



Saint Mary's Anglican Church

St. Mary's 2019 Vestry Report

2020 Annual Vestry Meeting:

Sunday, February 23rd, 2020

Rector: **The Reverend Matthew H. McMillan**

Organist and Music Director: Soyoung Shin

Director of 'Next Gen' Ministries: Amanda Ball

Office Administrator: Betty Lehming

Sextons: Aydin and Ayse Apaydin

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Our Vision

St. Mary's is a parish in the Anglican tradition, that embodies the love of God revealed to the world through God's son, Jesus Christ. The People of this church feel empowered by God's Holy Spirit and are committed to authentically showing that love and being that love where ever it is needed.

Our community draws strength from; serving others, being family to each other, engaging in communal prayer and worship, being open to holy learning and by letting God speak to our souls through music, art, nature and prayer.

St. Mary's embraces a community mindset, where all success and goodness is to God's Honour and Glory. We embrace sharing our worship spaces with other churches. We support community and arts groups by sharing our program space. Our church building is our spiritual home, and it is where we reach out with others, to others and model a holy love, that lifts, liberates and blesses in every way it can.

At the heart of this community is the word, family. This faith community is a vessel, which carries us all through the storms of life. It draws people from differing paths and priorities and melds us together as God's loving family. A place where we can grow in our ability to love God, each other and even ourselves.

Vestry Sunday

Sunday, February 23, 2020

12:00 p.m.

Agenda

1. Opening Prayer
2. Selection of Vestry Clerk and Parish Tribunal
3. Approve Agenda and Signing Vestry Declaration
4. Review / Accept past year's Vestry Minutes
5. Parish Leadership Reports
(Diocesan Bishop's, Area Bishop's, Rector's and Warden's Reports)
6. Review and Accept 2019 Financial Report
7. Review and Approve proposed 2020 Parish Budget
8. Appointments and Elections
9. Receive and Accept Parish General Reports
10. Motions for consideration by Vestry
(Auditors, Rectory Grant & Social Justice)
11. New/Other Business
12. Thanks and Acknowledgements
13. Adjourn / Closing Prayer

In Memorium

Members of the Parish Family and Others Who Died in 2019

Pauline Lashley

Gwen Halliday

Helen Evans

Lorna Giles

Claude Henderson

Don Little

Rest eternal grant unto them, O Lord:
and let light perpetual shine upon them.
May their souls, along with all the souls
of the faithful departed, through the
mercy of God, rest in peace and rise in glory. Amen.

The Anglican Parish of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill

Minutes of Vestry Meeting

Sunday, March 10, 2019

12:00 p.m.

The meeting commenced at 12:15 p.m.

Attendance: Fr. Matthew McMillan (Rector), Sharon Hanns, Maggie Velteer at head table

1. Opening Prayer – Fr, Matthew McMillan

The Rector opened the meeting with prayer.

2. Selection of Vestry Clerk and Parish Tribunal

The Rector announced that Catherine Goodman was appointed as Vestry Clerk and that John Martin and Betty Lehming along with the Wardens and Rector of St. Mary's Richmond Hill made up the Parish Tribunal.

3. Approve Agenda and Signing Vestry Declaration

The Rector read the following Declaration:

"I solemnly declare that I have been a member of the Anglican Church of Canada and of this congregation for at least three (3) months, that I have regularly attended services of worship with this congregation at least three (3) times in the past year. I am of the full age of sixteen (16) years or over, and that I have not voted as a member of any other vestry during the previous three (3) months, nor do I intend to vote in any other vestry during the ensuing year.

The Rector then asked those parishioners who were eligible to sign in
(*Record of attendance in office*).

4. Review / Accept past year's Vestry Minutes

The reading of the Minutes of Vestry of February 18, 2018 was dispensed with and that there being no changes required to the said Minutes that they be adopted and confirmed.

Motion carried

5. **Visioning / Building Review Vote**

The Rector stated that roundtable discussions and consultations were held prior to this Vestry meeting and that no formal debate will be held. However, questions of clarification or amendments will be entertained as needed. He further stated that in order to guide the leadership of St. Mary's in preparing the option, they are asking the group assembled to formally vote on a preferred option to permit leadership to start researching, talking to the Diocese and any potential parties that our option may involve. This would further allow the Corporation to see what an actual exploratory option would look like and then the corporation would in turn bring that report in a special Vestry for a vote of acceptance or refusal.

Members were asked to select from the following options:

- A. **Fundraising Study**– to see if we can raise \$1,000,000 over 10 years
 - B. **Sales Study** – to review selling surplus land on Yonge Street between the Main Church and the 2 houses to the South
 - C. **Redevelopment Study** – to see what possible options exist to partner with developers and develop on our property or sell buildings/land to develop ourselves
 - D. **Rectory Relocating Study** – to review whether we should divest/sell the current property on Arnold Crescent, relocating our clergy and their family to a cheaper part of town and seeing what proceeds can be realized.
 - E. **Write in Proposals** – Additional proposals are welcomed as they come forward
- Motion to close balloting made by Jane Robertson, seconded by Neil McMann.*

Motion Carried

It was asked by a parishioner that based on inflation, if we raise the \$1 million would it be worth the same amount as it comes in.

The Rector explained that we would have to build that into the fundraising campaign if that option is preferred. That plan is for whatever funds are raised we would want to be able to build up the Heritage fund. If funds are raised or come through sale or redevelopment would go into a vehicle that would grow until it is needed and would not necessarily roll out the money until things are mission critical or at breaking point.

6. **Present Parish Leadership Reports**

(Diocesan Bishop's, Area Bishop's, Rector's and Wardens' Reports)

"That the reading of the Parish Leadership reports and those of Bishops, Parish Priest and Corporation members be dispensed with and that they be received as presented in the Vestry report".

Moved by James Agyeman, seconded by Sharon Hanns.

Motion carried

7. **Review and Accept the Churchwardens 2018 Financial Report**

"That the reading of the reports to Vestry be dispensed with and that they be received as presented in the Vestry report".

Moved by Wardens for 2018 Financial Report be accepted.

Motion carried

8. Review and Approve proposed 2019 Parish budget

Maggie Velteer presented a brief overview of the proposed 2019 budget and noted that funds remaining in the Heritage Fund are \$30k. Maggie also stated that she will not be going through the Financial Statement since most of the information is in the budget.

Highlights are:

Revenues

Total revenues for 2018 were \$431k as compared to the budgeted amount which was \$403k and thanked the congregation for the extra givings that made this possible.

In 2019, we are leaving the budget line as what was actually collected in 2018.

Expenses

The significant line is buildings. We budgeted \$121k but actually spent \$130k. We expect the building cost to continue to rise in both utilities and operational expenses.

The other big item is staffing. We budgeted \$177k in 2018 and actuals was \$180k. The increase was the cost for the summer student. The 2019 budget is a combination of the actual for 2018 plus the Diocesan grant for a total of \$224k.

Capital Cost

On page 15 of the proposed budget, it shows the capital expenses that were made. This was used from the Heritage fund and designated givings to cover these costs. The cost of capital repairs is huge and that is why the thinking about what we need to do in the future.

A question was asked as it pertains to the 2019 budgeted amount for building.

Maggie Velteer responded that the amount is for utilities, maintenance, repairs and all other items along those lines which are just standard operations of the building.

Motion to receive and approve 2019 proposed budget.

Motion to receive the audited financial statements.

Motions Carried

9. Receive Vote Results

Total Ballots cast	-	69
Option A	-	7
Option B	-	48
Option C	-	6
Option D	-	1
Option E	-	6
Abstention	-	1

10. Ballot on proposed Engineering study, if Vacant Land Sale chosen

The Rector stated that an Engineering Review at St. Mary's is due in 2020. As Option 'B' was chosen, this Engineering Review will be needed in 2019 to aid in the Diocesan process. Therefore the Wardens are asking the congregation to provide guidance via ballot on how to fund the cost of the review.

The Rector further stated that the proposed cost for the review is approx. \$15k, however, there are some new providers and will try to find the lowest possible cost. Based on this information, The Rector is asking that if the congregation is comfortable with all funds being withdrawn from the Heritage Fund to vote for Option A. If you do not think it should all come from the Heritage Fund, then vote Option B.

The floor was then open for the ballot.

A question was asked as to whether any money was set aside in the recently proposed budget for the current year that could be set aside for the engineering review.

The Rector responded that there was no budget line for the engineering review with the budget but there is a \$10k capital line that is non-specific that could be used for this purpose. The understanding would be that the monies would come from the surplus rather than the budget so that this would not necessarily affect the operating budget.

After some intensive discussions, The Rector asked if the congregation would like to take the ballot off the floor.

A further was asked that if the sale takes more than 2 years, should this not fall under normal expenses and be included in the budget.

The Rector responded that if we that if we did not sell the property, the expense will have to be incurred but there is an option that during the property sale, this will fall under the expenses incurred.

The Rector asked for a show of hands from the congregation to determine whether or not to proceed with the ballot.

The majority voted to continue with the ballot as presented.

Motion to close ballot moved by Jane Robertson, seconded by Karl Lashley.

Motion carried

Results from Ballots: 66 votes cast

No:	33
Yes:	32
Spoiled:	1

11. Appointments and Elections

The following three names are being formally added to the list of Vestry nomination and appointments for 2019.

Parish Tribunal – Betty Lehming

Heritage Fund Advisory Committee Member – Jim Stockwell

Alternate Delegate to Synod – Sharon Hanns

The Rector announced the appointments as presented.

A motion to open nominations, moved by Sharon Hanns, seconded by Joan Chandler .

Motion carried

The Rector called for nominations from the floor, hearing none.

Motion to close nominations .

Moved by Ken Wrightman, seconded by Jenny Rogers.

Motion Carried

Motion to accept nominations as presented.

Moved by Bob Painter, seconded by Jim Stockwell.

Motion carried

12. Receive and Accept Parish General Reports

“That all the parochial reports from the different ministries and groups from St. Mary’s be received as presented.”

Moved by Jenny Rogers, seconded by Suzanne Corman.

Motion Carried

13. Motions for consideration by Vestry

(Banking, Auditors, General and Outreach)

Appointment of Auditors for 2019

“That the auditors for the financial records of St. Mary’s, Richmond Hill authorize the appointment of Hurren, Sinclair, McIntyre, Chartered Accounts of Pickering Ontario, to the Auditors of record for St. Mary’s Financial Reports for the year ending 2019 financial cycle”.

Moved by Maggie Velteer, seconded by John Martin.

Motion Carried

Rectory Grant

“We the Vestry of St. Mary’s Richmond Hill authorize the Corporation to apply for a Carleton Grant to help pay for costs of maintenance, renovation and repair to our Parish Rectory, located at 100 Arnold Crescent in Richmond Hill.”

Moved by Julie Hastie, seconded by Margaret Baldassarre.

Motion Carried

Outreach and Social Justice

Richmond Hill Community Food Bank

To enhance our current ongoing partnership with the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank through a Lenten Food Drive and through Loblaws merchant cards, should we find ourselves in a position, whereby the profits from Merchant Card sales allows.

Moved by Maggie Velteer and Lyne Webb as Co-Chairs of Outreach.

Motion Carried

Refugee Family Sponsorship

Further explore the possibility of providing refugee sponsorship support for a Hazara Afghani family, under the auspices of the Anglican United Refugee Alliance

Moved by Maggie Velteer and Lyne Webb as Co-Chairs of Outreach.

Motion Carried

Visioning and Building Review

“We the Vestry of St. Mary’s Richmond Hill, authorize the Corporation to move forward with a formal review of the approved option (Option B) for St. Mary’s visioning and Building Review.”

Motion carried via Private Paper Ballot

Building / Engineering Review

“We the Vestry of St. Mary’s Richmond Hill, recommend the Corporation proceed with an Engineering Survey and Environmental Audit of our buildings and further recommend the cost be taken from the Heritage Fund.”

Motion to be reconsidered

14. New / Other Business

None

15. Thanks and Acknowledgement

The Rector offered a token of thanks to the two outgoing Wardens, Claudette and Karl Lashley. Karl will remain as one of our Officers for the coming year.

The Rector thanked the congregation for their presence and patience and support in our labours.

16. Adjourn / Closing Prayer

Motion to adjourn meeting made at 1:33 p.m.

Moved by Bob Painter.

Motion Carried

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to Vestries, 2020

To our Clergy, Churchwardens and Parishioners

Beloved in Christ, peace and grace be with you.

"I am the true vine, and my Father is the vinegrower. He removes every branch in me that bears no fruit. Every branch that bears fruit he prunes to make it bear more fruit..." These words from the Gospel of John, chapter 15, were spoken by Jesus to his disciples at the Last Supper. They are tender - words spoken in the shadow of the cross to disciples who would become the Church. John 15 was also the centerpiece text for my charge to Synod in November 2019. If you have not had a chance to watch it, I invite you to consider doing so. The imagery of the vine, the grower, and pruning for growth form the roots of the Priorities and Plans of the Diocese for the next two years, as they have done for our strategic plan Growing in Christ beginning in 2016.

Recently at a meeting I was asked by a lay member of Diocesan Council, "Bishop, what is your vision for the Diocese? In a word or two what do you want us to do?"

And I said, "Simple...Grow!"

At its root the strategic plan calls us to "grow" in Christ. What does this mean, to grow in Christ?

It means, that in all that we do, whether in our parishes, outreach ministries, diocesan ministries, chaplaincies and communities, we are summoned to flourish; in number, in maturity of faith, in our life of prayer and worship, in our leadership, in our embrace of a mission that calls us to move beyond the walls of the Church. To grow in Christ means to trust the inspiration of the Holy Spirit. To grow in Christ means that we sometimes have to let go of old structures and ways of doing things that keep us from taking the risks necessary to pursue the One we pledge to follow - Jesus.

Vestry provides one moment for every congregation to consider the challenge to grow in Christ. No matter the size of the community, no matter how large or small the budget, no matter the number of lay leaders or clergy, no matter the obstacles to balancing a budget...Are we doing all that we can to grow in our faith in Jesus Christ? What is one thing that we can do to deepen our discipleship? What is one thing that we

can do to serve the needs of our neighbours? What is one thing that we can do to strengthen the bonds of affection that we have for each other?

