parish have renewed their commitment to St. John's future.

At the annual Vestry meeting on January 24<sup>th</sup>, 1999, a large majority of parishioners voted to authorize the Wardens to negotiate the terms of the sale of St. John's to the Ukrainian Catholic Church of Christ, the Good Shepherd. Negotiations were nearly completed when the Good Shepherd, for reasons internal to their diocese, withdrew the offer on March 20<sup>th</sup>.

Our parish then met and reviewed St. John's Vital Vision, a strategic plan that was developed in 1995-1996. Each member of the parish was asked to indicate his or her area(s) of interest. Based on this survey, the following committees were established: Budget, Christian Education, Concert, Publicity and Communications, New Members, Youth and Building Open. (The latter was disbanded after several experimental "open" days; however, the experience was enlightening to other committees, such as Publicity. Other ideas for welcoming the community into the church are presently in the works.)

The ideas and efforts of these committees are valuable, and it is important that nothing fall through the cracks. Therefore, to coordinate the various activities of these committees, the Parish Life committee was established. Comprised of representatives of each committee, it meets on the first Sunday of any month. Any member of the parish is welcome to attend. (See Parish Life Committee Report for further information.)

The Wardens have also had ongoing discussions with the Early Enrichment Daycare regarding a revised tenancy agreement. The discussions have gone well and the agreement is expected to be officially in place in the very near future.

This summer, St. John's was advised that we had been named in a lawsuit involving an alleged incident from the 1970s concerning the Boy Scout troupe which then met at St. John's. Our lawyers are overseeing the litigation.

## WARDENS' REPORT PAGE TWO

The church custodian resigned from his position effective July 1<sup>st</sup>. The cleaning of the church has been subsequently contracted out to a cleaning company and this has proven to be quite satisfactory, especially for the Daycare. We are currently working on contracting out the snow clearing. Small repairs and maintenance jobs are seen to on an ad hoc basis.

Repairs to the slate roof and the steam heating system were carried out during the year. The roofing contractor noted that the slate roof would have to be replaced in approximately five year's time.

One exciting initiative undertaken this year was an official plan for revitalizing our parish. This project, which is currently in preliminary draft form, proposes to involve the diocese in a new way of looking towards our joint future. As soon as the initial stages of planning and research are complete, the project will be presented to the parish and a Vestry Meeting will be called.

Bill and Sally thank you for the opportunity to have served St. Johns this past year. It has been an enriching and affirming experience.

