

Annual Report for 2023



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Minutes

Minutes from Special Vestry Meeting-September 18th, 2022

**CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
SPECIAL VESTRY MEETING
Meeting Minutes
2:00 p.m. – Zoom Videoconferencing
Sunday, September 18, 2022**

A Special Vestry Meeting was held on Sunday, September 18 at 2:00 p.m. via Zoom to hear a report of finances year to date and predicted for the year end.

The deficit to the end of August was more than \$37k and was anticipated to grow by another \$30k. Reduced offerings for ministry since the pandemic are one reason for this deficit. Another is unplanned, but essential capital repairs around the building, including the refurbishment of the north fire exit and repairs to the main lift.

There was a healthy discussion concerning opportunities for building rentals, parish fundraising, as well as savings are available within the approved Ministry Budget from the last Annual Vestry Meeting.

Motion

It was MOVED by Mary Donkin and SECONDED by Michael Bowering,

- i THAT this vestry adopt the proposed ministry budget for the fourth quarter of 2022;
- ii THAT the churchwardens be authorized to make the draw from an investment funds outlined therein, and,
- iii THAT a capital campaign with the goal of raising \$30,000 for needed capital repairs be authorized and that all funds raised by used to replenish the Endowment Fund.

The motion was CARRIED.

The meeting was adjourned with everyone saying The Doxology together.

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Newbery, Vestry Clerk

Minutes from 2023 Annual Meeting

CHURCH OF ST. JOHN THE EVANGELIST
ANNUAL VESTRY MEETING
Meeting Minutes
Sunday, March 26, 2023

1. EVENING PRAYER

The Reverend Dr. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña, Interim Priest-In-Charge, opened the Vestry in prayer.

2. CALL TO ORDER

Leonel welcomed everyone to the meeting and thanked everyone for attending. The meeting was called to order at 2:15 p.m.

3. CONSENT MOTION

It was MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Mary Donkin,

1. THAT the published agenda within the circular be adopted; and
2. THAT all present be granted the privilege to address the meeting; and
3. THAT the written reports contained within the circular for this meeting now be received;
and
4. THAT this Vestry now ratify and confirm all decisions, agreements and documents entered
into and
5. THAT the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of March 6, 2022, be adopted as distributed.

It was noted the minutes of the Special Vestry held September 18, 2022, to hear a report of finances year to date and predicted for the year end were not included in the Vestry report. The corporation will follow-up on this.

The motion was CARRIED.

4. ELECTION AND APPOINTMENT OF PARISH OFFICERS

Nominees for Election in 2023:

Churchwarden: Mary Donkin was nominated to serve a two-year term. No further nominations from the meeting were received. Mary was acclaimed as Churchwarden.

Deputy Warden: Sue Newbery was nominated to serve a one-year term. No further nominations from the meeting were received. Sue as acclaimed as Deputy Warden.

Lay Delegate to Synod: Susan Little and Graham Cubitt were elected as Lay Delegate to Synod.

Alternate Delegate to Synod: Margaret Wilding was elected as Alternate Delegate to Synod.

Youth Delegate to Synod (multiple, aged 16 to 25): Miranda Pilcher was nominated to serve as Youth Delegate to Synod. No further nominations were received. Miranda was acclaimed as Youth Delegate to Synod.

Parish Council (no fixed number): Rebecca Sanfridson, Alex Urquhart, Wendy Leigh Bell, Charles Meeks, Norm Newbery, Sarah Wayland, Sharon Klassen, Sue Samson, Patti Troughton and Margaret Wilding.

No further nominations were received. It was **MOVED** by Susan Little and **SECONDED** by John Bowen that nominations be closed. The motion was **CARRIED**.

Announcements and Appointments:

Deputy Churchwarden (ex officio to Parish Council) (1 appointed by the Rector): Michael Bowering

Parish Council Members (appointments by the Rector): TBA

Vestry Clerk: Sue Newbery

Treasurer (appointed by the Corporation): John Loukidelis

Envelope Secretary Ruth Sutherland

Directors of Artaban Non-profit Homes:

Please note that Patricia Troughton is a member of the Board of Directors as a tenant representative.

Directors until 2023: Susanne Adams, Richard Woodward, Sue Samson

Directors until 2024: Mary Donkin

Directors until 2025: Margaret Wilding, Sharon Klassen and Alex Urquhart

Nominations for Election to the Board of Directors (to 2025, three vacancies): Susanne Adams, Richard Woodward, Sue Samson

5. ADOPTION OF MINISTRY REPORTS

It is **MOVED** by Bonnie Munn and **SECONDED** by Deborah Bowen, that the Ministry Reports contained in the circular for this Annual Meeting, having been received, now be adopted and approved.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

6. APPROVAL OF FINANCIAL REPORTS AND STATEMENTS FOR 2022

It is **MOVED** by Bonnie Munn and **SECONDED** by Deborah Bowen, THAT the financial reports having been received and presented be adopted and approved.

The motion was **CARRIED**.

7. APPOINTMENT OF AUDITING COMMITTEE FOR 2022 AND 2023

It is MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Margaret Wilding, THAT Parish Council be empowered to appoint an auditing committee for the 2022 and 2023 Financial Statements in accordance with the Canons and Policies of the Diocese of Niagara.

The motion was CARRIED.

8. APPROVAL OF THE PROPOSED MINISTRY BUDGET FOR 2023

It is MOVED by Deborah Bowen and SECONDED by Bonnie Munn, THAT the Ministry Budget for 2023 proposed by the Corporation, and approved by Parish Council now be approved by this Vestry.

The motion was CARRIED.

9. OTHER BUSINESS

- a. A motion to empower the Corporation to enter into site use agreements of less than three years.

It is MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Mary Donkin, THAT this vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years inclusive of all renewals

AND THAT this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:

- That the agreement may be terminated by Name of Church upon sixty days’ notice
- The lessee or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance

AND THAT if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization or approval resulting from it, the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara, it is understood that the Canons shall prevail.

The motion was CARRIED.

- b. A resolution to elect Directors for Artaban Non-Profit Homes Inc

IT IS MOVED by Mary Donkin and SECONDED by Susan Little,

THAT WHEREAS the Letters Patent and by-laws of Artaban Non-Profit Homes specify that the Church of Saint John the Evangelist shall at a meeting of Vestry nominate seven of the total of ten members of the Board of Directors of Artaban Non-Profit Homes, and that such nominees shall at the next Annual Meeting of Artaban Non-Profit Homes be duly elected as directors; and

WHEREAS the following Vestry members currently serve on the Board of Directors: Susanne Adams, Mary Donkin, Sue Samson, Margaret Wilding, Richard Woodward, Sharon Klassen, Alex Urquhart

WHEREAS it is deemed that Susanne Adams, Sue Samson and Richard Woodward's terms on the Board of Director's concludes in 2023; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following persons be elected as this Vestry's nominees to serve a three-year term beginning at the next Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Artaban Non-Profit Homes: Susanne Adams, Sue Samson and Richard Woodward.

The motion was CARRIED.

- c. A motion regarding withdraw from Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund

IT IS MOVED by Deborah Bowen and SECONDED by Michael Bowering,

THAT the corporation be authorized to withdraw \$4000 from the Parish Hall Capital reserve fund to partially pay for a sump pump expense.

The motion was CARRIED.

- d. A motion regarding additional signing officer.

IT IS MOVED by Deborah Bowen and SECONDED by Michael Bowering,

THAT Sue Newbery be added as a signing officer on the St. John the Evangelist Bank account.

The motion was CARRIED.

10. ADJOURNMENT

The Vestry meeting was adjourned.

11. CLOSING PRAYER

Leonel closed the meeting in prayer.

Annual Vestry Meeting Details

Sunday, February 25, 2024, 11:30 am in the Lidgley Room

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Call to Order
3. Consent Motion (Motion 1)
4. Election and Appointment of Parish Officers
5. Adoption of Ministry Reports (Motion 2)

6. Approval of Financial Reports and Statements for 2023 (Motion 3)
7. Appointment of Auditing Committee for 2024 (Motion 4)
8. Approval of the proposed Ministry Budget for 2024 (Motion 5)
9. Other Business:
 - a. A motion to empower the Corporation to enter into site use agreements of less than three years. (Motion 6)
 - b. A resolution to elect Directors for Artaban Non-Profit Homes Inc. (Motion 7)
 - c. A motion regarding signing officers. (Motion 8)
10. Adjournment
11. Closing Prayer

Motions

Motion 1: A Consent Organizing Motion

It is MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Mary Donkin,

1. THAT the published agenda within the circular be adopted; and
2. THAT all present be granted the privilege to address the meeting; and
3. THAT the written reports contained within the circular for this meeting now be received; and
4. THAT this Vestry now ratify and confirm all decisions, agreements and documents entered into and signed by the Corporation on behalf of the parish since the last Annual Vestry; and
5. THAT the minutes of the Annual Vestry Meeting of October 2022, March 2023, be adopted as distributed.

Motion 2: A Motion to Adopt and Approve Ministry Reports

It is MOVED by Sue Newbery and SECONDED by Deborah Bowen,

THAT the ministry reports contained in the circular for this annual meeting, having been received, now be adopted and approved.

Motion 3: A Motion to Adopt and Approve Financial Reports

It is MOVED Sue Newbery and SECONDED by Deborah Bowen,

THAT the financial reports having been received and presented be adopted and approved.

Motion 4: A Motion to Appoint an Auditor

It is MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Margaret Wilding,

THAT Parish Council be empowered to appoint an auditing committee for the 2024 Financial Statements in accordance with the Canons and Policies of the Diocese of Niagara.

Motion 5: A Motion to Approve a Ministry Budget for 2024

It is MOVED by Deborah Bowen and SECONDED by Sue Newbery,

THAT the Ministry Budget for 2023 proposed by the Corporation, and approved by Parish Council now be approved by this Vestry.

Motion 6: A Motion to Empower the Corporation to Enter Into Site Use Agreements of Less than Three Years

It is MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Deborah Bowen.

THAT this vestry authorizes the Incumbent and Churchwardens to consider and, if they deem it advisable, to approve leases, licenses, or space agreements of less than three years inclusive of all renewals

AND THAT this authorization shall extend only to agreements that include the following provisions:

- That the agreement may be terminated by Name of Church upon sixty days' notice
- The lessee or licensee shall provide proof of liability insurance

AND THAT if there is any conflict between this resolution and any authorization or approval resulting from it, the Canons of the Diocese of Niagara, it is understood that the Canons shall prevail.

Motion 7: A Resolution to Nominate Directors for Artaban Non-Profits Homes Inc.

IT IS MOVED by Michael Bowering and SECONDED by Susan Little,

THAT WHEREAS the Letters Patent and by-laws of Artaban Non-Profit Homes specify that the Church of Saint John the Evangelist shall at a meeting of Vestry nominate seven of the total of ten members of the Board of Directors of Artaban Non-Profit Homes, and that such nominees shall at the next Annual Meeting of Artaban Non-Profit Homes be duly elected as directors; and

WHEREAS the following Vestry members currently serve on the Board of Directors: Susanne Adams, Mary Donkin, Sue Samson, Margaret Wilding, Richard Woodward, Sharon Klassen, Alex Urquhart

WHEREAS it is deemed that Mary Donkin's term on the Board of Director's concludes at the end of 2023; and

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED THAT the following persons be elected as this Vestry's nominees to serve a three-year term beginning at the next Annual Meeting of the Corporation of Artaban Non-Profit Homes: Susanne Adams, Sue Samson and Richard Woodward.