Each year at vestry we ask you to consider supporting a social justice initiative through a particular motion. In the past we have asked vestries to consider addressing issues of poverty, raising the minimum wage and affordable housing. In 2020, we are asking you consider being good stewards of creation as we grapple with the growing climate emergency. We invite you to consider setting a goal to reduce our collective carbon footprint.

Sometimes we can focus only on what we don't have at our annual vestry meetings, not enough money, not enough time, not enough people, not enough... Sometimes we can spend too much time only thinking about how on earth we are going to balance the budget. That's not to say that balancing the budget isn't important...it is. Rather, consider the words of Jesus in John 15. In the face of a future that doesn't always seem very clear, lift up your hearts. Reach out and grow in Christ.

Yours in Christ,

+Andrew

*The Rt. Rev. Andrew J. Asbil
Bishop of Toronto*

Bishop's Pastoral Letter to York-Simcoe Vestries 2020

My Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

I greet you in the Name of our Loving, Liberating and life-giving God, Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier.

I once again offer my prayers and good wishes as you gather for your annual Vestry meetings. I thank all of you for your dedication and commitment to God's mission and your parish's participation in that mission.

I strongly encourage your Vestries to pass the Social Justice Vestry Motion on Climate Change. The concern about climate change should be taken seriously by all of us and we need to debunk the view that, "it is a hoax." We only need to look at all that is happening around the world floods, earthquakes, extreme weather and recognize that 'nature is rebelling.' I share the perspective that, "Addressing climate change will take commitment from every sector of our society: governments, businesses, churches and other faith and community organizations, and individuals. Let us encourage our governments and each other to take up the challenge."

It is a year since our new Diocesan bishop, Andrew Asbil took over the leadership of our Diocese and he challenges us to be open to taking responsible risks in the Mission and Ministries to which we are called. In his Charge to our Synod meeting in November 2019 Bishop Andrew spoke about pruning for growth, of letting go of dead wood and trying new things for the sake of the gospel. He said, "It is not a time to be afraid; it is a time to have courage". I join with Bishop Andrew in encouraging every parish in York Simcoe to live fully into your baptismal ministry with boldness and confidence in the promise of Jesus Christ, "I am with you always, to the end of the age". Matthew 28: 20

I ask that you uphold in prayer our new Primate, the Most Reverend Linda Nichols as she leads our Church in Canada in a time of great challenge. She along with about five hundred bishops of the Anglican Communion will be attending the Lambeth Conference in Canterbury U.K. in the summer of this year. The theme of the conference is 'God's Church for God's world: walking, listening and witnessing together'. Please pray for this historic meeting of bishops which takes place

about every ten years. Bishops and their spouses will meet from July 23 to August 2, 2020.

I continue to be very concerned and disturbed by the ongoing level of violence taking place in some of our communities. I ask your prayers for those in law enforcement and the judiciary, that they will act justly and explore with all social partners means and ways by which to address violence in our communities and work towards reducing if not eliminating such violence.

As a people of faith, hope and confidence in a loving, gracious and merciful God, our roles as Christians are to bear witness to the love, hope, and mercy offered us by Almighty God every day. We must continue the missional work that is before us, in building communities of compassion, hope, peace and justice.

The Area Council will continue in its leadership to provide funding for wonderful and meaningful ministries taking place in the Episcopal area of York Simcoe. I commend the good ministries being carried out across our area amid great challenge in some cases. I am most grateful for those persons who serve on the council and look forward to the work that will be done in the year ahead.

The College of Bishops is grateful for the faithful ministry carried out across the Diocese by dedicated clergy and laity who give so much of themselves in serving their parishes and communities.

We continue to be indebted to retired clergy who serve in interim ministries, as priest-in-charge or fill-in on Sundays as needed. I thank the following clergy who are providing pastoral care and support of the following parishes: The Reverend Bob Bettson, Interim Priest-in-charge of Christ Church, Stouffville; The Reverend Canon Barbara Hammond, Interim Priest-in-charge of St. Paul, Newmarket; Bishop George Elliott, Priest-in-charge of the Parish of Lloydtown, Christ Church, Kettleby and St. Mary Magdalene, Schomberg (while The Reverend Sheilagh Ashworth is on leave); Bishop Patrick White, Interim Priest-in-charge of Church of The Evangelists, Tecumseth.

We keep in prayer clergy and laity in our area who are facing significant health challenges. We pray for their families, caregivers and the medical teams who support them.

The Reverend Jason Prisley accepted an appointment to the parish of St. Hugh and St. Edmund, Malton in York Credit

Valley area. We place on record our sincere thanks for the good and exemplary ministry he exercised as the Incumbent of Christ Church, Stouffville.

On Sunday May 12, 2019 I presided over the closing of the parish of St. James, Lisle. It was a good celebration, even though there was some sadness, and we place on record our sincere thanks for the ministry of that parish in the 133 years of Christian witness in the community of Clougher-Lisle. We are indebted to the Reverend Jim Wilcox their Priest-in-charge for nine years who served them faithfully until the closure. We wish Jim every blessing in his retirement.

On May 30, 2019 we celebrated the new ministry of the Reverend Karen Hatch as Incumbent at Trinity, Aurora and we welcomed Karen and her husband Brian back to York-Simcoe.

The Reverend Eileen Steele was appointed Incumbent of the parish of Penetang & Waubaushene July 1, 2019; and The Reverend Jonathan Turtle was appointed Incumbent of the parish St. John, Craighurst & St. Paul Midhurst August 1, 2019.

It was with sadness that we bade farewell on November 27, 2019 to the Reverend Sid Maddock who served the Anglican Church of Canada faithfully. There was a wonderful celebration of the life and witness of Sid at St. Margaret of Scotland, Barrie. May he rest in peace and rise with Christ in glory.

I thank the Regional Deans, the area Liturgical officers and our area Administrative Assistant for their ongoing support of the ministry of York Simcoe. Please continue to keep in prayer the Reverend Sheilagh Ashworth, Regional Dean of Holland who is on Long Term Medical leave. I am grateful to the Rev. Dr. Elizabeth Green who is acting as Regional Dean of Holland. We are happy to learn of the significant health progress Canon John Anderson has made and who is hoping to make a gradual return to work beginning in early 2020.

On a personal note, I again express sincere thanks on behalf of my family for your prayerful and moral support of us during my illness last year. I continue to recover well and looking forward to my Episcopal visits during the year. I thank you also for the condolences extended to me on the death of my youngest brother last July and my father on December 20, 2019.

May God bless you richly in 2020 and equip you in the work to which you are called.

*Yours faithfully,
The Right Reverend Peter DeC. Fenty
Area Bishop of York-Simcoe
Bishop Suffragan of Toronto*

Rector's Report

Dear Friends,

Thank you for picking up your copy of St. Mary's 147th annual vestry report. Every year since the doors first opened to our original church on December 8th, 1872, St. Mary's has gathered the formal membership of our parish together yearly, to present a report on the health and direction of our shared ministry. I commend to you the materials contained in this annual report for our 2020 Annual Meeting. As you read through this report, you'll uncover all our accomplishments from 2019 and be able to see our plans for 2020 and beyond. May we step forward together in faith, trusting that God will give growth as we labour to plant Christ's light and love in our midst.

As your Rector and Parish Priest, I offer to you in this report, my reflections on our work of 2019 and some thoughts for how we aim to grow and step forward with Jesus into this New Year and decade. As we step forward into 2020, I invite you to read through our Parish Strategic Plan, which can be found at the back of this Vestry Report. This document brings together our efforts over the past year and a half and shows how your parish leaders have gathered the congregations input at various stages and worked to build a long-term energetic vision for our church. In addition to our strategic plan, we will be looking to launch this year a formal committee to prepare for the 150th anniversary of St. Mary's in 2022. There is much to do, so I invite everyone to prepare to roll up your sleeves, and join us in this holy labour, presently before us.

During 2019, we laid the groundwork for St. Mary's to move forward as a modern and growing community of faith. We solidified our financial footing with a strong 2019 fiscal program, which tackled many challenges presented to us by our older buildings and allowed us to position our parish for the future, to help us welcome and engage new members.

St. Mary's has many volunteers labouring long hours, from various backgrounds and with a diversity of skill sets. Please know, that new help or insight are always welcome on our teams at St. Mary's too. We can always use more labourers in the vineyard, so please don't wait to be asked!

Please speak to me or any of our church leaders, and let us know of your gifts or interests, in any areas of service. Working together, Christ will bless our labours and guide us to fruitful harvests. I would like to thank the leadership, committees and volunteers of St. Mary's for all your efforts over the past year. Your efforts in 2019, helped to make us that loving community we all enjoy being part of. Thank you as well to all those who help with our Sunday Programming. Our Sunday School, Sidespeople, Greeters, Counters, Chancel, Readers, Intercessors, Choir, Servers & Sub-Deacons. Thank you everyone!

To our St. Mary's staff and wardens who give their best, day in and day out, Thank You. To: Aydin & Ayse, Betty, Soyoung, Amanda, Maggie, Sharon, Colin, James and Chas. We are blessed with how this senior group of leaders have guided us through 2019. I especially want to thank Joe McEwen for his leadership of Parish Board, who is stepping down as its Chairman and Catherine Goodman, who is stepping down as Parish Board Secretary and Vestry Clerk. Thank you both of you, for all you've done for us! Thank you, for your time, care and concern for this place. Your labour's have made us stronger and we thank you for them!

For 2020, I am excited about our plans and directions. We are looking forward to seeing our 'Next Generation Ministries Program' open up and offer focused and dedicated programming for our Youth and Young Families. Our Land Sale Review is also coming together, and should be completed in the next few months. We aim to have reports from the Diocese and detailed documentation able to be presented this Spring at a Special Vestry for a vote to approve or decline this option. As we expand our activities for 2020, there is also a planned pilgrimage to the Holy Land, scheduled from October 25th to November 5th. I would encourage as many of you as possible to consider joining us on a trip of a life time to Israel.

Our success as a parish is due to St. Mary's being a place that values the other and seeks to be the heart of God to those searching to draw close to it. We have tasted the love and blessings that come from being part of the body of Christ and want nothing more than to be able to share those gifts with others. May we continue to aspire to have the faith of St. Mary and offer our hearts, and hands and

voices, to equip our church, that all who come through our doors, may see and know the love of her son, Jesus.

May we journey boldly together in 2020.

Yours in Christ,

Matthew+

Rector, St. Mary's Richmond Hill

Wardens' Report

The Vestry meeting is a time when a parish can look back on the year completed and then look forward. This wardens' report offers a brief review of the events of the past year which has indeed been a very eventful and successful one.

This past year saw upgrades to our internet service, expanding it to Wrixon Hall, and the addition of an AV system in the Sunday school room. The far room in the balcony area was cleared out, painted and furnished as a senior youth room. You will find more information about these projects no doubt, in the other committee reports. We do thank Chas Mills and Colin Webb, our "property guys" for all the work they do around the extensive buildings which form our church.

After a bit of a set back during the initial interview process in April, the Family Ministry Team revised the job description to a part time one and was able to move to the interview process in late November and subsequently offered the position of the Youth Ministry Director to a successful candidate. We look forward to welcoming Amanda Ball to this position at the beginning of January 2020.

After the resignation of John Macey to pursue other opportunities at the end of April, we were able to welcome Aydin and Ayse Apaydin as our new caretakers. They are doing an excellent job in keeping our buildings clean.

The wardens and the Rector are charged with the task of the responsible management of the parish's financial resources. Despite the usual slump in donations during the summer months, we have ended 2019 with a break even budget. We thank all of you for your generosity through your contributions via the weekly envelopes or the pre-authorized giving program. There is also a means to donate on our website if you are away from the church via the Canada Helps program.

At vestry in 2019, the congregation voted in favour to fully review the option of selling a piece of surplus land. As part of that process the Engineering Survey of all our buildings was completed in May. A Strategic Ministry Plan was compiled and a subsequent Cost Proposal document created to accompany it. The wardens and Fr. Matt have had two meetings with the area Bishop and a representative from the diocese. We await further information as this material is being reviewed at the diocesan level.

There are many volunteers in the church who give so much of their time and talent in order for us to carry out our Mission Statement. We extend our deepest gratitude to all who serve on our committees and especially to the chair persons of each committee who are also members of the Parish Board. The numerous reports found elsewhere in this package attest to how much we do within our church community and the broader one by means of our Outreach programs. There are other opportunities during our Sunday morning services where assistance is needed. We are in need of intercessors, crucifers, chalice administrators and Altar Guild members to name a few. If this is an area you feel called to volunteer for, please contact the office.

A special recognition goes again to Larry Daisley and Karl Lashley and all their volunteers who organized two very successful fundraising dinners this year, one in February and another in October. We offer our gratitude to the members of the ACW for their efforts in organising the very successful annual bazaar in November which saw the change of venue for the luncheon to the chapel. It was so beautifully decorated and proved very inviting indeed. We thank Diane Robertson and her team who prepare and organise the Parish Lunch which occurs on the first Wednesday of each month from September to June. These are all important events not only as fundraising events but also as opportunities for fellowship.

Once again the wardens would like to thank the Rev. Matthew McMillan for his support and for all his work in every aspect of St. Mary's. Our thanks also go to Betty Lehming, our Office Administrator; Betty Romanchuk, our Space Usage Chairperson; Maggie Veltheer, our Treasurer; Soyoung Shin, our Music Director and Organist; Lucy Quintero, Envelope Secretary and John Martin, Deputy Envelope Secretary for their dedication to St. Mary's. Both Lucy and John will be stepping down from their positions early in the new year. We

welcome Carol Rochemont to the position of Envelope Secretary in the new year and thank her for volunteering for this ministry.

In February, in addition to James Agyeman and myself, we welcomed Chas Mills and Colin Webb as two new wardens though they are not new to leadership positions. Colin is Rector's Warden and Chas is Deputy Rector's Warden. As People's Warden, I am always pleased to attend events in our deanery. In May I was present at a Town Hall meeting for laity at which our new Bishop of Toronto, The Rt. Rev. Andrew Asbil was in attendance to share his hopes for ministry and I also attended a Lenten reflection program led by our area Bishop, Rt. Rev. Peter Fenty.