**Budget Proposal for 2000 Vestry Meeting**

Item #	Item Description	1997			1998			1999			2000
		Budget	Actual	variance	Budget	Actual	variance	Budget	Actual	variance	Budget
<b>EXPENSES</b>											
<b>E1.0</b>	<b>Payment to Diocese</b>	16,000	11,989	-4,011	14,700	14,576	-124	13,000	25,763	12,763	<b>12,324</b>
E1.1	<i>Alotment</i>	12,000	11,989	-11	10,700	11,576	876	12,000	10,868	-1,132	<b>12,324</b>
E1.2	<i>Arrears Paydown</i>	4,000	0	-4,000	4,000	3,000	-1,000	1,000	14,895	13,895	<b>0</b>
<b>E2.0</b>	<b>Fuel</b>	2,500	2,636	136	2,500	2,682	182	3,000	3,836	836	<b>4,028</b>
<b>E3.0</b>	<b>Utilities</b>	3,000	3,655	655	4,000	2,726	-1,274	2,800	2,472	-328	<b>2,500</b>
<b>E4.0</b>	<b>Maintenance</b>	7,000	6,330	-670	8,300	8,211	-89	8,300	14,196	5,896	<b>15,900</b>
E4.1	<i>- Building Maintenance</i>				3,400	2,819	-581	3,000	9,731	6,731	<b>6,000</b>
E4.2	<i>- Organ Maintenance</i>				1,300	1,792	492	1,300	905	-395	<b>1,700</b>
E4.3	<i>- Housekeeping</i>				3,600	3,600	0	4,000	3,560	-440	<b>8,200</b>
<b>E5.0</b>	<b>Salaries</b>	76,600	71,306	-5,294	76,600	74,660	-1,940	78,132	71,380	-6,752	<b>71,885</b>
<b>E6.0</b>	<b>Employment Costs</b>	2,000	2,139	139	2,400	2,069	-331	2,165	2,213	48	<b>2,400</b>
<b>E7.0</b>	<b>Office</b>	1,500	1,318	-182	1,500	1,169	-331	1,200	2,253	1,053	<b>1,700</b>
<b>E8.0</b>	<b>Advertising</b>	300	118	-182	300	0	-300	300	177	-123	<b>200</b>
<b>E9.0</b>	<b>Capital</b>	1,000	4,820	3,820	3,500	3,721	221	50,000	0	-50,000	<b>50,000</b>
E9.1	<i>- Building</i>	0	3,557	3,557	3,500	3,721	221	40,000		-40,000	<b>40,000</b>
E9.2	<i>- Organ</i>	1,000	1,263	263	0	0	0	10,000		-10,000	<b>10,000</b>
<b>E10.0</b>	<b>Sanctuary &amp; Music</b>	2,800	1,262	-1,538	1,500	968	-532	1,150	789	-361	<b>1,200</b>
<b>E11.0</b>	<b>Christian Ed.</b>	1,200	977	-223	1,200	784	-416	1,000	896	-104	<b>1,200</b>
<b>E12.0</b>	<b>Insurance</b>	1,000	962	-38	1,000	977	-23	1,020	977	-43	<b>1,000</b>
<b>E13.0</b>	<b>Miscellaneous</b>	800	1,583	783	800	300	-500	500	271	-229	<b>500</b>
<b>E14.0</b>	<b>Rector's Discretionary Fund</b>	1,500	182	-1,318	1,500	350	-1,150	400	0	-400	<b>400</b>
<b>E15.0</b>	<b>Outreach</b>				1,000	9,236	8,236	9,000	9,713	713	<b>10,000</b>
<b>E16.0</b>	<b>Legal Fees</b>								2,044	2,044	<b>5,000</b>
	<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>117,200</b>	<b>109,278</b>	<b>-7,922</b>	<b>120,800</b>	<b>122,428</b>	<b>1,628</b>	<b>171,967</b>	<b>136,980</b>	<b>-34,987</b>	<b>175,238</b>
<b>INCOME</b>											
<b>I1.0</b>	<b>Envelopes</b>	43,000	41,650	-1,350	43,000	48,475	5,475	45,000	43,864	-1,136	<b>45,000</b>
<b>I2.0</b>	<b>Open</b>	3,000	2,917	-83	3,000	2,599	-401	2,500	1,823	-677	<b>2,500</b>
<b>I3.0</b>	<b>Feasts</b>	2,000	4,550	2,550	2,000	3,000	1,000	2,500	2,967	467	<b>2,500</b>
<b>I4.0</b>	<b>Donations</b>	3,000	7,809	4,809	4,000	17,215	13,215	14,400	15,539	1,139	<b>15,400</b>
I4.1	<i>- Undirected</i>	1,500	7,351	5,851	1,500	7,409	5,909	5,000	5,100	100	<b>5,000</b>
I4.2	<i>- Rector's Discretionary Fund</i>	1,500	182	-1,318	1,500	570	-930	400	1,150	750	<b>400</b>
I4.3	<i>- Outreach</i>	0	276	276	1,000	9,236	8,236	9,000	9,289	289	<b>10,000</b>
<b>I5.0</b>	<b>Fundraising</b>	1,500	4,705	3,205	1,500	5,576	4,076	1,000	3,973	2,973	<b>1,500</b>
I5.1	<i>- Yard Sale</i>	500	0	-500	0	1,350	1,350	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
I5.2	<i>- Concerts</i>	1,000	4,705	3,705	1,500	4,226	2,726	1,000	3,973	2,973	<b>1,500</b>
I5.3	<i>- Other</i>							0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>I6.0</b>	<b>Rent</b>	3,750	4,193	443	3,600	5,140	1,540	3,600	4,380	780	<b>5,300</b>
I6.1	<i>- A.A.</i>	3,750	4,193	443	3,600	3,600	0	3,600	3,600	0	<b>4,800</b>
I6.2	<i>- Other</i>			0		1,540	1,540	0	780	780	<b>500</b>
<b>I7.0</b>	<b>Interest Income</b>	38,300	39,244	944	38,000	34,935	-3,065	33,500	43,347	9,847	<b>46,523</b>
I7.1	<i>- House Fund</i>	1,000	877	-123	800	773	-27	700	1,015	315	<b>1,000</b>
I7.2	<i>- Rectory Fund</i>	30,000	31,179	1,179	30,000	26,942	-3,058	26,000	35,883	9,883	<b>40,000</b>
I7.3	<i>- Day Care Loan</i>	6,900	6,899	-1	6,900	6,668	-232	6,500	5,715	-785	<b>5,023</b>
I7.4	<i>- Bank</i>	400	288	-112	300	552	252	300	734	434	<b>500</b>
<b>I8.0</b>	<b>GST Rebate</b>	1,000	4,593	3,593	1,000	0	-1,000	707	1,167	460	<b>1,300</b>
<b>I9.0</b>	<b>Sanctuary</b>	300	300	0	300	0	-300	300	10	-290	<b>300</b>
<b>I10.0</b>	<b>Capital Drawn from House Fund</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	<b>0</b>
<b>I11.0</b>	<b>Day Care Loan Principle</b>	3,200	3,254	54	3,200	3,486	286	3,650	19,473	15,823	<b>5,415</b>
	<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>99,050</b>	<b>113,215</b>	<b>14,165</b>	<b>99,600</b>	<b>120,427</b>	<b>20,827</b>	<b>107,157</b>	<b>140,923</b>	<b>33,766</b>	<b>125,738</b>
	<b>SURPLUS (DEFICIT)</b>	<b>(18,150)</b>	<b>3,937</b>	<b>22,087</b>	<b>(21,200)</b>	<b>(2,001)</b>	<b>19,199</b>	<b>(64,810)</b>	<b>3,943</b>	<b>68,753</b>	<b>(49,500)</b>
<b>ACCOUNT BALANCES</b>		1-Jan-97			1-Jan-98		30-Sep-98	1-Jan-99			1-Jan-00
	<b>Bank Account</b>	6,925			10,862			11,584			11,671
	<b>House Fund</b>	13,036			14,479		14,004				13,801
	<b>Rectory Fund</b>				504,501		487,943				480,894
	<b>Owing to Diocese</b>				22,276			19,000			0