Motion 8:

IT IS MOVED by Deborah Bowen and SECONDED by Michael Bowering,

THAT Michael Bowering be removed and Andrew Rampton be added as a signing officer on the St. John the Evangelist Bank account.

Leadership and Administration

The Rector's Report

My appointment as rector of St John's began on 1 January 2024. This means I do not have anything particularly helpful to say about the activities and events of 2023, for which I was not present. What I can say is that, even just six weeks in, St John's is an exciting place to be. The parish is warm and welcoming, full of genuine hospitality. The many ministries of the parish are led and lived with real care for the people and communities they engage. There is a desire for learning and growth as individuals and a community.

There are also, of course, challenges for the parish to consider. The discussions about these have all been approached with discernment, prayer, and concern for the whole. These challenges are held as opportunities to be considered with faith, rather than impossible roadblocks met with fatalism.

It has been an encouraging, hopeful, and joyous first six weeks and I am excited to see what God has in store for all of us in 2024.

I am yours in Christ,

The Rev. Andrew Rampton
Rector

Wardens' Report

Wardens' Report to Vestry, Feb. 9, 2024

This has been a busy but encouraging year as we have looked toward the future. Our main task in the first months after Vestry 2023, together with the other members of the Parochial Committee (Synod reps Graham Cubitt, Susan Little, & Margaret Wilding; outgoing warden, Bonnie Munn) was to collect and organize information for our [Parish Profile](#) under the direction of Archdeacon Terry DeForest, as we looked for a new rector. This was a big job and required quite a lot of committee meetings, but we felt that the final profile did represent St John's fairly. And it seems to have had the desired effect, in drawing to us a new rector we're feeling very happy about!

This process did mean, however, that some other of Corporation's tasks were on hold for a while. A couple of the wardens did attend online diocesan workshops on finances and on "Healthy Boundaries" for churches. We look forward now to getting back to our Mission Action Plan goals in a more deliberate way, to revisiting the Volunteer Committee's work, and to supporting the Stewardship Committee's plans and suggestions for moving forward.

Meantime, we were grateful for the services of Rev. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña as our interim priest from October 2022 through November 2023. Through a demanding 14 months with much to adjust to, Leonel served us faithfully, and brought a number of new ideas to our liturgies and our literature. When Leonel moved on to become rector of Church of the Ascension, Rev. John Stephenson's interim ministry with us over Advent and Christmas 2023 was much appreciated.

And then, of course, we were delighted to welcome Rev. Andrew Rampton as our new rector, with his first Sunday being January 7. Andrew's first few weeks have been a whirlwind of activity, with seven "welcome gatherings" and many other meetings, as well as all the regular services. We are very glad that Andrew and Adam are settled into their apartment on Aberdeen, within easy walking distance of St John's.

Other matters

1. Finances

There is a lot about finances elsewhere in our Vestry documents, so we'd just like to say here how grateful we are to those who have looked after our sometimes rather complicated finances this year: to John Loukidelis for his constantly thorough and careful work as our treasurer; to Ruth Sutherland, our long-serving envelope secretary; to those who count our collection regularly; and to Amylynn Loader in the church office.

2. Property.

The re-established Property Committee under Norm Newbery deserves our deep thanks for working on a number of projects this year, most recently the windows on the south side of the building and in the crypt.

Since October there has been a new computer in the sanctuary, thanks to a generous gift from Judith and Geoffrey Purdell-Lewis.

We continue to work on solving issues of doors and locks, particularly those that won't stay unlocked! We also continue to struggle with the problem of smoke and poor air quality in the Activity Centre, and are actively pursuing solutions for these issues.

Several groups are regular users of the Activity Centre, including a local AA group that meets here on Fridays and now numbers between 20 to 30 participants.

The church will also be participating in Doors Open Hamilton in early May, when we expect to welcome many visitors to our sanctuary.

3. Office etc.

We continue to be enormously grateful for the stalwart work and cheerful presence in the church office of Amylynn Loader, who is efficiency itself.

Website updates are in the pipeline, thanks to recommendations from Connor Jay for simplification and greater clarity.

Emma Cubitt and Cathy Tell have done fine work on decluttering the Parish Directory, and are actively encouraging us to update our information and photos there.

And a special "thank you" to Judith Purdell-Lewis, for her great work every week in putting together *Parish News*!

4. Missions and Outreach.

This focus of our church is back front-and-centre, after a quiet period largely as a result of COVID. The Indigenous Mapping Exercise in November, the potluck with Melrose United for St Matthew's House, and the PWRDF "Donkey to Bethlehem" fundraiser, geared towards children, are instances of this revitalization, as is the newly established Missions board at the back of the sanctuary.

We are also excited for the imminent arrival of an Afghani refugee family whom St John's hopes to be supporting in practical ways.

5. Music.

Thanks as always to Paul Grimwood for fine playing on the organ, and for leading our choir in such high standards of music for our choral services, as well as for other special occasions, like the presentation of Fauré's powerful Requiem in November.

We are also grateful to Eduardo Farias, who joined St John's as the Discovery service band leader in April 2023, and brings both musical skill and spiritual strength to that work. It was a particular delight to have the band so energetically represent St John's at UnLocked on Locke St. in August!

The concert program at St John's has been back under full sail this year; many thanks to the St John's volunteers who host these concerts, to Susan McKay who schedules the volunteers, and to Sue Samson for her work as concert coordinator.

6. Children's ministry.

Our Children's, Youth, and Family Ministries coordinator Daniela Cruz was on parental leave from February through August; many thanks to Susanne Adams and to parent volunteers for holding the fort in Daniela's absence. She has been back (with baby Clarissa!) since September and is working with a strong team of volunteer leaders.

Looking ahead, we hope that outreach to our children and to others in the community will also continue to grow through Susan McKay's fine work with the Children's Choir, and through a new program of regular parish events, spearheaded by Sharon Klassen.

7. Farewells and Welcomes.

Five much-loved senior members of the parish died during 2023; their funerals at St John's were significant and memorable events.

At the same time, we welcomed a number of new families to our services in 2023, and in the late summer saw three babies brought for baptism at the Discovery service.

Perhaps this is also the place to say "thankyou" to our greeters, our servers, and those on the sacristy guild. Your loyal and consistent work is much appreciated, and makes a significant difference to our weekly worship services, as well as to these special occasions.

And we would be remiss not to record here that in October Patti Troughton was this year's St John's recipient of the Order of Niagara in our diocese: many congratulations again, Patti, and thanks for all you do at St John's!

Many parishioners have expressed the sense that this is a time of opportunity for St John's. We have come through a season of rethinking some of our ways of doing things, and we are excited as we look forward to see what God will do in our midst in the next year under the leadership of our new rector Andrew. We pray that we will all be attentive to His Spirit as we move forward.

With gratitude to God and to our parish members,

Deborah Bowen, Rector's Warden
Michael Bowering, Deputy Rector's Warden
Mary Donkin, People's Warden
Sue Newbery, Deputy People's Warden

Parish Climate Justice Committee

Members: Norm Newbery (Chair)
Patti Troughton
Emma Cubitt
Barbara Ruttan

Our Parish Climate Justice Committee is intended to provide leadership for the parish in learning how we can reduce our family's carbon footprint and the footprint of the parish; communicate to the parish the guidance of our Bishop regarding climate change and to support efforts to encourage governments and businesses to develop policies and programs that will improve the quality of life for all people while rapidly expanding technical and natural solutions to buffer and reduce climate change.

Measures to mitigate and adapt to climate change need to touch all aspects of our lives and be implemented by governments and businesses in ways that are just and fair to all and ensure that all people are able to afford a dignified life with safe and secure housing; food; and educational and work opportunities. Everyone needs to be able to play a part in a new social movement that improves the quality of their lives; helps build a shared sense of community; reduces our dependence upon oil and chemicals that foul our environment including air, soil and water. Moreover, these programs need to be developed in such a manner that there is justice for all and a sense in which citizens can feel pride in what they have done to help others and to make our quality of life better.

Things we did in 2023

1. September: Prayer for Creation in the Season of Creation
2. A Saturday event in Stoney Creek to learn about opportunities to lower our church's carbon footprint. Learning about electrical generation in Ontario – and the challenge of developing green energy sources to replace our Nuclear Reactors while also increasing the amount of usable electricity that we have by more than a factor of 2. We learned about Heat Pumps and how they are the most promising way to heat and cool our churches in the future. Cold Climate Heat Pumps have been developed that will heat buildings in temperatures as cold as -30 Celsius.
3. A Lenten Study on Katherine Hayhoe's Book – "Saving Us"
4. Scheduling and organizing Monthly "Bees" where 7-10 volunteers would come for one hour per month to care for the Naturalized Water Diversion and Pollinator Garden to the east of the church on Locke St.
5. Teaching a program for the Youth Choir and the Sunday School in February in which the children planted seeds in clear plastic terrariums that were then sealed and placed outside so that the seeds could be 'stratified' to our Winter and be care for until seedlings developed
6. Providing input in June regarding ways to reduce our energy costs and carbon footprint by eliminating a 50 gallon natural gas hot water tank in the flat-roofed addition and replacing it with an highly insulated 4 gallon hot water tank beneath the sink in the sacristy that provides hot water almost instantly and at much lower cost.
7. Thanks to Barbara Ruttan who provided a resource section in Parish News about responding to Climate Change
8. Thanks to Emma Cubitt who connected us with people who are experts in identifying ways to eliminate gases and smoke from getting into the Basement Hallways and the Lidgery Room.

Submitted by Norm Newbery, Chair

Property Committee

Committee Members:

Norm Newbery, Chair

Graham Cubitt

Bruce Pilcher

Alex Urquhart

Sue Newbery, Deputy Warden

Summary of Property Issues and Work Completed:

The Property Committee made a careful survey of the condition of the exterior and interior of the Church and the Activity Centre in the Spring of 2023. A list of repairs was created and priorities were established based upon our best available information at that time. Jobs completed included the following items:

1. Scraping, sanding, priming and painting exterior windows and one door in the Flat Roofed Addition. The committee is grateful to Emma and Graham Cubitt, Peninah, Patrick, and two others who help scrape and paint the windows. Our original plan was to replace the windows with new windows. However, an excellent quotation from Pollard Windows that was provided in 2018 was for over \$25,000. A close inspection of the windows after scraping and sanding revealed almost no rot in the windows although there was some weathering due to a lack of paint. We decided to refurbish the windows. Some caulking is still needed on the exterior...as well as interior sealing and painting. Total costs for material were approximately \$500.00.
2. A sudden leak developed in the flat roofed portion of the same building. We were able to repair this ourselves with the work being done by myself (Norm Newbery) and Bruce Pilcher. We need to go back in the spring to paint a new seal that was added and to do some work to the flat portion of the roof to prevent water ponding. Again, materials have been purchased to do this work.
3. The leak in the flat roof also did considerable damage to the hardwood floor in the Sacristy. Several strips of hardwood lifter several inches. We had to wait over one month for the wood to dry out again. It was then possible to reattach the hardwood using finishing nails.
4. Painting materials were purchased for the Lidgey Room in order to take advantage of an offer from the AA group it paint it. The work was delayed because of an unexpected leak from an apartment above that poured through the ceiling as well as inspections to determine the source of the smells that were entering church entry hall and basement from the Artaban Apartments. The painting should be completed soon.
5. Brackets were installed to stiffen the railing on the north side of the stairs to the chancel.

