

The Parish of St. George Annual Report 2024



Anglican Church of Canada
Diocese of New Westminster
Vicar: The Reverend Laurel Dykstra
Deacons: The Rev. Eileen Nurse & The Rev. Karen Saunders (retired)

*St. George's Anglican Church and its Parish is located on the unceded ancestral lands of the Sto:lo people,
the territory of the Katzie and Kwantlen First Nation.*

Notice of Meeting

This is notice that the Annual Vestry Meeting for the Parish of St. George, Fort Langley, BC will take place after worship on

**Sunday, February 9, 2025
in the Church Hall.**

Registration for the meeting will begin at 11:00 a.m.

The meeting will be held in Person.

Please bring a copy of the Annual Report with you to the Vestry meeting

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Statistics 2024

In Memoriam:

Mary Koslowski – Interrment
Ethel May Code – Interrment
Hugh Andrew Murray

Mary Lillian Nicholson
Joachim (Joe) Hessberger
Ronald Afford Harris

Baptisms:

Ella Chen
Louise Remington Twidale-Rand

Confirmations:

None

Weddings:

Douglas Stead and Malgorzata Maria Karwowski
Jeffrey Ralph Paul Shardlow and Melanie Gail Coi
Alden John Evans and Rebecca Ann Loeth
Brian Ronald Purvis and Mary Louise Coan

Parish Services:

Holy Eucharist (in-person)	51
Morning Prayer	2
Baptisms	2
Confirmations	0
Weddings	4
Memorials or Funerals	5
Home Communion	2
Interrment of Ashes	3

Minutes of the 2024 Annual Vestry Meeting

Sunday, February 25th, 2024

Registrants: 36

With quorum achieved, the meeting was called to order at 11:08 AM

1. WELCOME

Peoples Warden, Alison Cameron extended a warm welcome to all parishioners in attendance.

2. ADOPTION OF AGENDA:

Motion: To adopt the agenda as distributed.

Moved – John Potts

Second – Virginia Cooke

CARRIED

3. APPROVAL OF VESTRY MINUTES

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the Vestry Meeting March 05/24 as distributed

Moved – Jim Kelly

Second – Karen Saunders

CARRIED

Motion: To adopt the minutes of the Extraordinary Vestry Meeting September 10/23 as distributed.

Moved – Pat Cook

Second – James Profitt

CARRIED

4. REVIEW OF 2023 ANNUAL REPORT

The 2023 Annual Report is available online and as a printed copy.

Amendment to the report: In Memoriam: Mike Johnston corrected to Michael Johnston.

Alison Cameron extended thanks to Eileen Nurse for her assistance in creating the Annual Report.

Motion: To receive the 2023 Annual Report as amended.

Moved – Carol McPherson

Second – Charles Nurse

CARRIED

5. BUSINESS ARISING FROM THE ANNUAL REPORT

None

6. TREASURER'S REPORT

a) Review of 2023 financial statements

Craig Daniell, Treasurer, expressed concern about how far off target we are with revenues 22% behind projection. Thus, the year ended 2023 showing the parish on a deficit trend with no place left to cut. In order for the parish to reach our revenue target improvement is needed quickly. The ongoing work of volunteer janitorial service by parishioners together with part-time leadership has helped but is not sustainable long-term. And relying on event-based fundraising is also neither realistic nor sustainable. Parishioners were asked to consider increasing their monthly giving or making a one-time additional monetary gift. A drawdown from the Consolidated Trust Fund (CTF) is needed at this time but not sustainable long-term as each drawdown results in a reduction of capital. Craig Daniell, Treasurer, extended appreciation to Charles Nurse, Bookkeeper in the preparation of the 2023 financial statements

Motion: That Vestry approve the 2023 financial statements as distributed with the 2023 Annual Report.

Moved – Craig Daniell

Second – Tony Cook

CARRIED

- b)** An amendment to the 2024 budget was proposed as a result of a one-time legal expense. Total Discretionary Expenses increased from \$30,171 to \$32,471 with TOTAL Expenses: \$209,629

Motion: That Vestry approve the Financial Plan for 2024 as amended. That, a working group be struck to review and address ongoing financial issues. That, the Parish Council report back with suggested approaches to address the 2024 financial situation.

Moved – Craig Daniell

Second – Virginia Cooke

CARRIED

8. NEW BUSINESS

a) Acknowledgements -

Alison Cameron acknowledged the work of:

- Brenda Coburn for stepping into the role of Trustee short-term.
- Roy Cline who is ending his term as Trustee
- Liz Smyth and Ernie Kurtz, for their work as members of Parish Council

Fran Hancock acknowledged the work of:

- The clergy
- The many volunteers who provide support to St. George's

- b)** Elections of 2024 Parish Council
Church rules require that elections occur each year.

Appointed Positions:

Rector's Warden - Fran Hancock

Ex Officio Positions:

Building Co-Ordinator - OPEN

Parish Administrator – Marion Kruze

Elected Positions:

Associate Warden: Prior to the election of officers, the role of Associate Warden was outlined by Alison Cameron for St. George's. This additional position would assume responsibility for any duties delegated by the Church Wardens. The position is for a 2-year term (to be elected annually).

People's Warden: Alison Cameron

Associate Warden: Ann Turner

Trustee (Year one): Wendy Robson

Trustee (Year one): Jim Kelly

Treasurer: Carig Daniell

Synod Delegates: Wendy Robson, John Potts

Member At Large: Marian Moats

Nominations Closed: All elected by acclamation.

c) Eucharistic Ministers 2024

Alison Cameron, Brenda Coburn, Virginia Cooke, Penny Daniell, Bob Dolphin, Leslie Gaudette, Fran Hancock, Jim Kelly, Fred Madden, Charles Nurse, Caroline Profitt, James Profitt, Ann Turner

Motion: That this list of Eucharistic Ministers be submitted to Bishop John Stephens for approval:

Moved – The Rev. Georgina Harris **Second** – Wendy Robson **CARRIED**

d) Signing Officers

Motion: That any 2 of the following people be accepted as Signing Officers for St. George's Anglican

Alison Cameron, Craig Daniell, Fran Hancock, Jim Kelly, Ann Turner, Charles Nurse* (*without signing authority on cheques)

Moved – Alison Cameron **Second** – Karen Saunders **CARRIED**

9. ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 12:02 pm

Vicar's Report

“Behold, I am doing a new thing; now it springs forth, do you not perceive it? I will make a way in the wilderness and rivers in the desert.” --Isaiah 43:19

As your very new Vicar I do not have a great deal to report.

My first day of work was the first Sunday in Advent and for the month of December I was focused primarily on worship. I think we had a really beautiful Advent and Christmas season, from a sweet and solemn Longest Night, to a carol sing that was full of joy and laughter. It was gratifying to have the church so full at both services on Christmas Eve and to see so many families there in multiple generations. I think we brought the season in well.

In January and early February I am working on understanding the sub-groups and systems of the parish, i.e. the aspects of the job that are not related to worship, and how to set priorities so that I can do those things well in a 3 days/week position.

I am grateful that I have been made to feel very welcome here, and I appreciate your patience as I learn more names, stories and histories.

As a newcomer I see in this congregation a great deal of competence, hard work and good-will towards one another.

I look forward in the early part of the year to choosing with you a few key priorities identified in the parish profile and then really working together on those.

I pray for you and I ask you all to pray for me as well.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Laurel Dykstra (they/them)

Interim Priest-in-Charge Report

*“Whatever we face, Jesus knows and understands.”
He hears our hearts.
He’s with us in every way.*

These are words from a daily reflection that comes to me each day. They are a wonderful reminder of what is at the centre of who we are as faithful Christian people. It is Jesus and even when we encounter challenges the words remind us, we are heard and understood by the one who is, was, and shall ever be.

In the ever-increasing noise of life that threatens to overtake us it is Jesus who hears what is in our hearts and it is Jesus that accompanies us through the noise and moves us to the comforting silence and assurance of Jesus presence in and with us.

In the year that has passed the Parish of St. George lived into that assurance many times as we comforted each other in our losses but also celebrated together as we heard stories and broke bread together.

It is always a privilege to accompany families who are grieving, plan and carry out a service that honours the loved one in whatever way the family wished. I was blessed by each of those occasions.

I can’t express how grateful I am for all the love and support I received during those awful weeks following the unexpected death of my wonderful husband Ron. Eileen and Karen worked with me to plan a wonderful service of celebration and thanksgiving. Thank You, Thank You, Thank You all.