**St. John's Church 2000 Vestry Meeting  
Treasurer's Report**

## **1 Explanation of Significant 1999 Budget Variances**

### **1.1 Expense Variances**

#### **E1.1 Allotment**

The final allotment figure from the diocese was lower than the preliminary figure we budgeted on.

#### **E1.2 Arrears Paydown**

The daycare made a loan payment of \$15,000 which was used to pay off the Allotment arrears. Capital funds have been used to pay operating expenses.

#### **E2.0 Fuel**

Fuel prices are going up.

#### **E4.1 Building Maintenance**

Additional expenditures were required for roof repairs and plumbing repairs.

#### **E5.0 Salaries**

The custodian resigned in July. A cleaning service company has been retained.

#### **E7.0 Office**

A new printer was purchased for the computer. Photocopier maintenance contract costs have increased. Toner costs have increased.

#### **E9.0 Capital**

Necessary repair work on the organ console, the bells and the roof is being postponed, as is painting of interior and exterior wood. Capital funds are not being replenished.

#### **E16.0 Legal**

The St. John's has been included as a respondent in proceedings dating from the when the Boy Scouts' used the Church hall.

### **1.2 Income Variances**

#### **I1.0 Donations**

*Outreach* includes directed donations including those to Faithworks, which pass through to the *Outreach* line on the expenses side.

#### **I5.0 Fundraising**

Concerts consistently do better than budget.

#### **I11.0 Day Care Loan Principle**

## **St. John's Church 2000 Vestry Meeting Treasurer's Report**

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The Day Care made a \$15,000 payment against their loan.

### **2 2000 Budget Proposal**

#### **2.1 Expenses**

##### **E1.0 Allotment**

This is the assigned amount from the diocese.

##### **E2.0 Fuel**

Set based on expectation that prices will continue to increase.

##### **E3.0 Utilities**

Set based on this year's expenditure and the assumption that phone price reductions due to competition are now fully realized.

##### **E4.0 Maintenance**

Provision is made for ongoing maintenance at levels similar to last year

Organ maintenance budget is based on \$600 bill already paid for minor repairs plus three more tunings at \$350 each plus \$50 for contingency.

An increase in housekeeping is budgeted as the custodian has been replaced by a cleaning service.

##### **E5.0 Salaries**

Set by wardens. Includes a cost of living increase. Net reduction from last year is due to custodian being replaced by cleaning service.

