



## *St. Peter's Anglican Church*

*Lifelong learning  
Lifelong growing  
Lifelong serving  
In the body of Christ*

# ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH 2024

### OUR PARISH MISSION

We are part of the family of God  
Created and loved by the Father  
Redeemed and called by the Son  
Guided and empowered by the Holy Spirit

As followers of Jesus Christ our purpose is:  
To glorify God through prayer and praise  
To proclaim the gospel by word and humble service  
To love and support one another in our daily Christian walk

We invite you to join us in fulfilling this mission

St. Peter's Anglican Church

240 College Street

Cobourg, ON K9A 3V2

Tel: 905-372-3442

[www.stpeterscobourg.org](http://www.stpeterscobourg.org)



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT  
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
2024

VESTRY MINUTES  
&  
SPECIAL VESTRY MINUTES

**St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg**  
**Annual General Meeting of Vestry held in the Parish Hall**  
**February 26, 2024**  
**At 12.00 noon**

There were fifty-four members of Vestry present who attested to their eligibility to vote by signing the required Declaration.

The Incumbent, The Rev. Matthew McMillan, called the meeting to order at 12.15 pm and welcomed all those attending.

1. Fr. Matthew opened the meeting with a prayer.
2. Patricia Rogerson was appointed Vestry Clerk.
3. **Approval of agenda and signing of Vestry Declaration.** The Declaration having been signed by all those eligible to do so, it was moved by Patricia Noble and seconded by Judy Knight that the Agenda be approved.  
**Carried Unanimously**
4. **Review and acceptance of Minutes of Vestry Meeting held on February 26, 2023.** Fr. Matthew referred the Parish to the Minutes as distributed, and they were taken as read. It was moved by Jane Haworth and seconded by Henry Knight that the Minutes be accepted.  
**Carried Unanimously**

5. **Parish Leadership Reports:** (Bishop's, Rector's, BOM's and Wardens' Reports) **Fr. Matthew** presented his report which was included in the materials circulated before the meeting. He commented that life as our Rector was varied and exciting as he balanced his personal family life and the life of his Church "children." In spite of all the demands of our programmes and our building, everything gets done, for which he is very grateful. He sees as our challenge for 2024 finding new ways for people to serve among us, hearing from them what we might do to be more gracious and Christ-like as we welcome and look after new people joining us. "Casting the Net," an initiative of our Bishops, confirms and strengthens us in the community work we are already doing. Fr. Matthew thanked the Parish for their support.

**Suzanne Lawson, Chair of the Board of Management,** presented her report which was included in the materials circulated before the meeting. Suzanne reviewed the main points of her report and reported that the Board is meeting with the Diocese in two weeks' time to negotiate a different formula for the repayment of our Diocesan loan for the repair of the roof. The Board is committed to the long-term financial stability of the parish, but also to growth of faith in our St. Peter's community; believing that if we grow our life in Christ the parish will grow also.

Appreciation for the work of the Board was expressed by Judy Knight and the meeting applauded this sentiment.

**Wardens' Report:** Colin Turnpenney presented the Wardens' report which was included in the materials circulated before the meeting. Colin reported that the Wardens maintain day-to-day oversight of the operation of the parish and work closely together. They are happy to see younger people (example, Fr. Matt) becoming a part of our parish and hope that this trend will continue. He particularly thanked Rick Stinson and the Board of Management for all their help, and he extended a special "Thank you" to John Lindsay who is completing seven years as a Warden and is now retiring.

Fr. Matthew moved acceptance of the above reports, and the motion was  
**carried unanimously.**

## 6. Review and Acceptance of 2023 Financial Report.

**Mr. Pat Tozer**, the Church's auditor, reported that he had completed the audit and had it in draft. He reminded the parish that the audited statement belongs to the Parish, and we have to take responsibility for it. In addition, if we know, or suspect, any financial wrongdoing, or fraud, we should report it to the auditor. His review of the figures for 2023 was optimistic: we have had a good year financially, ending with a deficit of just over 4,000.00 instead of the budgeted \$55,000.00 deficit, and we are well-positioned to have a good future. It was moved by Rick Stinson and seconded by Colin Turnpenney that the Auditor's Report be accepted.

Discussion followed: It was pointed out that although we were assured that the report was a satisfactory one, we had not all had the opportunity to review it. The Treasurer had prepared a list of actual income and expenses for 2023 as they appear in the Auditor's Report, and he answered questions to clarify some of the details. Fr Matthew acknowledged that timing in getting the report prepared within the framework of year-end and Vestry Meeting was difficult, and we would try to have it available next year for those who wish to read it before the meeting. On this basis, and the list prepared by the Treasurer, the report was **accepted**.

Value of Volunteer Hours John Murano suggested that the number of volunteer hours should be recorded and included in our financial statements. Fr. Will said he has just begun working out a method of tallying our volunteer hours.

**7. Review and Approval of 2024 Operating Budget,** Rick Stinson, Treasurer, presented the proposed operating budget for 2024 (included in materials circulated prior to meeting).

In future we will attempt to have the audit report available for review prior to the Vestry Meeting as audit figures do not always balance with the operating budget report.

The proposed 2024 operating budget was reviewed. It shows an operating deficit of \$79,350.00 which is not a sustainable loss. However, the BOM, Wardens, Fr Matthew, and the Treasurer agree this is what we need in order to grow the parish and our ministries. This figure was originally \$150,000 and we have reduced it to \$79,350.00, hoping that it will be like last year's budgeted deficit which was much lower than expected. Revenue will be down as the Warming Room will not be operating, the trillium grant has been completed, and investment income will be reduced.

### **Income**

Givings are projected to increase over the years but remain less than they were a decade ago. We received a bequest of \$50,000.00 in 2023.

Unreceipted donations are expected to decrease slightly as our re-opening events brought in extra revenue in 2023.

Pre school revenue consists of fees paid by parents, and subsidies.

Rentals. The County will not be renting the Hutton Room as a warming room this year. This will be a big loss of revenue.

Music programme This is a new line in the budget this year because specific donations are being made for Bell ringers, music scholarships, and from the Men's Club for the music programme.

The feeding programme revenue is all donations received for Thursday Night Lite and SouperTime.

The Trillium grant projects were completed in 2023 and at this time a new application for 2024 has not been

submitted or approved, so there is no projected revenue for this line at the present time. The Wardens are considering a new application this year and trying to determine what projects they might include in that application.

Misc. income includes the St. George's Chapel contribution.

MRP is the Mortgage Reduction Plan donations. These are contributions from parishioners to help pay off the existing mortgage.

Investment. We used about one million of the investments for the restoration, so the income from the remaining fund will be much lower, and at the moment these figures are just an estimate.

Glebe is our share of the Diocesan investment portfolio that we get each year.

### **Expenses:**

Inflation has to be considered. Staff is 30% of the budget. Church includes maintenance and repairs of the building as well as the piano and organ. Ministries includes all supplies for programmes and chancel guild.

Diocesan assessment is what we are assessed by the Diocese annually. Administration is office, .audit and legal, etc.

This budget gives a current assessment of the parish situation

Rick thanked Fr. Matthew, the Wardens, and Eunice for all the work they do.

In answer to questions, Rick stated that our mortgage payments have gone down as we anticipate turning the mortgage into a line of credit so that we can just pay the interest at the present time. Asked who our investment managers are, Rick replied that a parish Investment Committee and a professional manager meet regularly to look after our investments.

It was moved by Rick Stinson and seconded by Colin Turnpenney that the proposed budget be approved.  
**Carried unanimously.**

The meeting thanked Rick for his eight years of service as he announced that he would like to hand over the job of Treasurer to someone else.

**8. Appointments and Elections** A slate of people willing to be appointed, or to stand for election, as Officers and Committee Chairs was presented to the meeting. Fr. Matthew pointed out that as John Lindsay had finished his term of office, there was a vacancy for a Deputy Rector's Warden. However, the Rector can make this appointment without ratification by Vestry. Patricia Noble moved, and Barbara Tait seconded that nominations be opened. It was moved by Colleen Simon and seconded by John Lindsay that the slate be accepted as presented. There being no further nominations from the floor the question was put, and the slate was **accepted by acclamation.** (see slate of officers below)

Rector's Wardens: Senior Warden Colin Turnpenney, Deputy Warden – to be appointed.

People's Wardens: Senior Warden Susan Winfrow, Deputy Warden Colleen Simon

St. George's Chapel - Michael Davis.

Treasurer – Rick Stinson

Envelope Secretary - Eunice Cole

Lay Delegates to Synod - David Smith, David Winfrow.

Parish Tribunal - Erica Beauchamp, Kay McLeod

**9. Receive and Accept Parish General Reports** These volunteer committee Chairs' reports do not have to be voted on. On motion by Dorothy DeLisle, seconded by Murray Simon, the reports of the committees listed below were received and had been made available in the Vestry package circulated before the meeting.

**Carried unanimously** Fr. Matthew invited questions or comments on the reports. Dorothy DeLisle said she was very impressed with all the activities in which the Parish is involved and offered admiration and respect. The congregation responded with applause. Nancy Marshall thanked the Parish for finding our new Parish Nurse, Elizabeth Vosburgh, and is looking forward to working with her. She will be available on Thursday mornings after the Healing Service.

**10. Motions for Consideration by Vestry.**

**1.** It was moved by Rick Stinson and seconded by Colin Turnpenney that we, the Vestry of St Peter's Cobourg, authorize the appointment of Lynch, Rutherford, Tozer, Chartered Accountants, of Port Hope, Ontario, to be the Auditors of record for St. Peter's Financial Reports for the year ending 2024 Financial Cycle. **Carried Unanimously**

**2.** It was moved by Colleen Simon and seconded by John Lindsay that we, the Vestry of St. Peter's Cobourg, authorize the Corporation to apply for a Carleton Grant in the year 2024, to help pay for costs of maintenance, renovation and repair to our Parish Rectory, located at 118 King Street East, in Cobourg.

Fr. Matthew explained that this Motion will allow us to apply for Diocesan Grants for work on the Rectory if any major or urgent repairs are required. Voting for this now means that no special vestry will be required if such an application is prepared. **Carried Unanimously.**

**3. Diocesan Social Justice Vestry Motion for 2024.**

On the recommendation of the Diocese, it was moved by Rev. Will Simon and seconded by Karen Stinson that:

We, the parish of St. Peter's Cobourg call on all levels of government to work together to tackle the housing crisis occurring across Canada:

We call on the Government of Canada to ensure that subsidies and incentives are targeted to projects that address affordable rents, removal of red-tape and immediate building of units.

We call on the Province of Ontario to protect seniors and others on pensions and fixed incomes, to ensure that tenants do not lose their housing, because of *Above Guideline Rent Increases*.

We call on the Province of Ontario to work with Municipal governments to enact and enforce restrictions on short-term rentals to protect rental housing stock.

After discussion, it was moved by Patricia Rogerson and seconded by Henry Knight that the above motion be amended to read as follows:

We call on all levels of government in Canada to work together to tackle the housing crisis occurring across Canada, and to ensure that subsidies and incentives are targeted to projects that address affordable rents, and immediate building of units.

**Carried, one contra**

4. Mark Hare moved, and John Winkworth seconded, that a letter of appreciation be sent to Syd Birrell and the choristers from Peterborough and other surrounding areas expressing appreciation for their attendance and music at St. Peter's. Fr. Matthew offered to write such a letter, and the motion was

**Carried Unanimously.**

Fr. Matthew thanked everyone for their attendance and patience, and asked for a **motion to adjourn**, which was made by Henry Knight., and **acclaimed**.