Weddings were certainly prevalent occasions in 2024, and they ranged from a few in attendance to a full church.

Of course, who could forget the Baptism of my Great Niece Remington Louise – we had a full house present and so I guess we could say we ended our time together with fanfare.

No matter the occasion I wish to thank Wendy for always being available as Co-ordinator and our musician Diana for providing the appropriate music and if she was not available making sure a musician was in place.

Throughout the year the life of the church continued and with it came some blips. What would church life be if there weren’t any blips to contend with. A good sense of humour is helpful in those instances.

To the Wardens and Trustees thank you for your knowledge, expertise, and willingness to work together in addressing the mundane and the “less mundane.”

To the members of Parish Council thank you for your willingness to serve.

To all those who have any kind of role in the church thank you.

To Eileen and Karen thank you for supporting me in my role and for your assistance as we moved through the year together.

To Marion Kruze the Parish office Administrator thank you for sticking with me and always having a smile, treating me to coffee, the endless supply of candy, and your willingness to adapt when I thought it might be a good idea to change things up.

To the Parish thank you for being who you are, a community that welcomed Ron & me and loved us – even when we exchanged a quick peck at the passing of the Peace.

It was a privilege, and it was a pleasure to serve as Interim Priest in Charge.

Respectfully with deep gratitude,
The Rev. Georgina Harris, Interim Priest in Charge

Deacons' Report

2024 was a year of transition. While many things may change, many others remain the same.

Your two Deacons have continued to be a part of the parish in various ways. Karen and Eileen have unique gifts and our ministries are different and complimentary. Eileen continues as an active, licensed Deacon and Karen continues to serve us as a Deacon (retired).

Eileen has continued to attend the various meetings that are on the normal schedule, participating in Parish Council, Deanery and Archdeanery meetings, and Diocesan meetings, clergy days, Clergy Conference, etc. Karen has also continued to participate in diocesan events, including Deacons' day in the fall.

We have continued to offer pastoral care, with cards, phone calls, and the occasional face-to-face meeting.

Eileen's Ministry Report

Every year, I find it very helpful to take time to reflect on the previous year as I write my annual report to the parish. It reminds me that each year we deal with gains, and losses, ups and downs, struggles and joys. The one constant is change.

With the exception of time when I've been ill or away, I have participated most of our services throughout the year. During a Sunday service of Holy Eucharist, Deacons serve at the altar, proclaim the Gospel, lead the Affirmation of Faith and the Confession. In addition to this I've occasionally led Morning Prayer and preached regularly.

Along with Karen, I helped Georgina and Laurel in the preparation, preaching and presiding over the special services for the year, especially during Holy Week, Advent and Christmas.

I have continued to attend the various meetings that are on the normal schedule, participating in Parish Council, deanery and archdeanery meetings. As clergy of this diocese I also attend various diocesan events, such as clergy days, clergy conference and the Deacons' day in the November.

This past year I continued to serve on the national church's task force to review and rewrite the Ordination Rites of the Anglican Church of Canada. In July we met in Regina to make our last

edits. After this was completed, the drafts were sent out to all the Bishops of Canada for their comment. During the fall I worked with a couple of other members of the committee collating and analyzing the reactions to these proposed services.

In January the final drafts will be submitted to the Faith, Worship and Ministry Committee of the National Church. This, basically, brings the work of this task force to a close. Whew!

The Climate Emergency is a major concern for me. I've been honoured to continue to be involved in the Eco-Pilgrimage program. While we weren't able to have a pilgrimage this year, plans are already being developed for resuming this event in 2025. Stay tuned for more information!

For approximately 10 years I have been a member of the Fort Langley Remembrance Day Planning Committee. In the summer we took the important step of setting up the Fort Langley Remembrance Day Society. This will provide more stability for this important community event and I am serving as a director of this society.

The service and my role on the committee is always evolving. This year I was the coordinator and liaison with the sound crew. One never knows what you may be called on to do!

In last year's report I spoke about Repair Cafés and my interest in this movement. In 2024 I was able to learn more and was able to participate in a couple of Repair Cafés in Chilliwack. A Repair Café brings together fixers with people who have things that need to be repaired. It is all done free of charge and relies on volunteer labour and expertise.

It is a great way to show people that broken appliances & clothes don't need to be thrown away!

This June I will mark the 20th anniversary of my ordination to the Diaconate. I can't believe it has been that long. The joy of serving with our St. George family for all this time is immeasurable.

Karen's ministry report

2024 opened for the Saunders family with Patrick just 4 weeks past knee replacement surgery, so the first few months were spent with me more as nurse and care-giver than anything else. However, it seems I am getting better at being retired. Beginning in April, after a very long hiatus from travel, I made three trips to Europe, and two to the interior of BC over the course of the year. I feel very spoiled! One of my self care goals for the year was to read 75 books, and I finished the 76th in the couple of quiet days after Christmas. So despite a busy year at St. George's, I do feel kind of retired as well.

My ministry at St George's this past year has often revolved around pastoral care - home visits, hospital visits, home Communion, end-of life pastoral ministry, and participating in and /or preaching/presiding at Memorial services. I assisted Georgina at Joe Hessberger's service, preaching the homily, and then presiding at the in-urnment of his ashes. I presided at Mary Nicholson's service, and did all the preparations with the family and the pastoral care that was involved in that, and with Eileen, shared in preaching and presiding at Ron Harris' Memorial service.

I continued being on the regular roster of readers, intercessors and Eucharistic ministers, and as an occasional sidesperson, and was delighted to serve at the altar on a couple of Sundays when Eileen was away, and to preach one Sunday in Lent.

I share behind-the-scenes duties with Nancy Paulin, ensuring that the church is properly set up for services.

I continue as the co-ordinator and an enthusiastic participant in the Book Club, now entering it's 21st year. (See the report elsewhere for details of our reading and conversations).

I took part in and helped lead the Advent Study, which was rich and fulfilling for me both as leader and participant. I hope to continue with this educational side of my ministry going forward, as I find it very satisfying on many levels.

I was one of many volunteers pitching in at the Spring Fair, the Fall fair and the Christmas Bazaar, selling books, encouraging people to participate in the Wine Wall, and as a general dogsbody, helping out as needed. In the fall Patrick and I hosted a fancy dinner party that was one of the Silent Auction items at the Fall fair - a great time seems to have been had by all!

This year Alison and I took a break from making Christmas baskets. We hope to do them again another year - perhaps 2025?

Another opportunity to exercise our (as Patrick definitely shares in this one) ministry of hospitality came when we hosted a parish pasta supper in March, cooking and serving pasta, salad and the trimmings to a full house of hungry parishioners and friends. AS well as being a fund-raiser for the parish, it was a great chance for all to just enjoy the fellowship of our parish family, and an evening spent together.

My Diocesan ministry as an Examining Chaplain continued in 2024, although I was not called upon, as there were fewer ordinations than usual this year. I attended Deacon's Day in the fall, and a Clergy Day earlier in the year, when the discussion was about MAiD (Medical Assistance in Dying), from a pastoral perspective. I am now invited to the semi-annual Retired Clergy lunches, and enjoy the opportunity to eat and share in conversation with colleagues whom I don't get to see very often. I was able to attend the ODNW service in the fall, to support Ann as she received her award.

In December I was delighted to welcome Laurel as our new Vicar, and to be of any kind of assistance as they begin their exciting new ministry among us. Offering resources, parish history, and knowledge of the people here were just some of the ways I have been able to help out.

My Memorandum of Understanding with the parish remained unchanged this year. It lists my duties in (active) retirement as: sharing in liturgy and preaching by invitation, be on the lay rosters, urgent pastoral care, Book club, Examining Chaplaincy, attending Diocesan meetings as appropriate, and continuing my Involvement as a Vision Mate with my CNIB partner, plus continuing my relationship with my spiritual director. Diocesan regulations demand that I keep my Police Record Check, my Safe Church courses and my Dismantling Racism training up-to-date. This year I had to renew my Safe Church certification, which I did via online courses, and my Dismantling Racism certification, which involves a day's participation in the program, offered through the Diocese. I don't anticipate any changes as the MoU comes up for renewal in the spring.