6. A new hot water tank for the sacristy was installed by myself and Graham Cubitt after the existing natural gas hot water tank was 'condemned' by technicians servicing it. A 4 gallon electric water heater was placed beneath the sink in the Sacristy saving nearly \$300 next to the cost of replacing the oversized and ancient water heater in the furnace room on the east wall of the flat roofed addition. This measure reduced our annual gas usage as well as our cost of operating it.

Due to a shortage of financial resources repairs were restricted to jobs that volunteers could do themselves. The only exception were jobs requiring specialists including repairs to the Elevator to the gym, sump pumps and the exterior doors on Locke St.

The hinges for the main entrance door broke off when a concert was occurring in the church. Some fast thinking led to the door being closed off until an emergency temporary repair could be done by the Lock Hut. They followed up the next week by installing new hinges as well as installing locking bolts to take up some of the play in the doors closest to Locke St.

Respectively submitted by Norman Newbery, Chair.

Ministries of Christian Formation, Nurture, and Care

Pastoral Visiting

2023 Pastoral Visiting Vestry Report

Under the direction of the Interim Priest in Charge, Leonel Abaroa-Bolona and John Stephenson, we (Susan Little and Patti Troughton) are entrusted to visit members of our parish who are unable to join Sunday or mid-week worship.

While this ministry often takes place in a retirement home or long-term care setting, most of our visits occur in a parishioner's home. Sometimes we make hospital visits. With the last wave of COVID in 2023, our in-home visits took different forms, reflecting the changes around us. Until the summer of 2023, we were confining home communion to bread only. We were grateful to institute both kinds (bread and wine) once the Fall began. Life was seeming to be returning to 'normal' but we always had proof of vaccinations and masks with us, just in case. We made visits primarily to long-term care homes every month to six weeks for most of our shut-ins and visited hospitals only a few times.

Each personal visit always includes a recent order of service so they can connect with what is happening and stay in touch. Although each person is different, they often like to recall some part of their experience at St. John's and share it with our willing ears. It is always heart warming to hear their stories and reminiscences. It is always time well spent.

At Easter and Christmas, we deliver seasonal goodies and notes to remind our parishioners how much their parish family misses them on these holidays. Through the intervening months, we maintain regular contact through notes and cards as well as the weekly telephoning following the Parish Cycle of Prayer. (Patti telephones the people mentioned in each week in the Prayers of the People). Sometimes, a parishioner is unable to meet with us due to appointments or unwellness but we have usually managed to rearrange a visit and share communion with them. Our persistence is always rewarded with heartfelt appreciation. They know that although they are absent, they are not forgotten.

Beyond the work the two of us do, there are parishioners who continue to do pastoral work by routinely keeping in touch with members of our parish family who have been unable to come to church. Several people have been doing such special care long before the pandemic and continue to do so. Like good brothers and sisters, they have been reaching out and trying to maintain relationships from 'normal' times together. Such people among us are precious because they continue to share in the lives of people they know and people whom we all miss. Thanks be to God for those who continue to take the light of Christ into lives of others. This is what being 'family' is all about!

By the conclusion of 2023, we lost a few special friends whom we have visited regularly throughout the last few years and even beyond. It was always a special privilege to share Communion with them when they were in better health. As their health diminished, we were grateful to visit them. Now, as they enjoy the closer presence of God, we give thanks for their lives and example. Moreover, we give thanks that we have been able to represent you, our parish family, throughout this time. We remain humbly grateful to have served them on your behalf.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Little

Prayer Chain

A wonderful team of intercessors have been praying regularly. The prayer requests are kept private and confidential. Many prayers have been offered and it is always encouraging to hear how God has answered our prayers and how profoundly lives are touched. Every request or need is carefully and lovingly received. The prayers are sent out electronically to the persons on the Prayer Chain.

To request prayers, you can call or email the Rector or Susanne Adams.

Respectfully submitted,

Susanne Adams

susanneadams@rogers.com

Bibles and Bagels :

Bibles and Bagel's Vestry Report 2023

We are a women's Bible study group. At the present time there are 7 of us in this group, meeting every other Saturday to study God's word. We meet in the Lidgery Room from 10:00 am until 11:30 am.

We use a study guide with our Bibles, learning from the Bible readings, questions, and from each other. Study guide topics range from studying about people from the Bible and religious related topics. Come and join us over a cup of tea / coffee, and enjoy our fellowship, while studying God's word.

Adrienne Devins

Saturday Stuff For Guys

We are a group of men who meet every other Saturday at 10:am in the Church Cafe.

This is an informal bible study where our focus is studying the appointed bible readings for the following Sunday service. The format is simply to read each passage and then share our thoughts and insights about each reading. It's amazing what you can learn from others!

Hal Devins

Be Hive

Throughout 2023, five members of the BeHive small group bible study met bi-weekly to study scripture, learn, pray and grow. Building on the foundation of servant leadership, this group completed three texts from InterVarsity Press together.

In the first part of 2023 we completed the study "Praying and Listening", reminding us of prophets and leaders who embodied the values of Christian character and discipline. We were able to build on the foundational practices which the Revive course had introduced to our community in 2022. Then we studied "Apostles' Creed" giving us several opportunities to consolidate our grasp of the faith by methodically exploring and discovering areas of the gospel which the creed recites. We were awed by the fact that each Sunday we share the same words that people throughout the centuries have used to express their faith.

Our final book study "Songs from Scripture" we examined nine lyrical texts ranging from Hebrew to Apostolic declarations about God as our lives recount creation, suffering, redemption and triumph. We examined their poetic and musical qualities, revealing an eternal truth each conveys. Overall, this study helped us to experience worship in a new and fresh way, appealing to our emotions, intellect and will to fully worship God.

Our study sessions always conclude with prayer, remembering what needs are present among the members of St. John's community as well as the needs of our members. Since we meet on ZOOM, we feel blessed to be able to gather in any kind of weather. We feel blessed to be able to gather so that we can challenge one another, finding joy and growth in our discussions and study. Our greatest challenge continues to be saying the Doxology – together – and we are getting better with each session!

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Little

We welcome new members. contact information is found here <https://www.rockonlocke.ca/what-we-do/small-groups>

Good Book Club

8:30 - 10:00 am, Saturday mornings – online

Members: Deborah Bowen, Kate Connely, Emily Hill, Adele Konyndyk, Judith Purdell-Lewis, Katie-Scalett Macgillvary, Tamara Watson, Sarah Wayland, Margaret Wilding, Lynda Winter.

During the pandemic lockdown our wonderful twice-a-month Saturday morning bible study for women, Bibles and Bagels began meeting online. Since we had nothing to do, we met weekly. We did not use our usual format of following a study guide, but settled on Lectio Divina using the

Sunday gospel reading.

Although we are all now busy post lockdown, we have continued with this format. We note with amusement that we are 4 years into this pattern, as we see the lectionary readings repeating now.

We had to get a new name this year because the original Bibles and Bagels resumed meeting!

We are lucky in having several members with workplace zoom accounts that allow this practice.

We select a leader and a zoom host for each week. In addition to the bible readings, we hear our friends' prayers of gratitude and supplication, and writing them down, promise to remember these prayer requests throughout the week.

We have several members who are St. John the Evangelist Alumni, but who continue to join us. We rarely have everyone present, with generally 4-6 women attending.

Although we have noticed that the lectionary has returned to the 2020 readings of Year B, we often remark that the stories we re-read and discuss continue to bring light and life in new and surprising ways.

We welcome the Holy Spirit and delight in the time we all spend together.

We welcome new members! Please contact any of the women listed above, a Warden or the Rector if you have any questions about the Good Book Club!

Submitted by Margaret Wilding

Middle Ground

Middle Ground is a small group that met for fellowship, study and prayer biweekly in 2023. With 13 in the group, generally 8 to 12 gathered on Sundays at 6pm. We met in church, in homes and twice in the garden at St. Peter's Hospital so that Geoffrey and Judith Purdell-Lewis could join in. We broke bread together, which often was as simple as soup and bread and as amazing as freshly cooked pizza and a full Thanksgiving dinner. After we ate, with much laughter and sharing of our joys and sorrows, we studied; Galatians in the spring and studies based on the TV series, The Chosen, in the fall. The evenings always ended with prayer.

During 2023 as a group we cared for each other at other times with prayer and practical help. In June a number of us joined to pray for a former member, Barb Edwards and then participated in the memorial service for her. A few months later the group gathered in the St. Peter's chapel to pray for Judith and her family as Geoffrey was in palliative care upstairs. At his Welcome Home Celebration, the group participated in the service and supported the family by catering and hosting the reception. We welcome new members. contact information is found here <https://www.rockonlocke.ca/what-we-do/small-groups>

Parish Activities

Parish events had a slow start in 2023. There were plans for a parish walk in May or early June but wildfire smoke intervened.

The events for the year began in the fall with what has become an annual picnic at the Dundurn Castle Pavilion Sept. 10. About 50 parishioners of all generations gathered for lunch, conversation, watermelon, and fun blowing bubbles, showing off egg balancing skills in an egg and spoon obstacle course race and competing in a

sack race. Penninah jumping in a sack in a skirt and heels was particularly impressive, especially since sack races were new to her.

At the end of November we held an Advent Crafts and pay-what-you-can spaghetti supper attended by a mix of families from both inside and outside the parish and other St. John's folks. Children and adults made cards, advent countdown paper chains and other Christmas crafts. It was a great chance for people to get acquainted across generations and services.

Our events calendar for 2024 begins Feb. 11 with a parish skate at the Pier 8 rink and other events are in the planning stages, including our parish picnic Sept. 9 (please mark your calendars!). Other possibilities include:

- A Lent/Easter craft and supper event
- Games night(s)
- Spring walk
- Quiz night
- Advent crafts
- Christmas song karaoke

I would like to thank the wardens and Daniela Cruz for their support and encouragement, as well as the many parishioners who have helped with events this year, including Susanne Adams, Linda Palmer, Bruce and Miranda Pilcher, Sue Samson, Patti Troughton, Felicia Van Dyk and all the wonderful folks who show up on the day willing to lend a hand.

If you are interested in helping out with any of the events listed above, please connect with me at church or get in touch!

Sharon Klassen

Prayer Team

The Prayer Team is a group of faithful people possessing the gift of intercessory prayer who lift up prayers on behalf of individuals who have specific needs or thanksgivings while also lifting up the unspoken needs of the rest of our parish. When the health protocols improved sufficiently to allow Prayer Team to return to its regular pattern last April, both the Discovery and the Choral Service began their regular offering of intercessory prayer.

Throughout the summer months, Prayer Team said goodbye to one member who was moving away from Hamilton and welcomed two new people onto the Team. The Team welcomes new members to join this powerhouse of prayer; such people should practice the regular discipline of personal prayer and feel comfortable in offering prayer aloud in a quiet setting, in response to individual prayer request. This happens at each public worship service in the Baptistry during communion.