Fr. Matthew closed with a prayer and the meeting adjourned.

March 2024

---

Patricia Rogerson, Vestry Clerk

**St. Peter's Anglican Church, Cobourg  
Special Meeting of Vestry held in the Parish Hall  
On Sunday, October 27, 2024, at 12 noon.**

There were fifty-six members of Vestry present, who attested to their eligibility to vote by signing the required Declaration.

In the absence of the Incumbent, the Chair of the Board of Management, Suzanne Lawson, was affirmed unanimously as the Chair of this Special Meeting of Vestry.

Suzanne explained that this meeting will be followed immediately by another Special Meeting of Vestry, the two meetings to be held separately in accordance with Canon law and with the approval of the Bishop.

The Rev Monique Taylor opened the meeting with prayer.

The Motion before this meeting was read and proposed by Warden Colin Turnpenney, and seconded by Liz McCaughey:

The Vestry of St. Peter's Cobourg, authorizes the Corporation to  
enter into an anchor tenancy.

Beth Wagschal asked for an explanation of the term "anchor tenancy." Suzanne explained that it would be a lease with a major, long-term, tenant for part of our premises which would bring in dependable, long-term income. The choice of tenant is in the hands of the Corporation. At the moment negotiations are ongoing with a major provider of child care who would use the upstairs rooms in the new part of the building.

Discussion followed during which members questioned various aspects of how the lease will work out for the Parish, such as: access for the daycare children and caregivers, re-keying of the leased part of the premises, relationship with the St. Peter's school on the main floor, parking for childcare providers and parents, etc. Suzanne stated that there have been extensive discussions with all those involved, and all these and any other relevant matters are being considered. There are still problems to be ironed out, but the Wardens have a good relationship with the prospective tenants, and are hopeful that their negotiations will result in a successful outcome.

Treasurer Rick Stinson reported that the suggested rent is \$9,000.00 a month for the first five years of the proposed ten-year lease, and approx. \$10,400.00 a month for the second five years. These figures represent good going rates for commercial real estate in Cobourg at the present time.

Liz McCaughey commented that to have such a tenant providing a much-needed service will be a good opportunity for the town, and it is important for us to contribute to the success of the town and be a useful and viable part of our community.

Suzanne concluded that such a tenancy will be very good for our debt situation as it will help us to not live in a deficit in operating budget every year.

The Question was put, and the Motion was CARRIED unanimously.

Suzanne exhorted us all to live in prayer as we deal with all these issues. She then declared the meeting closed, and asked that Vestry re-convene to consider a second Motion.

October 2024

---

Patricia Rogerson, Vestry Clerk





ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT  
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
2024

CHURCH LEADERSHIP REPORTS



Diocese of Toronto  
Anglican Church of Canada

## The College of Bishops Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2025

*to be read or circulated on the Sunday of the parish's annual vestry meeting*

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

Beloved Siblings in Christ,

***“...be renewed in the spirit...” – Ephesians 4:23***

In this Season of Spiritual Renewal, the Diocese of Toronto is exhibiting a burgeoning health and vitality that inspires us daily. To God be the glory! As your bishops, as we travel around to visit our parishes, we have witnessed the Holy Spirit engaging in marvelous ways with people, groups and ministries right across this Diocese – from Mississauga to Minden, from Cobourg to Collingwood. The Season of Spiritual Renewal, this invitation to spiritual growth, has been enthusiastically received in so many ways, including the sharing of prayer resources, participation in online workshops, and our bishops’ Advent study online. We are also looking forward to #LiveLent: God’s Story, Our Story, a daily Lenten resource with a helpful guide for small group use.

We are excited that the next phase in this Season of Spiritual Renewal is called “Lift Up Our Hearts.” Over the coming year, large worship services will take place across the Diocese on five Saturday afternoons at 2 p.m. Each celebration of the Eucharist will feature excellent music, moving testimony, and preachers from within our own Diocese, each with their own unique approach to spiritual renewal. We hope you will plan to join us for one or more of these marvelous gatherings. Come on your own, bring a friend, or hire a bus! We will see you there:

- **March 22 – St. James Cathedral** (preacher: the Rev. Molly Finlay)
- **March 29 – Trinity Church, Streetsville** (preacher: the Rev. Canon Stephanie Douglas)
- **May 31 – All Saints, Whitby** (preacher: the Rev. Gerlyn Henry) • **September 27 – St. James, Orillia** (preacher: the Rev. Dr. Rob Hurkmans)
- **October 25 – St. Paul’s, Bloor Street** (preacher: the Rev. Dr. Alvarado Adderley)

The call to spiritual renewal, however, was just the first of 20 Calls articulated in the Cast the Net strategic vision adopted by Synod and this Diocese in 2023. Over the coming year, you will hear us repeatedly emphasizing the need for each congregation to review and consider all of the 20 Calls and then choose which two or three your parish will focus on. As you gather today for Vestry, this could be the perfect opportunity to start considering the question. A small group – the Netminders – has prepared resources to help you, which you can find on the on the [Cast the Net web page](#). While it’s important to remember that no congregation could possibly answer all 20 Calls, we strongly believe that each congregation can consider two or three. Leading up to our diocesan Synod in November, we hope that every parish will be able to identify which of the Calls they are living into.

We are pleased to welcome our new Executive Director, Varun Balendra ODT. A familiar face around the Diocese, Varun has served in many volunteer capacities over the years, and we look forward to working together in this new capacity. By the time of our diocesan Synod on Friday, Nov. 7 and Saturday, Nov. 8, we expect that we will be introducing a new Secretary of Synod and a new full-time Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Advisor, whose primary focus areas will be supporting the work of the Anti-Bias, Anti-Racism (ABAR) and other DEI training, and supporting individuals and parishes to grow, build community, educate and engage.

Some other new faces at Synod may include guests from the Diocese of Brasilia. This past June, at the Cathedral

Church of the Resurrection in the city of Brasilia, the two diocesan bishops of Brasilia and Toronto signed the covenant that brings our two dioceses into a companion relationship. Since the signing of our agreement, a small representative group from each diocese has been meeting monthly – in both Portuguese and English – to pray together and to plan events. For example, clergy from both dioceses will gather online for a joint study day on liberation theology on March 25. In the fall, a youth delegation from Brasilia will join our own youth at the ReCharge youth retreat at Muskoka Woods camp. And we anticipate sending a delegation from Toronto to Brasilia in 2026. We have even developed a shared logo for our relationship that combines elements of each of our own logos: our Diocese of Toronto dove springing from their Ipe Tree. You can expect to hear more about this companion partnership as we enter into the second year of it.

Closer to home, the partnerships within our own Diocese continue to flourish. When we speak of casting the net, we are referring to the supportive, creative and collaborative ministry that occurs in each deanery and regionalization, between parishes and congregations, amongst church neighbours and colleagues. We are grateful to our hardworking and devout clergy and our dedicated lay leaders, especially churchwardens, treasurers, administrators, musicians and the countless church staff and parish volunteers who are Christ's hands and feet of ministry in our communities. We are so grateful for all of your faithful work in our parishes and beyond.

We have embarked on a feasibility study to discern if this is the right time for the Diocese to conduct a major financial campaign. Over the next six months, M&M International, a Toronto-based fundraising firm, will listen to parishes large and small, soliciting feedback on a case for support. It is proposed that if a campaign does go forward, the majority of funds raised will remain in the parishes, with a smaller portion supporting the 20 Calls at the diocesan level. Your feedback and commitment will make the difference as we look into this additional way of working together.

Lastly, we want to encourage each Vestry meeting to consider this year's social justice motion: "Protecting and Expanding Harm Reduction in Ontario." The Church has a role to play in calling on government for responsible actions in caring for our most vulnerable neighbours, to ensure life-saving protections for those experiencing addictions and other challenges. Please consider how your parish can speak up, and out, for those who require advocacy. As we anticipate going to the polls in the coming year – federally and provincially – let us remember our baptismal promises as we cast our ballots, choosing candidates who align with our values. And let us pray for them.

For it is in praying that we are drawn ever deeper into relationship with the Triune God and become more attentive to the will of our Heavenly Creator. In this Season of Spiritual Renewal, we ask every reader of this letter to commit more deeply to a life of prayer, that it may infuse your every day with Grace as you witness to the Love of Christ in your life and to the world.

In your prayers, please pray for all three of us, your College of Bishops, both in your personal daily devotions as well as your parish's weekly intercessions. Know that we are praying for you too, giving thanks for our common life together across our wonderful diocesan family.

Yours faithfully in Christ Jesus,



The Right Rev. Andrew J. Asbil  
Bishop of Toronto



The Right Rev. Riscylla Shaw  
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto



The Right Rev. Kevin Robertson  
Suffragan Bishop of Toronto

# **ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT**

Of the Incumbent of St. Peter's, Cobourg

February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2025

## **Rector's 2024 Vestry Report**

Where do we start with the year that was, and how do we look ahead at the year to be? I must start with a heart felt thanks to our parish family. Thank you. Thanks to each and everyone of you, for all you do to help make us the growing, welcoming, and joyful community that we strive to be.

I am not sure if I can keep this report brief, with so many to thank and so much to share that has been done over the last year. My hope is to remind you of some of the ways the Holy Spirit has been moving in this place and to encourage us all; to continue to lean into this power and let it bless us, as it moves through us into the world.

Our parish has continued to strengthen our ministries, building and the lives of all who walk through our doors. This effort has been led and supported by our Wardens, Staff, Volunteers and Clergy. The way everyone has come together to ensure our buildings support ministry, encourage all walks of faith point to encountering or being part of Jesus' love, and to lift and stir the soul with music and worship, is awe inspiring. Thank you for the gift of being able to walk among you as your priest.

Our clergy and pastoral volunteers have continued their important work of being the heart of Jesus in our community. We have been able to expand and offer services in our local retirement and nursing homes, hospital and home visits, pastoral and grief support, as well as counselling and spiritual guidance. Thank you to all those who continue to labour, that our shared faith may be of support to all and lived out across our community.

As the Wardens and Board of Management teams will be sharing in their reports, the bulk of 2024 was continuing to build on the momentum of our re-opening of the church in 2023. The focus of our volunteers continued to expand across the various responsibilities and duties needed, to support our life as a local church. Focus was placed on strengthening our ministries, building, and finances.

Part of our vision moving out of Covid was to embrace our understanding that St. Peter's exists not to serve itself, but to serve God and all God's children. We have made efforts to expand and continue to develop our programs for Christian Formation and Discipleship. Through working with the Deanery Education Team, having programs offered by our Parish Nurse and the Health & Wellness Committee, Bible and Book Studies, Formation and Baptism programs, and various social and communal programs, St. Peter's has been blessed. Our doors are open and welcoming, and new individuals feel welcomed and at home among us. What a wonderful gift.

In 2024, St. Peter's worked on ensuring that our buildings continued to support our ministry and were equipped to serve the needs of a busy congregation. This past year the parish renovated and painted the Hutton Room. In 2024 we also upgraded our lighting throughout the building, as many of the 20-year-old fluorescent fixtures began to need ballast replacements. Security grants were obtained from the provincial government, to help upgrade our exterior lighting and security cameras, to ensure the safety of our neighbours and any guests visiting our church. Roofing, heating systems, electrical, and plumbing upgrades occurred as well. Our building continues to receive the investment and care it needs to empower our ministry. Thank you to those who contribute to support its care and those who volunteer, to ensure it is done well.