My family (both at home and at church) tease me about not really being retired, but my response is always that for my whole time as a member of the Parish of St. George I have been active with fingers in many pies. Becoming ordained as a deacon changed some of the ways I

am called to minister here, but not all of them. Being a deacon is not a job description, but an identity. A deacon is who and what I *am*, not just what I do. So I will continue to be active in ministry some way or another, God willing, for as long as I am able to do so. My baptismal ministry has no age limits, and doesn't really change with retirement, although it is expressed in different ways, and will presumably continue to change through the rest of my life.

Closing

We are very grateful for the ministry of Georgina Harris in 2023-2024. Georgina led us through those first few months after Kelly left and guided us through the selection process. We hope that Georgina will always feel that she has a home at St. George's.

It was an absolute joy to welcome Laurel Dykstra to the parish on December 1st. Laurel brings a wonderful variety of gifts and our prayers are with them as they settle into this new role. Both of us look forward to next chapter for our parish.

Thank you for the privilege of serve God alongside all of you.

Respectfully submitted,
The Rev. Karen Saunders (retired) & the Rev. Eileen Nurse, Deacons

Bishop's Warden Report

Much of 2024 was challenging at St. George's. Communication was strained, finances were a worry and filling positions demanded extra attention. Looking back, I am thankful for our interim period with Rev. Georgina Harris as she allowed us to be uncomfortable, which prompted us to identify what was important to us and articulate a vision of our ministry within and beyond the Parish. I hope the process has prepared us to pursue the goals of strengthening our relationship with the wider community, embracing reconciliation more practically, and intentionally strengthening our commitment to caring for creation.

There were some highlights in the year for me. Alison Cameron's efforts to find musicians resulted in the contracting of Diana Zyvik and she has filled that role beautifully. Sharing in the work of the Search committee and the exchanging of ideas with the congregation allowed me to get to know people better. The Fall supper was reminiscent of times when we just got together for the fun of it. Celebrating the well-deserved induction of Ann Turner to the Order of the Diocese of New Westminster. The replacement of the garden shed and church roof, with major thanks to Henry Turner for his time and talent.

In September we were shocked and saddened by the sudden death of Rev. Georgina's husband Ron, whose absence left a noticeable silence, and we hold them in our thoughts and prayers. In her last week with us Rev. Georgina blessed us with her leadership in the first uplifting chapter of our Advent study, aptly focusing on Hope.

It is said that "every end is a new beginning", and so it was on December 1st with the arrival of Rev. Laurel Dykstra whose ministry throughout Advent and Christmas has sparked interest and a sense of adventure in our midst. Welcome Rev. Laurel!

I would like to thank everyone on the Parish Council for their dedicated service and the Search Committee for their efforts to create a profile reflective of the whole parish's input. It has been wonderful working with you all. Space does not permit me to express my thanks to everyone whose offerings of time, talent and treasure keep St. George's going, but know that you are all greatly appreciated.

Please know that your concerns and ideas are vitally important to the Parish Council and you are welcome to share them with any council member for clarification or action.

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Hancock, Bishop's Warden

People's Warden Report

Well, it's been a busy year. It began with searches for both a new musician and a new Vicar, and ended with an 11 PM service on Christmas Eve. In between, we had a Spring and Fall Fair, opened the hall for Cranberry Festival and Remembrance Day, put on a new roof, built a garden shed, and led a few weddings and baptisms. We did find a wonderful musician, Diana Nyvik, who regularly does a stellar job of coping with our aging organ. There were losses as well. The Rev. Georgina Harris carried on as our interim in the face of a catastrophic personal loss. It's a poignant memory, the way in which parishioners and the Deacons stepped up to support Georgina and the parish that week and afterward, and a solid demonstration of the character of this parish. I won't say Halleluiah at the close of a service without thinking of Ron. Thank you, Georgina for sharing the time with us.

Late in the fall, the Search Committee completed its task and Rev Laurel Dykstra began work as the Vicar of St George's on Dec 1. There was little time for Rev. Laurel to prepare for the season, so we expected a joyous chaos and it was. Opening the church to sing Christmas Carols, supported by Susan Ohanessian as our musician-on-short-notice, was a success and will likely become a tradition.

None of the events in the life of St George's happen in a vacuum, or without people. Each event or task, from the Search committee which was so ably assisted by Rev. Andrew Halladay, to Open Doors, to the people who quietly clean the hall so it's ready to host the community, and prepare the church for Sunday, is the sum total of the time, talent, and treasure of the parishioners. Watching people team up in different combinations to form the equivalent of a Swiss army knife is a marvellous thing, and when the result is a buzz of activity in the hall and packed pews, it's a testament to what we can accomplish. Those skills and that energy will be needed, because it's going to be a busy year: we have a new Vicar who has armloads of good ideas and plans. When Rev Laurel was hired, they described their role this way: "Once the parish has decided which direction it wants to go, it's my job to lead us there."

There is a Capital Campaign drafted by an experienced fundraiser which began in January to assist with the cost of the new roof and new capital expenses. While we did receive a grant from the Diocese, the costs ate into some of the parish's reserves and it's prudent to replace those funds and have some set aside for other large capital expenditures. It's important to point out that the focus of the campaign is the wider community in Fort Langley and Langley Township, rather than the parishioners who are already doing a great deal to support the parish. Asking people who are already committing resources to commit more isn't going to improve our

financial outlook, but welcoming people who might not have thought of St George's as part of their community previously could. That campaign should be drawing to a close just in time for Easter, the Spring Fair and more opportunities for fellowship. I cannot wait to see what the Parish of St George's does in the coming year!

Respectfully submitted,
Alison Cameron, People's Warden

Associate Warden Report

At the Annual Vestry meeting of 2024 I was duly elected to the role of Associate Warden of St. George Anglican, Fort Langley. The role, although not new to the Diocese of New Westminster, was not typically or traditionally assigned at St. George's. And so began a new chapter of my life as I learned, supported and endeavoured to serve and act as a liaison between our Interim Priest, Rev. Georgina Harris; Bishop's Warden, Fran Hancock; People's Warden, Alison Cameron; and the parishioners of St. George's. Such responsibilities require that I make myself available to actively and respectfully listen to the needs of all stakeholders regarding the well-being of our parish community. From past experiences I was keenly aware that so often the cares of the world often get in the way of such administrative roles and so it was important that I not simply adopt a "Jill/Jack of All Trades" style of parish leadership, by attempting to address and serve in a multitude and diverse set of roles, but rather endeavour to offer my skills to involvement in church life with purposeful actions reflective of active, respectful listening.

Over the past 18 months, I have assumed the role of recorder for meetings of Parish Council. As such I endeavour to accurately record and submit the minutes of each Parish Council meeting in a timely manner. Draft minutes are subsequently posted on the bulletin board and made available to parishioners upon request to the parish administrator. I strongly believe that timely publishing of council meetings is vital in the communication of all aspects of church life to parishioners.

As Co-Chair of the Parish Outreach Committee and Secretary of Anglican Church Women (ACW) I undertake the roles, as too my role on Diocesan Council, as an opportunity to enrich my ability to serve in various mission and ministry committees at both the parish and diocesan level. Ensuring that the due and often times-taking process was followed as a member of the Search Committee and subsequent BACA representative to the diocese, it was important that I promote the pastoral and spiritual concerns of the Parish in the subsequent drafting and submission of the Parish Profile to the Bishop.

Supporting the parish as a member of the Church Cleaning Team, Reader and Eucharistic Minister together with active participation in reinventing St. George's Spring Fair highlighted the importance of bringing greater awareness of St. George's to the community at large. By strengthening and renewing relationships within the parish and expanding this to the at-large community, it has resulted in new ideas, interests, and opportunities surfacing for our church and parish hall. Liaising with the Fort Langley Community association for annual events such as the "Cranberry Festival" and Remembrance Day celebrations remains an ongoing goal and an important and vital step for the future of St. George's.

The 2024 report would not be complete without making mention of the significant buildings and grounds challenges our parish encountered. The replacement of the aging garden shed

simultaneously coincided with the discovery of water damage in the music room that resulted from an infestation of squirrels setting up home in the roof of our church. Significant damage was sustained and thus installing a new church roof became our next priority. As a result, the parish council began the lengthy and time-taking task of obtaining quotes and applying for a diocesan grant. Throughout this process all members of parish council worked hard to come to consensus on both the new garden shed and selection of a roofing company. Central to the final decision-making process was the assurance by Penfold Solar and Roofing, the selected company, that a new roof would be installed before the winter. All in all, a pivotal time for all members of Parish council as we discovered that the true greatness of leadership is by giving of ourselves in service to our parish community.