##### **E9.0 Capital**

This included all expenditures required to ensure the long term viability and value of the assets. The appraisal report done for the St Paul's merger analysis indicated that we are significantly underresourcing the capital program. Major expenditures loom for roof replacement, window repairs and piping replacements. The capital fund that was created by the sale of the house has dwindled from over \$200,000 to \$14,000. This fund needs to be replaced. The appraisers' report indicated that approximately 2% of the replacement cost of the building should be set aside each year for maintenance. This would be about \$60,000/year for our building. This budget proposed \$43,000 for 1999. This was not achieved. A sustaining budget needs to include an allocation for this fund.

The organ console needs to be re-built at a cost of between \$20,000 to \$30,000.

#### **2.2 Income**

##### **I5.0 Fundraising**

To be conservative, budget assumes spring concert will be the last for the year 2000.

## St. John's Church 2000 Vestry Meeting Treasurer's Report

### 115.0 Outreach

This is an in-and-out item balanced against the expenditure side line item.

### 11.2 Income from Rectory Fund

This is projection based on the first payment received.

## 3 Overall Financial Picture

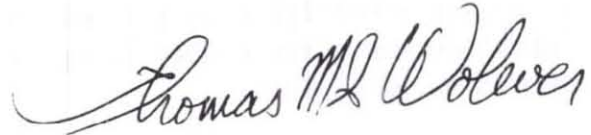
- ◆ The budget shows a \$51,900 deficit.
- ◆ Envelope contributions show slight decline from 1998.

February 9, 2000

We have examined the books of St. John's West Toronto and have found them to be honest and correct to the best of our knowledge.



Cynthia J. Webster



Thomas M. S. Wolever

## **The Healing Ministry at St. John's**

St. John's has an active healing ministry. In the spring of 1997, Elizabeth Fairley attended a training course for lay anointers, offered periodically by the diocese. Father Christian was required to attend the course with her. Upon completion of the course, a call was put out to the congregation for a group of people interested in providing support to St. John's healing ministry. Father Christian, Carol Alton, Kevin and Linda Burnside, Lynda Ward, Elizabeth Fairley, Lindell Mitchell, and Evelyn Butler began meeting on a weekly basis. This group has continued to meet, providing the bedrock of prayer for pastoral care work. The group has also formed a prayer chain, and prayer requests move in strict confidentiality around the chain.

Since Elizabeth was licensed as a lay anointer by the Bishop in June 1998, we have had a number of services in which the main focus was healing. Laying-on of hands and anointing have been offered and the response has been excellent. Anointing and laying-on of hands, accompanied by reflection and prayer, are available at any time between services.

The Monday night meetings provide support for pastoral care work in the parish. In support of Father Christian's work, Elizabeth has made hospital visits and home visits; provided phone support; and acted as an anointer during services. Father Christian and the healing ministry team have provided her with close supervision and guidance.

Pastoral care work flourishes with prayer support from near and far. Some choose to pray from a distance and are not actively involved in meetings or services. Others like the weekly rhythm of the Monday night meetings and the quiet of the church. If you would like to know more about this ministry, speak to Father Christian or Elizabeth Fairley.

## REPORT OF THE DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

Looking back at this past year, I am pleased to report that the efforts which we have making in the area of our church music programme are continuing to show results. I am now moving into my sixth year as your Director of Music. Given the limited resouces of our church at that time, your Churchwardens in consultation with the Congregation had decided to place an emphasis on two aspects of the programme: **music and needs of children**. Today we have two active church organizations which have come out of that thrust: a choir and a youth group.

We are in a society which expects quick and easy results. There was a time that if a community wanted to see a drama, they had to mount it -- today, we turn on the television; if a family wanted a musical evening they learned some chamber music to perform as a family -- today we put on a compact disk or tape. People are less and less prepared to invest today to benefit their tomorrow and that of others.

In the case of our music programme, progress has been incremental. During my first year, we were able to maintain the St. John's tradition of that time which was to gather a choir for high feast days (Easter and Christmas). In year two, driven by circumstance (a leaking roof), the organ chamber was rebuilt, the organ cleaned and tuned (the first time in 7 years). A regular, weekly choir rehearsal was instituted. The third year our piano was upgraded and both the choir and the "Music at St. John's" Concert Series took on more substantial programmes. While we feel that we have done no more than plant a seed, efforts have been made to include the children within the choral programme.

This past year, following an unsettled beginning (the pending sale of our church), the choir seemed to find new energy and took leadership in the introduction of the new "Common Praise" hymnbooks. During Pentecost the choir participated in worship on a weekly basis. This experience was both energizing and offered the opportunity to build a more blended choral sound. Through the fall, the choir participated on an average of once every three weeks. This season culminated in a very satisfying Christmas Eve carol service. Between the New Year and Trinity Sunday it is our intent to have our choir involved formally in worship on the average of once every two weeks.