## **Parish Financial & Operational Activities**

The financial picture for the year that was, focused on efforts to help members know our need for ongoing contributions to support our ministries and programming, in addition to focusing on our long-term debt. The Board of Management continues to develop and unfold our plan for the long-term debt and the Wardens continue to oversee operations with a keen eye. Pennies were pinched at every corner, and generous gifts were given at various times to

help support new objectives and ministries. Thank you to our bookkeeper and treasurer for all the fancy footwork done to look after our accounts! The parish also owes a significant debt of gratitude to St. Peter's Court Apartments for their ongoing support, during and after the restoration. The Court's diligent stewardship has allowed them to support the parish by paying off and retiring the remaining \$100,000 millennium debt and helping to support the 2025 budget. If any of you are being spoken to in your own journey of faith, to further help St. Peter's in our efforts with our remaining \$1,000,000 restoration debt, please speak to any of the wardens or myself, at any time.

For 2025, St. Peter's will be making more adjustments to our operations, as we welcome 'Pear Tree Pre-School' to our facility. Pear Tree will be operating alongside our own St. Peter's Pre-School, which continues to do amazingly well each year. As we work to ensure that our building is utilized and fully occupied to find efficiencies, we know that there will be some learning curves to adapt to. However, all these activities will continue to help foster and grow our community, as we seek to be wise stewards of our parish resources. I hope that as we welcome others to walk with us in the footsteps of Jesus, that they will also encounter our risen Lord, and be drawn into their own ever deepening relationship with him.

Yours in Christ,  
The Reverend Matthew McMillan +  
Rector, St. Peter's Cobourg

## **St. Peter's Board of Management      Report to Vestry      2024**

It is a pleasure to report to you, our colleagues in this amazing faith community at St. Peter's, on behalf of the Board of Management. This Board was created by an action of the Synod Council of The Diocese of Toronto to take leadership during a time of incredible complexity...restoration of the roof, ceiling and bell tower was well underway; volunteers and our then new priest were inundated with multiple calls on time and their skills; and the future growth of the church had to move from a heartfelt hope towards reality. The small Board consists of six people from St. Peter's, including the priest and two of the wardens, and two volunteers especially selected by the Diocese to help us all move forward through those complexities.

Since our first meeting in May of 2023, our first tasks have been related to finding the best possible ways to reduce our considerable debt related to the restoration. After a really successful Transformation Campaign within the parish (the goal of \$750,000 has now come in at close to \$1 million), and the enthusiastic support of the community (the goal here was for \$100,000 and now the revenue is close to \$400,000!), the gifts from St. Peter's Court Apartments, The Anglican Foundation of Canada, and The Anglican Diocese of Toronto, we needed to face a remaining debt of \$1 million owing to the Diocese and \$100,000 owing to The Anglican Foundation of Canada.

Thanks to the hard work over the years of discernment addressed by the "Nuts and Bolts" Committee (Chaired by Doug Beauchamp) and the Vision Working Group (Chaired by Fran Richardson), several alternative ways of addressing these debts were outlined and so we visited that work carefully to come up with the best way forward. As we drew towards decisions to present to the parish for approval, we were (and remain) ably assisted by the Property Department of the Diocese and its new leader, Mac Moreau. We have been given access to very good advice, careful assessment of the fine print in various documents, names of trusted staff or consultants, best ways to work through the various processes with Diocesan committees...all of which allowed us to move towards the parish's decisions. Our Treasurer, Rick Stinson, has been working closely with us throughout the process, and deserves a medal for all the extra work he has done. We would have been lost without his expertise and gift of clear opinions and wise advice.

In September of this year, we outlined to you the various options we had been assessing and why many of the options have been set aside for the moment. It was very clear, though, that we needed to find an "anchor tenant," an organization that would be prepared to rent parts of our parish hall for a period of at least ten years for a good price and for a good cause. You affirmed that decision in a Special Vestry meeting soon afterwards.

Thanks to a commercial real estate consultant, such a business has been found. With the authority you gave us, and

then with the approval of the Diocesan Synod Council, St. Peter's has rented considerable space in the hall to Pear Tree Pre-School for a period of ten years. We are delighted to think that a desperate need for childcare support in Cobourg can be offered in our premises, and that young families and lots of children will be seeing the church as their home ground for good care while their parents work. Pear Tree Pre-School has worked with the wardens and Matt (thank you, thank you!) to ensure collaboration and a relatively seamless transition to the new use of space. They hope to open for children in April, after construction of their required adjustments is completed.

Change as large as this has much work attached to it, and some considerable pain too. The wonderful Sunday School rooms that have served our children at St. Peter's have had to be emptied and rebuilt on the stage of Sheppard Hall. The storage room and appliances for Thursday Night Light have also had to be moved. Many rooms that have served as storage for everything were attacked and reorganized elsewhere...and a dumpster made happy. Special thanks to Jan Stapleton, Susan and David Winfrow, Colleen and Murray Simon, George Kirtley, Karen and Rick Stinson and others too who made all this happen, and who are bearing both the physical and emotional pain of such changes. This decision has come at a cost that we cannot understand if we were not involved closely to the adjustments. It's been hard.

The revenue from this rent will help us reduce the debt slowly and will also help support the ministry of St. Peter's. However, it will not pay the debt off quickly enough.

When St. Peter's accepted the loan from the Diocese, we said we would sell some of our property. The Board has been delving into that reality. We have determined that the best option is to try to sell the property at 264 College, but there are complications here. The lot has to be severed in order to offer it for sale. Consequently, we have hired a local planning consultant to bring a proposal to the Town of Cobourg for severance. That is taking a lot of time to get exact information from the Town about what it needs from us in order to make a ruling. So, we are waiting, and patience is hard to come by. But once the Town's various departments have outlined their requirements, we will then move forward. There is no doubt that this decision will also have some implications that we do not like, but we may have to do it anyway. Current residents of this four-plex have been given advance notice of this possibility, and we will work closely with them when the time comes to support their searches for a new home.

In the meantime, we have also been negotiating with the Diocese for an extension of the loan...it was originally for only two years. The Synod Council recently extended that loan to 25 years (we sincerely hope that amount of time will not be required!) but it does give us breathing room. What does not give us breathing room is the interest we need to pay. We have already made our first interest payment for the two years and have now entered into a monthly process. We are committed to moving as fast as we can to pay off the loan so that it doesn't bury our capacity to grow.

As the first year and a half ends, we want to thank all of you for your understanding of the complexity of all this decision-making, and your support in the changes that we will need to make as a parish to meet our obligations. Thanks to the faithful donors who are keeping their pledges fulfilled. You are making this all happen!

Sincere thanks go to others as well: Fran Richardson who has moved away from the task of being a Board member now to concentrate on her other ministries; Rae Struthers who has been serving as Secretary; Rick Stinson whose commitment to this process has been unshakable despite all the versions of financial statements he has had to provide; the two wardens, Susan Winfrow and Colin Turnpenney, who do double duty as wardens and as members of the Board, and, above all, Matt McMillan, who walks alongside, supports, argues at the right time, and prays a lot with us and for us, leading this parish into a great future doing God's work in the community. A special thank you for the two volunteers from Synod Council who commit to this ministry, mostly by Zoom, as well as ministry in their own parishes: Dave Toyce and Heather McGregor, we so appreciate your gifts

Suzanne Lawson  
Chair, St. Peter's Board of Management

## Wardens' Report - 2024

This past year, the Wardens moved from reconstruction and reopening the revitalized building, to the future uses of that building and the sustainability of the Parish. This involved many discussions with Rick Stinson (treasurer) and Eunice Cole (bookkeeper), as well as the Diocese and the Board of Management to pave a way forward. The long-term goals were to repay the debt from the reconstruction in a timely manner, to acquire a long-term anchor tenant, and to provide a variety of activities through parish ministries to both the members of the parish, and the community as a whole.

In January, a Congregational meeting was held to update the parish on the financial challenges for the future. The Board of Management led this update. Repayment of the loan from the Diocese is a major focus. After much discussion with the Diocese, the loan has been renegotiated. The possibility of the sale of assets to assist with the repayment is being researched, and a TD Line of Credit was finally approved after a number of years working on it. The wardens have worked closely with the Board of Management, St. Peter's Court Apartment board, the Treasurer, and the Investment committee to meet these financial challenges.

A Special Vestry was also held to approve the use of up to \$150 000 of funds from the Investment funds to cover the replacement of the Murray room furnace, the Sunday school AC unit, the lighting upgrades, and repairs to the rectory to match funds received in a Carleton grant from the Diocese.

From January until May, St. Peters had an agreement with Northumberland County to provide a warming room space in the Hutton room for vulnerable members of the community. While there were many challenges, the service provided shelter for a number of individuals over the winter. During that time, the County purchased shelter space at 310 Division Street, Cobourg, and in the future the Warming Room will be located in that facility.

With the intention of acquiring a long-term tenant at St. Peter's, the wardens' team began to look at upgrades to the interior of the facility. Two security grants were applied for and received from The Government of Ontario. Exterior lighting was improved around the church and in the parking lot and the interior security system was improved with new cameras and monitors. Furnaces and boilers were repaired, insulation applied to exterior duct work on the roof, a new furnace was installed for the Murray Room and a new Air Conditioning unit was installed on the roof over the Sunday school rooms. Lighting throughout the building was upgraded to LED lights which should see savings of approximately 30%.

Upgrades were also made to spaces used frequently by the Parish. In the Hutton Room, the old carpet was removed and replaced with luxury vinyl tiles. The walls were painted and the lights upgraded to make the room brighter. Leaking toilets were repaired in several of the washrooms. The floors in the Murray room washrooms were replaced with new tiles. Thanks to donations from several parishioners, carpeting was installed up the centre aisle and across the front of the main church. Cleaning out of cupboards, stair wells, basement rooms and other locations has been ongoing, and continues, as the space is prepared for the anchor tenant.

With the assistance of the Diocese and Lennard Realty, a 10-year contract was signed in the fall with Pear Tree Pre school. They will provide much needed day care for approximately 70 children from the community. The day care will be located on the second floor but will not include Shepherd Hall. As a result, the library was relocated to the Hutton room, and the Sunday School to the stage and Shepherd Hall. Upgrades are being made by the tenant in preparation for opening in April.

This past November, the wardens were pleased to confirm the appointment of Fr. Matt as Incumbent by Bishop Shaw, hopefully for many years to come! A formal service will be held in the coming months to confirm his appointment.

A number of ongoing activities with which the wardens were involved throughout the year include: maintenance and repairs at 264 College Street, new contracts for snow clearing and lawn maintenance, personnel contracts, continued liaison with the Air Cadets who assist with spring cleaning and fall leaf cleanup, renting of space for short

term uses such as AA, Yoga etc., weekly meetings with Fr. Matt and the Treasurer, meetings with the Board of Management, consultation and meeting with the Board from St Peter's Court Apartments, and working closely with the Parish Administrator.

As a parish, St. Peter's is blessed with the talents of the many volunteers who freely give their time and share their talents, and energy. The Wardens, on behalf of the parish continue to give thanks for all of those who have assisted in the many aspects of life at St. Peter's. Without your support, there could not be the variety of programmes and activities. There are many opportunities for new volunteers to share their talents, and we encourage you to participate however you are able.

“Glory to God, whose power working in us can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine.”