Throughout this transitional year, as Associate Warden, it has been important that from a personal standpoint I have found time to nourish and maintain my own Christian faith and not let it fade under the pressure of administrative and practical issues of St. George's. Thus, my participation in on-line PWRDF Studies together with the recent Advent study led by Rev. Georgina Harris and Rev. Karen Saunders has provided me with intentional opportunities to enrich my learning and full involvement in the life of St. George's with the aim of creating a welcoming and inclusive community for all.

In closing, I extend my sincere thanks to all who have offered mentorship and in particular Rev. Eileen and Rev. Karen who have patiently and painstakingly addressed my questions and guided my journey of service.

Respectfully submitted,
Ann Turner, Associate Warden

Trustee's Report

Trustee Jim Kelly and Wendy Robson commenced the first year of a two year commitment to serve as Trustees on Parish Council. As we have both served on Parish Council in the past, we were familiar with the role of Trustee on Parish Council.

The one major undertaking that Parish Council had for 2024 was the recruitment and selection of a new Vicar for St. George's. Jim Kelly agreed to chair the Search Committee for the search for our new Vicar. It was a large undertaking as the Search Committee developed the Parish Profile, Interview Questions and lead the Selection Process with Ann Turner. We, as a parish need to be appreciative of Jim's leadership and commitment to the process. What a glorious result with the selection of our new Vicar, Laurel Dykstra.

The Trustees, along with Parish Council continue to have a concern of the financial stability of the Parish as we have seen a reduction in parishioners since COVID, the financial impact of an heritage building and rebuilding of a youth program to support the young people in our parish.

We are appreciative of our parishioners for the support and enthusiasm for our parish whether it be for a fundraising or social or worshipping together.

We welcome our new Vicar, Laurel Dykstra and enjoy the new enthusiasm and life that they/them has brought to the Parish in the short time they/them has been with us.

Respectfully submitted
Wendy Robson and Jim Kelly, Trustees

Treasurer's Annual Report

Report on the 2024 Parish Financial Results

At its 2024 Vestry meeting, the Parish approved its annual operating budget for the year, which projected total revenue of \$207,841 against total expenditures of \$207,881 for a budgeted operating loss of \$40. Of this total budgeted revenue, \$112,637 was projected to come from parishioner giving (monthly giving/offering) and \$79,841 from other revenue (fundraising, rental income, investment income and a \$15,000 transfer from reserves). On the expenditure side, almost half our budget is directed to compensation, with fixed expenditures such as the Diocesan commitment, utilities, insurance, building maintenance, music etc. making up most of the balance. The 2024 budget, like previous years, allowed for very little in the way of discretionary spending on items like outreach and programming, largely because the Parish has not been able to generate operating surpluses over the past few years.

I am pleased to report that we have seen an improvement in the Parish's financial position over the past year, although we still did not meet the budget targets we set for ourselves at Vestry last year. Total revenue for the year amounted to \$229,277. This included designated giving of \$12,435. Total expenditures for the year were \$232,055, with the result that the Parish incurred a net operating deficit of \$2,777 for the calendar year. While an operating loss is never desirable or what we were hoping to achieve, it is important to reflect that the results are a relatively significant improvement over the previous year when the Parish's loss exceeded \$20,000.

A few notes about the 2024 income statement:

- Investment income from the Consolidated Trust Fund amounted to \$9,953, which significantly outperformed our budget of \$2,741. Financial markets were strong in 2024, but that is no guarantee of future returns in this area.
- Revenue from the film industry for the use of our facilities generated \$22,784 in comparison to a budget of \$6,000.
- The Preschool generated steady income of \$36,000 over the course of the year.
- Fundraising from various sources generated income of \$8,881 with the fall and spring fair being the largest contributors to this amount, followed by the Pasta Dinner. However, an aging Parish will likely make it difficult to grow or even replicate these numbers in the future.
- Donations to the building fund amounted to \$5,600.
- Unfortunately, parishioner giving fell once again, continuing a trend we have been seeing in each of the last four years. In 2024, parishioner giving totalled \$112,637 and was down 12% from our budgeted forecasts. In comparison, 2023 saw a 7% drop.

- As noted above, expenditures totalled \$232,055, which was slightly higher than budget and that was really only because of the need to incur one-time legal expenses that will not be repeated in 2025.
- Operating losses must be funded from reserves and each time we draw down on our reserves, we reduce the income we receive from our investments.
- I note once again that the Parish is relying on volunteers to clean the church as opposed to contracting that service to a third party. While there are obviously financial benefits to such a decision, it is not without significant risk of burnout of volunteers. This will need to be revisited in the future.
- Total onward giving amounted to \$6,835 which supports amongst others the Food Bank; Precious Jewels; PDWRF and the sponsored children.

In conclusion then, an improved financial picture, but still lots of work to be done in the coming year. While revenue from areas such as facility rentals are always welcome and significantly help the bottom line, they are not yet at the point where we can rely on them to balance the bottom line. We will need to continue to manage our finances with a conservative approach going forward.

As Treasurer, I will be moving adoption of the 2023 financial results with thanks to Charles Nurse for their preparation.

Profit and Loss January – December 2024

	Total
INCOME	
Designated Giving	
Building	5,600.00
Total Designated Giving	\$5,600.00
Onward Giving	
Food Bank	300.00
Parish Outreach	1,432.05
Precious Jewels	980.00
PWRDF	3,420.00
Sponsored Children	703.40
Total Onward Giving	\$6,835.45
Parish Operating Income	
Fund Raising	40.00
Christmas Bazaar	589.40

Fall Fair	2,858.73
Fall Supper	902.05
Hot Dog Sale	624.00
Pasta Dinner	1,261.37
Purdy's Chocolates	30.79
Spring Fair	2,574.75
Total Fund Raising	\$8,881.09
Other Operating Income	
Investment Income	9,953.05
Transfer from Capital Funds	15,000.00
Total Other Operating Income	\$24,953.05
Parish Donations	
Envelope Offering	109,254.16
Open Offering	3,382.60
Special Offering	1,675.00
Total Parish Donations	\$114,311.76
Service Fees etc.	
Film Revenue	19,991.40
Hall Rental	2,792.50
Preschool	36,000.00
Weddings/Memorials	9,912.50
Total Service Fees etc.	\$68,696.40
Total Parish Operating Income	\$216,842.30
Total Income	\$229,277.75
EXPENSES	
Church Expense	
Building Maintenance	12,856.20
Caretaker	
Janitorial Supplies	1,351.52
Total Caretaker	\$1,351.52
Choir/Music	12,187.32

Grounds Maintenance	1,042.90
Insurance	10,052.04
Sacramental Supplies	2,888.80
Utilities and Telephone	11,759.27
Total Church Expense	\$52,138.05
Clergy Expenses	
Clergy Education	600.00
Clergy Honoraria	1,155.00
Mileage	2,114.12
Rector's Car Allowance	8,861.47
Rector's Stipend	79,758.33
Total Clergy Expenses	\$92,488.92
Diocesan Commitment	26,002.56
Funds Forwarded	
Designated Funds Forwarded	5,600.00
Onward Giving Forwarded	6,835.45
Total Funds Forwarded	\$12,435.45
General and Administrative Expenses	
Administrator Stipend	30,768.96
Advertising	477.75
Bank charges	18.00
GST Paid	2,809.90
Office expenses	2,086.42
Other Miscellaneous Expense	5,413.19
Total Office expenses	\$7,499.61
Other general and administrative expenses	102.96
PAD Charges	1,310.26
Photocopier	2,779.04
Total General and Administrative Expenses	\$45,784.48
Interest Expense	6.60
Parish Outreach Expense	3,000.00

Program Expenses	
Parish Events	199.00
Total Program Expenses	\$199.00
Total Expenses	\$232,055.06
Cash Loss	-\$2,777.31
Depreciation	12,315.81
Overall Loss	-\$15,093.12

Balance Sheet 2024

	Total
Assets	
Current Assets	
Cash and Cash Equivalent	
Coast Capital	27,800.15
Total Cash and Cash Equivalent	\$27,800.15
Accounts Receivable (A/R)	
Accounts Receivable - GST Rebate	7,028.23
Total Accounts Receivable (A/R)	\$7,028.23
Diocesan Consolidated Trust Fund	69,557.08
Total for Current Assets	\$104,385.46
Non-current Assets	
Property, plant and equipment	
Buildings	
Depreciation	-496,501.06
Original cost	1,089,045.63
Total Buildings	\$592,544.57
Computer Equipment	
Depreciation	-6,335.64
Original cost	6,641.31
Total Computer Equipment	\$305.67