Members of the Prayer Team are highly committed to the power of prayer in their own lives and in the lives of others. They serve the needs of St. John's family each week and look forward to sponsoring prayer events for the parish in early 2024.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Little, Susanne Adams

Co-ordinators, Prayer Team

Refugee Committee Report for the Annual Vestry

Barbara Ruttan

Parish Committee Members – Barbara Ruttan (Overall Coordinator) Sarah Wayland, Elizabeth Steeves, Susanna Adams, Emma Cubitt, Andrew Rampton (Ex Officio)
Community Committee Member - Sara Gilliam

The Refugee Committee of St. John's is working closely with the Venerable Bill Mous, the diocesan Executive Officer to coordinate the successful settlement of the Akbari family from Pakistan who are originally from Afghanistan.

There is a detailed Settlement Plan in place which provides a framework for the successful integration of this family to Hamilton. The necessary actions are extensive and include matters relating to Finances, Housing, Household Furnishings, Clothing, Health, Transportation, Employment and Recreation.

Presently, the family have all their required documentation in order and are scheduled to fly from Pakistan to Canada, February 20, 2024.

The funds raised so far are \$32,000.00. There is a place on the church website for more ongoing donations using this direct link to the Diocese of Niagara:

<https://niagaraanglican.ca/refugee-support/how-to-donate>

Donors are directed to change the 'designated for' box from regular giving to 'other' and indicate St. John's Hamilton Sponsorship in line below to track donations. If donors are writing cheques, the memo line should say "Refugee Sponsorship - St. John's Hamilton."

The primary task of the Committee presently, is to find a permanent two-bedroom rental which is preferably located close to a school, park, and the public transportation system. Sarah Wayland and John Loukidelis have generously offered to house the family temporarily when they arrive if necessary. There has been a positive response with parishioners offering various household items and articles of clothing. An inventory is being maintained.

New members to the Committee are welcome.

Hearts and Minds

*"You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind."
(Matt. 22:37)*

Purpose: An informal group, meeting monthly on a Friday evening,
to hear member of the congregation or community respond to the key question,
"How do you live out your faith through your daily life and work?"

Hearts and Minds is in its 12th year, after being restarted in the summer of 2012. This group enables us to share faith journeys in an intimate setting, as well as often acting as a catalyst for new experiences or ministries. Since there is no expectation to attend regularly, most people choose to attend based on the specific topic of the evening; this makes for a variety in attendees, and we see this as a good way of

fostering community between different groups.

We enjoyed offering most of our sessions in person this past year, with a potluck when we were able.

Sessions during 2023:

January: Josie Rudderham - running a small business, 'Cake and Loaf'

February: Bryan Webber - fundraising as a Christian

March: Daryl Wilson, On Attending the COP conference and Climate change

April: Sharon Millar from Canterbury Hills Camp Ministry

May: Anthony Siegrist from A Rocha Hamilton

June: H&M Planning Potluck at John and Deborah's house.

no meeting July and August

September: Travelling the Camino d'Santiago with Susan Little

October: cancelled due to illness, rescheduled for Feb 2024

November: "Mapping the Ground we Stand On," PWRDF, Cheryl Marek & Bruce Weaver

December: Shanika Thomas, on working as a midwife with 'Doctors without Borders' in Bangladesh

Attendance ranged from 10 to 30 people, consisting of SJE members and some visitors from beyond St John's. The committee is responsible for organizing the schedule for the year, promoting the sessions, communicating with speakers and hosts, facilitating the sessions, and thanking the speakers.

Our committee said farewell to Adrienne Devins this year after her many years of work. We welcomed Elizabeth Steeves to the group. The committee currently consists of Deborah Bowen, Rebekah Little-Parkinson, Elizabeth Steeves, and Jenna Wilson. Tamara Watson designs our bookmarks and posters.

Jenna Wilson - on behalf of the committee.

Little Library

St John's Church Library

<https://www.rockonlocke.ca/programs/st-johns-church-library>

When we first posted a notice about the church library in the rockonlocke.ca website a little over a year ago, we were able to boast that we had "over 350 books" on the shelves. I just checked our online catalogue on the "Library Thing" website and, even without factoring in a number of children's books not presently in our catalogue, we now have 578 books—enough, in fact, that a couple of weeks ago, we had to add an extra bookshelf to accommodate them all!

The books are on a wide selection of topics related to Christian belief and the Christian life. Books are a great way to learn more about our faith and grow in our relationship to God.

After all, if a famous spiritual leader like Henri Nouwen were coming to speak at St John's, we would all want to be there, even if it meant paying for a ticket. But borrowing a book by Henri Nouwen from the library means you have Henri Nouwen in your home for up to three weeks—for free!

Here you will find books ranging from some on “the big questions” of faith all the way to the Narnia stories, and from books to help us understand the Bible to books on the spiritual life. It’s a great selection!

Books may be borrowed for three weeks, and there is a little notebook on the library shelves where you can sign them out (and in again). If you would like to see what we have in stock, or to check titles by a particular author, or a specific book title, the catalogue is online here:

<http://www.librarything.com/catalog/Rockonlocke>

If you click on “Your books,” you will see all the titles we have. If you then click on “tags,” you will discover what our present categories are, or click on “authors” if you want to know what books we have by any given writer.

So, next time you are enjoying your after-church coffee in the crypt, why not take a few minutes to browse the shelves and see if something catches your eye? As we seek to keep on learning and growing in our faith, books are a great gift.

*John Bowen
for the library team*

Concerts

Concerts have been a bit slow restarting after our long shutdown as performers may have found other venues in the interim, but we do have one regular concert series booked in every month (thank you Hammer Baroque). We also now have some other groups booking events and you will find more information on upcoming concerts on the concert tab on the church webpage.

Thank you to our many volunteers who show up to host concerts. It is because of you that we are able to keep our rental fees for performers low enough that musicians can afford to rent our space and still make some income.

If anyone is interested in volunteering for the concerts, please contact Sue Samson, the concert coordinator or Susan McKay the volunteer coordinator. The music is always excellent and it is a gift to be able to share our space with and welcome in the community.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Samson on behalf of the concert committee members, Mary Donkin, Steve McKay, Debbie Rudderham and Susan McKay

Hospitality

Hospitality time has been a wonderful time after each Service as more of our Parishioners are returning back to Church. It is a time for Fellowship and being with other Parishioners.

The Hospitality Team would especially like to thank all of our Baker's for our treats each week. If you would like to bake for us there is a sign up sheet above the table.

It is our pleasure each week to serve the Parish Family.

The team is Gayle, Linda, Ruth and Patti and sometimes Sue.

Submitted by Patti Troughton

Stewardship Committee

Stewardship happens when we recognize God's generosity and respond by committing ourselves and our possessions to the service of God. This includes financial giving as well as offering our time and talents (volunteering).

The Stewardship Committee focuses on the people of St John's and works throughout the year to cultivate gratitude and grow spiritual understanding of our place in creation.

As a parish, 2023 was a time of limbo (emerging from a pandemic and waiting for a new rector), yet our parish family continued to act with generosity in supporting each other and engaging outside our community.

Over the past year, this committee has shepherded two other working groups, one focused on volunteer management and one on financial stability.

The year began with follow-up on some aspects of the successful Gift Day campaign which officially ended on December 31, 2022 after raising a total of \$58,880 from about 50 donor households. Thank you notes were written by Stewardship and Gift Day team members to all contributors.

The committee offered a **Lenten book study** again this year, focusing on one of Bishop Susan's local author selections: The Reverend Canon Martha Tatarnic's [Why Gather?](#) Many thanks to Susan Little and Leslie Muirhead for leading this study. Eight people participated in the online group discussion sessions, plus two more people preferred in-person sessions with Susan.

An **online session on Legacy Giving** was offered on June 7 and was attended by about nine parishioners. The session consisted of a presentation from Parish Treasure John Loukidelis, followed by questions and some discussion. The presentation covered why it is important to have a will, power of attorney, and how to reduce taxes on an estate, including via charitable giving. Notes from the session are available upon request. The Stewardship Committee is open to suggestions of topics to present in future workshops.

November featured **two sermons on stewardship**. The November 5 sermon by Diocesan Stewardship Advisor Dr. Drew MacDonald focused on Drew's personal testimony, including why he tithes. A November 19 sermon by Sarah Wayland focused on the parable of the talents and how the term which was once used to refer to money now encompasses a broader definition that accords with the notion of stewardship.

With input from the Corporation, the committee sent out a **parish mailing in late October**. Parishioners were requested to return pledges for 2024 on or before Reign of Christ Sunday which marked the end of the church year. The number of pledging households increased from 27 to 30, and several new households signed up for pre-authorized giving. By contrast, requests for offering envelopes is declining. Many parishioners give regularly but do not take the step of pledging. St John's has about 60 donor households.

Special Christmas envelopes were available in the pews during Advent, thanks to efforts of Susanne Adams and Amylynn Loader. The committee worked to insert some giving options into seasonal bulletins, recognizing that many people do not carry cash but may wish to donate. It is hoped that this information can be added to bulletins and worship slides in the coming year.

Members of the Stewardship Committee are Sarah Wayland, Susan Little, Peter Van Dyk, Graham Cubitt, and Kate Connolly. Kate stepped down at the end of the year after a number of years as our faithful secretary, and we thank her for her dedicated service and many hard-hitting questions. The Rector is an ex-officio member of the committee and is invited to all meetings.

Report submitted by Sarah Wayland

Volunteer Resources Implementation

This working group functions as a subset of the Stewardship Committee. Members are Kate Connolly, Leslie Muirhead, Joan Urquart, and Sarah Wayland. Kate stepped down at the end of the year and will be missed.

The team has spent considerable time compiling job descriptions to meet diocesan standards. 53 job descriptions have been developed or re-formatted using the template required by the Diocese. A mandatory parish report to the diocese was submitted in the spring. A spreadsheet of all volunteer roles and who is occupying them has also been developed.

Volunteer Appreciation Sunday was held on June 4 and entailed recognition of parish volunteers at the 9:30am and 11am services. More than 50 volunteer positions were called out by category, and volunteers were asked to stand as their own volunteer positions were named. Prayers and worship music included some focus on volunteering as well. All volunteers were given a small token of appreciation at the end of the service. Several additional volunteer job descriptions were added based on feedback from the services.

Positive and negative comments were received about recognizing volunteers. It is hoped that the recognition process raised awareness of the many possible volunteer roles in the parish and possibly motivated people to volunteer in the coming year.

A Volunteer Ministry Fair took place on Sunday, October 15 in the Lidgey Room. Tables were organized using the same headings found in our Diocesan Report: Worship and Christian Life, Music Ministry, Children and Youth Ministry, Congregational Care and Nurture, and Church Committees and Mission Reps. Volunteers who currently hold the positions were asked to provide a representative to be on hand to answer any questions. A handout listing all the volunteer opportunities was available. There was some recruitment of needed volunteers, and the fair was generally well attended. As a first effort, it was viewed as a success.

The team has drafted a **revised Code of Conduct document for St John's**. We requested a meeting with Shannon MacKenzie, the new HR and Volunteer Co-ordinator at the Diocese, to have her review the draft code of conduct and volunteer agreement form.