Respectfully submitted,

Colin Turnpenney (Rector's Warden)  
Susan Winfrow (People's Warden)  
Colleen Simon (Deputy Rector's Warden)



**The Church of St. Peter  
2024 Actuals 2025 Budget**

|                                  | <u>2024 Actuals</u>  | <u>2025 Budget</u>    |
|----------------------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| <b>Income</b>                    |                      |                       |
| Received Donations               | \$ 412,853.00        | \$ 347,000.00         |
| Unreceipted Donations            | \$ 32,993.00         | \$ 34,000.00          |
| PreSchool                        | \$ 79,602.00         | \$ 78,250.00          |
| Rentals                          | \$ 100,566.00        | \$ 145,500.00         |
| Other Revenue                    | \$ 70,204.00         | \$ 58,500.00          |
| SPCA Dividends                   | \$ -                 | \$ 110,000.00         |
| MRP Donations                    | \$ 6,188.00          | \$ 3,000.00           |
| Investment Income - Restricted   | \$ 134,500.00        | \$ 41,000.00          |
| Investment Income - Unrestricted | \$ 12,500.00         | \$ 9,000.00           |
| Glebe                            | \$ 4,373.00          | \$ 4,000.00           |
| <b>Total Income</b>              | <b>\$ 853,779.00</b> | <b>\$ 830,250.00</b>  |
| <b>Expense</b>                   |                      |                       |
| Clergy                           | \$ 93,081.00         | \$ 100,000.00         |
| Staff                            | \$ 221,869.00        | \$ 264,550.00         |
| Rectory                          | \$ 39,111.00         | \$ 42,200.00          |
| Church                           | \$ 260,990.00        | \$ 172,000.00         |
| 264 College                      | \$ 14,554.00         | \$ 14,600.00          |
| Ministries                       | \$ 46,459.00         | \$ 38,200.00          |
| Diocese Assessment               | \$ 62,028.00         | \$ 71,000.00          |
| Administration                   | \$ 39,261.00         | \$ 58,000.00          |
| Mortgage Payments                | \$ 31,486.00         | \$ 105,000.00         |
| <b>Total Expense</b>             | <b>\$ 808,839.00</b> | <b>\$ 865,550.00</b>  |
| <b>Net Loss</b>                  | <b>\$ 44,940.00</b>  | <b>\$ (35,300.00)</b> |

Note:

Repayment of the Diocesan Loan of \$1,000,000.00 for the Roof and Belltower Restoration Project in the amount of \$72000.00/year are from the Fundraising proceeds in 2025 and 2026



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT  
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
2024

PAROCHIAL REPORTS

## Deacon Report - Vestry Report for 2024

In the beginning of the year, we started off with St. Peter's in-person services and conducting on-line services. Online services were conducted with the help of all our Clergy, The Reverend Matthew McMillan, The Reverend In the beginning of the year, we continued with St. Peter's in-person services and conducted on-line services. Online services were conducted with the help of all our Clergy, The Reverend Matthew McMillan, The Reverend Micheal Li, The Reverend Sheila Archer, Lay Pastoral Minister Fran Richardson, and our music director has been Syd Birrell. We were also helped from many members of the congregation who helped in the reading the lessons and prayers.

I am happy to report that our online presence appears to be expanding and enjoyed by all. Our Facebook page reached over 12200 people this last year averaging to around 235 people interacting and engaging every week with us. Top interesting information facts from the report is:

- People interacting on the page are 67% women and 33% men.
- The top audience engagement is in the 55 years and up age range.
- 32% live in the Cobourg Area, other top area of engagement is from the Ottawa area at 8%.
- Top country of engagement is Canada at 88%, however 2% are from Nigeria and United States, with the 1% United Kingdom and the United States, and 1% Australia, Netherlands, and Italy, respectively.

Some of the most loved moments of 2024 were moments:

Holy Week celebrations including, Good Friday and Easter watched by over 1500 people online, Battle of Britain Service watched by over 700 people. Remembrance Day with the Cobourg Concert Band watched by over 900 people and the Cobourg Concert Band Christmas Concert watched by 800 people. Finally, Christmas Eve services, attended well and watched online by over 1600 across all 3 services.

This year we live streamed many funerals in the church as well and most averaged over 500 people watching and had many notable responses from the online services that we offer. In particular the funeral service for Jeffery Johansson was watched online from New Zealand by over 1400 people. This is an amazing level of outreach to our community, which is growing across the world.

Throughout the year we have had many generous people from not just the parish but the greater community of faith in our area and also the great community we live in our town of Cobourg and the county of Northumberland. This was very evident with many people reaching out through Facebook messenger offering help, financial support, and asking for information about us and our mission. Important support has been given from the community to events we have held like the Cancer Support Tea, Strawberry Social, concerts from the Cobourg Concert Band, the New Ventures Band, Book Sale, and the Preschool.

I want to thank all the members of the congregation and community who have participated as readers, either on-line or in-person over the past year. Your endeavors have really given new life to our services.

We also have our flourishing local Air Cadet 598 Sabre Squadron with us in the church and walk with us to the development and growth of our community through citizenship and outreach.

With over two years now since my ordination to the Sacred Order of Deacons, my work in ministry has involved the online portion of our church community, during the in-person worship but also extended into pastoral outreach. For me, servanthood is life long and rewarding.

I have endeavored every week, this last year to do at least 3 to 4 home, hospital, and hospice visits. I have also made many phone calls every week, varying every week. I am also enjoying the outreach within our community and joyful

in the outreach we have through weekly events like TNL, Extendicare/Landmark monthly services and grief counseling; and helping fill in at the Golden Plough monthly services. I have also had the great privilege and honour to perform several funeral services and Baptisms for the growth of our Christian family. I have also continued my work with amputees at the rehab center in Toronto as it is dear to my heart. We also are continuing our monthly Night Prayers online for all to enjoy.

This past year I was also elected to the Board of Directors for Anglican Deacons of Canada. The focus of Anglican Deacons of Canada is to unify all Anglican Deacons across the country for support, development, education, and to direct our voices together as one, to better service the church, her people and God. The foundation is not for profit and is near to my heart as my grandmother was one of its founders and also a past board member which I did not know until I was made a member of the board.

I wish to thank each of you in our community, our parish, my family and to everyone who has and continues to support me in my ministries and call to service. This last year has been, humbling, challenging by times, but full of joy, wonder and God's amazing grace and mercy. A particular thanks to everyone for the support of every member of our family during the early part of the Advent season at a great time of loss for our family.

Each of you, has helped me in ways you will never fully understand and each of you are a shining example of what service in the life of Jesus the Christ is. I am very thankful to each of you for all your thoughts, gifts, and prayers.

As I stated before I hope each of you understand how important, how valued, and how loved you are by me but most importantly, God, Jesus the Christ, and the Holy Spirit.

If you would like a phone call from me or a visit please give me a call at 905-396-3759 or email at [williamsimon@alumni.trentu.ca](mailto:williamsimon@alumni.trentu.ca) Please leave me a message as I still do work 40 plus hours a week and I will do my best to get back to you.

Thank you for your time, support, generosity, and love. I look forward to the time we will share together, and in the building up of our community. I pray, that each of you remember that you are a cherished child of God.

May the God of friendship give us love in all ways and at all times and know without doubt, the grace of God is with you always.

The Rev. William Simon, Deacon St. Peter's Cobourg.

## **St. Peter's Investment Committee**

Report for Year Ending December 31, 2024

Our mandate is to oversee the investment funds of the parish and offer suggestions and recommendations on financial activities as requested by the Corporation. We work with TD Wealth who manage investments of the Sheppard Trust and Church of St. Peter Endowment Fund.

2024 Objectives: 1) recruit new members, COMPLETED and 2) review and update Policy IN POCCESS.

Ian James, a relatively new parishioner, joined the committee, (without signing authority). He has attended several meetings. Ian has a background as a financial adviser and has a wealth of experience and knowledge in the financial investment industry and is enthusiastic about sharing his talents.

Policy review: By direction of chair, we slowed the process, thinking the corporation may use the investments to

reduce the construction debt. Since that did not happen, we restarted review.

Please note the original policy written in 2000 and has been revised several times. Life has changed significantly in the last 25 years. Many people today do all their banking by a phone, without a chord. Investing opportunities today include ETF's (Exchange Traded Funds) driven by AI (Artificial Intelligence) that can track the activities of the 'leading' investment houses and replicate activities. We will submit revised policy to the Corporation for approval upon completion.

Sheppard Fund:

January 1, 2024: \$ 857,184.57 plus Income less fees \$49,963.01 less Withdrawals \$ 497,500.00 (Restoration project, building renovation and maintenance) Balance: December 31, 2024, \$409,647.58 Vestry approved all withdrawals.

Endowment Fund:

January 1, 2024: \$ 307,540.36 plus Income less fees \$36,810.32 less Withdrawals \$12,500.00. Balance: December 31, 2024, \$331,651.48

Statements received from TD Wealth, dated December 31, 2024, received, and shared with office and Auditors.

Submitted by: Rick Stinson, Daphne King, Ian James Doug Beauchamp.

## **Durham Northumberland Deanery Christian Education Team Report for Vestry 2024**

This team of people formed several years ago because of a shared interest in adult Christian Education ...and an awareness that church leaders across the Deanery (both clergy and lay) needed some additional help in providing a broader array of educational opportunities for lay people. The team is comprised of retired priests and lay persons from across our Deanery. All members of the team have had considerable experience in educational program design and in group facilitation. Annually, the Team develops programs to offer to Anglicans and others that prompt spiritual growth and a chance to learn with others outside their own parishes.

Posters are provided to each of our Deanery Parishes for bulletin boards, and clergy are encouraged to share this information in newsletters, bulletins, and announcements. Our email distribution list is kept updated and is our primary means to communicate directly with folks who have attended any course previously.

The following offerings were facilitated by members of the Team over the past year and were well attended and evaluated for future planning.

### Book Studies

- "Saying Yes to Life " by Ruth Valerio
- "Genesis for Normal People " by Peter Enns and Jared Byas
- "The Universal Christ " by Richard Rohr
- "The First Christmas" by Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossen

### Other Offerings

- Courageous Women in the Bible
- Intercessors Workshop (In Person)  
St. Peter's Cobourg
- Second Saturday Conversations Marcus Borg Foundation
- Helping Your Family Plan Your Funeral (In Person)  
St. Peter's Cobourg, St. Mark's Port Hope, and St. John's Bowmanville
- Anglican Way Workshop Series (In Person)  
St. Mark's Port Hope and St. Peter's Cobourg

Advent Conference (In person) at St Peter's Cobourg  
Guest Speaker: The Right Reverend Kevin Robertson  
Suffragan Bishop of the Diocese of Toronto

Topic: From "Othering" to "Neighbouring" God's Call to Each of Us Today

Programs are offered at various times to meet individual's timetables: mornings, afternoons, and evenings, usually but not always via Zoom and are about an hour and a half with discussion time. There is rarely a fee for our programs. In person courses are held in parishes; some may include refreshments.

Book studies require that you obtain a copy of the book and instructions will be provided concerning access. These courses provide a great opportunity to learn about the faith and as a bonus, help you form new friendships with folks throughout the Deanery and beyond. Watch for the news about upcoming courses.

If you would like to receive regular email information on upcoming offerings, please send your email address to: christianeducationteam@gmail.com

Submitted by the Durham Northumberland Deanery Education Team

## **Worship Leader Vestry Report for 2024**

A full year in the renewed sanctuary has been a joy! The reconfiguration of the pews to allow for a comfortable open transept area for those parishioners who use mobility devices has made them more comfortable. In addition, the extra space at the front of the church has made it easier for special events such as concerts. That space also provides a much-needed area for a standing station during the Eucharist for those who are unable to ascend the stairs to the altar.

The Sunday morning 8:30 BCP quiet service in the chapel continues to have a small but loyal following. The 10:00 Thursday morning service also has a loyal following that has grown into a time of fellowship after the worship period. On December 12<sup>th</sup> we were able to hold a Blue Christmas service in place of the eucharist service for those members of our congregation who find the time of year difficult. The service was well received, and we anticipate that this will be an annual event.