Finally, we would like to express our gratitude to all of you for your support and encouragement. We are always open to hear your thoughts and your suggestions. May God bless each and every one of you.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hanns, on behalf of the Wardens*

Process Report - 2019 Land Sale

Proposal

At our AGM in 2019, a proposal was approved by the congregation, to help move us forward with our long terms plans for St. Mary's. The parish leadership informed the congregation that over the next decade or more, we anticipated well over \$1,000,000 of investments needed, to enhance and modernize our church facilities. The church voted to task the Corporation with a mandate to explore in detail a preferred option, to be later approved or rejected by the congregation. The option to be explored involved reviewing the possible sale of vacant church land (which is located between the church and two houses at the corner of Yonge and Major Mackenzie).

Over the last year, a team involving our Parish Priest, Wardens and our Land Usage Committee Chair, met with; Bishop Peter Fenty, Senior Diocesan Staff, interested potential purchasers and officials in the Richmond Hill Planning Department. We have been reviewing; the possible value of the land, sale and severance costs, Diocesan process requirements and a final proceeds sharing formula. We are

now in the final stages of our research, to collect all the details and then present them to the congregation, to prepare the parish for a final vote.

Our challenge has been to navigate all the committees and approval structures within Richmond Hill and the Diocese. For the Anglican Church to allow St. Mary's to retain most of the sale proceeds, we needed to draft a strategic plan and provide further property analysis documents. Those items are now to go before the final review committee shortly. We are also working to determine accurate value appraisals for the land and any potential sale costs or sale parameters that need to be planned for. Should things continue in their current path, we anticipate that a special vestry should be called close to Easter. At that meeting, all the accurate costs, percentages and details will be reviewed and voted on by the congregation.

Your parish leaders thank you for your support and encouragement, as we've worked to bring this project to its final stages. As part of our work, we've included a copy of the Strategic Plan in this year's vestry package. You will find it at the end of this booklet. In addition, please feel free to speak to any of the Wardens or our Land Use Chair, should you like more details or have any questions about this work.

*Sincerely,
St. Mary's Wardens*

PRE-AUDIT 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT & PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	BUDGET 2020
REVENUE			
Donations			
Envelopes	213,805	196,522	204,596
Open Plate	6,500	7,996	8,000
Festivals	10,000	33,157	18,000
Memorial donations	3,150	8,750	5,000
Fundraising	7,000	13,485	10,000
Family Ministry Grant	47,250	33,000	47,500
Total Donations	287,705	292,910	293,096
Rental Income			
Baseline tenant income	190,974	192,189	191,673
Ad hoc rental income	1,500	2,700	2,400
Total Rental Income	192,474	194,889	194,073
Total Revenue	480,179	487,799	487,169
EXPENSES			
Stipends, Salaries & Benefits	224,496	171,564	223,854
Diocesan Assessments	67,104	67,100	69,036
Buildings			
Insurance	18,345	17,495	17,446
Property Taxes	7,022	6,927	7,270
Utilities	46,974	44,289	49,822
General Maintenance	59,959	69,907	72,558
Capital Purchases	10,000	58,857	10,000
Total Building Expenses	142,300	197,475	157,096
Other			
Administration	27,196	31,388	28,910
Committees	19,050	20,547	11,550
Total Other Expenses	46,246	51,935	40,460
Total Expenses	480,146	488,074	490,446
SURPLUS/ (DEFICIT)	33	(275)	(3,277)
Opening Surplus/(Deficit)	31,911	31,911	31,633
Closing (Deficit)	31,944	31,636	28,356

PRE-AUDIT 2019 FINANCIAL REPORT & PROPOSED 2020 BUDGET

	BUDGET 2019	ACTUAL 2019	BUDGET 2020
DETAILED EXPENSES			
UTILITIES - CHURCH			
Gas	20,895	19,285	24,200
Hydro	12,180	10,052	10,200
Water	3,850	4,542	4,600
Telephone	3,996	4,190	4,188
	40,921	38,069	43,188
UTILITIES - RECTORY			
Gas	2,003	1,344	1,809
Hydro	1,530	1,855	2,015
Water	1,200	1,034	1,250
Telephone	1,320	1,987	1,560
	6,053	6,220	6,634
UTILITIES - TOTAL			
	46,974	44,289	49,822
GENERAL MAINTENANCE			
Electrical	500	255	500
Elevator	2,219	2,533	2,658
Fire Alarm System	1,700	2,572	2,500
Heating/AC System Repairs	4,000	7,799	7,400
Lawn care	4,550	4,626	4,600
Maintenance & Janitorial Supplies	15,600	16,454	17,000
Organ Maintenance	1,650	1,372	1,550
Plumbing	1,500	445	750
Rectory Maintenance	3,200	3,210	1,500
Security	1,700	3,732	1,500
Snow Removal	13,500	13,850	15,600
Waste Management	9,840	13,059	17,000
	59,959	69,907	72,558
ADMINISTRATION			
Bank Charges	1,380	1,919	1,380
Meetings	150	0	150
Office Supplies	3,600	4,018	3,720
Postage	800	817	800
Copier	2,325	2,930	2,955
Internet Charges/WEB hosting	600	1,652	600
Bookkeeper	10,441	10,702	11,505
Miscellaneous	500	1,815	400
Audit	7,400	7,535	7,400
	27,196	31,388	28,910
COMMITTEES			
Christian Education	2,000	1,057	1,450
Archives	1,400	528	500
Worship Committee	9,050	10,406	5,150
Ministry Committee	1,500	2,348	1,450
Parish Board - Synod Members Expenses	0	585	0
Family / Next Gen Ministry	5,100	5,623	3,000
	19,050	20,547	11,550

Next Generation Ministries Report

I want to begin by saying thank you for welcoming me into your community and trusting me to lead the Next Generation Ministries here at St. Marys! I have high hopes for the realities that will come and for the potential held in this church and the city of Richmond Hill. I am excited and honoured to be here to serve alongside you all!

I am still very new here, so I am still learning my way around the church (and the city!). I'm still trying to find the aisle where my favorite snacks can be found at my local grocery store. :) While I look forward to getting to know everyone better, the leaders of the children's ministry here at the church, along with Father Matt, have been so helpful to me. They have given me a good picture of what Next Gen Ministry is currently looking like at the church and what it has looked like in the past. My immediate plan is to continue to connect with the church community and strategize accordingly with what will effectively and realistically work for families in the parish.

With that being said, I do want to take this opportunity to share a bit of my heart when it comes to Next Gen Ministry in this church and this city. My goal is to see our Next Gen Ministry open and welcoming to young people in the community, regardless of their background or views. I want our programs to be safe, nurturing, and authentic communities for all people, where all are welcomed and will have the opportunity to explore authentic faith. With that being said, starting in the parish will be my first step. I acknowledge the reality that I am not the person/representative from our parish that is present among large groups of young people on a day-to-day basis – students are! The teens and children of St. Mary's are the people who brush shoulders with those in their neighbourhoods on a daily basis, whether that's happening at school, hockey practice, or swimming lessons. Because of this reality, I will make the discipleship of the young people who call our parish home a priority, ensuring they are equipped to share their faith and encourage others in a way that is effective and relationally healthy. In order to do this, I want to create a Next Gen Ministry culture that is authentic, partners with families, offers theologically-sound teaching, encourages questions, grows true friendships, and ultimately helps kids and teens have a foundation that will help them love and serve Jesus for the rest of their lives!

In order to make this happen, I will need three key things from our church family: investment of time, investment of resources, and a genuine love for the next generation. I trust that you all will be excited about and supportive of the future of our church's Next Gen Ministries and I am so happy to partner with this community in that!

If you want to chat with me about anything, please don't hesitate to get in touch!

Amanda Ball,

Director of 'Next Generation' Ministries

Lay Pastoral Care and Ministry

As I continue overseeing the activities of our dedicated teams of Lay Pastoral Visitors, again this has indeed been an honour and a privilege for me. The ministry of our dedicated team of lay pastoral visitors is an invaluable asset to St. Mary's. Those on the team, besides myself, are: Joe McEwen, Sharon Hanns, Lucille King, John Martin, Ron Smit and Rhelda Stockall and Jenny Rogers.

This continues to be a very rewarding ministry to say the least. We all have taken a course regarding the various aspects of this ministry. We visit people at their homes, in the hospital, retirement homes and long term care facilities. When we visit, we, depending on the circumstances, read scripture, pray with the person regarding their personal concerns, serve communion and anoint them. We talk about what things are taking place at the church itself, and we deliver bulletins and the Anglican newspaper and/or booklets of "Day by Day" or "Our Daily Bread." This is also a "listening ministry" as some folks just wish to talk to someone regarding their personal and special concerns.

This past year, unfortunately some of our St. Mary's parishioners being visited have deceased. This of course has had an emotional effect on our members.

We have meetings quite often on the 4th Sunday of the month with Father Matt to discuss the progress and/or the lack of progress and our concerns regarding those who have been recently visited. Needless to say, all these visits and discussions are held in the strictest of confidence.

Please be aware of this ministry and let any of us know if we can, at all, be of any service or assistance to anyone you might know of who could benefit from a visit by a team member.

Respectfully submitted by: Jan Mills

Anointing Ministry

The church's healing ministry is based on Jesus' constant concern and care for those in need. It is situated within the worship service of the parish, which at St. Mary's takes place the first Sunday of each month. After taking communion, those wishing anointing proceed to two stations to receive.

There are some members of our church who have responded to the call to the ministry of anointing. They are: Jan Mills, Elizabeth Lane, Rhelda Stockall, Sharon Hanns, John Emmanuel, Gleniss Harris, Joe McEwen and Lucille King, whom we welcomed this past year. We will be adding Phoebe Williams to our team in the early new year. We have all taken part in an initial training session which takes place over a three day period of time, usually at the convent of the Sisters of St. John the Divine. A refresher session takes place every year as a further support for those already licensed. The refresher course will occur on September 26, 2020 and the training course this year takes place on May 8-10.

Those completing the training session are interviewed by the area Bishop. After that, a licence is issued to them enabling them to perform the ministry of anointing. We are under the direct supervision of the incumbent. Most of the anointers are also lay pastoral visitors and this affords another occasion when anointing may take place, in a private home, nursing home or hospital.

At the Chrism Mass and Blessing of the Oils service, which takes place on the Tuesday of Holy Week each year, the blessed oil is brought back to the churches. There are two types of oil that are used for different purposes. Chrism oil, which is scented, is used at baptisms and Unction oil which is unscented, is the oil which the anointers use at the service of healing.

I feel very blessed to have been called to this servant ministry as do all of our anointers. This ministry is given to the church as a community of believers.

*Respectfully submitted,
Sharon Hanns on behalf of all the anointers*

2019 Family Ministry Grant Report

As 2019 came to a close, St. Mary's has made many new investments in our life, as a Christian community. We had been blessed in 2018 with a 3 year grant from The Diocese of Toronto, 'Our Faith, Our Hope' Campaign. This award gave us 3 years of funding to grow our focused efforts on building a family focus into our ministry priorities. The aim being to enhance programming and support greater ways for our parish family to stay connected and rooted in our shared life of faith.

2019 began with plans to; upgrade our internet connection throughout the building, enhance our online resources with redeveloping our parish website, upgrade our parish A/V System – to allow services to be broadcast to those unable by age or circumstance to attend, make investments in our Youth and Children's programming spaces and begin our search for a new staff member, to coordinate and program for this ministry. We had our challenges, but all of these priorities were accomplished during 2019.

When finding a qualified full time staff member presented challenges to our funding models, we completed a 2nd staffing search, readjusting for a 30 hour/week position. Happily, we found our new staff member in December 2019 and we have recently welcomed Amanda Ball to our team at St. Mary's. Amanda's ministry area will be focusing on Youth and Young Adults, which is now commonly referred to in ministry circles as Next Generation Ministries or just 'Next Gen' Ministries. We ask for your continued support as we welcome Amanda and begin some new initiatives to help root our next generation in a deep and lively walk of faith with Christ.

In 2019 we also reorganized and expanded our youth ministry spaces. The Sunday School Room was upgraded with a new large screen and projector and a Youth Lounge was created on the Balcony of Wrixon Hall, as we re-organized our parish storage spaces. The Lounge was also upgraded with A/V programming resources for Sunday

Morning Youth Studies and also Youth Group Type Programming. A special thanks to: Lauren Hastie-Wirtzfeld, Erika Golden, Sharon Hanns, Dave Hunt and Fr. Matthew, for their support and efforts to guide and shaped our hiring process, and renew our commitment to the next generation of St. Mary's.

*Sincerely,
St. Mary's Wardens*

Lay Synod Delegates' Report

St. Mary's Synod Delegates:

Clergy: Fr. Matthew McMillan

Lay delegates: Joe McEwen; Monica Woodley

The call for Regular Synod 2019 encouraged delegates, as is usual, to attend Pre-Synod Meetings. The York-Simcoe Pre-Synod meeting was held on Oct. 26, 2019 at Trinity Church, Aurora. St. Mary's Anglican delegates as well as Warden, Sharon Hans attended.

Pre-Synod meetings provide opportunity for delegates to have an overview of the Synod agenda and to debate and vote on certain issues related to the actual Diocesan Synod Meeting. Of significance to St. Mary's, our Incumbent, the Rev Matthew McMillan was nominated and later elected to Synod Council.

The 159th Regular Session of Synod was held at the Sheraton Parkway in Richmond Hill on Friday November 8, and Saturday November 9, 2019. Detailed highlights are in the January 2020 Anglican Journal – paper copies or online at <https://www.toronto.anglican.ca/about-the-diocese/news/the-anglican-newspaper/>. At Synod there were 310 Lay and 270 Clergy present and eligible to vote on decisions and motions during the course of the 2 days.

The Theme of the 159th Session of Regular Synod was "Created and re-created in Christ". In this Bishop Andrew Asbil's first Charge to Synod - and by extension, to the entire Diocese of Toronto, he boldly declared and headlined by The Anglican "This is not a time to be afraid. It is a time to have courage".... "Bishop urges clergy, laity to take risks for the sake of the gospel".