Furniture and Equipment	
Depreciation	-99,274.28
Original cost	99,860.85
Total Furniture and Equipment	\$586.57
Hardcover Books	
Depreciation	-4,686.58
Original cost	4,686.58
Total Hardcover Books	\$ 0.00
Landscaping	
Depreciation	-9,555.13
Original cost	9,555.13
Total Landscaping	\$0.00
Total Property, plant and equipment	\$593,436.81
Total Non Current Assets	\$593,436.81
Total Assets	\$697,822.27
Liabilities and Equity	
Liabilities	
Current Liabilities	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	
Accounts Payable (A/P)	2,000.00
Total Accounts Payable (A/P)	\$2,000.00
Current Liabilities	
Damage Deposits	3,370.00
Key Deposits	190.00
Pre-paid Rental	3,100.00
Rental Deposit	200.00
User Group Liability Insurance	45.00
Total Current Liabilities	\$6,905.00
Outreach Funds	
Encompass	950.00
Food Bank	200.00

Parish Outreach Fund	882.74
Sponsored Children Fund	892.91
Total Parish Outreach Fund	\$1,775.65
Precious Jewels Fund	689.00
PWRDF	2,260.00
PWRDF - Indigenous Response Fund	800.00
Total Outreach Funds	\$6,674.65
Total Current Liabilities	\$15,579.65
Non-current Liabilities	
Capital Funds	
Building Fund	-26,058.88
Garden Shed	3,607.00
Total Building Fund	-\$22,451.88
Dishwasher Fund	10,000.00
Memorial Garden Fund	1,477.27
Rector's Discretionary Fund	4,790.09
Special Purpose Fund	90,848.14
Total Capital Funds	\$84,663.62
Other Long Term Liabilities	
Camp Spirit	850.00
Total Other Long Term Liabilities	\$850.00
Parish Organizations	
Altar Guild	1,693.07
Ladies Club	352.92
Men's Club	520.00
Total Parish Organizations	\$2,565.99
Total Non-current Liabilities	\$88,079.61
Total Liabilities	\$103,659.26
Equity	
Retained Earnings	-57,253.62
Profit for the year	-15,093.12

Opening Balance Equity	666,509.75
Total Equity	\$594,163.01
Total for Liabilities and Equity	\$697,822.27

Report on Proposed 2025 Operating Budget and 3-year Financial Plan

The 2025 Operating Budget projects total expenditures of \$198,559 against projected revenue of \$198,778 for a projected operating surplus of \$219, which includes a transfer of \$15,000 from capital reserves.

The majority of Parish expenditures are fixed in nature and include compensation, the Diocesan commitment, utilities, insurance and office costs. Fixed costs are projected at \$152,609 and discretionary expenditures (outreach, building maintenance, programming etc.) amounting to \$45,950. The only new expenditures proposed in the 2025 budget include \$5,000 for hiring professional cleaners from time to time to support existing volunteer efforts in this area.

Envelope giving at \$110,000 is projected to be the largest percentage (55%) of total Parish giving, while revenue from the preschool at \$37,000 or approximately 19% represents the second largest source of revenue for the Parish. We are projecting fundraising revenue of \$10,000 in 2025 which is the same as our budget from 2024 but still slightly up from what was actually raised during the previous year. Investment income has been conservatively budgeted at \$3,478 for the year, which is below actuals from 2024, however a prudent approach is necessary given the uncertainty of financial markets. Weddings and facility rentals are budgeted at \$18,000 or 9% of projected revenue, which is lower than actual revenue in 2024, but again a more cautious approach is being taken to avoid future financial difficulties.

As in previous years, we will again rely on reserves to cover the budget shortfall in the coming year with \$15,000 budgeted to be transferred from the capital account. Ideally, we would not have to rely on such transfers, but this is not possible in the short-term.

Parish Council met on January 19th to review the proposed budget and passed a resolution to recommend its approval at Vestry.

As Treasurer, I will be moving adoption of the 2025 operating budget as presented.

Respectfully submitted,
Craig Daniell, Treasurer

3 Year Budget Plan – 2024-2027

	2024	2024	2025	2026	2027
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
Envelope Giving	125000	109254	110000	110000	110000
Open Offering	3000	3383	3200	3200	3200

	2024	2024	2025	2026	2027
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Budget	Budget
Fund-raising Events	10000	8881	10000	10500	11025
Hall Rental	6000	22784	8000	8400	8820
Preschool	36000	36000	37000	38110	39253
Weddings/Memorials	5000	9912	10000	10000	10000
Special Donations	5000	1675	2000	2000	2000
Investment Income	2741	9952	3478	3478	3478
Misc/Interest	100	0	100	100	100
Transfers from Capital Funds	15000	15000	15000	15000	15000
Total	207841	216841	198778	200788	202876

Fixed Expenses

Salary and Benefits	120856	121503	98374	101325	104365
Honoraria	1500	1155	1500	1500	1500
Diocesan Commitment	26003	26003	24385	24385	24385
Con Ed	1000	600	1000	1000	1000
Utilities	15000	11759	12000	12360	12737
Insurance	10052	10052	10478	11002	11552
Organist/Choir/Music	7800	12187	15000	15450	15914
PAD Charges	1250	1310	1300	1339	1379
Bank Charges	50	25	50	50	50
Photocopier	2000	2779	3000	3090	3183
Total Fixed Expenses	177710	187372	167087	171501	176058

Discretionary Expenses

Outreach	3000	3000	3000	3000	3000	
Sacramental Supplies	600	2889	3000	3000	3000	
Caretaker	1000	1352	6500	6500	6500	
Building Maintenance	12000	12856	12000	12600	12852	
Grounds Maintenance & Repairs	400	1043	1200	1200	1200	
Programming	3000	199	2500	2500	2500	
Advertising	0	478	0	0	0	
Building Contingency	0	0	0	0	0	
Office Supplies	1821	2086	2200	2244	2289	
Training	0	0	0	0	0	
Miscellaneous / Bank Charges	550	8344	550	550	550	
Total Discretionary Expenses	30170.7	32246	30950	31594	31891	
Total Expense	207881	219619	198037	203095	207949	
Net Income/(Loss)	-40	-2778	741	-2307	-5073	
Transfer to bring Current Account into Black Account Balance	3504	3464	726	1466	-841	-5914
Transfer from Special Purpose Fund				15000	15000	15000
Diocesan CTF	69557					
Special Purpose Fund	90848	90848	75848	60848	45848	

ACW Report

St. George's Anglican Church Women (ACW) are active members of the ACW of the Diocese of New Westminster, an organization registered under the Societies Act of BC, with the mandate to "feed the hungry, clothe the indigent, support the weak and honour all life through prayer, work and stewardship".

In 2024 the ACW hosted a variety of speakers in collaboration with the Parish Outreach Committee. In March, guest speakers Perry Brown, Program Manager and Dave Brown from the Lookout Housing and Health Society offered a highly informative presentation, "Serving Our Community's Most Vulnerable People". In June Loretta Solomon, Board President, and Kate Ludlum, Executive Director of Langley Senior Resource Society outlined the various social and recreational programs offered at the Centre. Following each presentation, rich discussion took place between parishioners and the presenters and was followed by a hearty nutritious lunch catered by ACW.

Throughout 2024 the ACW hosted a number of memorial teas. This is a time when our hospitality service truly comes to the fore with the serving of a traditional tea to families following the passing of a loved one. This friendly yet dignified service continues to be a highly sought after service at St. George's.

In May, in conjunction with the Parish, the ACW hosted a revised Spring Fair that included a children's face painting centre, and a variety of stalls that included gently used clothing, bric-a-brac, books and puzzles, as well as the ever-popular bake table with its home-made jams and preserves. The introduction of a hotdog stand met with great success and gave us new energy for future events as families came and enjoyed a reasonably priced meal.

Hosting the Mayday breakfast continued to be an ever-popular community event and this together with hosting hot chocolate and cookies following the Remembrance Day remain central to our work in the community.

The month of September brought the introduction of a Fall Supper as the ACW hosted and served a delicious supper for all in attendance. The Parish Fall Fair in October saw a return of the outdoor hotdog stand and this together with a bake table, a treasure and trinkets table, book table, and face painting station attracted young and old to our church.