Report submitted by Sarah Wayland

Financial Sustainability Working Group

This ad hoc working group was created to identify various means of generating financial sustainability. The working group will focus on three main areas: Fundraising; Grant writing; and Property rental. Our

goal is stability so we can be the church in mission and ministry for the Locke St community in the coming decades.

Ideally, the working group has a representative from each of the following: Corporation, Stewardship Committee, and Property Committee. Members at the present time are: Mary Donkin, Graham Cubitt, Emily Hill, Steve McKay, and Felicia Van Dyk. Sarah Wayland has been acting as scribe. This group has met three times in 2023, in July, November, and December.

Rentals. If any space is rented out in the building, we would seek tenants that fit with our vision of creating a community hub that fills gaps and supports enterprises that share our values. Also, anchor tenants are preferred over occasional rentals as they would provide a steady income stream with less administration. Examples that fit with our assets (lack of parking and lack of outdoor play area) are nursery school, adult day away, respite care, and bike repair.

We have many capital needs in our building. A use-of-space audit of our building confirmed that most rooms are not used very often. We would like to better purpose underutilized space to generate revenue to invest in the building. The gym could be improved by erecting cupboards at one end to store tables and chairs. The crypt space could be further opened up (more walls removed, drop ceiling removed) to make it less cramped. The two small classrooms under 1950s addition used to be one room – could the wall be removed? A decennial inspection will happen in 2024.

The working group aims to build on threads from the MAP process to make recommendations to Corporation in 2024 for rentals and future use of space in our building.

An immediate recommendation to Corporation was to update rental prices (which haven't changed since 2014) and to create an accessible pricelist and post it on the parish website.

Fundraising. We envision one or two events per year that tie in with our values, for example a sustainability focus around the rain garden, partnership with a local restaurant, or Christmas tree and plant sales. We could use proceeds for something environmental for own parish, e.g., garden renovation/greening the space or Indigenous or Bruce Trail. We could run it with a bigger partner and split the proceeds.

Grants. There are a number of possibilities. We are looking to St Jude's Oakville and to the Diocese for some guidance and welcome other members of the congregation with grant writing experience or interest.

Submitted by Sarah Wayland

2023 Niagara Diocesan Synod Report

On Saturday, November 4, 2023, the 149th Session of Synod for the Diocese of Niagara was convened via Zoom for its delegates, clergy and laity, as well as diocesan staff members. From 9 a.m until 12:30 we heard reports from many committees which form the foundation of our institutional church. There were the usual changes in canons, the acceptance of people into new roles on the committees that keep the wheels of church business

rolling and functioning smoothly. The Bishop's Charge, her annual speech to propel us into service, was as powerful as ever. She challenged us to attract new people by reaching out in creative ways. She also reminded us to not forget those who are still with us. She concluded by asking us to be noticed and known in our communities as a place where people can connect with God.

In terms of other reports, of main interest to us at St. John's was the focus on the Mission Action Plan. Centring on the Diocesan vision, "Called to Life - Compelled to Love" we looked at three priorities in our diocese which reflect our Diocesan Mission Statement which states, "Ignited by the irresistible love of Jesus and renewed by the Holy Spirit, we partner with God to deepen faith, share stories and care for God's world." These three priorities are what we at St. John's have tried to reflect in our Mission Action Plan. Here the diocesan priorities: 1. Create and implement opportunities to ignite and strengthen faith 2. Reimagine diocesan culture and adapt our structures to enable ministry strategies 3. Prioritize Social Justice action with an emphasis on Environmental Justice. Although the diocesan plan expresses these general objectives, our own parish Mission Action Plan reflects each of these three, with specific targets in mind. The important part of a Mission Action Plan is to make us intentional about putting into place strategies to enrich the lives of our own people and the communities surrounding us. Check with our parish MAP committee for more details.

Another interesting feature of this Synod session were three Missional Moments scattered throughout our time together. They focussed on concrete examples of new life abounding in Niagara. One was how property has been repurposed to serve local needs. Another was the report from General Synod held in July 2023 focussing on greening our institution. The final Missional Moment featured the work of missionaries integrating ministry in different settings – one was with a Chinese community and another in the middle of an inner city downtown population. These examples brought home the challenges and issues we need to deal with in ministering to people different from ourselves. We were encouraged by such vivid examples.

Another engaging topic was a project being launched the Anglican Communion. All across the globe, our interest in climate justice has resulted in this exciting way of reforesting our lands. Watch for more details on the Anglican Communion Forest Initiative coming soon to Niagara.

Although Synod was generally a quiet business meeting, it made us reflect on what we can be doing to bring life and hope and love to our world. From the beginning to the end, we prayed and sang together (yes, even on Zoom!). Through budgets, reports and presentations, inspiring moments still happened and we enjoyed representing you, our parish, as your delegates.

Respectfully submitted

Susan Little, Margaret Wilding

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

Children, Youth, and Family Ministry

I have been blessed to be back as the Children, Youth, and Family Coordinator at St. John's after the birth of our lovely Clarissa and my maternity leave. It is great that our lovely volunteers were able to keep the work going in the meantime.

It is such a pleasure to see that we have many young children at St. John's! During the year of 2023, we planned our activities and Bible storytelling to be accessible to our precious little ones. Also, our Discovery Service Band Leader, Eduardo Farias, has been singing songs with the kids regularly at the beginning of our Children's Church.

The contributions of our Children's Choir conductor, Susan McKay, and of our faithful volunteer Susanne Adams, were crucial to helping to put together our own Christmas Pageant, which was presented at our sanctuary on December 10. One important note about the Children's Choir during the year: it was great to see that, even though many of the members of the choir are not involved directly at St. John's, many were happy to come to Children's Church in days when they were going to sing at one of the services.

In addition to the Christmas pageant, we joined a fundraising initiative from PWRDF, which aimed at buying donkeys to families in need in Kenya. It was great news when we learned that we were able to raise enough money to give one donkey to a family in need!

My biggest hope for this ministry is that, with the grace of God, we will continue to share the love of Jesus with the little ones, get bigger kids engaged and families connected, building community and being Church together.

Respectfully submitted by Daniela Cruz.

Our Life of Worship

Choral Music

Report of the Organist and Choir Director

2023 has been a year in which it has been a privilege to offer praise to God at The Church of St John the Evangelist.

It has been another unusual year, although Covid no longer has quite the same impact on church life.

The choir had returned in 2022, and carried on with services and rehearsals for 2023. At the Easter service we welcomed guest musicians Mary Jay and Shawn Spicer, trumpet; Courtney Prizrenac, horn; Janice Owens, trombone; and John Brownell, timpani. It was thrilling to make music again with these fine musicians from the Hamilton Philharmonic Orchestra.

The season ended in June with a choir get together at my place on a lovely summer afternoon. Standing over a barbecue added to the enjoyment! It was great to see some of our Junior Choir singers and their parents as well.

September brought a resumption of music making, and it seemed as if we were back to normal, with Leonel Abaroa Boloña as our priest-in-charge. Leonel had established himself as a great favourite with the choir and with me. However, his time finished at the end of November, when he became the new Rector at the Church of the Ascension. John Stephen was with us for the month of December, and was well-liked.

In November, for Remembrance Day, we sang the Fauré Requiem, again with a full choir. We were grateful to Tim Burns for acting as Crucifer, and for his reading of the Roll of Honour. Leonel joined us as well reading the lessons: we were all pleasantly surprised to see a very full church.

The Carol Service in December was another pleasant occasion, and the choir sang well. It is always enjoyable putting together a blend of new and familiar items, and this year seemed to be well received. Another great congregation was wonderful to see, and hear.

I would also like to thank Susan McKay, and our Junior Choir. They lift our spirits whenever they sing. Susan has been tireless in keeping this group singing during the pandemic, and we cannot all be grateful enough for her dedication, and the children's music-making. This season, the choir has grown to about fifteen children.

The announcement was made at the end of the year that The Reverend Andrew Rampton would be our new Rector, arriving in January. Andrew has a musical background, and is already well liked. I very much look forward to working with him.

2023 brought some challenges, but I am grateful, week after week, working with these dedicated singers.

Paul Grimwood

Children's Choir

Children's Choir Vestry Report 2023

The last year has seen continued growth in this outreach Ministry. Of the 15 children who sing in the choir, 7 are members of the church; the other 8 are members of the community. The age range is from 4-10 years. The children learn about God and Jesus through songs. While developing musical skills, our focus continues to be on the choristers' ministry to touch the hearts of those listening and draw them closer to God and Jesus.

The children hosted a Bring A Friend Night on Thursday, Feb. 2. They planned this event and invited friends to share the choir experience. Through the winter and spring, the children sang on 6 Sundays. On Palm Sunday, they sang *Siyahamba* while processing around the church. Some of our choristers joined the adult choir on Easter Day, singing a pentatonic Alleluia. We held a Children's Choir Concert on May, 11. We finished the choir season for the spring with a certificate to celebrate each child's accomplishment.

In the fall, we held a We'll Cook for You choir family event. We got to know each other over soup, sandwiches and apple crisp! Musically, we began to focus on small solo groups and harmony with our experienced choristers. We sang at services in October and November, then began to prepare for our musical Pageant, *The First Christmas*. The choir sang six songs, wore costumes, took on acting roles and were readers. We performed this pageant at a joint service on Sunday, Dec. 10th.

As the new year began, we saw changes to our choir team. We said thank you and goodbye to Miranda Pilcher and Sharon Klassen. We welcomed Kelly McKinney to join Emma Reilly McKay as choir leaders. Duncan McKay and Ranen Thomas became youth leaders. In the fall, Hal Devins had to step down as our long-time friendly greeter and we welcomed Dave McKay in that role. I am very thankful for the special gifts that each person contributes to our program. In addition, we appreciate the generous support of Paul Grimwood and Eduardo Farias with beautiful accompaniments for the choir.

It is a great joy for us all to watch the children grow in their faith and their musicianship. All children in Junior Kindergarten and older are most welcome to join us!

Respectfully submitted by Susan McKay

Worship Band

I started working with the Worship Band at St. John the Evangelist in April. This Ministry has the important task to assist in the worship at the Discovery Service. Its mission is to provide accessible hymns and songs for congregational worship and, as we do that, encourage a variety of people to play and sing with the band, and to minister to one another as we make music together.

The band has been blessed with a core group of members: Margaret Wilding, Susanne Adams, Sue Samson, and Lynda Jane Southon have been pillars in this Ministry, along with Aaron Jones, who has been with us for a few years now. As we move forward, we have been scouting for people who are willing to share their musical talents with the congregation, even if that is not on a regular basis. Such approach has allowed us to have the addition of a fiddle in a couple of services, of a violin in one, and the beautiful sound of the harp in one of our Christmas services!

We have introduced about 10 new songs to the congregation, besides keeping well-known new and old tunes. Also, the band made sure we included hymns in occasions in which there was only one service on a Sunday, in order to also invite our friends who attend the more traditional service to sing with us.

I am thankful for the gifts that all the singers and instrumentalists bring to our Worship Band, and also for the immense support from our congregation. We aim at giving our little contribution, and end up receiving so much in return!

Respectfully submitted by Eduardo Farias.

Ministries of Outreach

Artaban Non-profit Homes

(Artaban 2023)

Artaban Non-Profit Homes Inc.