The Reverend Will Simon has taken on many of the pastoral duties and is able to assist Fr. Matt where possible. Pastoral care and monthly services are provided at Palisades, Extencicare, and the Golden Plough Lodge. The Reverend Sheila Archer, while stepping back from regular duties on Sundays, continues to visit parishioners in their places of residence. The Reverend Michael Li continues to assist Fr Matt in his clerical duties; and towards the end of the year, we welcomed The Reverend Dr. Monique Taylor as Honorary Assistant. As the parish grows, there is a commensurate demand on clergy time.

Our 10:30 Sunday service continues to grow in numbers. But weekly numbers can be deceiving as many of our parishioners are seniors who travel during the winter months. Also, there are people who chose to attend physically once or twice a month but join us on-line during or after the service. The choir provides beautiful music and choral leadership. During the year we have welcomed more participants into the roles of server, reader, intercessor, chalice bearer and crucifer. These are important aspects of the service, and we are thankful that so many are willing to take on these responsibilities.

The services leading up to Easter were well attended as this was the first time in six years that we were able to celebrate the season in the main church. As always, the Remembrance Day service, with the Concert Band and the cadets, attracted an almost full house. In addition, there were seven funerals, three baptisms and one reception into the Anglican Church.

There were four services available over Christmas. The increasingly popular family service at 4:00 on Christmas Eve with a live manger, the energetic children's choir and readings and prayers by our young people. The 7:30 pm service was resplendent with a large choir, handbell chorus and candlelight. This year we resurrected the late-night service at 11:00 pm. Christmas morning was quieter but reverent. All told we welcomed over 500 people over the four services.

Average attendance at regularly scheduled worship:

**Thursday at 10:00 15, Sunday at 8:30\* 16, Sunday at 10:30\* 120**

\*Please note that for 10 weeks in the summer months there was only one 9:30 service. The average attendance for those services was 77.

For statistical information, the diocese requires the total number of attendees divided by 52. This includes all special services such as Ash Wednesday and Remembrance Sunday.

Sundays: 6530 for an average of 126

Mid-week: 2431 for an average of 47

Respectfully Submitted,  
Fran Richardson  
Lay Pastoral Associate

## **Church Office**

The church office receives vital support from many loyal volunteers. This year there have been several shuffles in our morning volunteers – even Fr. Matt filled in at the front desk on Friday mornings for a few weeks.

We welcomed three new volunteers to the front office in 2024: Sue Goody, Carmel (Carm) Murphy, and Jo Caragh. Sue is our Monday morning volunteer. Carm filled the Friday morning position until she recently took a step back for her health. Jo Caragh, who originally filled in on Thursday mornings with Kay, has recently taken over Friday mornings. It has been a pleasure getting to know these ladies. They have been doing a fantastic job!

We were all delighted to welcome Kay MacLeod back to the office this year. She is currently filling in for Erica Beauchamp on Wednesday mornings. Linda Flindall volunteers on Tuesday mornings. Erica Beauchamp, our dedicated volunteer on Wednesday mornings, has currently stepped back to focus on her health, however she still stops by frequently to help with office and chancel guild matters. Erica and Kay have been invaluable sources of wisdom for our new volunteers, and everyone here at the office. Liz McCaughey is our Thursday morning volunteer, and she recently returned to the office after her winter trip. While she was away, Carol Fisher, Kay, and Jo filled in on Thursdays. Carol is a great help, filling in whenever needed. These women, alongside many other volunteers, provide vital support to the operations of St. Peter's Church.

Eunice Cole is our amazing bookkeeper and has been a great source of support for everyone in the office. We greatly appreciate her help and guidance. Denise Raymond and Michal Loeprich also handle the administration for the fundraising campaign, and we are thankful for the work they do.

It is a pleasure to be working with such dedicated individuals. I am looking forward to the many adventures of 2025.

Kind Regards,  
Racquel Devison  
Parish Administrator

## Rectory Preservation Committee Report – 2024



The Rectory Preservation Committee made significant strides in 2024. During two successful afternoon teas, the committee supported the McMillian family in March by opening the rectory doors to parishioners and the community. In early June, the committee organized the opening of our church, mortuary chapel, and rectory during the ACO House Tour. It was a delightful event that helped to foster a sense of community by introducing hundreds of new people to our church activities and historic properties. In addition, volunteers created an excellent lunch as a way to support the day. Our annual Rectory Dinners in August were a resounding success, further strengthening our community bonds.

We are pleased to announce that our application to the Diocese of Toronto's Mabel A. Carleton Fund for repairs and renovations to rectories was successful. This significant achievement is essential in ensuring that the rectory can continue to support our church and the McMillian family. Our successful fundraising efforts for the rectory, which allowed for much-needed roof repairs and the commencement of various smaller projects, are a testament to our parish and community's dedication and commitment to preserving our heritage.

We extend our heartfelt gratitude to all parishioners and community members for their generous support of rectory preservation. We would like to express our special thanks to Liz McCaughey, Beth Selby, Rob Mikel, Ross Stevenson, and all the additional volunteers who dedicated their time and effort to making this year's events successful. Your contributions have been invaluable, and we sincerely appreciate your commitment to our cause.

Jan Spragge  
Chair, Rectory Preservation Committee



## St. Peter's Preschool 2024 Vestry Report

We have had another great year at St. Peter's Preschool. We were thankful when Meghan Lagani joined our team in January and has been the classroom educator along with myself since then. The two of us have enjoyed working together this past year with a great group children and families. Along with Meghan and I, we have Marcy Barriball and Linda Hayes as on our call staff to cover for Meghan and I when needed. Both of them are Registered Early



Childhood Educators and we are thankful to have them on our team. Diane Payne and Linda continue to be our regular volunteers coming to support the program once a week.

In total from parent fees, we brought in \$32,348 and serviced 52 families. We spent \$3766.74 in the year on groceries and supplies for the program. This current school year we have 30 families enrolled and are at full capacity (16) most days. Currently we operate Mon-Fri mornings but are looking at adding 2 afternoon programs next school year with the increased demand for childcare in our community.

We continue to be a part of the CWELCC Program which helped lower our parent fees from \$15/day to \$12/day as well as makes us eligible for extra funding to support our program. The CWELCC program, being new and evolving, has brought changes and challenges but working closely with Northumberland County, along with support from Eunice we are all figuring it out as we go.

We look forward to another great year ahead!

Emily Smith  
St. Peter's Preschool Supervisor

## **Health and Wellness Report for 2024**

### **Prayers answered**

Following the January 2024 Vestry meeting, the ongoing prayers of our Health and Wellness Ministry Team (H&W) and our congregation to find a Parish Nurse for St. Peter's were answered. Elizabeth Vosburgh, RN was hired to assume this important role. Elizabeth attended her first H&W meeting on February 12<sup>th</sup>. It was only right that our members gathered around Elizabeth, offered a special prayer, *Better Together*, and then presented her with her very own Prayer Shawl.

### **Monthly Meetings**

Caring hearts, willing hands, and thoughtful minds maintain the many and varied programs that H&W offers. Special thanks to committee members *Fran Richardson, Patricia Noble, Sandra O'Neill Brown, Lynne Palmer, Sharyl Ann Milligan, The Rev. Sheila Archer, Rose Wood, Brenda Turnpenney, Cathy Earl, Ann Hares, Marion Macpherson, Judy Knight, Diane Froncz, Barbara Snelgrove, Nancy Marshall*. who attended monthly meetings when they were available. We worked with our Parish Nurse to plan and implement programs to support the social, emotional, physical, and spiritual needs of parishioners and community members:

### **Information Board**

**Barbara Snelgrove**

The H&W bulletin board in the hallway near the Great Hall was regularly updated to provide the congregation and visitors with special event information and procedures for connecting with our Parish Nurse. Health promotion awareness months (e.g., October breast cancer Awareness, November/November prostate, testicular cancers, and men's mental health) also have been highlighted. We want to offer a special thank you to Racquel, Parish Administrator for ensuring H&W information is regularly added to KeyMail notices.

### **Knit and Natter**

**Cathy Earl**

Anyone who enjoys knitting and crocheting is invited to gather in the Hutton Room on the second and fourth Monday of the month. It is a time of fellowship, while needles and hooks are busy crafting hand-made items. There are always experienced people to assist those who wish to learn to knit or crochet. We share patterns, hints, and techniques. New friendships have started in the wider Cobourg community.

Knit and Natter also worked on making small hearts that were handed out when The Church of St. Peter's hosted the World Day of Prayer. A special thank-you to Molly and Pam who contributed over 50 hearts.

The group knit and crafted for the Christmas Bazaar. We had bins of mittens, hats, scarves, baby bibs, tea towels and teddy bears. We were very pleased to have raised over \$700.

Our Bazaar table featured an acknowledgement to the leadership and giving spirit of Karen Peters, who for over 50 years was responsible for this table,

New and experienced crafters are always welcome! Coffee and tea are ready, and we hope to see new faces!

### **Prayer Shawl Ministry**

**Nancy Marshall**

All knitted, crocheted or sewn items that have been lovingly crafted are blessed at a Thursday morning service. We pray that *God's grace will be upon these lovingly crafted treasures and that they may be used to warm, comfort and enfold those who receive them. May these treasures be a safe haven, a sacred place of security and well-being, ever sustaining and embracing those who wear them with hope, joy, love and peace. Amen.*

Prayer shawls can be presented to anyone by any member of St. Peter's. This past year, 30 shawls were presented to parishioners, 5 shawls were presented during Baptisms and 3 to guest speaker and 6 to grief share participants. Generously donated small, quilted Lap blankets were delivered to the Chemo Clinic at Northumberland Hills Hospital.

Receiving a prayer shawl is a hug from God and our St. Peter's family. They are freely given and if you or someone who would benefit from receiving a prayer shawl, ask at the office and a member of H&W will assist you in making the perfect selection.

### **Connections**

**Marion Macpherson**

Birthday Cards are sent to those who have consented to share their birth date and month only. We hope that this brightens your day.

Our Birthday card delivery was not affected by the postal strike thanks to kind parishioners who delivered them. If you would like to have a birthday greeting sent to you, please leave your birthdate (no year please) at the office. Donations of birthday cards and stamps are welcomed. Dollar Tree has a great selection of religious cards. Please leave donations at the church office.

### **June Survey.**

**Nancy Marshall**

Thank you to everyone who completed our online survey sharing your suggestions and ideas to assist the H&W team in identifying concerns and areas of interest. A special thank you to Barbara Snelgrove and Elizabeth Vosburgh for drafting the survey questions and to Racquel, Parish Administrator, for using Survey Monkey to collect and analyse data.

Your feedback identified four areas for H&W to explore:

|                        |     |
|------------------------|-----|
| Stay Active            | 50% |
| Life Transitions       | 50% |
| Depression and Anxiety | 42% |
| Stress Management      | 38% |

As a result of the survey data, H&W introduced *Chair Yoga*, offered by Heather Powell, on Tuesday afternoons. Over 25 parishioners and community members joined and through a nominal registration fee raised funds to pay our leader, as well as financially support H&W activities. This highly successful program is being repeated in 2025.

### **Thursday Eucharist and Healing Prayers**

**Fran Richardson**

Thursday's at 10am, Holy Communion, Healing Prayers and Anointing are offered in the Chapel of St. Paul. The services are led by Father Matthew, Reverend Michael Li, Deacon Will and Fran Richardson.

The pre-school children occasionally attend to offer a song or to show what they have been working on in the classroom.