Bishop Asbil centred his address in nature, beginning with his lawn-cutting business as a young boy. He spoke of pruning, vine growth, and yes, mistakes. He deftly moved this work of the hand into a litany of the central use of the hand in ministry – in reaching out to others- to welcome, to uphold; into the spiritual realms of Eucharistic liturgy, hands in prayer, in healing, in helping, in serving. He addressed repurposing properties and the use of our space for the Gospel of Jesus Christ - quoting Isaiah "I am about to do a new thing. Do you not perceive it?"

Throughout the days of Synod the challenges of changing times seemed ever present. Anglicans and Parishes are called to take a hard look at how we position ourselves and our faith communities going forward. As finances and attendance dwindle, do we wring our hands in doom & despair? Or do we seek opportunities for serving Christ more effectively by bravely stepping on to uncharted territory? Is there hope and optimism in sharing the Gospel in new, creative, redeeming ways?

Our inspiring guest speaker, Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat, also spoke of creating and Creation. She spoke of "mistakes" in living in ways that created Biblical calamities, as is today. However, we too can turn the tide of our current environmental disaster by changing old ways of dependencies, by modelling new ways of being and doing as we try to seek God's kingdom first. Incidentally, we hope to have Dr. Keesmaat as a Guest preacher at St. Mary's. This you would not want to miss!!

As lay delegates of St. Mary's we felt our Church was walking in step with clergy and laity as they shared different types of ministry to address different circumstances. St. Mary's has been embarking on different types of outreach as Christ's messengers "to strengthen our faith and to share it with the world".

Thus we commend St. Mary's new Strategic Plan included in this year's Vestry Report. It's vision and mission; priorities and goals; current and future plans, are in keeping with the optimism and courage of meeting challenges with faith, hope, love and creativity as expressed at Diocesan Synod. The St. Mary's family is ready to do new things with courage and faith. In fact, we have already begun to look at expanding and developing new and creative ways in our continuing ministry of loving and serving God and our neighbours and being trusted stewards of creation to the Honour and Glory of God.

May we continue to be guided by his Holy Spirit!!

*Respectfully Submitted,
Monica Woodley & Joe McEwen*

Parish Board

The year 2019 was a productive year on your Parish Board. As usual the different Ministries in the Parish were faithful in carrying out their different charges.

The deliberations of the Board touch on aspects of the day to day functioning of the church in addition to that of the different ministries that require input and support of the Board. A major part of 2019 was spent brain-storming on the church land, building and tenants concerns.

All our ministries continue to receive accolades from within and outside the parish, worth noting is that a recurring issue in all our deliberation is the question of our shrinking resources. While the efforts of all parishioners are much appreciated, our wish is that we all think deeply how we can further use our different “God-given” talents, connections and resources to help resolve problems that keep emerging as a result of our maturing members, and our property which needs major renovation and upkeep. The Property Committee does a fantastic job in keeping our structures, presentable and functional; however, we have not done any updates in a long while, the ramification of this is that the “little” things that keep going wrong have a direct impact on other things. Our Altar Guild is in dire need of members, not only to serve but to help prepare the altar for services. Our Archives Committee, one of the faces of our parish could use more hands in the different Outreach activities. These are just a few areas the parish needs support.

Our Parish is healthy and thriving, all things considered, in addition The Lord has blessed us with a dynamic and energetic leader in Fr. Matthew. As we enter the year 2020 we need to search ourselves and our parish family for how we may rededicate ourselves to building up one another and our parish. The Lord is willing and in accordance to His faithfulness, He will crown all our efforts with success.

*Blessings,
Joe McEwen
Chair, Parish Board*

Property Committee

The property team makes repairs and improvements to the church buildings and assists the Wardens in sourcing contractors for larger projects.

St. Marys is gradually lowering its carbon footprint with the conversion of our lighting systems to LEDs. The parking lot lights, the Yonge Street sign and some of the west wing room lighting has been changed to LED. The lighting in Wrixon Hall was changed to LEDs a few years ago. Other greening projects such as the installation of more heat efficient windows and doors will follow as funding becomes available. Large garbage and recycling containers have been placed in all the rooms in the west wing and Wrixon Hall with instructions on what can be recycled.

We cleaned out the archives storage room on the second level of Wrixon Hall. It was then repaired and painted to make way for the Youth Lounge.

In the spring we spent many hours cleaning up the Wrixon Hall basement due to flooding. The water was entering and filling up a window well then overflowing into the basement. This was caused by heavy rain that couldn't disburse due to the ground still being frozen and many holes and cracks in the concrete window well. In the summer the window well was excavated and the concrete repaired.

The old playground equipment located to the west of the West Wing was removed. This was to clear the space for a patio that Discovery School will be installing. Discovery also installed a wooden fence along the north property line.

We are always looking for more storage space so it was decided to clean out a room in the Wrixon Hall basement that has not been used since a daycare had left. They left behind all their equipment, supplies. The remainder of the basement was also cleared of junk, with a large amount of metal taken to a recycler.

The mop sink in the janitor closet was in bad shape. It had many loose and missing tiles that caused the wood to rot and mold to develop. It was demolished and a stainless steel sink was installed.

Audio/Visual equipment was installed in the Sunday School room. This room can now be used for larger meetings that otherwise wouldn't fit in the conference room.

As we do every year the parking lot lines and the Chapel stairs were painted.

We are always on call for heating and plumbing emergencies. Repairing toilets, replacing taps and interfacing with heating contractors.

*Submitted by,
Colin Webb on behalf of the Property Committee.*

St. Mary's Space Usage

Our facility is fully booked with 13 full time tenants. Two of those tenants York Symphony & Upper Canada Brass perform concerts at a reduced ticket price for us. Upper Canada Brass also participates in 2 of our morning services. Thanks to Fr. Matt, Discovery Academy has renewed their contract for the next 3 years. Discovery Academy has erected a solid wooden fence along the boundary line between the church and the Presbyterian Church. They have also created an outdoor common area which will be available for our use when not used by their classes. Both of these projects were paid for by Discovery Academy. We are also fortunate that many music teachers prefer to hold their concerts in the Church. Over the past year we have had many rental one time events.

Many thanks to Fr. Matt and Betty Lehming for all their help.

*BettyRomanchuk,
Chairperson Space Usage.*

Counters' Report

St. Mary's Counters are the faithful men and women who process the offerings received each Sunday. Their responsibilities include preparing the bank deposit and summarizing offerings data for the Treasurer and for the Envelope Secretary. Year by year they do stunningly consistent and accurate work. I give them my thanks and congratulations.

The current group is: Garry Bettridge, Sheila Amankwah, Elsie Coulter, Des McCartney, Dave Hunt, Ron Smit, Cheryl Butler,

Margaret Baldassarre, Kola Deru, Jonathan Wilkinson, Betty Romanchuk, and Sally White. They operate in three teams, two of which work on Sundays, the other on Mondays. In high volume periods – Christmas and Easter – they all come together and work as a single team.

Last year I reported that Lorna Giles had resigned as a Counter. She died later last year. She was a faithful member of our Parish involved in her life with many ministries as well as the Counters. We remember her with affection.

As one team is short one member, and as backup counters are always good to have in hand, I'd be pleased to hear from anyone who would be interested in being part of this important and tangible ministry to discuss requirements and qualifications.

*Respectfully submitted by
John Martin
Coordinator of Counters*

Music at St. Mary's

I thank every single member of the choir for their hard work and devotion to music at St. Mary's Anglican church in 2019.

Throughout the year, the choir continued to perform anthems and led the congregation in singing hymns on Sunday morning services. The choir also led the Psalm singing during Easter, Thanksgiving, Christmas Eve services.

We also provided music for Christmas Eve, Good Friday. We met weekly on Thursday evenings for practice from September to May.

We have had new additions this year in the soprano and bass parts; Jennifer Briggs and Ian Fitz Gerald. We feel very fortunate for these new members and the talents that they share with our church.

I also thank our guest players who made our music better for 2019 services and other special occasions.

While Morea and Ferdi Dyers visited Canada from Africa, they came to choir practice and Sunday services regularly and sang with us.

Erica Mayhew played the trumpet solo for the anthem. In addition, Joanna Grace and Rita Arendz played the French Horns with the choir and played a solo on Christmas Eve.

Finally, Deanna Shorrocks led the congregation in singing gospel songs during Communion for the Family services.

Specially Upper Canada Brass band joined three services. They played prelude and postlude. They also accompanied the choir anthem and the congregation hymns.

We would like to thank Jenny Rogers for her work to organize music sheet for us. And we also thank Jan and Charlie Mills for inviting us to their cozy house for choir parties twice every year.

I am thankful for the opportunity to work with such a dedicated and talented group of singers and people.

Soyoung Shin

Organist and Music Director

Sidespeople

The duties of the sidespeople are to:

- Distribute service sheets.
- Count and document the number of people present.
- Collect offering envelopes.
- Direct Parishioners to the Communion rail.
- Collect offering envelopes and pass on to counters at end of service.
- Remove unused service sheets or other debris from the pews.

This is an important ministry within the church and I encourage you to consider being a part of the team.

You can contact me or any of the team captains for more information.

Karl Lashley,

Coordinator

Greeters

Each Sunday a team of greeters welcomes parishioners and newcomers to St. Mary's. Every effort is made to extend a warm and sincere welcome and to let newcomers know that we are happy to have them with us for worship. It is a beautiful ministry and a blessing to our team members as well.

In 2019 our volunteers included Julie Hastie, Norman McMullen, Margaret Baldassare, Paul Thomas, Karl Lashley, Myrtle Blackett, Rhelda Stockall, Helen Butt, Joan Smith, Barbra Amadori and Olga van der Lee. We are grateful for their participation and dedication to this important "front line" ministry at St. Mary's.

More team members are always welcome. If you are interested in participating in this joyful ministry, please contact Margaret Baldassare or the Church Office.

Respectfully submitted by

Margaret Baldassare

and St. Mary's Greeting teams

Altar Guild

The Altar Guild has struggled with the issue of low membership over the last few years. As we have only nine active members, we are only able to maintain a roster of four teams by assigning some members to more than one team. I extend my deepest thanks to those members who so diligently carry out their duties. I extend thanks also to Barb Mann and Joan Connolly for their additional responsibilities that they take on within the group. Barb looks after all our candle needs and ordering of our wine and wafers and Joan is our treasurer.

As is evident, we are always seeking new members so if you are able to assist in any way, please speak to me. Training is provided and you would be assigned to a team with experienced members. We hold only one meeting per year, at which we make palms. The exact date will be made known closer to the time but will most likely be April 3. I invite anyone who would like to learn how to make our crosses to join us then.

Our purificators, which are used to wipe the cup after each communicant has received the wine, tend to wear out due to

the constant intense washing required, and so again we ordered and received twelve new ones this past year. Thank you once again to the ladies who remove their lip stick prior to taking the cup as it does reduce the use of harsh products that would be required in the cleaning process of these linens and thereby helps to prolong their life.

I thank Jenny Rogers who did a wonderful job of decorating the sanctuary again for the Thanksgiving season and also created our Advent wreath this year. Garry Bettridge continued his role of ordering and arranging the floral displays for Christmas and Easter. Their efforts certainly enhance our worship experience. I also wish to thank Colin and Lyne Webb, and Charlie and Jan Mills who came out on Nov. 29 to assist me in decorating the church for the Christmas season.

Early in January this year, as we were taking down the Christmas decorations, it was a perfect opportunity to finally sort through the older decorations that have accumulated over many years and have been stored in a room in the basement of Wrixon Hall. I thank Jenny Rogers, Diane Robertson, Lyne and Colin Webb, Olga Van der Lee, Caroline Matchett, Chas Mills and Vera Briggs who provided refreshments, for all their hard work in organizing these rooms for easier access. We might just see a few different items for this coming Christmas.

This is a very rewarding and necessary ministry within the church organization and I am grateful to have the opportunity to be a part of it. The members of the Altar Guild are ever mindful that what we do, we do to the honour and glory of our Heavenly Father.

Blessings to all and may 2020 be a happy and healthy year for everyone

Respectfully submitted by
Sharon Hanns,
Chair of the Altar Guild

ACW

Thank you to our ACW Executive and Bazaar Committee members for all their hard work and effort in making the ACW 2019 a very successful year for the women of St. Mary's.

Linda Wightman, Treasurer, Helen Tompkins, Secretary & Josephine Vaccaro-Chang, Public Relations.

Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon Sub-committee: Lyne & Colin Webb, Diane Robertson, and Jane Robertson.

ACW 2019 EVENTS

Saturday April 27, 2019. Vera Briggs, Caroline Matchett, Joan Temple Porter, & Marlene Gardiner attended the Toronto Diocesan ACW Annual General Meeting where the theme was "Working with Change". Ten names were inscribed in the ACW Memorial Book. Three names from St. Mary's included Lorraine Kisch, Ruth Wilton, and Elizabeth Loweth.

Wednesday, May 29, 2019 our ever-popular Spring Potluck Dinner was held in Wrixon Hall. It was well attended with a cornucopia of food and desserts. We all enjoyed the Fun, Food, Fellowship & Drums! During dinner we played an ice breaker game to get to know each other even better. Following dinner and dessert, our guest, Andrea Pringle, a music teacher and yoga instructor, led us in a Night from Africa. Andrea brought hand drums for each of us as well as some percussion instruments. We formed a Drumming Circle which proved us with a great form of exercise, connecting body, soul, and mind, stress relieving, and a sense of community. A fun time was had by all! It was a fantastic evening!

Saturday, November 16, 2019 St. Mary's Annual Christmas Bazaar & Luncheon. Another successful event that provides fellowship, collaboration and community outreach. Many hands make light work and we have many hands to make this a very profitable Christmas Bazaar. This event cannot happen without, the wonderful women of St. Mary's and a few good men! Thank you to our table convenors and your teams; luncheon convenors Lyne Webb, Colin Webb and Diane Robertson, Cathrine Goodman, Christmas Décor & Gifts, Linda Wightman, Crafts, Joan Temple Porter, Jewellery, Helen Butt, Bake Table, Vera Briggs, Knitting, Maggie Veltheer, White Elephant, Bruce Rogers, Books, and Linda Wightman bazaar treasurer. We had the addition of the Poinsettia Sales and thanks to Jane Robertson. The ever-popular Bake Table had the highest sales of almost \$1,000. Thank you to everyone who came to help set up and break down afterwards. Thanks to Kathy and Ingrid Hitchins for taking photos of our Bazaar. Special thanks to Charlie Mills for sharing his musical talents with us and providing an ambiance for the Christmas Season. We raised over \$5,905.61.00 which is amazing!