Artaban Non-Profit Homes Inc. is a non-profit company created by the parish to develop and operate Artaban Place, the 29 unit residence adjacent to the Church. The name “Artaban” is derived from the name of the protagonist in Henry Van Dyke’s book, *The Fourth Wise Man*, and was adopted as the name of an Anglican summer camp operated in the Dundas Valley from the late 1930s to the late 1960s. This parish had a principal role in the building and operation of that camp, and the name Artaban represents our strong tradition of faith and service.

While the company is legally separate from the Church, the majority of the directors are members of the parish. The day -to -day operations are administered by a property management firm, presently Active Management Ltd., of Burlington; (TAG Management).

The directors meet monthly to review the management of the facility and to provide oversight and policy direction.

As a housing provider in receipt of public funds, Artaban Place does not make private discriminations in the provision of housing, and residents do not have to be members of the congregation. A large number of our apartments provide specially adapted living facilities: 12 are barrier free, 3 have adaptations to assist people with visual impairment and 3 to assist people with hearing needs. Artaban Place provides rent-geared-to-income

housing on a tight, non-profit budget. To apply to be a resident of Artaban Place, applications for housing are available at Hamilton Housing.

Superintendent lives on site: Randy Langille

Artaban Non- Profit Homes Inc. Board members: Susanne Adams, Mary Donkin, Tammy Huitema, Sharon Klassen, Sue Samson, Bill Tibball, Patricia Troughton, Alex Urquhart, Margaret Wilding, Richard Woodward.

Submitted by Susanne Adams, Chair

Missions and Outreach

Missions and Outreach: report to Vestry, February 2024

At St John's there are many individuals who give time and support to all kinds of outreach and missions. There are also eight missions and outreach opportunities that Vestry has particularly mandated us to support as a parish. Here they are, with the parish reps' names and contact info:

Hamilton Out of the Cold	Tom Fleming fleming@judymarsales.com
Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti	Hal & Adrienne Devins toleafs8@gmail.com
Indwell	Graham Cubitt graham@indwell.ca
Micah House	Barbara Ruttan brruttan14@gmail.com
Migrant Farmworkers Project	Susan Little salittle208@gmail.com
Mission to Seafarers	Tamara Watson tea4tamara@gmail.com
Primate's World Relief & Development Fund	Deborah Bowen dcbowen@redeemer.ca
St Matthew's House	Elizabeth Steeves esteeves74@gmail.com

Over the last year we have been working towards reinstating an annual missions-and-outreach schedule at St John's. We now have a designated "Missions and Outreach" board at the back of the sanctuary, and a focus on two missions each month from September through June.

In the focus month of a particular mission, the parish rep. is encouraged to provide a brief commentary for *Parish News*, and to give a brief announcement about that mission in our worship services. We pray for that mission in our prayer intentions, and relevant literature is pinned up on the bulletin board.

Of course, if an urgent need arises in any of the missions at a different time of year, or in another area of concern to the congregation, we will make space for that to be raised with the congregation too, as was the case this fall with the diocesan outreach to Kenyan asylum-seekers, and is ongoingly over the winter months at the Cathedral Café for the unhoused & those in need of respite. St John's is also presently actively involved in a refugee resettlement opportunity, and Barbara Ruttan is our representative there.

The annual schedule for 2023-24 looks like this:

September 2023	General introduction to all St John's missions and outreach projects
October	Primate's World Relief and Development Fund
	Mission to Seafarers
November	St Matthew's House

	Hamilton Out of the Cold
December	Micah House Indwell
January 2024	Primate's World Relief and Development Fund Hamilton Out of the Cold
February	Hôpital Albert Schweitzer, Haiti Migrant Farmworkers Project
March	Mission to Seafarers St Matthew's House (+ Fresh Produce Project with Melrose United)
April	Migrant Farmworkers Project
May	Indwell Micah House (+ Missions Lunch?)*
June	[as needed]

*We hope this spring to reintroduce the tradition of the Missions Lunch, with invited speaker. Watch this space!

With gratitude to God for the Good News we have to share --

*Deborah Bowen
Warden for Missions and Outreach*

Income-Tax Clinic

2023 was the 15th year that we have had a Volunteer Income Tax Clinic at the parish. We were fortunate to have four volunteers from the community in addition to myself. They were John McBrien, Norm Newbery, Nicky Humphries and Harold Wilson. We completed about 100 tax returns in the year for low-income residents of our city. That number was down somewhat from 2022. We continue to operate virtually, for the most part, but we hope to run an in-person clinic some Saturday in April, 2024.

Most of the individuals for whom we prepare returns do not end up owing tax. The returns are still important to them, however, because they can't get certain benefits without filing a return. Examples include the Climate Action incentive and the HST rebate. Other agencies require a CRA notice of assessment (a document issued to a taxpayer when he or she files a tax return) as evidence of income. For instance, Hamilton Housing requires a notice of assessment to determine whether someone is eligible for a rent subsidy.

The tax clinic received a grant from the CRA that is intended to defray clinic expenses. The grant money was paid to the parish. The clinic, however, did not incur significant expenses in respect of the 2022 tax year, and so the clinic will likely not apply for funding this year. Instead, the clinic will use the money "left over" from the previous year's grant.

Submitted by John Loukidelis

Statistical Report

Average worship attendance	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
All Sunday services	116	125	-	61	90
Wednesday Eucharist	9	9	-	5	5
Livestream views	-	146	52	>15 each	N/A

Designated Sundays & Holy Days	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Easter	187	-	-	78	141
Christmas Eve	178	-	-	107	113
Pentecost	109	-	-	55	96
2 nd Sunday in September	98	-	24	67	68

Number of Services	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Eucharist	200	58	46	132	183
Matins or other Morning Service	5	65	12	3	1
Evensong or other Evening Service	2	4	2	3	3
Baptism	3	-	1	1	3
Weddings	4	1	1	0	0
Funeral or Burial	2	4	-	2	3

Other Statistics	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023
Eligible Voters at Annual Vestry	117	120	96	114	118
Identifiable Regular Financial Contributors (families)	117	116	97	75	79
Identifiable Contributors	139	169	153	105	TBD
Children Newborn to 4	6	4	-	-	4
Children Aged 5-11	15	6	-	-	12
Children Aged 12-18	13	4	-	-	2
Youth Group Junior High	4	4	-	-	-
Youth Group High School	6	2	-	-	-
Adult Baptisms	-	-	-	-	-
Children Baptisms	5	-	1	2	3
Confirmations	7	-	-	-	-
Persons received	2	-	-	-	-
Parish member weddings	4	-	-	-	-
Non-Parish member weddings	-	1	1	-	-
Parish member funerals	2	4	-	2	2
Parish non-member funerals	1	2	-	-	1

Report of Nominations and Appointments

The Corporation acted as a nominations committee.

Further nominations will be received even from the floor of Vestry; however, it is always better to be prepared. Please feel free to speak with a churchwarden, or the rector if you would like to make further nominations. Unless the nomination is received through these channels in advance, the nominator and nominee must be present at the Vestry meeting for the nomination to stand.

Continuing in Office in 2024

Deborah Bowen, year 2 of 2. (Rector's Warden)

Mary Donkin year 2 or 2 (People's Warden)

Sue Newbery 2 of 2 (Deputy People's Warden)

Susan Little and Margaret Wilding (Synod delegate year 2 of 2)

Sarah Wayland, *ex officio* (Stewardship chair),

Norm Newbery, *ex officio* (Climate Justice and Property)

Nominees for Election in 2024

Youth Delegate to Synod (multiple, aged 16 to 25): open

Parish Council (no fixed number): Connor Jay, Judith Purdell Lewis, James Steeves, Felicia VanDyk, Sharon Jones, Sharon Klassen, Patti Troughton, Sue Samson

Announcement of Appointments

Deputy Churchwarden (*ex officio* to Parish Council) (1 appointed by the Rector): TBD

Parish Council Members (appointments by the Rector): TBA.

Vestry Clerk (appointment by the Corporation): Sue Newbery.

Treasurer (appointment by the Corporation): John Loukidelis

Envelope Secretary: Ruth Sutherland

Directors of Artaban Non-profit Homes

Please note that Patricia Troughton is a member of the Board of Directors as a tenant representative.

Directors until 2024: Mary Donkin,

Directors until 2025: Margaret Wilding, Sharon Klassen & Alex Urquhart.

Directors until 2026: Susanne Adams, Richard Woodward, Sue Samson.

Nominations for Election to the Board of Directors (to 2027, one vacancy): Mary Donkin

Financial Reports and Statements

Statement of Financial Position (Balance Sheet)

Church of Saint John the Evangelist Statement of Financial Position

As of December 31, 2023

	Total			
	As of Dec. 31, 2023	As of Dec. 31, 2022 (PY)	Change	% Change
Assets				
Current Assets				
Cash and Cash Equivalent				
Capital Account			0.00	
1004 Capital Account - Chequing	0.00	31.85	-31.85	-100.00%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Capital Account	0.00	31.85	31.85	-100.00%
Credit card security account			0.00	
1007 Raffle Account - Chequing	5,002.67	5,000.17	2.50	0.05%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total Credit card security account	5,002.67	5,000.17	2.50	0.05%
Operating Account			0.00	
1001 Operating Acct - Chequing	32,109.03	51,114.56	-19,005.53	-37.18%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Operating Account	32,109.03	51,114.56	19,005.53	-37.18%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	37,111.70	56,146.58	19,034.88	-33.90%
Accounts Receivable (A/R)				
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	1,358.00	260.00	1,098.00	422.31%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	1,358.00	260.00	1,098.00	422.31%
1010 Endowment Fund	95,053.70	60,547.82	34,505.88	56.99%
1014 Rectory Fund	217,816.35	205,076.40	12,739.95	6.21%
1015 General investment fund			0.00	
1011 Memorial Fund	1,703.67	1,522.81	180.86	11.88%
1012 Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund	4,830.91	4,318.08	512.83	11.88%
1013 Organ Restoration Fund	2,923.90	2,613.51	310.39	11.88%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total 1015 General investment fund	9,458.48	8,454.40	1,004.08	11.88%
1019 GST Rebate Receivable	1,667.91	-1,337.52	3,005.43	224.70%
1020 PST Rebate Receivable	4,339.89	12,622.33	-8,282.44	-65.62%
Uncategorized Asset	75.00		75.00	

	\$	\$	\$	
Total Current Assets	366,881.03	341,770.01	25,111.02	7.35%
Total Assets	366,881.03	341,770.01	25,111.02	7.35%
Liabilities and Equity				
Liabilities				
Current Liabilities				
Accounts Payable (A/P)				
Accounts Payable (A/P)	6,460.20	8,119.17	-1,658.97	-20.43%
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	6,460.20	8,119.17	1,658.97	-20.43%
Credit Card				
2001 TD Visa credit card	839.79		839.79	
Total Credit Card	839.79	0.00	839.79	
2007 Capital Fund	0.00	6,712.85	-6,712.85	-100.00%
Total Current Liabilities	7,299.99	14,832.02	7,532.03	-50.78%
Total Liabilities	7,299.99	14,832.02	7,532.03	-50.78%
Equity				
3001 Opening Balance Equity	306,877.68	306,877.68	0.00	0.00%
Retained Earnings	20,060.31	27,199.74	-7,139.43	-26.25%
Net income for the year	32,643.05	-7,139.43	39,782.48	557.22%
Total Equity	359,581.04	326,937.99	32,643.05	9.98%
Total Liabilities and Equity	366,881.03	341,770.01	25,111.02	7.35%