Christian Education has been following a programme of designated "Children's Focus Sundays" on a more or less monthly basis throughout the church year. On these Sundays (or feast days) a concerted effort has been made to provide a meaningful worship experience and Christian education for the children of the parish. Musically, on these occasions we have been attempting to build a repertoire of hymns and service music in which the children can join with enthusiasm. We are appreciative of the assistance of Richard Schenck in accompanying some of these services.

While our success has been modest, I think it should be pointed out that it has been the result of the efforts and consistent support of a number of individuals in the congregation--Father Christian for one, and others listed at the foot of this report. "Good architecture.."it is said "is (the result of) 5% inspiration and 95% hard work". Good music has similar requirements. Members of my choir have come to experience the satisfaction which comes at the end of a diligent rehearsal, and are finding that they can sing music which on first glance appeared to beyond their abilities. The challenge is to find the right balance between challenge and satisfaction.

Last week our choir provided musical leadership for the funeral service of my friend and patron of the arts, Jack Jacobson. I would like to acknowledge the support that Jack has been to me as a church musician since he sat on the committee which hired me to be the Director of Music of St. Chad's Anglican Church ten years ago. Subsequently he has been a faithful member of the small choir that that congregation was able to support; he and his wife Rosalie were the anonymous donors who provided financial resources when a singer or instrumentalist was required for a service or concert; Jack and Rosalie have attended every organ recital I have presented in this city; and through them I have enjoyed a wide range of stage and musical events. Such unflinching support is not forgotten.

Respectfully submitted,

James Bailey  
Director of Music/ Organist

**Choir Members  
during 1999:**  
Carol Alton  
Bill Dunford  
Ron Faggetter  
Joy Kennedy

Dierdre Meyer  
Mara Nickerson  
Will O'Hara  
Elizabeth Randall  
Anne Ruta  
Andrea Rutty

Richard Schenck  
Quita Taylor  
John Webster  
May Webster  
Cy Weston  
Nan Weston

## Music at St. John's - the concert series

This season's concerts have been named "Concerts with a Cause," the cause being the support of a number of worthy charities, including our own parish. The series has been well publicized, so in this brief report I would like to take you behind the scenes for a brief mention of some of the people who are making it work so well.

Tim Dawson is our artistic director, and our chief contact with the musicians who give so generously of their time and talent on behalf of our "causes." He is aided by James Bailey, our liaison with the artists, and by Georgia Helleiner, a liaison with some of our co-sponsoring groups and the hospitality chairperson. Special thanks must go to Susan Rynasko, who has designed and produced the extremely attractive series brochures and concert programs.

On the business side of our series, Marion Karasiuk has taken on the daunting task of our being our comptroller, tracking every dollar taken in and spent, while Bruce Alton has been tracking ticket sales and building a database of subscribers' addresses and telephone numbers. Christian Swayne is our contact with the co-sponsoring groups. And Lynda Ward, of course, has taken the major responsibility of taking ticket orders by phone and handling ticket sales at the concerts -- ably assisted by Mabel Anne Waters and Allan Waters, Joy Kennedy, Fred Addis, Carol Alton, and Marilyn Shortt.

Greg Los delivers our handbills to the neighbourhood; Elizabeth Fairley puts up posters in the area; Jim Deeves sets up the special seating arrangements and hauls chairs up from the hall; Dave Nichols arranges for special deliveries; and Dave Barnett acts as our greeter and security person.

Now 3/4 of the way through our season, we can report an outstanding artistic success: the concerts have been well attended and warmly appreciated by all; the artists have found our building acoustically superior and our welcome of them into our community very comfortable.

The "profits" for our causes are modest, since our expenses are considerable. A great deal of good-will and publicity has been generated for the parish, but also a great deal of time spent in the effort. The Concert Committee will shortly be evaluating the future of the "Music at St. John's" program in the light of our rigorous cost/benefit controls in place this year, and will report to the Wardens with our recommendations for the future in due course. Members of the congregation are urgently requested to make their opinions and suggestions known to any of the members of the committee.