Sunday, December 8, 2019 – ACW Annual General Meeting & Breakfast was held in Wrixon Hall. Major feedback was that

everyone really enjoyed having the luncheon in the Chapel. In true business fashion all money raised was disbursed to groups within our parish and outside of our parish. We voted to disburse funds requested to the follow groups in our parish; Name Tag committee, St. Mary's Office, Green Team, Church Gardens, Archives committee, Property Committee, Youth Minister (towards a computer), Card Tables, Church Renewal Project (towards painting of Wrixon Hall) and in our community; Home on the Hill and Yellow Brick House. I am so proud and honoured to be a part of this amazing group called St. Mary's ACW.

ACW 2020 UPCOMING EVENTS

Saturday, April 25, 2020 – Toronto Diocesan ACW Annual General Meeting and Lunch. St. Thomas Anglican Brooklin, in Whitby.

Wednesday, May 27, 2020 – Annual Spring Potluck Dinner in Wrixon Hall. Save the Date!!

Annual Christmas Bazaar date TBA!

ACW 2019-2020 Report respectfully submitted by Marlene Gardiner, ACW Executive Chair.

Report on Parish Lunch Ministry 2019

I am happy to report that we continue to hold parish lunch the first Wednesday of each month except for July and August. Our numbers for lunch vary month to month from 24 to 36 guests.

On Parish Lunch Wednesday there is a church service at 10.00 followed by tea or coffee and a speaker. Jane Robertson has organized interesting speakers or programmes. At noon we serve lunch.

Everyone is welcome to join us. We appreciate your letting us know if you plan to attend so we can serve sufficient meals - no-one wants to go hungry !

I would like to thank the dedicated team:

Vera Briggs

Olga Van der Lee

Jane Robertson

Lyne Webb

Colin Webb

Respectfully submitted by

Diane Robertson

Prayer Support Group

At St. Mary's we have three separate prayer groups. Some people belong to all three. We are few in numbers.

One group of five parishioners are available after the 8.a.m. and the 10.30a.m. services for individual prayer. A number of people have taken advantage of this service and have found it very helpful. This ministry will continue as long as we have parishioners available to provide this service. We try to have someone available each Sunday.

We also have a prayer group that can be contacted by phone or personal contact for anyone requesting prayer support in meeting difficult situations in their life. Only first names are needed and the reason for prayer. Each name is prayed for each day for a week or more depending on the circumstances. There are six of us who are involved in this ministry.

Every third Thursday of the month a small group meet together for devotion, study and prayer. Our prayers are for the world , community, environment, parish and people. These are spontaneous prayers and we are open to where the spirit is leading us. Our meeting ends with light refreshment.

I would like to thank all the parishioners who have been involved in these three ministries.

God always has time for us. He understands every detail of our circumstances—no matter how complex or difficult—and is there whenever we call on Him in prayer. We never have to wait in line for our Savior's unlimited love. - *from the Daily Bread.*

Therefore I want people everywhere to pray, lifting up holy hands without anger or disputing. 1 Timothy 2:8.

Respectfully submitted by

Barb Mann

Prayer Shawl Ministry

This ministry is also a very fulfilling activity if you enjoy knitting and/or crocheting. There are a few books regarding this activity and patterns. When a piece of work is being knitted many prayers are said while making these items. After these shawls are blessed at the church they are

distributed by our lay pastoral visitors at homes or the hospital. Last year some shawls were knitted by Betty Gilpin, Lorna Giles and Helen Evans. Lorna and Helen continued to produce a tremendous number of shawls this past year until their passing. Betty Gilpin has continued to make some prayer shawls along with Caroline Matchett. Thank you ladies, once again, for your wonderful, wonderful work and thank God for your talents.

Please don't hesitate to make us aware of your talents in this activity if you would like to support this particular ministry.

Respectfully submitted by: Jan Mills

St. Mary's at Mackenzie Health

A small group of St. Mary's parishioners continue to hold a service at MacKenzie Health Centre on the 4th Sunday of each month. A Service on the other Sundays of the month is provided by other local churches.

The service is held in the Long Term Care wing, located on the 4th floor of the A wing of the hospital. Over the years we see many regular attendees, we also see new faces.

Most of the patients arrive in wheelchairs. Young hospital volunteers assist in helping to move these folk into the room in which the service takes place.

We have a set service of "Morning Prayer" and use hymns from "Hymns We Love to Sing," which is a booklet of collected favourite hymns. Chas selects the hymns each week and accompanies us on the portable Yamaha keyboard which Joe McEwen and the volunteers assemble for Chas (*sometimes Chas helps*).

The St. Mary's visiting team consists of: John Emmanuel, Jan and Chas Mills, Joe McEwen and Jenny and Bruce Rogers.

Each one of us contributes in different ways, ie. Reading gospel, leading prayers etc. and Joe always delivers an inspiring Homily. If Joe happens to be absent John will deliver the homily. This past year we have been pleasantly surprised in that Bruce Rogers has delivered two very interesting homilies.

John and Joe remain after the main service to offer communion to those desiring same.

There have been, this year an average of 25 residents attending; the most being 34 and the least in number being 16. There is usually one programme leader and 3 hospital youth volunteers also in attendance.

Most summers Chas and Jan are away during July and August and Jenny, Bruce, John and Joe carry on with the service.

As always, many in this small congregation close their eyes and listen to the familiar words, some fall asleep, some are restless or in pain. All receive grace and love during these services.

This indeed is always a very fulfilling ministry and we are glad to have the privilege to be a part of this very worthwhile ministry.

Sincerely,
Jan and Chas Mills

Outreach & Social Advocacy Committee

Our committee strives to meet once per month on the 3rd Monday of the month throughout the year, with exception of the summer months. Our members are Julie Hastie, Norman McMullen, Dionne Robertson, Maggie Veltheer and Lyne Webb

During our 2019 Vestry St. Mary's Anglican Church, Richmond Hill committed to these two priorities during 2019:

To enhance our current ongoing partnership with the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank through a Lenten Food Drive and through Loblaw merchant cards, should we find ourselves in a position, whereby, the profits from Merchant Card Sales allows.

Further explore the possibility of providing refugee sponsorship support for a Hazara Afghani family, under the auspices of the Anglican United Refugee Alliance.

We are pleased to report that through the generosity of parishioners we were able to contribute considerable

foodstuffs during our Lenten Food Drive as well as our ongoing donations to the Richmond Hill Community Food Bank. We have also made a \$500.00 donation realized from Merchant Card sales profits and Loonie Muffin/Fair Trade Chocolate Sales.

With regard to the second part of our Vestry Motion, St. Mary's has committed to provide refugee sponsorship support the Mohebi family. In conjunction with Ibrahim Mohebi, here in Richmond Hill and AURA we have been successful in beginning the process to bring this family to Canada. Their application has been submitted and file numbers have been issued. This will be an 18 month to 2 year process. We look forward to their arrival. In the meantime, Parish Board 'broke bread' with the Canadian Mohebi family in November. Mrs. Mohebi cooked an amazing Afghani dinner for us and we spent time getting to know each other.

St. Mary's once again provided hospitality to the MOSAIC Out of the Cold program for 3 consecutive Monday's from the end of January to the end of March. We are blessed with many returning volunteers from the larger community as well as the Parish in order to provide this service to those in need. Thanks to all who provided home baking to this cause. Hospitality includes snacks, an evening meal, overnight accommodation, breakfast and a bagged lunch for those in need.

We experimented with a Conversational English offering during the first three months of the year. Norman McMullen spearheaded this initiative, however, there was sporadic attendance and this project was shelved.

Maggie and her team through Home on the Hill, continued to offer Friday Community Lunches and extended the invitation to the larger community through the Richmond Hill Food Bank. Attendance has expanded to approx. 18 attendees each week. This offering provides a much appreciated service to the community.

With the support of our 'bakers' (Catherine Goodman, Karen Ferrie, Paulette Popp & Committee Members) and our faithful customers of Loonie Muffins & Fair Trade Chocolate Sales, we continue to support our two foster children through Plan Canada (\$1000.00). In addition, we purchased \$750.00 in Loblaw merchant cards for the office to use for those who approach the church in need. We also assisted the Sunday School with shipping costs for Books to the North (\$100.00).

In an attempt to fulfill our commitment to Truth & Reconciliation through education, our committee held a showing of the documentary Doctrine of Discovery, Stolen Lands Strong Hearts, followed by a short discussion. We had 19 attendees. Folks found it to be time well spent.

Our annual Family Christmas Project was carried out in support of Blue Door Shelters. Thank you to all who generously supported this project with donations totaling \$2,100.00. We were able to purchase \$25.00 Walmart cards through our Merchant Card Sales Program to make this donation, which was thankfully received by Blue Door just prior to Christmas.

Many thanks to Ron Smit for his promotion and coordination of the Merchant Card Sales Program. Through parishioner support (ie: purchasing of merchant cards) we are able to realize a small profit which we, in turn, invest in grocery cards for St. Mary's office discretionary use.

We thank the Parish for your continued support of our endeavours. Should you feel called to join our small group, have an idea or see a need in the community where we may be able to provide service, please approach one of our committee members.

*Report submitted by,
Lyne Webb*

The Archives Committee

Our Committee has had a successful and productive year and I am sincerely grateful to our members Joan Connolly, Lucia Ferrara, Dave Hunt, Lucille King and Colin Webb. Special thanks to Lucille who records the Minutes of our meetings so efficiently. I enjoy our meetings and need to thank the Committee for its support and patience at times.

We are grateful to the A.C.W. for approving another Grant for our work. We greatly appreciate the interest and support they provide. The Grant was used as seed money to prepare for our Fragments Evening in April. The Grant, along with budget funds, also allows us to continue membership with The National Trust for Canada, The Ontario Heritage Trust and The Richmond Hill Historical Society.

Doors Open was a great success again this year and our Committee was pleased to take a lead role in its implementation at St. Mary's. We are grateful to those who acted as tour guides and to the many volunteers who staffed various areas in the buildings. Special thanks to Diane Robertson who made sure that lunch was available to volunteers as well as early-morning coffee. The latter was greatly appreciated!

Many thanks to all who have donated items to our collection this year. We are especially grateful to Joan Connolly, Garry Bettridge and Janet Bartram-Thomas who have shared a large quantity of very interesting and important items. We were also delighted to receive Vols. 1- 5 of the Royal Canadian Legion's Military Service Recognition Book. This work is a massive undertaking which is intended to record photos and biographical information about all individuals who served in the Canadian Armed Forces, Commonwealth Forces and Allied Forces.

In February we arranged our visit to the Sunday School. We focused on the large cross behind the altar in the new church, explaining its symbolism and history. Thanks to Lauren Wirtzfeld for helping to arrange thus contact between the Archives and the Sunday School.

Our Fragments Evening on April 6th was our major event of the year. The Committee worked very hard to make this event such a success. Karen Gold and Susan Litchen entertained us with songs from the '60's and guests enjoyed watching the vintage C.B.C. special presentation about the once famous coffee house under the Chapel. Special thanks to Caroline Matchett who sewed new red checkered table cloths for the event and to all who supported the project in any way. It turned out to be a wonderful parish event! We were astonished by the fact that we were able to finish with a profit of \$352.67. These funds were used to reprint 100 copies of the 50th Anniversary of the New Sanctuary, 1964-2014 booklets. This publication is an excellent history of St. Mary's and a perfect give-away to visitors and guests. In addition we donated the new table cloths to the A.C.W. for use at the coffee hours.

Copies of all six entries from the Book of Remembrance in the Peace Tower in Ottawa, honouring the men who are memorialized in the Chapel, have been received and will be shared with the Parish.

Our Committee applied for the prestigious Bert Hunt Heritage Award for 2019 offered by the Richmond Hill Historical Society. Unfortunately we were not selected as the winner but we will continue to submit applications in the future.

In October we were pleased to welcome Vera Briggs and five friends for a Deluxe Tour and Tea. This event was donated as a silent auction item at the African Caribbean Night and we were delighted to share special items from our collection with our guests.

The contents of the Archives storage room were reviewed and successfully moved to appropriate spaces in preparation for the repurposing of this space for the Youth Ministry initiative.

In closing I want to thank Betty Lehming for her kind assistance over the year. I also need to thank Fr. Matthew for his ongoing support for the work of our Committee. It is greatly appreciated!

"Creator God, we thank you for the time you give us on earth. Give us grace to use it wisely. May we so reverence the sacrament of the present and the riches of the past that we may see in both, the opportunities for change and growth and act upon it, through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen"

[Peter Lippiett for KAIROS,
The Diocese of Portsmouth, England]

*Respectfully submitted,
Norman McMullen, Chair,
The Archives Committee*

Greeting Cards Ministry

The Card Ministry exists to let people know that we care, and think about them. During this past year, I have been committed to doing just that, and I hope that those who received a card realized that St. Mary's Family cares.

Since January 2019 through December 31st, approximately 80 cards have been sent out on behalf of St Mary's Parishioners. Cards have been sent to those experiencing an illness, those who needed encouragement, those who have undergone surgery. extending our deepest sympathies to family.

Cards were also sent at Easter to those in Nursing Homes, Retirement Homes and those who are unable to be worship with us on a regular basis. It was wonderful to have the Sunday School Children participate with beautiful colourful hand made cards.

If Parishioners are aware of anyone who would feel Blessed and have their day brighten by receiving a card please let me know.

Gleniss Harris

Sunday School

We've had another great year in Sunday School. The Sunday School runs each week during the 10:30am service, except for the 3rd Sunday when the children participate in the Family Service. We've seen an increase in numbers this past year with the group reaching as high as 20 children. Through out the fall we have run our preschool class and large kindergarten to grade 5 class weekly. The grade 6+ group met approximately monthly with a focus on discussion and contributing to the family service. Now that Amanda Ball has joined us at St. Mary's, she is focusing on developing the grade 6+ programming to be every Sunday. For our school aged children we continue to use curriculum from SparkHouse as the base with changes in the Sunday School format depending on larger projects we are working on.