The renowned atmosphere of the Jazz Festival in July saw the return of our hotdog stand. What a hit that was!

On July 4, Ann and Henry Turner hosted an appreciation tea for members of the ACW and the many wonderful helpers of St. George's too many to mention.

And of course, last but not least was the hugely successful Christmas bazaar, held this year in collaboration with the parish. And while the ACW welcomed the community upstairs in the hall with a hot soup luncheon, bake table, crafts and Christmas wreaths and raffles, the Parish offered a variety of fund-raising opportunities downstairs. At this time the ACW would like to extend a huge thank-you to all the parishioners and friends who contributed their time, talent and treasure to make the 2024 Christmas Bazaar a success.

Thanks is extended to Claudette Hessberger, who helps keep us connected by sending cards and making telephone calls to members throughout the year.

As a result of our many efforts, the ACW was able to offer support to the following outreach projects:

Lookout Society (extreme weather)	\$200.00
Mission to Seafarers	\$200.00
Precious Jewels	\$200.00
Camp Artaban	\$100.00
Vancouver School of Theology	\$200.00
ACW Place Social Action	\$200.00
Sources Food Bank (75/month)	\$900.00
Stepping Stones (75/month)	\$900.00
Best Babies Cooking Class	\$200.00
Langley Meals on Wheels	\$250.00
Langley SD Foundation	\$200.00
For a total of	\$3,550.00

N.B. Kitchen supplies: \$500. Sunday School: \$200 (Recorded as line items until need arises). TOTAL DISBURSEMENT: \$4,250

Meetings are typically held on the first Tuesday of each month (except July and August) and we welcome anyone who wishes to join or volunteer with our group. We thank the Parish at large for their ongoing support of our activities and look forward to contributing to the future success of The Parish of St. George's in 2025.

Respectfully submitted
Mandy Williams, ACW President.

Altar Guild Report

Altar Guild members have the humble privilege of preparing the table for communion and making preparations for other major services such as baptisms, weddings and memorials. Duties also include arranging altar flowers, baking the bread, and caring for the altar linens. Decorating the church for the high holidays of Easter, Thanksgiving and Christmas is also a part of our ministry.

THANK YOU to Lisa Boule, Leslie Gaudette, Val Johnstone, Caroline Profitt, Frances Steinfeld and Wendy Robson for faithfully serving in this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Dolphin (co-ordinator)

Book Club Report

Happy birthday to us! The end of 2024 marks the twentieth anniversary year of our Book Club. Six of us first convened in spring of 2005, wanting to expand our personal reading beyond the genres and authors we turned to over and over. All of us felt that we needed more variety in our reading diets. So, we established the club with three basic rules - the books needed to be readily available in paperback, electronic or library editions, no one has to attend all meetings, and we were unanimous in not wanting to be required to read Margaret Atwood.

Twenty years on and we have read 172 titles - fiction, biography/memoir, drama, history, non-fiction - the list is as varied and wide ranging as we hoped for back in 2005. Our membership has fluctuated over the years, currently sitting at just below 20. Three of the original members still attend regularly. Some are parishioners, others connections from elsewhere in our lives. We are, if I do say so myself, a remarkable group of women, with many different backgrounds: educational, cultural, and careers, and we range in age from a highschooler to elders who are 80-plus. We are happy to welcome new members at any time. Our membership is currently all female, but we welcome all. We have wide ranging conversations, sometimes specific to the book we have read, but often covering broader subject matter, often springing from the themes of the book we are discussing.

We continue with our blended format, meeting in person when the weather is reliable and the evenings lighter, in March through June, and September and October, and in November, January and February we continue to meet via Zoom so that no one needs to drive in the dark or in nasty weather.

We meet monthly, in the last week of the month, but take a break for July and August, and we skip December because no one wants to go to a meeting in the last week of the year! The day of the week varies (Mon. to Thurs., at 7pm) to accommodate the maximum number of schedules. We are happy to share books. Attendance at meetings varies from three to about 8 or 9 people per month. There is no commitment to attend every meeting; we are happy to have people join us for every book, some books, or a single title that particularly intrigues you. It's even okay to come just for the fellowship if you haven't read the book. All that is required for membership is that you let me know you want to come, and I'll add you to the list and send you the book list so far. No invitation is required!

In 2024 we read these titles:

The Lost Daughter by Gill Paul
The Little Wartime Library by Kate Thompson
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Olive Kitteridge by Elizabeth Strout
From the Ashes by Jesse Thistle
Amazing Grace Adams by Fran Littlewood
Finding the Mother Tree by Suzanne Simard
The Hunted by Roz Nay
The Women by Kristin Hannah

For the first six months of 2025 our titles are as follows:

James by Percival Everett
Last Dance of the Debutantes by Julia Kelly
The Other Bennet Sister by Janice Hadlow
Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind by Yuval Harari
Little Bee by Chris Cleave
The Last Romantics by Tara Collins

Please, come and join us, and bring you suggestions for more titles. We'll be choosing the Fall 2025 - June 2026 books in the late spring.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Karen Saunders, Book Club co-ordinator

Building Report

The Parish of St. George's Building Committee has welcomed Henry Turner as our new Building Coordinator. Henry offered a helping hand with repairs and advice last year but we are overjoyed that he has agreed to be our Building Coordinator. His experience and expertise have been a great asset to the Parish of St. George.

The Building Committee has undertaken a lot of smaller of maintenance tasks and inspections in the past year however the list of things to do never seems to get any smaller. Maintenance tasks of unplugging sinks, changing light bulbs, cleaning gutters, repairing pews, gardening, etc. and the required inspections such water, fire and back flow valve.

As well, we have had some major projects that we have benefitted from Henry's experience and hard work. Our garden shed which was falling apart has now been replaced with a lovely new shed. Henry spent tireless hours removing the old shed, cleaning the ground around the old shed of stumps and cement and preparing the site for our new garden shed as well as assembling the new shed. The new garden shed looks wonderful.

Another major project we have undertaken this year was replacing the roof on the church in hopes of alleviating the water leaks in the basement. Henry once again oversaw the finding of a roofer and overseeing the replacement of the church roof. As part of that project was the repair of the bell tower and the church bell. The water leaks have been reduced significantly however we are still investigating the source of a leak in the basement.

We also have benefitted from our Saturday morning gardening fairy who comes very early on Saturday morning and rakes, sweeps, paints our fence and steps and repaired the landscape ties at the front parking lot. Thank you so much to Gordon Talerico who faithfully comes and does the outside gardening work for us. We also had the movie company who filmed the "Tracker" movie at the church give us an extra gift of gardening and planting some shrubs in our garden.

We also are so grateful to our cleaning volunteers who clean the church on the weekends. They are all doing such a fine job of keeping our church clean and shiny. We hope that when our financial picture improves we will be able to go back to a cleaning contractor. A cleaning contractor will have a hard act to follow compared to our hard working cleaning teams.

We have such a beautiful historic church and are thankful to all who keep it such good condition.

Respectfully submitted,
Wendy Robson

Envelope Secretary Report

The parish continues to use the online program Sunergo Church Tools. All parish families and associated offertories for the year are entered into the Sunergo system. There were approx. 85 Parish families and individuals giving to St. George's in 2024 (this number includes those who left or joined the Parish during the year). The following is an analysis of giving for the 2024

expenses of the Parish *only*, with comparative figures for previous years. Onward giving (for PWRDF, Precious Jewels, Outreach, Sponsored Children, etc.) is *not* included.

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Number of envelope donations in Sunergo:	76	110	91	95
Up to 29.99/week or \$1559.48/year	54	80	62	62
\$30.00 – 59.99/week = \$1560 – 3119.48/year	10	20	16	18
\$60.00 – 89.99/week = \$3120 – 4679.48/year	10	5	7	10
\$90.00 – 129.99/week = \$4680 – 6759.48/year	1	4	3	5
\$130 – 159.99/week = \$6760 – 8319.48/year	0	0	0	0
Over \$160.00/week or \$8320/year	1	0	0	0

We continue to offer parishioners the opportunity to give monthly through the *Pre-Authorized Donation* program. Donations through this program generate approximately 32% of what is given to the parish which is a decline from last year. There are 26 parishioners who are currently giving by PAD down from 34 in 2023. (The fees are 2.5% for Mastercard, 2.15% for VISA and \$.20 for debit.)

Please contact me (lisaboule@shaw.ca / 604-417-2775) or the Parish office if you would like an account set up in the Sunergo system or to donate by PAD.