Thanks to Patricia Rogerson who faithfully sets up coffee, tea, and light refreshments in the Hutton Room, and

welcomes everyone, especially those who drop in on a Thursday morning to meet with the Parish Nurse. This is a time of fellowship and lively conversation.

### **Blue Christmas**

**Fran Richardson**

The annual Blue Christmas service was held in the chapel on Thursday, December 12<sup>th</sup>. Michal Loeprich provided the music as Father Mathew lead the service. Words of reflection were provided by Fran Richardson. Healing prayers and anointing were provided by Father Mathew and Deacon Will. Everyone had the opportunity to light a candle in memory of a loved one. A reception followed, which allowed for a time of fellowship. This is a meaningful service for those who find this time of year difficult.

### **Education**

**Nancy Marshall**

Throughout the year, workshops and presentations are offered focusing on issues of concern. In 2024, the following sessions were presented:

#### **Every Day in MAY** programs:

Mind: **Feeling and Healing**, presented by Sandra McGregor, Gestalt Therapist

Body: **Chair Yoga**, offered by Eric Mejorado, YMCA, Cobourg

Spirit: **A Musician's Journey**, presented by Syd Birrell, St. Peter's Musical Director

**Fire Safety in Your Home**, presented by Cobourg's Fire Safety Inspector, Jennifer Cooper.

**First Aid/AED Training**, presented by Kevin Schroeder, Northumberland CPR and First Aid Trainer ensured that twelve St. Peter's staff and volunteers are trained to respond in a medical emergency and administer CPR and to use the AED located in the main hall.

**Canadian Dental Care Plan information** was presented by a member of Service Canada. She outlined the benefits and eligibility for enrolment in the plan and directed people to check out the website at Canada.ca

### **Grief Share.**

*A journey from MOURNING to JOY*

**Nancy Marshall**

Following the March planning meeting, H&W made the decision to investigate and then purchase Grief Share curriculum materials and resources to offer a Christian focused program for parishioners and community members. The materials were provided at no cost to participants. Grief Share was offered on Monday evenings over 11 weeks. This program used videos, discussion, and thoughtful home follow up activities to help anyone dealing with the loss of a loved one to heal their hurting heart. Elizabeth Vosburgh, Fran Richardson, and Nancy Marshall acted as facilitators. It was a well-received program and will be offered again in 2025 on Tuesday afternoons.

### **Prayer Group**

**Sandra O'Neill Brown & Ruth Ann Douglas**

Our Prayer Group meets in-person on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month at 11:00 a.m. in the Chapel. Members attend as they are able. Prayers for the people on our St. Peter's prayer list constitute a daily priority for each member.

Together, we continue to watch events taking place around our world and know that prayer is our first and best course of action. We offer prayers for our church, its clergy and volunteers, the various ministries, outstanding issues around the world, and for those who have asked for prayer for themselves or others.

If you, or someone you know, would benefit from prayer, please contact Donna Brotherhood by email using address: [donnabro1@gmail.com](mailto:donnabro1@gmail.com) to have their name added to the list.

**Please note that when requesting prayer for someone else, permission must be received before adding a name to the church's prayer list because some do not want their concerns made public.**

Further, if you are interested in joining the Prayer Group, there are only two requirements: a willing spirit and an agreement to keep all requests and prayers confidential.

If you have a burden or a desire to help with this important ministry, we would love to have you join us. Please contact Ruth Ann Douglas by Email address <ra.douglas@sympatico.ca>.

### **Pastoral Care**

**Fran Richardson & Nancy Marshall**

Our Clergy, Lay Ministers, Pastoral Care Volunteers have been busy visiting Retirement Homes, Long Term Care Homes as well offering Home Visits. Prayer and Praise worship services at The Golden Plough Lodge (Fran Richardson & Michal Loeprich), Extencicare (Will Simon, Peter Brotherhood, Sharyl Ann Milligan) and Palisades (Rev. Sheila Archer, Ruth Ann Douglas & Nancy Marshall) are held on a monthly basis. Home visits are made upon request. In October, many of our Pastoral Care Team attended The Diocesan Lay Anointer's Training Day at St. Peter's and are now licensed by the bishop to offer the sacrament of anointing.

Remember to call the church office, 905 372-3442 to let us know if a member of the congregation is ill and needs to be contacted or visited.

When we know that someone is in the hospital or house bound, **PASTORAL CARE VISITS** and **HOME COMMUNION** can be arranged.

All who visit on behalf of St. Peter's have completed Screening in Faith and Police Checks in accordance with Diocesan Guidelines. Request for visits should be made through the Church Office.

### **New Members Welcome**

*H&W always welcomes new members. If you are interested and have time to support our ministry team, please speak with Elizabeth Vosburgh, Parish Nurse or leave your name with an office volunteer. There is much more we could do with new faces, new voices, and willing hands.*

| <b>Health and Wellness Budget Report for 2024</b>  |                  |
|--|------------------|
| Initial H&W Allocation   | \$1000           |
| Donation to support GriefShare   | \$1000           |
| Fees Collected for programs  | \$920            |
| <b>Available Funds</b>   | <b>\$2920</b>    |
| <b>Expenditure</b>   |                  |
| Defibrillator pads for AED   | \$127.24         |
| Connections (cards, postage)   | \$30.35          |
| GriefShare Curriculum Materials  | \$1334.28        |
| Payment to Chair Yoga Instructor   | \$320.00         |
| AED/CPR course for 12 participants   | \$400.00         |
| Blue Christmas Reception   | \$50.00          |
| Speaker Gift Cards   | \$50.00          |
| <b>Total Expenditure Spending</b>  | <b>\$2311.87</b> |
| <b>H&amp;W Budget Surplus</b>  | <b>\$608.13</b>  |
| <i>Worth Noting: without the generous donation of \$1000 for the purchase of GS Materials, there would have had a budget deficit of \$391.87</i> |                  |

Respectfully submitted by

*The Health & Wellness Ministry Team*



Canadian Dental Care Plan Presentation



Fire Safety in Your Home, Presented by Jennifer Cooper



First Aid/AED Training



Prayer Shawl Presentations



Baptism Prayer Shawl Presentation



Knit & Natter



Blue Christmas Service



## Air Cadets

The 598 Air Cadets have had an eventful and fulfilling year, with many accomplishments that have helped our cadets grow both as individuals and as a community. Thursday night, regular training nights provided cadets with the

chance to enhance their skills in various areas, including aviation, leadership, and teamwork.

This year, we held a First Aid weekend where cadets were trained in essential life-saving skills, preparing them for any emergency situations that may arise. Our Drill and Department training continued to be a key focus, with cadets sharpening their discipline and precision, essential for all ceremonial duties.

The Fall and Winter Field Training Exercises (FTX's) provided cadets with the opportunity to hone their survival and leadership skills in more challenging outdoor environments, creating lasting memories and bonds of camaraderie. Remembrance Day was a solemn occasion where our cadets proudly participated in honoring and remembering those who have served and sacrificed for our country.

Our Monday Range Night also proved to be a highlight, offering cadets the chance to practice marksmanship and learn about firearm safety and responsibility in a controlled, supervised environment. This skill-building experience instilled a sense of discipline and focus, while also teaching the importance of safety and responsibility.

Additionally, we were excited to bring back the Battle of Britain commemoration, which was entirely led by cadets, a special event that celebrated this important chapter in history and helped cadets learn more about the heritage of the Royal Canadian Air Cadets.

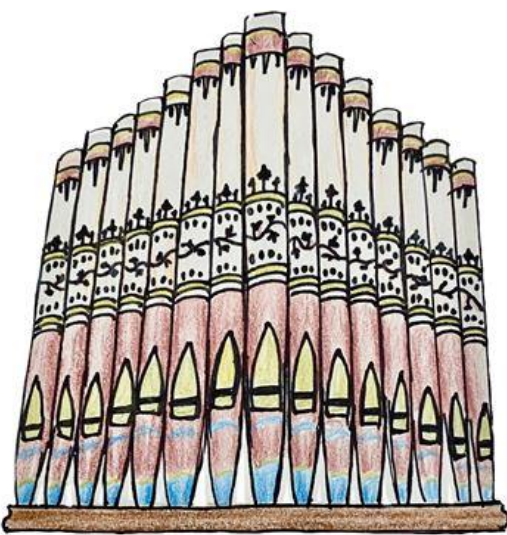
Beyond cadet activities, our squadron was proud to assist St. Peter's Church with Shrove Tuesday, leaf cleanup, and the annual book sale, to name a few, demonstrating our commitment to community service.

Throughout all of these activities, we are deeply grateful to St. Peter's Church for their unwavering support of the 598 Air Cadets. Your generosity and partnership have been invaluable in making this year a success for our cadet squadron.

We look forward to another year of growth, learning, and service.

Regards,  
Lt. Matthew G.D. Slade

## **AGM Report on Music at St. Peter's for 2024**



Notes from Syd

The choir has grown in size, numbering 33 regular members. Thursday night choir practice is an exciting time, with a cross generational group that love singing and socialising together. We have a lot of fun together and have achieved many ambitious musical targets.

For special occasions such as Christmas, Easter, and other events we are joined by choristers from the Peterborough Singers, forming our Festival Choir.

The choir was featured in a concert featuring organist Norman Reintamm, cellist Aare Tammesalu, Festival Choir on September 15

Thanks to budgeted monies and some generous donors, we are able to sustain six choral scholars and two choral assistants, along with an organ scholar, greatly enhancing a music program while instilling a love of choral music and the Anglican tradition to these young people. I would like to grow this initiative further.

Last year the church, in collaboration with the Royal Canadian College of Organists, provided an organ scholarship for Ben Keith to study for his service playing exam, which he has now passed. Ben continues to play the organ at our services and conduct the choir.

Choral Scholar James Summerfeldt-Parker has taken on the role of Cantor for our psalm singing, assisted by Abbey Yates. Choral Scholars are often heard singing solos or duets.

Choral assistant Lauren Halasc has provided private and group singing lessons to choir members. Lauren also gives individual music theory lessons to our Junior Choir members, while Syd leads the Junior Choir rehearsals

Junior Choir now has 10 members, including a number of children from outside the church. This is an outreach program.

It has been a pleasure to involve George Miranda and Melissa Wotherspoon on percussion, as well as guest pianists and soloists.

We have been diversifying our choir repertoire by the purchase of new music, and by the generosity of local church choirs who have kindly lent us music from their libraries, and also by donations of music from church choirs that are closing.

A donation from the Men's Dinner Club allowed us to purchase battery powered candles for our Christmas Eve Service, resolving our safety concerns about processing with music in one hand and a lit candle in the other. This donation also paid for new music, a Bluetooth speaker for choir listening, theory books for the Junior Choir, handbell repair toolkit, and repair to the handbell foam padding. Thank you!

The Handbell Choir continues to meet every week under the direction of Debbie Fingas, Director of Music at Trinity Utd. They have a lot of fun and regularly contribute to our worship. The Handbell Choir has attracted ringers from outside the church.

Jo Caragh has taken over the direction of the Tower Chimes ministry and coordinates the team of ringers. Jo is also preparing new arrangements for the ringers, expanding their repertoire while allowing new bell ringers accessibility to beginners' material. It is a joy to hear the bells before church services, at concerts and at other special events

We were joined by the Concert Band of Cobourg for our Remembrance Day Service, as we continue to reach out to the wider Cobourg community.

In closing: I am thrilled to be here at St Peter's. It is very meaningful to me to work with Fr Matt and be able to contribute to the worship. Many members of the congregation tell me how much it means to them to see the music ministry bring so much joy to the church family. I am told that the music is drawing in newcomers. My underlying goal is to bring newcomers into the church through the music program, while honouring the long tradition of choral music at St Peter's.