We currently have five teachers for our classes: Pam McMillan, Erika Golden, Mona Wilson, Eric Kupka and myself.

There are a number of other activities Sunday School is involved in. Natasha Daisley continues to send out birthday cards to the children from Sunday School, the children enjoy receiving the mail. Over the summer, Pam McMillan organized videos from "What's in the Bible?" and activities for the children while our regular lessons took a break. We had a special guest-lesson lead by the Archives committee in honour of Heritage Week again this year. Our focus this year was on the cross at the front of the church, including all the symbols displayed and the children got to see the original sketches of the design!

We again had a nativity play during the family service in December. Thank you to Pam McMillan for her leadership in this endeavour and to Keely Gervais for the AV assistance. We

had a great group of young people help put on this lighthearted tale of "Backwards" Christmas Pageant telling the story of how the birth of Jesus changed EVERYTHING and the story continues today.

After a great time collecting and putting bags of toiletries together for Out Of The Cold last year, the children area gain collecting toiletries. We've started putting bags together with a variety of much needed items and including hand draw notes and cards from the children. This is a great opportunity to talk about how our faith contributes to the worth beyond Sunday morning. Maggie has told us that the cards are enjoyed by the guests.

The books collected last winter were shipped to schools in Nunavut, we received back some lovely letters thanking St. Mary's and the Sunday School children for sharing. Many of these communities have very few resources for their schools and libraries.

As we continue to grow our program, we are looking for extra hands to lead or be an extra set of adult hands to help out.

Our main challenge is the very limited number of teachers we have for Sunday School. The number of children continues to grow and we now have three classes to make sure we are addressing the needs of the different age groups, however, with such a limited number of teachers we are having to combine classes fairly regularly.

*Submitted by
Lauren Wirtzfeld
Coordinator*

Coffee Hour

We have recently been blessed to have Jane Robertson join our coffee ministry. Thanks Jane. We are currently using compostable cups and we encourage parishioners to bring their own mugs. Diane Robertson has offered to make carry bags for your mugs upon request.

We currently have four teams. We are badly in need of new team members men and women who are interested in contributing to this vital ministry. The fellowship generated with our church family is very important to our life here at Saint Mary's. Some of the funds donated are used to support two children through Plan International. Please continue to be generous with your support of this important ministry.

Thanks to all our teams who provide this service. Anyone interested in joining our teams, please speak to Betty in the office or myself.

Margaret Baldassarre
Coffee Hour Coordinator

2019 St. Mary's Dinner Team Report

The Wardens and Fr. Matthew would like to thank the Co-Chairs of our Dinner Committee, Larry Daisley and Karl Lashley, and their dynamic team, for the fantastic events they organised in 2019. Our 2019 events were the African & Caribbean Dinner on February 23rd and the Harvest Feast on October 26th. Last year's African - Caribbean Dinner raised \$5,550.26. For the Harvest Feast, the dinner raised \$1,948.00. The Leaf Tree fundraising project, organised by Monica Quinn, raised \$4,332.25. The 2019 Harvest Feast raised a total of \$6,280.25. St. Mary's Dinner Committee for 2019 was; Co-Chairs Larry Daisley and Karl Lashley, and team members; Marcia Daisley, Vera Briggs, Pearl Taylor, Natasha Daisley, Jenny Rogers, Denis Taylor, Colin Webb, Joe McEwen & Paul Thomas. Thank you team for a great job!

Submitted with our sincerest thanks,
St. Mary's Wardens

Green Team

For those of us who are concerned about the environment and climate change, 2019 has been both encouraging and alarming. The latter due to the accelerated effects of the global situation such as small island nations being flooded and the droughts followed by disastrous forest fires notably that in Australia that has destroyed a great deal of its natural habitats plus its unique wildlife.

An encouraging aspect has been rapidly increasing awareness of the effects of climate change reflected in the media and actions worldwide by environmental groups. Particularly positive to us at St. Mary's is the recent birth of local groups in the Richmond Hill community. As much as possible, Green Team members have participated in these activities and hosted and provided refreshments at some. Examples of these are as follows:-

1. At the end of 2018 Richmond Hill Council hired a new project manager, Julius Lindsay, to address climate change. St.

Mary's hosted two members of Council's Environment Committee who set up a most interesting display in the foyer of St. Mary's which was viewed by many members of the congregation. This was combined with the startup of our Green Lent Campaign accompanied by the handout featuring 'less plastic for Lent'. (The Green Team also performed a skit for the congregation for Earth Day on the topic of reducing plastics use especially single-use plastics, which was well-received)

Councillor David West is innovative and supportive of environmental action. We look forward to his upcoming symposium (Feb.9, 2020) at Richmond Hill Centre for the Performing Arts which many of our members plan to attend.

Our Green Team is hoping to attend some of the meetings of Resilient RH (the Richmond Hill Environment Unit). (www.https://RichmondHill.ca/resilientRH)

2. Since the inception of the Targeting Climate Change Movement (*for information email targetclimatechange@gmail.com*), St. Mary's Green Team has been a regular participant with several members attending each session. We also hosted the December meeting. The Green Team is also partnering with Neighbours for the Planet. We hosted the Green New Deal Town Hall meeting in September. We also participated in the local climate strike in July and the World Climate Strike in September. In addition we hosted the reception at the terminus of the Climate Strike March in September 2019: about 250 people took part in the march and attracted much positive attention from traffic along the route.

Carrie Tai, founder of Neighbours for the Planet, a most noteworthy group which started in May 2019, spoke at our Parish Lunch on February 5th, 2020.

As resources have allowed, we supported Steve Lee and his 3% project, Youth and Students for Climate Change. Steve has also attended several of our meetings and has addressed our congregation.

Faith and The Common Good

St Mary's is a member of this organisation. The Green Team has coordinated efforts for the church to be declared a Green Church: last spring we achieved the initial Certificate and this Spring with the assistance of the Property Committee and Fr. Matthew, we hope to achieve the next level of Intermediate.

Another Upcoming Event :

On the Sunday before Earth Day; April 19th 2020 , we have invited Dr. Sylvia Keesmaat who works for the Toronto diocese department of environmental and social justice issues, to address the congregation. Sylvia is adjunct professor at Trinity College and Wycliffe college and Biblical Scholar at St. James, Fenelon Falls.

Some thoughts as to directions we can pursue with ourselves and the congregation in the upcoming year about what we can do regarding Climate Change issues:

As garbage is a concern for all of us what items can be recycled or composted at which locations. What is reusable? which plastic items can be recycled? (with emphasis on the symbol of the three R's). (As so much plastic waste ends up in our oceans, some of this is consumed by sea creatures and some of those sea creatures are consumed by us.)

We should be encouraged to refuse to buy cups of coffee / drinks which are in cups containing plastic and are not recyclable and to refuse to pay for yet another plastic bag. We should encourage instead, taking our own reusable bag when we go shopping. People should be reminded to bring their own cups for coffee hour. We have obtained compostable cups, unfortunately it appears that these cannot be composted in our City! We need to demand change.

Members: we are surprisingly not as young as we used to be! --it would be good to have some new and perhaps younger members. Perhaps also children and youth could be involved in some projects that celebrate and support protection of Creation.

*Respectfully submitted
by Janet Bartram-Thomas*

Gardener's Report

The Gardeners of St. Mary's meet every Monday morning, for approximately two hours, during the growing season. We plant, weed , prune, fertilize and tidy up the various flowerbeds around the church and also keep the driveway edges free of weeds.

This year we removed several aged shrubs from the flower bed outside the parish office window, replacing them with

beautiful centennial rose bushes. We also made improvements to the beds in the quadrangle removing several shrubs and bushes, while also continuing to work on the beds adjacent to Yonge Street and those around the Chapel.

We also provide floral arrangements throughout the year during parish events and festivals.

The gardening group include the following parishioners:

Jenny Rogers
Diane Robertson
Lyne Webb
Vera Briggs
Pearl Taylor
Olga van der Lee
Barabara Amadori
Colin Webb

Submitted by Olga van der Lee on behalf of the committee

Envelope Secretary

Remarks:

As previous years, all donations for 2019 were registered using the donations software. The receipts for tax purposes and reports were issued with same procedure.

Tax receipts will be sent by email, to donors with registered email address as previous years, mailed or delivered at the church.

1. STATISTICS

DESCRIPTION	VALUE
PAP USERS	43
ACTIVE DONORS	182
AVERAGE DONATION	\$ 1282

2. DISTRIBUTION OF DONATIONS

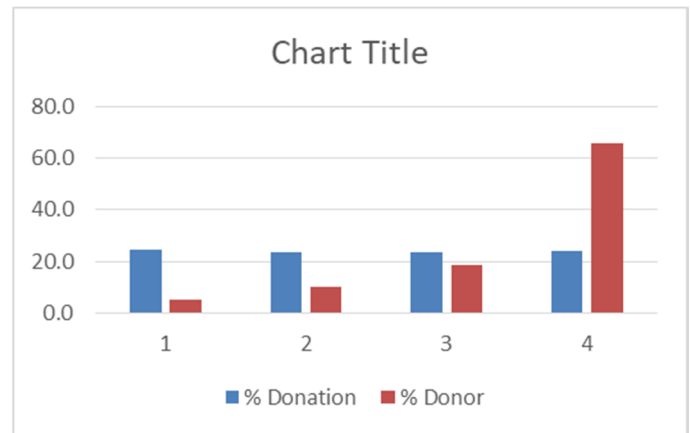
Category	%
Christmas Family	0.34
Christmas Offering	4.86
Easter	2.83
Faithworks	0.32
Flowers	0.93
Foodbank	0.36
General	29.84
Heritage	1.16
Memorial	1.57
Regular	55.11
Thanksgiving	2.62
Total	100.00

Note: Under General Category is included Non-categorized donations as PAP, Stewardship, Open Receiptable (one donation/no envelope number)

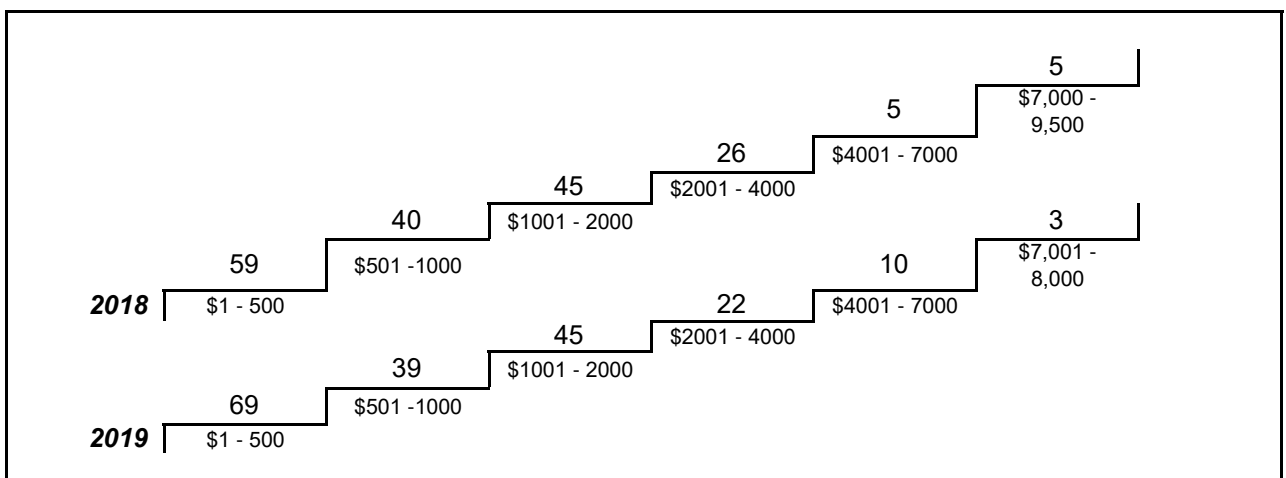
3. TREND

The chart below is showing that 47% of the annual income is given by just 15% of the donors.

% Donation	% Donor
24.3	5.32
23.7	10.11
23.7	18.62
23.8	65.96
Open Receiptable	0.53
Open Unreceiptable	0.53
TOTAL	100



4. Finally, these steps provide a snapshot of our congregation giving patterns during 2018 and 2019. Each step represents a range of dollars given. The number on top of each step, indicates how many donors gave in that range.



We want to thank all of you for your kind support during this year.

Respectfully submitted,

Lucy Quintero

Envelopes Secretary

John Martin

Envelopes Secretary Deputy

Motions for 2020 Vestry Meeting

Approval of Auditors Motion:

(This motion allows us to formally appoint our auditor's for next year's reports)

Moved by; Maggie Veltheer & Colin Webb.

"We the Vestry of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill authorize the appointment of Hurren, Sinclair, McIntyre, Chartered Accountants of Pickering, Ontario, to be the Auditors of record for St. Mary's Financial Reports for the year ending 2020 Financial Cycle."

Rectory Grant Motion:

(This motion gives us permission to apply for Diocesan Grants for work on the Rectory if any major or urgent repairs are required. No such work is anticipated, but voting on this now means that no special vestry will be required if such an application is needed.)

Moved by; Chas Mills & Colin Webb.

"We the Vestry of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill authorize the Corporation to apply for a Carleton Grant in the year 2020, to help pay for costs of maintenance, renovation and repair to our Parish Rectory, located at 100 Arnold Crescent in Richmond Hill."

Diocesan Action on Climate Change Motion:

(For all Parish Vestry Meetings, the Diocese has encouraged each congregation, to think of ways that they can work to help make positive steps for our planet and community. This year, as St. Mary's works to enhance our accreditation as a Green Parish, we will be seeking to pass a vestry motion that directs the corporation to reduce our utilities usage and carbon footprint by 10%. We will seek to do this through using grants for energy efficient lighting upgrades and pursuing other upgrades and innovations during this year's building maintenance activities.)

Moved by; Chas Mills & Colin Webb.

"We the Vestry of St. Mary's, Richmond Hill believe it is our responsibility to be active stewards of our resources and carbon footprint. The parish of St. Mary's charges our parish leadership to making energy conservation and reducing our carbon footprint by 10% a strategic and financial priority for 2020."

ST. MARY'S ANGLICAN CHURCH – VESTRY NOMINATIONS & APPOINTMENTS

February 23rd, 2020 – Names in **bold** are members of Parish Board.