Bruce Alton  
for the Committee

## The Parish Dinner Club

This is an unusual parish "club." There is no membership, no "dues." Quite simply, once a month or so, those who wish to do so gather for a meal together ... an AGAPE ... sometimes at a restaurant, sometimes at a parishioner's home. Our general practice is to patronize a local eatery which features simple, ethnic cooking at reasonable prices. In the past year we have gathered at, or ordered in from, the following restaurants, or otherwise organized these events:

1. The Lotus Inn - ORDERED IN AT THE ALTONS - in celebration of the Chinese New Year (Fri. Feb. 12, 1999) - Chinese Food
2. The Vegetarian Restaurant (repeat - great food!) - ORDERED IN AT THE WOLEVERS (Fri. Mar. 26, 1999) - vegetarian.
3. Kingsway Fish & Chips (repeat - great food!) - ORDERED IN AT THE WATERS' (Fri. April 29, 1999) - English Fish & Chips.
4. Queen's Pasta - ORDERED IN AT THE ALTONS' (Friday May 28, 1999) - Italian pastas.
5. Annual Church Picnic and Eucharist, with the parish of St. Mark & Calvary, (Sunday June 27) - potluck picnic.
6. Parish "Homecoming Barbeque" - (Sunday September 12, 1999) - Canadian b.b.q. cooking - free!
7. The Grenadier Restaurant, High Park (Fri. September 17th, 6:30 p.m.) (fine pizzas, salads, desserts)
8. Ristarante Roma, 1090 Bloor St. West (at Gladstone) (Friday October 22, 6:30 pm) (Italian cuisine)
9. Kingsway Fish & Chips (repeat - a favourite!) - ORDERED IN AT THE ALTONS (Fri. Nov. 26, 1999) - English Fish & Chips
10. Swiss Chalet Restaurant at Keele and St. Clair (Friday Jan. 14, 2000)
11. Pizza Party - pizzas ordered in from Sicily Pizza, 2438 St. Clair Ave. West, (Sat. Feb. 12, 2000) in the Parish Hall; followed by a dance party.

Our average attendance has been 12 people. But 51 adults and youth members, and 5 children under age 5, attended the Valentine's dinner and dance on Feb. 12, 2000. This and other feedback has led us to the following ideas for the coming year:

- to gather more often at homes, or in the parish hall, ordering in food. This is more "children friendly" for families with young children. If you would like to host such an event, contact me.
- to expand on our Valentine's Day success and try some more evenings with dinner plus: card party? dance? games night -- monopoly ... crokinole ... etc.? Perhaps we could try one or two "pot luck" get-togethers.
- to continue to explore ways of celebrating our parish family life, inexpensively, inter-generationally, and taking advantage of the wonderful ethnic foods available in the villages of Boor West and the Junction.

Carol Alton -- with special thanks to the following for their ideas and enthusiasm:

Nan and Cy Weston, Chelsea Mohler, Allan and Mabel-Anne Waters, Andrea and Chris Rutty, and Bruce Alton.

## PARISH LIFE COMMITTEE REPORT

From: Sally Ritchie, chair

For: St. Johns Vestry Meeting, Sunday February 27, 2000

The Parish Life Committee first met in December, 1999. The committee is comprised of representatives from each parish committee, and meets the first Sunday of every month. The purpose of the committee is to coordinate and maximize the efforts, activities and ideas of the various groups.

The members of the committee vary from month to month, depending on whomever is available to represent each respective committee. However, it has been decided that for the purpose of continuity, a warden should always be present. As well, any member of the congregation is welcome to attend the meetings. So far, the membership is as follows:

Sally Ritchie (Publicity and Communications), chair.

Anthony Ruta (Newcomers)

Dave Barnett (Newcomers)

Bill Dunford (Budget)

Genesis (Youth)

Marian Karasiuk (Concert)

Christian Swayne (Christian Ed, Liturgy)

Cathie Henderson (Christian Ed.)

Laurie Bull (Youth)

Cecilia Henderson (Youth)

Vanessa Vreeland (Youth)

Evelyn Butler (Christian Ed.)

May Webster (Music/choir)

James Bailey (Concert/music)

Nan Weston (Christian Ed.)

Cy Weston

Joan Bull (Christian Ed.)

Major initiatives currently in the works include: inclusion of youth-oriented music in the service; ensuring that the Concert committee undertakes to review and consider the future of the concert series; establishing more Fellowship events; ensuring that newcomers are welcomed and invited to all parish events; reviewing the needs of the Christian Ed. Committee to fulfill its mandate; examining potential fundraising projects, and ensuring that such ideas are forwarded to the appropriate committee; considering the various ways we can improve our outreach and visibility within the community.