Respectfully submitted,
 Lisa Boulé, Envelope Secretary

Fundraising Report

The 2024 Budget goal for Fundraising was \$10,000. With the hardworking commitment and support of our parish, we reached a fundraising total of \$8,881.01.

A huge thank you goes out to all who were part of the organization, baking, serving, setting up, taking down, participating. An amazing group of people who are always there to pitch in when there is a need. It is enriching to work together as a church community.

We also received some donations from the ACW to support the parish in their fundraising efforts and we are thankful for their contribution to the parish. The ACW donated \$1308.82 which would bring us to our fundraising goal of \$10,000.

The Parish also had a fundraiser for the Garden Shed which we raised \$6710 and spent \$3103 which left us with a balance of \$3607 which will assist in a lot of our other parish repairs, etc.

Thank you again to all who supported our various fundraising efforts.

Respectfully submitted
Wendy Robson Trustee

Garden Report

This year we celebrated the replacement of the old garden shed. Thanks to the generosity of many parishioners we have a safe, waterproof storage place which will be less welcoming to wasps, skunks, racoons and any other house hunters. Many thanks to Henry Turner for the hours and skills the project required, and to those who lent a hand when needed.

We recently hired an arborist to prune the ornamental fruit trees and cedars around the church and hall, but have yet to improve the perimeter drainage on the north side of the building.

One of the movie studios made some changes to the flagpole garden and said they'd added a lot of bulbs. It will be interesting to see what comes up in the months ahead! Penny Daniell and family had a work bee this year, cleaning up some of the garden beds, providing a great assortment of plants and deterring weed growth under the walkway rhododendrons. The lawns continue to be faithfully cut by Allan Craig and Gordon Talerico continues to bless us with his weekly visits to rake, power wash and tidy the grounds. Others have accepted the open-ended invitation to weed, plant and prune as time allows. Many thanks to you all!

If you want to brush up on a little history, need a quiet spot to relax or pray, are seeking a spot to get together with friends, or a place for children to play, check out the garden. All are welcome!

Respectfully submitted,
Fran Hancock

Ladies' Dinner (aka The Dragon Ladies) Report

Dragon Ladies, which has been dormant for some time, was revived in December.

A lunch at Adrian's at the Airport saw 23 in attendance so we take this as a sign that there is a desire for the women of the parish to gather for fellowship and, for a change, to be waited upon instead of serving others.

Rather than following the former model of monthly evening dinners, we propose that the new model focus on just a few lunches/teas spaced throughout the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Dolphin and Sue Mortlock
Unofficial coordinators who welcome input/help from others

Lay Ministries Report

Smooth running services take many people to accomplish. We owe a huge thank you to those parishioners who volunteer to help in these important ministries. Your willingness to step up means the world and you are appreciated very much.

Our roster is a little thin and we can certainly use more volunteers for all of the ministries but we desperately **need people as sidespersons and as intercessors. Training and support is provided.**

For those who do not know, our lay ministry options are

- Being a reader (the appointed readings and the Gospel)
- Sidespeople (greeting and logistics)
- Intercessors (Prayers of the People)
- Eucharistic Ministers

The more people on the roster the fewer times each person is responsible. Please prayerfully consider volunteering for one of these ministries. None of them take very much time and you will be trained. If anyone feels so moved to join the ranks of those who serve, please speak to me or the clergy.

Respectfully Submitted,
Brenda Coburn

Men's Club Report

The Men's Club continues to struggle to survive. For whatever reason a lot of our members have left the church. We only had a couple of dinner meetings due to the lack of support in 2024. Hopefully 2025 will be a better year. All men are more than welcome to join us. If you are interested please talk to Tony Cook.

Faithfully submitted
Tony Cook.

Music Ministry Report

The Music Recommendation Committee currently consists of Nancy Paulin and Harold Martens. This past year we recommended selections for the Sundays Georgina requested our assistance. We provided suggestions for the processional, sequence, offertory and recessional hymns, along with three or four Eucharist hymns. We try to have our selections reflect or highlight themes included in the lectionary readings for the particular Sunday. We have also tried to choose hymns the Parish is familiar with.

2025 brings us to a new chapter in St George's history and we look forward to assisting Laurel in selecting music for our Sunday Services.

We welcome the participation of any parishioners who are interested in providing music selection support.

Respectfully submitted,
Nancy Paulin and Harold Martens

Open Doors, Open Hearts, Open Minds Report

From the May long weekend to Thanksgiving our doors and hearts are open to visitors to Fort Langley and the local community. We also keep the church open on Remembrance Day and when other major events are taking place at the church.

For visitors it is an opportunity to have some quiet time, light a candle, request prayers, take in our beautiful building and enjoy a chat with our hosts. For our parish it is a chance to share our history and our current ministries (many are surprised that St George's is an active faith community). This year we welcomed 1604 visitors.

Perhaps the time has come for us to be open to the community year-round.

This ministry of sharing our church and our story, past and present, was made possible because of the dedicated support of a small core of parishioners. THANK YOU.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion and Bob Dolphin

Outreach Committee Report

Outreach Committee Members: Virginia Cooke and Ann Turner and (co-chairs), Lynn Martens (Treasurer), Roy Cline, Sue Cline, Leslie Gaudette, Ruth Genge, Charlotte O'Keefe, John Potts.

This open, unelected committee welcomes members of the parish who are interested in fostering our parish's mission in the communities beyond the doors of the church. The committee continued in their role as stewards of St. George's annual Outreach budget of \$3,000 as well as other funds donated by parishioners specifically for Outreach.

The committee has continued to focus on the following agencies/ministries:

- **Best Babies:** in 2024 the Outreach Committee hosted 4 cooking sessions for at-risk mothers. An average of 9 mothers attended each session while an army of volunteers, together with three staff from Encompass Family Services, ensured the wellbeing and safety of 10 to 12 infants. Without the team of volunteers, cooking classes for at-risk mothers would likely be discontinued. And so, the Outreach Committee extends sincere thanks for the volunteer hours. After reflection and discussion with the committee at large, Virginia Cooke asked to be replaced as culinary leader of the cooking classes. At about that time, the culinary skills of Diane Stephenson were brought to our attention

and thus a leadership seed was planted and watered with Diane. Effective November 22, 2024, Diane began as the cooking class instructor while Virginia continued to offer planning, grocery shopping and mentorship in the kitchen. The Outreach Committee is indebted to Diane for sharing her skills and knowledge in support of our Best Babies program and looks forward to a long and successful culinary partnership.

- **Compassion Canada:** throughout 2024 the Outreach Committee has continued responsibility of overseeing the distribution of funds to Compassion Canada for our remaining 11-year-old sponsor child, Thierry. Support for Thierry will continue until he reaches the age of 22. To secure this responsibility, the Outreach Committee makes four payments of \$141.00 (inclusive of Christmas and birthday gifts) totalling \$564.00 annually. To continue support of Thierry until August 21, 2034, some additional support from the parish may be needed in the future.
 - **Read to Feed** throughout 2024 a wide selection of books has remained available to parishioners following morning service. While parishioners, together with visitors attending events in the St. George's parish hall, enjoy the opportunity to come, browse and make a literary selection it became evident that the vast number of books needed to be reduced. Following extensive book culling, we are glad to share that the bookshelf continues to offer a wide and varied literary selection to all who choose to stop and browse awhile. The modest remuneration for the books goes to support Outreach initiatives.
 - **Mission to Seafarers:** as an identified primary area of donation for the Outreach Committee financial support has continued to Seafarers, along with ongoing donations of knitted toques and cowls. Once again, a successful "Christmas at Sea" appeal resulted in donations of toiletries, personal care items, sweets and hand knitted toques and cowls being delivered to "The Port of Vancouver" by the kindness of Rev. Peter Smyth. The Outreach Committee wishes to acknowledge the ongoing support of parishioners to Mission to Seafarers.
 - **PWRDF Indigenous Response Program:** the Primates World Relief and Development Fund (PWRDF) Indigenous Partnership Program promotes partnerships based on recognition, respect and support for the rights and wellbeing of the Indigenous partners. The Indigenous Partnership Program responds to:
 - The needs and priorities identified by Indigenous partners and by the 1996 Royal Commission on aboriginal Peoples (RCAP) report.
 - The 2007 United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).
 - The Recommendations of the 2015 Truth and Reconciliation Commission of Canada; Calls to Action.
- Program Goals to:
- Support programming in Canada that promotes community health, youth engagement, safe water and climate action.
 - Foster respectful relationship, collaboration and understanding.
- **Other local agencies:** the committee continues to respond directly with Langley communities to address health, welfare and food insecurity.
 - **SOURCES** Langley Food Bank: as funds allow, Outreach continues to make donations to SOURCES, a non-profit organization that promotes social wellness

in our community. To date Outreach has donated \$250 to the Langley Food Bank.