Prepared by Organist and Choirmaster Syd Birrell

## **Sunday School and Kids Club - 2024**

Hello all,

This year in the Sunday school has been one of growth, change and challenge. The first part of the year, before summer holidays we were running two Sunday schools. One was an 'electronically' connected and the other an 'in person' Sunday school. After the Summer break, which was taken as a break, we continued with just the 'in person' presentation of the Sunday school. Communication back from our 'electronic' kids had become almost nonexistent and I felt energies were better spent elsewhere.

The number of kids in our present Sunday school is expanding. We are slowly gathering in numbers. The connections between the Sunday school kids and the junior choir is a piece that has been missing for quite a while. Those two ministries feed into each other well and are beneficial for both ministries.



During the summer, we presented a Vacation Bible school which saw the chapel turned into an 'Under the Sea' backdrop. Jelly fish, crustaceans, deep sea fish and even a submarine! Pam took the lead on this weeklong event. We had a number of kids attend for the second year in a row and a good turn out. There were songs, crafts, and science, as well as Bible learning and activities. Great fun for all. Thank you to those volunteers both congregational and high school who added so much to the fun and supported the children there.

Since the fall we have continued growing. There is a very faithful little core group that attend most Sundays.

One has even become a 'greeter' on the roster! Good on you, kiddo. The kids have stuck with us through the geographical changes through December and into January 2025 when we moved the Sunday school in preparation for our rental coming in the new year. I started to prepare the kids for this change by having Sunday school during December in different parts of the church; Sometimes the gym, where we did running games and a more active lesson. Sometimes in the Hutton room, where we would do our craft and a video. Sometimes in the chapel with a more meditative, quiet lesson. Sometimes a combination of those areas.

During this time, you might have noticed the expansion of the children's area at the back of the church with the addition of a library. These are the books we have that are from our 'teaching' library. There is another library of more secular books in the Hutton Room which I hope our St. Peter's daycare might use for borrowing. There is a third library in the new Sunday school space on the Shepherd Hall stage. This space is certainly different than our old Sunday school rooms but has challenged me to find space and fun. On Sundays, the Shepherd Hall takes a big breath, and the Sunday school expands off the stage and into the hall space after the choir goes downstairs for the service. Come upstairs and have a look.

Thank you and 'God bless you' to all those folk who helped empty and sift through my 25+ years of stuff in the old Sunday School rooms. There was stuff in there from previous years as well and probably dust etc. from the late 1800's. Our costumes, Godly play extras etc. have been put in easy access storage down under the church. It was a hard job and an emotional one as well...but it's done!

Now it's 'READY, SET, GO! Woohoo!  
GOD'S HAND IN ALL THINGS.

We finished off our year with a Christmas pageant. Again, Pam took the lead on this. The pageant that she found was created so that the kids that came that Sunday could participate...and they did! It was a wonderful way of heading into Christmas and the beautiful kids service on Christmas Eve.

Thank you all for your prayers and support of the Sunday school.

Jan Stapleton  
St. Peter's Sunday School





## Thursday Night Lite - TNL 2024

Hello all,

We have had another successful year. Expensive, but successful. This is due to great support from you, those outside our walls, other churches and our TNL community. Thank you all for your donations of money, time, food, and prayers. This ministry would not be possible without our dedicated volunteers. THANK YOU, times a thousand!

TNL takes place on Thursdays at 4:45 over the course of the whole year. We are operating with about 8-12 volunteers each week and feeding approximately 100 folk each week. 30 of those meals are 'take out' meals and the rest are served in the hall. Alongside that ministry there is one that grew out of an Advent food drive a number of years ago. Who knew that it would become so important in today's world. We present two food carts each week. One is dry goods the other fresh fruit and vegetables. Folks are allowed 4 items from the carts. Doesn't seem like a lot, but it certainly takes the edge off their expense each week. It also provides those with no permanent home a few healthy items they can put in the bottom of their backpacks. As part of this ministry there is also a 'give away' tables where we have a selection of clothes, linens, toiletries and other little bits and pieces up for grabs.



TNL now has three kitchen teams. Each team does their own shopping for the meal and the creation, preparation, and presentation of the meal. The first week of the month is Karen S. and her group. The third week is Lauren M. and her group, and the third group is Dave Henderson and his group for the remaining 2 or 3 weeks of the month. I have to say a special thanks to Dave who often donates the main part of the meal, and some other things needed around the edges of the dinner. All of our groups seem to have some donation component towards the meal. We also have a couple of our own dedicated bakers that add more 'homemade' to our meals. Our teams serve wonderful, abundant, creative meals each and every week of the year. Huge, huge, HUGE thanks to them!

I have to add a big thank you to Baxter Bakery, which is a commercial size bakery in town. They have provided a good portion of the deserts over the course of this whole year and continue to support us into 2025. We received eight boxes from them just yesterday. All sorts of yummys. Thank you also to our Baxter's liaison and delivery person Nancy M.

And now the money part...

Last year (2024) we ran over budget. It was an expensive year, but we came out ahead in the end...in the black. This is of course due to the donations we receive on a regular basis from you (\$\$\$ Thank you) and a few outside the church including Grace church just down the road from us and a really solid donation from the Cobourg Concert band towards the end of the year. Donations made sometimes come out of the blue and they are so helpful. I don't know how many times I think... 'well that was a God send'. God's hand in everything! Every little bit adds up and what an amazing ministry you are supporting.

Our little TNL community adds to the donation each week through the free will jar. Last year (2023) the jar produced \$6245, this year (2024) the amount is \$5,421.30 which is a reflection of the cost of living out there. Still a stunning amount for a little 'pickle jar.'

We have gone from \$13,000 in 2023 to \$16,000 in 2024 and have requested \$20,000 for the 2025 budget. As with last year, this budget includes monies for SouperTime as well as keeping milk, cream, sugar/sweetener, tea, and coffee etc. in the kitchen. All in all, lots of work, but a really successful year.

Here's to another year ahead of keeping our plates spinning and the meals coming.

Thank you to you all,  
Jan Stapleton

## **SouperTime 2024**

The first thing I would like to say, is to thank all my volunteers for the dedication to making SouperTime a success this past year. With all the challenges we have faced, we have feed between 18 to 38 people every Tuesday. We have also received some support both financially and the donations of food. I am very great full for everyone's support.

If you would like to volunteer with SouperTime or would like more information, please see me, or give me a call.

Yours in Christ  
Colleen Simon

## **FaithWorks -2024**

“I was hungry and you gave me food. I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink. I was a stranger and you welcomed me.” - Matthew 25:35

The (Anglican) Diocese of Toronto's charitable program, named FaithWorks, feeds, shelters, nurtures, and befriends over 36,000 people throughout our Diocese and around the world every year. During the past 28 years, over 39,500,000.00 Million Dollars has been raised!

By way of local parish church annual campaigns as well as limited corporate donations, this diocesan-led ministry offers support to our agency/ministry partners as they serve the needs of people who are Indigenous, homeless, hungry, at-risk women/children/youth, immigrants or refugees, migrant farm workers or those struggling with HIV/AIDS.

St. Peter's (Anglican) Church, Cobourg generously raised \$2,010.00 during calendar year 2024. Thank you for your care and kindness to achieve this financial amount! As a reference point, for the previous five years, our Cobourg-based church has charitably donated the following monetary amounts: 2019 - \$3,085.00, 2020 - \$2,570.00, 2021 - \$2,640.00, 2022 - \$2,440.00 and 2023 - \$1,845.00. Commencing in calendar year 2025, it is my intention as our parish church's FaithWorks Coordinator, to reintroduce an invited guest speaker, at both Sunday morning services, either from the Diocese's Stewardship Development Offices or from one of the agencies/ministries supported by this diocesan initiative, to hear “first-hand” about the good works happening throughout various communities, thanks in part to the annual donations offered up to the FaithWorks Campaign.

As a final note, the “FaithWorks Allocations Committee - (Anglican) Diocese of Toronto”, of which I am both a Committee Member now in my eleventh year as well as being elected by my FWAC colleagues last February for a three year term as the “Vice-Chairperson”, have commenced our group's once a week meetings during the months of January and February 2025, to review agency/ministry partners' funding request applications for the current year 2025. A final meeting to be held on Saturday, the 08th of February 2025, will determine the FWAC's decision for the “final financial allotment of available funds' to each of the fifteen (15) ministry partners plus another five (05) outreach agencies seeking financial assistance during the current year 2025. The FaithWorks Allocations Committee has been advised that our diocesan ministry's 2024 Campaign Goal of 1.5 million dollars was not only met last year but also was exceeded by an additional 3.41 percent! This amount of monies is a phenomenal sum of donated funds to be raised considering the “stressors of today's society” that include inflation, interest rates and local parish church's budget challenges each fiscal year.

Thank you, once again, for everyone's interest and support, along with your prayers, that continue to be directed towards this vital Diocesan-wide Ministry and its ongoing mission!

Respectfully Submitted,  
E.C. John Lindsay, ODT  
2024 FaithWorks Coordinator  
The Church of Saint Peter (Anglican), Cobourg

## **Sidespeople Team 2024**

Thank you to all of those who participated as sidespeople over the past year. It was a year of transition as we moved away from Covid restrictions in the Great Hall, to regular worship in the restored church.

There are currently 11 members of the sidespersons' team at 10:30, whose duties include: greeting parishioners at the front and back doors, taking up the offering and presenting it at the altar, and assisting parishioners at the steps to the altar when required.

The 8:30 service has two regular sidespeople who alternate weeks, greeting parishioners at the door, and providing assistance when necessary.

Special thanks to those who have stepped up to assist when there was a need for extra support.

In order to reduce the volunteer load of the sidespeople, more volunteers are urgently needed. If you are interested in joining the sidespeople team, please contact the church office.

Respectfully submitted,  
Susan and David Winfrow

## **International Outreach – St. Peter's Mzuzu Vestry Report 2024**

If you had a chance to read our recent January newsletter, you would appreciate how our Mzuzu team efforts are making a significant difference to the orphan children and young people who come to St. Mark's Anglican, Mzuzu, for nurturing and general support week by week.

Since 2005 our Canadian and Malawi teams have provided hands-on and financial support to over 1000 orphan and HIV/AIDS children in Mzuzu, and we continue with our feeding, health – dental and nursing -, education and skills training even as I write to you.

Paul Kamlaza and the parish Mothers Union volunteer teams provide day to day care as a true expression of the love of Jesus Christ.



One of our Canadian team, Lisa Bailey with her husband Ty went to Mzuzu in 2024 as our parish representatives and brought to the Mzuzu parish family and children a chance for the orphans, guardians, and church family to meet some of the Canadian team who send them financial support month by month. Lisa also provides additional critical sanitary support, through a private Foundation, in the building of over 100 latrines in the city of Mzuzu.

We have faced many challenges since start-up: over 90% of children had HIV/AIDS (now about 10%), and then the COVID pandemic. However, with the fine support of the St. Mark's volunteers and in the mercies of God, we believe many

children have been able to move ahead with their lives –at least until 18 years old. As in other years the children receive education about HIV, but they are also dependent on free healthcare support from nations such as Scotland and the USA. We pray that we may also be able to meet at least some of the children’s future needs.

I would remind our vestry readers to read the January 2025 newsletter. It is an excellent recent comprehensive report by Lisa Bailey.

Our thanks to our faithful donors, and hands-on teams. We have been blessed to have Paul Kamlaza as our MAOCP Mzuzu coordinator.

As a ministry of St. Peter’s Anglican, Cobourg we are grateful for the caring work of this parish and our senior ministry involvement.