Appointments for Vestry

Vestry Clerk	TBA
Parish Tribunal	John Martin Betty Lehming

Appointments by Rector

Rector's Warden	Colin Webb
Deputy Rector's Warden	Chas Mills
Parish Board Member at Large	Julie Hastie

Appointments by Wardens

Treasurer	Maggie Veltheer
Envelope Secretary	Carol Rochemont
Heritage Fund Advisory Committee	Kola Deru Jim Stockall

Appointment by Rector and Wardens

Chair of Property Usage	Betty Romanchuk
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Wardens, Synod Delegates, and Others for Election by Vestry

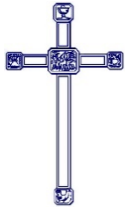
People's Warden	Sharon Hanns
Deputy People's Warden	James Agyeman
Lay Delegates to Synod	Joe McEwen Sharon Hanns
Alternate Delegates to Synod	Gleniss Harris TBA
Parish Board Member at Large	Kola Deru

Committee Chairs/Representatives Chosen by their Committees

ACW	Marlene Gardiner
Archives	Norman McMullen
Communications	Colin Webb
Green Team	Barry Rollinson
Land Use/Development	Ron Smit
Outreach	Lyne Webb
Property	Colin Webb
Sidespeople	Karl Lashley
Sunday School	Julie Hastie

N.B.: Parish Board Officers to be Elected by Parish Board are:

Chair	To be elected at March 2020 meeting
Vice-Chair	To be elected at March 2020 meeting
Secretary	TBA



Saint Mary's Anglican Church



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St. Mary's, Richmond Hill Strategic Ministry Plan – *2020 and Beyond*

Executive Summary:

This document is an attempt to communicate the long-range planning and priority review currently being undertaken at St. Mary's. This work has flowed out of the efforts of the parish's Selection Committee and Churchwardens, as they prepared to move into a new phase of ministry with the arrival of their new Incumbent. After the arrival of the Reverend Matthew McMillan, as St. Mary's new priest in the fall of 2017, our parish leadership commenced a discernment process to begin a formal strategic plan. The main goals were to be able to self identify our current context and communally discern our call as an Anglican parish in Richmond Hill. From there our work moved to identify the resources and commitments needed to step into the next phase of St. Mary's ministry with renewed confidence.

In short, the main body of this document, summarizes the review and feedback process the parish undertook to define our '*Vision and Identity Statement.*' It continues with our internal assessment journey, as we identified our needs, gifts, strengths and weaknesses and then boldly dreamed about how to step into this new chapter for St. Mary's. Finally, we move into a summary of our current context, to articulate how our proposed next steps can move forward, providing a detailed summary of what is required to maintain our trajectory and achieve our goals.

St. Mary's is a Christian community, within the Anglican Tradition, that seeks to ground itself in the ways of Jesus Christ, the Son of God. Our commitment to be his followers compel us to strengthen our faith and share it with the world. As a parish we look to our patron saint, The Blessed Virgin Mary for our plan's inspiration. "*My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour*" Luke 1:46-57.

To undertake this plan and further our good work, St. Mary's Corporation has sought support and approval from Diocesan leadership to sell surplus parish lands. Having recently fundraised for and completed large scale work in the parish, these potential proceeds would allow our congregation to move beyond the traditional 'stop-gap' maintenance cycle we currently have in place. With the potential proceeds, St. Mary's would be in a position to upgrade and refresh our facilities for ministry.

Our aim for St. Mary's Strategic plan is to renew, reinvigorate and reinvest God's grace and love in Richmond Hill. Over the course of this plan we will; modernize our physical plant, hire new staff and train new volunteers for priority ministries, and commit to a missional approach for all our parish activities. We invite the Diocese to be a partner with us in this holy labour!



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Plan Beginnings and Overview:

In the final months of 2017 and early 2018, as St. Mary's began our discernment work, we were blessed by broad participation from the congregation in our visioning efforts. The team we assembled continued to review our ministry work and also began to look at new opportunities and address some challenges. As this discernment work continued, the parish addressed current facility needs for our parish buildings. There had been a variety of deferred maintenance issues in different areas and an internal review led us to see that \$120,000 in projects needed to be completed, mostly focusing on the roof, masonry, eaves and drainage. The congregation dug deep and raised the funds needed to complete the work, which was finished by the end of 2018. St. Mary's property was quickly brought into a state of good repair, without interruption in our service and ministry efforts for our community. This work took a lot of energy and resources, exhausting extra fundraising streams and many volunteers. Through this process our parish was able to realize that a more long-range and nuanced plan was needed.

This led our leadership team to discern that our facilities must be adequately equipped if we are to support the mission of St. Mary's. This understanding helped us to further the vision work we'd recently begun. We continued this by discerning our ministry priorities, so we'd know our essential focuses, and how we need to structure our resources and people to ensure success.

St. Mary's is a community committed to, Showing God's love and being God's love, whenever and wherever it is needed. To the parish community this meant, ensuring our youth and young families were supported and given the resources needed to grow in God's love. It also meant that we needed to be focused on our community and the needs of those who could not provide for themselves. It also challenged us to name what we are doing for the strangers in our midst, who may walk different paths, but would be blessed to share the Love of God.

With these initial elements on our roadmap in place, we began to explore in different ministry areas what we needed to do to further our labours, and then we also discerned how the community needed to be physically and socially structured, to allow for the greatest chances of success. God was present in and blessed these holy aims and labours.

Toward the end of 2018 St. Mary's was awarded an OFOH Youth Ministry Grant. The parish solidified a long-term plan for our 'Out of the Cold' program and other new outreach projects. We began to welcome new members of our community to our drop-in programs and worship/faith programs run by St. Mary's. God's blessings truly flowed!



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Vision Process and Statement:

Coming out of our February 2018 Vestry Meeting, the parish formally began a strategic review of our current and past ministries. In the ensuing months, St. Mary's lay volunteers and leaders collaboratively stepped into a review process for the parish. Our aims here were to see where the Holy Spirit had called us to serve, and then listen to see where this same Holy Spirit is encouraging us to go in the future.

The parish had members of our varied ministries assess their plans, activities and ambitions. We then continued by looking at our strengths and the community's needs. This process led to a formal visioning conference in the fall of 2018. This work involved round table sessions, where we discussed together our current understanding of St. Mary's vision for ministry. Below is the vision statement that was adopted and grew out of our work together.

St. Mary's is a parish in the Anglican tradition, which embodies the love of God revealed to the world through God's son, Jesus Christ. The People of this church feel empowered by God's Holy Spirit and are committed to authentically showing that love and being that love, whenever and wherever it is needed.

Our community draws strength from; serving others, being family to each other, engaging in communal prayer and worship, being open to holy learning and by letting God speak to our souls through music, art, nature and prayer.

St. Mary's embraces a 'community' mindset, where all success and goodness is to God's Honour and Glory. We embrace sharing our worship spaces with other churches. We believe in supporting community and arts groups by sharing our program space. Our church building is our spiritual home, and it is where we reach out in the name of God and model a holy love, that lifts, liberates and blesses all whose lives we touch.

At the heart of our community is 'family.' This faith community is a vessel, which carries us through the storms of life. It draws people together from various traditions and life stories and melds us together as God's loving family. It is a place where we are able to grow in our ability to love God, love each other and even ourselves.



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Strategic Priorities:

Emerging from our parish visioning conference were 4 strategic priorities which have become our success criteria. We will use these priorities as reference points, to guide and shape our ministry decisions moving forward. We commit to moving forward with the following priorities as our guiding principles:

1. Serve the faithful.

Our primary aim for St. Mary's Strategic Ministry Plan is to focus our ministry work on building up an attractional and welcoming community of faith. Every decision will be led by the understanding that we are working to build a Christ filled community of substance and love. Our leadership's efforts will be guided by our desire to create a repository of gifts, which will build up all, for the Glory of God.

2. Equip the faithful.

Our 2nd priority is to ensure that our actions put resources in place that will both grow and challenge the people of St. Mary's in their life of faith. We seek to serve the living God, who seeks to be in dynamic relationship with the faithful. This priority asks our leadership to ensure that: our choices, actions, programs and daily living, focus on things that put resources into the lives of the saints, and allow them to communally and independently grow in relationship with God.

3. Strengthen the faithful.

This objective is one which challenges our community to ensure that programming isn't simply about creating more programming, but creating a depth of programming. As St. Mary's sets our strategic priorities that guide decision making, we aim in all we do to create a wealth of wisdom and understanding across our whole community. This goal challenges our leadership to ask, "is each parishioner being given something of substance to feed and grow their lives of faith?"

4. Send the faithful.

Our final strategic priority in our '2020 and Beyond' Plan, is to ensure that our actions and choices build disciples, that have a capacity for discipleship themselves. Our aim in this priority is to ensure that ministries do not fade, that labours do not become about self, or that endeavours simply become task driven. Our plan's focus is to empower all for ministry, to become sowers of seeds and growers of the Kingdom of God.



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Strategic Goals:

The priorities laid out on the previous page of this document, have been the lens through which St. Mary's has shaped the goals for our plan. These 4 marks of growing and bearing fruit, are the ambitions through which we have identified our parish goals, as we move into our '*2020 and Beyond*' plan. This page summarizes each of our 5 Strategic Goals. The ensuing pages contain the details for how each goal will be worked towards and achieved.

1. Ensure quality Spiritual and Social Programming across every parish demographic.

Goal # 1 for St. Mary's is to focus on creating an inclusive, outward looking set of parish ministries. We know that we are under-served in a variety of ministry areas in our parish. Areas such as; Youth, Young-Adults, Families and Isolated Seniors.

2. Care for the Community.

St. Mary's has enjoyed a long history of a strong and vibrant outreach ministry. Our new strategic plan calls on the parish to renew our commitment to this work and to find more ways of '*loving our neighbours.*' The community of St. Mary's understands itself as being very blessed and looks to show our gratefulness by loving others in God's name.

3. Caring for Creation.

The community of St. Mary's recognizes the importance of the environment. We commit to embracing our responsibility to care for the earth and to teach others how to do the same.

4. Being Collaborative.

Through St. Mary's visioning process, a key item that was shared was the desire to be in union with others, and to labour together. St. Mary's has set a goal to root our works in collaborative efforts and to aim for team building across all ministry platforms.

5. Dynamic & Connective Worship.

As St. Mary's looks at our plan for being a modern Anglican parish, current in our time, our 5th and final goal is to ensure our life of faith is grounded in meaningful and Godly worship. Our parish commits to meeting the needs of our community by blending our rich Anglican heritage with modern skills, resources and ideas, to ensure that all who gather with us in prayer, feel God close at hand.



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Current Goal Efforts & Future Plans:

For our parish to step into our Strategic goals, we have enacted a series of plans for each of the items. We have reviewed St. Mary's strategic goals, and this process has led us to a two-pronged approach. Our first step was to say that a common item across each of the independent goals is St. Mary's need to manage and steward our physical church plant. We understand that when our church facilities are working well and in good order, the congregation's ministries are blessed and encouraged. The second element of reviewing our strategic goals was to put together detailed commitments, actions, plans and resources, to ensure that we would be successful.

Element 1 - Building Plans

As St. Mary's began this phase of our efforts, we quickly realized that poor planning, would lead to disastrous results. Our first step in reviewing our church structure and its ability to support St. Mary's ministry, was to begin a review of the whole property. St. Mary's Property and Building Team conducted the initial review of the building. St. Mary's has 5 distinct physical elements, connected by a common corridor. A Historic Original Church, a Large Parish Hall, a Christian Education Wing, a Modern Church and an Office Wing, all situated on Yonge Street in downtown Richmond Hill.

With so much property to be considered we wanted the whole parish to have a voice in determining whether they wanted to shrink our footprint or invest in the current structure, continuing with the current ministry model. The congregation reviewed the current ministry model for St. Mary's, and came to a determination that this model met and aligned with the strategic goals and objectives that were being developed in this Strategic Review Process. As a community, we feel called to share our worship spaces with other Christian denominations (*Russian Orthodox & Korean Presbyterian*), rather than reduce our space. St. Mary's also looked at the outreach ministries and communal programming we have, and felt called to prioritize having large public spaces with catering capacity and parking for our ministries and other events. The parish agreed that we needed to modernize infrastructure, which is at the end of its working life.

St. Mary's in late 2018 undertook a communication exercise to prepare the congregation for a building renewal plan. Parish leadership sought to inform the congregation of the potential paths that the desired building renewal could take. This work was to prepare the congregation for a vestry vote at our March 3, 2019 Annual Vestry Meeting. The purpose of which was to solicit from the congregation permission to proceed with exploring funding options for building renewal



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and obtaining permission to proceed with a formal engineering review, to determine the health and status of our building. The congregation gave vestry approval to work with the Diocese on obtaining permission to sell vacant parish lands and to collaboratively explore what that process should look like. The Vestry also gave permission to conduct a full formal engineering review. The conversations about the property sale with the Diocese are ongoing and the engineering review was completed in the summer of 2019.

The engineers reported that there is a large amount of deferred maintenance, but the structure is sound, and no major issues are currently present that require '7 figure' solutions for any one issue. The current cost reports coming from the engineers, as can be viewed in their report, assesses the building structural and operational needs. Our additional property review, conducted internally, lead us to a number of additional items needed to support our ministry and mission: **1.)** Accessibility upgrades for parking and building access. **2.)** Security and safety reviews have added additional understood needs. **3.)** Modernizing our Hall and Catering spaces to commercial standards. **4.)** Upgrading end of life HVAC across all 5 buildings. **5.)** Energy-Efficient windows. **6.)** Upgrading and preserving our architectural & spiritual heritage (*i.e.. stained glass windows and pipe organs in our 2 church spaces*). We have conservatively estimated, with figures drawn from various contractor inspections and from our engineering review, we are looking to accomplish well over \$1,500,000 in work, when all the projects are added together.

The building component of our Strategic Plan highlights our knowledge of the property, its high level of usage and a strong understanding of how the building can be made to work for the parish. St. Mary's has a variety of rentals, non-profit groups, community service groups, meal and housing programs that operate in the parish daily. St. Mary's program and ministry spaces are so well used that we have groups who have to meet in the narthex of the church, because there are activities occurring simultaneously in other parts of the property. The parish is excited and ready to engage in this work of strengthening our building, to support our work as a community of faith.