- **Starfish Pack Langley City Program:** the committee donated \$350 to the program for children attending local schools in response to those children who don't have the food they need at home over the weekend.
- **Lookout Housing & Health Society:** in collaboration with the ACW together with representation from the Men's Group, and other parishioners, the Outreach Committee welcomed Perry Brown, Program Manager (New Westminster) and David Brown, Community and Business Engagement to St. George's Anglican Church. The Outreach Committee made a donation of \$250 to the Lookout Society to provide minimal barriers for the clients it serves in the form of housing and a range of services to adults with low or no income.
- **Advent Sock appeal:** In co-operation with Chartwell Green (8738 – 212th Street, Langley) and an increasing number of local housing complexes, parishioners donated an abundance of pairs of new socks. These were delivered to Gateway of Hope in mid January 2024. Dan Donkers, Spiritual Care Coordinator, Gateway of Hope assured us that our gift of socks is much appreciated throughout the wet, wintry months by the less fortunate citizens of Langley.
- **PWRDF Emergency Response:** PWRDF has created a fund for responses to emergencies both in Canada and abroad. The Outreach committee tailors what modest funds we have to the PWRDF priorities, such as the floods in the Fraser Valley and the wildfires in British Columbia.
- **Covenant House:** the committee donated \$250 in support of Covenant House's commitment to support, safeguard and serve all youth experiencing homelessness.
- **PWRDF:** this year's Advent Series "Hope and Surprise," a daily reflection with Very Rev. Ken Gray, invited listeners to hold in prayer all that brings them hope and surprise. This, together with the Lenten series "Seeding Health," focused on how the climate crisis affects the whole community and what a healthy community looks like in the face of crisis. These worthwhile resources, together with Praying with PWRDF that takes place on the second Thursday of each month (1 PM E.T.), are easily accessible and highly recommended on-line resources.
- **Eco Pilgrimage:** following two highly successful eco-pilgrimages, September 2021, and June 2023, the Outreach Committee looks forward to supporting a 2025 pilgrimage under Roy and Sue Cline's leadership. Following a similar format to previous eco-pilgrimages at Roy and Sue's beautiful and tranquil "Sparrowcreek Farm", pilgrims will once again be invited to look, listen and ponder Creation as they wander the trailheads.

OUTREACH Income & Distribution/Expenses for 2024 to November 30

Distributed from the \$3,000 (\$250/month) budgeted by the Parish for Outreach:

- PWRDF Indigenous Responsive Program - \$1200.00
- Encompass Support Services Best Babies Program - \$1800

Covenant House	\$250.00
Encompass Support Services: Best Babies	\$250.00
Outreach hosted luncheon: Encompass Staff	\$78.98
Langley School District Foundation: Starfish Pack <i>Langley Central Program</i>	\$350.00
Lookout Housing & Health Society	\$500.00
Mission to Seafarers	\$500.00
PWRDF Emergency Response	\$300.00
SOURCES Food Bank	\$250.00
TOTAL	\$2478.98

Respectfully submitted,
Virginia Cooke and Ann Turner

Prayer Ministry Report

This ministry, which has been active for over 30 years, offers up prayers on a daily basis for individuals that have a major concern in their lives (be it health related or otherwise).

Prayer support is also offered to the visitors of Open Doors.

We generally have 25 – 30 individuals on the prayer list and we pray for “our people” for as long as need be.

Prayer requests are held in the strictest confidence and are updated every three months. To submit a request contact Marion Dolphin at mjdolphin@shaw.ca or (604) 534- 7548.

Prayer requests can also be relayed via the clergy.

Thanks to Audrey Kustaski, Patricia Rummel, Christine Smith and Kay Yeo for their commitment to this ministry.

Respectfully submitted,
Marion Dolphin (co-ordinator)

Search Committee Report

After the departure of Rev. Kelly Duncan, the Diocese directed the parish to form a search committee which would lead parishioners in an assessment of what they wanted and needed as they moved forward in their spiritual development and then use that information to create a Parish Profile. During that transition period, the Rev. Georgina Harris assisted the parish as the Interim Priest.

This was a process of change which took some time of development. The Search Committee was established in March 2024 under the guidance of Archdeacon Andrew Halladay, who was helpful in providing us some history of the process with the Diocese of New Westminster. The Committee members were Alison Cameron, Fran Hancock, Ann Turner, Wendy Robson, Penny Daniell, Marian Moats, Marion Dolphin, Jim Kelly. As I mentioned in a report made to the parish early in the process, I accepted the responsibility of chairing the committee – as the token male!

The committee met weekly to determine how the process should work. To receive feedback from the parish it was decided to have what we called “Chat and Chew” sessions which took place during the coffee service after the morning Eucharist. At these sessions, we sought feedback from the parish by asking questions such as – What do you value / appreciate about St. George’s; What are your concerns / challenges for St. George’s; What are your aspirations / dreams for St. George’s. We also had a Town Hall meeting, facilitated by Archdeacon Andrew Halladay, where those in attendance recommended that the committee seek a Vicar at 60% of full time equivalent rather than a Rector at 100%. The feedback we received was very helpful in developing our Parish Profile, which became the advertisement of our parish to the larger world, through the internet, for prospective candidates.

It took effort in developing the Parish Profile. There was a willingness on all committee members to make changes to how we thought the profile should look. There was a lot of discernment in the process and fortunately, laughter and humour was important and helpful. As development moved closer, we were fortunate to have the support and assistance of Penny Daniell’s daughter, Nicole Chang, to formulate the final version. Nicole had attended our services and took pictures to show some parishioners attending the services, which were inserted in the profile.

After the Parish Profile was posted, there was a meeting that Jim and Ann attended, at the Synod office, with the BACA (Bishop’s Advisory Council on Appointments) to receive the CV’s for the candidates. Then, it was the process of setting up appointments to interview the prospective candidates. Prior to this, the committee had developed the questions which would be used in the interviews.

The committee then had the discernment of choosing whom we felt was an appropriate candidate and were pleased when Laurel accepted our offer. From the feedback we have received and observed, it appears a lot of parishioners are pleased they accepted the position. We look forward to the continued spiritual journey on which Laurel will lead us.

Respectfully submitted,
Jim Kelly, Chair

Sidesperson Report

We are a small but dedicated group of volunteers who show up early to ensure that the church is ready to open the doors (turn on the sound system, the lights and post the hymn numbers). We greet people as they arrive, ensure any newcomers know what to expect, and take care of the logistics for the service. This includes ensuring there are people to take up the bread and the wine, and invite people to the altar for communion. After the service, we collect bulletins, straighten the books in the pews, turn out the lights, turn off the sound system, take down the hymn numbers and lock the church. It takes It requires about ½ hour before the service and

about 15 minutes after the service. We could really use some more volunteers. I'd be happy to speak to anyone who is even remotely interested in helping out.

Respectfully submitted,
Brenda Coburn

Sponsor Child Report

My first connection with Thierry was after Pat & Tony corresponded with him for 11 years. He was very happy to have had that correspondence with them.

My first letter to him was in April 2024 when I introduced myself to him and gave him a bit of a summons of my life activities.

Thierry is 11 years old and is studying for a national exam in Primary Six. I have written to him this month. He and his family are so happy to get letters from us. He says he and his family pray for us.

I am pleased to be able to communicate with him and follow his life.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary Kozak

Study Series Report

In 2024 we did not have a study series for Lent. Parishioners were free to join other Diocesan offerings as they chose. As well, a daily reflection was sent via email to those who wished to participate, for personal prayer and reflection.

For Advent a small group joined together to read and discuss Christmas in the Four Gospel Homes, by Cynthia M. Campbell. The central theme of the series was to look at each of the Gospels' version of the Nativity story, through the metaphor of the house of the Gospel writer as imagined by the author and the illustrator. The discussions were wide-ranging and thoughtful.

The first session was led by the Rev. Georgina Harris, and after her departure, the Rev. Karen Saunders facilitated the conversations.

Respectfully submitted,
Rev. Karen Saunders