Church of Saint John the Evangelist
Statement of activities
January - December 2023

	Total			
	Jan - Dec. 2023	Jan - Dec. 2022 (PY)	Change	% Change
INCOME				
Donations to Designated Funds			0.00	
4006 Donations to Capital Fund		2,250.00	-2,250.00	-100.00%
4007 Donations to Memorial Fund	700.00	1,425.00	-725.00	-50.88%
Total Donations to Designated Funds	700.00	3,675.00	2,975.00	-80.95%
Interest Earned on Investments			0.00	
4045 Endowment Fund, Interest	8,505.88	-6,770.61	15,276.49	225.63%
4048 Rectory Fund, Interest	23,739.95	-22,932.23	46,672.18	203.52%
4049 General Investment Fund, Interest	1,006.58	-945.15	1,951.73	206.50%
Total Interest Earned on Investments	33,252.41	30,647.99	63,900.40	208.50%
Non Profit Income	1,408.50	532.00	876.50	164.76%
Offerings			0.00	

4001 Envelope, Online, and Other Identifiable Donors	90,849.08	133,522.47	-42,673.39	-31.96%
4002 Preauthorized Giving (PAG)	114,760.00	118,023.30	-3,263.30	-2.76%
4003 Other Offerings	2,152.10	7,598.45	-5,446.35	-71.68%
4004 Loose Offerings	4,122.14	2,995.91	1,126.23	37.59%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Offerings	211,883.32	262,140.13	50,256.81	-19.17%
Receipts from Parish Activities			0.00	
4010 Fundraising			0.00	
4011 Bazaar (Pies, crafts, calendars)	-117.73	-132.00	14.27	10.81%
4012 Shopping Cards	938.85		938.85	
	\$	-\$	\$	
Total 4010 Fundraising	821.12	132.00	953.12	722.06%
Other Income from Parish Activities			0.00	
4014 Rentals	601.51	2,660.00	-2,058.49	-77.39%
4015 Concerts	2,759.59	849.84	1,909.75	224.72%
4020 Forward Day by Day	-168.35	-42.00	-126.35	-300.83%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Other Income from Parish Activities	3,192.75	3,467.84	275.09	-7.93%
Outreach Income		97.50	-97.50	-100.00%
4016 RDF Support (Rector discretionary fund)	640.00	1,270.00	-630.00	-49.61%
4018 Outreach Support (other)	225.15	500.00	-274.85	-54.97%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Outreach Income	865.15	1,867.50	1,002.35	-53.67%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Receipts from Parish Activities	4,879.02	5,203.34	324.32	-6.23%
Transfers from Investments and Grants			0.00	
4025 Transfers from Endowment Fund		-4,148.25	4,148.25	100.00%
4027 Transfers from Rectory Fund Growth	0.00	14,442.84	-14,442.84	-100.00%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Transfers from Investments and Grants	0.00	10,294.59	10,294.59	-100.00%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total Income	252,123.25	251,197.07	926.18	0.37%
	\$	\$	\$	
GROSS PROFIT	252,123.25	251,197.07	926.18	0.37%
EXPENSES				
Bad Debt		2,630.00	-2,630.00	-100.00%
Facilities			0.00	
5046 Capital Furnishings or Equipment		949.50	-949.50	-100.00%
5047 Furnishings and Equipment	1,052.80	387.56	665.24	171.65%
5048 Organ repair and maintenance	227.47	162.93	64.54	39.61%
Building Maintenance	0.00		0.00	
5043 Elevator Maintenance and Fees	4,095.48	2,834.23	1,261.25	44.50%
5044 Regular Maintenance	16,890.75	15,086.86	1,803.89	11.96%
5045 Capital Maintenance		3,845.78	-3,845.78	-100.00%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Building Maintenance	20,986.23	21,766.87	780.64	-3.59%
Utilities	0.00		0.00	
5040 Heating	4,997.96	3,934.24	1,063.72	27.04%
5041 Water	478.24	757.48	-279.24	-36.86%

5042 Hydro	5,531.33	4,428.92	1,102.41	24.89%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total Utilities	11,007.53	9,120.64	1,886.89	20.69%
	\$	\$	\$	
Total Facilities	33,274.03	32,387.50	886.53	2.74%
Ministry and Worship			0.00	
5001 DM&M	42,512.74	43,538.28	-1,025.54	-2.36%
5002 Synod Delegate Fee		142.50	-142.50	-100.00%
5003 Community Marketing	220.36	50.00	170.36	340.72%
5004 Children's Ministry	613.58	959.52	-345.94	-36.05%
5005 Youth Ministry	163.91	100.00	63.91	63.91%
5006 Worship Supplies & Resources	2,163.35	1,986.24	177.11	8.92%
5007 Worship Music Expense	2,208.92	3,797.69	-1,588.77	-41.84%
5008 Outreach Committee	88.65	277.53	-188.88	-68.06%
5009 Hospitality and Christian Growth	1,856.81	8.77	1,848.04	21072.29%
5010 Volunteer Expenses, Miscellaneous	191.88	184.33	7.55	4.10%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Ministry and Worship	50,020.20	51,044.86	1,024.66	-2.01%
Office and Administration			0.00	
5030 General Office Expenses	8,195.26	10,916.77	-2,721.51	-24.93%
5031 Bank Fees and Interest	608.21	1,478.65	-870.44	-58.87%
5032 Insurance	18,158.88	18,461.19	-302.31	-1.64%
5033 Other Miscellaneous Office and Admin	1,935.95		1,935.95	
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Office and Administration	28,898.30	30,856.61	1,958.31	-6.35%
Outreach Disbursements			0.00	
5012 Refugee Expenses		392.76	-392.76	-100.00%
5013 RDF Remittance		840.00	-840.00	-100.00%
5014 Outreach Disbursements, Other	250.00	2,587.47	-2,337.47	-90.34%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Outreach Disbursements	250.00	3,820.23	3,570.23	-93.46%
Purchases		94.82	-94.82	-100.00%
Salaries and Benefits			0.00	
5020 Rector's Salary	38,902.93	55,847.28	-16,944.35	-30.34%
5021 Housing Allowance	15,103.00	19,806.80	-4,703.80	-23.75%
5022 Administrator	10,269.60	5,802.19	4,467.41	77.00%
5023 Organist and Choirmaster	15,823.80	15,156.42	667.38	4.40%
5024 Discovery Service Music Director	11,382.99	8,846.28	2,536.71	28.68%
5025 CPP/EI/WSIB	501.89	7,790.91	-7,289.02	-93.56%
5026 Pension & Benefits	14,280.24	19,684.20	-5,403.96	-27.45%
5027 Employee Absense Coverage		1,682.15	-1,682.15	-100.00%
5029 Other Employment Expense		3,668.89	-3,668.89	-100.00%
5035 CYFM Coordinator	4,984.00	23,995.17	-19,011.17	-79.23%
	\$	\$	-\$	
Total Salaries and Benefits	111,248.45	162,280.29	51,031.84	-31.45%
Transfers to Investment Funds			0.00	
5050 Transfers to Endowment Fund		500.00	-500.00	-100.00%

5052 Transfers to Memorial Fund		3,605.65	-3,605.65	-100.00%
5055 Transfers to Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund		2,675.20	-2,675.20	-100.00%
Total Transfers to Investment Funds	\$ 0.00	\$ 6,780.85	\$ 6,780.85	-100.00%
Total Expenses	\$ 223,690.98	\$ 289,895.16	\$ 66,204.18	-22.84%
OTHER INCOME				
Prior period (formerly CEWS)	4,210.78	31,558.66	-27,347.88	-86.66%
Total Other Income	\$ 4,210.78	\$ 31,558.66	\$ 27,347.88	-86.66%
NET INCOME	\$ 32,643.05	\$ 7,139.43	\$ 39,782.48	557.22%

Church of Saint John the Evangelist 2024 Budget

	2024 Budget	2023 Actual	2023 Budget
INCOME			
Donations to Designated Funds			
4006 Donations to Capital Fund			-
4007 Donations to Memorial Fund		700.00	0.00
Total Donations to Designated Funds	\$ 0.00	\$ 700.00	\$ 0.00
Interest Earned on Investments			
4045 Endowment Fund, Interest	3,802.16	8,505.88	0.00
4048 Rectory Fund, Interest	8,712.64	23,739.95	0.00
4049 General Investment Fund, Interest	378.32	1,006.58	0.00
Total Interest Earned on Investments	\$ 12,893.12	\$ 33,252.41	\$ 0.00
Non Profit Income	-	1,408.50	532.00
Offerings			
4001 Envelope, Online, and Other Identifiable Donors	100,000.00	90,849.08	135,000.00
4002 Preauthorized Giving (PAG)	170,000.00	114,760.00	120,000.00
4003 Other Offerings	3,000.00	2,152.10	3,000.00
4004 Loose Offerings	3,000.00	4,122.14	2,500.00
Total Offerings	\$ 276,000.00	\$ 211,883.32	\$ 260,500.00
Receipts from Parish Activities			
4010 Fundraising			
4011 Bazaar (Pies, crafts, calendars)	-	-117.73	0.00
4012 Shopping Cards	2,500.00	938.85	0.00
Total 4010 Fundraising	\$ 2,500.00	\$ 821.12	\$ 0.00
Other Income from Parish Activities			
4014 Rentals	2,000.00	601.51	3,000.00
4015 Concerts	3,000.00	2,759.59	800.00

4020 Forward Day by Day		-168.35	
Total Other Income from Parish Activities	\$ 5,000.00	\$ 3,192.75	\$ 3,800.00
Outreach Income			
4016 RDF Support (Rector discretionary fund)	1,000.00	640.00	1,000.00
4018 Outreach Support (other)	500.00	225.15	500.00
Total Outreach Income	\$ 1,500.00	\$ 865.15	\$ 1,500.00
Total Receipts from Parish Activities	\$ 9,000.00	\$ 4,879.02	\$ 5,300.00
Sales of Product Income			
Transfers from Investments and Grants			
4025 Transfers from Endowment Fund	-		
4026 Transfer from Capital Fund	-		
4027 Transfers from Rectory Fund Growth	-	0.00	12,000.00
Total Transfers from Investments and Grants	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 12,000.00
Total Income	297,893.12	\$ 252,123.25	\$ 278,332.00
GROSS PROFIT	\$ 297,893.12	\$ 252,123.25	\$ 278,332.00
EXPENSES			
Bad Debt			
Facilities			
5046 Capital Furnishings or Equipment			
5047 Furnishings and Equipment	1,000.00	1,052.80	1,000.00
5048 Organ repair and maintenance	250.00	227.47	700.00
Building Maintenance			
5043 Elevator Maintenance and Fees	3,500.00	4,095.48	2,900.00
5044 Regular Maintenance	17,000.00	16,890.75	17,000.00
5045 Capital Maintenance	20,000.00		20,000.00
Total Building Maintenance	\$ 40,500.00	\$ 20,986.23	\$ 39,900.00
Utilities			
5040 Heating	5,500.00	4,997.96	4,000.00
5041 Water	600.00	478.24	800.00
5042 Hydro	6,000.00	5,531.33	7,000.00
Total Utilities	\$ 12,100.00	\$ 11,007.53	\$ 11,800.00
Total Facilities	\$ 53,850.00	\$ 33,274.03	\$ 53,400.00
Ministry and Worship			
5001 DM&M	41,549.54	42,512.74	44,000.00
5002 Synod Delegate Fee	160.00		160.00
5003 Community Marketing	300.00	220.36	300.00
5004 Children's Ministry	2,500.00	613.58	2,500.00
5005 Youth Ministry	750.00	163.91	1,400.00
5006 Worship Supplies & Resources	2,500.00	2,163.35	2,500.00
5007 Worship Music Expense	2,500.00	2,208.92	3,700.00