Element 2 – Specific Goals and Action Plans

As our strategic plan expanded, we identified the in-depth elements of our specific goals and plans. Our leadership felt it was important to name each goal broadly, so the community could share the story and understand the over-arching objectives. Consequently from this point, our team has laboured to develop a clear plan of approach, for how we would work to bring about success for each item. The following section contains our in-depth strategies for each of the 5 Goals St. Mary's has laid out in this strategic plan.



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1. Ensure quality Spiritual and Social Programming across every parish demographic

Goal # 1 for St. Mary's is to focus on creating a well-rounded set of parish ministries. We know that we are under-served in a variety of ministry areas in our parish. Areas such as; Youth, Young-Adults, Families and Isolated Seniors.

Work Started:

- Apply for an OFOH Grant to support Youth and strengthen the St. Mary's Parish Family - Grant secured and awarded in 2018.
- Install Resources for New Programming – Fall 2019 Installed new multi-media resources for Youth and Parish programing.
- Expand Ministry Space – Fall 2019 renovated under-used areas into new ministry spaces.
- Modernize IT Infrastructure – Summer 2019 moved from basic lite internet in office wing, to having entire physical plant networked with high-speed internet.
- Live-Stream Worship Services – Spring 2019 installed camera recording system and launched streaming of services. Allowing those 'Shut-in' to view services live.
- Enhance Online Communication – Spring/Summer 2019 launched new website, modernised parish email system, recruited new volunteers for social media and expanded MailChimp.
- Introduce New Programs – Monthly Family Worship Sundays, Quarterly Family Gatherings, Weekly afternoon Bible Study, Summer Parish Gatherings at St. Mary's and off-site.

Ongoing Elements:

- Hire new Youth/Family Ministry Staff – Hiring process underway.
- Delivery of more New Programs – Review ongoing as we await the arrival of new staff resources.
- Develope Integration Plans – Ongoing process for finding new ways of connecting new members into the community.
- Visiting and Pastoral Care – Continue to build, train and equip volunteers for ministry.
- New Discipleship Programs – Currently exploring congregational interest and possible resources.

St. Mary's has begun to put in place new modern infrastructure to support engagement of our parish family in our worship and family ministries. As this plan guides and shapes our parish priorities going forward, we look forward to our new staffing additions, which will add new energy and creativity to our parish.



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2. Care for the Community.

St. Mary's has enjoyed a long history of a strong and vibrant outreach ministry. The 2nd goal of our new strategic plan, calls on the parish to renew and deepen our commitment to this work. The community of St. Mary's understands itself as being very blessed and looks to show our gratefulness by loving others in God's name.

Goal Aims:

- To work towards greater participation of the congregation and our extended community in the ministries of serving others and offering divine hospitality, in the name of Jesus.
- To share our blessings from God in a variety of ways. Offering to others what they need to experience dignity, kindness and joy.
- To grow in our own understanding of the giftedness of our church community, and to in turn offer those in thanksgiving and service to God.

Goal Priorities and Partnerships:

- Partnering with Community Service and Support Agencies – *St. Mary's has on-going space agreements with many social service partners, to support their work in our community, and commits to these on-going works and to have resourced space to support their work. (St. Mary's currently works with: AA. / Al-Anon, various community groups supporting mental health and senior's/dementia ministries, MOSAIC Out of the Cold, the Richmond Hill Salvation Army and others.)*
- New Canadian Ministry and Community Care – *St. Mary's has run ESL conversation programs reaching out to the Russian Community in Richmond Hill and has made inroads with our local Russian Orthodox Community. The parish has also partnered with a local culinary skills teaching program for individuals with mental health concerns, to offer a free weekly community lunch.*
- Arts and Culture Partnerships – *Our congregation has identified as a priority the support and encouragement of music, visual arts and cultural diversity. To this end St. Mary's supports and hosts a variety of community groups: symphonies, brass bands, children's music and art therapy classes. In addition, we also have partnered specifically with different new Canadians looking for venues to share their arts and culture in our community.*
- Assisting with Food and Shelter for those in need – *St. Mary's continues to work and partner with the Richmond Hill Foodbank, collecting weekly and doing seasonal special collections. We also run at St. Mary's an Out of the Cold shelter program, weekly throughout the winter. As part of our ongoing efforts, St. Mary's is a founding partner of, and is presently engaged in the continuing work of the Richmond Hill Ecumenical Homes Corporation. This group has 3 towers in ownership with 500 units of affordable housing. The organization is currently working to build a new tower in 2022, which will create another 100 to 150 units of affordable housing in our parish community.*



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2. Care for the Community.

(Continued)

Goal Priorities and Partnerships:

- International Efforts – *Our parish has had a strong history of supporting different Global Christian Charities to assist in aid and relief to those in great need. St. Mary's continues in our pledge to support foster children through 'Plan International' and to also promote and encourage participation in PWRDF campaigns and relief efforts.*

Ongoing Elements:

- Refugee Sponsorship – *St. Mary's is currently starting a new parish sponsorship in 2019. We are preparing to welcome 2 families that are coming out of Taliban controlled areas in Afghanistan. We are working to build up our support team and draft our integration and settlement plans.*
- FaithWorks Growth and Renewal – *St. Mary's experienced a number of financial challenges to parish finances about 10 years ago, and during those difficult times the prominence of FaithWorks in our broader financial appeals was reduced. Our parish, led by our Outreach Team, has pledged to rekindle and renew this important Diocesan wide work at St. Mary's.*

St. Mary's has committed to resourcing our Community Care ministries as an extension of our gratitude to God the Father, for the gift of His son, Jesus Christ. Through our showing and modelling of a Holy Love for all creation, we aim to serve others joyfully, as Christ did so for us.

3. Caring for Creation.

The community of St. Mary's recognizes the importance of the environment. We commit to embracing our responsibility to care for the earth and to teach others how to do the same.

Work Started:

- Adoption of Creation Care Agenda and prioritization of an understanding that faithfully walking with Christ and God's teaching in scripture, requires commitment to care for creation – *St. Mary's has set as a priority in our liturgical cycle the inclusion of Earth Care and Stewardship. On these Sundays we have started to bring in community partners from NGO's, government agencies and policy advocates and specialists, to help us as individuals and as a parish, to care for creation.*
- Plastic Straw Ban – *As our parish works towards the elimination of single use plastics, our Green and Kitchen Teams have removed disposable straws from all kitchens and events.*
- Expanded Parish Recycling Program – *St. Mary's has put recycling containers in all meeting spaces and has established a collection point for; Batteries, Styrofoam, Fabric & other special materials.*



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3. Caring for Creation.

(Continued)

Ongoing Efforts:

- Green Lent Programming – In 2018 St. Mary's adopted a Green Lent program, where we would encourage the congregation to do an act of sacrifice for creation as well as ourselves during Lent. In 2018 St. Mary's partnered with Bishop Errol Brooks, of the Diocese of North Eastern Caribbean and Aruba, to provide emergency solar/battery powered lighting supplies. In 2019 we asked parishioners to bring their own mugs for coffee after church. We have committed to continuing in this work and to planning yearly themes for this activity.
- Reducing our Carbon Footprint / Greening Sacred Spaces – In 2018 St. Mary's partnered with 'Faith & the Common Good', to work toward having St. Mary's certified as a Green Church. On April 15, 2019 St. Mary's was awarded a 'Light Green Status' by this group to recognize our present and ongoing work in the field. We have committed to embracing energy efficiency and environmentally friendly products and construction practices as we care for and renew our facilities.
- Lighting Upgrades – In 2018 the parish began switching over our interior lighting to LED, completing our Parish Hall and other spaces. In 2019 we transitioned our exterior lighting to LED and going forward we will continue to replace and retrofit all lighting with LED units.
- Climate Justice and Advocacy – St. Mary's has been blessed with a parish environmental action group, known in our parish as the 'Green Team.' Our parish has expanded our partnership to work with other faith communities and community groups to launch, 'Neighbours for Climate Justice.' This group partnered with St. Mary's to host the Richmond Hill Global Climate Strike on Sept 27, 2019. St. Mary's has pledged to continue our efforts of Creation Care teaching and partnerships, to encourage all in the ways of caring for and advocating for a healthy and sustainable planet.

With Caring for our Earth as a Strategic Goal, our community pledges to continue in our current efforts and to remain on a path that challenges us to do more. As Christians we believe that God made this earth and invited us to be carers for it, to tend and nurture it, so that it can grow and flourish. We look forward to accomplishing much in these labours.

4. Being Collaborative.

Through St. Mary's visioning process, a key item that was shared was the desire to be in union with others, and to labour together. St. Mary's has set a goal to root our works in collaborative efforts and to aim for team building across all ministry platforms. Our parish commits to being part of the body of Christ, seeking to advance his efforts in union with others.



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4. Being Collaborative.

(Continued)

Work Started:

- Sharing of Sacred Space at St. Mary's – *St. Mary's has entered space sharing agreements to help other Christian Denominations find sacred gathering spaces for their weekly worship and activities. Our parish has partnered and entered into long-term relationships with, Russian Orthodox and Korean Presbyterian parishes, to share our space and support them in their ministries.*
- Community Service Partnerships – *Our congregation has partnered with 2 niche support agencies in Richmond Hill, who provide care and advocacy for groups often forgotten by government services. St. Mary's works with 'Home on the Hill', a mental health and advocacy group that works to support individuals living at home and their families. We have also partnered with 'Memory Lane', an Alzheimer's and Dementia Community support ministry, which looks to support those diagnosed and their families with community activities and faith programming. St. Mary's in an ongoing way provides space, volunteers and resources to assist these programs.*

Ongoing Elements:

- Maintain and Deepen Mainline Christian Denomination Collaborative Partnerships – *The Richmond Hill Ministerial Association, representing the established churches in our neighbourhood, have committed to working together as we explore our futures and assess building needs. Our respective local church leaderships have committed to work together and share our ministry plans to avoid overlap and duplication. This work is to be ongoing and have as broad a spectrum as possible. Our clergy have agreed to continue in ecumenical service and outreach projects that have done much to bring our respective denominations together in praise and service of God.*
- Adopting a Collaborative Mindset and Approach to Ministry – *Our parish has set a priority to work with other groups and organizations to advance our aims of loving others and learning how much God loves this world. Our leadership has committed to working together on projects with others, to avoid duplication and to maximize impact.*
- Drawing In Others – *To support parish renewal and to truly be collaborative, a community must renew, expand and regenerate itself. This ministry goal compels our parish leadership and community to bring new people and voices into leadership roles in our community. We commit to a flexible approach that will welcome new voices at the table and to ensure that leaders are always recruiting and tapping new people for service in God's church.*

To be a healthy and growing church, we must model a holy love like Christ, and trust that the new voices the Holy Spirit brings to our committees are heaven sent. We pledge to be open to the leading of the Spirit and willing to do the work of Christ, in labouring together, for the Kingdom of God in our midst.



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5. Dynamic & Connective Worship.

As St. Mary's looks at our plan for being a modern Anglican parish in our current times, our 5th and final goal is to ensure our life of faith is grounded in meaningful and Godly worship. Our parish commits to meeting the needs of our community by blending our rich Anglican heritage with modern skills, resources and ideas, to ensure that all who gather with us in prayer, feel God close at hand.

Work Started:

- Committing to continued use of the BCP, BAS and Modern Approved Rites – *At St. Mary's our parish membership draws faithful Anglicans from every corner of the globe. We commit to maintaining the continued use of Prayerbook and modern rites. We also commit to maintaining the traditions of the Sung Offices throughout the church year.*
- Music Partnerships – *As St. Mary's works to support music in our community, we also have worked to enhance our musical offerings of worship, to give thanks to God and to perform for His glory. Our parish welcomes our partners from the Symphony, Brass Bands and other contemporary performers to add and supplement the music of our Choir, Piano and Organ.*
- Worship Accessibility – *As much as it is a priority for our community to be accessible to those with mobility issues, our parish aims to support guests and parishioners through making our services more accessible. In the fall of 2017, we began the use of a new projection system for our main services, with all corporate prayers and communal hymns being projected. We also, in 2019, began to provide the services to our shut-ins. St. Mary's aims to continue to expand the support of these ministries and their reach.*

Ongoing Elements:

- Monthly Family Sundays – *As part of our priorities to serve families and offer more engaging and dynamic worship for families, St. Mary's has since 2018 made the 3rd Sunday of each month, Family Sunday. Our young people remain in the service and assist in leading a youth oriented service of Holy Communion. Our parish leadership commits to working to draw in additional music and programming resources, to fill out and expand this priority ministry.*
- Being a Light to those in Darkness – *The people of St. Mary's have committed to being a place in Richmond Hill where all can come and gather in times of need or trouble. We commit to being a community leader, and be open for prayer services, vigils and other gatherings as the community needs to come together during challenging times.*

Our faith is grounded in prayer and lived out in service. We commit at St. Mary's to ensure we root our spiritual life deeply in Christ, so that when the community needs Him, we can be Him for all!



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Closing Words

Our parish was founded almost 150 years ago, in 1872. St. Mary's, and Richmond Hill have changed a lot in the years between then and now. As a parish, we recognize that though the needs and routines may have grown and changed, our hearts stay the same. Our community is a place of rest and renewal for our bodies that labour, and our church is a place where our spirits come to do the same; being rested, renewed and blessed by supping on Holy food and committing to Holy tasks.

As the people and leadership of St. Mary's have laboured and continue to labour under the auspices of this Strategic Plan, we do so with the understanding and belief that our Heavenly Father will guide and bless them. The parts of this plan that are true to the heart of Christ, we know will be blessed. The parts included for vanity, personal pride or want, will most likely become like seeds on rocky or hard ground. Our church prays, that our work here may all come from the heart of Jesus and be an abode for the Holy Spirit to dwell in and richly bless.

The scripture verse that we have chosen to guide our work, comes from our patron saint herself, The Blessed Virgin Mary. *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Saviour"* Luke 1:46-57. The people of St. Mary's, trust in the words of Mary, that souls turned to God, will magnify His love and rejoice in it. May the holy works we have committed to in this plan, do that and so much more.