## The Publicity and Communications Committee

The mandate of this group is to publicize parish events to the congregation, to potential newcomers, and to the community at large. In large part, this is a facilitating process, to use the means at our disposal, and our various talents, to "get the good news about St. John's" before the eye and ear. We also find ourselves suggesting events to appropriate groups or persons. Much of our work is done by e-mail; we meet about once a month after the 10:30 service.

Members of the committee are often involved in several projects: these are the current members, with their areas of expertise / responsibility (new members are always welcome):

Bruce Alton, (chair) parish web site, monthly bulletin, liaison with the Concert Committee

Carol Alton, dinner club, telephone contacts, editor of Bruce's spelling

James Bailey, musical programs, weekly bulletin

David Barnett, greeter and welcome to newcomers

Indra Krishna, party organizing and planning

Greg Los, delivery of handbills and mailing

Sally Ritchie, editor of publications, liaison with Parish Life Committee

Anthony Ruta, greeter and welcome to newcomers

Andrea Rutty, editor of publications, newspaper notices

Chris Rutty, editor of publications, the parish brochure

Susan Rynasko, editor of publications, graphics design

Christian Swayne, liturgy and liaison with the Christian Education Committee

Lynda Ward, everything

May Webster, editor of publications

## SUNDAY SCHOOL VIDEO PROGRAM

Since September 1999, on Sundays that are not "Theme" Sundays we have been running a programme of selected children's videos borrowed from the Anglican Church of Canada lending library. The titles selected are suitable for children who are enrolled in grade 1 through grade 6, however, younger and older children are also welcomed if they choose to attend. The topics are chosen to supplement the upcoming themes for Theme Sundays and to provide children with a general knowledge of bible stories and important feasts of the Church calendar. Each Sunday, the program is approximately 35 minutes, consisting of a brief introduction to the video by the teacher, viewing of the video, and then discussion led by the teacher. Sometimes there is also a brief bible reading to accompany shorter videos.



# ST JOHN'S VITAL VISION

## CHERISHED SANCTUARY

- \* Care
- \* Quality of Lighting
- \* Color
- \* Access
- \* Central Aisle - like it
- \* Lighting stained glass window

## AN INVITING PRESENCE IN THE COMMUNITY

- \* Welcoming
- \* Access
- \* Outreach
- \* Sign
- \* Visibility
- \* Garden
- \* Inclusivity (Advertise it)
- \* Music - Bells (at noon and festivals)

## WORSHIP WORTHY OF GOD AND OURSELVES

- \* Joyful
- \* Diversity in worship (8:30 & 10:30)
- \* Prayer / Sacraments
- \* Prayerful
- \* Musical
- \* Worship Centered
- \* Relevance
- \* Church is a Coping Mechanism
- \* Preparation for Worship
- \* Sermons

## A NURTURING COMMUNITY

- \* Consensus
- \* Critical Mass
- \* Learning. Shared Understanding of faith
- \* Families
- \* Nurturing

## OBSTACLES TO ST. JOHN'S VITAL VISION

### INEFFECTIVE COMMUNICATION STRUCTURES AND PROCESSES

- communication and action
- clarity of organizational structures
- poor corporate image
- consensus - focus for which issues
- shared understanding
- promotion
- outreach issues - to improve visibility
  - people to take on tasks
  - number of people in parish
- leadership and coordination

### INSUFFICIENT REVENUE AND MANAGEMENT OF ASSETS

- lack of storage space
- access for handicap
- building facade
- signage
- financial priorities

### NEED FOR RECOGNIZING CLAIMING & AFFIRMING OUR STRENGTHS

- time - commitment
  - how much
  - setting priorities
- compulsive overachievers
- unrealistic expectations
- lack of opportunity to participate
- busy people priorities
- what nurturing means
- critical mass

### RECOGNIZING and AFFIRMING MEMBERSHIP OF ALL KINDS and LEVELS OF PARTICIPATION

- passiveness
- fear of giving offence
- stagnation
- lack of ownership



## **OVERCOMING OBSTACLES TO OUR VISION**

### **BALANCING THE BUDGET \$1.60**

Merge with another church

Take in another congregation

Bingo nights

Stewardship campaign \ professional campaign

Find a (secular) sponsor

Donation for specific projects

Way to identify any questions people may have about giving

Investment committee to triple assets

Fund raiser (variety concert)

Market our excellent acoustics

Successful strategies from past

Fund raising "gimmicks"

Fund raising with Day care targeting local community

2nd collection once a month

Identify regular members / attenders - ask them to complete monthly standing orders to Regularize giving and avoid "blips"

Ask people to donate the tax break on collection offerings to the church at each tax refund time.