5008 Outreach Committee	150.00	88.65	150.00
5009 Hospitality and Christian Growth	2,200.00	1,856.81	2,000.00
5010 Volunteer Expenses, Miscellaneous	200.00	191.88	200.00
Total Ministry and Worship	\$ 52,809.54	\$ 50,020.20	\$ 56,910.00
Office and Administration			
5030 General Office Expenses	9,500.00	8,195.26	9,500.00
5031 Bank Fees and Interest	1,000.00	608.21	1,500.00
5032 Insurance	18,885.24	18,158.88	18,105.00
5033 Other Miscellaneous Office and Admin	9,000.00	1,935.95	0.00
Total Office and Administration	\$ 38,385.24	\$ 28,898.30	\$ 29,105.00
Outreach Disbursements			
5012 Refugee Expenses	-		0.00
5013 RDF Remittance	2,000.00		2,000.00
5014 Outreach Disbursements, Other	5,000.00	250.00	5,000.00
Total Outreach Disbursements	\$ 7,000.00	\$ 250.00	\$ 7,000.00
Purchases			
Salaries and Benefits			
5020 Rector's Salary	52,287.00	38,902.93	62,000.00
5021 Housing Allowance	22,713.00	15,103.00	20,000.00
5022 Administrator	13,000.00	10,269.60	10,000.00
5023 Organist and Choirmaster	16,615.00	15,823.80	16,200.00
5024 Discovery Service Music Director	15,750.00	11,382.99	10,368.00
5025 CPP/EI/WSIB	8,400.00	501.89	7,980.72
5026 Pension & Benefits	21,200.00	14,280.24	20,163.76
5028 Professional Development	1,800.00	0.00	0.00
5027 Employee Absense Coverage	1,700.00		1,700.00
5029 Other Employment Expense	500.00		507.00
5035 CYFM Coordinator	11,200.00	4,984.00	14,040.00
Total Salaries and Benefits	\$ 165,165.00	\$ 111,248.45	\$ 162,959.48
Transfers to Investment Funds			
5050 Transfers to Endowment Fund			
5052 Transfers to Memorial Fund			
5055 Transfers to Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund			
Total Transfers to Investment Funds	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00
Total Expenses	\$ 317,209.78	\$ 223,690.98	\$ 309,374.48
OTHER INCOME			
Prior period (formerly CEWS)		4,210.78	
Total Other Income	\$ 0.00	\$ 4,210.78	\$ 0.00
OTHER EXPENSES			
Reconciliation Discrepancies		0.00	
Total Other Expenses	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00	\$ 0.00

NET INCOME

-\$ 19,316.66

\$ 32,643.05

-\$ 31,042.48

St John the Evangelist 2023 investment accounts

The following supports journal entry 0535 made as of Dec 31/23

General investment fund

	# units	Statements value	
Beginning balance	245.359	8,454.40	Opening balance agrees to QB
Ending balance	245.359	<u>9,458.48</u>	
		1,004.08	

No deposits or redemptions per statements

Balances of sub-funds	Begin	Income	End
1011 Memorial fund	1,522.81	180.86	1,703.67
1012 Parish Hall	4,318.08	512.83	4,830.91
1013 Organ restoration	<u>2,613.51</u>	310.39	<u>2,923.90</u>
	8,454.40	1,004.08	9,458.48

4049 General investment fund interest 1,004.08

Endowment fund

	# Units	Cost	Value	
Beginning	1,757.186	60,547.81	60,547.81	Agrees to QB

April 30, 2023 purchase	<u>708.569</u>	<u>26,000.00</u>	
	2,465.755	86,547.81	
Ending value			95,053.69
1010 Endowment fund		8,505.88	
4045 Endowment fund interest			8,505.88

Rectory fund

Beginning	5,951.619	205,076.40	Agrees to QB
Feb draw	(28.079)	(1,000.00)	
Mar draw	(28.062)	(1,000.00)	
Apr draw	(27.253)	(1,000.00)	
May draw	(27.833)	(1,000.00)	
June draw	(27.311)	(1,000.00)	
Jul draw	(26.926)	(1,000.00)	
Aug draw	(26.979)	(1,000.00)	
Sep draw	(27.956)	(1,000.00)	
Oct draw	(28.226)	(1,000.00)	
Nov draw	(26.754)	(1,000.00)	
Dec draw	<u>(25.941)</u>	<u>(1,000.00)</u>	
	5,650.299	194,076.40	

Ending value per statement	217,816.35	
Ending value per QB	195,076.40	
1014 Rectory fund	23,739.95	
4048 Rectory fund interest To record rectory fund income		23,739.95
Accounts receivable (from Diocese)	1,000.00	
1014 Rectory fund To record December withdrawal not received until January, 2024		1,000.00
Rectory fund balance per QB	217,816.35	

A-1: Mission Statement

The mission statement of the Church of St. John the Evangelist is as follows:

God calls us to help people become followers of Jesus, equipped for ministry in the church and in the world, through nurture, worship, evangelism, and service.

A-2: Brief Description

The Church of St. John the Evangelist is a Christian community of faith and parish within the Anglican Diocese of Niagara in the Anglican Church of Canada, part of the worldwide Anglican Communion. The church was established in 1890 and is located in west downtown Hamilton. The church is a registered charity under the *Income Tax Act* (Canada). It serves a large population of diverse people who live in the immediate neighbourhood of the church and beyond. In addition to the financial support the parish receives for its work, the parish relies significantly on the voluntary contribution of the time and talent of its members and community supporters. The impact of these non-monetary contributions are fundamental to understanding the Church of Saint John the Evangelist and cannot be measured in financial terms. The annual vestry report which accompanies these annual financial statements provides this information to explain and demonstrate the parish's performance in advancement of its shared mission with God.

Section B: Financial Statement Notes

B-1: Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

These financial statements have been prepared in accordance with accounting standards for not-for-profit organizations and on an accrual basis, which includes the year's cash flows and any amounts owed to and payable by the parish at year-end. Donated property is accounted for at its estimated market value when donated.

Fund Accounting

The parish follows the restricted fund method of accounting for revenues and expenditures. The general fund (not restricted) reports revenues and expenses related to program delivery and administrative activities. All unrestricted investment income is recorded in the general fund.

The internally restricted funds, such as the Endowment Fund, Memorial Fund, Organ Restoration Fund, Parish Hall Capital Reserve Fund, and Capital Fund, report revenues contributed for which their expenditure is restricted by the donors and church policy or until their purpose is completed. Externally restricted funds, such as the Rectory Fund (restricted by provincial statute and canon law) report revenues contributed for which their expenditure is restricted for specific activities.

Investments

Investment funds held by the Diocese of Niagara are recorded at year-end actual or estimated market value and unrealized gains or losses are accounted for in the related fund. Changes in market value are recognized as gains or losses in the statement of activity. When an investment is sold, redeemed, or written off, the actual gain or loss is also recognized in the statement of activity for the year.

Capital Property

The church property (land and buildings) are owned by the Diocese of Niagara and are therefore not included as assets in the financial statements of the parish.

Revenue Recognition

Pledges and other commitments to restricted funds are recognized as restricted revenue only when received. Unrestricted contributions are recognized as revenue for operations when received or if the amount to be received can be reasonably estimated and collection is assured.

Contributed Supplies and Services

Due to the difficulty in determining their fair financial value, contributed services and supplies are not recognized in these financial statements, nevertheless the real value of these are significant and the operation of the parish would not be possible without them.

B-2: Audit Status

The financial statements of the parish are not audited by a firm of accountants. The parish treasurer did meet with an audit committee appointed by Corporation to review the accounts of the parish for 2022 and 2023. The

committee reviewed a random sample of entries for various expenses, and it reviewed the support for the balances of the bank and investment accounts of the parish as at the end of 2022 and 2023.

B–3: Notes on Statements of Investment and Restricted Funds

Rectory Fund

This fund is entirely restricted by civil statute. The first endowed capital portion is the original capital from the sale of the parish rectory in the amount of \$180,347.73. The law requires that the endowed capital portion be kept whole in the fund. The remainder of the fund is restricted by the same statute for use in support the housing allowance paid to the rector.

Capital Fund

The Capital Fund is not a segregated account as with the other funds. The Capital Fund is held in the cash accounts.

Endowment Fund

The Endowment Fund is internally restricted by the decision of the parish vestry. The vestry policy requires the approval of vestry for the use of these funds. Such approval may be in the form of a ministry budget that calls for a draw from this account or may be in the form of a separate motion approved by the vestry at an annual or special meeting.

B–4: Notes on Statement of Activities

St John's finished 2023 well "into the black", but the reasons for the strong performance should be considered carefully.

Our total offerings were down significantly from 2022 and did not match our budget for the year. Actual offerings were \$214,600 in 2023 vs budgeted \$260,500 and \$276,800 actual for 2022. Our net income was the result of lower-than-expected expenses, especially wages (\$111,248 vs \$162,959 budgeted), significant income from our investments (\$33,252 vs \$nil budgeted) and some prior-period adjustments (which don't represent cash flow to the parish and which shouldn't recur in 2024).

The parish's operating account never went into overdraft in 2023, which saved financing and interest charges. In addition, as can be seen from the "2023 investment accounts" analysis, the parish "paid back" \$26,000 to the Endowment Fund in April, 2023.

Quickbooks has caused headaches for our accounts on two fronts. Part of the "income" from prior-period adjustments comes from a write off of a liability that was not really owed to anyone. It appears to have been created to account for gifts to our capital fund. Quickbooks does not make fund accounting easy. Charities use fund accounting to track gifts that are given for a special purpose. Fund accounting is supposed to help ensure that such gifts are used for the purpose for which they were given. Quickbooks does not have accounting tools that implement fund accounting directly. Instead, the software requires the user to come up with workarounds.

Corporation continues to work on policies to address this problem.

Quickbooks also keeps inserting phantom debits and credits into the account that is supposed to track our bank operating account. The good news is that this has not interfered with our ability to reconcile the bank statement every month, but the bad news is that the Quickbooks bank balance cannot always be taken at face value, which is disconcerting. Corporation engaged a bookkeeper to resolve this issue. We will keep working to prevent a recurrence of this problem.

Staffing

Rev. Dr. Leonel Abaroa-Boloña, and Rev. Dr. John Stephenson acted as Interim Rector in 2023. Eduardo Farias was appointed as Discovery Service music director. Reverend Andrew Rampton was appointed as Rector effective Jan 1st, 2024

Certificate of Approval of Reports

This Annual Report was received and approved with corrections included in this final document at the Annual Vestry Meeting of the Church of Saint John the Evangelist, Sunday, February 25, 2024

The Reverend Andrew Rampton

Sue Newbery, Vestry Clerk