Please continue to pray for the children and if possible, provide support where you are able.



#### Mzuzu Finances 2024

Revenues from donor and fundraising activities totaled \$41,370.00 for 2024. Expenditures were \$42,500.00, resulting in a slight deficit. Actual year-end bank balance was \$24,500.00.

Respectfully submitted  
Colin Turnpenney  
Mzuzu AIDS Orphan Care Program coordinator.

#### **St. Peter's Gardens – 2024**

*Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction, faithful in prayer – Romans 12:12*  
Above all else, be diligent with irrigation.

People spent time idling their cars in the parking lot this past summer. While watching birds, rabbits and squirrels feasting in a version of the biblical Feeding of the Five Thousand, motorists admired the gardens at the rear of 264 College Street. Tony Oomen and Trish Reid enlarged the bed around the birdbath to provide additional colour for their lovely wildlife sanctuary.

Susan Winfrow created bright pops of orange in the back garden by growing nasturtiums from seed, proving that her thumb is the greenest on our team.

Laura Lee Gale lined the steps to the veranda with pots of red geraniums and made us smile with the artificial roses she draped from the ceiling in the shape of a happy face. Mint plants on two sides of the veranda give ground cover to this shady area. Although mint is a natural flea repellent, we're grateful that passing dogs prefer to roll in squirrel droppings on the lawn.

Dave of Stegmayer Tree Service cut down two trees: a lilac that had fallen against a fence and a large sugar maple with a horizontal crack in its trunk. Tenant Don of 264 College Street worried about potential harm to his shed if the sugar maple came down in a windstorm. I offered to solve the problem by demolishing his shed. Don countered with an offer to slash my tires. We compromised with Dave removing the tree.

In early summer, our team welcomed Marny Mills who meticulously weeded the spirea bed located outside the door of the kitchen until her hand was impaled on a buried syringe.

An errant driver destroyed one of the white urns on the steps of the north entrance by backing into it. Marion Macpherson had an exact match of the remaining urn in her backyard, and we are thankful for her donation. Jackie Kirtley artfully arranged the tall winter greenery.



Sheep manure invigorated the shrubs outside the chapel hallway and two hybrid tea roses, Devotion and Ann Marie, drew admirers to the garden. Verbena plants provided colour and rabbit snacks.

Kay McLeod is in recovery from her stroke early in the year. Her garden was maintained by our gardening team with the hope that Kay can resume its nurturing when she is able. Of all her spring plants, the peony is most admired for its unique colour blend of henna and caramel apple. Kay purchased five varieties of sedum in August to form a border along the southwest corner of the garden. Bees, attracted by the heavily scented blooms of the purple butterfly bush, attached themselves to the pollen on my pants and sent me shrieking down College Street.

Two potted arrangements along College Street were stolen. The smaller arrangement was replaced with a raspberry-hued butterfly bush. It is hoped that the bees it attracts will encourage people fleeing the chapel through the emergency exit to move faster.

Items found at various times in the bushes along College Street included an acrylic painting, clothing, rubber tubing stripped from electrical wires, an artificial tree, a razor blade, eight syringes, two bongos, a hatchet, and a hammer. It was decided that none of these donations were in good enough condition to sell at St. Peter's yard sale.

Donations of an organic kind were found primarily around the chapel walls. We were surprised by the inventive use of hosta leaves for toilet tissue.

The annuals chosen for the Hutton Room's five beds were purple, pink, yellow, white, and blue and included osteospermum, lantana, dipladenia, scaevola fan flower and nemesia. They survived because we supplemented our incantations with watering.

Debbie and Alan Elder's garden was enhanced with Debbie's plentiful plantings of bright annuals and a thick layer of black cedar mulch. People savouring boxed lunches on the lawn during the June 1<sup>st</sup> House Tour kept exclaiming over its appearance. It also was appreciated by the July 1<sup>st</sup> celebrators who attended St. Peter's Strawberry Social. Even rabbits were impressed, choosing the Elders' garden for nesting their bunnies while snubbing our gift of rabbit repellent.

Over in the cemetery the McMillan family discovered a bird's nest at the base of the crab-apple tree. After watching Mama Duck for nearly a month, there was relief when she hatched seven ducklings and safely escorted them to the lake.

Pam McMillan's artistry and gardening skills were evident in the rectory gardens that provided a spectacular showing of huge mounds of pink impatiens against backgrounds of burgundy coleus in the summer and potted yellow chrysanthemums in the fall. The mums were the only indication that fall had arrived because Father Matt, aided by Molly and Dougal, removed every leaf from the lawn.

The garden in front of the cemetery's wrought iron fence featured its usual assortment of impatiens, begonia, coral bells, coleus, astilbe, purple coneflower, evening primrose, hosta, fern, and Solomon's seal. Newly added were two

floribunda rose bushes that must have been mislabelled White Licorice because their blooms smelled like lemons.

Two black iron urns were installed at the front entrance to the sanctuary and featured matching floral displays. Of the four sets of arrangements purchased throughout the season, the first two sets were lost to death by dehydration, the third set was fatally bitten by frost and the fourth set was sprayed with enough preservative that it should last through the winter.

Pedestrians and dogs were respectful of the landscaped garden around the electronic sign on King Street perhaps because the sign beams “God Bless You!” every twenty seconds.

*For the Lord God is a sun and shield; the Lord bestows favour and honour; No good thing does He withhold from those who walk uprightly. – Psalm 84:11*

He also rewards gardeners who toil on their knees with joy of purpose, rosy cheeks (could be sunburn) and deep appreciation for God's creation. How blessed we are in our ministry!

– Michal Loeprich



### **Heritage Cemetery of St. Peter**



The cemetery has been more active in 2024 than since Covid shut most gathering down. Two sold out cemetery tours were conducted in 2024 by Author, Historian Rob Mikel. Heritage Cemetery was also included in the ACO Tour held on June 1st.

The Cemetery Board has two new members: Rob Mikel and Jan Spragge. We are delighted to have Rob and Jan join the Board and bring new ideas and fundraising plans.

The Cemetery Board is looking to do some restoration work on the Mortuary Chapel. We would like to be able to use the Mortuary Chapel for small gatherings, funerals, etc. for those not requiring a large space. It would be available for a suggested donation.

We have some funds available through 2024 fund raising efforts. A donation was made to paint the Chapel floor. Some 2025 fundraising ideas are being planned.

Heritage Cemetery is self-supporting and does not receive funding from St. Peter's Church. If you wish to donate to the cemetery, cheque's must be payable to St. Peter's Church noting that it is a donation to the cemetery. St. Peter's Church would issue a receipt and transfer the money to the cemetery.



Heritage Cemetery has a tree replacement program and a Memorial Garden weekly plant program.

For information on these please call Brenda Cochrane or email [brenc036@gmail.com](mailto:brenc036@gmail.com)

Respectfully submitted,  
Brenda Cochrane  
Cemetery Board Chair

## St. George's Chapel and Cemetery

The chapel opened for Easter Sunday Communion service on March 31/24 with Fr. Michael Li officiating. Until his holidays in July, he presided at 2 services a month and morning prayer was held the remaining Sundays. On May 19th church was cancelled so members could attend the service at St. Peter's when we celebrated 50 years since Fr. Michael's Ordination to the Priesthood.

Rose Wood and Nancy Dalgarno travelled with Lynne Palmer to the AWARE conference at Pigeon Lake on the weekend of May 31st.

Our last service of the season was Sept. 15th.

The Bethlehem Walk, an outdoor edition of the Christmas Story was well attended on the 3rd Sat. and Sun evening of Nov. Many families have made it part of their Christmas tradition. We thank the folk in the village of Cold Springs for organizing this lovely event.

Our Christmas Eve service was one of lessons and carols. Fr. Stanley Isherwood helped us put the service together. It was called, 'THE ABCs OF CHRISTMAS' and the service ended with the children doing their pageant. Between 30-40 people attended. Fr. Stanley came to the service but couldn't participate as usual because he had eye surgery that week. We thank him so much for helping us out in a tight spot.

Updates on accomplishments:

- 1) The Sunday School windows have been replaced following the Oct 23rd break-in.
- 2) The bug man has successfully rid some of the window frames of carpenter ants.
- 3) The attic has been rewired following damage caused by squirrels. The wires were squirrel proofed. This also allowed the hook up of 6 video cameras around the outside of the chapel which required Wi Fi for surveillance purposes.
- 4) A new sign Board was installed by Cory Harris outside the gates for info re services & other events.
- 5) A big project coming up is the repair of a leak in the roof of the bell tower. Water is leaking onto the bell and the wooden planks that support it.

A meeting was held at the end of the year:

Mike Davis resigned due to ill health.

Nancy Dalgarno is the new deputy warden.

Katie Jane Harris is now in charge of the cemetery.

Cory Harris is our jack-of-all- trades and our official advisor r/e the upkeep of the chapel.

Special thanks to Kevin van Steijn for his wonderful care of the cemetery and to Rose Wood who helps out whenever asked.

The gift given to the chapel from my family for hiring a cleaning service every 2 weeks in the Summer has been a Godsend. Thank you so much for the great job you do Stacey. We so appreciate the work you do to keep it shiny.

And lastly, thank you to St. Peters for sponsoring us the past 12 years and to Eunice for keeping track of our finances. Our bank balance as of Dec 31, 2024, was \$36,103.81.

Blessings on you all,  
Submitted by Nancy Dalgarno



ANNUAL VESTRY REPORT  
ST. PETER'S ANGLICAN CHURCH  
2024

VESTRY SLATE



## St. Peter's Cobourg Vestry Slate for 2025

| Wardens            |                        |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
|                    | To Be Appointed        | To Be Elected          |
|                    | <i>Rector's Warden</i> | <i>People's Warden</i> |
| Senior Warden      | Colin Turnpenney       | Susan Winfrow          |
| Deputy Warden      | <i>Search Ongoing</i>  | Colleen Simon          |
| St George's Chapel | Nancy Delgarno         |                        |

| Appointments           |         |   |
|------------------------|---------|---|
| Treasurer              |         | Rick Stinson  |
| Board of Management    | Chair   | Suzanne Lawson  |
|                        | Members | Karen Stinson<br>Susan Winfrow,<br>Heather McGregor<br>Matt McMillan<br>Dave Toycen<br>Colin Turnpenney<br>Heather McGregor |
| Lay Delegates to Synod |         | David Smith<br>David Winfrow  |
| Sidespersons           |         | Cheryl Gould-Harvey   |
| Parish Tribunal        |         | Erica Beauchamp<br>Kay MacLeod  |

## Committee Chairs / Program Lead Contacts

| Committees or Programs               | Chairs                                     |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Bazaar and Tea                       | Jackie Kirtley                             |
| Book Fair                            | Karen Stinson                              |
| Cemetery Board                       | Brenda Cochrane                            |
| FaithWorks                           | John Lindsay                               |
| Gardens                              | Michal Leoprich                            |
| Greeters                             | Debbie Elder                               |
| Health & Wellness Team               | (Committee Searching For New Chair)        |
| Investment Team                      | Doug Beauchamp<br>Daphne King<br>Ian James |
| Men's Club                           | Ken Willcocks<br>John Winkworth            |
| Mzuzu Aids Orphans Program Committee | Colin Turnpenney                           |
| Pre-School - Chair of Board          | Colleen Simon                              |
| Property Committee                   | David Smith                                |
| SouperTime                           | Colleen Simon                              |
| St. Peter's Court                    | Brenda Cochrane                            |
| Sunday School                        | Jan Stapleton                              |
| TNL                                  | Jan Stapleton                              |
| Website                              | David Douglas                              |