### **GROWING IN FAITH \$1.17**

Tape sermons

Youth tasks - maybe not on Sundays

Bible study - small groups

Need for education programs

Expanding Christian Education

Holding hands to sing Lord's prayer

Service in park in warm weather

Start service with greetings and hugs

Outdoor choral recitals in summer / at Christmas on front steps

### **NURTURING ONE ANOTHER 57c**

Recognition - celebration of efforts

Acknowledging significant events in members lives - sympathy, congratulations etc

Honors list prizes awarded

Parishioner of the week / month

Sunday services that affirm our gifts

Borrow successful strategies from other areas ie business

Praise Thanksgiving at Intercessions

### **GETTING THE WORD OUT 56c**

Brochure in pews

Paint welcome on doors

Newsletter

Parish calendar

Posters in Apartments  
New sign  
Buy sign with changeable letters  
Priests office hours  
Publicity in Anglican

## **GETTING TO KNOW YOU 50c**

Visitation  
Small groups in homes  
Social gatherings, dances, parties in homes  
Plan for connecting with people who have not been in church for awhile  
Net working - phone tree, shepherds, prayer groups  
Some kind of get together - progressive dinners  
Introduce corporate body on regular basis  
Post names and phone numbers of leaders in narthex prominently  
Newsletter  
Parish profile at regular intervals ( in bulletin?)  
Small group dinners, social events - variety for lots on interest  
Hearing about peoples lives e.g. Christian in Africa

## **Getting the Job Done 45c**

Contests -Parish teams undertake projects  
2nd priest \ \ Christian Education Director  
Annual Parish plan - to be renewed at Parish Meeting  
Define and set up organizational structure and publicize / clarify  
Access what each member wants to contribute / survey -talents Money etc  
Small work parties  
Publicize assets we have  
Call for help on an as needed basis  
Standing committees for 1 year only  
Parish meetings 3 times a year  
Prioritize parish focus to channel resources effectively

## **WELCOMING 38c**

Greeters  
Continue regular events for newcomers - expand  
New / Old member pairing  
Name tags  
Welcoming

## **GETTING REAL 36c**

Visual Aids to illustrate financial situation  
Publish Amounts given  
Monthly statements "in your face"  
Its not about "how much you give" it's about giving

## **REACHING OUT 21c**

Free ESL Open church for ESL / literacy classes  
Capitalize on excellent acoustics  
Involve the community outside  
Bible study for new Christian / Anglicans  
Community worship (non liturgical) Prayer before concerts

**STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS:** Balancing The Budget

<b>ADVANTAGES:</b>	<b>LIMITS:</b>	
<p><b>STRENGTHS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Affluent congregation</li> <li>-Some more affluent</li> <li>-Good financial acumen</li> <li>-Average age 40s</li> <li>-Potential to increase members</li> <li>-Expertise of Diocese</li> </ul>	<p><b>WEAKNESSES</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Overworked and small congregation</li> <li>-Age group many demands feel financially stressed</li> <li>-Building does not have facilities</li> <li>-Building expensive to maintain</li> <li>-Invisible location</li> <li>-Location over churched</li> <li>-Don't talk about our money</li> </ul>	<p><b>P O S S I B L E ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Each member makes specific commitment</li> <li>-Each member stewardship visit</li> <li>-Capital gift from long term members</li> <li>-Divest of building</li> <li>-Profit making fundraiser</li> <li>-Add 20 new families</li> </ul>
<p><b>BENEFITS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Devote more energy to our real mission</li> <li>-Showing ownership and responsibility</li> </ul>	<p><b>DANGERS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Might loose people</li> <li>-Turn new people off</li> <li>-Spend time arguing how money is spent</li> <li>-Become money focused</li> <li>-Expectation that if you get enough money you are complacent</li> </ul>	<p><b>MEASURABLE ACCOMPLISHMENTS</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-By end of 1997 we will have 20 new families who are regular members and are not currently attending a church in this area</li> <li>-Every single member visitation</li> </ul>

**ACTIONS:**

- Good Sunday School
- Good Welcoming Program
- Outreach to buildings in area
- Increase work with other parishes to ensure not competing
  - profile services
  - joint parish fundraising
  - joint picnics

